



# Newsletter

July 2023

[www.rotoruasenior.net](http://www.rotoruasenior.net)

Member of NZ Federation of SeniorNet Societies

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Hi, all

Our Chairman, Keith, is still recuperating after a health incident, so I am attempting to fill his literary boots again with this month's contribution.

At our regular Monday morning Drop-ins, and Tech Tuesday sessions, I have become more certain that we don't know what we don't know. By interacting with others we can discover new ideas, opinions and methods of solving problems. By trying new things you can have more "Ah ha!" moments. By teaching something, you learn more about it.

Bert, in his article, mentions the team nature of our member sessions. We all learn from each other. No one of us knows it all, and all of us know something. I can see this collaborative and collegial approach as being of benefit to the membership in general.

Senior Hangouts is an example of this approach in that it widens the pool of members to both teach to, and learn from. Zoom sessions allow members to share without having to physically be at the same venue. We will be demonstrating the joining up process for Senior Hangouts, and the benefits of joining up, at the Monthly Forum next Monday, at Parksyde. We will provide assistance over afternoon tea to assist members who want to set up Zoom and/or Senior Hangouts on their phone, laptop or tablet. We look forward to seeing many of you there, and/or at the Monday morning Drop-in. Knowledge or skill you have may be just the thing the rest of us could learn from.

Cheers  
Gene

*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](http://www.rotoruasenior.net)

Next members' forum  
**Monday 10 July 2023**  
**Introduction to Senior Hangouts**

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.

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**From Bert, Activities Co-ordinator**

How are we doing?

The question is addressed to you, our readers!

No, this is not yet another survey, I just want to encourage you to pause and give a little thought to what SeniorNet means to you. How does membership of SeniorNet Rotorua help you on a day-to-day basis. Have you made any new friends? Do you feel better informed, less apprehensive or perhaps more confident using your devices?

Recently we had a week when we had a library session on Monday followed by a forum in the afternoon and a "Tech Talk" session on Tuesday morning. What was noticeable at all of these sessions was the attendance numbers which were without doubt larger than we have experienced since we started these formats. We had noticed that some sessions might be busier than others but the overall trend is up.

Although this has to be considered a good thing, and I might add it is not intended to be a measure of success or otherwise, it does raise the problem that we will be running short of people to help run our sessions. We can see an obvious need for additional people to step up and join us in assisting with these activities. We do not expect anyone to be an expert in all of the aspects of communication technology. Each of our team has an individual skill set.

As people come in with their various problems, we direct them to work with a team member with the particular skills to solve them. We are, as a team, learning constantly from each other and the folks we are helping. We would be happy for any of our members to sit in and assist at our library sessions. You might be there as an observer initially and in time you could begin to answer some of the questions from the knowledge you have absorbed. It is worth giving it a bit of thought.

SeniorNet Rotorua has evolved in the past couple of years from what has been described as a "computer club" that had, as it implies, a closed membership. We have come to realise that there is a need among Seniors in our community to have access to a problem-solving group to provide advice, training and encouragement to enable them to take advantage of the many services that a smartphone or tablet provides. We still need a club "format" for its organisational structure, but we are dealing more and more with the general public.

As described earlier we are slowly building a 'customer base' who are not necessarily club members. SeniorNet Rotorua has to juggle three relationships. The first is to our Membership, the second is to the SeniorNet National body and the third is to the General public.

We are very conscious of the fact that we need to provide advantages for potential members. At present these is the regular Monthly Forum at Parksyde which our members are supporting with good numbers. We have a Christmas lunch each year which is well attended.

Financial members of SeniorNet will be able to log in to Senior Hangouts at no additional cost as it is covered by the annual subscription. Only SeniorNet members will have access to this facility. Hangouts will provide informative talks online about a variety of technical subjects These talks are created by SeniorNet members for SeniorNet members. We have a solid base of talks recorded previously and in the course of time our members will be able to make a request for a talk to cover a particular subject of interest to themselves. These requests will eventually be scheduled to be added to the list.

A wide variety of people attend our "Drop in" Sessions at the Rotorua library and similarly, the folks who come to our "Tech Talks" at Parksyde. We do not charge any fee for these sessions, but people are welcome to make a "koha" donation if they wish. We realise that people do not want to be badgered about joining SeniorNet when they have had their problem or problems resolved. However, some of the attendees have asked us about our society and some have become members.

SeniorNet has a lot to offer, and the sum is greater than the parts. It provides access to a huge range of knowledge and experience. People find great value financially and otherwise in being able to get unbiased advice about potential purchases. Advice is also available about security, the relative merits of apps or having assistance with setting up devices and many other questions which arise.

The greatest benefit from our viewpoint is that membership allows you to give positive support to a very worthwhile cause while enjoying all of the benefits I have outlined.

Bert

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

Catbot Needed!

In 2005, following the loss of our 15-year-old StaffyX, I found a couple of cute kittens at the SPCA. Three years ago, the one that turned out to be a Turkish Van (see below) came to the end of his life, leaving the 'domestic short hair' (tabby) as an only cat. The tabby was delighted! Cats are soooo caring! At last, he had the whole place, including the resident human, to himself!

Now that the survivor is almost 18 years old, he's doing what old men do – sleeping most of the time. Not a problem, but the other neighbourhood cats are filling the vacuum, as nature does! It turns out that there are 10-12 cats living in the immediate vicinity and now moving into the yard. Seven of them come from the adjacent houses and some from across the road. It's only a matter of time until one of them gets caught by a vehicle. In the meantime, they are chasing birds and even, occasionally, trying to come in the cat door. That is normally met with a quick send-off. Amazing how quickly the geriatric cat can wake up and move when his territory is invaded! And the language!!!

Another cat is not the desired solution (my old mate would shred it!) and a dog would be just as bad, except the cat would shred me as well, so I've decided that I need a CatBot. Given the advances in technology, it would be indistinguishable from a 'normal' cat (is there such a thing?) but would not need feeding, litter trays, vet visits and should be programmed not to scratch the furniture or chase birds, rodents, etc!



By the way, if you are ever tempted to take on a feline like the one shown here, beware! Turks are large cats, like to go for walks, shed white fur **everywhere!**, think they are dogs (not even slightly wary of dogs!), have claws that can remove upholstery from furniture in no time at all and are extremely vocal. I referred to mine as 'the dogcat'.

**Thank you, Alan, for this bit of welcome levity!**



Senior citizens are constantly being criticized for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imaginary. We know we take responsibility for all we have done and do not try to blame others.

**HOWEVER**, upon reflection, we would like to point out that it was **NOT** senior citizens who took:

- The melody out of music,
- The pride out of appearance,
- The courtesy out of driving,
- The romance out of love,
- The commitment out of marriage,
- The responsibility out of parenthood,
- The togetherness out of the family,
- The learning out of education
- The Golden Rule from rulers,
- The nativity scene out of cities,
- The civility out of behaviour,
- The refinement out of language,
- The dedication out of employment,
- The prudence out of spending,
- The ambition out of achievement.

We certainly are **NOT** the ones who eliminated **patience** and **tolerance** from personal relationships and interactions with others!

And, we **DO** understand the meaning of patriotism, and remember those who have fought and died for our country.

**YES, I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN!**

I'm the life of the party..... even if it lasts until 8 p.m!

I'm very good at opening childproof caps ..... with a hammer.

I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.

I'm smiling all the time, .... because I can't hear a thing you're saying.

I'm sure everything I can't find is in a safe secure place .... somewhere!

I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy .... and that's just my left leg.

I'm beginning to realize that aging is not for wimps.

**YES, I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN!**

I think I am having the time of my life!

Now if I could only remember who sent this to me, I wouldn't send it back to them.

Or, maybe I should send it to all my friends anyway. They won't remember, even if they did send it.

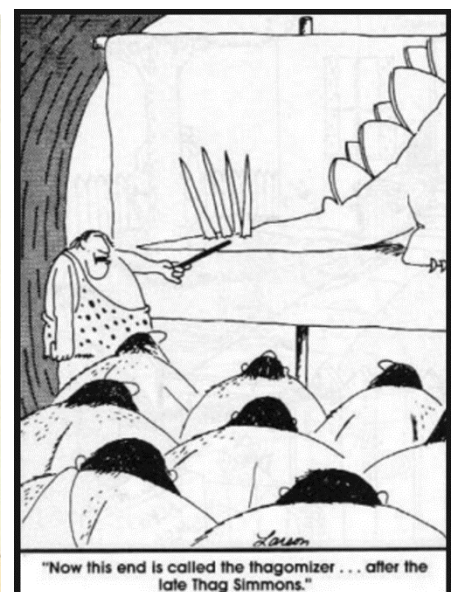
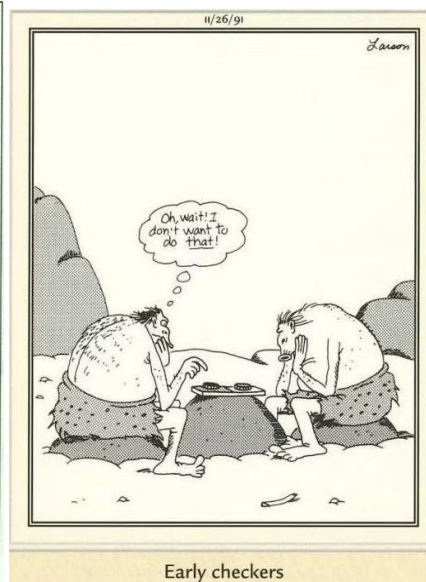
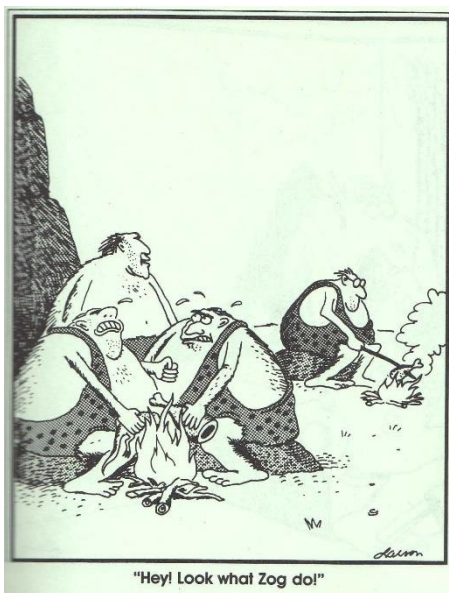
*Spread the laughter and share the cheer, Let's **be happy** while we're still here!*



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Gary Larsen realised the importance of sharing knowledge.