

COURSES

The course calendar for the next 3 months is out. Courses are filling rapidly with some closed already. Check out our web page.

<http://tinyurl.com/2wovsh>

PROMOTIONAL VIDEO.

SeniorNet Federation has placed a very good video on their website. have a look at it. Pass on to friends and family so that they can see what SeniorNet is about.

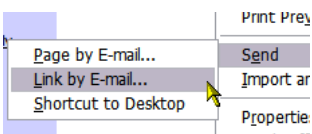
<http://www.seniornet.co.nz/>

HOT TIPS

When you surf the 'net' you can quickly open a link in a new page. Hold down the SHIFT key as you click the link.

If you have several windows open you can switch through each by holding down the ALT and TAB keys. By keeping the ALT key pressed and tapping the TAB key you cycle through a panel showing each window. Release the key when you see the window you want.

Found a web page you want to share? Sending a link to a web page is simple. With the page open click **File/Send/Link by Email**. Your email client will open with all of the details filled in. All you need to do is enter the

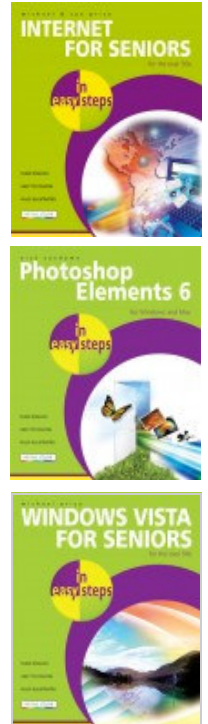


It is now 12 months since I first started to do a monthly newsletter. It has been fun getting ideas but the difficult part is deciding what to leave out of each issue. From this month the newsletter has doubled to two pages which will allow for more articles yet keeping the style the same. I have added new parts, "How-to" and "Hot Tips". Most of these are well published on the internet but I am aware that many do not have easy access to "The Net".

COMPUTER HELP IN PRINT

Most of us have grown up in a time where reading books was an essential life skill. While the advent of the internet has provided us with access to an almost unlimited source of help and information, the material is often difficult to digest, needs printing for further review and you need to be at your computer to read/print it. So books are still needed, no more so than with computing help. Just go in to any library and see the range of computing books available. The on-line versions do have one significant advantage in that they can be readily updated, whereas books need to go through a reprint. These days people do not read or comprehend the written word easily so many instructional books these days are graphical. Just have a look at the manual for your VCR, DVD or TV.

We are always looking for suitable, low cost books that complement the courses held at SeniorNet. One such set is the "in easy steps" series. With over 30 books in the series all done in the same format in full colour they are laid out in a very easily-read manner and are rich in graphics. Each section is laid out in a step-by-step order with a related graphic to illustrate the action and has colour-coded tabs with rather whimsical icons for tips. To provide an example one of the books "Internet for Seniors" has topics such as:



Getting Started, Browse the Internet, Puzzles and Solutions, Chess and bridge, Travel, Digital Photography, Webmail, Security and more.

Many of the books are available in the Christchurch City Council libraries. Some useful titles are;

- [Computing for Seniors for the over 50's](#) *Sue Price* 004.16 PRI
- [Laptops for Seniors for the over 50's](#) *Nick Vandome* 004.16VAN
- [Computer Help for Seniors for the over 50's](#) *Stuart Yarnold* 004.16YAR
- [Windows Vista for Seniors for the over 50's](#) *Michael Price* 005.4460MIC
- [Office 2007 for Seniors for the over 50's](#) *Michael Price* 005.36MIC
- [Internet for Seniors for the over 50's](#) *Sue Price* 004.67PRI

There are many more, just go to the computer catalogue and type "in easy steps" and click the **Series** button. Also have a look at the Easy Steps website at <http://tinyurl.com/2d78st> for more titles.

If you want to purchase, Whitcoulls <http://tinyurl.com/294azc> and Borders <http://tinyurl.com/2fj7zq> and Scorpio Books <http://tinyurl.com/2x3k5p> may have in stock or will order in for you.

You can also buy on-line through Fishpond at <http://tinyurl.com/yvm6gb> or the Nile <http://tinyurl.com/2d8lxb>

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members:

Madeleine Church
Audrey Dickson
Jean Glue
John McCammon
Denis Moffat
Pauline Waller
Jeanette Perry
Margaret Rutherford

MOUSEROBICS



New to a computer?
Have a look at this site to improve your skills with using a mouse.
<http://tinyurl.com/3ysk>.

TRAMWAY EXTENSION

The City Council is proposing to extend the tramway through High Street and Cashel Street. They are seeking submissions on this proposal. Details at <http://>

HELP DESK

Remember Thursday nights 7 - 9 pm is help desk night. Call into the rooms with your problems and we will see if we can help.

OPENING LINKS

To access links on these pages click on the URL or copy and paste in your browser.

BARBEQUE

On Sunday 9 March we had another successful barbeque. Some friends from Christchurch SeniorNet attended and enjoyed the evening with us.

REVIEW

We talked before about some of the free software on the market.

OpenOffice is a well-known product that does mostly everything that some of the Microsoft products do. It has a word processor, **Writer**, and spreadsheet, **Calc**. plus others. Unlike MS Word, Writer is also a desktop publishing application and can be used in place of MS Publisher. While Publisher is very good, it saves files in its own format which makes it very difficult to use with other applications. To export the file you need to convert it to a PDF. OpenOffice by contrast can save the file in the MS Word DOC format. You can download a copy of OpenOffice at <http://www.openoffice.org/> but it is very big. To get a copy send an email to this address and I'll send on a CD containing programme and help files. newsletter@seniornetnorthwest.org.nz

Note: MS Office with Publisher costs \$834. <http://tinyurl.com/3xhnw4>
If you want to learn more, there is an excellent book available from the Public Library **OpenOffice.org 2, Greg Perry, 005.5OPE**



PLASMA OR LCD ?



If you are in the market for a new television it can very hard to decide what to buy. Large screen tv's are very popular - and pricey - although the price is dropping but what do you go for Plasma or LCD? There is much debate on this but until recently plasma was the better for very large displays but LCD's have improved where there is not a lot between them. What has this to do with computing? A lot these days as all new computers come with LCD screens and all LCD and plasma tv's are fitted to take a computer input, effectively making them useful as a computer monitor. Great for those kids (and adults) games. What should you buy? One thing that you should know is that a plasma uses two to four times the power of an LCD. In November of this year televisions will becoming within the energy efficiency labelling scheme. Before you rush out do you know that a 50inch plasma will use about 450 watts per hour, about 13 cents. Over a year this will cost you over \$250. Check out the following sites for more information.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority <http://tinyurl.com/36ue3n>.

Consumer New Zealand TV buying guide <http://tinyurl.com/2loetl>,

Consumer Tests <http://tinyurl.com/2mdbyu>. Flat TV <http://tinyurl.com/62brh>.

Grown Ups (NZ) <http://tinyurl.com/yqzz97>. PC World <http://tinyurl.com/29qn6d>.

About Home Theatre <http://tinyurl.com/aonfx>.

Energy Saving Tips <http://tinyurl.com/2qzv9p>



HOW TO - Rename a group of photos.

Most cameras give cryptic names to photographs. In Windows Explorer select all (Ctrl+A) then click the first file and rename (keep the extension) say **Flying**. Then press **Enter**. All of the files will now be named Flying + a sequential number.

