

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

During the 2003-2004 year we lost two valued members, Glenda Smith and Peter Andersen, who in their different ways, made huge contributions to SeniorNet Hutt City. We are grateful for their long service and the help they gave to members over the years. Our sympathies go to Glenda Smith's family, and to Glenda Andersen.

This time last year I reported that the 2022-2023 year was challenging for SeniorNet after the disruptions of Covid. We have carried on since then but fewer people are attending courses. From a facilities perspective, we are in good shape having replaced our teaching computers to reflect the need to keep pace with technology.

The monthly meetings with a speaker held at the City Library continue to be supported, and are a pleasant way of meeting other SeniorNet members as well as enjoying interesting speakers on a range of topics. We are grateful for the support of the Library staff with these events.

We are not alone. At the Federation's 2024 AGM in May this year it was reported that SeniorNet nationally is under considerable pressure. Many Learning Centres have closed. At its peak there were more than 100 societies with total membership of 20,000 plus. Now there are 43 societies and about 5,000 members.

The Federation has reduced staff and has updated its Constitution to meet the new requirements of the Incorporated societies act, and to reflect a smaller organisation. It is also trying to find new ways of helping people with their devices. These include the launch of Senior Hangouts, an on-line teaching resource that members can access and contribute to without cost. SeniorNet Hutt City has been offering sessions to introduce members to this new facility, but few have taken it up.

So it is time for reflection and to clearly identify what SeniorNet Hutt City members want from their learning centre. Please tell us!

Several committee members will not be standing this year. Our sincere thanks for exceptional service go to secretary Hilary Hutton, treasurer Geoff Bartlett and committee member Carole Quickfall. SeniorNet Hutt City will miss them.

Heartfelt thanks also go to newsletter editor Geoff Allen and Chris Jared Deputy Chairman, Tutor, and generous helper of SeniorNet members.

I am not standing for Chairman or committee this year. So we are looking for a Chairman, Secretary and committee members.

2024-25 is shaping up to be a significant year. We are in a sound financial position, but we must find ways of attracting existing members to the committee and new members to SeniorNet Hutt City.

In closing, I would like to thank the remaining committee members for their past service and continued support, and wish them well for the future.

Catherine Chapman
Chairman

01 July 2024