

SeniorNet Motueka Newsletter

July 2011

A word from the President

A word from our acting President

A couple of months ago we had a talk at our monthly members meeting by Guy Burns from the Ministry of Heritage and Culture about Freeview digital television. He told us that transmissions of high definition Freeview from Mount Campbell would be starting soon, and that the old analogue transmissions would cease in a couple of years' time. Did you know that these digital television transmissions have already started?

If you have a modern television with a Freeview tuner included, or an older set with a Freeview set-top box, and a UHF aerial you can receive these transmissions now.

Did you rush out and buy a new television set with a Freeview tuner when you heard that the old analogue television signals were going to be switched off? Perhaps that new television is 3D as well so that you are right up-to-date with the latest technology? Pity, because that's out-of-date as well now!

Well, maybe that's a bit of an exaggeration, but you can now buy a television set which includes a web browser as well – you can connect to the Internet, make Skype calls, check your email or ask Google a question, all from your living room. So it seems you won't need that old computer either!

I wonder sometimes where it will all end – no sooner do we get ourselves right up with the play with the latest technology than something else appears with more flashing lights, louder whistles, etc. We do live in exciting times, don't we?

Colin Hooker

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members

June Ferguson

Raewyn Williams

Larraine Chapman

Warren Murdoch

Alan McKenzie

Martin Lindley

Peter Arnott



Mac Hint

Apple's Safari browser now can have extensions installed, and these expand the program's features. Go to Safari Preferences, click on Extensions, and ensure that the slider at top left is set to ON.



Now click on the GET EXTENSIONS button at bottom right and up will come the Apple extensions gallery. It's very well filled.

When you find an extension you want, just click on the INSTALL NOW button beside it. Then just watch as the extension is installed.

Next you may get a screen saying "Let's get you set up" or something similar – which will guide through any settings you may wish to make.

Some extensions will encourage you to make a donation, but it is not compulsory. They are written by third-party developers and not Apple, although Apple vets them before allowing them into the extensions gallery.

Typical extensions include one which blocks all adverts on web pages, one-click weather, and ones to make the use of Twitter and Face Book easier.

To remove an extension, go to the Preferences panel in Safari again, and click on the UNINSTALL button beside the extension you no longer want.

More extensions are appearing all the time.

Notes from the Committee table

- * The committee has agreed to purchase two new Mac computers – one desktop and one laptop to cater for the increase in members using Mac products.
- * The Tech Team will meet during the holiday period to give the computers a "once-over" and update before courses start again.
- * The Education Coordinator has advertised 14 courses for the coming term.
- * The guttering and downpipes have now been cleaned – our thanks go to Richard Shee.
- * Our membership stands at 326.
- * Arrangements have been made for our 13th birthday celebration on 1st August



Monthly Coffee and Questions, And Help and Support, Sessions

These sessions, at 10am on the second Monday, and 1.30pm on the 3rd Saturday of each month, have become really popular with up to 20 people coming along to have their questions answered. This means that we are now looking for more members who could help out by discussing the problems and assisting if possible. You don't need to be a computer nerd, as most of those seeking help are beginners. If you know your way around your computer, and have become familiar with most of the basic programs, you could probably help. Just drop in if you are free, or contact Pauline to be put on the roster 5287257 psamways@clear.net.nz.



INTEREST GROUP REPORTS



DIG Report | July 2011

The macro photographs displayed on the new digital TV screen showed the brilliant colours of the variety of flowers taken. Not too many insects appeared and of those that did we wondered how the photographers managed to get so close without the bee, wasp or praying mantis flying off. Not everyone followed the brief and so we had lichens, fungi, shells and butterflies to name a few. However all were macro- that is, taken with the macro or closeup option on the camera turned on. Tripods help with keeping the shot from blurring or if you have a steady hand the stability option helps get a clear shot.

The twenty four members who came in out of the most welcome winter sunshine were welcomed by Lynley Wyatt and then thanked by Shirley Frater for the part they played in making the photo competition a success. Helpers will be needed when it is taken down on Friday 29th July at 3pm and possibly some to put the photos back in the envelopes on the Monday. Read your TDC Newsline; it tells you in a full page article all about the competition, the prizes and the winners. Go to the Motueka Museum and see the results. The big display sign made by Mapua Signs clearly shows what is going on inside. Shirley and her team would like feedback on how you felt the competition went and what might be needed for next time.

Norma Westrupp asked the question, should we keep the raffle going for future funds that may enable us to get quality speakers and the answer was yes. So bring your dollars next month.

Jan Baily, consistent prize winner in photo competitions, used several images from her collection to show us valuable points on composition when we are photographing landscapes and groups of people. Jan quoted from a National Geographic programme on Sky in which the photographer said “ I want every image to sing”. So, how to do that? Remember the following- (yes, we’ve heard it before but did it sink in)?

Rule of thirds- divide your scene into thirds, have the horizon halfway and mostly straight. Jan uses her automatic setting for a scene and then takes the readings from that and puts it into her manual setting. It gives a base to start with and you can then work around those settings. Jan always underexposes by half to a full stop. Read your camera book as you go along so you get to know these terms and practice by taking hundreds of shots.

A frame of card board can help you “see” what you are trying to take. Use nature to frame your scene eg looking out from a cave showing the edges of the cave to frame the shot. The best times to take photos are 30 minutes before and an hour after sunrise and a polarizing lens can help show water, darken a bright light or make a pale sky look blue.

People in a scene can show how high a natural feature is, in other words give perspective.

Groups of people can be difficult but with some confidence in arranging people and talking them into positions you can get great results. You should be able to see everyone and ask if everyone can see you- shift them if they say no. Getting people to stand side on and slotted closer together was a tip Margaret Harris reminded us that Prinia had given us. Another good tip. Get everyone to close their eyes, count to three and on three open them. You take the shot on the count of four. All eyes will be open- yeah right!!

To help Jan produce good photos she has a guru- Scott Kelby has written several books, has a website and a blog. Just google the name and you too will come under his spell.

A couple of reminders for next month. The theme is STILL LIFE be it bread, fruit, vegetables, shells, the choice is yours. The point of interest is TAKING PHOTOS WITH MOVEMENT. We will give you all the tips for doing this.

To help show your images on the new TV screen to their best advantage you need to resize them. They need to be in jpeg format. In your photo editing programme go to image, choose resize from the menu and size the image to 1080 pixels along the vertical (height) edge, the rest will readjust itself automatically. Make sure the resample box is ticked or it won’t work.

Finally, when saving your photos to your flash drive don’t call your folder DIG etc etc etc. Call your folder by your name and then the photos inside the folder rename them using your initials, then the computer won’t get two of anything the same and get confused.

Confused? Most of the time.

Coralie Smith filling in for Norah Morris

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Mac Group meeting

The MIG meeting this month is on Friday 26 August and will be reported on next month. There will be an iPad demonstration at 2.30. All members, not only Mac users, are welcome to come and learn about this new technology.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Monday 1 August – Members Meeting 10.am.

This is our birthday party at the Fire Station Hall. The speaker is Grant Sidaway from the SeniorNet Federation. A small plate please



Monday 8 August – Coffee and Questions 10 am – 11.30 am.

Bring along your questions, large and small, and enjoy the lively discussions.

Saturday 20 August - Help and Support, 1.30 to 3.30 pm

This is your chance to get one-to-one help on any problems you may be having. Or bring your laptop if you want help with finding and organizing your files.

SOME RURAL NZ TERMINOLOGY

A little bit of Kiwi culcha!

- Log On: Add wood to make the BBQ hotter
- Log Off: Not adding more wood to BBQ
- Monitor: Keeping an eye on the BBQ
- Download: Getting firewood off the ute
- Hard Drive: Making the trip home without beer
- Keyboard: Where you hang the ute keys
- Window: What you shut when cold
- Screen: What you shut in mosquito season
- Byte: What mosquitos do
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Keyboard Shortcuts : Who needs a Mouse?

Windows logo key




















Recently when showing something on the computer I was asked: What key are you using? My answer: Page up and Page down. Oh, I never use them nor the arrow keys.

Incredible. Using these keys is the easiest way of navigating through a document.

Windows Help (F1) has a big list of shortcuts and printed will fill 6 pages. Below is a list using the little known Windows Key. Windows 7 has some more shortcuts. Practise and get to know them.

Keyboard shortcuts can make it easier to interact with your computer because you don't need to use the mouse as often.

Microsoft keyboard shortcuts

Press this key	To do this
Windows logo key 	Open or close the Start menu
Windows logo key  + PAUSE	Display the System Properties dialog box
Windows logo key  + D	Display the desktop
Windows logo key  + M	Minimize all windows
Windows logo key  + SHIFT + M	Restore minimized windows to the desktop
Windows logo key  + E	Open Computer
Windows logo key  + F	Search for a file or folder
CTRL + Windows logo key  + F	Search for computers (if you are on a network)
Windows logo key  + L	Lock your computer or switch users
Windows logo key  + R	Open the Run dialog box
Windows logo key  + T	Cycle through programs on the taskbar
Windows logo key  + TAB	Cycle through programs on the taskbar by using Windows Flip 3-D
CTRL + Windows logo key  + TAB	Use the arrow keys to cycle through programs on the taskbar by using Windows Flip 3-D
Windows logo key  + SPACEBAR	Bring all gadgets to the front and select Windows Sidebar
Windows logo key  + G	Cycle through Sidebar gadgets
Windows logo key  + U	Open Ease of Access Center
Windows logo key  + X	Open Windows Mobility Center
Windows logo key  with any number key	Open the Quick Launch shortcut that is in the position that corresponds to the number. For example, Windows logo key  + 1 to launch the first shortcut in the Quick Launch menu.

From the Course Coordinator

The new term is starting next week (1 August) so this is the time to enroll for courses. You will all have been sent a copy of the planned courses, but if you have lost this, then go into the SeniorNet web site (www.seniornetmotueka.org.nz) and click on Courses. The current schedule is listed under Course Schedule.

Workshops - Six successful workshops were held at the end of last term. Some were old favourites like Skype, Trade Me, Flash Drives, and Google Earth. There were also two new ones: Blogging and Using a Cell Phone. The Cell Phone workshop had nearly 20 participants and we all learnt a lot about these must-have gadgets.



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