

Wavelength

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the first Newsletter after the AGM. Firstly let me introduce you to the two new members of your committee.

Sari Lewis, who lives at Little Ngakuta and Shirley Mears who lives at Linkwater. A warm welcome to both of them and we hope that they are the first of many who will join the ranks as more and more of your existing members find that it's time to move on.

Donald McIver for one has been a member of SeniorNet Marlborough Sounds since its inception and has been the Vice Chairman for the last few years as well as sourcing the course material and mentoring the tutors. He won't mind me telling you that as someone in his late 80s he feels that it's time to step back and let someone a bit younger take on the roles, not all at once of course, but spread amongst other committee members.

The photographic competition held in conjunction with the AGM was a noteworthy success. There were 87 photos entered and the standard was quite remarkable. Some of the winning shots can be viewed elsewhere in this newsletter with more to follow over successive months. The success didn't happen by accident. Organising the competition took several weeks of long hours. I know because June set it all up with occasional bits of heavy lifting from me. (There are a lot of TV programmes that had to be recorded and I only hope that we have the time to watch them!)

We were very privileged to have Grant Sidaway, the Chief Executive Officer of the Federation as our guest speaker at the AGM. Grant is an inspirational speaker and he talked about social media and the amazing impact it, in its many varied forms, has had on almost all societies in the world. We are more connected to each other than we have ever been despite all those people you see working their thumbs and not talking to the person next to them. There are downsides to all this with the change in social interaction as we know it but the upsides are many including being able to talk to a friend in the Netherlands for free. In the 1960s a phone call to Europe cost £1 a minute and sometimes took hours to set up. With Facebook alone the number of users is counted in Billions.

The "Prospectus for 2017" should already have been sent out. Donald has burned a lot of midnight oil on this so read it carefully and see what you could learn at SeniorNet or better still, what you could help us to teach.

Bryan Strong

I haven't lost my mind – it's backed up on a CD somewhere.



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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)

The March meeting of DIG (Camera Interest Groups official title) was on the topic of "People". What a wide variety of photos turned up. Some serious which drew oohs and aahs and some amusing ones which were good for a chuckle. Eight people attended. Room for a couple more. Contact June, 574 1311 if you would like to know more. We are all learners -- no experts -- just good companions enjoying one anothers' photographic efforts.



SeniorNet Federation Gains Access to N4L.

What is N4L?

The Government established N4L as a Crown-owned company to develop and operate a managed network for schools. Through this there is access to the "Pond".

What does this mean for SeniorNet Marlborough Sounds?

The "Pond" is where manuals and other learning materials prepared by a wide cross section of educational institutions will be available to us for free. Up until now we have had access to a pool of manuals created by many Federation affiliated SeniorNets, this in addition to manuals that we have written ourselves. Now teaching materials by the wider educational fraternity will be available for us to download and use in our classes. We are fortunate that, thanks to the kindness of Linkwater School and, as a recognised learning institution, we have excellent high speed Internet access.

What do we gain from Membership with the Federation?

Membership of the Federation gives us many advantages including sharing information, discounts for members, reduced insurance charges, help with tutor training etc. etc. It also places on us a requirement to achieve standards in the way we provide learning experiences to our members. From next year, for these advantages, it will mean that we will pay a capitation fee to the Federation of \$5. (On present numbers around \$350.) A memorandum of the agreement between ourselves and the Federation titled "The Way Forward" will be placed before our members in a few months' time. This change has been brought about by the withdrawal of funding from the government.

Photo of the Cell Phones and Tablets Interest Group taken at their last meeting. This group meets once a month to share ideas, help solve problems and learn what you can do with these gadgets. (Cell Phone photo.)



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From the Photographic Competition at Settlers Hall, Linkwater, taken by Sigrid



More than 80 outstanding photos -- mostly from our own Digital Imaging Group -- showing a view of part of the display in the Settlers Hall and two of individual categories as above.



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 Mclver*

This shows you how much discount you can receive. Please ensure, at the time of any purchase, that you get the SeniorNet discount, not Greypower or Gold Card. Check your receipt. *Ed.*

Bryan, Ian and Grant Sidaway face the meeting. **The empty seats were for you.** Sorry you missed it.



Results of the Photographic Competition.

The Prizes and Certificates will be presented at the next Camera Club meeting on the 7th of April.

The prizes were to be presented after the AGM but due to the lateness in tidying up, most people had gone home.

For those first prize winners who cannot be at the Camera Club meeting other arrangements will be made.

There were 87 photos on show and a "very well done" to all those who entered. The standard was extremely high, not just my words, but the words of Grant Sidaway, the Chief Executive Officer of The Federation and several other viewers. As you know the photos will be on show at The Havelock Hall on Saturday 25th March.

Category	First	Second	Third
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Christmas	Sigrid Fuetterer	June Strong	
Landscape	Yvonne Blakey	Jan Godsiff	Lianna Bull
Look Up	Sigrid Fuetterer	Jan Godsiff	Sigrid Fuetterer
Macro	Lianna Bull	Lianna Bull	Pauline Reddicliffe
Miscellaneous	Sigrid Fuetterer	Bryan Strong	Donald Mclver
Reflections	Pauline Reddicliffe	Gary Graham	Sigrid Fuetterer
Restore	Donald Mclver		

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: Brian Cameron 574 2267

Committee: June Strong 574 1311

John Wright 574 2799

Marie Joyce 573 7389

Philip Middlemiss 573 9060

Membership Liaison:

Jan Godsiff, 574 2409

Yvonne Blakey 574 1068

Editor: John Wright 574 2799

Course Organisers:

Bryan & June Strong 574 1311



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