

December 2021

Gizmoe



A newsletter for members of SeniorNet

From the Chair



What a year it has been. Everything sailing along smoothly until mid-August, then suddenly we all came to a sudden stop. Learning Centres scrambled to provide online sessions for their members, and many members were reminded that they could still get their technology fix through SeniorHangouts.

For those of us who live within the Auckland border, the lockdown seemed to just keep dragging on, while for others, especially those in the South Island, you must have been wondering what all the fuss was about. Here is hoping that 2022 will be kinder to us all.

Here in Warkworth, where I am a tutor, the committee and tutors decided that something needed to be done to help our members get their Covid passes set up on their smartphones. The trouble was, we were still in Level 3, and we could not have people inside the Centre. Our secretary, Linda, came up with the idea that we could set ourselves up in the covered carpark outside our door. As we operate out of the



Covid passes being issued in Warkworth Learning Centre car park

basement of the RSA, the carpark was not needed for cars so we had quite a large amount of space to use. Social distancing rules were kept at the front of our minds when setting up, and we ended up with 8 tables and 8 tutors assisting members, and a row of spaced chairs for those waiting. A very successful operation!

All the very best for the festive season to you all.

Hopefully now we will all be able to visit family and friends that we have been separated from during the last 4 months.

Marilyn Goodwin, Chair FNZSS

From Heather's Desk

During this last year we have been learning new words, accessing new websites and downloading new apps. Key word searching has been Covid, pandemic, lockdowns, passports, vaccination targets, traffic lights. Every day at 1 o'clock we've been pausing to

listen to the daily briefing and we've met new and interesting people with job titles like virologist, modeller, intensive care specialist and vaccinators.



We've learnt how to keep ourselves safe and that has certainly had an impact on our operations. Although some of us have had to close our doors to face to face learning, we have had the opportunity of getting together online. It's hard to believe that only two years ago we barely used Zoom and our geographic circle of SeniorNet friends was very limited.

But now we are getting used to the new normal. And there are some positives on the horizon. The vaccine pass will allow us some new freedoms and SeniorNet itself is gearing up for a positive year ahead.

The government's focus on digital inclusion is a key focus for us in 2022. How can we motivate those who are currently reluctant to use technology? Can we bring them into our network, provide them with confidence and assure them that being online can be safe? How do we get out and about from our Learning Centres to find new members, new converts to the online world?

Kind regards Heather Newell, Executive Officer

Did you see us on Television?



Thanks to the efforts of Google, Dr Beryl Barratt, a member of Upper Hutt SeniorNet and myself were invited onto the Breakfast show to talk about Beryl's initiation into the world on digital technology. Beryl has become quite a referee for SeniorNet as she is also featured on an AMI promotion.

1. <https://www.ami.co.nz/hub/seniorhangouts>
2. <https://www.ami.co.nz/hub/beryl>

Doctor Beryl Barratt left the workforce at a time when computers were not common in the workplace, let alone in the home or even your back pocket. And yet, as an 88 year old retired soil scientist, she's having to adjust to the rate of technological change we're all experiencing. So as banking, grocery shopping and staying in touch with family and friends all moved online at the start of the pandemic lockdowns, Dr. Barratt reached out to a SeniorNet learning centre for lessons on computer technology. Over the past 18 months she has developed skills in writing emails, watching YouTube videos and even scanning QR codes with her smartphone, demonstrating that digital skills can be an important component of lifelong learning.

SeniorNet, and their peer to peer teaching platform SeniorHangouts, have been a lifeline to Kiwis throughout the country. For many, these online sessions are as much about the skills they're learning as the opportunities to interact and socialise with others

in the Q&A forum. Now, through funding from Google.org, Google's philanthropic arm, SeniorNet hopes to bring their digital literacy and online safety workshops to 10,000 more older New Zealanders. In addition to philanthropic funding, Google.org will donate Google Search advertising and Googlers will volunteer time to enable SeniorNet to bring new audiences to their platform, and to assist with their digital strategy.

Heather Newell, SeniorNet's Executive Officer said, "As we went into lockdown in early 2020, we realised our face to face learning centres weren't going to be able to support disconnected seniors in the same way. After a very special call from the Google team we were able to add the opportunity for seniors to meet online. We were able to continue our work at a really critical time for Kiwis to remain online and we're so grateful for this continued support and funding from Google.org."

Google New Zealand first began supporting SeniorNet with their digital transformation in early 2020. To date, SeniorNet has delivered more than 2000 hours of online learning, and plans to reach more New Zealanders through different languages and formats. As this programme evolves, we're proud to support their work to assist even more people with the digital skills required to thrive in an increasingly online world.

- By Ross Young, Government Affairs and Public Policy, Google New Zealand.

Learning Centre news

Are Chrome Books the way of the future?

SeniorNet (Manawatū) in conjunction with Manchester House, a Feilding community organisation, is providing basic computer training to seniors who have had no or very little computer experience. The scheme devised by John Gibsone and Kevin Fletcher uses cheap, easy to use Chromebooks to teach people, in eight sessions, to set up a Gmail account, use email, do internet searching and internet banking.

The manager of Manchester House's Senior Hub, who made the initial approach to SeniorNet, obtained funding from Lions to purchase five Chromebooks for tuition at a price of about \$500 each.



John & Kevin with Feilding Seniors Chromebook class

14 people attended a public meeting. As a result the first course of six participants was completed in November and more are planned for next year. Each participant is expected to purchase their own Chromebook and become more proficient at home. They are also persuaded to become SeniorNet members. If they don't have internet at home it is recommended they take out a plan with Skinny Jump

Because of the success in Feilding, an application is being made to obtain funds to purchase six Chromebooks for SeniorNet's own use in Palmerston North. Chromebooks are seen as the way forward for Seniors.

Michael Lawrence

The Federation of New Zealand SeniorNet AGM and Symposium 2022

Wednesday & Thursday 4th & 5th May 2022, The Parnell Hotel & Conference Centre, 10/20 Gladstone Road, Parnell, Auckland

Please mark in your diary the date and venue for The AGM & Symposium, 4 - 5 May 2022, at The Parnell Hotel and Conference Centre with free onsite parking, accommodation and Gladstone Cafe Restaurant. The hotel is approximately 30 - 45 minutes from the domestic airport. Representatives from your Learning Centre are encouraged to attend this annual event, which also gives them the opportunity to finally meet the people they have connected with over Zoom as well as some networking, and learning new skills. For your convenience Mac Senior Net Auckland Learning Centre will organise taxi shuttles for people returning to Auckland Airport. If you would like to take advantage of this service please indicate when registering. A registration fee of \$75.00 plus GST per person. This will cover catering at the event for both days as well as dinner (excluding beverages) on the 4th May. Breakfast is not included.

February Focus on Westpac

During the month of February we will be focusing nationally on promoting the safety and security of online banking – in conjunction with our principal sponsors – Westpac. This is an opportunity to enhance your confidence, to practice in a safe environment and bring along your friends and family, regardless of age, to find out more about using cards, banking, security etc.

Find out what is on offer at your Learning Centre or through SeniorHangouts

- Live sessions
- Recorded sessions
- Small byte sized learnings
- Full classes
- Westpac hosted sessions online
- Play the Stash the Cash Game and impress your friends and family with your new awareness of online scams

Watch Stash the Cash (Ages 10+)

During a game of Stash the Cash, you play a scammer who is out to scam all the other players. Everyone else in the game is a scammer too and it is a battle royale to see who finishes with the most money. The scams in the game are based on real scams that people do or have been tricked by. We recommend this game as suitable for children over 10, and adults too.



Suzuki



Our EO has been seen around the traps in her new Suzuki hybrid car. She describes it “as a really smooth ride, and I’m now a convert to automatic cars”. The car has been spotted in Matamata, Taupo, Whanganui, National Park, Wellington, Wairarapa, Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt. When’s it coming to a Learning Centre near you?



Emma Gilmour will completely miss Christmas this year – flying across time zones in her much-anticipated journey from England back home to New Zealand.

But the history-making rally driver is nonplussed. Instead, she’s thrilled to finally be coming home to Dunedin after five months in the UK, having battled the MIQ lottery and missed out on several chances before Sport New Zealand gifted her a spot.

And, anyway, her Christmas present came early this year, in the form of race it. a souped-up electric SUV with the name McLaren written on it. She just has to wait till next year to race it.

The 41-year-old Gilmour has lost count of how many Covid tests she’s had to take this year. She left New Zealand shores in July to fill her role as a reserve driver for Veloce Racing in the inaugural Extreme E championship series.

Extreme E is an off-road racing series where all teams have one male and one female driver who share equal driving duties. Along with promoting gender equality, the series also focuses on raising awareness for climate change; the vehicles they drive are the electric off-road SUV. Spark Odyssey 21.

Gilmour made her race debut in Greenland in August, round three of the series, with co-driver Stéphane Sarrazin.

And then in November, she was named the first female driver to sign up with the McLaren team – and will race for them in the 2022 Extreme E series, on courses in remote corners of the world with American rallycross and stunt driver Tanner Foust.

Gilmour is used to making history, becoming the first woman to win an event in the NZ Rally Championship, dominating the Rally of Canterbury.

Life Membership



Jane Smith, who many of us met at the AGM in Dunedin this year, has recently been recognised by SeniorNet Dunedin for her long service, having joined the Learning Centre in 2007. Her significant contributions have include tutoring and executive roles. Congrats Jane on your commitment.

Kapiti Working With Libraries

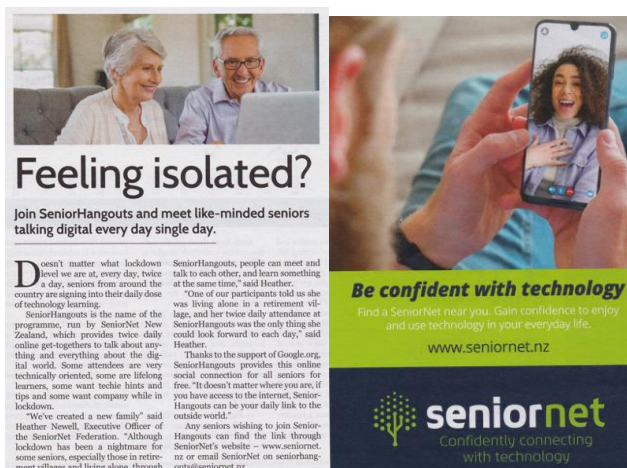
Many libraries are now engaging with their communities through digital inclusion initiatives. Kapiti Learning Centre used the opportunity of Vaccine passes to introduce themselves to Dr Simon Laing, Digital Inclusion Advisor based at Paraparaumu Library.

Only one week, later SeniorNet Kapiti was in the Paraparaumu Library, helping their community to register for My Health and apply for their Vaccine Pass. After the Vaccine Pass was received by email then they helped individuals to download their Vaccine Pass to their Wallet or Google Pay (G-Pay). The interesting part for some people, was to allay their concern about setting up a “pay” app on their smartphones. After explaining that you did not have to upload a credit or debit card, to put your Vaccine Pass into the relevant app, then it was all go!

Kapiti’s friendly Tutors believe it’s been a real pleasure working with the community. They look forward to seeing how, in future, SeniorNet Kapiti can grow a close and rewarding relationship with the Paraparaumu Library and more importantly, the community.

We’ve Been in Print

Did anyone notice our article and advert in the NZ Grey Power magazine?



Feeling isolated?

Join SeniorHangouts and meet like-minded seniors talking digital every day single day.

Don't matter what lockdown level we are at, every day, twice a day, seniors from around the country are signing into their daily dose of technology learning.

SeniorHangouts is the name of the programme, run by SeniorNet New Zealand, which provides twice daily online get-togethers to talk about anything and everything about the digital world. Some attendees are very technically oriented, some are lifelong learners, some want techie hints and tips and some want company while in lockdown.

"We've created a new family" said Heather Newell, Executive Officer of the SeniorNet Federation. "Although lockdown has been a nightmare for some seniors, especially those in retirement villages and living alone, through SeniorHangouts, people can meet and talk to each other, and learn something at the same time," said Heather.

"One of our participants told us she was living alone in a retirement village, and her twice daily attendance at SeniorHangouts was the only thing she could look forward to each day," said Heather.

Thanks to the support of Google.org, SeniorHangouts provides this online social connection for all seniors for free. "It doesn't matter where you are, if you have access to the internet, SeniorHangouts can be your daily link to the outside-world."

Any seniors wishing to join SeniorHangouts can find the link through SeniorNet's website - www.seniornet.nz or email SeniorNet on seniorhangouts@seniornet.nz.

Be confident with technology

Find a SeniorNet near you. Gain confidence to enjoy and use technology in your everyday life.

www.seniornet.nz

seniornet
Confidently connecting with technology

What do we really need to know about technology options?

The Commerce Commission has instructed the telecommunications industry to develop a marketing code that ensures consumers receive all the information they need from telco providers to make informed choices about the technology options and plans that best suit their needs.

Industry body New Zealand Telecommunications Forum Inc. (TCF) will have 60 working days to turn marketing guidelines issued by the Commission into an industry retail service quality (RSQ) code. The Commission expects the code to be binding on TCF members, which include most of New Zealand's major telecommunications providers.

Telecommunications Commissioner Tristan Gilbertson said the issue has become urgent as a result of increased marketing activity linked to Chorus withdrawing the old copper network and Spark removing public switched telephone network (PSTN) connections.

"Consumers have told us that marketing of alternatives to legacy copper-based services is often incomplete, confusing or misleading," he said. "Providers have also contacted us with concerns about their competitors' behavior.

"While we have given the TCF 60 working days to create an industry code, we expect providers to bring their marketing into line with these guidelines as soon as possible, so that consumers can make an informed choice about the technologies and plans that are best for their telecommunications needs.

"We particularly want to see telco providers clean up their marketing activities as we head into the Christmas period, which is traditionally a busy time for the sector."

Alternative technologies to copper include fibre, hybrid fibre-coaxial cable and wireless broadband.

Introducing Otila Osborne

BCom (Hons), MBA (Victoria) and Otago University Ph.D. School of Marketing candidate



If you've been participating in SeniorHangouts you may soon be hearing from Otila Osborne who is helping us with an evaluation of SeniorHangouts. Over late January Otila will be running some focus groups (online of course) to ask you some questions about your motivations and experiences of learning online.

Otila is an Otago University Marketing PhD Scholarship recipient passionately committed to improving societal wellbeing. She has been working in the NGO sector for the past 10 years and has supported a range of charities with their fundraising and marketing initiatives.

Passionately concerned about the well-being of aging populations, Otila has interests in technology, genealogy, classical music, travel and gardening. Her strengths and experience in marketing communications, strategy and academic writing will be utilised to produce the SeniorHangouts evaluation and provide us with some communications support in the early new year.

Otila's PhD involves researching 'the effects of commercial and social marketing on the risk perception of older female internet gamblers.' Qualifications: BCom (Hons) 2020, MBA (Victoria) 2017 - 2019 and PhD Scholarship Candidature (Otago) 2021. Research interests: communications and social media marketing strategy, aging populations, technology, and international business.

Passwords – by John Cross, Dunedin

I know I have written about passwords before, but it constantly comes up as a problem for people. Let's hope Apple's push to eradicate passwords by using other means of identification is successful!

For Apple users at present there is a built in solution. It takes a bit of time and effort to set up,

Once iCloud Keychain is set up, passwords become a) more secure, b) much, much easier to handle.

Passwords with iCloud Keychain

iCloud Keychain is a password manager for all Apple devices that comes as part of the device when you buy it. The only password you need is the one you normally use to open your device (on the more recent devices this may be face or touch recognition).

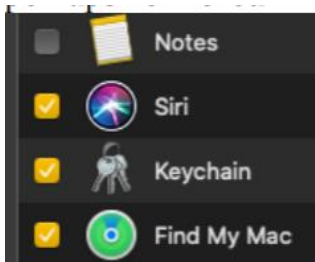
As most people do this pretty often, it's an easy one to remember. iCloud keychain saves your passwords securely - and also credit card details if you choose to use this option. By using iCloud, the passwords you set up on any of your devices are automatically available for your other Apple devices. iCloud uses a very high level of encryption, making it very, very difficult for an outsider to gain access.

(I only say very, very difficult because of my scientific training, which tells me nothing is impossible!)

Setting up iCloud Keychain on a Mac Computer

If you are using MacOS Catalina, see next paragraph!

1. Click the Apple logo at the top-left corner of your screen and choose System Preferences.
2. In the top right of the window that appears is a search box. Type 'iCloud' into that - (as you type the search is narrowed down and you probably only need to type 'iC' to see something like this, with everything else greyed out).
3. Click on whatever is highlighted
4. Locate 'iCloud' in the left hand column and click on it.



5. You should see a window with several items in it, some with a tick on the left, some perhaps not ticked: We want 'Keychain' to be ticked, so if it is not, click in the box to the left of 'Keychain', and a tick should appear in it.

If Using MacOS Catalina

1. Click the Apple logo at the top-left corner of your screen and choose System Preferences.
2. Click on Apple ID in the upper right corner:
3. In the left hand sidebar click on 'iCloud' A new set of options will appear to the right , locate 'Keychain'
4. If it has a tick in the box next to it, fine, otherwise click in the box so a tick appears. In either case, and provided your Mac is otherwise up-to-date, iCloud Keychain will now store all passwords you elect to save.

This means they can be available for you on any other Apple device you own as well as your Mac.



Keep in touch with family

Do you have a senior family member who finds technology difficult?

Kitcal is a specially designed tablet that's **simple** and **easy** to use - designed for those with little or no touch-screen experience.

Help your senior stay connected with family without the challenges of an ordinary tablet or smart phone.

Special Offer for SeniorNet Members:

Use the coupon "**SeniorNet**" when purchasing your Kitcal tablet and we'll take **\$50 off and donate \$50 to SeniorNet.**

www.kitcal.nz
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