

THIS MONTH

What's On
2008 Courses
Digital Video
Useful tips
Sites to try
Apple News

WHAT'S ON

Keep an eye out for
courses in the New
Year.

WHAT IS A BIT OR A BYTE?

Computers use Binary
a simple on/off type
process. Binary base 2
counting, instead of
decimal base 10 is
used. To learn about
this: www.wikipedia.org
and enter binary in the
search

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.

To access links on
this page click on
the URL or copy and
paste in your
browser.

Apple News



If you are Mac
user there is a
very useful NZ site
www.nzmac.com

Apple have released
a new notebook they
claim to be the
world's thinnest at
1.9cm thick! Check it
out at:
[www.nzmac.com/
news/](http://www.nzmac.com/news/)

2008 COURSES

We trust that you have had a very enjoyable holiday period and looking forward to the coming year. We have now completed the alterations to the computer room and are organising classes for 2008. However, we don't always know what everyone wants and we need your input on ideas and subjects. Also what times suit you best. Some of us are still working so are restricted in the hours that we are available. We are looking for more people who can help with tutoring. You don't need any skills in this area - there are several of us who can help and we will be running some tutor development courses. I find that there is nothing more rewarding than teaching someone a new skill. So if you have any ideas on courses or better still can help with tutoring contact the course co-ordinator. coursecoordinator@seniornetnorthwest.org.nz

"When you teach someone you both learn something new"



DIGITAL VIDEO

In pre-digital days making home movies was limited. Today's technology makes it easy. You get instant review of your work and can edit using a computer. The not-so-easy part is to decide which type of camera format MiniDV, DVD, Hard Drive or Flash card? Most people won't edit so the DVD option is the best. These record on mini-dvd's (80mm) - they are not cheap but can be played in most DVD players. Flash cards, hard drives and MiniDV are played back using the camera but are better for editing. Video creates large files. One hour needs about 4GB. Editing is called Non-Linear-Editing (NLE).

Some cameras can do editing, such as deleting a scene, but for most purposes you use software. Windows computers come with Windows Movie Maker. You import the video to your hard drive, edit then export in a file format. WMM is limited in output options. Okay if you just want to play it on a computer but no good if you want to play in a DVD. Mac's come with iMovie and iDVD which are far more powerful with heaps of options for editing, export and DVD writing.

Check out these links: Consumer tests: www.consumer.org.nz. (Jan 2008 issue)

Video editing software: www.consumer.org.nz (Oct 2007 issue)

How Stuff Works - video: <http://computer.howstuffworks.com/video-editing.htm>

Camcorder reviews: www.camcorderinfo.com/

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-linear_editing_system

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camcorders>



Useful Tips

Microsoft has brought out a new file format, for those using Vista and Office 2007. By default Word and Excel save in the new format but you can save as the original in the **Save As Type** box. If you have XP and get a file in the new format you will need a file converter. Follow this link for details <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/924074>.

Also download the compatibility pack. (Same page) *Thanks to SN New Brighton for this tip*



Try These Sites

On-line crosswords and puzzles

www.lovatts.com.au (daily puzzles)

The Press (Daily and Weekly puzzles)

www.press.co.nz

You Play (Many different puzzles)

<http://www.youplay.com/>

If you need help or tips have a look at this site:

www.oneacross.com

Inventions, facts and myths

www.ideafinder.com