

Wavelength

Chairman's report

Once again the months roll by and it's time to tell you what's been going on with Senior Net Marlborough Sounds.

We've had a busy time, which is good.

During August we have had two Open Days, the first at the Learning Centre at Linkwater and the other at the Picton Library. Both were successful in that many existing members were able to see what the new Windows 10 was all about and also that some people who did not previously know about us joined and showed an interest in using some of our courses to add to their store of knowledge.

There have been courses around the general subject of photography and one on Google. More are scheduled for the coming weeks.

The subject of Facebook often comes up in conversation. Most seniors, including me, don't "do" Facebook, however I have a feeling that we are missing something. I understand that you can have a private 'account' and that you don't have to tell the world what you had for breakfast.

In order to see what it's all about we will be running a workshop on Saturday 19th September, 1pm at the Learning Centre. I'll certainly be there and I'm looking forward to finding ways to use it to my advantage.

We exist to show seniors how to get the best out of an ever changing technology. If there is anything that you want to know, don't hesitate to call any of the committee members. Their phone numbers are at the end of this newsletter. Bryan.



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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 15th of each month.**

A couple of volunteers would be most welcome from the Picton/Waikawa area to join the committee. With the vast majority of the population in our area living in and around Picton we think they should be represented. Please contact any committee member if you are interested.

Windows 10

At Last we have solid information on how to upgrade from Windows 8.1 to Windows 10. To get instructions on how to register in advance for the upgrade visit

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-10-upgrade>

The following instructions come from that site:

Here's how:

1. Reserve

You can reserve your free upgrade in the *Get Windows 10* app. Once you reserve, Windows 10 will download when available, and you can cancel your reservation at any time.

- o Click on the small Windows icon found at the right end of the taskbar. If you don't see it, visit our Q&A page for more info.
- o Click "Reserve your free upgrade" in the app window.
- o Enter your email if you want a confirmation of this reservation.
- o All set. There's no obligation and you can cancel your reservation at any time.

2. Install

You'll get a notification after July 29, 2015 once Windows 10 is downloaded to your device. Install it right away or pick a time that's good for you.

3. Enjoy

After it's installed, you have Windows 10 for free on that device.

For information on what Windows 10 will look like, with lots of screen shots, go to :

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/features>

NINE reasons not to upgrade to Windows 10 -- yet.

Excited about the imminent release of Windows 10? You may want to wait.

(By Preston Gralla Computerworld | Jul 21, 2015 3:30 AM PT)

Windows 10 is just about here -- and many users (especially those who have been wrestling with Windows 8) are probably eager to upgrade. But even if you can get it now -- the upgrade will be sent first to those who signed up for the Windows Insider beta program and then in "slow waves" to everyone else -- you may want to hold off.

Here are nine reasons you might want to put off a Windows 10 upgrade.

1. Your system can't run it

This may seem obvious, but sometimes it's the obvious that gets missed. In order to run Windows 10, you need a PC or tablet with a 1GHz processor or faster, 1GB of RAM for 32-bit machines or 2GB for 64-bit machines, 16GB hard disk space for 32-bit machines or 20GB hard disk space for 64-bit machines, a DirectX 9 or later graphics card with a WDDM 1.0 driver and an 800 x 600 display or better. For more details, go to Microsoft's Windows 10 specifications page. If your system doesn't qualify, then you're going to have to upgrade your hardware before you upgrade your operating system. (Or just buy a new computer with Windows 10 already installed.)

2. You get a year for the free upgrade offer

Windows 7 and Windows 8 users get a free upgrade to Windows 10. But you don't have to upgrade right away -- you have a full year. (The clock starts on July 29, 2015.) So you can upgrade at your leisure and not waste a bright, summer day doing it.

3. You're using Windows 7

Windows 10 undoes the damage done by Windows 8, an operating system that was built more for touch devices than for traditional PCs. In fact, two of Windows 10's big improvements over Windows 8 are the addition of a Windows 7-style Start menu and the ability to work entirely on the desktop and

ignore the touch-focused Start screen. So if you currently use Windows 7, you're already set -- you have a Start menu and you work only on the desktop. In short: If you're happy with the way Windows 7 works, you may want to stay with it.

4. You like Windows 7 desktop gadgets

Windows 7 includes desktop gadgets that do things such as check the weather and stock quotes, monitor your CPU, report about the state of your system, let you listen to streaming radio stations, and check your hard drive speed and the state of your network. They don't work on Windows 10 and will be deleted when you upgrade. So if you're a gadget fan, don't upgrade.

5. Security updates for Vista, Windows 7 and Windows 8 will be available for years

Microsoft has a habit of pushing people to its latest operating system by ending support for its old operating systems, halting security updates and leaving users potentially open to security threats. If you have Windows 7 or Windows 8, you've got years before that happens. Microsoft will keep issuing security patches for Windows 7 until January 2020 and for Windows 8 until January 2023. Even Windows Vista will get security updates until April 2017. So no need to rush.

6. You use OneDrive placeholders

In Windows 8.1, OneDrive placeholders, also called smart files, let you see all of the files in OneDrive, even if the files are located in the cloud and not on your device. When you double-click a placeholder on your PC, the file is downloaded. However, when Windows 10 ships, OneDrive placeholders won't work because of the upgraded OneDrive software.

Microsoft says it will try to bring OneDrive placeholder functionality to Windows 10 by year's end. But if OneDrive placeholders are important to you, don't upgrade until they work with Windows 10.

7. You have old peripherals

The Achilles heel of most new operating systems is handling older peripherals, such as 8 printers and scanners. Microsoft doesn't always make sure that drivers for vintage devices work with the new operating system -- it would take too many development resources. As a result, some of these peripherals won't work with newer operating systems.

So if you have old favourites with a lot of mileage on them, don't upgrade right away. Scour the Internet for news of whether they work with Windows 10, and only upgrade to it when you know that they do.

8. You love Windows Media Center

Yes, it's true -- there are some people who are big fans of Window Media Center, which was released way back in 2002 and which is used to play video, music and other media. Microsoft has been trying to kill it off for years, and even disbanded the team responsible for it back in 2009.

The truth is, Media Center was always a nightmare to set up and has been superseded by streaming media services such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu, Spotify, Apple Music and many others. Still, there are die-hards out there who love it -- and who will be dismayed to learn that Windows Media Center won't work with Windows 10. If you're one of that group, stay away from upgrading.

9. You don't need the pain of early adoption

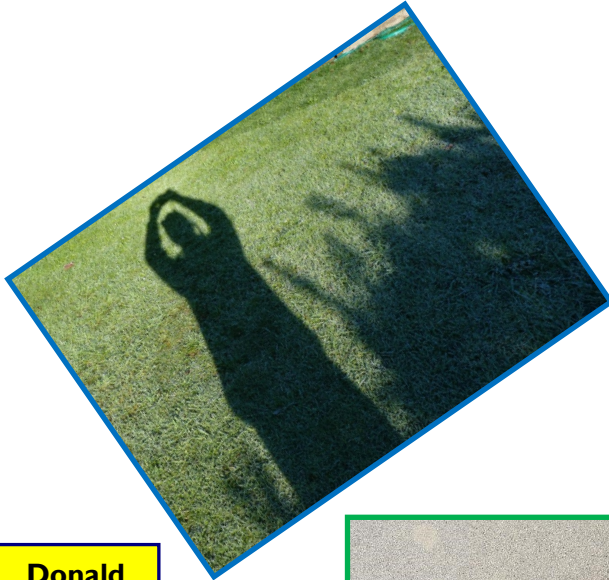
No matter how widespread beta testing is for a new operating system, it can't uncover all the bugs and gotchas. A new operating system hasn't been tested on every possible piece of hardware, with every piece of software, and with every hardware/software combination. People who upgrade immediately are the guinea pigs. They're the ones who feel the pain.

If you'd prefer to go with an operating system that's had enough time for a shakedown cruise, wait another six months before you upgrade.

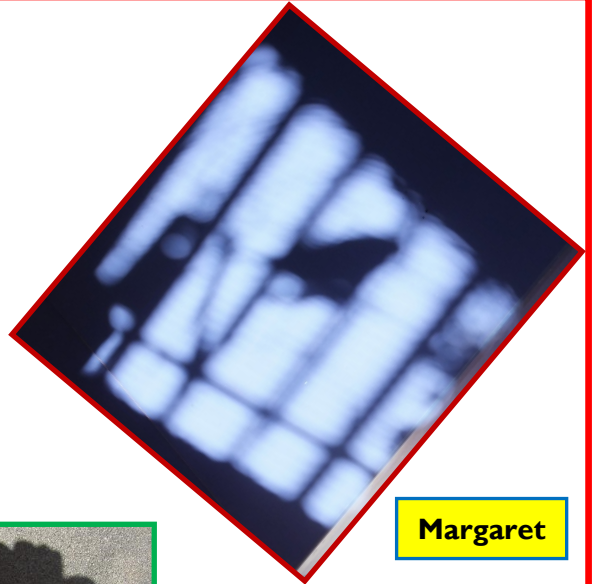
(Extract From Golden Bay NL.)

Camera Club

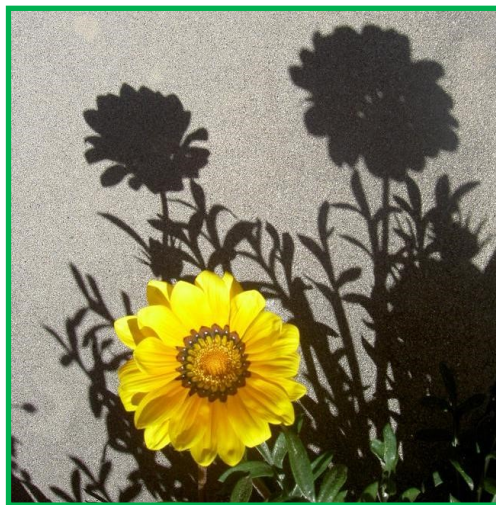
These are the five photos the camera club liked best based on the theme "Shadows". The most popular one belonged to Sigrid.



Donald



Margaret



Sigrid



Viv



Yvonne

SeniorNet Committee:

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

Chairperson:	Bryan Strong	574 1311
Deputy :	Donald McIver	574 2326
Secretary:	Ian Cameron	574 2558
Treasurer:	Faye Daken	574 2663
Committee:	Robert Boren	574 2333
	Brian Cameron	574 2267
	Gary Graham	574 2548
	John Herbert	573 6023
	Peter Radcliffe	574 1488
	June Strong	574 1311
Editor:	John Wright	574 2799

Course Organisers:

Bryan & June Strong	574 1311
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Banking details for SeniorNet Marlborough Sounds.

38 9010 0788795 01

SeniorNet Cellphone

020 40 69 1226

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Articles wanted:

Items required for your Newsletter. If you have an item you would like to see in the Newsletter, no matter the size, (it can be edited to suit) please forward to the Editor: johnbp.wright@gmail.com. Deadline is 15th of the month