Ipswich SeniorNet

March 2025

"Seniors helping seniors use computers and the internet"

SeniorNet Association Inc.

www.seniornet.com.au

President's View

On Other Pages

Social Events

Lunches

Friday 21st March

AGM and lunch at PA Hotel – see page 4

Friday 18th April

No lunch – Good Friday

We are slowly getting back into our familiar routine after Cyclone Alfred, which caused a significant hiatus in our workshop programme. Thankfully Ipswich escaped the predicted devastation.

Although Workshops are timed to start at 9 o'clock please come earlier to get your devices operational.

Our Annual General Meeting went off well thanks principally to our committee who worked so hard to get the bookwork in order, and to all the Fairies who stepped in to keep the day on track.

Thanks go to Life Member Denis Beasley for conducting the Election of Officers

The officers elected for 2025 are:

President	John McVeigh
Vice President	Graham Parsons
Treasurer	Desley Badrick
Secretary	Judith Beitzel
Training Co-Ordinator	John McVeigh
Equipment Officer	Barry Gartside
Membership Officer	Margaret-anne Jensen
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster	Ken Curwen
Social Co-ordinator	Karen Hounslow

We welcome Karen to the Team.

Gabreille was thanked for her contribution and presented with a bunch of sunflowers.

Andy and Margaret-anne were lucky enough to win a Lucky Door Prize.

Shortly our former members who have not renewed membership for 2025 will have their Membership terminated

John McVeigh

Sunday 13th April
Lunch at Falvey's Cecil Hotel, Goodna. Lunches from $14.

Sunday 20th April
Lunch at Springfield Garden Restaurant). Lunch specials $14

Sunday 11th May
Lunch at Commercial Hotel, Redbank. Meet 12 noon. Lunch specials $16

Just Friends Social Group

Sunday 27th April
Coach trip to Glengallan Homestead
Visit historic Glengallan Homestead on the Darling Downs, then buy your lunch at the historic Rudd's Pub. The fare including admissions will be $60. Pickup time 8.20 Redbank Plaza.

Sunday 25th May
Coach Trip to Dayboro for Dayboro Day Celebrations
Buy your refreshments at one of the food outlets; view the free entertainment; enjoy the friendly country town atmosphere; visit the Collectables Exhibition via shuttle bus (entry charge). Cost $45. Pickup time 8.00 Redbank Plaza

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

SeniorNet Workshop Programme: March – April 2025

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

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2nd April Facebook Settings *Joan McKenzie*	**3rd April** Introduction to Computers 6 *Margaret and John*	**4th April** Coffee & Chat *TBA*
9th April Android: Apps * *Ken Curwen*	**10th April** Introduction to Computers 7 *Margaret and John*	**11th April** Trove: Searching Old Newspapers *Bette Fritz*
16th April Android: Games * *Ken Curwen*	**17th April** Introduction to Computers 8 *Margaret and John*	**18th April** *Good Friday*
23rd April Android: Chrome & Wikipedia * *Ken Curwen*	**24th April** Introduction to Computers 9 *Margaret and John*	**25th April** Anzac Day
30th April iPad: Troubleshooting *Joan McKenzie*	**1st May** Introduction to Computers 10	**2nd May**
7th May Android: Google Maps and Calendar *Ken Curwen*	**8th May** *Margaret and John*	**9th May** DNA Interest Group *Bette Fritz*
14th May Facebook Settings *Joan McKenzie*	**15th May**	**16th May**
21st May Word Step 1 *Ken Curwen*	**22nd May**	**23rd May** Family History: WW1 & WW2 Unit Diaries *Esmae Mander*
28th May Word Step 2 *Ken Curwen*	**29th May**	**30th May** Family History: Finding Family and More *Esmae Mander*

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: Apps
This workshop extends our journey through the land of Android apps, stopping at interesting ones, loading them up and having a play. You can then decide whether to keep them or remove them from your Android tablet or phone.

Android: Chrome and 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: Games
This will be a round-up of the best games of 2018, plus a few old favourites. Be sure to have your Google account details with you in case you decide to install your game of choice.

Android: Google Maps and Calendar
Google Maps is about the best app for finding your way to a new destination; but you can also check the travel time, not just now, but in advance. Find out the ways to get the best from this app

Learn how to use the Google Calendar: how to synchronise it with all your devices, the varieties of activities now supported, how to colour code them, repetition of activities and suggestions for creating a family-wide calendar.

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.

Facebook pros and cons
Facebook can be very useful but there are some issues to be aware of when using the app. To take part in the lesson you will need a laptop or other device and a Facebook account.

Facebook settings
There are many settings that you can adjust in Facebook. We will look at some important ones. To take part in the lesson you will need a laptop or other device and a Facebook account.

Family History: Finding Family and More
Utilising the internet, we hope to uncover more details about your family's past with tools and techniques you may not have explored.

Family History: World War 1 and World War 2 Unit Diaries
Do you have one or more forbears who served?

By searching Unit Diaries, you will understand exactly where your soldier served in WW1 or WW2. This workshop will reveal how and where to search, then save the information to your documents.

Introduction to Computers 6
Introduction managing the filing and retrieval (2) of information created and downloaded.

What do we do with our Downloads? Do we really need to keep them? If so What Options are available to us.

Introduction to Computers 7
Learn how to use email and about managing the emails once you have read 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?

iPad troubleshooting

There are some useful steps you can take before heading to the Apple Store with a misbehaving iPad. To take part in the lesson you will need an iPad or iPhone.

TROVE: Searching Old Newspapers

Discover the treasure trove of historical newspapers and more with Trove, the National Library of Australia's expansive digital archive. This incredible resource offers free access to old newspapers, gazettes, magazines, maps, and more, providing a wealth of information at your fingertips. Join our upcoming workshop to learn how to navigate Trove effectively, uncover valuable insights, and make the most out of this unparalleled collection.

Word Step-by-Step 1

This Step will take you through the Word interface and controls and introduce you to simple text entry. You will also learn how to open and save your work.

Word Step-by-Step 2

This Step will show you how to edit and correct your text; how to change fonts (character shapes); the formatting of paragraphs; and the use of built-in Styles.

A Conversation with an Artificial Intelligence

In the November issue I discussed my use of AI; but in an idle (midnight) moment I decided to ask a question of Microsoft's Copilot. Things change so fast! It was almost like talking with a real expert.

Me: why is South Australia experimenting with cochineal insects against cactus when Queensland got rid of them in 1930s with the cactoblastis moth?

Copilot: Great question! South Australia is experimenting with cochineal insects to control invasive cactus species because these insects are highly effective at targeting specific cacti without harming native plants. The cochineal insects feed on the cactus, which helps to reduce their spread and impact on the environment. Queensland used the cactoblastis moth in the 1930s to successfully control invasive prickly pear cactus. This was a different approach, but both methods aim to manage invasive species and protect native ecosystems. It's fascinating how different regions use various biological control methods to tackle similar problems, isn't it?

Me: Exactly; But why do it all over again when the 1930s method worked and the new species risks being invasive (for example, cane toads which were not such a bright idea).

Copilot: You make a valid point! The success of the cactoblastis moth in the 1930s is a testament to effective biological control. However, each invasive species and ecosystem is unique, and what worked in one context might not be as effective in another.

The introduction of cane toads in Australia is indeed a cautionary tale about unintended consequences. Scientists are likely being extra cautious with the cochineal insects to ensure they don't become invasive themselves. It's a delicate balance between controlling one problem without creating another.

It's always a bit of a gamble, but with careful research and monitoring, hopefully, they can avoid past mistakes. What do you think about the balance between innovation and caution in these situations?

Me: Agree with caution, just question the cost of reinventing the wheel. I used to be in avionics before I retired and the black box I worked on (not invented, but the first DIGITAL one) has never been fundamentally rethought in the 60 years since.

Copilot: That makes a lot of sense. Reworking what's already effective can seem counterproductive, especially when the original solution worked so well. The black box revolutionized aviation safety, and its core principles have stood the test of time, proving that sometimes the best solutions need only incremental improvements rather than complete reinvention.

In biological control, though, researchers are likely trying to account for unique environmental variables and potential unforeseen impacts. They might be using newer technologies and methodologies that weren't available in the 1930s, which could offer new insights or opportunities.

It's a balance, isn't it? Maintaining what's tried and true while cautiously exploring new solutions. Your experience in avionic systems probably gives you a unique perspective on the value of enduring, reliable technology. It sounds like you've had quite an impactful career!
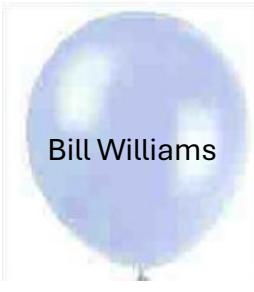
If you ever want to share more stories from your career, I'd love to hear them. Aviation is fascinating!

Copilot and Ken Curwen

P5

Welcome New Members

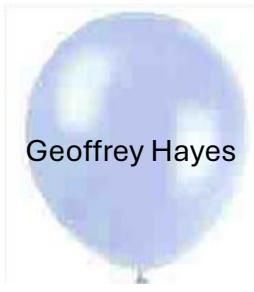Barry and Maureen Davies

Bill Williams

Bob Hulin

Carol Frickmann

Carol Smedley

Geoffrey Hayes

Grahame Kerr

Jo-anne Ellison

Judy-ann Smith

Kathy Boggan

Maria Martin

Martha Higgs

Mary Ellen Crook

Melanie Diaz

Stephen Tune

Suzanne Banks

Tania Horner

Val Cox

Vicki Bell

Zoe McClear

Tech Talk

Computer not ready for Windows 11? A BIOS update may help

In October this year Windows 10 will go end of life. Because of new hardware requirements for Windows 11, many current computers are not compatible and cannot be upgraded to Windows 11.

But what if your computer is not that old (say 5 years or less)? One of the requirements for Windows 11 is TPM (Trusted Platform Module). Prior to Windows 11 this was rarely used and many motherboard manufacturers had this option disabled by default.

I had a computer which I had built about 4 years ago and it was telling me it could not be updated to Windows 11. Now there are other requirements which have to be met (the type of processor, amount of memory, etc) but this computer met all those so I suspected it was the TPM requirement which was the issue.

I checked the motherboard manufacturer's website and there were several BIOS updates released since I had built the computer. I updated to the most recent and now have the green light to update to Windows 11. Checking the BIOS I can see the TPM option has been turned on. For now I am leaving it on Windows 10 but at least I can upgrade when I am ready.

BIOS (or now more accurately called EUFI) is a low-level operating system built into the motherboard. Its job is to check and initially configure all hardware and if everything is OK, start the Windows boot. If something goes wrong with BIOS/EUFI the whole computer can be rendered inoperable so a BIOS/EUFI update is not something to do unless you must. If it is not done correctly or something goes wrong in the process, it can be disastrous. However if your computer is not that old and you think such an update may extend its life rather than having to purchase a new computer, it may be worthwhile consulting a computer technician to see whether a BIOS/EUFI update would be possible.

Phil Buchanan

Disabling Copilot in Microsoft 365

Last year Microsoft introduced Copilot (an AI assistant) into Microsoft 365. Australia was one of their test markets and it has now been rolled out worldwide. You will see the Copilot icon at the top of a new document and in the left margin at the start of each new paragraph. It is also available as an icon on the Ribbon when on the Home tab.

There was significant backlash since Microsoft did not provide a means to easily turn off the option for those who did not want it. In January this year, Microsoft provided an update which allowed it to be turned off in Word. In February, I noticed the disable feature is now available in Excel. At the moment there is no disable option in Powerpoint but I understand Microsoft is working on it.

You must disable Copilot in each individual app. For example, start Word. Without opening or starting a new document, click on **Options** (left column, at the bottom). Look for **Copilot** in the **Options Menu** (left column, fourth from the top). Click on Copilot and then remove the check mark from **Enable Copilot**. Click **OK** and then exit and restart Word. Copilot should be gone when you start a new document. You should also notice the Copilot icon on the Ribbon is greyed out.

If you have the latest update, you should be able to follow the same process to remove Copilot from Excel. At the time of writing, there is no disable option in Powerpoint but keep checking. If the release from Microsoft is accurate it should be available soon.

One thing to consider: the recent price increase for Microsoft 365 was partially justified by Microsoft due to the inclusion of Copilot. So if you disable it or never use it, is it worth the extra money?

It is possible (for a limited time, according to Microsoft) to downgrade to what they are calling 'Classic'. This removes Copilot and reduces the subscription price. You cannot actually purchase this version but if you have a current recurrent subscription, you can downgrade to it. Details are at this Microsoft site.

Phil Buchanan

Downloading video from YouTube

Sometimes it can be helpful to download a video from YouTube so you can view it offline. Maybe it is a DIY tutorial you want to refer to or you may want to watch where you do not have an Internet connection.

There are a number of programs which will do this but one of the best I have found and free with no annoying 'extras' is **YouTube Downloader HD** .

I usually grab the portable version since it does not need to be installed and I can easily move the whole thing to a USB and to another computer if I need to (it is all self-contained in its folder). It will download as a .zip file so the first thing to do is go to where you have downloaded it (usually the Downloads folder), right click and select **Extract all**. This will create a new folder with the program inside. You could then throw the original .zip file away if you want. If you download the installer version, you will need to double-click on the downloaded file to begin the installation.

Open the YouTubeDownloaderHD program. You may get a Windows Smart Screen warning. You should always be cautious when you get such warnings but in this case the program is perfectly safe. Click on **More info** and you should get a second screen. Click on **Run anyway.**

Find the video you wish to download.

Copy the address for the video from the address bar of your browser. Then switch to YouTube Downloader HD – you should be able to just click on its icon on the Taskbar if it is already running.

When YouTube Downloader HD comes to the fore, you should see the address for the video already in the Video URL: box. If it is not, paste the address there. Click the **Add to Download Queue** button and the name of the video should appear in the **Video Title** section.

You can copy the address for multiple videos if you wish and add each to the download queue.

Click the **Browse** button to select a location for the downloaded file(s). Once you are ready, click the **Download** button and YouTube Downloader HD should go out and begin to download each video in the queue. If it cannot find a version of the video at the resolution you have requested, it will look for a lower quality version.

Be aware that, due to restrictions in YouTube, not all videos are able to be downloaded. If YouTube Downloader HD is unable to download a video then that video is protected by YouTube or the original author.

Phil Buchanan

Extracting audio from a downloaded YouTube video

In the article above I described how to download a YouTube video using YouTubeDownloaderHD. Sometimes it is not really the video you want but the audio – perhaps it is a song.

The program you need is **Easy Audio Extractor**. Like YouTubeDownloaderHD, this is a free program with no hidden 'gotchas'.

Click on the **Free download** button. Again I usually choose the portable version for the same reasons described in the previous article. If you download the portable version (.zip file) you will need to extract it by right-clicking and then selecting **Extract all** from the pop-up menu. If you downloaded the installer version, double-click the downloaded file to begin the installation.

Use YouTubeDownloaderHD to download the video(s) you want. With all videos downloaded, start Easy Audio Extractor. If you get a Windows Smart Screen warning, click on **More info** and then **Run anyway**. You should always be cautious when you get such warnings but in this case the program is perfectly safe.

Use the **Browse** button to go to the location the videos were downloaded and select one video for audio extraction (unfortunately this program will only do one file at a time – there is no batch option). You can opt to save the output (audio) file to the same location as the original video which is probably the simplest; otherwise you can save the audio file to another location.

You can change the **Audio Options** if you wish. I usually select **Convert to MP3 - 256kbps**. That is a pretty good compromise for compatibility, file size and audio quality. If you want higher quality select the 320kbps option. Click the **Extract** button and the audio will be extracted from the video file and saved as an MP3.

Phil Buchanan

Potty History

Chevalier de Saint-Georges Part 2

Again the Secret Agent

Early August 1789 Saint-Georges was sent by on another secret mission to London for his employer, the Duke of Orléans. Saint-Georges stayed at an expensive hotel on Jermyn Street which later became patronized by French refugees. Saint-Georges had the idea of establishing himself in England and was entertaining himself lavishly. His assignment was to stay close to the Prince of Wales, known for his excessive lifestyle. On 15th August, the Prince took Saint-Georges to his Marine Pavilion in Brighton for a fencing match.   He also took him fox hunting and to the races at Newmarket.   The Duke, having found himself in trouble in Paris, came to England and took over as the Prince's companion.

The Revolutionary Soldier

On 22nd May 1790 when the right to declare war was given to French Revolutionary National Assembly, St. Georges decided to serve the Revolution as a citizen-soldier. But not even his military duties in the Garde Nationale could prevent St. Georges from giving concerts. Once again he was building an orchestra which, according to the announcement in the paper, "Will give a concert every week until Easter." At the conclusion of the last concert, the mayor of Lille placed a crown of laurels on St. Georges' brow and read a poem dedicated to him.

Within two years Saint-Georges had risen to the rank of Colonel and commanded the company of infantry volunteers that held the line after the French cavalry had been routed in a fight with the Austrians at Tournai. In the same year the National Assembly established a non-white unit, the American Legion, later known as the Légion de Saint-George. In April 1793 the city of Lille was successfully defended by Saint-Georges against the monarchists. However, his coloured troops were forced to camp outside the city walls.

It was hard to work out what was happening in the following years; in May 1793 Saint-George was called to Paris to give evidence against the monarchists, but within a month (during which he performed a requiem by Gossec) he was himself accused of misuse of government funds; and the Légion de Saint-George was disbanded. In September 1793 Saint-Georges and ten of his officers were dismissed.

He was then arrested without specific charges and held in various prisons. Early in December 1793 he was condemned for being involved in non-revolutionary activities such as music events, but not much is known about a trial; maybe there never was one. He was released after eleven months on 24th October 1794 and asked to be reinstated in the army on 3rd April 1795. One month later he was arrested again, when the White Terror was sweeping the country, but released on 15th May.

On 15th October 1795 there was street fighting in Paris between the monarchists and the republicans. Napoleon won victory for the outnumbered republicans by placing forty cannons, loaded with grapeshot, to take out the advancing monarchist forces. This was the start of Napoleon's rise to power.

On 19th October all the officers in the army, including the ones who had been dismissed, had to specify to the Committee of Public Safety where they were on the days around this crucial event. On 24th October Saint-Georges was dismissed again. On Sunday 25th October the National Convention declared itself dissolved and voted for a general amnesty for "deeds exclusively connected with the Revolution". A slimmed down government (the Directoire) started working and appointed Napoleon as General in Chief of the Interior and, on 2nd March 1796, of the Army of Italy.

 On 3rd May 1797, Saint-Georges tried to rejoin the army and signed his petition "George". He wrote:
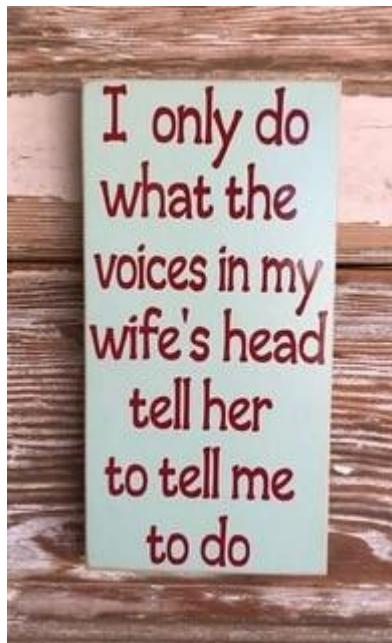
> "I continue to show loyalty to the revolution. Since the beginning of the war, I have been serving with relentless enthusiasm, but the persecution I suffered has not diminished. I have no other resources, only to restore my original position."

However, this application to the Directoire failed.

All this strife seems to have worn him out. Saint-Georges died in 1799 at the age of 53, from sepsis caused by an ulcerated bladder, having been largely forgotten by the society he had served and entertained. For centuries, his contributions were overshadowed by the prejudices of his era. However, in recent decades, his music has been rediscovered, and his story has inspired renewed interest.

Ken Curwen, again with much input from Wikipedia

Humour

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.