

Wavelength

Chairman's Report

As this is the last newsletter for 2016 I thought appropriate to do a run down on just what a momentous year it has been for Senior Net Marlborough Sounds and after the 13th November, the Marlborough Sounds as a whole.

The more obvious change was occasioned by the sale of St Lukes and our subsequent move to Linkwater Hall. That has proved to be very successful, however more than somewhat draining on the finances. As the Hall has multiple users we had nowhere to put the 4 PCs which had been in the locked cupboards at St Lukes. This meant that we had to buy replacements in the form of 'All-In-One PCs' and laptops; machines that could be locked away when not in use.

As residents of the Sounds we came off lightly in the recent earthquake aftermath unlike many others. A check on the Hall has shown no damage so we were lucky there.

The next issue which perhaps could affect us more than the obvious is the possible closure of SeniorNet Marlborough (Blenheim). Despite having a much larger membership than ours, they were having continuing problems attracting tutors and on the 15th November voted to close. At the time of writing efforts to keep them going are underway, results unknown.

Although perhaps not affecting us directly it does point to an issue for us. We are also having great difficulties in attracting tutors. Those we have are people who have been tutors for many years and we urgently need new blood. If you have any skill in the world of technology, however small or simple you think that skill may be, you have something that could be passed on to others so that we all may grow. If only to discuss what you may be able to give please contact Donald McIver whose contact details you will find at the end of this newsletter. Have a splendid holiday period and may the grandchildren be as well behaved as you were at their age!

Bryan Strong

"Buying the right computer and getting it to work properly is no more complicated than building a nuclear reactor from wristwatch parts in a darkened room using only your teeth."

- Dave Barry



Inside This Issue

Chairman's Report	1
Digital information Group.....	2
Smart Tv and Spotlight on Seniornet.....	3
Whale of a time.....	4
Get Together details.....	5
Committee.....	6

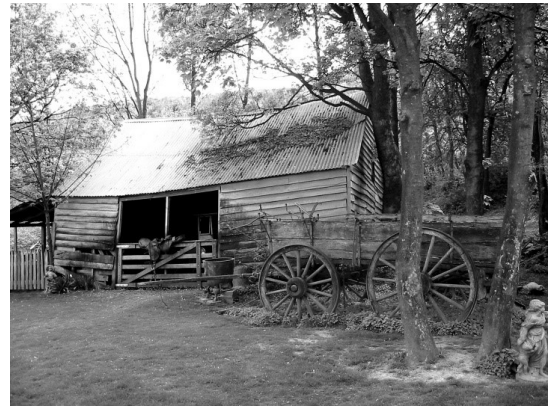
Special points of interest:

- Contact our Course Organisers for info on upcoming courses.
- Current Committee is listed on back page. Please contact any member with comments or suggestions.
- **Newsletter inputs are due to John Wright; johnbp.wright@gmail.com by the 15th of each month.**

SeniorNet DIG (Photographers Group)

On Friday November 4 the group held a workshop on repairing and restoring old photos. It was exciting to watch old and damaged pictures restored to their former glory. Scratches and tears vanished as if by magic. Col- our photos that had deteriorated to that orange only look had the greens and blues restored. Everyone got involved in the process and time just flew by. Members' project for December 2 is to display a restored photo along with its previous dilapidated state.

Below are a few of the "Black and White" photos that should have been shown in last month's issue.



Smart Television (or not)

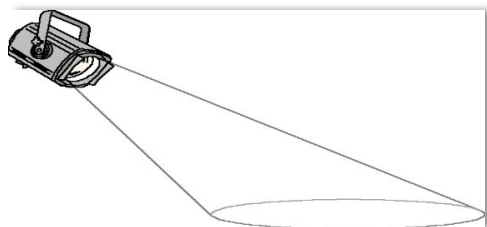
Those of you who have a Smart Television may not be aware of a brilliant programme, "The Crown".

It is a new £100 million drama on the Royal Family and it is only available via Netflix. (To which you will have to subscribe). The saga is expected to extend to no fewer than 60 one hour episodes run over 6 seasons. It is the story of the Queen's reign from her days as a 25 year old to the present day.

Even if you don't have a Smart TV there is a relatively cheap way of showing what is on the screen of your laptop, smart phone or tablet onto your TV screen. It's called Chromecast and is available at Noel Leeming for around \$70 to SeniorNet Members. Any mobile device, Windows 10 tablet or phone, Android, iPad, iPhone, Chromebook, any Windows or Apple laptop, they can all have whatever is on their screen projected onto your TV. Failing that a simple connection from your laptop via an HDMI cable. SeniorNet has a Chromecast and will be showing you how to use it.

On Friday 9th December at the SeniorNet get together, just how smart a smart TV can really get will be demonstrated.

I have watched the first series of The Crown and it is really worth a watch. Ed.



Spotlight on the Future of our SeniorNet

2016 has been a busy and successful year for our SeniorNet. Not only have we carried out a huge move from St Luke's to Linkwater Hall and replaced much of our aging equipment but we have even increased our membership to something over 70. This means that we must look towards 2017 and the types of courses, workshops and presentations we can offer. **The end of year function on December 9 will give a foretaste of a few of these.**

However we do need help in terms of people who are up with new developments in technology. Do you know someone in our local community who might be persuaded to join SeniorNet and share their knowledge and experience with us? Please do some serious searching among locals.

New technology is moving at an increasing pace and we would like to be able to help keep you up with the latest developments. The days when SeniorNet concentrated on just teaching people about computers are past. Today's technology is both much wider and reaches into our every-day lives. What topics would you like us to cover next year?

The success of SeniorNet does not just depend on the committee but on the efforts of the whole membership. Please give feed-back to your committee members.

D.McI

A Whale of a time (A warning)

Some Inboxes are currently being hit by malicious 'invoice' or 'receipt' emails with attached Microsoft Word documents.

The emails are designed to trick people into enabling macros so that a malicious macro can run and subsequently download and install malware. Be wary of any Microsoft Word or other Microsoft Office email attachment that claims that you must enable macros to view an invoice or receipt.



These emails are very short and to the point. Many of them have no content at all in the body of the email but feature a subject line that implies that you can view a receipt or invoice by opening an attached file. Other versions include a brief message that suggests in the subject line that the attachment contains a receipt or invoice. The attachments are usually Microsoft Word documents, although some may be in other Microsoft Office formats such as Excel.

Recipients may be worried that they have been billed for products or services that they never bought. The emails often do not name the company that they were supposedly sent by, nor do they contain any information about the supposed purchase. This lack of detail is a deliberate trick designed to get people clicking on attachments in the hope of revealing the missing information. Because the attachments are seemingly safe Microsoft Office documents, at least a few recipients may let their guard down and open them without concern.

If people do attempt to open the attachments, they will be prompted to enable macros, supposedly so that the contents can be properly displayed. But, if they do enable macros as requested, a malicious macro will then be able to run. This macro can connect to a website and download and install malware of various types.

For those that may not be aware, a macro is a set of commands and instructions that can be grouped as a single command in order to quickly and automatically accomplish a task. Macros can be very helpful in some workflows and quite complex macros can be created. But macros can be created to perform evil deeds as well as good.

Rule is don't click on links bedded in emails from people you don't know!

Extract from Gizmo

Picton Healthcare Pharmacy

6 High Street,
Picton
Ph 573 6420
Fax 573 8942



email: pharmacy@pictonhealthcare.co.nz

Now also with our new branch**Picton Medical Centre Pharmacy**

conveniently located in the Medical Centre
114 High Street,

Picton.

Phone 928 4265

Fax 573 7904

We are having an “End of Year Get Together” at Senior Net Marlborough Sounds on Friday the 9th of December.

We will meet at The Linkwater Hall at 10am for a cuppa before an all-day function with three subjects of interest in the morning a BYO lunch and a session on Windows 10 in the afternoon. The whole day is free for members and a mere \$5 for guests. Given the limited catering facilities at the hall we suggest that finger food would be the ideal food to bring.

You may have heard of “Virtual Reality”. Those of you who remember the Stereoscope, probably a hand down from a grandparent, will remember how a card with 2 photos became a three dimensional view when seen through the Stereoscope. Nowadays by replacing the picture with your smartphone loaded with the appropriate app, you can view, through a similar device to the stereoscope, not just a picture of a scene but the whole 3D experience, left, right, up, down so that after a few seconds you begin to believe that you really are standing on the rim of Grand Canyon or wherever the digital images were made. Donald McIver will be demonstrating a really low cost version of this called Google Cardboard.

Some of you will have bought a Smart TV and are wondering just what is so smart about it. Marie Joyce has a presentation showing just what you can do with one.

Even if you don't have a Smart TV there is a relatively cheap way of showing what is on the screen of your smart phone or tablet onto your TV screen. It's called Chromecast and is available at Noel Leeming for around \$70 to Senior Net Members. Any mobile device, Windows 10 tablet or phone, Android, iPad, iPhone, Chromebook, any Windows or Apple laptop, they can all have whatever is on their screen projected onto your TV. Senior Net has a Chromecast and I will be showing you how to use it.

There has been a lot of information and also a huge amount of MISINFORMATION about Windows 10. Sadly many people who installed the operating system when it was free decided that they didn't like it or couldn't understand it and got rid of it. They are now faced with having to pay for it, as it will, in time, be the only Microsoft Operating System supported. Brian Cameron and Robert Boren between them will go through the ins and outs of the system and how it really is an improvement on it's predecessors and that includes EDGE the new browser that goes with it.

Bring a flashdrive. You never know what you may be able to take home with you.

WHEN TO SELL YOUR PROPERTY?

The standard response when you're thinking about selling your home but are not sure when, is “sell in spring”. And there's plenty of truth in that as warmer, drier weather and post-winter itchy feet drive potential buyers out to open homes.

For a Free, No Obligation Confidential Appraisal of your property – Contact either Brenda Davey, Ash Davey, Carolyn Burn or Grant Douglas
Ph 03 573 6699, 36 High Street, Picton

enquiries.picton@harcourts.co.nz

Harcourts



SeniorNet Committee:

The following people are your SeniorNet officers and committee. Please contact any one of them if you have any comments or questions.

Chairperson: Bryan Strong 574 1311

Deputy : Donald McIver 574 2326

Secretary: Ian Cameron 574 2558

Treasurer: Brian Cameron 574 2267

Committee: June Strong 574 1311

John Wright 574 2799

Marie Joyce 573 7389

Philip Middlemiss 573 9060

Membership Liaison:

Jan Godsiff, 574 2409

Yvonne Blakey 574 1068

Editor: John Wright 574 2799

Course Organisers:

Bryan & June Strong 574 1311



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SeniorNet Cellphone

020 40 69 1226

I hope you have enjoyed the Newsletters over these past months and the items they have carried.

I would now like to wish you all "A Merry Christmas" and "A Very Happy and Prosperous 2017" Ed.

Disclaimer

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