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From the Chairman

Hello members

Anna and I decided that lockdown was a good time to go online to replace her mobile phone with a newer model. It has been an interesting exercise. We hunted online and found a suitable mid-range Samsung for about \$60 cheaper than buying it retail. We ordered online, paid by Internet banking, and it arrived 24 hours later.

We went through the initial setting up process, including connecting to our Wi-Fi. The only glitch was in setting up face recognition, where it was too quick for me and captured my face. We then downloaded the Samsung Smart Switch app to both phones. (No doubt other brands have their equivalents.) This did an impressive job. Basically, all that was needed was to open the app on both phones, set one to send and one to receive. Virtually everything from her old phone appeared on the new one. This included apps, contacts, accounts, all her texts, her home screen icons and layout and even her ringtones. We shifted the SIM card from the old phone to the new. There were then just a few loose ends to tidy up, such as entering an email password, logging in to library apps, and re-registering for the contact tracer app.

A final step was to connect the new phone by Bluetooth to the device Anna wears round her neck that transmits to her hearing aids. Mobile phone calls go straight to it, enabling her to hear calls clearly. We also have a TV link device that transmits the TV sound through the same device to the hearing aids. This system has made life a lot easier for her, and I know she would recommend it to anybody with hearing aids.

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

13th September 2021

TBA

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.

From Bert, Activities Co-ordinator

Is it time to kiss your old phone goodbye?

On our Monday morning library sessions, we quite frequently see some very ancient devices that people have brought in to have a problem sorted. There is nothing wrong with their old device, however they can be quite difficult to use compared to a modern mobile phone. They are also very limited in the tasks that they can perform.

Understandably people are reluctant to spend money replacing a phone that works for them and it does all of the basic things they feel they require. There is another way of looking at this, however, when you think about some of the devices that a modern mobile phone incorporates.

Your shiny new phone is also a camera capable of producing high resolution pictures with a quality equal to that of any camera you can buy for the same price as the phone and, of course, it is always with you in your pocket or handbag.

Your phone is also a timepiece that guarantees you have the correct time and it can be used as a stopwatch. Your phone can also provide an alarm or reminder feature which you can set to remember your appointments or early wake-up call.

An additional feature available with a modern phone is a torch, which can be very useful when travelling. This is particularly the case when you wake up at night in a strange room and you don't know where the light switches are located. Travelling, of course, can be made much easier by using the GPS feature, Google Maps. This can be used to navigate in your car and is often better than the manufacturer's installation. Exploring an unfamiliar city or small town on foot or by bicycle can be made very much easier using your phone than trying to read a printed map or brochure. And it does tell you how far you need to walk to the nearest coffee bar or the famous building you have travelled all of those hours to see.

The items I have mentioned so far, when purchased as a collection of items, would probably have exceeded the amount you might have paid for SNP (your Shiny New Phone) but that is not the end of the story.

There is a whole branch of the mobile phone industry devoted to writing apps to enable the user to download and install software to carry out almost any operation they feel

might be useful for their purpose. Many of these apps are free and the temptation is there to overload your phone with apps you seldom use.

It soon becomes apparent that there is a small core of apps that are really useful, or even essential, while the rest are options you can explore and discard as you wish.

I have already mentioned Google and I am writing this article on Google docs, dictating the text into a microphone. Google has a whole suite of useful apps, too many to cover even a fraction of them. Google docs is an app which is part of Google Drive which is a full office suite useful for producing written documents or downloading a spreadsheet, presentations and many other features.

Also available are Google Photos, Maps, Calendar and many others almost too numerous to mention. It can also be useful to install a weather forecast app for up-to-date weather information.

Nowadays it is almost essential to have an Internet banking account. This is very useful to have on your mobile and, generally speaking, it is very easy to use. Some phones can be used for small payments using a proximity reader to deduct a payment from a designated account.

Social media apps have become very popular such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter etc and are widely used.

There are many organisations, both public and private, which are only really accessible online. Most Government Departments and local councils come under this heading and many private organisations such as insurance companies and some of the large retailers have made it almost mandatory that they are contacted online.

To summarise: I think that for those of us who only use their phones to make voice calls or to send messages or maybe the odd email, it is worth thinking about your phone as an investment in an easier life. You might find things a little baffling at first but a single session at the library with our SeniorNet Team will ensure that your phone is set up for you to use easily. When you feel ready to try out a new app come in and talk to us about it and we can offer advice and help.

Bert

I have a pencil that used to be owned
by William Shakespeare.

But he chewed it a lot. Now I can't tell
if it's 2B or not 2B.



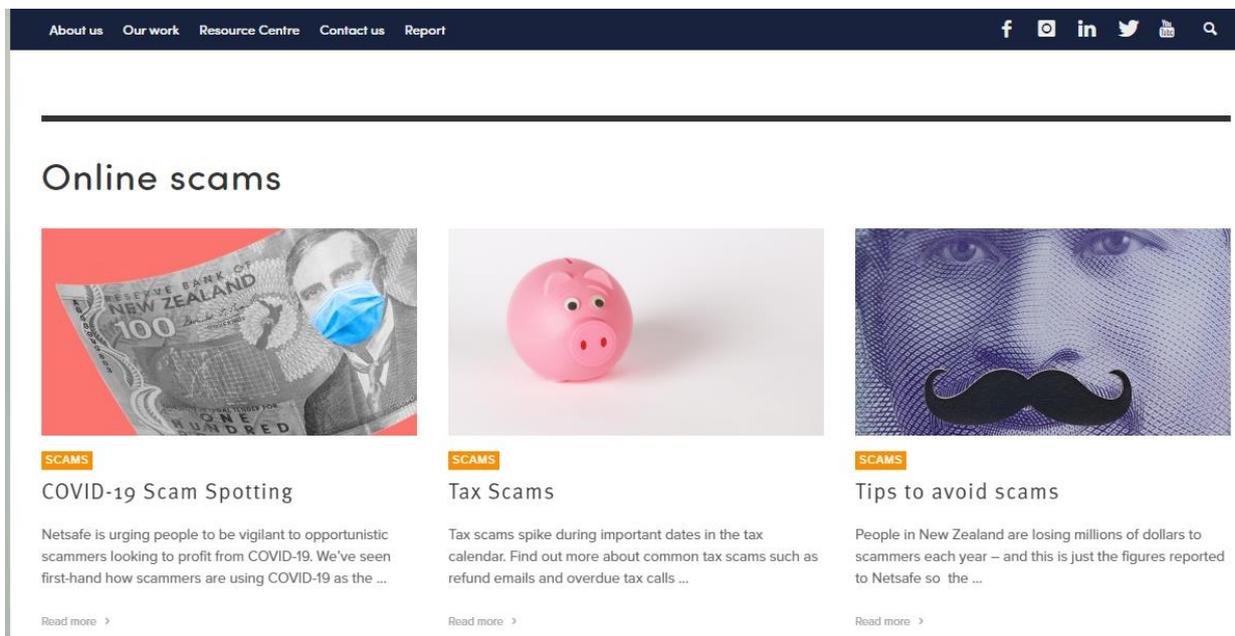
FYI/FYE (For Your Information/From Your Editor)

STAYING SAFE ON THE INTERNET

We hear a lot about being careful on the 'net', but a lot of people are still unsure just what that means. I always think of it a bit like going into a bookshop. I look for books on the relevant topic, by trusted authors, up to date and within the price range. The Internet is similar in many ways. Just like, theoretically, someone could publish objectionable material hidden behind a nice-looking cover, some Internet sites hide behind innocent-sounding titles and home pages.

How do we keep ourselves and our family safe? Some ideas:

www.netsafe.org.nz (below) has good information, is free and is for anyone (not just children) and includes a free, downloadable guide. Remember, too, you can magnify what you see on the screen if the type is too small.



The screenshot shows the Netsafe website with a dark blue header containing navigation links: 'About us', 'Our work', 'Resource Centre', 'Contact us', and 'Report'. On the right side of the header are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, and YouTube, along with a search icon. Below the header is a horizontal line, followed by the section title 'Online scams'. Three article cards are displayed in a row. Each card has a small orange 'SCAMS' tag. The first card features a 100 New Zealand dollar banknote with a blue surgical mask over the portrait of the Queen and is titled 'COVID-19 Scam Spotting'. The second card shows a pink piggy bank and is titled 'Tax Scams'. The third card shows a close-up of a person's face with a black mustache drawn on it and is titled 'Tips to avoid scams'. Each card includes a short introductory paragraph and a 'Read more >' link at the bottom.

What to look for – a real address, such as: *something.co.nz*, *something.org.nz* or *something.govt.nz*, etc., depending on what you are looking for.

What to look out for – sites that come up with 'Ad' before them. Not necessarily bad, but usually wanting to sell you something.

If it looks too good ... it probably is, as the saying goes. As we've found with Covid-19, there aren't that many genuine miracle cures. But there are plenty of snake-oil salesmen out there. Always check and think before clicking on that link.

Some useful sites – *netsafe.org.nz*, banks (they are getting more involved with this aspect of customer relations), *staysafeonline.org* (USA, but still interesting) and others, but remember to **check the address before clicking** on it.

Not useful sites – those with radical, stupid, any other waste-of-space views do exist and cause a lot of unnecessary emotional damage ...

I once had a student who had originally come from Namibia. The first time I met the class, I mentioned that her photo on the student roll was beautiful. All the Polynesian, Asian, Palagi and other students (in our school of 600 we had 60 nationalities and 80 languages represented) appeared grainy and washed out. Hers was as clear as day – her skin was literally ebony black and perfect. Ideal for photography. She politely said, 'Thank you', but then later on showed me a web site that she was familiar with. It was literally nothing but racial hatred, calling people like her some absolutely disgusting names! My response was to tell her to ignore such idiots and listen to those who truly cared about her. Then I showed her how to block the site and suggested she did that every time something similar popped up. And they did – because she had opened one and returned to it. But the moral of the story is – keep blocking. They (whoever 'they' are) eventually give up.

So, keep surfing and stay safe. It's a crazy world online!



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