

Wavelength

Chairman's Report

There are two things that need reporting this month.

Firstly your Senior Net Committee is undergoing a bit of a reorganization with members taking on specific tasks so don't be surprised if you are contacted by someone other than the Secretary, Treasurer or Course Coordinator. They, of course will still be there and doing a valuable job, but other functions such as Membership Liaison, Publicity, Course Development and so on, will be taken over by one or two people. We hope that this will help us keep up with the rapid and ever changing technology.

The second thing concerns Internet (Online) Banking and for this we are going to need your help.

Within a year or two you will have only two choices where banking is concerned. Either go to the nearest branch or use Internet Banking. Cheques are either going to be eliminated or made very expensive to use.

This brings me to the "help" part. As Senior Net Members I suspect that you already use Internet Banking, however you must know a senior who is frightened of it and is burying his or her head in the sand. I'm reminded of the elderly lady interviewed on TV when decimalisation was about to happen.

"They should wait until all the old people have died first".

On Monday 4th May, 10am at the Picton Model Engineers building we will be running, in conjunction with WestPac, a banking session. A member of WestPac's Picton staff will be there to help show you the way. We will introduce you to the scheme, how it works and what you can do. It is not necessary to bank with WestPac to get the benefit from this. Whilst each bank has its own way of doing things, the differences are minor and you will easily be able to adapt.

The next bit of good news is that we will be doing the same course in **Havelock at 2.30 pm on the 13th May** in the community room at the school.

And for those who can't make the dates, we will be running the same course at our **Linkwater Learning Centre, date to be advised** and subject to sufficient interest.

So tell your friends, especially those who don't, won't, or can't use it. We can help!

Bryan Strong.



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Special points of interest:

- Contact our Course Organisers for info on upcoming classes.
- Current Committee is listed on page 6. 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.

SNMS Interest Groups

Family History

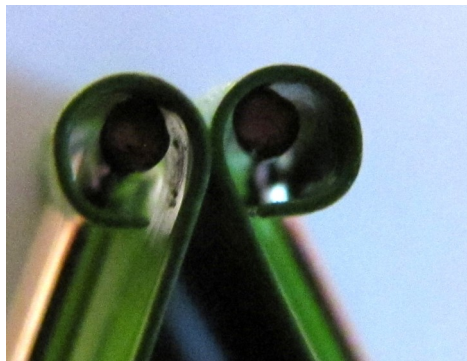
A small group of enthusiasts met to share information about genealogy. A high sounding title for a group of people who are interested in finding out more about their family history. A fascinating study. How often do we wish we had asked our parents and grandparents about what they did with their lives. All too soon it can become too late. What about our own lives, not interesting enough? Should we be archiving information for our descendants? **Belonging to the SeniorNet genealogy group can help get you started.** Want to know more? Phone Bryan 574 1311

Digital Imaging Group

A change in plans plus bad weather meant a move to a backup topic, "What is it?"

The top photo for the month was by Sigrid Fuetterer.

Can you guess what it is? Answer elsewhere in this newsletter.



Next month's back up topic is "Trees"; any shape, form, or part thereof. If it's fine we will have our trip to Blenheim. **Like to join us? Phone Donald 574 2326**

Working with Photos I

A new course based on freeware applications will be available in the very near future for members who would like to get the best out of their photos, whether ancient or modern. The software, which will be made available to those attending the course, has a wide range of tools for performing common tasks. Students will be taught how to use these and they will have time to practice with a tutor on hand to help. *There will be places for just four students at the first "Working with Photos 1" course.* A second course "Working with Photos 2" dealing with layers and more advanced techniques will be available in the not too distant future. **If you are interested please get in touch with Donald 574 2326 for further information and/or to book a place.**

You might be interested to know that the "Working with Photos" course has been filled twice over. Donald will still take more names if members are interested.

Ransomware Makes an Unwelcome Return

A form of malicious software that literally holds your personal computer to ransom came to prominence a few years ago and after a recent hiatus a new version has emerged to once again torment computer owners.

Known generally as ransomware, these are from the virus category known as worms that access your computer from emails received or websites visited. They encrypt your computer files and are capable of preventing you from accessing information on your computer unless you pay a ransom of between \$500 and \$1000.



The high profile

CryptoLocker program that came to prominence in late 2013 has been replaced by a new version known as Cryptowall. This version targets Microsoft Windows and is propagated through phishing emails. CryptoWall first appeared in January 2015. The older Cryptolocker displayed messages which accused the user of criminal activity, suggesting that upon payment of an online penalty the computer will return to normal operation.

Unlike Cryptolocker, CryptoWall demands payment with the digital currency bitcoin and is suspected to be the work of Russian hackers. Unless the program is removed from the computer at the earliest opportunity, the computer may remain unusable, even after the program has been deleted and require a Nerd to return it to a working state.

It's important to understand that the ransomware is not bluffing or making idle threats. Unless you pay the ransom, you will lose access to any files that have been encrypted. Once the countdown starts you have about three days to make payment, otherwise the decryption key is destroyed and you permanently lose the ability to decrypt your files.

The only positive, yet frighteningly concerning kicker is that by paying the ransom, CryptoWall requests the key from the remote server, uses the unique key to decrypt your files, and then proceeds to uninstall itself.

The effectiveness of antivirus and internet security software against ransomware is unclear though antivirus companies are working on it and you should definitely have an up to date, running antivirus programme installed on your computer to mitigate the risk as much as possible.

The best alternative to total disaster is to have a regular and reliable backup program in place. This could be either an external drive that only is connected when performing a backup, or a cloud storage solution configured for retention of changed and deleted files. An automated cloud backup service will allow the computer owner to access their files from a time before the infection began and restore all the files. If your backup has been infected then the probability of achieving a full clean restoration diminish rapidly.

The moral of the story is to always be sure that you trust the source of email you are opening or the website you are visiting and NEVER give up your passwords to anyone.

Courtesy Gizmo NL.

What is “The Cloud”

People who use tablet computers ask “What is the cloud?” In the simplest terms, cloud computing means storing and accessing data and programmes over the Internet instead of your computer's hard drive. The cloud is just a metaphor for the Internet. It goes back to the days of flowcharts and presentations that would represent the gigantic server-farm infrastructure of the Internet as nothing but a puffy, white cumulonimbus cloud, accepting connections and doling out information as it floats. People are using cloud storage for storing photos, music, and other files that they use in their day-to-day life. Lately, music streaming from the cloud is becoming available from companies like Amazon and Apple. How does Cloud Storage work? Cloud storage keeps files/objects in an amalgamation of servers in different locations and countries. Think of a server as a big filing cabinet storing your files, pictures or music. Users can either access the files directly or make changes to a local file and sync with the cloud. The cloud also enables access to the files from any device, including mobile phones, tablets and laptops. Most phone and tablet users access free storage, usually up to 5 or 10GB from Dropbox, Box, iCloud, one drive, cloud drive etc. A few cloud storage companies such as JustCloud and MyPCbackup offer unlimited data storage for USD2.95 per month. They also have free iPhone, iPad, Android and Blackberry apps so you can backup these devices and access your files from anywhere at anytime. Is the cloud secure? There's no such thing as perfect security. Cloud storage is a convenient, accessible technology that gives us access to our data anywhere, on multiple devices. It helps us work and makes our lives easier. If someone knows, or can guess your password they could gain access to your files. Use a secure password and make sure your mobile phone and tablet are locked. Are tablets and cloud storage the future of computing? Definitely. Tablets, coupled with cloud storage, are an attractive solution for many users. In fact the use of tablets and cloud storage has increased dramatically, even among business users!

Courtesy Motueka NL.

Vertical Video Syndrome

Vertical Video Syndrome. When you are taking a video on your phone or tablet always hold the phone in the horizontal position. The video will then be the same format and shape as your TV screen. Nothing looks worse than a video shown on the TV which has been taken with the phone in the vertical position. This will display on the TV as 2 massive black bands either side of a long skinny picture. We see this all the time on news items when members of the public have capture footage of a newsworthy item with the phone in the vertical position. The TV companies then go to great lengths to disguise this by adding out of focus bands of the same footage either side of the vertical image. Videos are meant to be shot in wide screen mode. Imagine going to see movies with a very tall thin screen or turning your TV on its side to view it. Courtesy Motueka NL

Two sites you may want to check out.

1. WORLDS BIGGEST AIRPORT in H0 Scale 1:87 - MiWuLa Hamburg - Knuffingen -2nd Visit.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAcZlbaSD_0

A miniaturised fully working airport. See planes taking off and landing, parking etc

2. One big jukebox for all you 40's,50's 60's, 70,s and 80,s fans. Some with video.

<http://www.1959bhs Mustangs.com/ideoJukebox.htm#>

Ctrl+Click to take you to the sites

You have a number of Photos all of the same subject all with a file name of just a number. Why not give them an identifiable name? Here's how:- First Highlight the photos by holding down the Ctrl key and clicking on each photo in turn. Then Right click on each of the photos and select Rename. Type the name of the Photo—in this case—Singapore, and press enter. Your Photos will all be named Singapore 1,2,3 and 4. It's a simple way to bring some order to your Photos. Courtesy Warkworth NL.

A young doctor had moved out to a small community to replace a doctor who was retiring. The older doctor suggested that the young one accompany him on his rounds, so the community could become used to a new doctor.

At the first house a woman complains, 'I've been a little sick to my stomach'.

'The older doctor says, 'Well, you've probably been overdoing the fresh fruit. Cut back on the amount you've been eating and see if that does the trick'.

As they left, the younger man said, 'You didn't even examine that woman'. How'd you come to the diagnosis so quickly? 'I didn't have to. You noticed I dropped my stethoscope on the floor in there? When I bent over to pick it up, I noticed a half dozen banana peels in the trash. That was probably what was making her sick.'

The younger doctor said 'Pretty clever. If you don't mind, I think I'll try that at the next house.'

Arriving at the next house, they spent several minutes talking with a younger woman. She said that she just didn't have the energy she once did and said, 'I'm feeling terribly run down lately'.

'You've probably been doing too much for the Church', the younger doctor told her. 'Perhaps you should cut back a bit and see if that helps'.

As they left, the elder doctor said, 'I know that woman well. Your diagnosis is almost certainly correct, she's very active in the church, but how did you arrive at it?

'I did what you did at the last house. I dropped my stethoscope and when I bent down to retrieve it, I noticed the vicar under the bed'.

Answer to, "What is it ?" Competition



Have you Grown-Up Yet?

GrownUps is a place on the internet for everyone 50+ and their families, to enjoy and feel at home with. www.grownups.co.nz is their website.

GrownUps.co.nz is gearing up for a facelift that will be live in just one month from now (and it's about time!). Having been live since 2006 and with a continual evolution of minor makeovers, it was about time that we 'started from scratch' in order to make the site better – so we are about to have a facelift.

GrownUps was set up to provide a trusted website to visit, for the active 50+ demographic and to bring people together in an online community, from all around NZ.

These days, still true to its origins, the site welcomes anywhere between 100,000 and 150,000 people each month and is home to more than 75,000 members.

GrownUps, believe that 50 is only halfway. Don't look back, look forward and make each day count.

Why do people visit?

Articles

Over the past 9 years, we have written and had written, 4,500 unique articles covering topics that include Maximising Your Life, Travel, Health, Jokes, Family, Food, Technology, Planning for the Future, Retirement Living, Pets, Money, Sex, Gardening, Hobbies and many more.

A raft of columnists offer great insights into life and contribute regular articles that have a following. Many recognisable names like David Hartnell, Lindsay Dawson and previously Alice Worley and Ray Columbus, are regulars.

Meeting People/Connecting

Hundreds of people meet regularly around the country in the GrownUps Friends groups that have developed. Why not take a visit for yourself!

Courtesy Gizmo NL.

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 : Open

Secretary: Ian Cameron 574 2558

Treasurer: Faye Daken 574 2663

Committee: Jill Aldridge 573 6626

Robert Boren 574 2333

Margaret Gledhill 573 8943

Gary Graham 574 2548

John Herbert 573 6023

Donald McIver 574 2326

Peter Radcliffe 574 1488

June Strong 574 1311

Editor: John Wright 574 2799

Course Organisers:

Bryan & June Strong 574 1311



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