

Wavelength

Chairman's Report

Fellow Members,

Welcome to 2015. I know that I said something like that in the last Newsletter but now we have begun courses it feels as though our year has really started.

The kick-off wasn't all that auspicious in that no-one signed up for the first course at Picton but three people turned up on the day, all for a chat. One was already a paid up member, another, a past member turned up to pay her subscription and the third; having had the newsletter passed on by a friend had come along to join. There was a Family History using Roots Magic course at Linkwater on the 17th February. On the 23rd in Picton, there were 6 people, 3 of them new members, with their iPads and 3 more, 2 of them new members with their Android tablets. Everyone seemed to learn something new and promised to go away and practise so that they can come back in a month's time (23rd March) and learn some more. On the 21st Feb Robert Boren once again headed up a workshop. This time the subject was how to watch TV cheaply and safely on your computer. Although there were only a dozen or so of us there we all went away very satisfied and raring to go. Just imagine being able to watch just about anything you want without commercials and for 20% of the cost of SKY.

Don't forget that the Senior Net Marlborough Sounds Inc. Annual General Meeting is on the 4th of March at the Learning Centre, St Lukes lounge 7.30PM. The Senior Net Federation CEO, Grant Sidaway, will be there as our guest speaker. I've heard him speak at least a half a dozen times and every time there was something new to learn and enjoy.

Elsewhere you will find a notice about membership costs. I would urge you to join us. We are only as strong as our membership. *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 **14th** of each month.

SeniorNet Marlborough Sounds – 2015 Course Schedule.

Date	Venue	Course
Monday 23 rd Feb	Picton	Tablets & Smart Phones
Monday 9 th Mar	Picton	Family History using Roots Magic
Monday 23 rd Mar	Picton	Tablets & Smart Phones
Monday 6 th Apr	Easter Monday	No Course
Monday 20 th Apr	Picton	Open Day
Monday 4 th May	Picton	Internet Banking

Tablets versus Smartphone

"technology's heavyweight fight of the decade....

buy one, buy the other, or buy both!"

Over the past twelve months the question that has been raised most frequently at meetings, presentations and at electronic retail stores is simply "should I buy a tablet personal computer or perhaps a smartphone"?

What is a smartphone? Simple a mobile cellular phone that is both a phone and a computer. Invariably it will have a colour touch screen with an on-screen keyboard, and two cameras – one for taking photos and videos on the back, one for video calls on the front. They have effectively replaced the previous generation of mobile phones that were great phones but were unable to undertake computing nor had colour touch screens nor cameras. I term these "dumb-phones" now.

What is a tablet PC? A mobile computer about the size of a paperback novel that incorporates a high quality and colour touch screen, lots of cameras, and uses the internet to access applications and information. Unlike older personal computers, they are an appliance and therefore not generally able to be upgraded. They have become the premier computer device for accessing information, communications, entertainment and commerce.

Aren't tablets and smartphones the same?

Just about!

If you consider Apple, the iPad tablet computer and iPhone smartphone are basically the same. Same operating system, same applications, same way of using them, same access to the cloud for security and storage, and the Apple Store to buy applications and iTunes for entertainment.



If you consider Samsung for example, their tablet computers and smartphones are basically the same. Same operating system (Android), same applications, same way of using them, same access to their cloud and both the Google and Samsung online stores to buy applications and entertainment.



Where do you find differences?

In a very limited number of areas..... In fact only one! To state the obvious, smartphones are phones! Therefore they have an inescapable design limitation.

THEY NEED TO BE DESIGNED TO ENABLE YOU TO PUT IT NEAR TO YOUR MOUTH TO SPEAK AND AN EAR TO HEAR!

Sounds a bit obvious however this manifests itself by limiting the physical dimensions of smartphones. Tablets are not phones, despite supporting Skype, and therefore can be designed to be larger and not impacted by this design criteria. It's that simple!

Buying a smartphone

If you want a mobile phone, then the decision is simple... buy a smartphone. In New Zealand the decision as to what smartphone to buy will be influenced by what service company you choose to provide your ongoing service and access to voice minutes, texts and naturally data. Telecom, Vodafone and 2degrees are the national service providers, and they would be delighted to sell you a new smartphone.



If, however, you choose to buy a smartphone from an electronics store e.g. Noel Leeming, JB Hifi, Dick Smith etc, they can also sign you up with one of the three service providers, or you are free to visit any of their retail stores. If a generous friend or relation buys you a smartphone as a present, chances are that each of the service providers will be happy to help you.

The service providers invariably offer two programs. Either "pay as you go" or to commit to a plan, invariably 12 or 24 months. Committing to a term results in getting a decent discount when buying the smartphone, and also provides better value with regard to monthly entitlement to voice minutes, txt, and data. However if your needs are very infrequent, pay as you go may be the most economical approach to take.

To my knowledge all three service providers offer 24 month term plans, but only 2degrees has a "carry over" feature whereby voice minutes, txt's and data unused at the end of each month are carried over to the next month, for up to a year. Neither Vodafone nor Telecom offer this feature, therefore any voice minutes, txt's and data not used by the end of the month is confiscated! To use the rugby phrase "use it or lose it"!

Visit any smartphone shop and be prepared to be dazzled by the choice of handsets. So let me make a few suggestions.

If you are an Apple fan, and possibly already have an Apple computer or iPad, then looking towards buying an iPhone is a "no brainier". This is primarily because you will already have learnt just about everything and therefore the "learning curve" is absolutely minimal. Furthermore any information held on your iPad will automatically be synched with your iPhone and vice versa, ensuring that your information is always current and consistent. There are a number of Apple smartphones, the latest models being the iPhone 5S (from \$1049) and iPhone 5C (from \$899) these superseding the iPhone 4 range.

So if you are an Apple fan, what would stop you? Two things. Firstly, the price. They are at the premium end of the range or to put it another way, expensive. Secondly, Apple smartphones have always had a specific screen size. No variation. Therefore it is desirable to take one for a test drive, and ensure that the screen is large enough to see your information and in particular the "on screen" keyboard is large enough for you to type with ease.

If you already have a computer based on the Android operating system, and the majority of tablet computers in the world run on Android, then buying an Android based smartphone seems the logical choice. In New Zealand Samsung appears to be the most popular manufacturer of Android smartphones, and indeed for Android tablets, but lots of manufacturers, invariably from China, Tai-

wan and South Korea also produce Android based smartphones.

The benefits mentioned above with regard to Apple fans naturally apply to Android fans. However on the surface there are no impediments to straying away from Android as they come in a wide range of sizes and an equally wide range of prices, ranging from under \$100 to price levels similar to the Apple smartphones.

What about dumb-phones?

Yes, you can still buy and use a traditional mobile phone. The cheapest mobile phones around, and still good if you have the occasional need to make a mobile call or send the occasional txt. However these are rapidly disappearing from the stores, and "entry level" smartphones are becoming just as cheap. Indeed sign up for a 24 month plan and they will invite you to have an "entry level" smartphone for free. Naturally they will also entice you to buy a better one, but the freebee will function OK. So why buy a dumb-phone



Kiwi smartphone preferences

New Zealanders still appear to prefer smartphones that are relatively compact. This being determined by the size of the screen.

Popular sizes include 4" diameter found on the iPhone and from 4" through 4.8" to 5.1" found on many of the Samsung smartphones.

Globally, and with youngsters in particular, smartphones with larger screens are the norm. In countries such as South Korea, the home of Samsung, about 75% of smartphones used are far bigger. Still able to fit within the mouth-ear constraint but far better suited to computing than the smaller ones.

What do smartphones lack?

If smartphones were everything a tablet PC was capable of, why bother buying a tablet PC? Well smartphones do have certain limitations. The most obvious one being the size of the smartphone when being used as a computer. It may be fine taking and viewing photos, watching Youtube videos, viewing friends on Facebook, reading emails, and even doing Skype video calls (just). However the size of the screen, and especially when using the on-screen keyboard is very limited when doing activities such as typing, generating spreadsheets, watching movies, producing presentations, reading books and reports and having comfortable video calls. All these activities are technically possible on smartphones, but simply far less comfortable and practical to use.

So, if your need for a smartphone incorporating a computer is for those functions not mentioned in the previous sentence, chances are that a tablet PC will not be necessary as the smartphone will be able to accommodate all your voice and computing needs.

Let's check out tablets

We will come back to smartphones later, but let's review tablet PC's.

Worldwide, and certainly in New Zealand, the dominant suppliers of tablet computers are Apple with their range of iPad tablet computers, and an extensive range of tablet computers all running the Android operating system, of which Samsung is the market leader based on units sold. Microsoft have recently entered the tablet marketplace with a range of tablets termed "Surface", and running a version of the Windows8 operating system, but have a very minimal market share.

Therefore without showing any bias, let me focus on the Apple and Samsung ranges.

Basically both Apple and Samsung offer two sizes of Tablet - full size and "mini". They are basically the same but for the size of the screen. I am led to believe that the "mini's" currently represent about 60% of tablets sold.



As mentioned they are identical in use, therefore why buy a fuller-sized tablet when a "mini" will suffice, and especially when the mini's are around 20% cheaper? Simply for the same reasons mentioned when describing the limitations of smartphone devices. The larger screen makes it far easier and more comfortable to do things such as watch movies, do lots of typing, generate presentations, and read digital books, magazines and view complex web sites.

Unlike smartphones which have to adhere to the "mouth - ear" constraint, tablet PC's have to adhere to the "hand - eye" constraint, therefore if either your sight is poor or you have chubby fingers and will benefit from a larger on-screen keyboard, tablet users invariably have their device on a table immediately in front of them, or on their lap! By comparison, notebook computers are far less comfortable, never mind the fact that they still are invariably based on a keyboard, mouse and no touch screen. Not surprisingly many experienced computer users are finding it unattractive to use a desktop or notebook computer once they have mastered a tablet computer. Many notebook PC's can run on batteries for around 2 hours when using them "on the road" whereas tablet batteries offer 10 hours of power.

Tablets are not like personal computers!

We have grown up over the years learning all about computers. As mentioned at the start of this guide, please refer to the guide called "Keep Taking The Tablets" to compare traditional computers with tablets. But here it needs to be stated that tablet computers and smartphones are **APPLIANCES**, whereas traditional computers are devices capable of being upgraded once purchased. Want more memory, greater storage capacity, ergonomic keyboard, larger screen, plug in a new scanner?.... Easily done with traditional computers.

However with tablets and smartphones, the options are incredibly limited and it is just about impossible to "upgrade" them once purchased. Furthermore there is minimal scope to "plug anything in".

Taking the Apple iPad as an example there are effectively only three "variables".

1. Do you want a "mini" or full sized tablet?
2. How much storage do you need, either the standard 16gb or perhaps 32gb, 64gb or 128gb?
3. Do you want a cellular connection, perhaps 3G or 4G, or stick with the basic Wi-Fi that is integrated into EVERY tablet computer and smartphone?

That's about it? How much will these cost? At present the retail prices for the latest Apple iPad's are as follows:-

Model	iPad Air	iPad Air+Cellular	iPad Mini	iPad mini+Cellular
Storage Capacity	9.7" Display	9.7" Display	7.9" Display	7.9" Display
16 gigabytes	\$749	\$949	\$599	\$799
32 gigabytes	\$899	\$1099	\$749	\$949
64 gigabytes	\$1049	\$1249	\$899	\$1099
128 gigabytes	\$1199	\$1399	\$1049	\$1249

By comparison, a sample from the Samsung range is as follows:-

Model	Tab 3	Tab 4	Tab 4	Galaxy Note Pro	Galaxy Note Pro+Cellular
Storage Capacity	7" Display	8" Display	10.1" Display	12.2" Display	12.2" Display
8 gigabytes	\$199				
16 gigabytes		\$369	\$489		\$949
32 gigabytes				\$1099	\$1299

Please note that the specifications of these devices vary, e.g. quality of cameras, so please read the specifications to get the full details.

However purely using Apple and Samsung as examples, the price variation ranges from under \$200 to nearly \$1300. But again, try to determine what you need up-front as you may not be able to upgrade the tablet once purchased.

Disclaimers!

This guide is not overly technical, and more of an overview of options and trends based on my experience. Before buying, you should not only research the capabilities of whatever technology appeals to you, but also take it for a test drive to ensure that it works well for you.

I have no preference as to the many tablets and smartphones available nowadays. Personally I use a Windows-based notebook computer, made by Toshiba, an Apple iPad tablet computer, and a Samsung smartphone powered by the Android operating system.

Were I to start all over again, this line up of devices is probably not the way I would now go, but individually and collectively they work fine.

Next, the great news is that there is no bad technology nowadays. Regardless of price chances are that you will be faced with tons of excellent choices. Modern tablets and smartphones are "feature rich", very reliable, very portable, very easy to use, and great fun.

Therefore if you have a preference as to a manufacturer, operating system, or service provider, then go for it.

As is always the case with computer technology, by the time you read this guide it will inevitably be out-of-date as will the prices. No doubt the latest technology will afford you more power, greater functionality, and hopefully be even cheaper. Therefore if I highlight pricing, please treat them as being illustrative only.

This extract is from "Tablets vs Smartphones" by Steve Green. The whole document can be obtained from SeniorNet, Marlborough Sounds by contacting a member of the committee. on page 8.

An Introduction to Volunteer Management

(Marlborough - 3 locations)

(Nelson & Tasman 3 locations)

If you are new to recruiting and managing volunteers, this interactive workshop will give you a solid grounding in how to get started. It will give you an overview of the 4Rs of the Volunteer Management process: Recruiting, Recognising, Rewarding and Retaining volunteers for your organisation. Together we'll look at the why, what and how of volunteer management and you'll receive tips to **keep** you on track. There will be interactive activities and tools to add to your volunteer management toolkit.

HAVELOCK: Wednesday 18th March 6.00pm – 8.30pm

Sports Pavilion

PICTON: Tuesday 24th March 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Endeavour Park

RENWICK: Wednesday 1st April 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Giesen Centre

COST: \$7 per person

Nelson/Tasman - 3 locations)

NELSON: Monday 23rd March 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Venue - TBC

MOTUEKA: Monday 30th March 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Venue - TBC

GOLDEN BAY: Monday 11th May 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Giesen Centre

COST: \$7 per person

Facilitators: Julie Price & Terri Willcocks,

Sport Tasman

Online registration close: One week prior to each workshop

“Registration and Advanced Payment Essential”

Places allocated on ‘first come, first served basis’

Register now to avoid disappointment

For further details, including workshop overview, registration and payment go to

www.sporttasman.org.nz/???

Julie Price - 03 923 2322 Terri Willcocks - 03 577 8855 ext 3



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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The February issue of "Gizmo", the SeniorNet Newsletter can be viewed by copy and paste this address into your address box

<http://www.seniornet.co.nz/newsletter.pdf>

Please note: Memberships subs are now due for 2015.

They are: \$20 single and \$30 couple.

Payable to: The Treasurer,
259D Anakiwa Road, RDI, Picton. 7281

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