

November 2024



"Seniors helping seniors use computers and the internet"

**SeniorNet  
Association Inc.**

[www.seniornet.com.au](http://www.seniornet.com.au)

## President's View

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### Social Events



#### Coffee and Chat

See page 3 for details

#### Christmas Party

See page 4 for details

SeniorNet classes have been instrumental in helping us navigate the ever-evolving world of technology. Today, we Seniors are fortunate to embrace these changes with tools such as SMS messaging, Emails, Photo editing, with the use of Phones, Tablets, Laptops, and Desktops. These technologies have greatly expanded our opportunities to reach out to others and enhance our own personal knowledge.

We can now Communicate with anyone, Research any topic, Store materials forever, Edit Photos, and continuously learn new skills. Of particular value, are the "Speech-to-Text" Programmes, which, not only help us avoid the use of our arthritic hands but also assist those with hearing difficulties.

On another note, I would very much like to thank those who supported our recent Expo held at Ipswich Show Ground.

Our next EXPO is at the Church of Christ Hall, 219 Whitehill Rd Raceview on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October with set-up 0800 – 09030 for an opening to the Public 0930 -1100hrs. Please note no classes will be occurring on this date.

Our Equipment Office, Barry, has been working diligently, to coax another year out of our printer. Unfortunately, the Drum and Power Supply need replacing resulting in the need to search for a replacement. Quotes to purchase another are being pursued.

Of late we are also seeking quotes for a suitable projector and screen for our future classes. Improvements to our new venue are ongoing. We very much thank Pastor Billy for his ongoing support in these matters.

John McVeigh

### Just Friends Social Group

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November

Lunch at Commercial Hotel, Redbank.  
Meet 12 noon. Lunch specials \$16.

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November

Lunch at Little M Coffee Club, Goodna. Lunches from \$18.

#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November

##### Coach trip to Glengallan

Visit historic Glengallan Homestead on the Darling Downs, then buy lunch at the historic Rudd's Pub. Return stopping at the Scenic Rim Farm Shop. The fare including admissions will be \$60. Pickup 8.20 Redbank Plaza.

#### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

##### Coach trip to Montville and Maleny

Travel to Montville to walk around the shops and buy lunch. After lunch go to Maleny for a short stop in Maple Street. The fare will be \$50. Pickup Redbank Plaza 8.00am

*Just Friends is not affiliated to SeniorNet. The Editor organises group activities. Ring on 3389 2950 for information*

Sponsors: Ipswich City Council, the Queensland Government and Microsoft.

**SeniorNet Workshop Programme: November 2024**

Congregational Church Sunday School Hall at 117 Wildey Street, Raceview

Workshop Times 9-11am; however the clubroom is booked for the whole morning and this allows continued use of the facility if subject matter or participant interest requires it

| Monday                    | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   |
|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| 28 <sup>th</sup> October  | 30 <sup>th</sup> October<br>Android: Photo Editing *<br><i>Ken Curwen</i>          | 31 <sup>st</sup> October<br>C of C Expo   | 1 <sup>st</sup> November<br>Coffee and Chat<br><br><i>TBA</i>            |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> November  | 6 <sup>th</sup> November<br>iPad/iPhone: Troubleshooting *<br><i>Joan McKenzie</i> | 7 <sup>th</sup> November<br>Introduction to Computing Q&A<br><i>John McVeigh</i>  | 8 <sup>th</sup> November<br>DNA Interest Group<br><br><i>Bette Fritz</i> |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> November | 13 <sup>th</sup> November<br>Calendars in Word<br><br><i>Ken Curwen</i>            | 14 <sup>th</sup> November<br>Introduction to Computing Q&A<br><i>John McVeigh</i> | 15 <sup>th</sup> November<br>Life and Times 3<br><br><i>Esmae Mander</i> |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> November | 20 <sup>th</sup> November<br>iPad/iPhone: eBooks *<br><br><i>Joan McKenzie</i>     | 21 <sup>st</sup> November   | 22 <sup>nd</sup> November  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> November | 27 <sup>th</sup> November<br>Shop Safely Online<br><br><i>Ken Curwen</i>           | 28 <sup>th</sup> November   | 29 <sup>th</sup> November  |

NOTE: All Workshops are subject to change if Trainers are unavailable due to illness or other commitments. If possible changes will be listed on the SeniorNet Website or you can contact John McVeigh–Training Coordinator – ph 07 3281 8548 – email [training@seniornet.com.au](mailto:training@seniornet.com.au) to confirm workshops are as listed. It is not necessary to make bookings for Workshops.

Please bring your USB drive with you as it is helpful in many lessons.

\* For courses and workshops involving mobile devices (iPads and Androids) please make sure your device is charged and that you have your cable with you

**Workshop Topics Described****Android: Photo Editing**

This workshop will introduce the free editing app Snapseed. Snapseed is a complete and professional photo editor developed by Google. Learn how to download and use it for a range of photos

**Calendars in Word**

Get ready for next year. Learn to create a personalized calendar using Word.

**DNA Interest Group**

Have you done a DNA test, or are considering doing one, and don't know where to go next? Come along!! Through sharing what we know and listening to others I'm sure we will make our journeys much more enjoyable and a lot less frustrating. There is so much more to DNA than the ethnicity that is promoted to entice you in.

**Introduction to Computing Q&A**

Was there anything you did not fully understand during the Introduction to Computing classes? Or have you found something that was not covered? This session will try to answer your questions.

## iPad/iPhone: ebooks

These days, many people use their device to read digital books. Digital books take up no space in your house, and the text size is easily adjusted. There are many places to obtain digital books, in some cases for free

## iPad/iPhone: Troubleshooting

There are some simple steps you can take to deal with a misbehaving iPad/iPhone, which help in most cases. We will cover the basics.

## Life and Times 3

Continue with a light-hearted & easy way to 'put your knowledge down'. With this simplified method, you will create & record some historical knowledge of your family. Most importantly, your own knowledge will be of beneficial for this workshop.

## Shop Safely On Line

Online shopping opens a virtual Aladdin's Cave of things to buy. There are many horror stories of things going wrong but by taking some relatively simple precautions, you can have an enjoyable and economical experience.

## Family History Invitation

At the October workshop 'searching Australian WW1/WW2 service records', we had an encouraging number of members interested in searching for a relative.

We start with a surname to find data but then we also found that, as time slipped by, we had little time to delve into individuals records as to where and when they were at a certain place, be that Gallipoli or the European Western Front.

In the new year we will be encouraging members to delve deeper into their service persons Unit Diaries. These show where that service person actually served on a particular date.

It is all very interesting and hopefully will lead to members becoming interested and understanding more about their own relative and in particular what their service persons records contain.

I throw a challenge to other SeniorNet members to attend these workshops to investigate and verify the service of great grandad or great grandmother's (she may have been a nurse) to the British Empire as well as being part of the Australian AIF. British and New Zealand service records are also searchable; you just need to know where to direct your enquiry for information.

Esmae Mander







## **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

and an opportunity to farewell **Barbara Bottenberg**  
former long-term member who has served as Newsletter  
Editor, Social Coordinator and Trainer

**MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 11.30am

Char'd at Prince Alfred Hotel, 170 Brisbane Street, Booval

Cost \$26.50 per person

Please transfer payment before 12<sup>th</sup> November to SeniorNet  
Association Inc., Bendigo Bank BSB 633000 Account 129070264  
and include your SURNAME as reference.

*You can also deposit directly to any Bendigo Bank branch  
(Riverlink, near RACQ, or Brassall Shopping Centre)*

**Bookings essential for catering purposes** – and please advise any  
dietary requirements

RSVP by 12<sup>th</sup> November by emailing the Social Coordinator  
[snsocial.co.ord74@gmail.com](mailto:snsocial.co.ord74@gmail.com)

## Tech Talk

### Thelma

This is the name of a movie doing the rounds of the cinemas (and likely to show up on a streaming service soon). *Thelma* stars 95-year-old June Squibb as Thelma Post and is inspired by the writer/director's experience of an attempted scam on his grandmother. I won't elaborate on the plot except to say it deals with Thelma being scammed out of \$10 000 and her attempts to recover the money. There are some interesting learnings from the movie regarding the scam.

- 1. Don't panic.** Panic/fright/anxiety are the scammer's best friends. In the movie Thelma receives a phone call supposedly from her grandson who has been in an accident. There are many similar scams doing the rounds. They centre on a phone call/text/email from a loved one in a dire situation who needs money rapidly. While any such contact will spark alarm try not to give in to the panic the scammer is hoping to create.
- 2. Do not give out information.** Thelma provides information to the scammer about her grandson. This is information that could be used later. If someone is asking for personal details always ensure you have confirmation of who they are. If they want information then they must provide information – information only the bona fide caller would have. I received a phone call from my insurance company regarding a claim I had made. They wanted me to confirm my details (full name, address, date of birth... the usual drill). But how do we know the caller is who they say? I asked them to provide the claim number which I had in front of me. Only when they could provide information I had and they should know, was I prepared to give information. Never provide information (no matter how innocuous it may seem) to anyone unless you are certain you know who it is and what it will be used for.
- 3. Confirm the identity.** This relates to the above. In the movie, Thelma notes that the caller does not sound like her grandson. The scammer explains this by stating he has a cold. In these days of AI and 'deep fake' technology it is possible to create believable fakes of voices and even images/video. Be suspicious if the call/text is not coming from the number in your contacts. Attempt to contact your loved one (even if you have been told they have lost their phone). Another strategy that could be used is to decide on a family code word or phrase which can be used in a call or text to confirm their identity.

Unfortunately scams are not going to go away. And they are likely to become more subtle and clever. You must remain on your guard with your scepticism dial turned to 11 (*Spinal Tap* reference). And if you get a chance, Thelma is worth a view.

Phil Buchanan

### Ken's Tip – Cleaning your Screen

You should not clean your tablet with house cleaners such as Windex. But specialised cleaners are quite expensive (\$12 up for a kit).

You can get excellent results with a home-made cleaner. Mix half and half isopropyl alcohol (from Bunnings) and de-mineralised water (at any supermarket) in a container and use it to refill a glasses cleaner spray bottle (from any optometrist). Spray on the screen and wipe off with a tissue. (at one time, I recommended a microfibre cloth but modern Gorilla glass is quite OK with a tissue).

If you want to clean a PC or TV screen, which do not have Gorilla glass, you should use water with a drop of dish-washing detergent on a microfibre cloth - Woolworth's Home Brand Anti-Bacterial cloth (\$1.99 for two) is very good for the purpose

## My AI Experience

In last month's newsletter I included a Tech Talk article on artificial intelligence (AI), largely written by AIs. But what could they do in practice? These is my findings.

I have recently used AI to draft my Potty Histories – they generate schoolkid level essays (high school level if I choose Chat GPT), frequently containing extensive verbatim text from Wikipedia. I then add in the pottiness and excise the dull bits of the AI essay. (My previous process had been to find a subject from the recesses of my brain and extract the fun parts from the appropriate Wikipedia articles).

Aside from this I have spent time this year building an Excel package to take input from our training programme and present it in formats that can be dropped straight into both the newsletter and our website. This will assist not just me but also my successors. Microsoft's Copilot AI gave me some useful hints - but not solutions – in this endeavour.

Most recently I have been designing a post processor for the Excel package to superscript the ordinal date suffixes (eg replace 1st with 1<sup>st</sup>) since Excel doesn't use superscript fonts. Using Microsoft Word's Replace command doesn't work because it will not limit its action to dates – it also changes other words (eg August to Augu<sup>st</sup>). So I asked Chat GPT to create macro code to do the task, and to my surprise, once I had appropriately phrased my requirement, it offered me a fully functional solution. It even included a user guide!

Ken Curwen

## Potty History

### Saint Nicholas of Myra

*I was introduced to Saint Nicholas by singing in Benjamin Britten's cantata with the Cambrian choir. According to the text he was a remarkable man. This is my take on his legend. Ed*

Nicholas was a 4th-century Christian bishop from the region of Lycia in Asia Minor (modern-day southern Turkey), is one of the most venerated saints in both Eastern and Western Christianity. His life has become enshrouded in legend, primarily due to the stories of his miracles and acts of charity. However, Nicholas is perhaps best known for his association with the modern-day figure of Santa Claus.

Although precise details of Saint Nicholas' life are scarce, most accounts agree that he was born in the city of Patara around 270AD. Orphaned at a young age, Nicholas inherited significant wealth from his parents, which he later used to help the poor. Known for his piety and generosity, he quickly gained a reputation for performing miracles, defending the oppressed, and caring for children.

Saint Nicholas' reputation as a miracle worker is one of the main reasons for his enduring veneration. His miracles are wide-ranging, but four stand out for their significance and their role in shaping his legacy.

#### 1. The Rescue of Three Innocent Men

One of the earliest recorded miracles of Saint Nicholas is his intervention in the case of three men who were falsely condemned to death. According to legend, the men were wrongly accused and about to be executed when Nicholas learned of their plight. He rushed to the scene, intervening just in time to stop the execution. Nicholas is said to have confronted the local governor, exposed the injustice and convinced him to free the men. This miracle cemented Nicholas' reputation as a defender of justice and protector of the innocent.

#### 2. The Miracle of the Dowries

Perhaps the most famous miracle attributed to Saint Nicholas is his saving of three impoverished sisters from lives of destitution. According to tradition, the sisters' father was too poor to provide them with dowries, a necessity for marriage at the time. Without dowries, the sisters faced the prospect of being sold into slavery or forced into prostitution. Upon hearing of their situation, Nicholas decided to help anonymously. On three separate occasions, Nicholas threw bags of gold coins through the family's window (or in some versions, down the chimney), providing the dowries needed for each sister to marry. This act of generosity and compassion solidified his reputation as a benefactor to the poor and is a key to his transformation into the modern figure of Santa Claus, with the image of gifts being secretly delivered during the night.



### 3. The Miracle of the Sailors

Another prominent miracle associated with Saint Nicholas involves his protection of sailors during a sea voyage bringing Nicolas to Palestine. During this voyage, a mighty storm assails the ship, perhaps as punishment to the faithless sailors who have mocked the pious saint. The storm is terrifying, and the crew despair. Amidst the violent winds, waves, and rain, Nicolas gathers the sailors in prayer, and the storm subsides. Saint Nicholas became the patron saint of sailors and travellers, with seafarers in particular invoking his name for protection during dangerous voyages.

### 4. The Pickled Boys

While travelling around his diocese Nicolas finds himself in an inn where a group of travellers have paused for the night. They invite the bishop to dine with them, but Nicolas stops them from eating, realising that the meat that they eat is in fact the flesh of three boys murdered and pickled by the butcher. Nicolas calls to the boys, "Timothy, Mark, and John, put your fleshly garments on!" and the boys come back to life, singing "Alleluia!". Many of the images of Nicholas include the boys standing in the pickling vat.



### 5. The Diverted Grain

During a great famine that Myra experienced in 311–312, a ship was in the port at anchor, loaded with wheat for the emperor in Constantinople. Nicholas invited the sailors to unload a part of the wheat to help in the time of need. The sailors at first disliked the request, because the wheat had to be weighed accurately and delivered to the emperor. Only when Nicholas promised them that they would not suffer any loss for their consideration did the sailors agree. When they arrived later in the capital, they made a surprising find: the weight of the load had not changed, although the wheat removed in Myra was enough for two full years and could even be used for sowing.

Saint Nicholas' reputation for generosity and his association with gift-giving created the foundation for his transformation into Santa Claus. This transformation was gradual and varied between cultures, but it was rooted in the celebration of his feast day on December 6th, a day on which many European Christians would exchange gifts in his honour.

#### 1. The Dutch Influence: Sinterklaas

The Dutch played a crucial role in the evolution of Saint Nicholas into Santa Claus. In the Netherlands, Saint Nicholas became known as "Sinterklaas," a figure who would arrive by boat from Spain on the eve of his feast day, delivering presents to well-behaved children and leaving coal or potatoes for those who misbehaved. Dutch settlers brought the tradition of Sinterklaas to America in the 17th century, where it began to merge with other cultural influences.

#### 2. The American Santa Claus

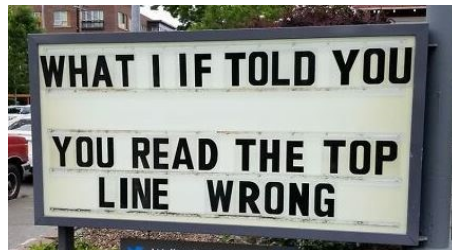
The transformation of Sinterklaas into the modern American Santa Claus was cemented in the 19th century, thanks to the influence of several writers and artists. The 1823 poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (better known as "The Night Before Christmas") by Clement Clarke Moore helped to popularize the image of a jolly, rotund man who travels by sleigh on Christmas Eve, delivering presents to children all over the world. This depiction was further solidified by the famous illustrations of Thomas Nast, a 19th-century political cartoonist, who added elements such as the red suit and the North Pole residence to the image of Santa Claus.

#### 3. Commercialization and Global Spread

By the early 20th century, Santa Claus had become an integral part of Christmas celebrations in the United States, and his image spread around the world through literature, advertising, and media. Coca-Cola's advertising campaigns in the 1930s played a major role in popularizing the modern image of Santa Claus, presenting him as the familiar figure dressed in red, with a white beard and a cheerful demeanour. This commercialized version of Santa Claus became a symbol of the holiday season, transcending religious and cultural boundaries.

Ken Curwen with assistance from Chat GPT

## Humour



I gave the rest of my pastry to two pigeons. I smiled when I realized that I had filled two birds with one scone.

Jehovah witnesses training camp.



### Teachers' Tales

The teacher asked the class to make a sentence using "lovely." One girl said,

"It's lovely to be pregnant."

"Why did you say that, Elouise."

She replied, "I heard my Mum tell Dad she was pregnant and he said, "That's lovely!"

My grandson, Elijah heard that I used to be a teacher. He asked me, "What was your name when you were a teacher?"

Johnny boasted to Eric, "My Dad and I know everything. Ask me something?"

Eric asked, "What is the capital of Iraq?"

Johnny replied, "My Dad knows that."

"How do you spell toad?" one of my first-grade students asked.

"We just read a story about a toad," I said, then helped him spell it out: "T-O-A-D."

Satisfied, he finished writing the story he'd begun, then read it aloud: "I toad my mama I wanted a dog for my birthday."

### Further Information

#### SeniorNet Committee

The listing of the 2023-2024 committee can be found [here](#).

#### Computer Repairs

A listing of repairers who our members have found satisfactory can be found [here](#).

**Disclaimer:** While we have made every effort to give accurate information and tips in this Newsletter, we cannot guarantee that their use will provide the desired results in all circumstances. In no event will the Editor or SeniorNet be liable for direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages arising out of the use of URLs and tips given in this newsletter. *We recommend members verify details before acting on information or suggestions contained herein.* The Editor would appreciate being informed of any erroneous information so that it may be corrected.

Ken Curwen. Newsletter Editor.