

Welcome

This month's new members:

No new members this month

BING/YAHOO

Last month I mentioned a new search engine from Microsoft called BING. As this newsletter goes to print news has been released that Microsoft is joining up with Yahoo to take on Google.

Interesting to see where that goes!!

BING NZ

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

YAHOO

<http://www.yahoo.com>

SPREADSHEETS

A "Spreadsheet" has been used by accountants for hundreds of years as bookkeeping ledgers. The first electronic version appeared about 1961. Visicalc invented in 1979 is regarded as the first killer application for the computer. It ran on the Apple II and users brought this computer - the first true personal computer - into the business world. Microsoft Excel ran on the Macintosh for several years until ported to Windows 3.0. Since then it has dominated with virtually no competitor. Apple has developed Numbers and Open Office has Calc but they do not compete with Excel.

Beginners Guide to Excel

<http://tinyurl.com/y7vqlz>

<http://tinyurl.com/mxtlkp>

WWW - The Internet

Over the last two years I have written several brief items about using the internet. It never fails to amaze me how this communication medium has expanded to the point where we cannot live without it. Almost everything depends upon communication - these days the internet.

I recall reading a book many years ago entitled "Megatrends 2000" written by John Naisbitt in 1990. In this book he foretold of the change in society as we entered the 21st century. He then wrote another book "High Tech High Touch" published in 1999. Among two of his 10 observations were the emergence of the Pacific Rim viz (China) as a powerful economic unit that will dominate world politics and the rise of the computer and cellular phone.

Significant was his prediction that society was moving towards an information one where most people - 80% - were engaged in some form or another in providing, gathering or using information. He speaks of the growth in the "internet" as the major contributor. Today fewer people in western society are engaged in manual tasks than in say 1980 or 1990.

Starting out as an information sharing medium for universities, it has exploded to the point where there are an estimated 1,596,270,108 world users (30 June 2009). New Zealand and Australia has the second highest penetration at 60%, just behind the United States. The Middle East has had the highest growth at 1200% over the last 5 years. The greatest number of users is Asia at 41% of the world total. In NZ 80% of the population has internet access.

The **World Wide Web** was "born" in 1989 so this year is its 20th anniversary. In this time we have seen the change from simple dial-up using a phone adaptor, through plug-in modems to fast broadband modems. These days we need very fast speeds and lots of bandwidth (Electronic motorways).

Where next? Fibre optic is lauded as the next generation but my guess is that as we become even more mobile we will take our devices with us and not be fixed to one position. The Government wants more fibre laid but we will still use the existing copper network for the last mile. To be truly fast we would need fibre to the home (FTH), but this will never eventuate in existing areas due to the high cost. We now see devices such as the iPhone and Google's Android as being many devices other than a cellphone.

The new breed of laptops are coming out with in-built devices that connect through the cellular network. The plain old telephone is last year's technology and will go the same way as the 78rpm record. Voice over IP (internet protocol) and cellular Wi-Fi will dominate. We will not need to be tethered to a piece of copper wire.

So perhaps John's predictions were very true. His books are available at the City Library as well as "Megatrends 2010" by his wife Patricia Aburdene,



Early modem where the handset sat in the cups

WINDOWS PHOTO GALLERY

Windows Photo Gallery is part of Vista and provides the ability to organize digital photo collection in its Gallery view, by adding titles, rating, captions, and custom tags to photos. An Edit mode is also present, which allows photos to be edited for exposure or color correction. It also provides other basic photo editing functions, such as resizing, cropping, red-eye reduction etc, and also allows printing photos, via the Photo Printing Wizard.

It links to Windows DVD Maker to burn photos to DVD. Photo Gallery can also be used to acquire photos and videos from digital cameras, scanners, and other sources.

It is not as powerful as other photo editing programmes but as it is free and so long as you don't want to do anything other than to catalogue or crop and adjust contrast and brightness it will do.

It does give you the ability to make a slide show and to send photos to a printing lab. If you want to email a photo it has a wizard that will resize and setup your email.

Access through **Start | All programs | Windows Photo Gallery**.

Microsoft How To - Windows Photo Gallery

<http://tinyurl.com/l6j79n>

<http://tinyurl.com/4gtqq4>

PAINT.NET

If you want to explore the world of digital photo-editing we recommend that you try the free Paint.net software. This has had some amazing comments about how good and simple it is but don't be fooled it is quite powerful but also easy to learn.

Download it at:

<http://tinyurl.com/jcyu9>

Tutorial

<http://tinyurl.com/mqctstv>

Email Gone Wrong

We have probably all made some mistake when sending emails. Like hitting send without checking our spelling, leaving off an attachment or sending copies to every one in your address book.

A salutary lesson is from a person in the USA. A couple decided to go to Florida for a romantic holiday to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary. They planned to stay at the same hotel as they did in 1989 but because of hectic schedules the husband went down a day earlier.

When he checked in he found that there was a computer in the room so he sent an email to his wife but made a mistake by omitting one letter of her email address. He sent the email which ended up in the computer of a widow who, two days before, had buried her husband, a priest. He died of a heart attack and had gone to the great church in the sky. When the widow opened the email she collapsed and was rushed to the emergency department suffering a severe heart attack but died a few days later.



The coroner held an autopsy and read the message to the court:

"To: My Darling Wife

Subject: Just arrived

I know that you will love to hear from me. It is great here and they have computers. We are allowed to send email to our loved ones. I have just arrived and have been checked in. They have prepared for your arrival tomorrow so are expecting you. Looking forward to seeing you then. Hoping you have an uneventful journey. Only problem here is that it is really hot so wear some light clothing"

The Lesson

So be very careful how you send your email. Remember that your email is like an ad on TV and anyone could read it. Check the address, don't send until you have thoroughly checked the email.

Check these sites for tips

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

<http://tinyurl.com/6e4keg>

<http://tinyurl.com/2z9u4k>

How Email Works YouTube video

<http://tinyurl.com/dxq43g>

Genealogy Notes

If you have descendants from Ireland, tracing records can be hard as a lot are missing having been destroyed by fire in 1922.

However, all is not lost as there are several sites that can be of help.

Books by County

<http://tinyurl.com/ks223u>

GENUKI: Ireland

<http://tinyurl.com/a9djn>

Annals of The FourMasters

<http://tinyurl.com/ks7j29>

Burkes Peerage and Gentry

<http://tinyurl.com/48g7w5>

The IreAtlas Townland database

<http://tinyurl.com/mhxn6>

Ireland's History in Maps

<http://tinyurl.com/ndhhkr>

Cemetery Inscriptions

<http://tinyurl.com/mf2e5r>

National Archives Ireland

<http://tinyurl.com/kscjzk>

Genealogy Links - Ireland

<http://tinyurl.com/mecf3h>

Irish Times

<http://tinyurl.com/ndmaje>