

Wavelength

Chairman's Report

As this is the last newsletter for 2016 I thought appropriate to do a run down on just what a momentous year it has been for Senior Net Marlborough Sounds and after the 13th November, the Marlborough Sounds as a whole.

The more obvious change was occasioned by the sale of St Lukes and our subsequent move to Linkwater Hall. That has proved to be very successful, however more than somewhat draining on the finances. As the Hall has multiple users we had nowhere to put the 4 PCs which had been in the locked cupboards at St Lukes. This meant that we had to buy replacements in the form of 'All-In-One PCs' and laptops; machines that could be locked away when not in use.

As residents of the Sounds we came off lightly in the recent earthquake aftermath unlike many others. A check on the Hall has shown no damage so we were lucky there.

The next issue which perhaps could affect us more than the obvious is the possible closure of Senior Net Marlborough (Blenheim). Despite having a much larger membership than ours, they were having continuing problems attracting tutors and on the 15th November voted to close. At the time of writing efforts to keep them going are underway, results unknown.

Although perhaps not affecting us directly it does point to an issue for us. We are also having great difficulties in attracting tutors. Those we have are people who have been tutors for many years and we urgently need new blood. If you have any skill in the world of technology, however small or simple you think that skill may be, you have something that could be passed on to others so that we all may grow. If only to discuss what you may be able to give please contact Donald McIver whose contact details you will find at the end of this newsletter.

Have a splendid holiday period and may the grandchildren be as well behaved as you were at their age!

Bryan Strong.

"Buying the right computer and getting it to work properly is no more complicated than building a nuclear reactor from wristwatch parts in a darkened room using only your teeth."



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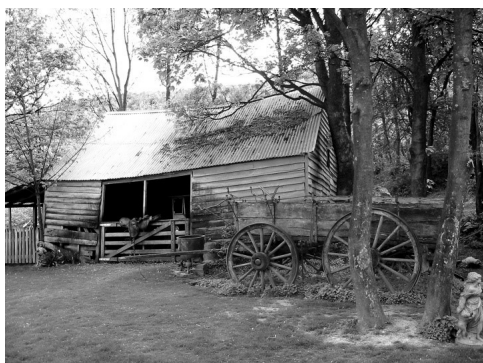
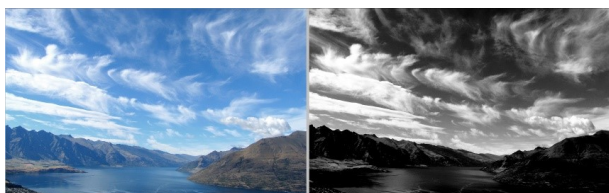
Special points of interest:

- 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.**

SeniorNet DIG (Photographers Group)

On Friday November 4 the group held a workshop on repairing and restoring old photos. It was exciting to watch old and damaged pictures restored to their former glory. Scratches and tears vanished as if by magic. Colour photos that had deteriorated to that orange only look had the greens and blues restored. Everyone got involved in the process and time just flew by. **Members' project for Friday December 2 is to display a restored photo along with its previous dilapidated state.**

Below are one or two examples of Black & White photos which should have been shown on October edition of the newsletter



Working with Photos Level

one

This course will be repeated on November 25. It is all about getting the most from your photos using two of the best available freeware applications. It is an all-day course. **There is room for one more person. If you are interested phone Donald 5742326.**

Smart Television (or not)

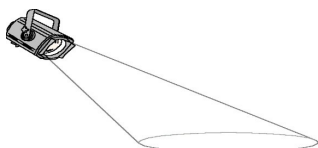
Those of you who have a Smart Television may not be aware of a brilliant programme, “The Crown”.

It is a new £100 million drama on the Royal Family and it is only available via Netflix. (To which you will have to subscribe). The saga is expected to extend to no fewer than 60 one hour episodes run over 6 seasons. It is the story of the Queen’s reign from her days as a 25 year old to the present day.

Even if you don’t have a Smart TV there is a relatively cheap way of showing what is on the screen of your laptop, smart phone or tablet onto your TV screen. It’s called Chromecast and is available at Noel Leeming for around \$70 to Senior Net Members. Any mobile device, Windows 10 tablet or phone, Android, iPad, iPhone, Chromebook, any Windows or Apple laptop, they can all have whatever is on their screen projected onto your TV. Failing that a simple connection from your laptop via an HDMI cable. Senior Net has a Chromecast and will be showing you how to use it-

On Friday 9th December at the SeniorNet get together, just how smart a smart TV can really get will be demonstrated.

(I have watched the first series of the programme and it is recommended viewing.. Ed.)



Spotlight on the Future of our SeniorNet

2016 has been a busy and successful year for our SeniorNet. Not only have we carried out a huge move from St Luke’s to Linkwater Hall and replaced much of our aging equipment but we have even increased our membership to something over 70. This means that we must look towards 2017 and the types of courses, workshops and presentations we can offer. **The end of year function on December 9 will give a foretaste of a few of these.**

However we do need help in terms of people who are up with new developments in technology. Do you know someone in our local community who might be persuaded to join SeniorNet and share their knowledge and experience with us? Please do some serious searching among locals.

New technology is moving at an increasing pace and we would like to be able to help keep you up with the latest developments. The days when SeniorNet concentrated on just teaching people about computers are past. Today’s technology is both much wider and reaches into our every-day lives. What topics would you like us to cover next year?

The success of SeniorNet does not just depend on the committee but on the efforts of the whole membership. Please give feed-back to your committee members.

D.McI

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Now also with our new branch

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The Perils of Digital Archiving

So much of our important data is stored digitally now. But what does that mean for future archives? Will our important documents, images and music be readable one hundred years from now?

If you've got a piece of paper that's fantastic; it's the original, but if anything happens to that one piece of paper, you no longer have your original. Anything else will be either a copy (a lower quality copy) or just not exist, which is what we find happening way too often when there are things like fires and such.

So, one of the things, one of the arguments against digital document retention in particular, but it also happens for digital music, photography and video, is that things change. Over time, things change. How do we know today that the document we're storing, the videos that I'm creating, the audio that's getting produced is going to be saved in a format that will be understood and recognizable 10 years from now, 50 years from now, 100 years from now. We don't.

The issue is, also, with respect to physical media.

However I store these documents, how do I know that ten years from now, 50 years from now, 100 years from now, people will have any way of actually physically retrieving the document off the media that I chose? If you've got old floppy disks lying around your home, you're facing this already.

You've got documents or files on those floppy disks and there's a good chance you no longer have a machine that could read them. There are currently still alternatives; there are ways to get the documents off of those floppy disks, but are they gonna be here ten years from now? I don't know. I can't tell you. We're seeing also, with these very slow disappearances, with things like the CD-ROM drive or the DVD drive from laptops and occasionally even desktop machines. Now all relying on ubiquitous connectivity to serve the same function. **You don't necessarily get your programs installed from a DVD; you actually download them from an online source.** It's an assumption that a lot of manufacturers love to make because making something available online is a heckuva lot cheaper than physically producing DVD by boxing them up and shipping them out and doing whatever they do to get the product in your hands.

Again, how do we know that 10, 50, or 100 years from now, things like CDs, DVDs, whatever follows them are still going to be around? The answer ultimately is that we don't. We don't know that those will be around. We can make some assumptions, some very broad assumptions about digital formats.

For example, I think there's a very high likelihood that PDF files will be readable 100 years from now. They may be considered old and arcane, but the fact is there

is so much information being preserved and presented in PDF format today, that it seems unlikely that all that would be discarded so readily by something as simple as not being to understand and display the format.

I think that's going to be around for a while. Jpeg files – around file; mp3 files – all your music, that's going to be around for a while. Will there be better, newer, higher quality alternatives in the future? Very likely. But will support for these “ancient” at that time, formats go away? I suspect not.

What's true, digital archives are faced with doing is two things: Understanding the formats that they have and making sure that as new formats arise, documents are migrated into those new formats. I'm doing the same thing with my CD archives.

My archives of documents and backups that I care to keep for a long time. I'm actually very slowly copying off the contents of those CDs on to what are now significantly larger hard disks that have no problem with the capacity issues.

(I would suggest that applies to your flash drives as well Ed.)

Today, it's a simple copy operation. Tomorrow, who knows what it will be in terms of format changes or hardware required to be able to read the old media so again what digital archives the second part of digital archiving is as much about making sure that the data is preserved in a format that can be accessed and copying it if it looks like the current format is something that's not going to be supported over time.

Extract from “Ask Leo”

WHEN TO SELL YOUR PROPERTY?

The standard response when you're thinking about selling your home but are not sure when, is “sell in spring”. And there's plenty of truth in that as warmer, drier weather and post-winter itchy feet drive potential buyers out to open homes.

For a Free, No Obligation Confidential Appraisal of your property –

Contact either Brenda Davey,
Ash Davey, Carolyn Burn or Grant Douglas

Ph 03 573 6699, 36 High Street, Picton

enquiries.picton@harcourts.co.nz

Harcourts

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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I do hope you have enjoyed your reads from the Newsletter these past months. Since this is the last newsletter of 2016 I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members, "A Merry Christmas and A Very Happy and Prosperous 2017". Ed.

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