



Newsletter

November 2021

www.rotoruasenior.net
Member of NZ Federation of SeniorNet Societies

Postal address: PO Box 2090, Rotorua 3040 Phone: 022 6879299 Email: rotoruanet@gmail.com

Contents

[Page 2](#)
Next meeting
Bert's Bit

[Page 4](#)
FYI/FYE

[Page 5](#)
Committee Contacts
Our Sponsors

Editor contact
rotoruanet@gmail.com
Website
www.rotoruasenior.net

From the Chairman

Hello members

We are fast approaching the end of the year. As you know, our activities have been disrupted this year because of Covid and the loss of our long-term premises at Regency Park. The good news is that we are able to get back to Parksyde for our monthly members' meeting on 8 November. You will have received an email about this, and details are available elsewhere in this newsletter. We will be demonstrating how to access the huge range of content on online streaming services and viewing them on your TV. We look forward to seeing you there.

In the past, we have had a Christmas luncheon in mid-December. The committee is considering what we may do this year. We will keep you posted.

It does not seem likely that we can get back to our Monday drop-in sessions at the library in the near future. We probably need to await the achievement of the 90% vaccination target, then see what is possible when the new traffic light system falls into place.

As we normally go into recess over the summer break, it may be that we see little activity until our AGM in February. That will be an important opportunity to talk about future directions for SeniorNet in Rotorua. A major issue will be to decide whether we seek new exclusive premises, and whether we can justify establishing and equipping a new classroom.

It would be really good if someone with energy and enthusiasm (and comparative youth) is prepared to take over the reins next year to lead us in whatever direction we go in future.

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
Monday 8 November 2021
2 pm

GOOD NEWS!



We are now able to resume our monthly member forums at Parksyde. We will be there as normal on **Monday 8 November at 2pm**, although there will be a few requirements because of Covid. Please wear a mask on arrival and check in using your phone or by signing in. We will need to space the seats to have some social distancing, and it is possible that we will be in a larger room, depending on numbers. Unfortunately, afternoon tea will not be possible this time, so we suggest that you bring a water bottle.

For the main part of the programme, we will be using the Parksyde TV set to show you how to use your smart TV or ordinary TV to access and view the wealth of content available on online streaming services. Examples are Netflix, NEON, Spark Sport, Sky Go, Curiosity Stream, TVNZ On Demand and TV3 Now.

We will also be demonstrating how to create your My Health Account online to access your vaccination records, and to get your vaccination certificate when they become available.

Parksyde is anxious to know numbers, so please RSVP by 5 November by email to rotoruanet@gmail.com, by phone to Keith at 3572020 or by text to his mobile 0274482818.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Keith Garratt

From Bert, Activities Co-ordinator

One of the consequences that have arisen with the arrival of Covid has been that it has become very difficult to pay for anything with cash. Cheques are now a thing of the past and cash in coins and notes are becoming more difficult to access. There seem to be far fewer cash dispensing machines than were previously available and the most readily available source seems to be the supermarkets.

Everyday shopping seems to be done with credit and debit cards. Making payments for trades and professional services which are not an everyday occurrence, of necessity need to be done by internet banking.

What is difficult nowadays is to make small payments to individual people. This can include for instance a donation on Daffodil day or a hot dog outside Bunnings or Mitre10. You may wish to give a cash birthday present to your young adult grandchildren or reimburse a neighbour who did some shopping for you. Very few of us these days keep a cash float at home or in our wallet or handbag. It just doesn't seem worth the risk.

This situation has brought in a new entry to the payments marketplace in the form of payment apps. These can be downloaded onto your phone and you can set up an account within the app which you can preload by making a transfer of an amount of money from your bank account to account on the app in your phone.

You then use the app to make secure instant payments, 24/7. This is achieved by the supplier scanning a QR code on your phone which is unique to you and your mobile account. Conversely, if the supplier is registered with the app in your phone they will have a unique QR code for their business which you can scan to make a payment. This is a phone-to-phone arrangement and does not require a dedicated pay point, pin number or password. The payment shows up instantly on your phone and off you go.

The usefulness of this from your point of view depends on how many suppliers sign up with your app to a point where it achieves critical mass. That is to say that there are enough suppliers signed up that you can use it almost everywhere. Paying a friend or family member or a charity collection box requires that you have their mobile number in your contacts list on your phone.

Your account balance will always be available on your phone in exactly the same way that you can look up the balances in your bank accounts. When you wish to top up your mobile wallet you simply carry out a transfer from your bank to the app and you are good to go for your next transaction.

This is a general description of how these payment systems work. There are a few of them out there now and they may differ slightly in their methods and terms and conditions. Some of the apps are large international companies, some operate from Australia and some from New Zealand. It is a new concept and it is moving quickly. You will need to do your own research to decide if this is for you and which provider would most suit your needs. Your own bank may be able to offer some advice on this

Bert

... and also from Bert –

I was recently at a BBQ where two of our friends had brought their two grandchildren as they were looking after them that weekend at short notice. Their granddaughter was aged nine and, somehow, she was keenly watching the BBQ process.

The conversation turned to grandparents and I was proudly informed that her other grandfather was aged 99 years. I remarked that when her grandfather had his one hundredth birthday he would get a telegram from the Queen.

Little miss 9 year old looked me straight in the eye and asked, "What is a telegram?"

I suddenly felt very old.



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

Looking at this month's contributions from Keith and Bert got me thinking about two things: the huge volume of new words we have all had to learn over our lifetimes and what an advantage we have over younger generations. Yes, we really do!

A couple of years ago, I sat at my computer and started to list the words I have learned over the last 30+ years, since I began teaching. After filling a page with four columns of words, I gave up. I wasn't anywhere near finished and it was obvious the task was huge! Instead, I got on with my knitting.

Which brings me to the advantages we have over younger generations. Yes, they can use the modern technology, but if that was unavailable, what would they do? We would go back to basics, writing letters, keeping a hand-written diary, sewing, knitting, baking, growing veges, banging in nails, hanging pictures and wallpaper, etc, and possibly have over the last couple of years, thanks to Covid-19. Most of us could easily and happily lead a low-tech life, but people born in the last 30 years or so, know nothing but high tech. I'm constantly amazed at people who don't know how to sew on a button, let alone make a garment!

Two things tend to come from today's technological distractions. An inability to cope with the hard times and, believe it or not, inelastic brains. A couple of studies I've read recently show that today's younger generation (I think it was 20-30 year-olds) are less able to cope with adversity than previous generations. From my experiences in South Auckland classrooms, I believe it!

Maybe the best things we can do for the grandchildren is to let them dig in the garden and take them camping (not glamping; CAMPING!). No running water, electricity, etc. And, believe it or not, I wrote this before reading the latest edition of the Listener!

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	07 332 2001
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	07 332 2001	Keith Garratt	07 3572020
Course Coordinator	Bert Harris	07 3437232	Ngaire Tucker	027 290734

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

