

Postal Address
PO Box 10-364
Wellington
Ph (04) 473 1510



Betty Campbell Centre
Rooms 17&18, Level 2
40 Panama Street
Wellington

seniornet.wgtn@xtra.co.nz

<http://seniornet.actrix.co.nz>

Note from the Editor

SeniorNet now supplies CD's for all our courses instead of 3½" floppy disks. However, there are probably a number of us who still need these disks for Home use. We are therefore offering our remaining stock for sale at the reduced price of \$5 per box of 10.

You would have to pay at least \$10 per box at a Retail outlet, so here is an opportunity to secure some at a good price!

Purchase your requirements from the Office before they sell out!

Term Dates For 2007

Term 3 Monday 23 July – Friday 14 September

Term 4 Monday 8 October – Monday 3 December
(excludes Labour Day 22 October)

When a public holiday falls on a Monday during a course, the last lesson of the course, is held on the Monday of the week following the end of term.

The blarney

Gallagher opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend, Finney.

"Did you see the paper?" asked Gallagher. "They say I died!"

"Yes, I saw it!" replied Finney. "Where are ye calling' from?"

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Derek Oldershaw	234 7733	oldershaw@xtra.co.nz
Secretary	Sheila Williams	479 2226	sheila.williams@clear.net.nz
Treasurer	Colin Archer	478 6559	ColinArcher@xtra.co.nz
Minutes Secretary	Jean Davidson	233 0621	jeand@actrix.gen.nz
Editor	Alan Royal	977 8967	a.royal@paradise.net.nz
Course Management	Geoff Robinson	232 5702	geoff.robinson@clear.net.nz
Tutors	Marjorie Finn	384 8349	marjorie.finn@paradise.net.nz
Short Courses	Marion Ibbotson	388 8855	mibbotson@paradise.net.nz
SeniorNet News	Franci Stapleton	972 1990	fes@paradise.net.nz
Technical	Keith Rumens	232 5106	krumens@xtra.co.nz
Press Relations	John Nimmo	476 8771	john.nimmo@xtra.co.nz
	Tony Doogue	475 9099	tonydoogue@xtra.co.nz
	Wyn Couper	478 7097	wync@actrix.co.nz

<p>Learning Centre & Office: Betty Campbell Centre, Rooms 17/18, Level 2, Harbour City Tower, 40 Panama St, Wellington.</p>	<p>Postal Address: PO Box 10-364, Wellington Telephone: 04-473 1510 Web site: seniornet.actrix.co.nz E-mail: seniornet.wgtn@xtra.co.nz</p>
<p>WAIVER</p> <p>From time to time, some of our members voluntarily give help and advice to other members on matters relating to computers and associated equipment. This help or advice is taken solely at the recipient's risk and imposes no responsibility or liability of any kind, either on those providing such help or advice, or on SeniorNet Wellington.</p>	

My grandfather is a little forgetful, but he likes to give me advice. One day, he took me aside and left me there."

Ron Richards

Diary 16 July – 26 October 2007

		Monday	Tuesday		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
JULY	16 - 20		Digicam			Tutor Clinic	
	23 - 27	Term 3 starts			Exec.Cmttee, COMG		
AUGUST	30 - 03			01	Q & A		
	06 - 10			08	COG		
	13 - 17		Digicam	15			
	20 - 24			22	Exec.Cmttee, COMG		
	27 - 31			29			
SEPTEMBER	03 - 07			05	Q & A		
	10 - 14			12	COG	N/L Copy	Term 3 ends
	17 - 21		Digicam	19			
	24 - 28			26	Exec.Cmttee, COMG.	N/L Sent Out	
OCTOBER	01 - 05			03	Q & A	Tutor Clinic	
	08 - 12	Term 4 starts		10	COG		
	15 - 19		Digicam	17			
	22 - 26	Labour Day		24	Exec.Cmttee, COMG		

Q & A	Question and Answers Group	9.45-11.45 am
COG	Computer Owners' Group	10.00-11.45 am
COMG	Communications Group	12 noon-2.00 pm
DI G I C A M	Digital Camera Group	10.00-11.45 am
PLEASE SUPPORT THESE GROUPS		

Message from the Chairman July 2007

Greetings to all the members of SeniorNet Wellington.

At our recent annual general meeting, we had the opportunity to thank three long serving members of the committee who did not seek re-election, David Boyes, David Dobson and Dorothy Jones. On your behalf, I wish to welcome four new committee members, Wyn Couper, Tony Doogue, Marjorie Finn and Franci Stapleton. In addition, I wish to thank those members who are prepared to serve a further year on the committee, Colin Archer, Jean Davidson, Marion Ibbotson, John Nimmo, Geoff Robinson, Alan Royal and Sheila Williams.

We are currently in the process of allocating duties to the new committee members. Marjorie Finn will be responsible for organising tutors for our courses replacing Dorothy Jones, whilst Franci Stapleton will look after SeniorNet News. Other changes will be advised shortly.

Also at the AGM, members supported the recommendation of the committee that Maureen Bailey be appointed an honorary member in recognition of her continuing and dedicated service to SeniorNet Wellington. I am sure you will all join with me in congratulating Maureen.

Following the AGM, at which John Nimmo reported on progress being made in respect of the move to our new premises, we have received a further update. Good progress is being made on both levels one and three to be occupied by tenants currently located in the Betty Campbell Centre. Neither floor will be available until mid to late September. Whilst the original target date was 1 August the new dates will be more convenient for SeniorNet as it will be possible for us to move during the three weeks between the end of term three and the commencement of term four, on Monday, 8 October. We will keep you advised of any further developments.

Since the AGM, we have received advice from the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) that our application for funding under the Programme for Adult Community Education for New Providers has been successful. As you will be aware, this matter has occupied a considerable amount of the committee's time over the past two years. The significance of the decision to grant direct funding to SeniorNet Wellington is that we have been recognised as a stand-alone provider and it is not necessary for us to apply through another organisation, such as the new SeniorNet Federation, or Wellington High School. We are still waiting for details of the contract plus our reporting and administration responsibilities.

The committee is fully aware that some members have recently purchased new computers that use the new Microsoft Windows Vista operating system. As time goes by more of you will wish to use the new system. To assist those of you who have already made the change we have recently installed a new laptop using Vista in one of our teaching rooms for member's use. We had budgeted to replace all our computers in 2006 but have deferred this action until there is more demand from members for the new system. I can assure you that the situation is being reviewed at our monthly meetings and also consideration of the various options as to how and when we phase in the replacement of equipment. Work has already commenced on revising our teaching manuals. Our tutors must also be prepared to both understand and teach subjects using Vista. The committee expects to agree on a plan of action within the next few months.

As you will be aware, term three starts on 23 July and I would encourage as many members as possible to participate in the activities of SeniorNet whether it is by tutoring, enrolling for a course or attending workshops and interest groups. The four interest groups being Questions & Answers, Computer Owners, Communication Group and Digicam. Groups meet monthly and I can assure any member who is considering attending one or more of these will be made most welcome.

Derek Oldershaw
Chairman

Course Management

Geoff Robinson - Phone 232 5702 – places members in the 8 week courses, the top block of the list in the application form, also Introduction to Computers, a 4 week course.

Marion Ibbotson - Phone 388 8855 – places members and organises Tutors in the 4 week courses, the middle block of the list in the application form.

Margaret Clarke - Phone 473 5580 – places members and organises Tutors in the 1 and 2 week courses, the bottom block of the list in the application form.

David Bennett – 934 7343 – organises relieving tutors as required for Term 3.

Marjorie Finn - Phone 384 8349 – arranges the Timetable and places tutors in the 8 week courses, also Introduction to Computers, a 4 week course. It would help in allocating members to classes if you could note on your application:

- If you plan to be away at any time prior to your required course starting date, together with an alternative phone contact number or email address.
- If there are any times or days during the week when you are not available.

We seek applications from members wanting to take courses in Term 3, 2007 that starts in the week beginning Monday 23 July. We are also keen to hear your ideas on new courses that you think we should run.

Gift Vouchers

\$20 Gift Vouchers for a one year membership of SeniorNet Wellington are now available from the office. Treat your friends to membership!

Tutors Please Note

If, for any reason, you are unable to attend a class please ring David Bennett – 934 7343, to arrange a replacement. Also, advise him if you arrange your own replacement.

Practice Session

Teresa Popov very kindly tutors the Practice session on a Monday during term time, between 12 noon and 2pm. When you are tutoring, please advise students that there is a charge of \$2 per hour for this practice session, and that only CD's supplied by SeniorNet can be used.

Thank you.
Marjorie Finn

Which course next?

An increasing number of new members have had some previous experience with computers either at work, or by "exposure" to family members with computers. But this is not necessarily relevant to a broader knowledge of computing!

Most of our courses are planned on the assumption that course members have already learnt some common computer procedures in previous SeniorNet courses.

So, by doing courses in a recommended sequence, you will find the lessons easier, and enjoy them more. You will also avoid:

- Personal loss of confidence and frustration
- Causing extra effort and stress for the tutors
- Possible disruption to other members of the class.

For these reasons SeniorNet, Wellington considers it essential that early courses be taken in the following sequence:

- Introduction to Computing before First Step in Email
- Introduction to Computing before Basic Word Processing
- Basic Word Processing before all other courses
- Managing Files and Folders prior to most remaining courses
- Intermediate Word Processing before Greeting Cards and Gift tags
- Email and Internet before Email Enhancement.

Before enrolling for a course discuss your computer experience with a member of the Course Management Team.

Relax and enjoy learning. Seniornet is not a place for stress!
Do not try to run before you can walk!

We Need More Tutors!

Have you ever considered becoming an Assistant Tutor? It is a lot of fun, and some hard work at times, but very rewarding. You do not need to be an expert in an area, just have a reasonable knowledge of the subject. You would start as an Assistant, working with an experienced Tutor, and in a subject that you feel comfortable with. We could even put you in as a third tutor that is an "Assistant to the Assistant Tutor" just to give you more of a feel as to what is involved. Think about it, as we urgently need more people to become actively involved, to ease the load on those already tutoring. If you are interested contact Marjorie Finn, at marjorie.finn@paradise.net.nz or phone on 384 8349 and we can talk about it.

Four Week Courses

Managing Files & Folders

In this four-week course, learn how to store information, make new folders, find lost folders and generally keep all your work in order.

Power Point - Introduction

If you have PowerPoint 2003 installed on your computer, in the course you will learn how to make your first presentation, adding backgrounds, borders and text, transition effects, creating an album and writing it to a CD, special layouts, layering of objects, the slide master, action buttons and writing on slides.

Power Point - Special Effects

When you have completed the Introduction course, the Special Effects Course deals with custom animations, incorporating sound and music, links, hyperlinks and triggers, creating a menu controlled presentation, screentips, speaker notes and notes pages, printing hand-outs and how to incorporate a presentation into a stand-alone executable file.

Other Four Week Courses are Digital Camera, Introduction to Paint, Making Small Booklets, Genealogy and Scanning and Retouching.

One and Two Week Courses

Gift Tags

A two week course which teaches how to make tags, bookmarks etc. for special occasions such as birthdays or Xmas, using the Draw facility of Word.

First Step in E-mail

A one-week course to get you started in sending and receiving e-mail.

Photo & Image Editing

Learn techniques for enhancing, resizing and adding text to your photographs in this two-week course.

Other one and two week courses are:

Greeting cards, Revision of Basic Word Processing, E-mail Enhancement and Java Script.

If computers get too powerful, we can organize them into a committee - that will do them in.

Bradley's Bromide

Course Development

Edition 3 of Introduction to Computers, now completed and being trialled, uses Windows Vista Home Premium as platform. Reference to floppies is omitted in favour of CDs and Flash Drives. WordPad is still used as vehicle for teaching basic skills.

Work is progressing in changing the Word Processing manuals for use with Vista and Word 2007. It becomes evident that the switch-over to, or acquisition of Microsoft Office 2007 may be causing financial and training problems for businesses as well as for SeniorNet groups.

Most new PC's now come with Vista but without additional software. Interest in the free suite of programs called OpenOffice has grown, particularly now that its latest edition is also Vista compatible.

It is for this reason that planning has started to translate the current Word Processing manuals as well for use with OpenOffice Writer and Vista Home Premium as operating platform. We will keep you posted about progress.

Also completed and soon available is a new edition (Ed 3) of Using a Digital Camera that affects mainly lessons 3 and 4 dedicated to the editing and management of photographs. Instead of using PhotoPlus as editing program - which demands a lot of students and tutors to grasp comfortably in two lessons - the (also free) program FastStone Image Viewer is used. It is not intrusive, very intuitive, and addresses basic editing, resizing, printing, sending by email, viewing as slides and easy to create folder structure for managing one's photographs. Feedback so far has been very positive. The program is also Vista compatible.

In case you wonder, I cannot spare the time to get old.

Gus Porteners

Where is my flash drive?

When we had floppies and CD drives there was no problem recognising them in the My Computer folder. Now, with USB connections we may have more than one USB connection on a computer. This makes it difficult to decide which USB connection has which piece of external equipment. Solve the problem (when all equipment is connected) by opening My Computer, right clicking on the USB icon, and selecting rename (enter your name?). This will also help if you lose your flash drive, as it will appear with your name when plugged in to a computer!

Surfin' the Web

A useful tip - whenever you launch Internet Explorer to start a surfing session, it automatically goes to your Homepage and then you have to go to your list of "Favourites" to find and load the site you want to see. (Am I right so far?)

O.K., let's say you have a particular page that you look at every day and would like to have a quicker way to get there. Here's what to do - right-click on your Desktop and choose New-Shortcut. Enter the site's URL (e.g. www.jigzone.com), give the shortcut a name (e.g. Jigsaw Puzzles) and click Finish.

Now, whenever you double-click on this Desktop shortcut the page will load straight away! (Thanks to NZ PC WORLD for this great tip)

For those of you who have "Zone Alarm" PRO installed, here is a site www.donhoover.biz where you can get a wealth of detail on setting it up and interpreting the results.

In addition, for a bit of fun you can compose and print out your very own astrological birth chart at www.crazyhoroscopes.com/birthchart.php

Did you know that the NZ Yellow Pages now has a button to show you the location of the business you are interested in? Click on "Map" after you have found the name you want in www.yellowpages.co.nz (Or, for maps of the relevant area, after you have located an entry for a person in the Whitepages at www.whitepages.co.nz, click on "Need a Map" on the page you are looking at and click onto their town).

Here is URL www.worldofends.com where you can get a better understanding of what the INTERNET is and what it isn't!
(Well worth reading)

If you have GOOGLE EARTH installed, have a look at this interesting webpage - .tinyurl.com/rds6d.

That lot should keep you busy until my next notes appear!
John Cook (jcook@paradise.net.nz)

Sometimes I think war is God's way of teaching us geography.
Paul Rodriguez

TypeFaster

TypeFaster at - tinyurl.com/2slxej - is a Windows specific free software game that teaches you how to, you Adults are not the only ones who can benefit from using TypeFaster; kids and very old-fashioned teachers can also learn how to type, and in a playful way that will engage. If you are not convinced, imagine how much time that it will save guessed it, type faster. With 20 lessons and one game, you will learn how to type with all of your fingers (not just two of them). throughout your entire life! The best guess calculation is: currently you could easily write over 3000 words per week through a combination of emails, projects, chatting, letters, etc. That works out at over 10 million words typed throughout a 65-year typing life. Now if you type at only 20wpm that is a whole year of just typing. If you just double your typing speed to 40wpm, you can have 6 months of your life back!

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

I intend to live forever - so far, so good.

I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.

I almost had a psychic girlfriend but she left me before we met.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.

The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.

Save the whales. Collect the whole set.

A day without sunshine is like, night.

On the other hand, you have different fingers.

I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.

42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.

99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.

How to Improve Your Security

There is no 100% safe way to enter passwords. That's a fact.

Modern keyloggers can capture not only keyboard strokes but mouse clicks and the Windows Clipboard. They can also take screen shots of what you are doing. Keeping your confidential information from the prying eyes of the best of these sinister products is extremely difficult, perhaps impossible. Then there is the problem of someone looking over your shoulder and quite separately, security cameras.

So the golden rule is don't ever enter confidential information into a hotel computer, an internet cafe PC or other public terminal.

That's the rule but rules get broken. Sometimes we simply have to use a public terminal. I have and I bet most of my readers have too.

So what can you do to improve your security when entering passwords?

The first tip is to make your passwords (or passphrases) long and semi-random. Passwords like "SncnGnls3Fp" are much better than something like "banana". This is not only because long random passwords are more difficult to crack but also because they are more difficult to unscramble from a keylogger log particularly when used in concert with some of the other techniques mentioned below.

Remembering long semi random passwords is difficult but there are lots of mnemonic systems that can help. By way of example the password "SncnGnls3Fp" mentioned above is actually "RoboForm2Go" transformed by a simple formula where the first letter is shifted one forward in the alphabet (R -> S) while the next letter is shifted one back (o -> n). The same alternating pattern continues for the rest of the characters.

There a lot of different techniques and mnemonics for creating strong passwords and phrases. Worth consulting, is the Wikipedia article on 'password strength' by using that term in the Wikipedia search box.

The second tip is, before you enter your password turn around and look behind you to ensure no one is peeking. Make sure too that you shield the keyboard from the view of any security camera. Long random passwords make it difficult for someone peering over your shoulder to remember but it's still a good idea to actually physically check. Besides, it only takes a few seconds.

The third tip is to use obfuscation techniques when typing your password. That's a fancy way of saying you can should disguise your password by entering it in more complex way than just typing it in from the keyboard.

For example rather than just entering the password from the keyboard, you could cut and paste some of the characters that make up your password from another part of the screen. Ideally, this should be from the same window as the one containing the password field but other windows will work fine too.

You could also drop and drag and drag some characters rather than use cut and paste. Another trick is to enter a character by holding down the Alt key and using the numeric keypad. For example the letter "a" can be entered by ALT 123. Yet another technique is to use an onscreen keyboard to enter some of the characters.

You can go one further and enter the last half of your password first followed by the first half. You can then drop and drag the second half to the front from inside the password box.

Using a combination of these techniques to enter your password can make it hard for anyone to reassemble your password from a keylogger log. However by a using another obfuscation trick we can make the task near impossible. This trick involves the insertion and deletion of random dummy characters into your password.

For simplicity let's say your password is abcdefg.

Rather than enter your password as a simple sequence of letters throw in some additional dummy random characters along these lines:

aMNbOcZdPQRReSfgTUV

Now go back and delete the dummy letters one at a time. Delete some characters using backspace, others using the mouse to highlight the letter(s) and the then hitting the Delete key or using the right click context menu and selecting "delete."

By combining the dummy character trick with the various multiple entry techniques, you can fool pretty well any keylogger. However don't feel you have to use every single obfuscation trick mentioned; that's overkill. Indeed, you may not be able to use all these techniques as some sites and products limit what you can do.

It's enough because any hacker reading a log from a keylogger has to read, identify, analyze and re-assemble what's recorded. That's hard work. If you use long random passwords combined with even a few obfuscation techniques then almost certainly you've made the job too hard. Possible yes, but too hard, specially when there is easy picking available elsewhere.

Welcome to new members

Ulf	Ackeus
Pauline	Ackeus
Joyce	Baker
Noel	Bates
Donald	Beswick
Valerie	Bruggemans
Sarah	Burrows
Alfred	Chin
Peg	Chorlton
Shirley	Cranch
Harvey	Daniel
Margaret	Dearing
Helen	Deighton
Sheila	Dooley
Judith	Dunlop
Barbara	Duthie
Helen	Fitzgerald
Barbara	Fowler
David	Fowler
Murray	Gibbons
Audrey	Heaven
Marguerite	Hely

Christine	Houlahan
Clem	Huriwaka
Sandra	Jackson
Margaret	Lancaster
Thelma	MacDougall
Brian	MacMillan
Semisi	Maiai
Ross	Martin
Jack	McCreanor
Irene	Reeves
Kay	Robertson
Marie	Ryan
David	Ryrie
John	Scott
Christine	Stewart
Eileen	Strachan
Frank	Szpetnar
Erin	Tuckey
Nola	Walton
Joanna	Woods
Richard	Woods

Inkjet printers are filthy, lying thieves

Courtesy Ken Fisher, June 18, 2007 (abridged). Original article is at tinyurl.com/2957jw

A new study says more than half of the ink from inkjet cartridges is wasted. Why is that interesting? According to the study, users are tossing the cartridges when their printers are telling them they're out of ink, not when they necessarily are out of ink.

The study by TÜV Rheinland looked at inkjet efficiency across multiple brands. They studied the efficiency of both single and multi-ink cartridges. The worst printer tested, wasting 64 percent of its ink in tests. TÜV Rheinland measured cartridge weights before and after use, stopping use when printers reported that they were out of ink.

That's the first problem. Printers routinely report that they are low on ink even when they aren't, and in some cases there are still hundreds of pages worth of ink left.

The second issue is a familiar one: multi-ink cartridges can be rendered "empty" when only one color runs low. Multi-ink cartridges store three to five colors in a single cartridge. Printing too many photos from the air show will kill your cartridge faster than you can say "blue skies," as dominant colors (say, "blue") are used faster than the others. Single ink cartridges aren't exactly perfect, however. Such cartridges still were reported as empty with an average of 20 percent of their ink left, which means that an entire cartridge worth of ink is wasted for every five, which are used. Given the sky-high prices of ink, this is an alarming find. Epson's own R360 posted the best numbers, with only 9 percent wasted. Yet again, Epson commissioned the tests, so we must ask what's missing. The study did not measure how much ink is lost due to lack of use, or through cleaning processes. Inkjet cartridges are known to suffer from quality problems if they are not used for long periods of time, sometimes "drying up." This problem has been addressed in recent years, but it has not been eliminated.

The study also did not calculate the total cost per page, which arguably is more important than efficiency. If Epson's multicartridge approach is more efficient, it could nonetheless still be more expensive per page than multi-ink cartridge systems. In its defense, Epson and TÜV Rheinland said that their study focused on the ecological impact of inkjet printing. This is a familiar argument: hybrid cars have also been criticized for their supposed efficiency, with debates raging as to whether or not your average driver will ever see cost savings from better miles-per-gallon given the relative expensive of hybrid engines.

As such, anyone in the market for an inkjet printer still needs to compare specific models to one another to get a feel for efficiency, and Epson's efficiency claims needs to be weighed next to the comparative cost of competing inkjet solutions.

Still, the unintended result of this study is that regardless of the battle between single- and multi-ink cartridges, inkjet printers themselves are significantly off the mark when it comes to reporting the fullness of their cartridges. As the Eagles would say, you're best off when you "take it, to the limit."

Courtesy "Gizmo" newsletter (abridged).

