Ipswich

Senior Net

"Seniors helping seniors use computers and the internet"

SeniorNet Association Inc.

www.seniornet.com.au

President's View

Social Events

Lunches

Christmas Function

This is planned for early December. Details are still being finalised and you will be notified of them by email .

We are now settling into our new training venue at the Congregational Church Sunday School Hall (117 Wildey Street Raceview). We thank Pastor Billy for his welcome and advice in this difficult time.

Come along to Wildey Street on Friday 4th October at 10.00am to our Coffee and Chat in our new Venue. Brooke Sempf from Suncare Community Services will share more information on Services available to Seniors.

You will notice in the programme that we are committed as an organisation to take part in two Expos for Seniors Month this year. The first, Cuppa Expo, is taking place from 9.30am to 1pm on Wednesday 23rd October at the Ipswich Showgrounds, with free entry and refreshments for seniors who attend. The second, Whitehill Church of Christ Expo, will run from 9.00am to 12.00am on Thursday 31st October with various speakers and light refreshments for seniors. **Please try to assist by coming to these events and by putting in some time to meet and greet visitors to our stalls.**

Planning is well under way for our Christmas celebration in November (see information in the adjacent column). Thanks to Gabrielle, our Social Coordinator, for setting this up. We will also be farewelling Barbara Bottenberg, a long-term member who has served as Newsletter Editor and as Social Coordinator.

I would like to remind you that your 2025 membership renewal is due in January. Margaret-anne, our Membership Officer, will send you the details at the end of the year.

John McVeigh

Sunday 13th October

Lunch at Racehorse Hotel, Bundamba. Seniors meals $18.

Sunday 20th October

Lunch at Springfield Garden Restaurant (Chinese). Lunch specials from $13

Just Friends Social Group

Sunday 27th October

Coach trip to Stradbroke Island

BYO morning tea on the ferry, then visit Point Lookout. Lunch at the Amity Point Community Club. Return on the 4.30pm ferry. Cost including lunch and ferry $70. Pickup 8.00am Redbank Plaza

Sunday 24th November

Coach trip to Glengallan Homestead

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

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

SeniorNet Workshop Programme: October—November 2024

Congregational Church Sunday School Hall at 117 Wildey Street, Raceview

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

Summaries of the workshop topics start on the next page

Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	2nd October Excel: Advanced Formulas *Ken Curwen*	3rd October Introduction to Computing 8 *John McVeigh*	4th October Coffee & Chat *Brooke Sempf*
7th October	9th October iPad/iPhone: Photos * *Joan McKenzie*	10th October Introduction to Computing 9 *John McVeigh*	11th October DNA Interest Group *Bette Fritz*
14th October	16th October Android: Chrome & Wikipedia * *Ken Curwen*	17th October Introduction to Computing 10 *John McVeigh*	18th October WW1 & WW2 Records *Esmae Mander*
21st October	23rd October Cuppa Expo	24th October Introduction to Computing 11 *John McVeigh*	25th October Trove *Bette Fritz*
28th October	30th October Android: Photo Editing * *Ken Curwen*	31st October C of C Expo	1st November Coffee and Chat *TBA*
4th November	6th November iPad/iPhone: Troubleshooting * *Joan McKenzie*	7th November Introduction to Computing Q&A *John McVeigh*	8th November DNA Interest Group *Bette Fritz*
11th November	13th November Calendars in Word *Ken Curwen*	14th November Introduction to Computing Q&A *John McVeigh*	15th November Life and Times 3 *Esmae Mander*
18th November	20th November iPad/iPhone: eBooks * *Joan McKenzie*	21st November	22nd November
25th November	27th November Shop Safely On Line *Ken Curwen*	28th November	29th 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* 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

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

Workshop Topics Described

Android: Chrome & Wikipedia

You are sure to have used the Chrome browser but there are many tricks and tips that are far from obvious and will be covered in this workshop. You will also learn the comparative place of Wikipedia in finding information.

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.

Excel: Advanced Formulas

This workshop will explain how difficult tasks were solved using Excel.   Some of the formulas have only been introduced recently; learn how to use them

Introduction to Computing 8

In this session we study selling on line . With the projected growth of selling on line cautions need to be addressed. How to Sell on line Safely, with Security and assuredly, it's an opportunity that we examine and that cannot be ignored.

Introduction to Computing 9

Organise your personal photos within your Laptop, NOT within your mobile phone. Gather all your Photos from different Folders, Drives, and Devices into one Central Location - this could be a dedicated Folder on your Laptop or an External Hard Drive. Organize your Photos by Year or Event, by Descriptive, with Keywords or Tags; consider cloud Storage Services and Backup regularly.

Introduction to Computing 10

What are QR Codes; What are their uses as IT tools…their purpose be it for Research, Marketing, Tourism, Mobile Payments, the list goes on. Are QR Codes safe to use?

Introduction to Computing 11

Voice recording apps for transcribing and recording etc. All Hands Free for quickly recording your thoughts before they slip away, either with a Friend, during a meeting, or note-taking a lecture.   Then converting Voice to Text as a communication tool.

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: Photos

I am not a 'photo' person, so this workshop will just deal with the basics of capturing, editing and storing photos using an iPad or iPhone

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.

Trove

This will be our last Trove workshop for 2024. We will revise the previous topics covered throughout the year and hopefully answer any questions you may have on any of them. Come prepared with your questions or just refresh your memory with a quick overview on one or two of the topics of your choice.

WW1 & WW2 Records

•   Do you have one or more forbears who served their country during WW1 & WW2?
•   Where did they serve?
•   What can be found?
•   All data is free.

Attestation papers reveal personal details, signature, next of kin and address, place and date of enlisting, previous employment, departure, places of service, health record and hospitalisation, illness, record of leave, general conduct, discharge, medals awarded, personal letters by family and or service person (not all records contain letters). DVA documents, and cover page of Will if held. Photo of service person if available. Unit diaries are also available and contain unit movements.

Attend this workshop, find out how and where to search then save to your documents.

Tech Talk

Turn it off and on again

I know it has become something of a joke but the old advice 'Have you turned it off and on again?' works a surprising number of times when faced with strange computer behaviour. It also often works with other devices you may not think of. Many of the devices and appliances in our home are on all the time. Even when you press the Off button on a remote, you don't really turn the device off. It is just placed in standby mode. Over time, small corruptions can occur in the memory of these devices which can cause problems.

I recently had a problem with my television which is used for free-to-air television and also connected to my media computer to view movies and listen to music. While the picture was fine, I had no sound. I tried a few things none of which worked. Finally, out of frustration more than anything, I turned the television off at the wall and then back on again. Everything worked! And it has continued to work fine since.

So next time you are asked 'Have you turned it off and on again?' don't just dismiss it. It does work and works with many devices other than computers.

Phil Buchanan

Alternatives to subscription-based software

Once upon a time, you bought a piece of software and used it forever – or at least until perhaps a new version of the operating system came out which broke it. I use a copy of Corel's PhotoImpact from 2007 which still works perfectly. From the software company's perspective this does not make sense – there is no cash flow from a product that a user bought once and uses for years. In the past, feature updates would be used to entice a user to pay for a new version. Now the software industry has discovered the subscription model with more and more titles moving in this direction.

While the subscription model does have some advantages to users (cheaper initial cost, always having the latest version, access to features such as additional cloud storage), not everyone wants to pay on a monthly or yearly basis and over time this cost can be significant. Here are some free alternatives to subscription-based software.

Microsoft 365 If all you need is a word processor, spreadsheet and/or a presentation/slide show program then **LibreOffice** has you covered. LibreOffice has been around for years and is very well supported. It has an interface similar to older versions of Microsoft Office. It can open Microsoft Office files and will save in Microsoft Office format. You can get even better compatibility if you tweak some of the settings.

Outlook Outlook is a powerful program and is more suited to a business environment than a home. It is a complex program and this complexity can be problematic when things go wrong. **Thunderbird** (from the makers of Mozilla Firefox) is a free email program with all the functionality a home user would need. **eMClient** is another popular option. The free version does have some limitations but it is also available for iOS and Android.

Photoshop The cost of a subscription to Photoshop puts it out of the reach for most home users ($14-$33/month). If your needs are modest, then *Photos*, already part of Windows 10/11, may be all you need. If you need something with more features, then **Paint.NET** should fit the bill. Another alternative is **Photopea** which has an interface similar to Photoshop. In addition to being a powerful program, Photopea works in a web browser which means it can run on any web-enabled device (although for best results a large screen and mouse/stylus and keyboard are recommended). Once started, Photopea runs completely on your device – none of your files are uploaded to the Internet. There are good resources on the Photopea site on how to use. Photopea is ad supported which you may find distracting (or use an ad blocker like **ublock origin**).

Antivirus/Security All the well-known programs are subscription based and also coerce you into signing up for autorenewal. Before changing to an alternative make sure you are not committed to autorenewal otherwise you may end up paying for something you no longer use. Once you remove the program, *Microsoft Defender*, already built into Windows, will become active. For most people Microsoft Defender is perfectly adequate. If you want an alternative, try **BitDefender**. This is well regarded in independent reviews. I have been using both the free and paid versions for some time and have had no problems.

Backup I have been a long-term user of *Acronis TrueImage*. The latest versions are now subscription based. Fortunately the last version I paid for continues to work but I have been looking at alternatives. My original preferred option was **AOMEI Backupper**. It still works well but in the latest versions they have removed some features I consider important. Another option is **Hasleo Backup Suite**. This is a relatively new program and the most full-featured of the free programs. At some point it could become a paid program but is completely free for now.

Phil Buchanan

Artificial Intelligence

Introduction

Definition: Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems. These processes include learning (the acquisition of information and rules for using the information), reasoning (using rules to reach approximate or definite conclusions), and self-correction.

Objective: The primary goal of AI is to create systems that can function intelligently and independently, enabling machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence.

History of AI

Early Concepts: The concept of artificial beings endowed with intelligence dates back to ancient myths and stories. However, the formal study of AI began in the mid-20th century.

1950s: Alan Turing proposed the Turing Test to determine a machine's ability to exhibit intelligent behavior indistinguishable from a human. Can you chat with an AI and believe it is a human?

1960s-1970s: Development of early AI programs and algorithms, including simple problem-solving and expert systems.

1980s: Introduction of machine learning techniques and increased computational power facilitated more complex AI applications.

1990s-2000s: Advancements in data storage, processing capabilities, and the internet led to significant progress in AI, including notable achievements like IBM's Deep Blue defeating chess champion Garry Kasparov.

2010s-Present: Emergence of deep learning and big data has propelled AI into mainstream applications across various industries.

Types of AI

Narrow AI: This type of AI is designed to perform specific tasks, such as facial recognition, language translation, or playing chess.

General AI: This hypothetical type of AI would be able to perform any intellectual task that a human can.

Superintelligence: This is a hypothetical AI that would surpass human intelligence in all aspects.

AI Techniques

Machine Learning: This involves training algorithms on large datasets to identify patterns and make predictions.

> **Supervised Learning:**
>
> The model is trained on labelled data.
>
> Used for tasks like classification and regression.
>
> **Unsupervised Learning:**
>
> The model works with unlabelled data to identify patterns and relationships.
>
> Applications include clustering and anomaly detection.
>
> **Reinforcement Learning:**
>
> The model learns through trial and error by receiving rewards or penalties.
>
> Commonly used in robotics and game AI.

Deep Learning: A subset of machine learning that uses neural networks with multiple layers to learn complex patterns.

Natural Language Processing (NLP): This deals with the interaction between computers and human language.

Computer Vision: This involves teaching computers to interpret and understand visual information.

Applications of AI

Healthcare:

> Disease diagnosis through medical imaging analysis.
>
> Personalized treatment plans and drug discovery.
>
> Virtual nursing assistants and patient monitoring systems.

Finance:

 Fraud detection and risk assessment.

 Algorithmic trading and financial forecasting.

 Customer service chatbots and personalized banking services.

Manufacturing:

 Automation of assembly lines through robotics.

 Quality control and defect detection.

 Supply chain optimization.

Transportation

 Development of autonomous vehicles.

 Traffic management and route optimization.

 Predictive maintenance of transportation infrastructure.

Customer Service:

 Chatbots

 Virtual assistants

 Personalized recommendations.

Entertainment:

 Content recommendation systems for streaming services.

 Procedural content generation in video games.

 Enhanced visual effects and CGI in films.

Education:

 Adaptive learning platforms that personalize educational content.

 Automated grading systems and administrative tasks.

 Virtual tutors and support for special needs education.

Benefits of AI

Efficiency and Productivity: Automation of routine tasks leads to increased productivity and reduced human error.

Enhanced Decision Making: Data-driven insights enable better and faster decision-making processes.

Innovation: AI drives innovation by enabling new products and services.

Accessibility: Assistive technologies improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Economic Growth: AI contributes to economic development through new job creation and industries.

Ethical Considerations

Bias: AI systems can be biased if the data they are trained on is biased.

Job Displacement: AI could lead to job displacement in certain industries.

Autonomous Weapons: The development of autonomous weapons raises ethical concerns about their use.

Privacy: AI systems can collect and analyse large amounts of data, raising privacy concerns.

Future of AI

The future of AI is promising, with the potential to revolutionize many aspects of our lives. However, it is important to consider the ethical implications and ensure that AI is developed and used responsibly.

Written by Google Gemini and Chat GPT - edited by Ken Curwen

Potty History

Wrong Way Corrigan

When driving from Riverlink to Brothers last week I was told I was "going the wrong way". That triggered a response from a dark corner of my brain…"wrong way"… who?..."Corrigan"; having successfully reached Brothers I double-checked, and found this unlikely story - Ed.

In the annals of aviation history, few figures have captured the imagination of the public quite like Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan (pictured on right). His impromptu flight across the Atlantic in 1938 defied official approval, regulations, and even common sense—earning him a reputation as both a daredevil and an everyman hero. This story was not just about a single flight, but about an era of risk-takers and pioneers, determined to push the boundaries of what was possible in aviation.

Early Life and Passion for Aviation

Born Clyde Groce Corrigan on January 22, 1907, in Galveston, Texas, Corrigan's interest in aviation was piqued during his childhood. His curiosity about flight came at a critical moment in history. The Wright brothers had already proven that powered flight was possible, but the world was still just beginning to explore the possibilities of long-distance aviation.

Corrigan's family moved frequently, but he eventually settled in Los Angeles, California, where he worked as a construction worker. His journey toward aviation began in earnest in 1925, when he paid a mere 50 cents for a 10-minute ride in a Curtiss JN-4 biplane, an experience that changed his life. Shortly thereafter, Corrigan decided to pursue flight training, eventually earning his pilot's license. His mechanical aptitude also became evident, and he found work as an aircraft mechanic.

Ryan Aeronautical Company operated from the airfield where Corrigan learned to fly, and hired him for their San Diego factory in 1926. Corrigan was responsible for assembling the wing and installing the fuel tanks and instrument panel of Charles Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis. Corrigan and his colleague Dan Burnett increased the lift of the aircraft by extending the wing 10 feet (3. 0 m) longer than any previous Ryan design. Corrigan pulled the chocks from the Spirit of St Louis when Lindbergh took off from San Diego to New York to prepare for his historic flight.

Witnessing this groundbreaking achievement made a lasting impression on Corrigan, stirring a desire to make a similar flight himself. However, he was always more of a maverick than the meticulous Lindbergh.

When Ryan Aeronautical moved to St. Louis in October 1928, Corrigan stayed in San Diego as a mechanic for the newly formed Airtech School. With more than fifty students flying each day, Corrigan could get flight time only during his lunch break. During his short flights, Corrigan performed aerobatic stunts. His favourite manoeuvre was the chandelle, in strings of up to a dozen, spiralling from close to the ground. The company disapproved and prohibited him from performing stunts in the company aircraft. Corrigan simply flew to a field further south where his stunts could not be seen by his employers.

His dream of soloing across the Atlantic was repeatedly stymied by bureaucratic red tape, strict government regulations, and a healthy dose of scepticism from aviation officials who doubted his capabilities.

The Flight That Wasn't Supposed to Happen

By the late 1930s, Corrigan had acquired his own aircraft, a battered Curtiss Robin OX-5 monoplane built in 1929. The plane (as shown on the right), though sturdy, was far from state-of-the-art and had seen better days. Undeterred by its condition, Corrigan spent years modifying and upgrading it for long-distance flight. However, when he applied to the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA) for permission to make a transatlantic crossing, he was repeatedly denied. Officials cited the poor condition of his aircraft and safety concerns. Despite these setbacks, Corrigan refused to give up on his dream.

On July 9, 1938, Corrigan filed a flight plan to fly from Floyd Bennett Field in New York to Long Beach, California. He made it to New York without incident and spent several days preparing his aircraft for the return leg of the trip. On July 17, Corrigan took off from New York, ostensibly headed west for California. However, just a few hours into his flight, Corrigan seemed to have deviated drastically off course. Instead of turning westward, his plane headed due east. For the next 28 hours, Corrigan flew across the Atlantic, arriving in Dublin, Ireland, on July 18, much to the shock of authorities and the public.

When asked about his unexpected arrival, Corrigan claimed that he had made a navigation error. He insisted that low visibility and faulty navigation instruments had led him to believe he was headed toward California, when in fact, he had been flying in the opposite direction. Whether this was true or not remains one of aviation's great mysteries. Most people suspected that Corrigan had deliberately made the flight, ignoring the CAA's disapproval, and counting on his maverick reputation to charm his way out of any legal consequences.

The Aftermath and Public Response

Despite the clear violation of aviation rules, the public reaction to Corrigan's unplanned transatlantic flight was overwhelmingly positive. At a time when much of the world was mired in economic hardship due to the Great Depression, Corrigan's story provided a much-needed dose of levity and inspiration. Newspapers across the U.S. quickly dubbed him "Wrong Way Corrigan," and he became a folk hero overnight. The New York Post as shown on the right ingeniously had a reversed headline!

Instead of facing serious penalties, Corrigan was celebrated for his daring. Upon his return to the U.S., he was greeted with a ticker-tape parade in New York City—an honour typically reserved for heads of state and war heroes. His 1938 parade drew more spectators than Lindbergh's triumphant return after his official transatlantic flight in 1927. It was as if the public saw in Corrigan the embodiment of their own rebellious spirit—the little guy who thumbed his nose at bureaucracy and took fate into his own hands.

Although Corrigan was officially grounded temporarily, no harsh consequences followed his "mistake." In fact, he was able to leverage his newfound fame into financial gain, writing an autobiography, "That's My Story," and appearing in advertisements and public events. He continued to fly after his famous flight, but he never again made the same waves in the aviation world. He quietly faded from the spotlight, enjoying a relatively private life until his death in 1995.

Written by Chat GPT with Wikipedia excerpts, edited by Ken Curwen
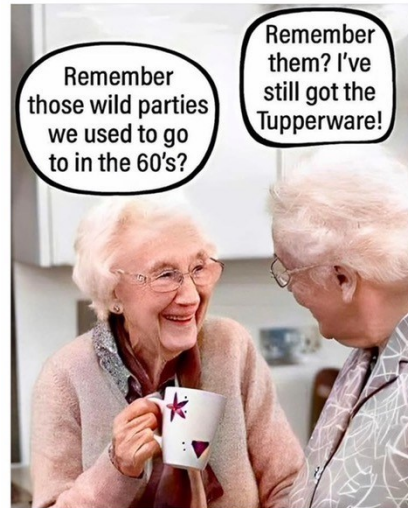
Humour

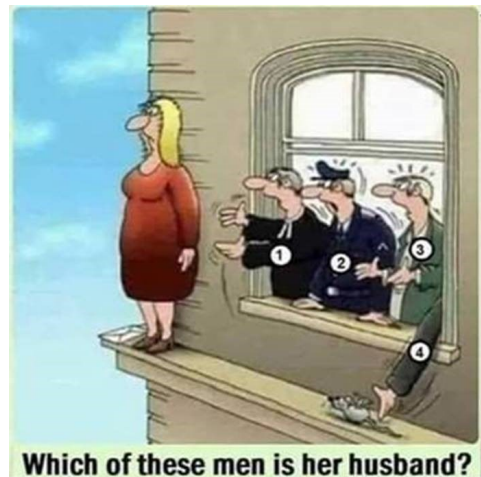I try to avoid politics, but this is so clever and topical - editor   And more on cats...

Clock for Retirees

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.