



Newsletter

March 2021

www.rotoruaseniornet.gen.nz
Member of NZ Federation of SeniorNet Societies

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Website
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From the Chairman

Hello members

SeniorNet Rotorua is entering a new era. We have vacated the Regency Park classroom. We have moved all our furniture and equipment into a commercial storage facility, where it will stay for the moment. This major change is a prompt for us to consider where we go from here. It seems unlikely that we will try to establish a new formal classroom. Our experience over the last couple of years is that the greatest need is to help people individually to meet their particular needs or to solve their particular problems. As you know, we are running weekly drop-in sessions at the Rotorua Public Library. However, we see a need for longer, organized, help sessions, particularly for beginners. We are looking towards ways that we may be able to provide this sort of help to members by appointment, either in person or online.

I suspect that SeniorNet Rotorua will change its focus over the next year or two. Traditionally, we have operated as an incorporated society providing teaching to our members. We are now seeing an increasing need to help older people throughout the community to be able to do business and conduct their lives using the Internet. However, we will not be neglecting our loyal members. You will have access to the help by appointment that I mentioned earlier, and to the video learning lessons being provided from the national organisation.

I look forward to seeing you at our first member forum at Parksyde on the 8th of March. We feel sure that Parksyde is going to be a very satisfactory venue for us. Parksyde is in the first stages of planning for a combined hub for organisations dealing with the older community. It seems likely that we will find some sort of home there when it eventuates.

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 web site .

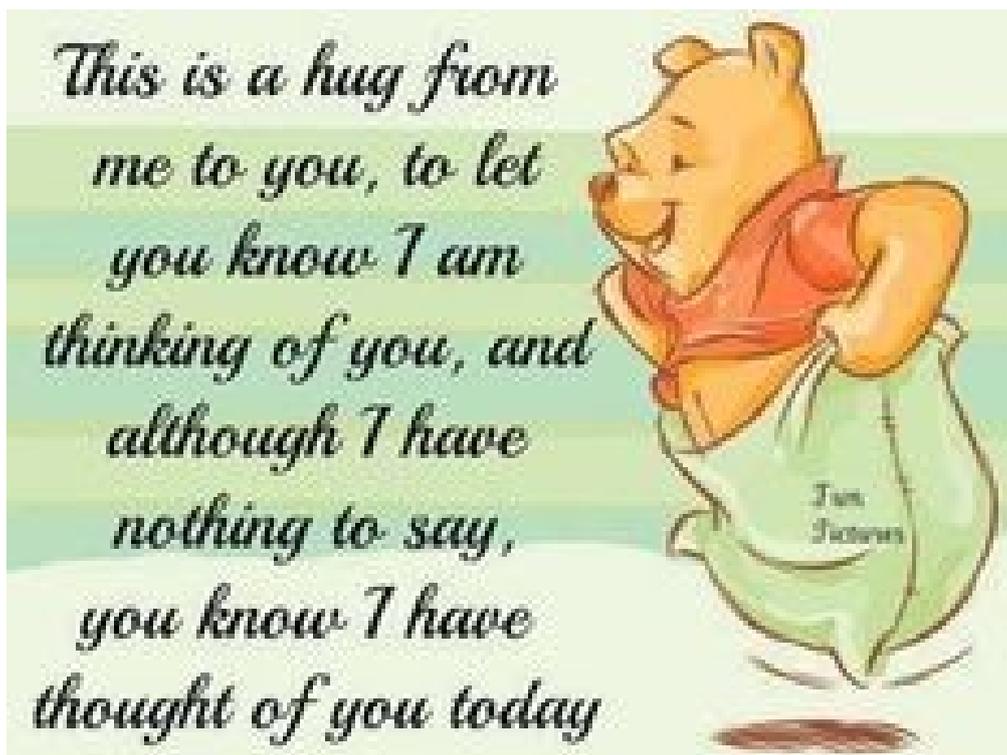
Next members' forum
(Note – change of venue and day)

**Parksyde, Tarewa Place
(off Tarewa Road)**

Monday 8 March 2021

2 pm

Our speaker this month will be Robyn Skelton, Manager of Parksyde.



Let's try to be like Winnie the Pooh!

From Bert

The past month has been a busy time for SeniorNet Rotorua. Following the AGM, we were faced with the task of moving our classroom equipment out of Regency Park and into storage. This was completed on Monday 22nd February and I saw it disappear on a furniture truck with several members of our committee following in their cars to ensure that it ended up in its new home in a storage unit in Riri Street.

We had been at Regency Park for roughly 20 years - I don't think anyone still around today really remembers the exact date. I have to say that an organization like SeniorNet can collect a lot of stuff in 20 years! A lot of the items we found stored away had been obsolete for some time, including cables and connectors and adaptors for equipment that no longer exists.

There were manuals and lesson notes for operating systems that Microsoft no longer remembers. We humans are terrible hoarders! Suffice it to say that quite a lot of stuff did not make it into storage and Rotorua Lakes council is now looking after it.

We can all relate to what it is like when we move house and we have to regretfully get rid of the clutter but in our case it opens up a whole new way of thinking about SeniorNet Rotorua and the way we operate because folks, we are now in an entirely new environment.

Our monthly club forums will take place at Parksyde which is more central and with more parking. The details of this have already been advertised and no doubt we will continue to remind you about this with every notice we send out.

We have had our first "drop in" session at the library since the February level 2 lockdown. We had a lot of participants turn up and we were all busy problem solving for quite a crowd of people. Whilst this is a very effective way of teaching our senior community how to use their phones, tablets and laptops we are beginning to think about and explore the possibilities of having slightly more structured sessions where people can phone us on our new mobile phone and request a one on one session on a particular subject for, say, an hour. We might be able to do this for one morning every month so that people

who need that extra time with personal tuition can get the knowledge they want concerning a specific piece of software or technology.

This will require us to pre-book the time with you, the members, and will give the tutor some time to do a little research if necessary. This is still an idea, not an exact action plan but it will be focussed on our own membership. It will not be a “drop in”. It is currently a work in progress and we would appreciate some feedback on the concept. If you don't want it, we probably won't do it

In the wider SeniorNet world “You”- that is to say, our members - are welcome to join the weekly lessons that are held on Zoom at 10am to 10.30am every weekday. The links to this have been advertised and if you need help with the Zoom application we can assist with that

I have attended a couple of sessions that looked interesting and there were probably a couple of dozen people from all over New Zealand logged on. The sessions I saw were well presented and a lot of the information is conveyed by the presenter uploading screenshots with a supporting commentary. At the end of the session there is a time for questions if you have any. You are not required to actively participate and many people just sit and listen. I found it quite interesting, although not every session that has been advertised was of sufficient interest to me personally to attend.

It is early days but I believe it will grow into a sort of Youtube for Seniors who would like to keep up with technology.

Bert Harris



FYI

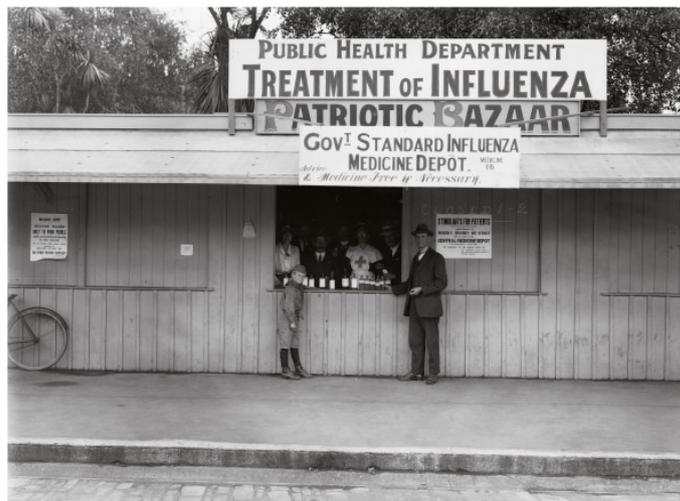
Spanish Flu Pandemic

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/culture/influenza-pandemic-1918>

With all that's been happening around Covid-19, it's been an opportunity for many of us to review our history and memories of past epidemics. Most of us will remember measles, mumps, chickenpox, rubella, Asian flu, Hong Kong flu, polio (have I missed any???) and realised that this pandemic is far more serious than any of those, nasty as they were.

Many of our younger people today have not experienced anything worse than a seasonal cold. Any wonder that some don't believe in vaccinations while others are prepared to panic-buy the toilet rolls at every hint of a lockdown!

Being a nosey type of person, I decided to refresh my knowledge of the Spanish flu pandemic. Our forebears faced this without benefit of antibiotics, intensive-care facilities or the wide-ranging knowledge that we have at our service today. On top of WWI, the cumulative stress must have been terrible, but my/our grandparents' generation went on to raise families during the Great Depression, lose some of them during WWII and then put up with us kicking over the traces and reinventing music and morality! They were tough!



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Committee and Tutor Contact Details

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Treasurer	John Sommerville	021 181 5193	Gene Rigney	07 332 2001
Web Master	Keith Garratt	07 357 2020	Jaz Zabkiewicz	07 345 9056
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