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From the Chairman

Hello members

It is over forty years since scientists first gave serious warnings about the warming effect of greenhouse gas emissions and the effect they would have on global climate. Even that long ago, the science community understood that the key issue facing humanity was not the underlying warming trend, but the changes that it would cause to global climate patterns, leading to a variety of catastrophic extreme weather events in various localities around the globe. As early as 1988 when the United Nations realised the need to form a specialist organisation to address the issue, it chose the name Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) not Intergovernmental Panel on Global Warming.

Unfortunately, the warnings were ignored and there was a reluctance to take action. We are now all facing the consequences. Every day we are seeing news about catastrophic climate events both in New Zealand and around the world. It is now widely accepted that human-induced climate change is largely responsible.

One issue is that the terms "climate change" and "global warming" tend to be used interchangeably. This can create confusion and misunderstanding. While the underlying general warming is increasing at a comparatively steady rate due to greenhouse gas emissions, the climate changes triggered by the underlying warming can lead to weather events that go to wild extremes ranging from drought to blizzards. This can lead to misguided ridiculing of climate change when extreme cold weather events occur.

For us individually, we need to accept that climate change is real and upon us, and that this might mean changes to our lifestyles. Fortunately, in Rotorua we are not faced with the huge impacts being experienced by people in some coastal communities.

Regards
Keith Garratt
Chair

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 website.

www.rotoruasenior.net

Next members' forum (is a little different)

Grey Power Rotorua Meet the Candidates

This is an opportunity to hear from the candidates for Mayor of Rotorua and for Rotorua Lakes Council.

**12 September, 1 pm and 7 pm.
Linton Park Community Centre
16 Kamahi Place, Pukehangi, Rotorua**

Everybody welcome, but please wear a mask.

Instead of our usual monthly get-together, we encourage as many of our members as can, to attend the meeting below. Note that it is at:

**Linton Park Community Centre,
1pm and 7 pm 12 September
2022.**

From Bert, Activities Co-ordinator

There is an old saying: "It is never too late to learn "

The Covid19 pandemic forced many changes in the way many things were done both here in New Zealand and around the world. SeniorNet had to make many changes to continue operating. The holding of Zoom meetings was quickly adopted and the wearing of face masks at our Library "Drop Ins" is our new normal. A spin-off from these changes was that our committee was able to meet more often in an informal way. This resulted in the generation of a lot of new ideas. One such idea was brought up by someone remarking that in broad terms SeniorNet is actually involved in Adult Education. I found this to be an interesting thought although I prefer to call it lifetime learning.

Most people soon realise that learning does not end as you walk out of the school gates into your first job. The skills required for your new job meant that you needed additional training. As time went by further training would be required in order to improve your work skills.

Outside of our working lives there was the rite of passage of learning to drive, which involved passing a driving test. As time went by, we left home and learned all of the things we needed to be independent of our parents. All of this and many other aspects of daily life became part of our lifetime learning. I think of this as informal lifetime learning. The things you pick up on as you live your life. No formal lessons or pesky exams.

In the 1980s the arrival of personal computers and later, the Internet, introduced a whole new area of learning. In the early days few people needed computer skills in their workplace or home. This changed over

time and the use of computers gathered momentum and today computers and the devices we use every day are essential in our daily lives. A great many people employed in the IT industry learned many of their skills informally, mostly by playing with their computers to find out how the darned things work! It is, however, an unfortunate fact that many of our Senior population were a little late coming to the computer party.

Almost everyone in today's society needs some kind of computing device to carry out many everyday tasks. Many things that once involved a person to person transaction are now done online. Internet banking and making payments would be one obvious example. For those who are new to owning a mobile phone or tablet or laptop the learning curve can be quite daunting. The unending numbers of apps which are available to carry out a seemingly infinite number of tasks is a lot to deal with as a beginner. The new challenge for SeniorNet is to provide seniors with the confidence and reassurance to realise that they can do this, just as they have been learning new things all of their life!

The message we offer is that you can learn to do those things you need to do every day, and by constant use you become proficient. We are there to provide advice and answer questions and show you new things when you are ready. No one can possibly know all there is to know about computers. That boat sailed a long time ago. However each of us can learn those little things that may help us in our daily lives. SeniorNet is here to provide that service. We have found that our Monday morning drop-in sessions at the Rotorua library are a good way of working through the problems that arise. We have a team of people available who between them can provide an answer to most of your problems. We work with you one on one and you use your own device.

Bert



"The computer says I need to upgrade my brain to be compatible with the new software."

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

Yes, it was officially spring on 1 September, but as I am composing this in late August, it feels like spring already. We've had quite a trying winter with what has felt like more than our fair share of cold, wet weather. I have actually mown my lawn just twice since May. The second time was yesterday, and it wasn't exactly looking like a hay paddock!

Now it's time to get into the garden again. The vegepod has been topped up with runners from the strawberry plants and a punnet-full of lettuce. All ready to grow! Next job will be to tackle the rest of the garden with the weeds, frost damage and maybe a few surprises when it's all cleared.



One thing I find very convenient here in Rotorua is that there seem to be seeds wafting around from all the lovely gardens that the council plants. Some of these grow every winter in my garden (and through the lawn when they can) and provide quite a pretty winter shelter for the more frost-tender plants that are still getting established. Once frosts are consigned to history, the self-sown plants come out of the lovely soft ground really easily, revealing a nicely developing garden.



I especially appreciate the lovely soft ground in Rotorua. Until I left Auckland nearly five years ago, my adult gardening experience had been clay-based. Our first house was in Pakuranga, where clay was so widespread that many people took up pottery. We even had a pottery studio and kiln as part of the Art Department at Edgewater College, where I taught. The next house was closer to Howick, but still had quite a lot of clay but mixed with scoria from Pigeon Mountain, which was just down the road. For those who have never had to work with clay soil, in the summer it's like rock and in the winter it's a slimy mess! But very fertile once it's broken down.

When I think about it, gardening is a bit like computing – you never stop learning and it can be extremely frustrating!

Alan's Occasional Rant

Some of you may have had the same problem I recently had, a slow (8-10 minute) boot-up time on my laptop and another 5 minutes' wait before everything worked normally.

The usual cause is a security program doing a long scan, and I tried all the remedies I could find but none made any difference. Then someone suggested looking for leftovers from stuff that a wholesaler had pre-installed before I bought it, and at long last I found the cause and fixed it.

I was asked to write this up for our newsletter and decided it would be better shared in the Federation's Hangouts Forum. You can read it there and explore the rest of the Forum!

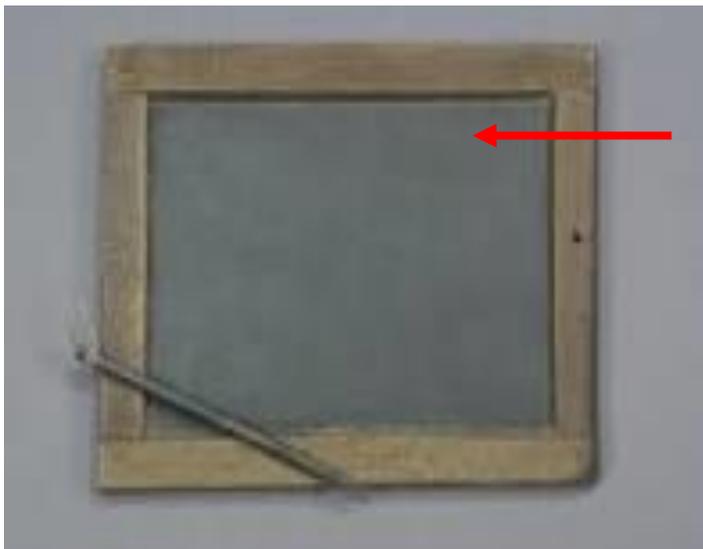
Here's the link. You need to be registered for Hangouts and there's a Registration button on the Login Page this link opens. Once you're registered and logged in, another click on this **same** link will take you to the article:

<https://seniorhangouts.nz/forum/topic/how-do-i-fix-a-slow-booting-pc-when-the-usual-remedies-dont-work/>



If you click the thumbs up at the foot of the article we can see how many of you actually looked at it!

While you're there explore the rest of the Hangouts website. Hangouts is free so you can use any services or join any Forum discussion.



Next time you feel like you're struggling with the technology – ask yourself if the grandkids would have a clue what to do with this!



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