

SeniorNet Kapiti Inc.



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Chairman's Report

Spring is here - I'm looking out the window at the Kowhai in flower and the Tuis having a great time feeding on the nectar.

We have already had three meetings of the new committee since the AGM. Welcome to our new Secretary Helene Pippan. Lois Goodsell has taken over from Gordon Wykes as Deputy Chair. SeniorNet Kapiti is fortunate in the time your committee members give and fortunate in having a stable experienced committee. With spring the weather should improve and we are looking at more interest in the courses and workshops we have to offer. Your committee is working hard at catering for the needs of you the members. Keeping the classes going relies on the work of volunteer tutors. If you can put a bit back into SeniorNet by offering to tutor give it a go. It is very rewarding and tutors find that they learn even more about computers by tutoring.

What will this year bring? What developments will we see? We must be ready to adapt to the new developments.

The recent Regional meeting was very helpful in finding out what other Learning Centres are doing. The Federation certainly has led to us getting together on a more personal level and all the Learning Centres in the region have benefited. From time to time the Federation has special offers, and we will contact you about them.

We have quite a few members for whom we don't have an email contact. If you are not receiving our emails send your email address to seniornet.kapiti@paradise.net.nz so we can add you to our electronic distribution list.

John Penny
Chair

Your Committee

John Penny	Chairman	jepkapiti@paradise.net.nz	905-0483
Peter Ness	Treasurer	mness@paradise.net.nz	298-7378
Helene Pippan	Secretary	hpippan@paradise.net.nz	905-0973
Lois Goodsell	Dep. Chair	goodsell@paradise.net.nz	904-7558
Jim Heron	Past Chair	sparkyj@paradise.net.nz	902-1763
Lois Brinck	Committee	jandl.brinck@paradise.net.nz	298-7797
Georgie Lowe	"	gallow@paradise.net.nz	902-1377
Don McKarell	"	mckarell@paradise.net.nz	902-0343
Brian Milne	"	brianmilne@xtra.co.nz	(06) 364-2311
Pat Stephens	"	pat2utor@paradise.net.nz	905-8678
Peter Thomson	"	peter_t@paradise.net.nz	902-3483
Fred van Soest	"	fmvs@paradise.net.nz	905-9591
Gordon Wykes	"	wykes@xtra.co.nz	298-3935
Alan Royal	Webmaster	a.royal@paradise.net.nz	(04) 977-8967
Bob Kessler	Newsletter	pbkessler@paradise.net.nz	902-1806
<p>NOTE: When contacting any of the above by E-Mail please ensure that 'SeniorNet' is clearly stated in the Subject line. High volumes of SPAM means that messages with an unclear Subject may be inadvertently discarded.</p>			

2008 Diary of Events

Date	Day	Time	Item
23 rd Sept	Tuesday	9am to 5pm	SeniorNet display at Coastlands
25 th Sept	Thursday	9-30am to 2pm	Open Day at SeniorNet Learning Centre
26 th Sept	Friday		Term 3 Finishes
2 nd Oct	Thursday	9-30am	Tutors Meeting at Learning Centre
9 th Oct	Thursday	9-30am	Executive Committee Meeting
13 th Oct	Monday		Term 4 Starts
16 th Oct	Thursday	9-30am	Monthly Q & A Workshop
13 th Nov	Thursday	9-30am	Executive Committee Meeting
17 th Nov	Monday		1st 5 week period finishes
18 th Nov	Tuesday		2nd 5 week period begins
20 th Nov	Thursday	9-30am	Monthly Q & A Workshop
2 nd Dec	Tuesday	10am	Tutors Morning Tea at Lois Goodsell's
11 th Dec	Thursday	9-30am	Executive Committee Meeting
16 th Dec	Tuesday		Term 4 Finishes

Proposed Classes for 2008 Term 4

Note: these are the scheduled classes but are subject to change depending on Student requests. Classes are only held if we have at least 3 students. If classes are cancelled Lois Goodsell or another committee member will advise you. Requests for other classes are still acceptable. We would like you to advise us what classes you require. Please use the form on page 11 of this Newsletter to sign-up for classes. Contact Lois Goodsell 904 7558 or email goodsell@paradise.net.nz. Remember, Workshops will be available in the 2nd 5-week period if required by students. If enough students require other courses in the 2nd 5-week period we can still schedule them in, so if you want to do a course please apply. We will require there to be at least 3 students.

Term 4, 1st 5-week period (Period starts Monday 13 October and finishes Monday 17 November)			
	9:30 AM - 12 NOON (2½ hour sessions)	12 NOON – 2:00 PM (2 hour sessions)	2:00 PM – 4:30 PM (2½ hour sessions)
MONDAY	Introduction to Word 5 week course	Workshops	Intro to Windows XP Part 1 5 week course
TUESDAY	Personalize Christmas 5 week course	Intro to Computers Beginners – 3 weeks 14/21/28 Oct Photo Image & Editing 2 week course 4/11 Nov	Greeting Cards Done in Word 5 week course
WEDNESDAY	Intro to Computers Beginners 15/22/29 Oct 3 week course	Workshops	Personalize Christmas 5 week course
THURSDAY	Intro to Computers Beginners 23/30 Oct & 6 Nov	Power Point Slide Show 5 week course	Digital Cameras 5 week course
FRIDAY	E-mail & Web Browsing 5 week course	Intro to Computers Beginners 17/24/31 Oct 3 week course	Advanced Graphics Workshop
Term 4, 2nd 5-week period (Period starts Tuesday 18 Nov and finishes Tuesday 16 Dec 2008)			
	9:30 AM - 12 NOON (2½ hour sessions)	12 NOON – 2:00 PM (2 hour sessions)	2:00 PM – 4:30 PM (2½ hour sessions)
MONDAY			
TUESDAY			Intro to Windows XP Part 1 5 week course
WEDNESDAY	Intro to Windows XP Part 1 5 week course		Intro to Windows XP Part 1 5 week course
THURSDAY			
FRIDAY			



Course Coordinator's By-Line

As you will see from the schedule of classes we are only holding XP1 classes in the 2nd 5-week period. We found last year it was far too hectic. This is to accommodate the new students who have done Beginners Courses in the 1st 5-week period. If enough students want other courses in the 2nd 5-week period we will gladly accommodate them. So please apply if you want any other classes or e-mail or ring me. We require at least 3 students.

We will hopefully be offering some new Workshops before Christmas; these will include:

Computer Housekeeping Maintenance:

Installing and Uninstalling Programmes:

Demonstration on Trade-me and Skype:

Costs will be: \$10 if there are several pages of notes, \$5 if there are no notes.

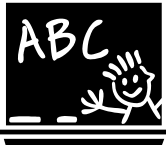
Please let us know if there are others you would like

If enough students apply for Workshops we will schedule them in either the 1st or 2nd 5 week periods.

We would appreciate if you could let me know by phone or e-mail at 904 7558 or goodsell@paradise.net.nz if you are interested in any of these.

We hope you have all had a great year and wish you all the best for Christmas and New Year. There will be another Newsletter in December or early January.

Lois Goodsell



Tutors' Corner

It has been rather quiet at the "chalk face" of SeniorNet this past term, but---despite this---we have ensured most of those members requiring specific classes have been catered for, on occasions putting two groups together to achieve this.

Tutors have been challenged, with many students now using Vista, and have coped with juggling the two programmes in the one session. More laptops are in evidence too, requiring a slightly different approach. These have served to test the flexibility of tutor's thinking, and certainly keep us on our toes!!

With the long, hard slog of winter (hopefully) behind us, we are looking forward to renewed interest in courses, and---from talking to members, and our Course Coordinator researching available material---a variety of Workshops will soon be on offer!

We have been very fortunate in adding two new tutors to our group--- Charles Davies and Olive Chatterley---and we appreciate the contribution they are already making. Several tutors have put in extra time this past term, learning new skills, and their efforts have not gone unnoticed!! This will give us more depth in tutoring the more advanced courses.

We are still on the lookout for new "blood" to add to our pool of tutors, so--- remember--- if YOU have skills (even if only at the Beginners or XP1 level) and enjoy working with people, YOU could be a tutor too!!

Lois Brinck



Why you should consider becoming a SeniorNet Tutor!

- ◆ Being part of a dynamic organization.
- ◆ Keeping up to date with the new systems and software.
- ◆ Making new friends and enjoying the SeniorNet fellowship.
- ◆ Learning more and more about the benefits of computers for yourself.
- ◆ A sense of achievement in seeing students lose their fears of computers and gain confidence they too can master the new technology.

Your Committee at work!



In our 'Team' uniform at the August Federation Regional meeting in Levin.
Front row: Lois Brinck, John Penny, Lois Goodsell
Back row: Pat Stephens, Peter Ness, Brian Milne



Working The Crowd
Peter Ness and Jim Heron promoting SeniorNet to Coastlands shoppers at our display on 23 September.

Flight Simulator Workshop

SeniorNet member 'Captain' Wally Heale presented his Flight Simulator software to a group of 22 members at a workshop at the Learning Centre on the 20th August. Wally first took us on a simulated flight in a Cessna and we 'took off' from Paraparaumu airport on a training flight around the local district.

Wally operates the software programme complete with joystick, throttle and pedals. The images of the aeroplane and the surrounding countryside are realistically presented on the big screen and the shots of the instrument panel and realistic sound system complete the illusion of flying an aeroplane.

The ultimate experience was Wally's flight from Paraparaumu to Wellington in a DC3 that began well enough but we had some difficulty in landing at Wellington (must have been the weather)!

Our thanks to Wally for taking the trouble to bring all his specialised gear to the Learning Centre and for his willingness to share his favourite hobby with us.

Brian Milne

Mid Winter Christmas Celebration

As it's fashionable to celebrate Christmas during the New Zealand mid winter, 35 SeniorNet members met at Cookies restaurant on the 24th July to catch up with friends, swap computer tales, enjoy a good meal with the trimmings and generally have a good time. Members all agreed that this kind of social occasion was well worthwhile and are keen to have further such occasions. To this end, Cookies has been booked for Thursday 4th December for the traditional Christmas luncheon so make sure you put this date in your diaries.

Brian Milne. Photos by Lois Goodsell.



SeniorNet Federation News

SeniorNet Kapiti is a member of *The Federation of New Zealand SeniorNet Societies Inc.* It offers our branch and members a variety of benefits including united representation, shared resources, and special offers/discounts to members. To learn more about the Federation and the services and benefits it offers go to their website www.seniornet.co.nz and have a good look around. There is much of interest and benefit on offer. For example, click on the Special Offers link to see discounts available from **Microsoft** and **Adobe** on their software products, as well as specials from **TelstraClear** and other merchants.

Federation Regional Meeting at Levin 29 August 2008

This get together, which was very capably organized by SeniorNet Horowhenua, included representatives from the SeniorNets at Waikanae, Kapiti, Porirua, Hutt City, Upper Hutt and Wairarapa. The programme included reports on items of interest from each of the Learning Centres, followed by a series of excellent presentations on specific topics. Attendance approached 50 SeniorNet enthusiasts.

The exchange of tutor experiences from the seven Learning Centres brought out some very worth while ideas including ways of securing a written commitment by students to agree to apply themselves diligently to the course at each of the sessions and to do their homework. Some tutors give their students their home phone number and encourage students to contact them between classes if they have problems and they ask their students at the beginning of each session if they have done their homework.

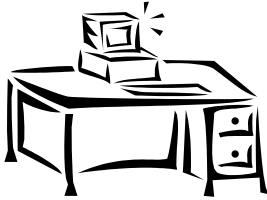
In the afternoon, after an excellent lunch, we had presentations on Trade Me from Waikanae, Greeting Cards in Word and Roy's Toys from Horowhenua and Porirua presented Supplements to Wellington's Digital Camera Course. These are some of the topics that lend themselves to single session workshops, and we have come back to Kapiti to develop some of the ideas for our own members.

In case you're wondering what Roy's Toys is all about, Roy introduced us to a selection of free software including clox, thunderbird, email cleaner, clipboard viewer, autozip, converter, winslip to split the screen, cat mouse and many more. This was a reminder that if we keep improving our computer skills there is an ever-expanding knowledge base for us to explore.

Grant Sidaway ended the day with his presentation on Maps using both Google Earth and TUMONZ (The Ultimate Map of New Zealand), which is a subscriber programme while Google Earth is free. Grant suggests that a Workshop on Google Earth is a great way to improve keyboard and mouse skills and he recommends that each Learning Centre get on the Google Map. Grant then brought us up to date with funding, sponsorship, available merchandise and that a quality audit of SeniorNet activities is planned.

Given the enthusiasm of the presenters and the positive responses from everyone attending the day, it's no wonder that SeniorNet is going from strength to strength. The willingness to share ideas and experiences is commendable and proves that with dedicated members, SeniorNet can continue to provide challenges for the older age group.

Brian Milne



Help Desk

In the June newsletter we recommended that installation of Windows XP Service Pack 3 and AVG8 should be delayed while possible problems were sorted out. Now, 3 months later, all seems to have settled down.

Microsoft, as part of its Automatic Update service has sent XP Service Pack 3 out to all registered users and there seems to be no problems with it. I installed it a few days ago. It took exactly 1 hour to install but all went well, and continues to do so.

AVG8 has also been installed by many more users and although it does cause some system slowdown (particularly during power on, when opening websites and during its daily disk scans) the reasons for this are positive – it's doing more extensive testing than was done by AVG7.5. So it's time to update if you haven't already done so - as the deadline for discontinuing support of 7.5 is 31 December. And AVG8 is available in a free version – they just hide it well! Go to <http://free.avg.com/>

How to speed up a slow computer

One of the most-asked questions from people is 'My computer is running slow – what can I do about it? There is no single or easy answer to this as the causes can range all the way from serious hardware or software problems down to nothing more than impatience by the user! However there are several things that are worth mentioning. An over-crowded hard disk or too little RAM (random access memory) can be the cause but more likely is that there are too many programs running on the PC, many in the background, so they are not obvious to the unhappy user.

Defragmenting the hard drive and/or removing unused files will usually help an over-crowded hard disk, and is easy to do. Adding memory can also help, but before doing that it is best to determine if there are unnecessary programs and/or processes running in the background - as they use up memory (and processor time), and could be the cause of the slow-running computer. The following article and link from a CNET.com forum explain how to clean out those unwanted background programs. This is not for everyone as it means getting into Windows more deeply than the casual user should undertake. But if you have used the Windows msconfig and/or Task Manager features this article will be of interest.

Many people are familiar with the whole process of stopping programs and there are several ways to tackle this task. From the comments of our members, by far the most popular answer is using Windows msconfig to stop programs from loading during start-up, and while this is a fairly simple task given the instruction from our members, many users don't know what programs (beside the obvious ones, of course) are the ones to disable. That seems to be where the confusion lies for people using this method. So as some folks pointed out, if you are unfamiliar with the start-up item, leave it alone or do an Internet search on the item and see exactly what it is for. Most certainly you'll find an answer this way, so you'll know if the program is needed or if you can safely disable it.

In addition to the msconfig suggestions, there are also many members who recommend certain software that they use to disable programs in the background. While those are great suggestions, I believe the best way to go about accomplishing the task is learning it without having to rely on any third-party application to do it. This way you can understand your system better and get the satisfaction of knowing you accomplished it all on your own.

Here's a link to a reply written by Mark Flax, a moderator on the CNET Forum that offers a good explanation and some reasonable corrective actions that can be taken by most computer users.

http://forums.cnet.com/5208-10149_102-0.html?forumID=7&threadID=308311&messageID=2857160&tag=nl.e497#2857160

SeniorNet Kapiti Membership Benefits

Ian Mead of **PC Challenge** in Raumati Beach will give a discount on software or hardware purchases to members showing their membership cards. This offer excludes labour charges.

He also advises that he now has links with a recycling company in Auckland, and wants any old ink cartridges and toner cartridges for them to process. A collection box for old cartridges is now at our Learning Centre so don't throw them away any more, either bring them into the Centre, or drop them off at his Margaret Road shop. Do your bit to help keep NZ green!

Welcome to New Members

Shirley Signal
Jack Greening
Michael Rick
Margaret Dodds
Lynne Pine
Joan Robinson

Heather Solomon
Sylvia Rick
Norma Mackinnon
Sue Emirali
Brigid O'Flynn
John Robinson



The Fine Print

Newsletter

The primary method of distributing this Newsletter is by E-mail. Members with an E-mail address registered with us will receive this as an Attachment in 'PDF' format. The free Adobe Reader program will open the Attachment for reading and/or printing. Members who are not on our E-mail list will continue to receive their copy by 'snail mail', but are encouraged to use E-Mail and provide their address to us. Simply send an E-mail to seniornet.kapiti@paradise.net.nz with 'New Address' in the Subject line.

All contents of this newsletter are offered in good faith as being correct when published. No liability is accepted for any errors it may contain.

We acknowledge that some material in this newsletter is sourced from other SeniorNets.

Waiver

From time to time some of our members give help and advice to other members on matters relating to computers and associated equipment. This help or advice is given in good faith, is taken solely at the recipients risk, and imposes no responsibility or liability of any kind, either on those providing such help or advice, or on SeniorNet Kapiti.

New Address or Phone?

If you have changed your E-mail/postal address or phone number (or are about to) please let us know so that we can update our records.

Need Help?

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have a problem with your computer or the course that you are taking. We're only too happy to help if we can.

Thank you to our Sponsors...



- **NZ Lottery Grants Board
Te Puna Tahua**

... and our Supporters

- **Ian Mead of
PC Challenge
Margaret Road, Raumati Beach**
 - **Print Room**
- **Mr. Rex Temperton of
Temperton Associates**
- **Kapiti Senior Citizens Club
45 Ocean Road, Paraparaumu, 902-4483**
- **TelstraClear**

Kapiti Coast Grey Power Association Inc.

PO Box 479
Paraparaumu 5254
Phone (04) 902 5680
email: kapitigreypower@paradise.net.nz



**The Active Organisation protecting the rights
of senior citizens and others over 50 years.**

Pop into our offices at the Community Services Centre,
Coastlands Shoppingtown, and find out what we have to
offer.

Find out about our Shoppers Discount guide and the Odd
Job scheme - obtain literature - and while you are there
have a cuppa and chat with our friendly staff.

Office hours are **Monday to Friday 10.00am to 4.00pm.**

Class Application Form

Please complete the following form and send with your fees to:

The Secretary
SeniorNet Kapiti Inc.
P.O. Box 522, Paraparaumu

Name _____

Address _____

Please print clearly

Telephone No _____ E-mail Address _____

X	Course	Cost	Day	Time
	Beginners Introduction to Computers (3 weekly sessions)	Free		
	Introduction to Windows XP Part 1 (5 weekly sessions)	\$40.00		
	Introduction to Windows XP Part 2 (5 weekly sessions)	\$40.00		
	Introduction to Microsoft Word (5 weekly sessions)	\$45.00		
	E-mail and Web Browsing (5 weekly sessions)	\$45.00		
	E-mail (3 weekly sessions)	\$30.00		
	Web Browsing (2 weekly sessions)	\$20.00		
	Digital cameras (5 weekly sessions)	\$40.00		
	Photo Image and Editing (2 weekly sessions)	\$20.00		
	Power Point Slide Show (5 weekly sessions)	\$40.00		
	Writing or Burning to a CD (2 weekly sessions)	\$20.00		
	Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet Part 1 (5 weekly sessions)	\$40.00		
	Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet Part 2 (5 weekly sessions)	\$40.00		
	Desktop Publishing 2000 (8 weekly sessions)	\$60.00		
	Advanced Graphics using Paint Shop Pro (8 weekly sessions)	\$60.00		
	Advanced Graphics (No Manual) (4 weekly sessions)	\$20.00		
	Greeting Cards using Microsoft Word (5 weekly sessions)	\$40.00		
	Personalise Christmas (5 weekly sessions)	\$45.00		
	Picasa2 (2 weekly sessions)	\$20.00		
	Draw using Microsoft Word (5 weekly sessions)	\$40.00		
	Courses and Workshops we are looking at for the near future:			
	Using Photoshop Elements (Price still to be determined)			
	Typing (Price still to be determined)			
	Word Skills Level 1, 2, & 3 (Price still to be determined)			
	Calendar Making (Price still to be determined)			
	Video Editing (Price still to be determined)			
	Scrapbooking (Price still to be determined)			
	Workshops (1 session of 2 or 2 ½ hours)	\$10.00		
	Workshops with a Manual (1 session of 2 or 2 ½ hours)	\$15.00		
	Workshops are: Trade-me; Computer Maintenance; Skype;		(Price still to be determined)	
	Computer Housekeeping; Maintenance & Security;		(Price still to be determined)	
	Installing and Uninstalling Programmes		(Price still to be determined)	

Note:

To print this form while viewing it with Adobe Reader click the **Printer** icon on the Tool bar (3rd icon from left end) to open the Printer dialog box. Click the radio dial button titled **Current Page** and then click **OK**.

**If undelivered please return to:
SeniorNet Kapiti, 39 Hinemoa St., Paraparaumu**