

December 2014



Gizmoe

This is the last edition of *Gizmoe* in 2014.

Gizmoe will also be posted on www.seniornet.co.nz from 2 December 2014

A Huge Thank You

As 2014 comes to close our SeniorNet Learning Centres start to pack-up for the year. Tutors reflect on the numerous courses workshops and learning session undertaken and look forward to a well-deserved rest for a few weeks. Put simply SeniorNet would not exist without Volunteer Tutors, Chairmen, Treasurers, Secretaries, Course Coordinators and Committee Members working tirelessly behind the scenes to help us all enjoy the learning experiences at our Centres. It's all too easy to forget the work done by the volunteers. I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for the terrific work done throughout the year at all our Centres – without you we would be lost.

My personal thanks to all the Learning Centres I visited this year, on each occasion you made me feel really welcome and part of your team.

Another supporter joins SeniorNet

Yellow, of YellowPages fame has joined SeniorNet, their financial contribution will help fund activities throughout the country. In turn SeniorNet will promote Yellow in Learning Centres and to our members. There is an article about Yellow in this edition of Gizmoe. Thanks Yellow it's great to have you on-board.

Internet banking workshops ready for 2015

We have been working with our partner, Westpac, to finalise the Internet Banking Workshop. A few of our Learning Centres have run pilot sessions to test the workshop and suggest refinements to the teaching material. I am happy to say that we are now on target to have this workshop available to all Learning Centres in time for the start of learning sessions in 2015. We know this workshop will be popular and also expect to have a number of new members coming to SeniorNet when Westpac start to advertise the assistance SeniorNet can offer.

Merry Christmas to all our members.

Have fun and learn something new every day!

Grant Sidaway – Executive Officer SeniorNet Federation



Swapping phones – a personal experience

I want to share with you an amazing positive experience I had just three weeks ago.

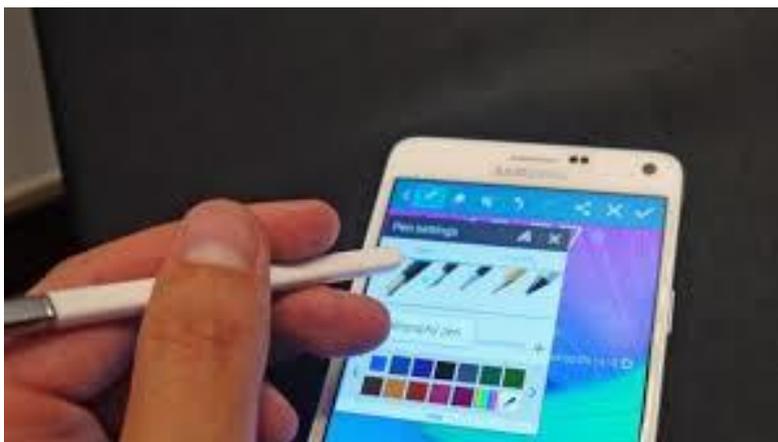
To be fair I was more than a little apprehensive about swapping from my iPhone 5 to a Samsung Note 4, powered by Android, but the time had come - my Vodafone 24 month contract had expired and the new phones had just hit the market so I wanted to experience the new features. Before marching into a Vodafone shop I had already decided the Note 4 was for me, so there was no fluffing about with that decision.

The first thing that took me by surprise was the fact that my old phone was worth \$271.00 – in the past it's been "where's the bin to toss the old phone" - not this time, the sales person checked the phone was in good working order and said "I'll give you \$271 for it – you need to spend it in the store before you go". No problem I thought as I will need a car kit, additional charger and a back-up battery pack. Moving my contacts from the old iPhone to the new Samsung was done on the spot, I was up and running on the new phone in a flash. I transferred other stuff stored on the iPhone when I got home using the embedded "Smart Switch" app on the Note 4. As I had an iCloud account it was dead easy – just two clicks and it commenced to upload for me – what a dream!

Oh they also threw in a free pocket Wi-Fi device that works on the same account as the Note 4 and because I elected to go on a 24 month contract the Note 4 came free!

A few days after making the purchase (which cost me nothing!) I reflected on my experience, it had to rate as one of the most positive purchasing experiences I had in decades.

Okay, you may be thinking Vodafone rolled out the red carpet for me knowing I was the Executive Officer of SeniorNet and that as Vodafone support SeniorNet they would treat me. Far from it, I simply walked in off the street, unannounced!



So far I have no regrets switching to this Android device. I am learning the new features and have been dazzled by its speed of operation and intuitive design. Will I go back to iPhone? Well maybe one day, but for now the switch to Android has been refreshing- its great!

Yellow is the colour – The Yellow Pages eBook

We've recently partnered with Yellow to help launch their new Yellow Pages eBook www.yellowpages.co.nz/ebook around the country.

The Yellow Pages eBook is an electronic replica of the Yellow Pages Book. It's laid out exactly like the print version of the Yellow Pages. But it's in a handy electronic format meaning you can access it from any computer or tablet, including your iPad.

While more New Zealanders are using their computers and tablets daily to get information, many still prefer the layout of the Yellow Pages over a search engine. That's why Yellow is adding an eBook version of the Yellow Pages.

With the Yellow Pages eBook you can zoom into ads to make them easier to read. You can also click straight through to websites and email addresses, meaning you connect with advertisers directly. You can also save ads for reference later or share them with your friends and family.

We'll be showing you how to use the Yellow Pages eBook in our *Introduction to Internet* and *Downloading Apps to Portable Devices* courses, and each of our Learning Centres will have information about the Yellow Pages eBook as well – so feel free to ask us about the eBook next time you're in one of our centres.

Currently there are eBooks for Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Manawatu, Northland, Taranaki, Waikato, Wanganui, Wellington, Christchurch, Otago and the West Coast. The rest of the country will also be getting versions of the Yellow Pages eBook for their regions soon.

To start using the eBook now visit www.yellow.co.nz/ebook

eBook features:

- Search by category, business name or keyword (e.g. dentist)
- Zoom in on ads, making them bigger and easier to read
- Click straight through to businesses' websites and email them directly from the listing
- Bookmark your favourite ads in your browser to view them later
- Share ads with your friends and family (e.g. to recommend that great plumber you just used)
- Download the Yellow Pages eBook to your iPad so you can use it even when you can't access the internet.



Our latest advertisement



**Get tech savvy
with SeniorNet and
share more family
experiences.**

SeniorNet is a community training network that supports and motivates people aged 50+ to enjoy and use technology confidently in every day life.

Our small friendly classes teach how to do everything online – from simple word processing, to sending emails, searching the internet, using the latest gadgets, including iPads, iPhones and tablets.

Up skill for that new job from people your own age rather than pestering the kids to show you.

JOIN UP NOW!! Check out the location of your nearest learning centre on our website

www.seniornet.co.nz

or give us a call on 0800 736 467



Appearing in a number of Magazines during November, December and January will be this advertisement.

It's been a while since we have embarked on a advertising campaign but I am reminder than no organisation can exist as "an island".

We must tell the up and coming 50 plus age group what we do and how we do it!

Research tells us that during the holiday period people often get excited about doing new things in the New Year – we hope joining SeniorNet will be one such new thing!

Already our SeniorNet 0800 nationwide number has been "rung off the hook" (now there's an old phrase for you.

Here's a neat site to put a smile on your dial

How about a little light hearted fun – though for some it may just be a very accurate description of you and your personality.

<http://www.surveee.org/> is a site with a huge range of fun quizzes – they claim that over 20 million people have undertaken at least one quiz form their site.

There's a few other amusing snippets on the site to entertain you as well.



A message from the new Minister for Senior Citizens



As the new Minister for Senior Citizens, I intend to be a strong advocate for older New Zealanders, and being invited into Cabinet by the Prime Minister means the voice of your sector will now be heard around the top table.

My “trifecta” of Senior Citizens, Arts, Culture and Heritage and Conservation is a dream-come-true portfolio line-up for me. The wellbeing of older New Zealanders is close to my heart and I will be travelling around the country to meet as many of the seniors groups and key stakeholders in the sector as I can.

As Minister for Senior Citizens, I take a whole of government advocacy role on behalf of older people, particularly in relation to policy development and decision making.

This means supporting positive ageing and the wellbeing of older New Zealanders in a range of areas and I’ll be your advocate across retirement income, employment, housing, transport, ageing in the community, disability support, community and voluntary sector involvement and the protection of older people’s rights and interests.

From humble beginnings, the SuperGold Card programme now has over 11,500 business outlets throughout NZ providing discounts. I am committed to increasing the value of the programme, especially for those cardholders living outside the main city centres.

I’m very aware after experiences with my own mother’s decline into dementia, that there are many vulnerable older people who don’t always have the advocates and safeguards they need, and they deserve dignity and respect in their final years.

I have also been actively involved in the palliative care sector for many years as a former Patron of Hospice NZ. Prior to entering Parliament, I chaired a working party into the care of those who are

dying and during the last Parliamentary term, I founded the All Party Palliative Care Group, a cross-party initiative to raise awareness and support in Parliament for the care of people who are dying.

I am also a co-founder of the Care Alliance which is a coalition assembled to oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Before being elected to Parliament, I was an award-winning news and current affairs television and radio broadcaster, a magazine feature writer and co-producer and presenter of the television programme Maggie's Garden Show. I was awarded the Order of NZ Merit for services to Broadcasting and intend to use all my skills to be a champion for issues that matter to older New Zealanders.

As the Minister for Senior Citizens, my priorities will include working to change attitudes towards ageing by encouraging people to value the role of older people in the workforce, as taxpayers and consumers.

Most importantly I will be raising awareness of elder abuse and neglect and social isolation, issues which I believe need to be taken seriously.

The number of people aged 65 and over has doubled since 1980 and is likely to double again to around 1.2 million over this next 30 years and I am very much looking forward to being a strong voice for New Zealand seniors in this 51st Parliament.

Hon Maggie Barry ONZM

Minister for Senior Citizens

Entertain the grandchildren

Here's a list of low tech things to do that might help you get through the holidays - when you are asked to look after the grandchildren:

1. From trash to treasure, keep recyclables on hand to inspire your potential engineer, architect, or musician. Make a dollhouse out of a shoebox. A racecourse for marbles out of wrapping paper rolls or a musical instrument from rubber bands and an empty container.
2. Get collecting. Find out what kind of collection your grandchild would like to start. Coins? stamps? Rocks? Enjoy hunting for these special items together and share with your grandchild what you enjoyed collecting as a child.
3. Have your grandchild babysit you or pretend to do your normal babysitting routine . . . backwards! Serve breakfast instead of dinner, put on pj's inside out, and have your grandchild sleep with his head where his feet usually are. You can even read a bedtime story from back to front!
4. Do a jigsaw! With so many jigsaw puzzles available in second hand shops, it's easy to find one that's both challenging and fun for everyone. Clear off the dining room table and let the fun begin!



5. Host an old-fashioned tea party using your best china. Be sure to invite your grandchild's stuffed "friends." Sip weak herbal tea and serve cookies and cucumber sandwiches. Speaking with a British accent is will top it off.
6. Use the digital camera (okay this is the slightly techie one |)Go on a photo hunt and use your imagination to go on a photo treasure hunt. For example, you can photograph only yellow things or things that start with the letter B like beach balls, bikes, or beds. Be sure to also take some "selfies" of you both in action. Then pin them on Pinterest – or print them and make a scrapbook.
7. Head off to your local library and look for books that you loved as a child that you can share together.
8. Teach your grandchild a card game such as, Snap, or Old Maid. If you've forgotten the rules, a quick check on the Internet will refresh you.
9. Start a family newspaper. "Grandma Travels to Wellington," "Rebecca Wins Spelling Competition " and "George Starts School." Have fun thinking up headlines, puzzles, and cartoons. This is where you can impress the grandkids with your word processing and publishing skills. (hint - there will be templates to download offering you a newsletter template)
10. Organize family photos in an album to give to your grandchild. Maybe use your scanner to help create an electronic version. A great way to share your own family recollections and make your grandchild a keepsake.
11. Play your own version of Masterchef. See what's already in the pantry, fridge, or freezer and, using those ingredients to create a meal.
12. Introduce them to the best of your childhood games such as Simon Says; Rock, Scissor, Paper, etc. Remember paper and pen games such as Hangman and Tic-Tac-Toe? How about a thumb-wrestling match? (no computer required with this one!)
13. Show the kids a blast from the past – the "Disco Days!" How about Chubby Checkers and "Twist" the night away for starters! If you still have an LP record player the effect is even greater!
14. Make a time capsule: Pick out a few objects that represent your grandchild's interests today, such as photos of a favourite pet or a movie star. And in other objects that represent today such as candy wrappers, movie listings from the newspaper, a baby tooth, or a photograph. Put these items in a plastic box or jar, date the box, and find a good spot to bury it. (Hint – make sure you record where you have buried it!!!)
15. Let your grandchild take centre stage by putting on a play. Pull together costumes from a dress-up box (or Mum and Dad's closet) and either act out a familiar fairy tale such as Jack and the Bean Stalk, or write your own play. Record it on your Smartphone video camera , then have fun editing the sequence together.





The SeniorNet Festive Ditty – By Linda Cohen

You know we've reached that time of year
When the sun shines, days are longer and Christmas ads appear
New phones, new notepads, and other techie gear
Is promoted to tempt us beyond all fear
We contemplate new gadgets and how cool they'll look
And imagine posting selfies on Facebook
We search, post, blog, email and maybe tweet too
There's no end to what we can do
Next year no doubt there will be new technology to explore
These days there's always new gadgets, of that you can be sure
We've learned so much with friends we've met
It's cool being part of SeniorNet!

