

Wavelength

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2017 and so I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year, a bit late but sincerely meant never-the-less.

Technology marches on at an ever increasing pace and keeping up is quite a task. More and more things are possible, things which only a few years ago were beyond imagination.

One of my interests is Family History and I have unearthed some interesting, occasionally fascinating stories, about my forebears. One of the issues that researchers come up against is what to do with all those paper records. Shoe boxes full of old letters and photos, birth, marriage and death certificates. How to find a specific reference amongst all that?

A new app has just been announced which allows you to digitize your own records in such a way as to make them searchable. Big organisations, Governments, national archives, Ancestry, and the like have been able to do this for a long time, but with very sophisticated and expensive equipment. The march of technology allows you to do this "in your own home" and at minimal expense.

Whatever next? Well whatever it is we will know soon enough. I have long said "if I can think of it, someone else has already done it".

I look forward to whatever is next.

Regards

Bryan Strong

"If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you."



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Special points of interest:

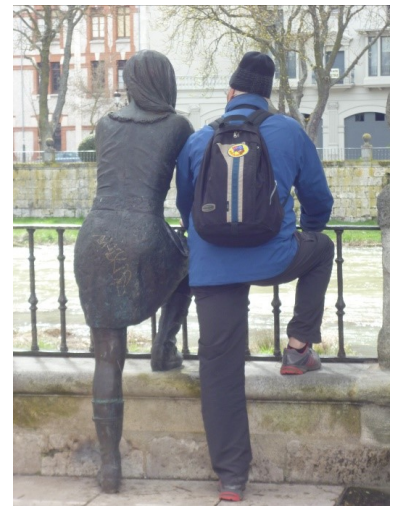
- Contact our Course Organisers for info on upcoming courses.
- Current Committee is listed on back page. Please contact any member with comments or suggestions.
- **Newsletter inputs are due to John Wright; johnbp.wright@gmail.com by the 15th of each month.**

SeniorNet DIG (Photographers Group)

Great to see eight enthusiasts present on Friday with a selection of interesting photos on the topic of **“Street Scenes”** for us to share. From the wide range of photos shown a selection are depicted in this newsletter.

The topic for next month is **“People”**. I wonder what will turn up. Curious? Come, join us and see on the first Friday in March at 1:30 p.m. at the Linkwater hall. It is not essential to contribute photos every month. Beginners to experts welcome.

Don't forget to have some entries in for the photo exhibition. It is open to all members. See the notice elsewhere in this newsletter.



Buying a Tablet?

Many people wonder if a laptop or a tablet will serve their needs. After all, tablets are easy to use, very portable, and internet-capable just like a laptop. However, not all tablets share the same functionality. Depending on your needs, a laptop may provide a better computing experience. If you're trying to decide if you want a tablet vs. a laptop, this guide will help.

What Kind of Tablet?

Many tablets look the same but may perform differently depending on their operating system. Before you decide on a tablet vs. a laptop, you should know the functions and limitations of the devices available. Tablets like the **Apple iPad** and those running **Android** use mobile operating systems derived from the interfaces on smartphones. This type of tablet is designed for touch, prioritizing simplicity.

Windows 8 tablets can run many of the same programs as full computers and are compatible with the same types of files. **Windows RT** is another option that is optimized for tablet use. The biggest difference between the two is that Windows RT tablets can only use apps made for that specific operating system.

When are Laptops Better?

One of the main complaints people have about their current computers is usually that they're not fast enough. The need for speed can be a big issue if you're into high-end gaming or use high-performance video or photo editing software.

In the laptop vs. desktop debate, the question of speed boils down to price. Some high-end laptops are very competitive when it comes to speed. But if you're willing to pay the price, there isn't a laptop out there that can keep up with a high-end desktop. It's all about the specs mentioned above, as well as high-performance motherboards and cooling systems available in desktop systems. If you're looking for top-of-the-line speed and have the cash to spend, a desktop is the way you'll want to go.

What Will You Use it For?

In general, you'll want to choose a **laptop vs. a tablet** if you need to do more than check email and social networks or watch videos and play games. Laptops are best for real work, even if that work only includes creating Office documents.

Most laptops are more powerful than tablets and have larger internal storage. There's far more software available for laptops vs. tablets (with the exception of Windows 8 tablet PCs) and greater file compatibility for documents, music, images, video, and more. The web browsing experience is arguably better on laptops vs. tablets, especially now that Adobe no longer supports Flash for tablets and other mobile devices.

Though tablets are often lighter than laptops, there are many ultra-thin, light computers (such as ultrabooks or Apple's MacBook Air line) that give you the portability you need without sacrificing performance or functionality. If you want the best of both worlds, consider a hybrid PC: a Windows tablet with a keyboard dock that turns it into a laptop when connected. Still, even hybrids may not always give you the power or storage space you need.

Choose Based on What You Need

Before deciding between a tablet vs. a laptop, think about what you need to do with it.

Get a tablet if:

- ☐ You already have a laptop or desktop computer and want a companion device.
- ☐ Your needs are very basic: checking email, posting to social networks.
- ☐ You want something purely for entertainment: movies, TV, music, eBooks.
- ☐ You're looking for a device that's very simple and easy to use.

Get a laptop if:

- ☐ You're shopping for a primary computer and want something portable.
- ☐ You need a device for work, school, designing, creating content, or anything that requires high performance.

We hope these guidelines help you solve your tablet vs. laptop conundrum, and be sure to check out our full laptop and tablet buying guides for further information on each form factor.

Reference: SeniorNet Timaru

Smartphone Vs Tablet — A Users View



I have owned four smartphones: iPhones 3G, 4S, 5S and now an SE. I purchased the original iPad tablet six months after it was

released which I still have, plus my wife and I each have iPad Air tablets.

We use our desktop computers, smartphones and tablets for different jobs: Web browsing, email, auction sites and newspapers, mainly, and the portable, always-on tablets are our devices of choice. We wake up to them, take them around the house, take them away on holiday, and to bed for a quick catch-up before hitting the pillow.

Smartphones are used as, guess what, telephones! They're also used as email readers in cafes, text messaging and cameras at all times, plus occasional GPS duty when in unfamiliar locations.

The desktop computers are relegated to occasional "heavyweight" tasks like document creation (business and family letters, etc), spreadsheets, desktop publishing of flyers, video editing and photo editing, plus the odd bit of disc burning.

What happens to the "old" devices when they are not up to snuff? Our old desktop computer is in a cupboard, housing our music and video libraries for viewing on the TV or tablet, or through the stereo system. An old tablet has become a remote control search for our music library and the old smartphone

a permanent GPS in our camper van.

I think the sales statistics don't relate to everyday use of devices. Tablet sales have fallen because everyone who wants one, has one. The increase in smartphone sales is because the heavy marketing by cell phone shops and manufacturers, encourages replacement every couple of years. So new must-have features are added by rival manufacturers, and mobile companies subsidise prices with monthly account charges.



Battery life is not an issue with tablets. Mine is always on, with the screen going to sleep whenever it's not used for a few minutes. I probably charge it once a week. The smartphone does use a lot of power and requires charging every other day, sometimes daily. It isn't the screen size that uses the power, but the array of transmitters and receivers in the device: cellular, Bluetooth and wifi. My smartphone remembers all the wifi hotspots around town in cafes, the library and other locations. It's busy "talking" to them every time I pass. Likewise, the Bluetooth is busy "talking" to my car, providing hands-free telephony. And of course the camera on your phone is always in your pocket, so gets far more use than the digital camera that waits at home for holidays!

So the comparative sales of devices tell only part of the story. I suspect members of SeniorNet have similar uses of smartphone, tablet and desktop computer.

Reference: Roger Pittman (Nelson Newsletter)

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Will Cheques soon disappear?

The answer of course is certainly and probably a lot sooner than we think; possibly as early as 2020. The last cheque that I wrote was in 2011 and I had some difficulty in locating the chequebook in order to find that information.

Cheques are inherently insecure. As paper they can be stolen, altered and forged. Those funny looking numbers across the bottom, a hangover from the punch card days of computing, are easily copied and, with a bit of not so sophisticated printing, empty your chequeing account very quickly.

Obviously not everyone uses internet banking to monitor their accounts, and pay bills, however the numbers of people who do not are rapidly diminishing and if you don't you will be one of those who have to physically go to a bank branch to conduct any business and, with all banks closing branches, that could well mean a trip to Blenheim.

SeniorNet Marlborough Sounds in conjunction with Westpac will be offering free courses in Picton, Linkwater and Havelock so that you can learn in a safe environment how Internet Banking works and how it is safe, a whole lot safer than cheques.

Windows 7 Users

Are you one of those who, like me, cling tenaciously to Windows 7 on one of my computers? One of the draw backs of this operating system is its inability to deal effectively with some *temporary files*. These are working files and should be automatically deleted by the operating system when you save your work. Windows 10 does a better job.

When I had a spring clean recently I found an accumulation of several hundred files cluttering up my hard drive. To find these files go to the Start Menu and in the search box enter *.tmp You can safely delete these files.

Another thing you can do by way of spring cleaning is to check that the disk defragmenter is scheduled to do its thing regularly. To find it enter Disk Defragment in the search box.

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AGM 16th MARCH 2017

Thursday 16th March promises to be an interesting day
in the life of **SeniorNet Marlborough Sounds
Incorporated.**

The much anticipated photographic exhibition will be
open for viewing between 5pm and 7pm in the
Linkwater Hall and you are invited to see the entries
in the seven categories.

Following this, we will be holding our Annual General
Meeting starting at 7:30pm. Notice of this will be sent
to all members.

At the conclusion of the AGM, and following supper,
Grant Sidaway, the Executive Officer of the SeniorNet
Federation of New Zealand will speak on

The Impact of Social Media.

So come and enjoy what promises to be a very
stimulating evening.

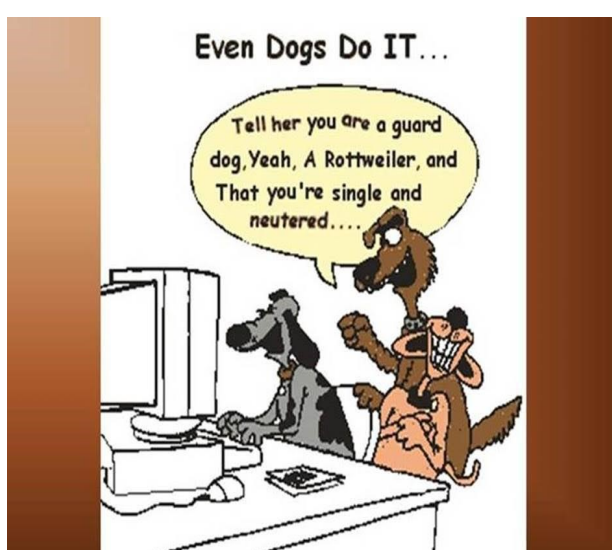
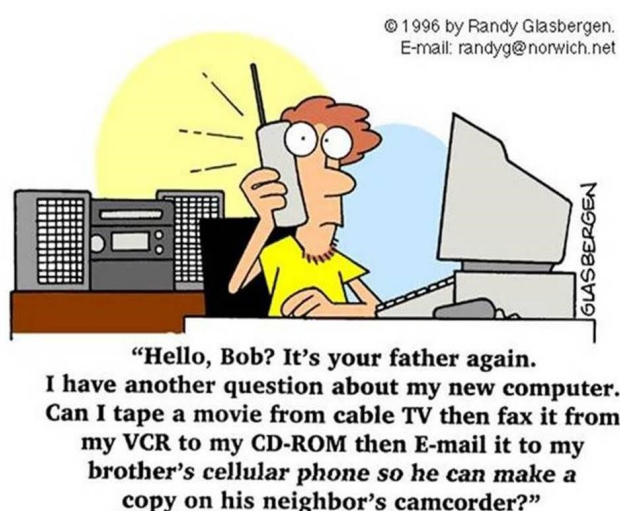
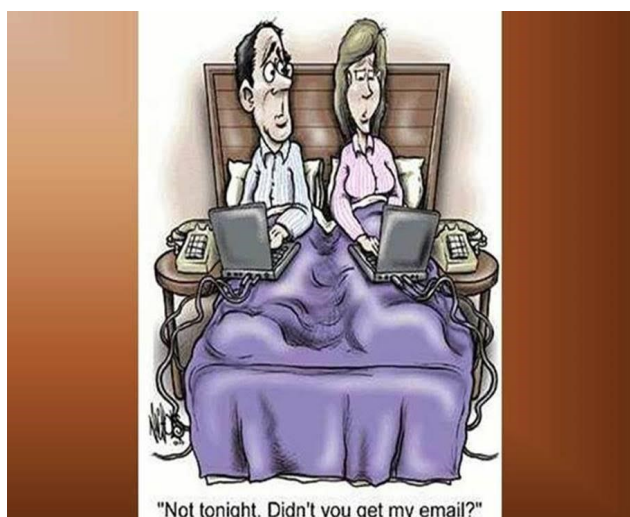
Cell Phone – Out of Memory!

Recently when I wished to take a photo on my cell phone it said that it was out of memory and I needed to insert an SD card. So off to Noel Leeming where a helpful assistant installed one for me. On returning to the car I tested the phone but it still said “out of memory”. Back to Noel Leeming where another helpful assistant spent some time formatting the new SD card and moving my stored photos from the phones hard drive to the SD card. Of course I said I was a member of SeniorNet and received a \$10 discount. In the small plastic container which was supplied with the SD card was an adaptor. This should not be thrown away as the SD card can be placed inside it then inserted like a flash drive into a laptop.

Discounts for Seniors! - Information:

Recently I purchased a mount to enable me to attach my cell to the dash board. This to enable me to use an app to keep a close eye on my speed. The ticket price at Noel Leeming was \$30, the SeniorNet discount was \$20 so it ended up costing a mere \$10.

Donald McIver



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

John Wright 574 2799

Marie Joyce 573 7389

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