



May 2025

"Seniors helping seniors use computers and the internet"

SeniorNet
Association Inc.

www.seniornet.com.au

President's View

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Social Events



Lunches

Friday 16th May

Racehorse Hotel, Booval. Meet at noon. Seniors' meals \$18

Friday 20th June

Yamanto Tavern. Meet at noon. Seniors' meals \$17

Coffee & Chat

Friday 6th June

"Digital Legacy". Meet at 10.

While being conscious of the costs of computing, particularly for beginners, I often wonder is Microsoft Office 365 worth the \$110+ yearly subscription.

LibreOffice and Office 365 have similar purposes; if you need an alternative with strong document editing capabilities, consider LibreOffice.

Ken will be presenting Word on 21st May, 4th June and 18th June; Joan will be presenting Libre Office on 28th May, 11th and 25th June

Office 365 has built-in dictation with cloud-based processing and that may be more seamless if you find keyboard entry a bit slow.

The current Introduction to Computing series is coming to an end therefore we are looking for suggestions for a replacement or should we run the series from the beginning?

You may have had difficulty in some workshops with accessing the internet. It seemed that the wi fi signal from the main Church office, which we were welcome to use, is affected by the walls of the office and our training room in the hall; this would also be further affected by the weather.

You will be glad to hear that we have now invested in our own system within the hall which will be powered up as required.

We would also like to thank Wasna at the Telstra shop in Redbank Plaza for her help in setting up the system.

John McVeigh

Just Friends Social Group

Sunday 11th May

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

Sunday 18th May

Lunch at Parkview Club, Goodna. Meet 12 noon. Seniors' Lunches \$15.

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

Sunday 29th June

Coach Trip to Roma Street Parkland and Fort Lytton

Explore the gardens, lunch at the Queensport Tavern, and view the museums, and the defences at the mouth of the Brisbane River. Cost including lunch \$65. Pickup Redbank Plaza 8.00am

SeniorNet Workshop Programme: May – June 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 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7th May Google Maps and Calendar * <i>Ken Curwen</i> | 8th May Introduction to Computers 11 <i>Margaret-anne Jensen</i> | 9th May DNA Interest Group <i>Bette Fritz</i> |
| 14th May Facebook Settings <i>Joan McKenzie</i> | 15th May Introduction to Computers 12 <i>Margaret-anne Jensen</i> | 16th May Social Lunch <i>Racehorse Hotel</i> |
| 21st May Word Step 1 <i>Ken Curwen</i> | 22nd May | 23rd May Family History: WW1 & WW2 Unit Diaries <i>Esmae Mander</i> |
| 28th May LibreOffice 1 <i>Joan McKenzie</i> | 29th May | 30th May Family History: Finding Family and More <i>Esmae Mander</i> |
| 4th June Word Step 2 <i>Ken Curwen</i> | 5th June | 6th June Coffee & Chat <i>Seniors Enquiry Line</i> |
| 11th June LibreOffice 2 <i>Joan McKenzie</i> | 12th June | 13th June Family Tree Maker: Recording your Ancestors <i>Bette Fritz</i> |
| 18th June Word Step 3 <i>Ken Curwen</i> | 19th June | 20th June Social Lunch <i>Yamanto Tavern</i> |
| 25th June LibreOffice 3 <i>Joan McKenzie</i> | 26th June | 27th June Family History: Surname Meanings and Origins <i>Esmae Mander</i> |
| 30th June Word Step 4 <i>Ken Curwen</i> | | |

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

Workshop Topics Described

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? Are you considering doing one and don't know who to test with or where to go next? Come along, we can give you options, and maybe even put you on to a cheaper price for DNA tests or subscriptions. Through sharing what we know and listening to others I'm sure we will make our journey 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.

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: Surname Meanings and Origins

When it comes to surnames, there's often a lot of meaning and history.

Find out the origins of your last name, search for the surnames in your family tree, or learn how surnames have developed and changed over time.

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.

Family Tree Maker: Recording Your Ancestors

This is a powerful and user-friendly computer software program designed to help you create, manage, and share your family's history. It offers a wide range of tools to build detailed family trees, attach photographs and documents, print reports or charts, and uncover rich genealogical information. You also have the option to sync with Ancestry if you wish, (using your preferred privacy level), and work on it there as well. We can show you how to get the best out of this very versatile program.

Introduction to Computing 11

Do you want to keep your photos? Can you enhance your photos? Where will you store them? With File explorer. Maybe as a presentation or eulogy.

Introduction to Computing 12

Continue last week examining your photos and placing them in an appropriate location/ folder

LibreOffice

LibreOffice is a free suite of apps, similar to Microsoft Office.

The first lesson will be an introduction, but lessons 2 and 3 will be guided by the interests and abilities of the class.

To take part in the lessons, people will need a copy of LibreOffice on their laptops, available free from

<https://www.libreoffice.org/>

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.

Word Step-by-Step 3

This Step will develop the formatting of paragraphs; the use of styles; document layout; and editing the content of a document.

Welcome New Members



Anguan Kundu



Debbie Kundu



Evan Cordingley

Tech Talk

Buying a computer (1): Desktop or Laptop?

If you are in the market for a new computer, you may be weighing up the pros and cons of a laptop vs a desktop computer. The big advantage of a laptop is portability – if you travel a lot that can make the purchase of a laptop a no-brainer. But even at home, the portability of a laptop can be a bonus. Because it has a battery for power, you are not tethered to a power point so you can use your laptop wherever it is most convenient – whether that be at the desk, on the lounge or on the balcony. With a laptop there is less cable clutter with more things built in. You will have a webcam and microphone (useful if you want to video conference), wireless networking (so you do not need to be connected by cable to your router) and bluetooth (so you can connect without a cable to your mobile phone, tablet, speaker or headphones). All these things would be extras with most desktops.

Screen size can be an issue with laptops. Screens range from 13” to 17” with 14” or 15” being the most common. These smaller screens can be difficult for some people to read. You can add an external monitor to most laptops but this will add to the desk space needed and reduces the portability advantage. The greatest negative for a laptop is the compact size: this makes upgrades and repairs difficult and more expensive. In some cases, upgrades to storage and memory are impossible. The compact size limits cooling and means components usually have lower performance (less heat) than a desktop equivalent.

Desktops are larger and more bulky and need to be connected permanently to power. By the time you have added a monitor, keyboard and mouse, they take up more desk space. However, they are also cheaper (for the equivalent computer power), easier to repair and upgrade and will generally have higher performance. You also have greater flexibility in the amount of memory, storage and monitor size. All these things can be easily upgraded or replaced in the future if required.

Brand name desktop computer (eg Acer, HP, Lenovo) sold by large retailers will often use proprietary parts. This means that you are often limited to replacing parts with those produced by the manufacturer. It can also limit upgrade options. A custom built desktop computer from a computer specialist will normally use industry standard components which are much easier to replace or upgrade.

If you are going to buy any computer buy based on quality and performance rather than just price. A cheap computer will have lower end components and performance. You may find it frustrating to use and it probably will not last you as long. This is particularly true of laptops – because of the difficulty/impossibility of upgrades, what you purchase is likely what you are going to have for the life of the laptop. As with many things in life: if you can spend more, you will get more.

Buying a computer (2): What do you need?

The purchase of a computer is a significant financial commitment. Arming yourself with some basic knowledge of what is inside and what to look for will help you make a better decision and ensure your money is spent wisely.

A computer has a 'brain' or Central Processing Unit (**CPU**). While other components do come into play, the 'brain' is going to largely determine how well your computer does its tasks. There are two major manufacturers of computer CPUs: Intel and AMD. Both manufacturers make a range of models of varying capabilities, speeds and prices. For general tasks I would recommend an i3 or i5 on the Intel side or a Ryzen 5 series for AMD. At a given price point you may find that one or the other provides better value but either are going to be able perform most tasks.

Both Intel and AMD make a range of lower priced CPUs. These will have model names such as Celeron, Pentium and Athlon. These will certainly be cheaper but the performance will be much lower. If you are looking for a second computer, perhaps one to travel with or take on holiday, they may be fine but if this is to be your main computer, I think you will be disappointed. The performance of the Pentium would probably be OK but there is not much price difference between it and moving up to the i3.

To work efficiently, your computer needs to have enough memory or **RAM** to carry out tasks. Traditionally 8Gb (gigabytes) has been considered sufficient and, while this still holds true, 16Gb is probably a better amount if looking to the future. Fortunately RAM is not expensive at the moment and the difference in price between 8Gb and 16Gb should not impact the overall price of the computer too much.

The computer needs to have sufficient **storage** to hold the operating system, all the programs we need and all our information. The amount of storage needed is going to vary based on personal needs but I would suggest looking at 500Gb as a starting point. If you do not store very much information on your computer then 256Gb might be OK but anything less than that is really going to be limiting. All computers today should have Solid State Drive (**SSD**) as their primary drive. An SSD is much faster than the older hard disk drive. It is easier to add storage, if needed, to a desktop computer than a laptop.

To connect peripherals such as keyboards, mice, printers, external hard drives, flash drives, etc, the computer has **USB** ports. Traditionally these have been of a rectangular design called USB-A. A newer type of USB port is USB-C. This is a slim, oval design as seen on some mobile phones. A USB-C port provides faster transfer speeds and, depending on specification, can also provide charging and external display. While I would not consider it essential, looking for USB-C capability would be useful for the future.

Most peripherals still use the USB-A format. Keeping things simple, this comes in two forms: USB 2 and USB 3 (usually coloured blue). USB 3 is much faster than USB 2 so is better for the connection of devices which benefit from faster transfer such as external hard drives. Considering the number of devices we tend to have plugged into our computers, the more USB ports the better. Desktop computers will normally have at least 2 ports on the front and 6 or more on the rear. These will be a combination of USB 2 and USB 3. Laptops will have far fewer ports with 2-3 being the typical number.

Buying a computer (3): Some other things to be aware of

Many CPUs have integrated graphics and this is completely suitable for general tasks such as word processing, email, web browsing, movie viewing, social media and basic photo editing. There is no need to add the expense of a separate graphics card unless you are planning extensive photo or video editing or playing video games. There are some CPUs which do not have integrated graphics and, while these are cheaper, the need to add a graphics card will negate any cost saving.

To connect to the Internet, your computer will need to have some sort of networking capability. Nearly all desktop computers will provide an ethernet port which will allow you to connect a cable to your modem or router. Not all desktop computers will have WiFi/Bluetooth so if you need these you will need to look at a model which has them integrated or purchase an add-on card or dongle to provide this capability. All laptops will provide WiFi and Bluetooth but it is becoming increasingly common not to provide an ethernet port.

If you use CDs and DVDs with your current computer, you may be disappointed. It is still possible to purchase desktop computers with internal CD/DVD drives but no current laptop models provide such drives. If you need this capability you will need to purchase an external CD/DVD drive which plugs into a USB port.

If you are buying a desktop computer, the price will normally be for the computer or tower alone. Unless you are purchasing a 'bundle', the price will not include other needed elements for a system such as keyboard, mouse and monitor. If you already have these items they should work with your new desktop. Check that the video connections for your monitor will be compatible with the new computer. If the keyboard and mouse use USB-A connectors or use a USB-A wireless dongle, they should be fine. If they have the older, round PS2 connector then it is probably time you thought about replacement.

Laptops are an integrated system so when you purchase a laptop you will get the monitor and keyboard as part of the unit. The purchase price of a laptop would not normally include a mouse. Laptops have a trackpad which is fine but many people are not comfortable with using one. If you have an existing mouse with USB-A connection it should work fine. To reduce cable clutter, I would recommend a wireless mouse. This either uses a small dongle plugged into a USB port or connects via the Bluetooth built-in to the laptop.

Unless they are really old, any other peripherals you have such as a printer, a scanner or web camera should work fine with a new computer. You may need to download new drivers from the manufacturer's website for support with a newer operating system.

You will need a way to copy all your information from the old computer to the new. My recommendation would be to invest in a suitably sized external drive. Copy the information from your personal files on the old computer and then copy this information to the relevant folders on your new. You should also take a note of settings, passwords and programs you have on the old computer so you can transfer these to the new.

Finally – don't be in too big a hurry to dispose of the old computer. Many people dispose of the old computer only to realise they have forgotten to copy important information to the new. Hang on to the old computer for a month or two while you make sure the new computer is working the way you need it to and no important information has been left behind.

Phil Buchanan

Wrangling Microsoft Edge

On a new Windows installation, Microsoft's web browser Edge is already installed. Edge is quite a good browser being based on Chromium which is also the base for Google's Chrome browser. While Edge may not be your preferred browser it is worthwhile taking a few minutes to change some settings should you wish to use it in the future. The worst aspect of Edge is its Start/Home page which is a cesspit of ads, scams, clickbait, (fake) news. Most people take one look and head for an alternative. It is possible to clean up this page by changing a few settings.

1. Open Microsoft Edge
Launch Microsoft Edge by clicking on its icon in your taskbar or start menu.
2. Access the Settings Menu
Click on the three horizontal dots located in the upper right corner of the browser window to open the menu or type ALT-F. From the dropdown menu, select Settings.
3. Change the Start Page
In the Settings menu, navigate to the Start, home, and new tabs section.
Under When Edge starts, choose the option Open these pages.
Click on the Add a new page button and enter the address for the page you want to use as your Start Page in the URL field – for example [google.com.au](https://www.google.com.au) – and click Add to confirm the new Start Page.
4. Remove Ads and News from the New Tab Page
Still in the Start, home, and new tabs section, look for the New tab page settings.
Click on Customize to open the customization menu for the new tab page.
Toggle off the options for Show quick links, Image of the day, and Show feed (which includes ads and news).
It is a personal preference whether you also turn off Background and Show weather.

5. Set Your Default Search Engine (If you don't want to use Bing)

Navigate back to the main Settings menu and select Privacy, search, and services.

Scroll down to the Services section and click on Address bar and search.

In the Search engines used in address bar section, click on Manage search engines.

Find your preferred search engine in the list and click on the three horizontal dots next to it. Select Make default.

You should find that using Edge is now a much more pleasant experience.

As one final step, I like to add Ublock Origin to Edge (I add it to all my browsers) as an adblocker. Do a search for *ublock origin edge* in Google. The first result should come from the Microsoft Edge Add-ons site (make sure it does). Add it to Edge. This will help to minimise ads and pop-ups.

Potty History

Neanderthal – the Men that did not make it

This is a serious potty history. Given the way in which modern humans have been quite happy to slaughter lesser breeds such as native Americans and Australians (and indeed Jews and/or Arabs) I had assumed that we killed off our predecessors. But it seems they created the seeds of their own destruction.

Neanderthals – whose reconstructed image is shown here – reached Europe around 400,000bce, thus beating modern humans by some 350,000 years; they also populated the rest of Eurasia. They had a significant capacity to build stone tools and could hunt game and chase it down just as we could. And they appear to have been tougher than us in that they survived several ice ages wearing only skin clothes – they never invented weaving.



However, their social pattern was quite different; they chose, like the great apes, to live in family units rather than villages and towns. Thus if they became isolated by the ice sheets they were forced to interbreed within the family. It has been suggested that at one point around 100,000bce there were only some 5000 individuals alive. Modern humans went through a similar minimum but that was prior to their breakout from Africa.

When modern humans entered the Neanderthal world in approximately 50,000bce they were far more genetically diverse and far better equipped to handle pandemics due to the rapid spread of disease through their communities. Naturally they interbred with the Neanderthals and collected significant portions of the Neanderthal genome (5%). And equally they shared their diseases with the Neanderthals, who had little resistance (shades of the colonial era).

Recent studies have shown that where humans have the Neanderthal version of a gene it almost invariably REDUCES their capacity to resist certain diseases and conditions like allergies, addiction, and depression.

So, I repeat – it seems that the Neanderthal social structure was the main driver in their extinction in about 35,000bce.

Ken Curwen, triggered by an article in Scientific American

Humour



Age-appropriate humour

Excerpts from a stand-up comedy act

I joined a dating site for people my age. It's called carbon dating. I asked a woman on the site for her number; she told me it was 140 / 95

Walking can be difficult for me at times; I do worry about tripping and falling so I wear a helmet. I also worry about looking ridiculous, so I carry a skateboard

A friend asked me if I wanted to participate in the adopt a grandparent programme. I said "sure"; now I have a 95-year-old man to look after.

I went to the doctor because I thought I thought I had arthritis. I don't! I have early onset rigor mortis.

I am 74 years old. Life expectancy for men is 76 years; life expectancy for women is 81 years. I figured that I should ask my doctor about transgender surgery.

When I went to the doctor he said: "I'm afraid I have bad news. You have cancer... And you have Alzheimer's." I replied "Well, at least I don't have cancer!"

An interesting question

What happens after a doctor's wife eats an apple?

Another interesting question

A bar opened adjacent to a church; and at every service the congregation prayed that it would go away. One night the bar was hit by lightning and burned down.

The bar owner sued the church because he claimed their prayers were responsible for the damage; the church denied responsibility.

When it came to court the judge commented "It is difficult to decide the case because here we have a bar owner who believes in the power of prayer and an entire church congregation that doesn't believe in it"

A good film to look out for on this general topic is "The man who sued God" – Ed

And a final religious joke

A young priest joins a parish and soon afterwards his bicycle disappears. He asks the parish priest what to do about it. The parish priest says "Do a sermon on the ten commandments and when you get to 'Thou shalt not steal' watch the congregation for a response from the guilty party".

After the sermon the parish priest asks if this worked. "Well, not exactly. When I got to 'Thou shalt not commit adultery' I remembered where I left the bike"

Further Information

SeniorNet Committee

The listing of the 2025 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.