



SENIORNET HUTT CITY INC

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'Member of the Federation of New Zealand SeniorNet Societies Inc'



***MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL
FROM SENIORNET HUTT CITY***

Greetings,

Another year has almost come to an end along with our first decade which was suitably acknowledged at our AGM along with our thanks to the hundreds of people who have contributed over the years.

Apart from celebrating our 10th Anniversary, we had many things going on during the year – we changed Premises with no real problems, we attended the Health & Welfare Expo, commenced Laptop and Q & A Sessions, took part in the Federation's Survey, featured on TV One News, contributed to the Federation, attended the Regional Meeting, refined the SNAP program, made various technical improvements including changing to a new sponsor in Telstra Clear and as a consequence changed our Internet connection, rewrote and tested Manuals and so on. These were just a few of the many things we undertook during 2009 which were only possible due to our volunteers. We thank them all.

Looking forward, we hope to introduce new courses and of course Windows 7 is on the horizon.

In addition to thanking all those who contributed during the year we also extend our thanks to our sponsors – Kendons Chartered Accountants, Webdrive who host our website and TelstraClear who now contribute so much to SeniorNet.

At this time of the year, many Kiwis all over the country begin preparing for their Christmas holiday. Technology has certainly changed things. Just take a stroll through any camping ground in the country and you'll spot a huge number of TV aerials and Sky dishes as well as laptops, digital camera, phones and MP3 players. It would seem many who are "getting away from it all" find themselves unable to go technology cold-turkey.

TIP - ALWAYS OPEN IN A MAXIMISED WINDOW

(Well almost always as sometimes it just reverts back - Grrrrr!!!)

One of the frustrations of Windows is how a Window will suddenly open in the so called 'Normal' Window (smaller than maximum size). To overcome >>>

**RIGHT CLICK ON THE PROGRAM ICON
CLICK PROPERTIES
IN THE RUN WINDOW CLICK THE REVEAL BUTTON
CLICK MAXIMIZED
CLICK APPLY THEN OK**



FEDERATION NEWS

You may remember that we mentioned that the Federation was able to gain some funding from The Lotteries Grants Board to enable them to carry out an in depth survey of members. This research has now been published. A copy of the final report is available on www.seniornet.co.nz – click the “Research Report” tab on the home page.

The report confirms the Federation and its Learning Centres provide an extremely valuable service to the community of New Zealand with the quality teaching it performs and sets out a platform on which to move forward.

We encourage members to read - or at least glance through the topics. As it is an extremely thorough report of some 50 odd pages a quick summary is provided by a short PowerPoint presentation which highlights the key points. We have a hard copy at the Centre for anybody interested but please leave this at the Centre for others to read.

Thanks to all those from Hutt City who were again willing to give up their valuable time to participate in the survey.



AN IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MEMBERS ABOUT PERSONAL ITEMS BROUGHT TO THE CENTRE

Would members please note that any personal items such as Laptops, Digital Cameras, Cell Phones, Flash Drives and the like are brought to the Centre at your own risk. SeniorNet Hutt City and none of its members can be held responsible for any loss or damage. This includes any software or hardware changes.

We would urge all members who are contemplating removing items such as Laptops from their home to carefully check their Insurance Policy or with their Insurance Company to ensure the item is fully covered.

LAPTOPS - NETBOOKS - NOTEPADS



There's a dizzying array of laptops, notebooks and netbooks available today. Here's some brief information. **But remember if all things are equal never buy a Laptop in preference to a desktop.**

NOTEBOOKS and NETBOOKS

Laptop and notebooks – they are largely the same although in some definitions notebook computers are more powerful than laptops.

Netbooks are basically smaller, lighter and cheaper laptops that are designed to be ultraportable and rugged. They typically have less processing power and memory than laptops and are designed for word processing, emailing and browsing the web rather than power and memory hungry functions such as gaming and playing large media files.

PERFORMANCE

This is supplied by the laptop's processor or central processing unit (CPU), which carries out all the commands made by the laptop's hardware and software. A processor's speed is measured in gigahertz (Ghz). The higher the speed the more promptly the laptop will be able to respond to commands. Dual-core processors are faster than single-core processors.

Another important factor determining performance is memory. Also called random access memory (RAM), it stores frequently or currently used files for quick retrieval. Memory is measured in gigabytes.

If you're going to be playing videos or computer games it's a good idea to go for a laptop with a dual-core processor and at least 2GB of memory, and serious gamers probably want to opt for even more power.

But if you're just after a laptop for basic

word-processing and web-browsing, you can probably get away with less grunt.

HARD-DRIVE

This is where all your files and data are kept. If you're going to be saving music, videos, and photos it's a good idea to go for as much storage as possible. Storage is measured in gigabytes - go for at least 160GB. Your hard drive's speed is also important, the faster the hard-drive the better its performance.

Most hard-drives run at 5400 revolutions per minute or 7200rpm and these speeds should be adequate for most users.

Some laptops and netbooks come with solid state drives instead of hard-drives. Solid state drives have fewer moving parts than hard-drives and are usually more durable. They tend to have less capacity and consume less power but are more expensive.

CD and DVD DRIVES:

All laptops but not many netbooks will have a CD and DVD drive for listening to CDs and watching DVDs. Most laptops should let you burn DVDs too. Some have Blu-ray drives for watching and recording video in high-definition.

DISPLAYS AND SIZE:

Laptops have thin liquid crystal displays (LCD screens) that typically range in size from 10.6 inches (diagonally) to 20 inches. For comfortable viewing most people prefer screens that are 14.1-inches or larger. Netbooks tend to be smaller.

Netbooks usually weigh about 1.5 kilograms or less, while laptops and

notebooks can range from about 1.8kg to 3.6kg.

Keyboard size is also an important consideration. It's a good idea to try out the keyboard and touchpad before you buy to ensure typing and using the mouse is comfortable. Usually it is more difficult than a desktop.

CONNECTIVITY:

There are several important connections your laptop should have, including Ethernet and modem ports for Internet access, an HDMI port for connecting to your TV and a number of USB ports for plugging in a mouse, USB sticks, digital cameras etc. Most notebooks also have in-built antennas for wireless Internet. Some laptops also have Bluetooth - a technology that lets devices communicate with each other wirelessly.

GRAPHICS CARD:

A graphics card (also called a video card) enables your computer or laptop to generate and display graphics. Computers and laptops come with in-built graphics cards which should be adequate for watching videos and browsing the web but if you're into gaming, you might want to buy a dedicated card to boost your laptop's graphics.

EXTRAS:

External hard-drives can be extremely handy for backing-up data and saving large files - particularly if you have a netbook that is light on memory and performance. Laptops usually come pre-loaded with operating system software - software that manages all the programs on your computer.

Webcams for video calling are becoming an increasingly common feature in laptops. Webcam quality is measured in megapixels, and generally, the higher the megapixel count the better the webcam.



UKRAINE'S GOT TALENT – TELLING A STORY IN SAND

The winner of the Ukraine's got talent is simply superb. To see it go to YouTube and type in **Kseniya Simonova – Sand Animation** and view a brilliant demonstration of talent.



World's fastest police car — Lamborghini Gallardo clocks 325 Kms per hour!!!



This is in Italy and the Police say "An external camera feeds images to an onboard computer, which collates GPS data to calculate the speed of suspected violators. The images are transmitted to a police station where the number plate is checked."

Radar is so twentieth century.

KEEP UP WITH SENIORNET OVER THE HOLIDAYS THROUGH OUR BLOG AT
www.seniornet-huttcity.blogspot.com



Taken from the SeniorNet Nelson September Newsletter about their introduction of the Hutt City inspired SNAP.

"SeniorNet Administration Programme". (SNAP)

The major change in Nelson SeniorNet this year has been the introduction of SNAP. Over the past few years I have been concerned that our accounting and reporting systems were becoming outdated for a group of our size. Hutt Valley SeniorNet produced a financial and reporting system tailor made for SeniorNet Learning Centres throughout NZ and we have now adopted this programme.

I do not propose to mention the many benefits of SNAP in this report except to record my sincere appreciation to the two people who have been mainly instrumental in the integration of this programme. About 18 months ago I asked Trevor Lewis if he would be responsible for the implementation of SNAP.

At that time neither of us knew how much time, effort and research would be involved and it is a credit to Trevor and to his enthusiasm and knowledge of computers that we are able to use the programme today. Trevor has been very ably assisted by our membership secretary, Lesley Wilson, who in addition to her previous role has taken on new responsibilities under SNAP. She spends many hours each week inputting data on your behalf. Several other people have also had an input into the successful implementation of SNAP."

Items like this certainly makes one feel appreciated



Members who are thinking of buying a Canon printer which uses the new 511 Prime ink cartridges be aware that Cartridge World cannot refill these cartridges at the moment although their research people are working towards it. Cartridge World Lower Hutt says that it may be months or even a year before they can refill these cartridges.

“There has been a lot of attention placed on aging and along with that Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. Emerging research has shown that the simple act of reading, doing crosswords, Sudoku, or crafts can decrease your chances of mental decline as you age. Some neuro-scientists have taken this a step further and have been developing specific targeted exercises to not only stave off dementia, but also to improve mental sharpness, memory, attention, processing speed and cognitive control (decision making and planning). A new Mayo Clinic study found that reading books, playing games, **participating in computing** and crafting led to a 30 to 59 percent decrease of developing mild cognitive impairment.”



FROM www.care2.com/greenliving/how-to-prevent-dementia.html

CAN YOU SEE THIS CLOWN - SOME CLOWNS CAN'T

Everyone tends to float off into space once in a while (as we get older we call them Senior Moments) and fail to see what is sitting right in front of them. Recently researchers decided to put the theory of “inattention blindness” to the test - the unicycling clown test. They documented examples of people who were so distracted by their cell phone use that they failed to see the bizarre occurrence of the unicycling clown pictured above passing them on the street.



Compared with individuals walking alone, in pairs, or listening to their Ipod, cell phone users were the group most prone to oblivious behavior: only twenty-five percent of them noticed the unicycling clown. The walkers not using a cell phone noticed the clown over fifty-percent of the time.

Furthermore, the cell phone users had difficulties performing even the simple task of walking!! They walked more slowly, changed direction more often and of course noticed little of what was going on around them. Even friends in the street were ignored.

So think about those who illegally drive and



phone!!

TIP: Word automatically adds numbers or bullets at the beginning of lines as you type them. This can be really annoying.

Word thinks it is a bulleted list, or when you type a number and some text, it may convert what you typed to a bulleted list or numbered list format when you press Enter.

To prevent this, go to Tools | AutoCorrect Options and select the AutoFormat As You Type tab. Find and deselect the box(s) labeled Automatic Bulleted list and/or Automatic Numbered list and click OK.

(This was handed out at a recent meeting of the Probus Club of Boulcott)



IF EVERYONE



If everyone who drives a car could lie a month in bed
With broken bones and stitched up wounds, or fractures to the head
And there endure the agonies that many people do
They'd never need to preach safety any more to me or you

If everyone could stand beside the bed of some close friend
And hear the doctor say "No hope" before the fatal end
And see him there unconscious, never knowing what took place
The laws and rules of traffic, I'm sure, we'd soon embrace

If everyone could meet the family of the man who's gone
And step into the darkened room where once the sunlight shone
And look upon the vacant chair where daddy used to sit
I'm sure each reckless driver would be forced to think a bit

If everyone would realise pedestrians on the street
Have right of way as much as those upon the driving seat
And train their eyes for children who run recklessly at play
This steady toll of human lives would drop from day to day

If everyone would check his car before he takes a trip
For tyres worn, loose steering wheel and brakes that fail to grip
And pay attention to his light while driving roads at night
Another score for safety could be chalked up in the fight

If everyone who drives a car would heed the danger signs
Placed by the highway engineers, who also marked the lines
To keep the traffic in the lane, and give it proper space
The accidents we read about would not have taken place

And last, if he who takes the wheel would say a little prayer
And keep in mind those in the car depending on his care
And make a vow and pledge himself to never take a chance
The great crusade for safety then would suddenly advance



WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS WRONG. WHAT HAPPENS IS - FRUSTRATION.

With over 400 emails to send at a time we have to abide by the anti-spam rules and can only send up to 50 - 60 at a time. This is time consuming BUT it is even more time consuming and really exasperating if one (or more) of the addresses is wrong, as the email group will not go until we have located and have deleted the offending address. This is usually because a member has changed their address but hasn't bothered to let us know. Unfortunately this happens on a regular basis.

SO - IF YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS - PLEASE PLEASE LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY.

(Of course the easiest way to not have to change your address if you change ISP's is to have a Webmail account as taught in the Email & Internet Course)



ITS NOT WHAT YOU THINK

"If you're not confused you don't fully understand the situation"

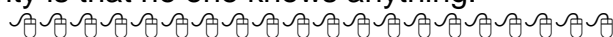
Whenever cyberspace is mentioned teenagers are seen as confident "digital natives", whereas we 'oldies' are not; adult conventional wisdom is that teenagers are more "tech savvy" and up with the technological play.

But is this always the case? Recently a Web 2.0 Summit was held in San Francisco which one observer noted 'the most compelling part for me was seeing the teenagers dislike of Twitter.' They simply couldn't see the point of it. What!! Twitter, is the cyber-sensation - it's growing like crazy.

Yet the kids who supposedly drive every Internet phenomenon have little interest in it. The statistics support this: Twitter is a preoccupation of older generations; only 11 per cent of its users are aged 17 or younger. According to the New York Times, teenagers now account for only 14 per cent of MySpace users and 9 per cent of Facebook's.

Yet Facebook now has more than 300 million users (and is adding 600,000 new users a day).

But -- Most are oldies - And the meaning of all this? When it comes to predicting the future of cyberspace, the only certainty is that no one knows anything.



'The quality remains long after the sweetness of a low price is forgotten'

Looking at a junk mail computer brochure the other day I was struck by the low price of a Laptop. Further investigation revealed that the software was all free stuff and once you factored in the purchase of software then it was in fact more expensive. Caveat emptor

LOWER HUTT HEALTH, WEALTH & WELLBEING EXPO 2009

After not being able to be present last year due to a lack of volunteers we were pleased to be able to get enough people to help us have a stand this year. We believe it was a very worthwhile exercise and helped contribute to the increase in students for Term 3.

As those of you who have read the recent survey commissioned by the Federation will know, getting our organisation into the public eye is a must. We ran two advertisements in conjunction with the Expo plus the Hutt News ran an article. This was unbeknown to us so some information was incorrect, but as they say, any advertising is good.

We appreciated those who were able to find the time to help us on the day.



A Terralink website, www.myaddress.co.nz gives you the opportunity to confirm that your address is correctly recorded as well as any, informal, local road or area names. The intention is that it facilitates emergency services finding you when needed.

It also shows a clear aerial photo of your house and area; much better than Google Earth.



SKYPE (And a link with Harvey Normans)

Recently we had a meeting with Harvey Normans who have agreed to hand out our brochures. (They have also agreed to provide photo printing discount vouchers for those taking classes. More on that next year.)

A couple of interesting points came up in our discussions

- 70% of PC's sold are laptops - which doesn't surprise us but we do wonder if people are just buying the flavour of the month and should really be buying a Desktop.
- They said that the main reason older people were buying PC's was for **SKYPE**. Email is 'so yesterday' for people wanting to maintain contact with their relatives and using a webcam really makes contact come alive – and all for FREE!! (some people still pay for toll calls??)

So what is **SKYPE**? It is software that enables voice/video calls to other users of the service, mostly for free (landlines/mobiles being the usual exceptions). It is the reason Telecommunications companies worldwide are really struggling as they can't compete with free.

Some 12 months ago we got some material to enable **SKYPE** to be taught at Hutt City but unfortunately not one person volunteered. So we can only ask.



TUTOR REPORT

My first year as coordinator has gone by rapidly and it has been a pleasure working with all the tutors as well as attending a class for one term.

Many thanks to all tutors for the voluntary time and effort you put into the programme of classes.

Popular classes this term included Computer Skills, Photo and Image Editing, Calendar Making and Card Making which can be expected at this time of the year.

Your tutors are always discussing and working to offer courses which might appeal to students. Classes under consideration are Picasso, Laptop and Refresher courses for students who have done courses some time ago but need to brush up on their skills. Members are invited to make suggestions for future courses. These can be submitted by email or in writing.

As previously mentioned any members who would like to undertake tutoring as a principal tutor or as an assistant should let me know.

Allan Young

Tutor Coordinator

TIP: As you are typing, Word will convert 1/2 to ½. To stop this from happening, go to Tools - AutoCorrect Options and click the AutoFormat As You Type tab and deselect the box Fractions (1/2) With Fraction Character (½) and click OK.

TIP: When you type hyphens, Word inserts an em dash or an en dash. If you type a word, two hyphens, and another word (with no spaces), Word will convert the hyphens to an em dash. If you type a space before and after the hyphens, Word will convert them to an en dash.

To stop this feature go to Tools - AutoCorrect Options and select the AutoFormat As You Type tab. Then, deselect the Hyphens (--) with (-) check box and click OK. On older versions of Word, the check box will be labeled Symbol Characters (--) with symbols (-).

TIP: If you would like to I would like to password protect the information on your Flash Drive there are programs that can do this. You can try this website for a free option - <http://cryptainer.com>. They also have a paid version as the free one is limited on the file storage size you can password protect.

Alternately, you can zip the files and apply a password to the zip file.