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Hello members,

I hope you have all been able to get your COVID-19 vaccine shots. I have had both mine and it certainly gives a feeling of security. If you have not had yours and are unsure what to do, ring 0800 115 117 to make an appointment to get your shots at the vaccination centre in the Central Mall next to Noel Leeming.

This all brings back memories of mass vaccination programs of about 70 years ago, when as school children we were all given TB and polio vaccines. I don't remember much controversy or anti-vaccine agitation at that time.

There has been some talk about vaccination passports for international travel. This is also of course nothing new. I am sure that many of us remember having to get shots before going overseas and being issued with a yellow card to carry with us. I well remember a visit to our local doctor with Anna and our two, very young, children when I was posted to a job in the tropics in the mid-1960s. We all lined up for shots against typhoid, cholera and yellow fever, plus a scratch on the arm for smallpox. Needless to say, the children did not enjoy the experience.

At our coming Parksyde forum on 14 June, we will be demonstrating various ways that we can use speech-to-text on our devices, such as writing letters and emails on our PCs or writing texts on our phones. This can be a great help as we get older and our fingers or eyes become less able. I am using speech-to-text more and more frequently, and I am using the dictation function in Microsoft Word to write this column.

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 14 June 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:

"TALKING TO YOUR DEVICES"

Tips and tricks for using speech-to-text on your computer, tablet and phone to write documents, emails and texts.

PLUS

"YOUTUBE GEMS"

Some informative, entertaining and astonishing video clips from YouTube.

From Bert, Activities Co-ordinator

Redwoods Drop In

On 5 May2021, we visited the Redwoods retirement village as a part of our Rotorua SeniorNet outreach programme.

Many thanks to Rob our club secretary for organising this event. We were made most welcome in a large comfortable lounge and we soon set up a wi-fi network so that everyone attending could easily log in and participate in the learning session.

The first two people to arrive brought their Apple *iphone* and Apple *ipad*. Fortunately, John Somerville arrived and was able to use his expertise to do some problem solving. Gene was soon working with a gentleman who had some problems with his laptop and Ngaire was able to help sort out some queries related to Microsoft Word. We all had a busy couple of hours.

I was able to help a lady who needed help with her Android phone sending photos on Gmail. I am by no means expert with mobile phones but I do know my way around the Gmail app. With some occasional help by Gene I managed to answer most of the questions.

All in all, it was, in my opinion, a success and I think we will see some of the people at the Library "Drop-Ins". The concept of setting up sessions at Retirement Villages perhaps three or four times a year might satisfy demand and possibly add to our membership. Something for our Committee to think about at our next meeting.



We have been running Drop-in Sessions for some time now and although people have attended with a diverse collection of devices and an amazing collection of problems, we have managed, I feel, to satisfy a definite need in the Senior community for assisting people to learn more about the fantastic potential these devices have to make their lives easier, particularly as a means of communicating with their families.

We welcome our own membership to come on Monday mornings to the Rotorua Library and participate. I learn something new and interesting every time I attend and we have many laughs along the way. So give it a go! We look forward to seeing you.

Bert Harris

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

I have recently attended a couple of meetings where I have been a generation older than all of the other participants. This means that the others are part of the generation who went through our school system at a time when we still had 5¼" floppy disks (that were truly floppy – that's another story!) and stand-alone computers that ran on DOS, without windows. Some schools would not have even had computers at that stage.

What struck me was the lack of basic knowledge that some of these people have. Although they use computers/tablets/smart phones and so do their children, there is a definite gap in awareness, at least among this group. When the dark web was mentioned, one person admitted to never having heard of it! Another was quite convinced that data they had uploaded onto their facebook page was theirs and theirs alone! The reality is, of course, that once something is uploaded to the Internet, anyone can access and use it – and some do!

Maybe I was fortunate when, sometime in the early 1980's a certain Glendowie College Principal informed me that the typewriters were going out after school on Friday and the computers were coming in, and, 'take one home and find out how to use it over the weekend'. Wonderful professional development! And, apart from a couple of short, night school courses, that's how it's been ever since. Updates, upgrades, glitches, Y2K, pupil sleight of hand (never did work out how that kid could swap the power leads without anyone noticing) and just about everything else that bears out the old pessimistic 'If it can go wrong, it will go wrong'. There's another one, along the lines of, 'If you really want to foul things up – get a computer!'

Next time the Gen Y/Z lot give you that 'poor old geezer' look, this could be something to remember: we can write (really write, not just print!), know our times tables, know how to use the 'old', 'outdated' equipment that works when all else doesn't, live without everything labour-saving and didn't need to have all sorts of electronic communication devices for survival!

Go, Us!



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Remember these characters?



Committee and Tutor Contact Details

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