

SeniorNet North-West Ch-Ch (Inc) 8th AGM

Papanui Club (Inc) Function Room 7.00 pm Wednesday, 24th June 2009

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

COMMITTEE, TUTORS and FACILITATORS

My personal thanks go to all Committee and Tutors for contributing another year of your time for the benefit of other people in order to give them the technological skills to use computers for obtaining information and communicating. Each one of you has your own particular set of strengths and it is the gelling of your talents that makes us such a successful member of the Federation of New Zealand SeniorNet Societies and a Section of the Papanui Club. It is wonderful that most of the 2008 – 2009 Committee are standing again for re-election at this year's AGM. I have enjoyed working with all of you.

TUTOR DEVELOPMENT & WORKSHOPS

This is a very important part of our operations. Technology is constantly evolving and along with that comes the need for changes. Ross Taylor has done considerable work in streamlining and updating Course Notes by referring to other resources and extracting the best from them. The boundaries as to what he is able to come up with are limited by the Assessment criteria set by Aoraki Polytechnic for each Computer Course and any new Course Notes must be approved by them. Ross would welcome any ideas and input from other Tutors.

Last year, the Tutor Development Workshops were an irregular, but important part in the effort to up-skill our Tutors. They are a platform where Tutors themselves can contribute to the Course material being developed and become familiar with any changes to Course Notes. I would also like to see the Workshops in areas such as Skype and TradeMe continued. There is always a demand for new Tutors so that the workload for each Tutor is reduced and the times at which we can schedule Courses are more varied. It is pleasing to note that we have at least three new Tutors coming on board this year.

HELP DESK

Help Desk on Thursday evenings is extremely popular with mainly Ross and Anne-Marie Taylor providing the assistance to our members, but from time-to-time others coming in to help. Even though we are in the middle of winter, interest hasn't slackened off as it has done in past years and is proof that things are going well. The room can be quite busy and crowded. Anne-Marie also uses this time to welcome our new members and give them an overview of what to expect when they do a Course. This has been an important innovation this year.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR

We cannot operate adequately without a Course Co-ordinator. Anne-Marie has again done a fantastic job during the last twelve months organizing the Courses and has really grown into this task, a task that involves many hours of phone calls and E-mails.

COMPUTER ROOM AND FITTINGS

We have a room that although not large, suits us with the small classes we have for each Course. The comfort level for everyone is very good.

SENIORNET NORTH-WEST MEMBERSHIP

As in previous years, the Membership of our Section is continuing to grow, but is also undergoing change as new members join us. Quite a number of people are not only new members for SeniorNet, but also for the Papanui Club. Perhaps we need to establish an Interest Group to retain some of our past members.

COMPUTER COURSE NOTES REVIEW AND REDEVELOPMENT

All the Computer Course notes are currently under review and are being redeveloped to simplify and update them especially with the introduction of Vista in the last twelve months. Thanks to Ross Taylor for his work in this area. It is ongoing.

NEWSLETTER

In its current format, the Newsletter has been going for over two years now. Copies are posted on the outside of the Learning Centre door and on our Section Notice Board. Previous issues can be sourced on our Website. Many thanks go to Stuart Taylor on his great work in producing a newsletter on time full of interesting articles.

DEVELOPMENTS AND PURCHASES

Major purchases and developments over the last twelve months have included:

- Replacement Security Lock and a new Laser Printer

WEBSITE

Our Website Course Calendar is regularly updated by Ross Taylor and is always worth a visit.

PAPANUI CLUB PIGEON SECTION

SeniorNet North-West has donated a surplus laser printer to the Pigeon Section. From all accounts it is still going well and suits their needs. It is great that every now and then we can help another Section of the Club.

CANTERBURY SENIORNET REGIONAL CONFERENCE

There have been no conferences this year that representatives from our society have attended.

SOCIAL

Socially, we have continued to have barbecues at the Papanui Club for our Committee, Tutors, Members and invited guests from other SeniorNet societies at approximately 6-monthly intervals. SeniorNet New Brighton was the last SeniorNet group to accept our invitation. It had the best turnout ever and was most enjoyable.

FINANCE

We are in a very sound financial position, but will have some major expenditure ahead of us when we renew our computers. Thank you to Elva Craig for her excellent work in keeping our Section Accounts up to date.

FUNDING

- **AORAKI POLYTECHNIC**

We continue to receive some funding from Aoraki Polytechnic for the Mainstream Courses that we run. These Computer Courses must total **8+** hours in length to be eligible for funding.

- **THE FEDERATION OF NZ SENIORNET SOCIETIES (Inc)**

The Federation provides funding for all the Computer Courses that are less than **8** hours long and for any Workshops or Tutor Developments sessions that we run. The current rate is \$3.50 per Student hour.

- **DONATIONS**

Thank you to Mavis and Bob Mannall for a further donation of laminating sleeves for the Computer Room, to Anne-Marie and Ross for their donation of lots of bits and pieces and to Clinton Pasfield for the spot prizes to be given away at this year's AGM.

- **SECTION RAFFLES**

The new system in which each Papanui Club Section will be given a number of turns a year based on the income needed for their operations has worked well for us. SeniorNet North-West received four turns in 2008 and has had one turn in 2009 with one to come plus another week in early 2010.

- **EXPENDITURE/ INTEREST**

The interest we received at the end of the Club's Financial Year from our Section funds that the Club has the use of was quite substantial and reflected the funds we have accumulated. However, until such time the current economic crisis improves, there will be no more interest paid on Section Funds.

- **BUDGET**

Shirley Higham and Ross Taylor have begun work on compiling an Annual Budget. This will be handy to have when we look at the costs of any purchases we need to make or when any organizations we apply to for funding request a copy of the Budget.

- **HARDWARE/ SOFTWARE**

We are getting close to the recommended lifespan of our computers and it will most likely be necessary to upgrade them within the next twelve months. The advantage of doing this is that there will be six identical desktop computers with the same configuration plus dual boot Windows XP and Windows Vista (although alternatively, it may be possible to install Windows 7 as a replacement for Vista). Windows 7 is due to be released later on this year and Windows Vista is compatible with it.

Yours in Computing

Terry Pasfield

(Chairman)