

Wavelength

Greetings,



It would seem that Spring has sprung at last. It's now something like 12 days since my rain gauge registered anything for which I am truly thankful.

Once again we have had a quiet month at Senior Net Marlborough Sounds.

The only course was related to the Vodafone closing of their email services. Three ladies turned up and, after a bit of a struggle, got their new email account and address lists organised.

The Camera Club is functioning well with anything up to 10 regular participants. You will have seen examples of their work in previous newsletters and I'm looking forward to seeing what they have in store for us in this newsletter.

At their next meeting on the 3rd of November they will play hosts to the Camera Club from Senior Net Nelson.

The Family History group meets on the second Friday of the month. Even months (Feb, Apr etc.) meet at the Learning Centre at Linkwater Hall while the odd months (Mar, May etc.) at the Picton Library.

According to what I read, Family History research is second only to Gardening as a hobby in most of the Western World. If you have an interest in the subject, have thought about starting 'one day', or are already well on the way to discovering all those stories about your ancestors, especially the ones that Grandma never mentioned, come and join us.

It's not too late to learn about Internet Banking. If you don't manage your finances that way already, you will almost certainly have to soon, so why not be prepared. Brian Cameron, our Treasurer (who else?), is the man to contact. See the Committee list elsewhere in this newsletter.

Senior Net Marlborough Sounds exists for YOU. If you don't tell us what you need to know about technology, we can't help you.

Come along on the 4th November (advertised elsewhere) and see what technology is happening, available, and being taught to the next generation.

See you there.

Regards

Bryan Strong

Inside This Issue

Chairman's Remarks.....	1
Events in November 2017.....	2
Your family story/driver problems	3
Digital Imaging Interest Group	4
More digital images	5
Tech facts.....	6
Smartphone tips.....	6
Software firewalls.....	7
1950s version of email.....	8,9
Committee Directory.....	9
Help; Contact Directory.....	9
Subscriptions.....	9



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November 2017 Events Calendar



We're presenting a series of short talks on interesting current topics in an open day on Saturday 4th November at the Linkwater Hall, Queen Charlotte Drive

The first talk starts at 11am, so bring something to share for lunch, W'd like to see you there for the full day, but if you can't make that, pick the sessions you can attend from the timetable below and come along for those.

It will be a great time to catch up with friends you haven't seen for a time while catching a few tips from the presenters.

1100	Philip Middlemiss	Raspberry Pi
1115	Ian Grant	Google Suite and some apps
1130	Brian Cameron	Backing up
1145	Philip Middlemiss	Free Office Programs
	Shared Lunch	
1300	Deb Leov	Linkwater School and technology. N4L
1315	Haley Hawkins	NMIT
1330	Haley Hawkins	NMIT
1345	Ian Grant	Bluetooth, how it works
1400	Brian Cameron	Windows 10
1415	Bryan Strong	Family History Research
1430	Ian Grant	The Internet of things and why you should care
1445	Ian Grant	You Tube – An introduction

If I were a betting man I would bet a lot of money that the majority of Senior Net members regret not asking a lot more questions of their parents, grandparents and possibly even great grandparents.

Where did they grow up, what was school like, where did they marry, where did they meet their spouse. The possibilities were endless, and you are probably like me, wishing you had asked, listened and remembered.

If you still have parents alive talk to them and ask all those questions. Don't forget that your smartphone is a voice recorder.

In many cases like mine it's too late. But there are plenty of other avenues to find the answers to the basic questions and as more and more 'stuff' gets added to the internet it's only a matter of knowing where to find it and what to do with it when you've found it.

We have a Family History Group which meets every month. The even months at Linkwater and the odd months at the Picton Library in each case at 10am on the second Friday of the month. Like all Senior Net groups it's self-help, a place where we learn from each other.

Our next meeting is on the 10th November at the Picton Library and you will be most welcome to join us.

**Give your family tree a good shake!
What do you know about DNA testing?**



5 Signs of Driver Problems

Out of date drivers can slow your computer down. There's many reasons why this can happen. Here are five common signs to identify if your drivers are out of date:

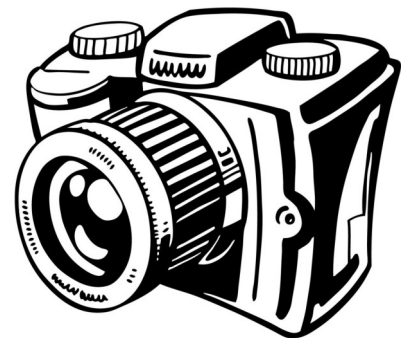
1. New printers, webcams or other recently purchased devices won't work.
2. Older but undamaged devices stop working after an update.
3. Sound and video problems - graphics cards are especially prone to issues if their drivers aren't current.
4. A "Code 10" error, which is a hardware-specific error that typically means a broken or missing driver.
5. A "Blue Screen of Death" (BSOD) error, often caused by a breakdown of communication between Windows and a device.

Tip from Slimware Driver update

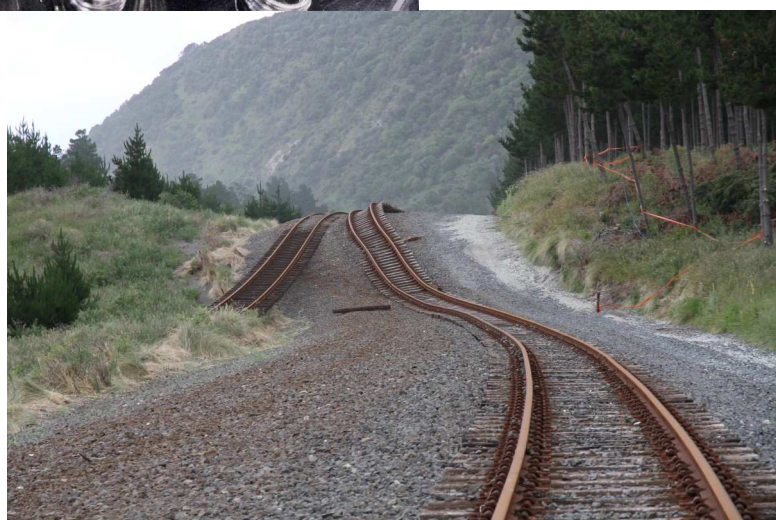
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DIG Digital Imaging Group

The theme for this month was “Lines”. Who would have thought there were so many differing lines in our lives. Some examples:-

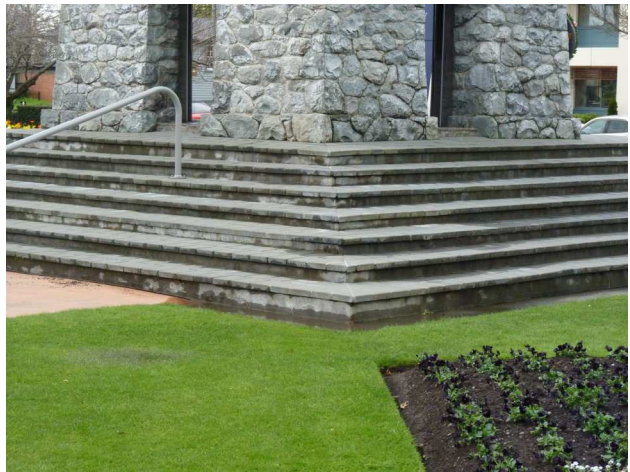


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**Nothing is hard once you
learn how to do it**

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More interesting tech facts

10. HP, Microsoft and Apple have one very interesting thing in common – they were all started in a garage.
11. An average person normally blinks 20 times a minute, but when using a computer he/she blinks only 7 times a minute.
12. The house where Bill Gates lives, was designed using a Macintosh computer.
13. The first ever hard disk drive was made in 1979, and could hold only 5MB of data.
14. The first 1GB hard disk drive was announced in 1980 which weighed about 550 pounds, and had a price tag of \$40,000.
15. More than 80% of the emails sent daily are spams.
16. A group of 12 engineers designed IBM PC and they were called as “The Dirty Dozen”.
17. The original name of windows was Interface Manager.
18. The first microprocessor created by Intel was the 4004. It was designed for a calculator, and in that time nobody imagined where it would lead.
19. IBM 5120 from 1980 was the heaviest desktop computer ever made. It weighed about 105 pounds, not including the 130 pounds external floppy drive.
20. Genesis Device demonstration video in Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan was the the first entirely computer generated movie sequence in the history of cinema. That studio later become Pix-

Smartphone tips

Need more space on your Smartphones?

- **Check your usage**

Check which apps are taking the most space on your phone as there are usually some surprise hogs.



For Apple go to settings/general/usage/manage storage. At the top you'll see how much space you've used and how much is available. Below you'll have a more detailed analysis with a list of apps ranked by how much space they are using..

For Android Go to settings/SD and phone storage/internal phone storage/manage storage.

- **Delete unusual apps**

Don't keep apps that you don't use. Every app takes up storage space and runs some kind of background process, which all combines to slow down phone performance. Game apps, which use high quality graphics, can surprisingly take up a lot of space so delete the ones you can't see yourself using anymore. You can always re-download if you find you need them.

- **Remove old podcasts and videos**

Podcasts and videos take up a lot of space on phones. If you've uploaded your videos onto your computer (or another backup) and don't need them on your phone anymore, then delete them. Videos are one of the biggest space hogs.

- **Use a cloud system to back up photos**

The hundreds of photos on our phones can take up quite a chunk of phone storage. But if you don't want to take them off your phone, the good news is that you don't have to. Save space and backup photos by using a cloud storage system such as drop-box. Your photos will be accessible on the web so you can easily search them up, or alternatively many cloud systems have an app to download where you can quickly access them. SeniorNet Motueka

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Software firewalls Pt 4

Software firewalls are programs that run on your computer. They operate as closely to the network interface as possible, and monitor all your network traffic.

If you're not using a router, all of the network traffic will still technically reach your machine, but the firewall prevents malicious traffic from getting any further. Much like a router, a software firewall prevents the rest of your system from even realizing that there is any malicious traffic.

In addition, some software firewalls can be configured to monitor outgoing traffic. If your machine becomes infected and some malware attempts to "phone home" by connecting to a known malicious site, or tries to infect other machines on your network, a software firewall can warn you and block the attempt.

All current versions of Windows have a software firewall built in and turned on by default. Windows may even annoy you into ensuring that the firewall is either turned on (in Control Panel) or that you're aware of the risks of not having it turned on.

The Windows firewall is primarily an incoming-only firewall.

<https://askleo.com> The Ask Leo! Guide to Staying Safe on the Internet

30

Choosing and setting up a firewall

In general, I recommend using a broadband router as your firewall. Since it's very likely you already have one, that means you're pretty much done. (Though you'll want to make sure it's secure.)

There is disagreement. Some believe that an outgoing firewall is important. My position is that an outgoing firewall doesn't really protect—it simply notifies after something bad has happened.

Routers are pretty common, and nearly a requirement for anyone who has more than one computer sharing an internet connection (though I'd recommend you use one even if you have only one computer). If you have a NAT router, you have a firewall without needing to burden each computer with additional software.

Software firewalls do make sense in a very important situation: they are critical when you can't trust other computers on your local network.

Don't trust the kids' ability to keep their computer safe on the internet? Enable the software firewall on your computer.

Heading out to the local open WiFi hotspot? Turn on the software firewall before you connect.

In later versions of Windows, the built-in firewall has matured to the point where it's actually quite reasonable to leave it on all the time, even if you're behind a router. It seems to impact operations very little, and saves you from remembering to turn it on when you travel or have that not-so-trustworthy guest on your network.

That's why I said earlier that you might, in fact, have two firewalls already: your router and your Windows firewall. And that's quite OK.

What firewalls can't do

It's important to remember that a firewall can't protect you from everything.

A firewall protects you from threats that arrive via malicious connection attempts from elsewhere on the internet.

A firewall will not protect you from things that you invite onto your machine yourself, such as email, attachments, downloads, and removable hard drives.

Nonetheless, protection from network attacks remains critically important.

Thanks to Leo Noteboom AskLeo.com

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"Getting your news from Twitter is like asking a cat for directions.- Andy Borowitz"

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1950's version of an E-Mail (for those who grew up then)

Long ago and far away, in a land that time forgot,

Before the days of Dylan , or the dawn of Camelot.

There lived a race of innocents, and they were you and me,

For Ike was in the White House in that land where we were born, where navels were for oranges, and Peyton Place was porn.

We longed for love and romance, and waited for our Prince, Eddie Fisher married Liz, and no one's seen him since.

We danced to 'Little Darlin,' and sang to 'Stagger Lee'

And cried for Buddy Holly in the Land That Made Me, Me.

Only girls wore earrings then, and 3 was one too many,

And only boys wore flat-top cuts, except for Jean McKinney.

And only in our wildest dreams did we expect to see

A boy named George with Lipstick, in the Land That Made Me, Me.

We fell for Frankie Avalon, Annette was oh, so nice,

And when they made a movie, they never made it twice.

We didn't have a Star Trek Five, or Psycho Two and Three, or Rocky-Rambo Twenty in the Land That Made Me, Me.

Miss Kitty had a heart of gold, and Chester had a limp,

And Reagan was a Democrat whose co-star was a chimp.

We had a Mr. Wizard, but not a Mr. T,

And Oprah couldn't talk yet, in the Land That Made Me, Me.

We had our share of heroes, we never thought they'd go,

At least not Bobby Darin, or Marilyn Monroe.

For youth was still eternal, and life was yet to be,

And Elvis was forever in the Land That Made Me, Me.

We'd never seen the rock band that was Grateful to be Dead, and Airplanes weren't named Jefferson , and Zeppelins were not Led

And Beatles lived in gardens then, and Monkees lived in trees, Madonna was Mary in the Land That Made Me, Me.

We'd never heard of microwaves, or telephones in cars,

And babies might be bottle-fed, but they were not grown in jars.

And pumping iron got wrinkles out, and 'gay' meant fancy-free, and dorms were never co-Ed in the Land That Made Me, Me.

We hadn't seen enough of jets to talk about the lag,

And microchips were what was left at the bottom of the bag.

And hardware was a box of nails, and bytes came from a flea, and rocket ships were fiction in the Land That

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And microchips were what was left at the bottom of the bag.
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There were no golden arches, no Perrier to chill,
And fish were not called Wanda, and cats were not called Bill
And middle-aged was 35 and old was forty-three,
And ancient were our parents in the Land That Made Me, Me.
But all things have a season, or so we've heard them say,
And now instead of Maybelline we swear by Retin-A.
They send us invitations to join AARP,
We've come a long way, baby, from the Land That Made Me, Me.
So now we face a brave new world in slightly larger jeans,
And wonder why they're using smaller print in magazines.
And we tell our children's children of the way it used to be,
Long ago and far away in the Land That Made Me, Me. (unknown)



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Time to silence phones `As tech increases its influence into every part of our lives, it takes more of an effort to keep it under control. The first place to start is the Sound setting on your phone. Set a discreet ringtone and alert for your most used messaging app. Also, don't forget to turn off keyboard clicks.... I've also stopped my phone vibrating when it rings, even when on silent. If for some reason you have muted your phone, you don't need it to buzz.... If you're worried about missing anything, don't. According to a study by Deloitte, the average person already checks their phone 46 times a day. If you're anything close to that then there's plenty of opportunity to see what notifications have come in.... Hushing your phone can take a bit of work, but it is worth the effort for the extra peace you gain from not being interrupted or woken up by all those beeps, dings, buzzes and rings. (Blayne Slabbert, Southland times 22/6/17)

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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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Subscriptions for 2017 are \$20 for a single person and \$30 for a couple. These are now due and may be paid to the account number above circled in green.

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

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