

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome

to this month's new members

Donald Moffatt
Terry Mora
John Newberry
Peter Fuller
Shirley Chamberlain
Noel & Annette NEVIN
Marie Maldon
Pat Steffensen

HELP DESK

The help desk is open most Thursday nights from 7.00 p.m. If you have an urgent issue please contact by email at above address. Mail is checked daily so we can help you more quickly.

MICROSOFT OFFICE 2010

Microsoft has announced that [Office 2010](#) will go on sale following Beta testing. No NZ release or price is available but there is likely to be a Home and Student version as they often do. Remember if you have a new computer it may have a version of MS Office installed. Usually this is a starter version which is very much dumbed down. To release the full features you need to pay a fee to Microsoft via on-line payment using your credit card. They will send you an unlock "key" which you then use to get the full use. Instructions are provided in the email. No software is down-loaded.

FREE OFFICE PROGRAMMES

Rather than spend heaps on commercial office programmes we recommend that you install [Open Office](#). This is fully compatible with MS Office and includes writer, spreadsheet,

April's Newsletter

You may have wondered where April's newsletter had gone. There wasn't one as I was unable to put one together, but now that I am back I'll make for the lost ground.

Blogs

What is a Blog? You may have heard of this term and probably seen it used. A **blog** - from **weblog** - is a type of website usually with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order. "Blog" can also be used as a verb, meaning *to maintain or add content to a blog*. Many blogs provide commentary or news on a particular subject; others function as more personal online diaries. A typical blog combines text, images, and links to other blogs, web pages and other media related to its topic. The ability of readers to leave comments in an interactive format is an important part of many blogs. As of December 2007, blog search engine [Technorati](#) was tracking more than 112,000,000 blogs - Unlike a forum - see later - blogs are mostly one person's view commented on by the reader. Anyone trying to get their message out, particularly politicians has a blog. Many newspaper writers have their own personal blog. Our own newspaper - The Press - is part of the Fairfax Media Group, so writers from all their papers can publish their views for all to read. You can access these through the on-line version of [The Press](#) or [Stuff](#) site.

If you want to create your own blog you can do this many ways. The simplest is to subscribe to a public Blog Site.

Both [Myspace](#) and [Facebook](#) are personal blog sites, but the most popular and perhaps the best is [Wordpress](#). You subscribe to join - it's free - and follow the simple instructions and you can start blogging. You don't need to join if you just wish to read the blogs. I searched for Anzac Day and got over 3500 blogs! It is amazing what people write - or complain - about. One person lamented that their gym would be closed that day. Another site is [Blogger](#), part of the Google stable,

If you have a Gmail account you can login using this and set up your own blog. Once setup you're free to customize the pages using Blogger's tools. Having started your blog it can now be seen by anyone searching Blogger or Google. You can opt out of the search if you want. Be aware of what you say though. There are numerous examples of people being sued for libel. You can setup your own blog site but you will need blogging software and a hosting service. Some services provide the software free as part of the hosting plan.

Internet Forums

Forums, like blogs, are another form of communication used throughout the world of the internet, but they differ in that anyone can propose a topic and anyone can comment on that topic. They are becoming a very good way for providers of goods and services to provide customer help and feedback. For example, many often use a FAQ (Frequently asked question) page but more are adding forums so customers can ask questions and provide feedback (good and bad). Many forums are site specific, such as the one at [Vodafone](#) which relates to their telephony

business or others such as [Geekzone](#) which has anything to do with technology. Many newspapers have a form of forum where anyone can post a comment on any particular article.

Forums usually will have a moderator who will check the posting before submitting it to the forum. In most cases you have to register to post comments and start a new topic although you can usually read and search topics without registering. Many forums will have a method of sending you an email when someone replies to your post. Don't confuse forums with Chat Rooms and Instant Messaging.

NEW STYLE FOR HYPERLINKS

This month the hyperlinks to websites when referenced in body text are not shown as the full path. Instead just the word is linked as this is now the norm for most on-line publications. If you want the full path just right-click on the link and click properties. The full path is shown. If you have the printed version, just enter the word into your search engine.

The full path will remain for some links.

WHICH PROGRAMME?

WORD, PAINT, PHOTOSHOP ETC

From time to time one gets asked how to open this file type or that file type. Often this is because the computer does not have a program installed that is associated with the particular file type in question. There is little downloadable tool that makes opening files that don't have file associations easy. It is called [OpenWith.org Desktop Tool](http://OpenWith.org).

Here's how it works.

1. Download and install the [OpenWith.org Desktop Tool](http://OpenWith.org) on your computer

2. Right click on the file you don't know how to open, and left click on "OpenWith.org - How do I Open This?"

3. If OpenWith.org knows about that type of file, you will see a list of compatible programs. If you already have one of the programs installed, it will say Installed. If not, it will say Download.

From Eden Roskill Senionet

Newspapers On-line.

Do you want to access hundreds of newspapers free? Probably not that many but through a company Newspapers Direct you can access over 1400 newspapers in over 80 countries. They have the very latest copies but you can also go back to archived copies. Most libraries have free access if you are member. Whilst overseas we wanted to keep up with NZ news so by either visiting a library that provided free access or through logging on to the internet we could read the latest copy of The Press.

If you are a member of the Christchurch Library you can access these from home or within the library. You need to have a password assigned to your library card number. To access go to the [Christchurch Library](#) and from the home page Click **Internet Gateway** then **New and Newspapers** then **Press Display**



Re-Size Photographs

We are talking here about the digital size of a photo, not the printed size. With many digital cameras offering 12 megapixel or more resolutions it can be quite an embarrassment when you want to forward it on to a friend. They can be loaded into a photo editing programme and resized but this can be time consuming and for the less computer savvy quite difficult although

many offer a quick and easy send by email option. However if you want a better option, quite easy to use and can cope with batches of files; [Resize My Photos](#) is a freeware application meaning you can go to the download page and use this software as long as you like without paying anything. It does not contain any nag-screens, ads or spyware.

From Huntley Senionet

Genealogy Notes

While there is now a host of information on the internet, it can be quite daunting trying to find what you want. I have been trying to trace where my great-grandfather lived in the late 1800's. Family stories said that he was in Melbourne for a period working for the Melbourne Age. So while in Melbourne we spent three days at the Victorian State Library pouring through

hundreds of documents. It turned out that he went to the Age to set up the first photographic lithography unit in 1892. He then came back to Christchurch where he set the same up at the Press. So a trip well worthwhile but nothing that we found was on the internet so the days spent in the library paid off.



Enter your Membership number and PIN on next screen and click Login. You are now in the Press Display site. On the left side you can select country and then a newspaper for that country. Once the paper is displayed each page thumbnail is shown on the right. Click to go to the particular page. You'll need to zoom in to read and here this tricky bit. Just hold your mouse pointer over the page and left click.

The page now will enlarge and the pointer changes to a cross. To move around all you do is hold the left mouse button and the pointer will lock to the page. Drag to see the section you want. If the text appears fuzzy don't worry as the page will load correctly in a few seconds. You will see other tools at the bottom of the screen that you can use to print or email. At the top of the page is a search tool. You can search for articles in a particular paper, several or all papers from the current date to back several months.