

Wavelength

Chairman's Report

Friends,

Welcome once again to the Senior Net Marlborough Sounds Newsletter. Just yesterday 4 of your committee spent the day travelling to Motueka, and back, to attend the Top Of The South regional meeting. There were some pretty weighty subjects up for discussion such as, "What impact will the new Health and Safety legislation have on Senior Net?" and "How will we be affected by the changes to the Incorporated Societies Act?". Add to that such topics as, "Can we thrive on a reduced budget?" and, "How better to Market SeniorNet?" You can see that it wasn't just a jolly to add to the 280 kms driven. One of the topics raised was the Discount that members get from Noel Leeming. Whenever you need to buy anything that Noel Leeming sell you will get a discount of cost plus 12%. It is important that you specify Senior Net and not any other form of discount that they offer because for each transaction where a member gets a discount Senior Net also gets a percentage. This adds up to a tidy sum at the end of the year but unless you are insistent that the discount is specifically SeniorNet that will not happen. Check the till receipt. The SeniorNet discount will be shown by name. If not ask that the transaction be re entered.



Work at Linkwater Hall is nearing completion and we should be able to offer some courses, workshops and presentations soon. The courses of the (recent) past don't seem to be high in the popularity stakes. We need to know from you just what it is on the "new" technologies that you need help with. We may not be able to respond straight away as we may need to find out the "how to do it" ourselves, but we do need to know. One of the SeniorNet's we met at the Motueka meeting is teaching, "How to set up a Smart TV" would that be of interest?

If you haven't renewed your subscription yet, now is the time to do it: \$20 for single and \$30 for a couple. Good value for all that can learn from us. The Treasurer's details will be found on back page of the newsletter. *Bryan Strong*



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Special points of interest:

- Contact our Course Organisers for info on upcoming courses.
- Current Committee is listed on back page. Please contact any member with comments or suggestions.
- **Newsletter inputs are due to John Wright; johnbp.wright@gmail.com by the 12th of each month.**

SeniorNet DIG (Photographers' Group)

This month's meeting was our first in the Settlers' Hall supper room. We were able to see the new fold down tables that had been made from materials recycled from the old cabinets at St Luke's. As well we were among the first to use one of the flash new AIO computers to view our photos. We made a selection of photos from our outings, to the Havelock Marina, Taylors Dam and an earlier homework task on the topic of Birds. With six of us present it took a while to select the ones we liked best. Next month we will sort out the top photos for printing in the newsletter.

Our next month's project is to create a collage i.e. a page of photos on a single subject. I wonder what members will come up with? We hope that by then the large TV screen will be in operation.

I must point out that we are just a group of beginners who are learning from one another. Is there someone out there with camera skills who would like to join us? We welcome new members. If you are interested phone June 574 1311 or Donald 574 2326

These photos are by the Digital Imaging group on the set topic for April: "Birds"



Profile. Philip Middlemiss



My first involvement with computers was about 35 or more years ago when my boss in Telecom put two IBM PC computers on my desk and said that I was in charge of the computers. Each computer had, if I can remember right, only about 500 kB of memory. That's kilo not mega or giga! I wonder how we could get on with only that nowadays. I remember when we had a one Mb upgrade. No one could understand why we needed that much computer memory. So my learning curve started.

I taught myself how to do programming in machine language back then. I have worked with many types of computers over the years, often building and upgrading them and continually adding extra bits to them to get them to do what I wanted.

In 1995 I started to get interested in Flight Simulation. Microsoft Flight Sim was quite good but the scenery for New Zealand consisted of Auckland and Queenstown airports with a big blob of land in between. Not much use at all.

So once again I started to teach myself more programming and started to design full scenery of New Zealand with all the airports which consisted of over 120 different airports. I needed to draw all the mountain ranges, roadways, rivers, lakes and towns and cities and finally got it working good enough to share with anyone who wanted it.

One of my most interesting users of the scenery was an Air France Concord Pilot who emailed me to thank me for the Christchurch

scenery as he used the Simulator to practice his landings at Christchurch.

Twenty years ago I worked on software to display weather information on the internet. At this stage we still lived in Christchurch.

The weather information was updated on the internet every 15 seconds. This weather site became very popular with users from all round the world. Later I added weather forecasting software to generate my own forecast. This program collects information from all around the Pacific and then does its thing and converts the collected information into a five day forecast.

About two and a half years ago I had a stroke which deleted everything I knew about computers, including even how to use the mouse. This was a bit frightening. But over the last year or so quite a bit of the info is back. I suppose one positive I can now watch reruns on TV because all of those got deleted as well!

As well as having a PC, I also use an iPad and I recently added a Mac to my desk to try to get my brain working at full speed again.

I am also a Ham Radio operator. My callsign is ZL3GP.

We shifted to Picton six months ago and we love it here.

I am married to Alison, and we celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary in 14 months time. We have three children and eleven grandchildren.

Here is a notice about the Weather station that I operate in Picton.

Picton weather data is updated every 15 seconds with the locally generated forecast. The forecast is updated six times a day. The second link is for the Havelock weather station which only has the weather forecast which is updated four times a day.

Picton Weather:-

www.pictonweather.nz

Havelock Weather:-

www.havelock.nzwebnet.co.nz

Please Take Note (Noel Leeming)

Importance of members making sure purchases from Noel Leeming are correctly coded to SeniorNet.

Extract from Federation Committee summary update: "Noel Leeming".

There seems to be confusion by the Noel Leeming staff at some stores regarding the correct coding for SeniorNet purchases and as a result the Federation could be missing out on income. It is important for members to make sure that their purchases are under SeniorNet and not some other discount arrangement.

WHAT EXACTLY IS A SMART TV?

The term has come to denote any television that can be connected to the Internet to access streaming media services, and that can run entertainment apps, such as on-demand video-rental services, Internet music stations and Web browsers.

Virtually every major TV manufacturer make a Smart TV today, with the trend toward making every set "Smart" with some of the biggest Smart-TV makers including LG, Panasonic, Philips, Samsung, Sharp, Sony, TCL, Toshiba and Vizio.

- **How do Smart-TVs connect to the Internet?**

Smart-TVs use either a direct wired Ethernet connection, or built-in Wi-Fi to connect to a home network for Internet access. Most models today have built-in Wi-Fi, but check before you buy.

Check your home's Wi-Fi coverage reaches all parts of the house where it's needed, or the set may not be able to stream video from Netflix or other providers without hiccups

If your Smart-TV isn't getting a strong enough Wi-Fi wireless signal, you have options. If your router is more than three years old, a new Wi-Fi router that supports 802.11ac could do the trick.

There are Wi-Fi range extenders available from companies such as Netgear, but they require time and patience to set up and install. (Getting any Wi-Fi to work all around multi-level homes is a bit of a lottery!) The best solution is to either network a wired connection or move the modem close to the TV and/or office.

- **What services do Smart-TVs offer, and how do they differ from one another?**

There is no standard operating system or interface for Smart-TVs (although many use a variant of Linux or Android). Nearly every Smart-TV maker uses different software and different graphical presentations. Some companies install different operating systems and interfaces on their low-end versus their high-end sets.

Manufacturers also offer different assortments of online services and apps.

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Picton

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email: pharmacy@pictonhealthcare.co.nz



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Most Smart-TVs support such popular services as You Tube and Netflix. However, some sets offer only a handful of apps that rarely change, while others deliver several screens of offerings (although be aware that a number of the services offered will be on a subscription basis).

If you decide on a Smart-TV get the shop to demonstrate the features of the ones you are interested in. What you like about one set may not be included in another! – although if one company adds a popular service, such as Twitter, the rest generally follow suit.

Ask, “Will my smart-TV maker regularly update the software with new features?”

Most TV manufacturers add and customize apps on their own. Some TV companies are quicker than others at fixing the occasional bug or working with developers to improve their apps.

Most major manufacturers perform software updates periodically, including updates to the set's own internal firmware (often downloaded automatically).

From SeniorNet Otago Newsletter

John, who lived in the north of England, decided to go golfing in Scotland with his buddy, Larry.

So they loaded up John's minivan and headed north. After driving for a few hours, they got caught in a terrible blizzard. So they pulled into a nearby farm and asked the attractive lady who answered the door if they could spend the night.

“I realize it's terrible weather out there and I have this huge house all to myself, but I'm recently widowed,” she explained, “and I'm afraid the neighbours will talk if I let you stay in my house.”

“Don't worry,” John said. “We'll be happy to sleep in the barn. And if the weather breaks, we'll be gone at first light.”

The lady agreed, and the two men found their way to the barn and settled in for the night.

Come morning, the weather had cleared, and they got on their way. They enjoyed a great weekend of golf. But about nine months later, John got an unexpected letter

from an attorney. It took him a few minutes to figure it out, but he finally determined that it was from the attorney of that attractive widow he had met on the golf weekend.

He dropped in on his friend Larry and asked, “Larry, do you remember that good-looking widow from the farm we stayed at on our golf holiday in Scotland about 9 months ago?”

“Yes, I do,” said Larry

“Did you, er, happen to get up in the middle of the night, go up to the house and pay her a visit?”

“Well, um, yes!,” Larry said, a little embarrassed about being found out, “I have to admit that I did.”

“And did you happen to give her my name instead of telling her your name?”

Larry's face turned beet red and he said, “Yeah, look, I'm sorry, buddy. “I'm afraid I did. Why do you ask?”

“She just died and left me everything.”

THINKING OF SELLING YOUR PROPERTY?

Have you been thinking of selling your property - downsizing perhaps? Not sure how much your property is worth and want to know what the market is doing in this current climate?

For a Free, No Obligation Appraisal of your property contact us on
Ph 03 573 6699, 36 High Street, Picton
enquiries.picton@harcourts.co.nz

Harcourts

Support Our Supporters



SeniorNet Committee:

The following people are your SeniorNet officers and committee. Please contact any one of them if you have any comments or questions.

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Deputy : Donald McIver 574 2326

Secretary: Ian Cameron 574 2558

Treasurer: Brian Cameron 574 2267

Committee: June Strong 574 1311

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