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Sponsors Current committee & Tutor contact list

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Hello members,

I have had various PCs, laptops and mobile phones for over 25 years. About 5 years ago, I added an Android tablet to my collection of devices. I am now finding that it is the device that I use most. When I am at home, it is my companion for much of the day. On a typical day, I might use the tablet for the following:

- Checking the weather forecast, with perhaps a look at the rain radar if rain seems imminent.
- Reading local, national and international news through the websites of various news services here and overseas.
- Using the Manage My Health service to make an appointment, order repeat prescriptions or check the results of lab tests.
- Searching YouTube for inspiration and ideas for hobby activities and music.
- Shopping online.
- Internet banking.
- Video calling with colleagues, friends or family.
- Travel planning.
- Reading one of the thousands of books available free through the Rotorua Library.

If I am reading a non-fiction biography, history or travel books, I will often switch over to Google or Google Earth to get added information or images about a person or place that is mentioned.

Of course, between them, phones, laptops and PCs can do everything that a tablet does, but my tablet gives me much of the best of all worlds, with its large screen, good computing power and portability. To do any of these things while sitting in comfort in my favourite chair is a delight.

My personal opinion is that an ideal option for many seniors is a combination of a fairly basic phone and a good medium level tablet, perhaps with an auxiliary physical keyboard.

Regards

Keith Garratt

Chairperson

Rotorua SeniorNet is just one of 75 local groups in the New Zealand Federation. If you would like to know more about what goes on elsewhere, OR what discounts or services are available to members, go to the Federation web site <https://seniornet.nz>

Next members' forum Monday 12 July 2021 2 pm

Our monthly members' forums are at Parksyde Centre, Tarewa Place, on the second Monday of each month at 2 pm, with interesting talks followed by afternoon tea. Visitors are welcome.

This Month: CAB speaker- what the Citizens' Advice Bureau can do for us.

From Bert, Activities Co-ordinator

Recently we had a very interesting talk at our SeniorNet forum. Eric and Keith showed us how to talk to our computers to produce a written document. This is my first attempt at doing this and, so far, I am managing, by speaking quite slowly, to write at a reasonable speed. I must admit the new computer is a little deaf and the written words turn out to be completely different to the words I spoke. I am hoping that as time goes by the app will make corrections and that the learning capability of the app will correct this deficiency.



I have noticed that as I speak, watching the screen is a distraction and I soon find myself mentally making corrections. I lose my train of thought and I cannot remember what I was about to say next. I am making a mental note not to watch what the screen is typing. I have begun to realise that I need to give myself time to think. I have to remember that the computer is acting as my personal assistant. When I am thinking of my next great thought my PA computer will sit quietly with infinite patience. Should I spend too much time thinking (or possibly leave for a cup of tea) the computer will wait and sometimes the microphone will time out. Google docs will have automatically saved my thoughts for posterity.

I have just connected my USB microphone which seems to be working much better with far fewer mistakes. I think that I will stick with the new microphone to see if the improvement continues; so far it is looking good. I have noticed that stopping myself from reading the screen is a problem but I hope to solve this by moving the microphone so that I cannot see the screen. This does seem to work!

I have also noticed that the punctuation commands which I have given the computer were typed literally. It has now figured out that I mean a punctuation mark and not a word, like a comma. It all seems to depend on how quickly I say the command.

It is time to stop blundering my way through this. To sum up! My thoughts are that this is something worth pursuing as it does seem to get easier and better the more I play with it. So, give it a try folks. It is not easy at first but as time goes on I feel it will be a very helpful thing to use especially for those of us who find that their fingers are not as nimble as they were.

Bert Harris

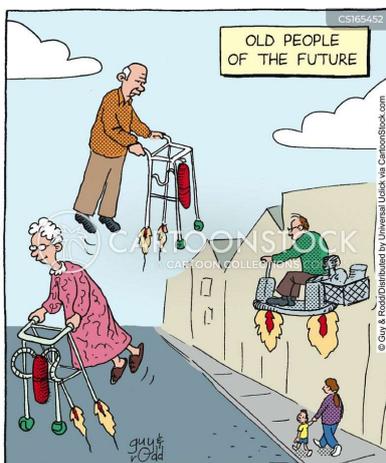
FYI/FYE (For Your Information/From Your Editor)

A member has given me a copy of the June 2021 *Viewpoint*, the newsletter of Macular Degeneration New Zealand. In this issue is a great deal of information on electronic banking services.

One page gives general instructions for using hearing buds at ATM machines, where available, and the other seven pages are information from the individual banks – ASB, ANZ, BNZ, Co-operative Bank, Kiwibank, TSB and Westpac. To find out more, go to

www.mdnz.org.nz

Then go to **Services**, then **Issue 19 June 2021**.



I saw this online and I like the idea, but wondered if those red attachments on the walking frames are oxygen cylinders. Maybe it's not such a good idea to combine that with what looks like gas propulsion??

Or could there be some infernal plot behind it, e.g. How to Get Rid of Granny? How many stories could be written about this? Feel free to make up your own.

Street View Treks: Eiffel Tower – About – Google Maps

Something I googled the other day. Google maps (Ctrl+Click to follow the link above the screen shot) can offer tours of various famous landmarks. There's also a youtube clip (in French) that is interesting. Don't worry – you don't need to understand the language. The views from the tower and the snippets showing how the video was made are fascinating.



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



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