

March 2014



Gizmoe

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

Gizmoe will also be posted on www.seniornet.co.nz from March 18th.

A lot of learning

By now all our Learning Centres are back up and running with a busy schedule of classes and workshops to kick off 2014. I have just assembled the national statistics for 2013 which showed our Centres collectively undertook 3,126 skill-based learning sessions



(workshops and longer courses) with 27,757 enrolments. That's a lot of learning!!! The combined membership over 84 Learning Centres for 2013 increased by 16% to 17,734 people. So, in our 22nd year of operation our popularity is as strong as ever before!

Your help please

Most Learning Centres need additional help both to run the daily activities of the centre and to help tutor so please do consider giving a helping hand by volunteering. Often the best way to get started is to be a "buddy" of a tutor during a learning session, or if you think you could help with administrative duties please let your Chair or Secretary know, I am sure they would be delighted to hear from you.

Two additional Centres join the Federation

Welcome on-board – Auckland Mac and Rotorua. Both centres have been established for many years so it's good to have them join the Federation. In addition we have had three Centres join forces. Foxton combining with Horowhenua, Ellesmere combined with Lincoln and renamed Selwyn and Districts and Waikanae/Otaki combined with Kapiti.

Enjoy reading *Gizmoe* and be sure to take part in the Scan and Save offer from Vodafone detailed in this edition.

Have fun and learn something new every day!

Grant Sidaway – Executive Officer SeniorNet Federation



Vodafone offer of help

Find out if you are getting the best value from your phone and internet supplier.



'SeniorNet Scan and Save' Summer Competition!

SeniorNet & Vodafone New Zealand Ltd.

Great news! SeniorNet members, for March and April 2014 you can scan your current Landline and Broadband bill (it does not have to be a Vodafone bill, other providers' are welcomed) and send it to Vodafone for a no obligation review of your bill. The Vodafone team will then be in touch to provide a recommendation of ways you can save money!

You will also automatically enter in a draw to win a Samsung Galaxy Ace 3 smartphone (worth \$349).

Vodafone can also organise training session on how to use the smartphone at the local store.

Please scan through your latest Landline and Internet bill at home or at your local learning centre, email through to **Senior.NetEnquiries@vodafone.com** along with:

1. your name
2. contact phone number(s)
3. name of your local Learning Centre (e.g. SeniorNet Glenfield)

And you will enter the draw automatically!

The competition will start on the 12 March 2014 at 12am, and close on the 13 May 2014 at 12am.



4G Samsung Galaxy Ace 3

- A great value 4G handset
- 5MP camera, auto focus, LED flash
- Large 4" screen
- 1GHz Dual Core Processor
- 8GB internal memory

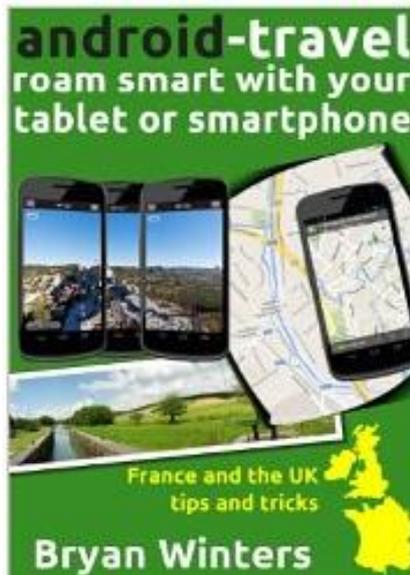
Click here:
www.vodafone.co.nz/galaxy-ace-3



4G use requires 4G coverage.
Find out more at www.vodafone.co.nz/4g

03966610031444

A great book for all Traveling Androidians!



Following Bryan Winter's publication of *Android starters guide*, he and his wife toured France and Britain. During their travels they relied heavily their Android devices.

Bryan's new book: *Android –Travel* is a terrific guide on using android phones and tablets inexpensively and effectively while travelling, with examples around France and the UK.

It's a great resource and a must have if you have an Android device and are about to set off on your travels.

It's only an eBook at this stage so order it on Amazon directly and save the paper!

Here's the direct link

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00HGZWXMK>

Let's get Real

Got your identity and address verified with RealMe?

Now you can join BNZ without needing to go into a branch. BNZ joins TSB Bank, which lets people join the bank from their smartphone app. You can also use a verified RealMe account to order non-historical certificates and printouts from Births, Deaths and Marriages, great for genealogists.



Over 10,000 people have already verified their identity with RealMe and the process is really simple and secure. Just login at www.realme.govt.nz enter some information about yourself (it's easiest if you have a New Zealand passport issued after 1 January 2004). Then pop down to a participating PostShop and have your photo taken.

The system works by checking your information and photo against official databases and then you'll be sent an email to say your RealMe account has been verified.

In the future, you'll be able to use it in even more places. It's the positive way to be identified.

RealMe® lets New Zealanders easily and securely prove their identity online, plus access lots of online services with a single username and password.

Impress the Grandchildren

Without a doubt we live in an **acronym** society. Every day there is a new abbreviation to baffle us. In a time when we dared to abbreviate anything, such as asap, now it's the norm. Of course there is no need to abbreviate words at all and in many ways it has been driven by text messaging (TXT) or sometimes known as SMS (short message system). Back when text messaging first started there was a need to keep within 160 characters (including spaces between letters and words). You can send longer messages using a process called concatenation or linking, smartphones use this to give the appearance that a longer message is seamless.

So we have TXT messaging to thank for messing up our beautiful language.... It would appear so!

It's a changing scene, what was popular yesterday is not today, the same applies to acronyms. If you want to keep up-to-date with the latest acronyms and perhaps impress the grand children there is a site dedicated to just that: <http://www.internetslang.com/trending.asp>. Take a look it changes daily and you will be amazed that some acronyms in their top 50 are not actually new at all!



Here's a list of my favourites:

SELFIE	Picture of yourself, usually taken by yourself, often using a smartphone
GOAT	Greatest Of All Time
OOO	Out Of Office
BTW	By The Way
TBH	To Be Honest
CMB	Call Me Back
SOZ	Sorry
IME	My Experience
WUCIWUG	What You See Is What You Get <i>(old but good and my most favourite!)</i>

Your next OE – With GrownUps?

Have you thought about your next OE?

Maybe to Canada?

You deserve an amazing overseas experience this year...Marvel at the breath-taking scenery, untamed wilderness and incredible wildlife on this special GrownUps escorted group package in association with Globus including Rocky Mountaineer train, coach tour and Alaskan cruise!



Go to www.grownups.co.nz/read/travel/destinations/adv-globus-europe-canada

or phone 0800 000 883 and mention GrownUps.

Microsoft Windows XP – Support ends.

After 12 years, support for Windows XP will end on April 8, 2014.

There will be no more security updates or technical support for the Windows XP operating system.

Support for Office 2003 also ends on April 8, 2014.

PCs running Windows XP after April 8, 2014, should not be considered to be protected, and it is important that you migrate to a current supported operating system – such as Windows 8.1 – so you can receive regular security updates to protect your computer from malicious attacks.



Without critical Windows XP security updates, your PC may become vulnerable to harmful viruses, spyware, and other malicious software which can steal or damage your information. Anti-virus software will also not be able to fully protect you once Windows XP itself is unsupported.

So, if you have Windows XP the next move for you is a software upgrade. For most XP users, that means buying a whole new computer. Microsoft stopped offering the software at retail in 2008, so the newest of XP machines will be six years old making it hardly worth upgrading to newer editions of Windows.

Thrifty XP users could keep running their old machines by giving up on Windows altogether. The open-source operating system Linux was once fit only for hackers and hobbyists. These days, it uses the same easy point-and-click interface as Windows, so anyone can use it, and Linux runs well even on aging hardware.

A popular version called Ubuntu Linux is one of the easiest, and it can be downloaded for free at www.ubuntu.com.

Ubuntu's no good if you use standard Windows software, such as Microsoft Office. But for more general activities — Web browsing, e-mail, social networking, listening to music or watching videos it will do just fine!

The retirement of Windows XP is good news for computer makers. Sales of PCs have been on the decline since 2012, and the trend is likely to continue, as more people switch to tablets and smartphones. Now there's a thought, do you take an even bigger plunge and move away entirely from a PC?

Our partner Noel Leeming has a great range of computers, and tablets and remember the on-going discount arrangements make purchasing from Noel Leeming stores a great way to upgrade at the best price.



Gearing up for the Federation's AGM and Symposium

This year the Federation has gone all out with a two-day event. A dinner with guest speaker Hon Jo Goodhew, the presentation of an award for the Most Valued Volunteer and motivating presentations from industry leaders coupled with great networking from Learning Centre representatives is sure to make it all worthwhile.

This year the event will be held in Lincoln, Canterbury on 14th and 15th April. We have room for more to attend so see your Chair of your Learning Centre if you are keen to be there.

We have been working with the Selwyn District Council to stage the event and we are most grateful for their help and support.