

SeniorNet Motueka

September 2011 Newsletter



www.seniornetmotueka.org.nz

A word from our acting President

Our house has books of the old fashioned variety in every room. Forty-six cases of them were brought from another life and languished in their boxes till very recently when we unpacked them with joy. They had been brought from Wellington just over a year ago.

For years before the move, I had started compiling lists of books I would like to read in my retirement, perhaps tempting fat volumes recommended at university which I never read, or managed to read only for the essential messages they sent for the courses which had to be passed, books relevant to my writing, to genealogy and other hobbies, contemporary novels friends had enjoyed and passed on, great novels often mentioned in literary works but almost impossible to get - until recently.

Sometime in the mid 1970s a friend pronounced his opinion that “real” books were on the way out. He might be right in hindsight, but his timing was atrocious. My reaction then was that he was being ridiculous and there would always be room for books. What a geek he was (no such word existed then of course). How many other terms have come to replace the familiar old terms with which we can feel absolutely comfortable. They have sprouted like the digital revolution itself - and yet more mind-blowing re-inventions for our age with huge upheavals in the industries involved in becoming involved in the new and fashionable, upstaging old favourites like the “real” book and “real” magazine or newspaper. Many journals can be read on-line by subscribers and I would expect that most people in SeniorNet would already have ventured getting their news this way.

The E-Book will have enormous implications for all of us and only time will tell how revolutionary it will be in economic, social and intellectual areas of our lives, and in education, whether in New Zealand or in economically desperate countries where the educational potential is great. Closer to home, browsing bookshops in the lunch hour has already gone in some places as book shops fail to make enough profit to stay in business. Books are very expensive to produce, especially if they are for specialist and/or academic readership. For instance, I can no longer afford to buy the journals which would allow me to keep up to date and the universities cannot lend these journals to retired members of staff. I had put the last book I will ever write aside for a few years in anticipation of being able to publish on the internet - somehow. By this time I got this idea into my head I had become something of a geek myself. Others are already doing this now.

The speed with which E-Books have become fashionable was the subject of an interesting article in *The Economist*. In the first five months of 2011, consumer-purchased E-books in US overtook hardbacks. In the previous year the hardbacks had been worth more than three times as much as e-books. Amazon.com already sells more copies of e-books than paper ones. On the other hand, book shops in the US and elsewhere are closing, fraught with the fierce and successful competition from digital publishing.

It is not simply conventional publishing businesses and shops which have had to change, to close down or face the effects of bankruptcy. Many people are employed editing and indexing, marketing and staffing the publishing business in specialist ways. In order to remain in business, both old and new companies in publishing are having to outwit in order to deal with their flighty customers. Not everyone may like their E-book for a whole range of reasons, but there is the importance of quality. Advertising on-line may conceal serious lack of control over standards of production (e.g. poor editorial control over spelling, grammar). This is especially critical in medical literature and the like. But general reader may not be so nervous. It is worth pointing out that producers of the works that can be downloaded to e.g. a Kindle may require high standards of their authors, be prepared to accept shorter or longer books than conventional publishers, be happy to advertise the work on their own websites, invite critical comment from unpaid enthusiasts, and give their readers previews of work they want.

May I say that I accepted my birthday present last week with grateful thanks. It came with two DVDs with 20,000 books on them. Now I wouldn't want them all, no matter what, I still have my goodies in our various bookcases around the place, but not only can I download books for 0.99 US dollars at present, having first read a meaty chapter before having to pay for the full version. I will have chosen my book(s) after having read about other readers opinions. If I run out of money, I can still use the Project Gutenberg site to keep me amused for the rest of my life.

Did you know that the founder of this project died on September 6th aged 64? This wonderful man started his adult life in the US army, had “a try at marriage” was a street musician for a time. As the *Economist* article says, he was never

much interested in money. The anonymous writer of the obituary calls him the father of e-books as well as founder of Project Gutenberg. I quote:

“Mr Hart, for all his burly, hippy affability was a cyber-revolutionary, with a snappy list of the effects he expected e-books to have:

Books prices plummet
Literacy rates soar.
Education rates soar
Old structures crumble, as did the Church
Scientific Revolution
Industrial Revolution
Humanitarian Revolution.”

References:

“Great digital expectations: the books business” *The Economist* (27/09/11). <http://www.economist.com/node/21528611/print>.
(stuff.co.nz) <http://www.stuff.co.nz/technology/digital-living/5687771/Publishing-an-e-book>

The Economist 27 Sept 2011 (also <http://www.economist.com/node/21528611/print>)

Obituary to Michael Hart (2011) in *The Economist*, September 24 2011

Claire Toynbee

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to Jane Wells, Pat Kennedy, Ann and Bill Giggs, Janet and Graeme Driver, Juerge Friedhauer and Carolyn Robinson.

Mac Hint



Occasionally Mac users need to go into the HOME folder and find the LIBRARY folder (~/.library) where they can add sounds, or make a minor adjustment suggested in a hints column. Generally however, the folder is meant to be left alone.

That is why in Lion, the latest Mac OS, when you go to the HOME folder...no sign of the LIBRARY folder. It's still there, but they have made it invisible to stop people fiddling with it if they do not know what they are doing. However, it is very easy to find.

Just go to the FINDER and click on the GO menu. When you press the OPTION key, suddenly the LIBRARY folder will appear. Release the key, and it vanishes again.

Cursor onto the folder name with the option key held, and it will appear in the HOME list and can be opened.

Most common use of the folder is to add or remove items from the SOUNDS file, or to remove a .plist file if a program misbehaves.

But if you don't know what you're doing, take Apple's advice – leave it alone! But it does not do any harm to look and see what is in it. Just so you know.

Notes from the Committee table



- We have applied for a grant from C.O.G.S (Community Organisations Grants Scheme) and last week a representative from the organisation came to look at our premises and find out the kind of work we do. The response was positive, and soon we might be able to offer our dedicated tutors a better travel allowance. Until the money arrives, a motion was moved to give tutors 50c/Km for travel, up to \$10 for each class.
- The Dig group has decided not to organise another photo competition and will ask the Camera Club if they could do it.
- On Thursday a Tutor meeting was held and the classes organised for next term, starting Monday 24 October. A notice will be sent out shortly with the details.
- The Suggestions Box had a request for a workshop on enhancing photos, so this will be included next term's courses.
- As three committee members are standing down, a discussion was held on the need to recruit more committee members, especially office holders. Please give it consideration if you are asked to become part of the committee. With over 300 members, there must be some who are willing to take on a little responsibility so as to keep our club running.

Monthly Coffee and Questions Sessions



These sessions, at 10am on the second Monday 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 for Friday, 2nd September, 2011.

Lynley Wyatt welcomed 21 members and a visitor to the meeting.

The theme for this month was "Action/Movement photos". This was a follow on from last months meeting, when Margaret Harris gave us tips on taking action photos. There was again a wide variety of subjects and some members had tried the technique of "panning" with varying degrees of success.

The point of interest this month was looking at ways of presenting photos.

Lynley demonstrated how to create a slide show, using Windows Movie Maker.

Fran Peacey demonstrated (after some technical difficulties) how to create Power Point, using Microsoft Office.

Next months meeting will be an excursion with Alan Bilham. More details nearer the time. Meet in the Club Room at 2.30pm on 7th October. In November, Alan will critique the photos taken on the excursion. This should prove an extremely valuable session.

Norah Morris

GIG

At GIG meeting in September we had a look at the new features in the Family Search Website. This website has more information being added to it every day. The forum section and also the maps were very interesting areas to look at. Then there was time for people to do some of their own research.



MAC

Another good turnout for the Mac Group meeting on August 26...lots of questions, and some interesting secrets of the Mac exposed.

We demonstrated pressing Command-Escape to bring up the Front Row application and give Apple TV-like access to music, pictures, movies and so forth. Nick Dicks demonstrated the amazing free book and magazine program Calibre, and he also helped answer some questions on how to burn an iTunes song to CD so it could be used in a normal CD player. There was talk about the new Lion operating system, which will be introduced to the group at a later date...the advice was to hold off for a couple of weeks or so before downloading. Downloading hints will go out in the usual regular "hints and tips" email to the group.

Other activities included a closer look at the many utility programs that are built into the Mac system, and how to get informative labels on the desktop icons, and vary their size and spacing.

The group continues to grow, heading steadily up to the 50-member mark, although inevitably turnout at meetings tends to be no more than half that.

Courses and Workshops

Planning for next term's courses is nearly complete and you can expect a message about them in the coming week. As well as the usual popular courses that are held each term, there are a few extras that we only have once a year. So remember to enroll early to secure your place on these courses.

As well as the longer courses, there have been requests for two different workshops which will be trialled for the first time next term.

Pauline Samways, Course Coordinator

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COMING ATTRACTIONS



- Monday 3 October– Members Meeting 10 am. Speaker Joan Damian on her travels in Europe.
- Monday 10 October – Coffee and Questions 10.am – 11.30.am. Bring along your questions, large and small, and enjoy the lively discussions. Mac and PC users welcome.
- Saturday 15 October Open Day **2pm. Note new start time!** Topic this month - Internet Security

Following the topic, there will be a Help and Support session. So come along with your problems, queries or questions and we will try to help each other. You can bring your laptop if you want help with it. Mac and PC users welcome.

- Monday November 7 AGM 10 am at the club rooms
- Saturday 19 November Open Day 2pm Topic of the month - Skype



*New Computers *Notebooks *Repairs/Upgrades *Consumables *2nd Hand Computers *Printers /Scanners *Digital Cameras *Cables/Adaptors *Network Systems. IT consultants and hardware Suppliers to our Local schools & Businesses
See your local team for friendly, professional advice 98 High Street, Motueka Phone/Fax 03 528 6535

LEARNING CURVES

Do you miss your XP version of Freecell?

It may be a bit of a shock when you access Freecell for the first time on your new Windows 7 computer. The court cards display anything but the human figures and you miss the familiar designs.

There's a solution. Install the XP version of Freecell on your new PC. Access a computer still running XP or Vista and copy two relevant files across to your new machine. I did this by copying first to a flash drive and then from the flash drive to the Windows 7 PC. Here's how:

In XP go My computer\Cdrive\Windows\System 32. Open this fully to the right pane of your screen and find the files "cards dll" and freecell exe. Highlight these two files, right click, then Send To, and click on your flash drive in Windows Explorer to copy the files. Going to your Windows 7 PC create a file on the Desktop, named appropriately. Move the two files from your flash drive to this folder (Drop and Drag). To play the game open the folder and double click the Freecell icon. Done! Don't try installing the two files into System 32 as this may conflict with the W 7 version or cause some other glitch. And should this little exercise cause you a spot of unease then make sure you have a System Restore point set up before you begin. It's highly unlikely you will need it.

Freecell addict



TIPS SECTION

Clean Up Your Old Emails

How many emails are in your Inbox? How many of those do you really need? You may find you have emails going back over two years or more.

Try this. It's easy. Click to highlight your Inbox folder. You should see a list of all your received emails. They will probably be sorted so the most recent are at the top but, to make sure, click the **Received** heading. Clicking again will reverse the sort order. If you decide you don't want to keep emails older than, say, one year, scroll down to the date one year ago and click on that email to highlight it. Hold down the Shift key on the keyboard and keep scrolling down until you get to the bottom of the list. Click on the last email, that is the oldest. That should highlight all emails older than one year. Release the Shift key. The emails will re-main highlighted. To make sure you haven't highlighted any emails you want to keep, scroll up the list and uncheck them, while holding down the Ctrl key. When you are happy that only emails you want to get rid of are highlighted, tap the Delete key on the keyboard.

Do the same thing with the Deleted items box

You can do the same thing to get rid of those boring jokes that your friend insists on sending you. Click on the **From** column heading. That will group all emails from a particular sender. Click to highlight the first of the group. Hold down the Shift key and click the last of the group. The whole group will be highlighted. When you are sure you want to de-lete all messages with the highlighted group, hit the Delete key.

<p>NEW ZEALAND'S OLDEST BUILDING SOCIETY</p> <p>NBS NELSON BUILDING SOCIETY</p>
<p>185 High St, Motueka Telephone 03 5281111 E-mail motueka@nbs.co.nz</p>

An extract from the SeniorNet Palmerston North Newsletter

Easy ways to pay your Subscriptions

To make it easier to renew your membership, you can now pay online.

Just pay into our bank account: 03-1354-0179057-016, Nelson Building Society. Remember to include your name and membership number.

Or deposit in at the Nelson Building Society, High Street, Motueka.

Or bring it along to the meeting Monday, cash or a cheque. Or post to Box 297 Motueka.

SeniorNetMotueka

Committee 2010/2011

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