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Sponsors
Current committee
& Tutor contact list

Editor contact

rotoruanet@gmail.com

Website

www.rotoruaseniornet.gen.nz

From the Chairman

Hello, members

I trust that you all had a successful and enjoyable holiday period. Mine was different to what I expected. In common with other major organisations such as Treasury, the Reserve Bank and the US Government, SeniorNet Rotorua suffered a major cyber attack.

In early December, our website lost some of its formatting. Then one of our senior members reported that when he tried to visit the site, he was redirected to what he described as a “Turkish knocking shop”. On 10 December, our web host advised that our website was suspended because it had been hacked and was being used for phishing. We then got into a Catch-22 situation where our host was asking for a guarantee that we would clean the site, but because it was suspended we could not access it to investigate or edit it. Once that was sorted, I had a frustrating few weeks in a cycle of isolating and fixing problems and getting the site up and running, only to soon have it crash again. Various strange material appeared, including a link to a Moroccan site in Arabic. At one stage, an attempt to visit the site produced a black page with a white skull and the message “F****d by FRS”. (I am sure that FRS is not a Fellow of the Royal Society.)

The upshot is that our site is so damaged and contaminated that I have deleted it completely. We will construct a completely new site as time permits. In the meantime, we have a temporary single-page site running, which includes our events calendar.

I look forward to seeing you all at our AGM on 10 February. This year, 2021, will clearly bring some significant changes, and we would appreciate your ideas.

Regards
Keith Garratt
Acting 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 web site.

www.seniornet.co.nz

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SENIORNET ROTORUA BRANCH

is to be held on

Wednesday 10 February, 1.30 pm at Regency Park.

SOME THOUGHTS ...

ON COVID-19

Are we all still using the Covid app on our phones? I've noticed some strange looks while using it from people who seem to think that

- a) we're no longer in any danger, or
- b) the Bluetooth part of the thing is adequate protection, or
- c) they have the old 'it won't happen to me' syndrome.

Please remember that, if you're one of us (SeniorNet), you are in the vulnerable age group and surely, we wouldn't want to risk our families either!

And CREDIT CARDS and SCAMMERS

Reminder about phone calls from 'your bank', asking for credit card details. Remember that it's okay to hang up! Don't even bother to tell them what idiots they are, how scam-savvy you are, or anything else. You do not have to be polite to scammers or kids who think they're funny!

Even with all the information we have, I still don't know how my credit card was loaded with nearly \$5,000 worth of purchases over two transactions last year. I just thank my lucky stars that my bank (ASB) was onto it and contacted me halfway between Auckland and home! I had used the card at a motel, a restaurant and two petrol stations. All should have been fine, but obviously somebody wasn't very honest! The bank was wonderful – followed up when I confirmed the transactions weren't legitimate, reversed them and all was good. Whether they were able to track and prosecute anyone, I don't know.

THANKS TO:

Gene, our database manager, who does a wonderful job keeping us all informed. Not to mention proofreading this newsletter so that all my mistakes are fixed and everyone thinks I'm a top-notch speller and grammarian. 😊

And also ... many thanks to the committee and tutors who spend time helping, guiding and maintaining sanity, especially Keith, our 'interim' chairperson.

From our Course Co-ordinator, Bert

With the new year just a few days old it is fair to say that much has changed with SeniorNet in the past few momentous months.

SeniorNet membership has just about halved and we have come to realise that we have no actual demand for the courses which used to be our main activity and a fair slice of the club's income.

When I joined SeniorNet some ten years ago people were saying that SeniorNet would become irrelevant as future retirees would be leaving the workforce computer literate. Our services would not be needed.

This has proved to be partly true but not quite in the way we thought. Our crystal ball did not predict the technological advance in hardware with mobile phones with high grade photographic capability and a zillion apps to choose from, many of them free. No one predicted facebook, twitter and the entire social media circus. Zoom was something you acquired with an expensive camera. We now use voice instructions to open apps or to raise a query on google. Touch screens have required us to learn a whole litany of taps, holds, swipes and whatever they think of next.

As a consequence, people still find us useful but in a different way. We have had to change our methods to meet new demands. We now find people learn in a different way, mainly because they need information about problems as they crop up. Modern technology has become very complex. Hardware, software, the internet and the cloud are all moving ahead at such a pace that it is almost impossible for the average user to keep up with the rate of innovation. We could never create courses to cover the range of possible problems.

Our answer to this has been the "drop in" where our members, and the general public, can come to Rotorua library on Monday mornings with their own device and present the team with their problem. Our team usually consists of five or more of our members who were once our course tutors. They are now trouble-shooters and we need at least five to have enough expertise on hand to answer the wide variety of questions that people bring to us.

We are dealing with a steady stream of enquiries each week and we expect to become even busier in the coming year. People arrive with their Apple and Android phones, Ipads and Android Tablets and a whole variety of laptops with various vintages of Windows operating systems and many versions of Microsoft office.

All of our members are welcome to visit the “drop in” sessions. Even if you do not have a specific problem you can come in to see how it all works and where we might be able to help you in the future. You may have some expertise that we could call on, too.

A Little Poem For Seniors

Another year has passed
And we're all a little older.
Last summer felt hotter
And winter seems much colder.

There was a time not long ago
When life was quite a blast.
Now I fully understand
About 'Living in the Past'

We used to go to weddings,
Football games and lunches..
Now we go to funeral homes
And after-funeral brunches.

We used to go out dining,
And couldn't get our fill.
Now we ask for doggie bags,
Come home and take a pill.
We used to often travel
To places near and far.
Now we get sore asses
From riding in the car.

We used to go to nightclubs
And drink a little booze.
Now we stay home at night
And watch the evening news.

That, my friend is how life is,
And now my tale is told.
So, enjoy each day and live it up...
Before you're too damned old!



OUR SPONSORS



Committee and Tutor Contact Details

Chairman	Keith Garratt	07 357 2020	Tutors	
Vice Chairman	John Sommerville	021 181 5193	Bert Harris	07 343 7232
Secretary	Rob Grant	07 345 4222	Eric Cameron	07 362 4848
Treasurer	John Sommerville	021 181 5193	Gene Rigney	027 5724363
Web Master	Keith Garratt	07 357 2020	Jaz Zabkiewicz	07 345 9056
Newsletter	Ngaire Tucker	027 290 7347	John Sommerville	021 181 5193
Technician and Database Manager	Gene Rigney	027 5724363	Keith Garratt	07 3572020
Course Coordinator	Bert Harris	07 3437232	Ngaire Tucker	027 2907347