

## COURSES

Check out our web page for available courses

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

## AGM



The AGM was held at the Papanui Club on Wednesday 25 June.

Full details and photographs are on our web site.

## MICROSOFT SOFTWARE

The SeniorNet Federation has obtained significant discounts on a range of Microsoft software. Go to the site below and select the software you want and click.

Order

<http://tinyurl.com/6o4px5>

## IPHONE IN NZ

Apple and Vodafone have announced that the iPhone will go on sale 11 July.

Initially it will only be available on contract - not prepay. No word on whether Telecom will be making this available. Selling for around \$300 it offers features only found in high-end other makes.

<http://vodafone.co.nz>  
<http://www.apple.co.nz>

## EMAIL SPAM and PHISHING

Spam is unsolicited email and gets its name from the British TV series Monty Python. Some Vikings are in restaurant chanting about Spam, the Hormel Pork product. All you hear is the words Spam, Spam..... The idea of "flooding" with words was translated to email. By the way, Hormel say that SPAM is an acronym for "Special Purpose Army Meat" introduced to US soldiers during WW2. For a time they tried to stop the term being used for unsolicited email, but have given up and are now turning this into a way of promoting the product.



Back to email spam though. Most Internet Providers have some form of Spam-Blockers but they are not very effective and about 10% still gets through. They work by looking for familiar words such as "Lottery Winner". The spammer is very clever and will write it like L-0-t-ter-y W1-nn-er so the blocker doesn't see it. Another method is to block known sites but the spammers keep changing faster than an Exocet rocket. So what can you do? Basically very little. One very good method is to channel your email through a programme such as [Mailwasher](http://www.mailwasher.com).

Phishing is a technique that masquerades as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication. A phishing technique was described in detail as early as 1987. Banks are the ones most targeted where you get an email purporting to come from your bank asking you to update emails. Good anti-virus programmes will block phishing and spam. Warning!!! Most free ones don't.

### More info:

Hormel Foods  
Spam Product Promotion  
Fight Spam  
Mailwasher  
Phishing  
Security Software tests

<http://tinyurl.com/6out7c>

<http://tinyurl.com/65qtvb>

<http://www.ftc.gov/spam/>

<http://www.mailwasher.com>

<http://tinyurl.com/48zm2>

<http://www.consumer.org.nz/> (Members only)

May 2008 issue available at libraries

## PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 6.0

Photoshop Elements has long been very popular among photographers as a "stripped down" version of big brother Photoshop. With this latest release it is now more a programme in its own right. A lot of the tools in PS have now been incorporated in PSE6. A neat new tool is the new Photomerge Group Shot. It is easy to combine a group of people from separate photos into one photo.

For those that use the RAW format it now supports a large range of cameras and for its price would be the best convertor around. If you like doing serious photography but can't afford Big Brother PS, PSE6.0 sells for around \$150 NZ. It is cheaper as a 1.4Gb download but unless you have high speed Broadband you would be better getting the DVD version. Available for both Macs and PC's.

### More info:

Adobe PSE 6.0

<http://tinyurl.com/2bx4by>

## ICE (IN CASE OF EMERGENCY)

Most people carry cellphones these days. Who would have thought a few years ago that these devices, which were once considered a "yuppy" toy, have become such an essential part of life that we now cannot live without them.



Great for emergencies but what use can they be if you have an accident and cannot use the phone? If someone happened to pick up your phone, and assuming that it is turned on, how do they know who to contact?

A neat idea being promoted by the emergency services is to put your contact people in your address book under the heading **ICE**. If you have several people list these as ICE1, ICE2, etc.

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members:

Pam & Frank Postlethwaite  
Janet Fuller



## HELP DESK

During Winter the help desk is closed on Thursday nights. If you require help email us at:

[helpdesk@seniornetnorthwest.org.nz](mailto:helpdesk@seniornetnorthwest.org.nz)

Mail is checked daily so we can help you more quickly.

## SITES

Power Saving NZ  
<http://tinyurl.com/6nyefh>

Compulsory Third Party Insurance NZ  
<http://tinyurl.com/5neluf>

Fuel Saving NZ  
<http://tinyurl.com/5azowj>

Energy Efficiency NZ  
<http://www.eeca.govt.nz/>

Old Light Bulbs to Go  
<http://tinyurl.com/58xsnc>

New NZ Web Portal  
<http://clearnet.co.nz/>

Computer Help - Free  
<http://tinyurl.com/3jxx7r>

Consumer Build Free NZ  
<http://tinyurl.com/6dqrhj>

## OPENING LINKS

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

## SPELL CHECKERS

At skool in the "olden days" we learnt a subject called s-p-e-l-l-i-n-g. A dictionary was compulsory and we learnt to spell by rote. We learnt to remember complicated words or phrases by using mnemonics. ROYGBIV (Richard of York Gave Battle In Vain) for the colours of the rainbow is but one example.

Virtually all computers have spell-checkers which can be used with a range of applications. By the way, did you know that the most common key to access these is F7? Anyway if you are using a spell checker make sure that you set the correct language. Most use US as the default but we should be using "British English" (UK). But how accurate are they? Generally they are quite useless as they cannot distinguish similar words. The word "row" for example has several different meanings depending upon context.

Have a look at the following that went through my spell-checker. Answers next month.



### MY KNEW COMPUTER

I have a knew computer  
Two fill my daze with bliss  
Eye type four ours my letters long  
Butt my spelling is amiss

Sew aye ewes the spelling checker  
Too highlight my mistakes  
I never knead to reed the peace  
And a moments awl it takes

I reed the questioned words  
And press OK pronto  
Butt wen folk say "Hay what is this?"  
Aye simply dew not no

Sew now eye try two proof reed  
Awl typing that aye dew  
Id hate too bee thought of as ignorant  
And I'm shore that yew wood two.

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### WINDOWS XP TO BE WITHDRAWN

Microsoft has announced from 30 June Windows XP will no longer be sold or available on new computers.

Purchasers will now have to use one of the many versions of Vista. XP will still be supported by Microsoft but no date has been given when this will cease.

While you can upgrade XP to Vista you cannot do this with previous versions. In that case you will need to buy a full version.

## BUYING A PRINTER?

Look at the total cost. There are two types of printers - laser and inkjet. Inkjets are better than lasers for colour photo printing but the cost of cartridges is the biggest rip-off. Costing cents to make, the printer manufacturers make their profits from the on-going sale of the replacements. Consumer NZ recently did a test on multi-function printers. They reported that the cheapest at \$79 cost \$535 for cartridges - 200 photos, 500 colour graphics and 1000 black text pages. At the other end a \$599 printer cost \$139. Of course, price is only one of the considerations. The \$79 model ranked 58% while the \$599 ranked only a little more at 63%.

With the lower price of laser printers these are now the best option for B&W printing. If you are printing photographs you can use a colour for trial but for good quality you can't beat the cost that photo labs offer.

### More info:

Consumer NZ

<http://www.consumer.org.nz/> (Members only)

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