



August 2025

"Seniors helping seniors use computers and the internet"

SeniorNet Association Inc.

www.seniornet.com.au

President's View

Training Programme page 2

Tech Talk page 5

Potty History page 7

Humour page 7

Further Information page 8

Social Events



Lunches

Friday 15th August

Lunch at Falvey's Hotel, Yamanto. Members from \$15. Membership is free – arrive a few minutes early.

What a wonderful gathering together at the P.A. for our "Christmas in July" Function.

Thanks to our Social Coordinator Karen for organising the Front Room AND the Round Tables, so beautifully decorated. Well done and thank you Karen.

And of course, the Lucky Door Prizes; Two \$25 Meal Vouchers, one each to Karen H, and Nellie McK, and Two Bottles of Red Wine, one each to John McV. and Desley B. Congratulations to each of you and many thanks to the PA Hotel for these kind donations.

Another thank you is in need of mentioning here... After many dedicated years of Service, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Margaret-anne as she steps down from her role as our Membership Officer. Margaret's unwavering loyalty and steadfast commitment to confidentiality have been deeply valued by our Members and Leadership alike. She created a trusted space where our SeniorNet Members felt safe, respected, and valued. We extend our profound thanks for her years of faithful Service offering our warmest wishes for her good health, happiness and fulfilment in the years ahead.

I personally have to say, Margaret had a rare skill set in her ability to seek out and liaise with a wide range of inspiring and relevant guest speakers with the result of strengthening the depth and diversity of our Coffee & Chat Mornings... I well remember her comment to "Weave a Web to hold SeniorNet Together". ie wanting to build, not just a group, but a sense of belonging within our SeniorNet Members. Thank you, Margaret, for being you...

Appointment of Membership Officer.

Nominations for the Membership Officer vacancy will close on **Friday 15th August 2025**. All members have been sent a nomination form by email. For now, please address any membership business to our Secretary - email [Judith Beitzel](mailto:Judith.Beitzel).

John McVeigh, President

Sunday 10th August

Lunch at Springfield Garden Restaurant (Chinese).

Sunday 17th August

Lunch at Punjab Curry House, Redbank Plains.

Sunday 24th August

Lunch at Little M Coffee Club, Goodna.

Just Friends Social Group

Sunday 31st August

Coach Trip to Mooloolaba for a one-hour canal cruise..

See how the rich folk live!. After the cruise buy lunch at Maroochydore RSL. Fare \$60. Pick up time 8.00am Redbank Plaza

Sunday 28th September

Coach trip to Esk and Gatton

At Esk visit the Esk Trading Post and buy morning tea. Then buy lunch at Falvey's Gatton Hotel. Visit the Queensland Transport Museum and enjoy afternoon tea before returning home. The cost will be \$55 including entry, Pickup time 8.20 Redbank Plaza

SeniorNet Workshop Programme: August – September 2025

Congregational Church Sunday School Hall at 117 Wildey Street, Raceview

Workshop Times 9-11am; however the hall is booked for the whole morning ; 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
6th August Microsoft Word <i>Ken Curwen</i>	7th August Getting to Know your Computer <i>John McVeigh</i>	8th August DNA Interest Group <i>Bette Fritz</i>
13th August Libre Office Draw <i>Joan McKenzie</i>	14th August Introduction to Keyboard & Internet <i>John McVeigh</i>	15th August Social Lunch <i>Falvey's Hotel</i>
20th August Microsoft Word <i>Ken Curwen</i>	21st August Hands on Browsers and Search Engines <i>John McVeigh</i>	22nd August Photo & Document Storage 1 <i>Esmae Mander</i>
27th August Canva <i>Joan McKenzie</i>	28th August Researching Be Connected <i>John McVeigh</i>	29th August Photo & Document Storage 2 <i>Esmae Mander</i>
3rd September Android C & C <i>Ken Curwen</i>	4th September Introduction to Computing <i>Margaret Jensen</i>	5th September Coffee & Chat <i>TASC</i>
10th September Libre Calc <i>Joan McKenzie</i>	11th September Introduction to Computing <i>Margaret Jensen</i>	12th September Family Tree Maker <i>Bette Fritz</i>
17th September Android C & C <i>Ken Curwen</i>	18th September Introduction to Computing <i>Margaret Jensen</i>	19th September Social Lunch <i>Brothers</i>
24th September	25th September Introduction to Computing <i>Margaret Jensen</i>	26th September Family History: Origins of Surnames <i>Esmae Mander</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@senior.net.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 C & C

Come along and discuss your Android experiences and problems over a cup of coffee (or tea) and home made biscuits. If you are new to mobile phones you will find help in setting the device up to your liking.

Canva

Canva is a free-to-use online graphic design tool. You can use it to create social media posts, presentations, posters, videos, logos and more. We try it to see if it is useful to us. If you don't have a Canva account, you'll need to create one. This can be done using your email address or by connecting with your Google, Apple, or Facebook account. Open the website canva.com and choose (tap or click on) Start Designing. A sign-in window should open to allow you to create a free account.

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.

Family History: Origins of Surnames

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

Find the origins of your name, search up other surnames of your family and learn how surnames have developed and changed over time.

Family Tree Maker

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.

Getting to Know your Computer

Learn computer terminology; setting up your computer for a happy coexistence; and a chance to review things you may have missed previously.

Hands on Browsers and Search Engines

Learn how to search the internet using web browsers and search engines and then how to store your results

Introduction to Computing

These classes are intended for members, new or old, who need to reinforce their knowledge of personal computer handling. Topics will be offered in response to member feedback, and will be advised in our weekly SeniorNet Training mail outs.

Introduction to the Keyboard and Internet

If you use a computer, you most likely use a keyboard. While you may think it is pretty straight-forward – you type and stuff shows up on the screen – there are probably a few things about the keyboard you don't know.

You also may know that “the internet” exists – but what is it?

Libre Office Draw 2

Draw is part of Libre Office. It enables you to manipulate pictures and images in many ways. We will be using it to create a simple newsletter, with text and pictures. To take part in the lesson you will need a copy of Libre Office on your laptop.

Logical Photo and Document Storage 1

During this workshop we will discuss how to establish and develop a well organised logical collection of your documents and photos. Enjoy a slideshow about how to construct a simple and straightforward method. Creating folders & files will be simply explained which makes for easier searching &/or locating later.

Logical Photo and Document Storage 2

A practical 'step by step' session and follow-on from workshop 1 which will enable you to fully understand this logical method.

Microsoft Word

These classes are designed to take members through all the features of Microsoft Word to the level where you can write essays, letters and records on your own topics. The material to be covered will be guided by the pre-existing knowledge of the participants. Details for each session will be advised in our weekly SeniorNet Training mail outs.

Researching Be Connected

The Be Connected programme provides on-line learning modules which can help reinforce our basic Workshop offerings. Learn how to use it here.

Recipe of the Month

This was the first biscuit recipe that I created for myself. My original intention was to make something like Arnott's Butternut Crunch, but better (and chunkier). To this end I added porridge oats (NOT quick porridge oats...) to the mix.

However, I realised I had a packet of sultanas nearing its use by date and I thought that would be a great addition, giving bursts of extra flavour as you ate it. And now I had:

Golden Sultana Butter Crunch Biscuits

Ingredients

Serves 28 x 25g/34 x 22g

175g Self Raising flour
80g Porridge Oats
140g Golden caster sugar
35g Almond meal
85g Sultanas
1 tsp Bicarbonate of soda
1 tsp Baking powder
175g Unsalted butter
30g golden syrup

Serves 14 x 25g

90g Self Raising flour
40g Porridge Oats
70g Golden caster sugar
20g Almond meal
45g Sultanas
1 tsp Bicarbonate of soda
1 tsp Baking powder
90g Unsalted butter
15g golden syrup

Method

Preheat your oven to 160C. In a pan melt the butter and golden syrup. Or 1:30 microwave on medium

Give half the oats a whiz in a processor to reduce the granularity – with oats as from the package it is hard to mould the dough.

Place oats with all the other ingredients in a large bowl. When the butter mix is melted pour this into the dry ingredients and combine.

Using your hands make 28 balls and place these onto a baking tray, squidge down slightly and bake for 15 mins.

Remove and cool for 10 minutes before transferring to racks. These biscuits taste better as the days go on!!

Tech Talk

Murphy's Law in action

Mobile Phone Battery Trouble

Recently my phone battery seemed to be going down abnormally quickly. But one night I noticed a glow in the living room- the phone was still on and flattening the battery. I checked the settings and found under "Screen timeout" a switch, which was turned off, for timeout. I turned it on and set my usual 10 minutes – and the switch vanished. It then therefore couldn't be turned off, so it being off wasn't finger trouble on my part that caused the problem. I believe it was a glitch caused by a recent major system upgrade.

Long Term Password Problem

I, and my late wife, held Optus email addresses since the turn of the century. We had simple six character passwords, written in a notebook, and only ever used them to access messages using internet browsers while on holiday. Then, with my wife ill, we didn't go on holidays.

After her passing I had a problem with Optus, needing me to log into my account. But my password was deemed invalid! So... reset password...but that required me to enter a validation code sent to my phone. And no code turned up. I rang Optus and got to a help desk operative who reluctantly told me the phone they were sending the code to. It was my late wife's number!

It was outside their pay scale to change the number (and also beyond the capabilities of the Optus store to which I was directed). Apparently when we were at the store years previously, I let my wife set up a mobile account with them first, so that she could hit the shops while I organised mine, and thereby she became the account holder.

Back I went to the help desk and got a better operative who managed to switch my account to me and my mobile (I having been the bill payer at all times). I set up a better password with 12 letters and numbers and duly noted it in my password manager.

Last month there was another glitch. I found that I could not close my computer down reliably. I realised that someone sent me an email with 50MB of attachments, and this gave a send/receive error, and Outlook could not shut down. My answer was to look at my emails through the browser but now the new password was rejected as invalid, so I went to change it. I chose 12 new characters but they were refused. There HAD to be a symbol as well. Now I understand why my previous passwords had been invalid – the first password was too short, the second didn't have the symbol. But WHY didn't the system recognise that my passwords matched what they held, and just ask me to fix it up?

It turned out that someone had sent me two copies of a batch of photos at full scale resolution. I sent one set on to my Gmail account and downloaded the photos there.

Ken Curwen

Web page too small?

It can sometimes be difficult to read the content of websites in web browsers such as Chrome, Firefox or Edge. These browsers have zoom controls which allow you to increase or decrease the size of the text and pictures to make it easier to read. You can also do this by using the Control (CTRL) key and the scroll wheel on your mouse. Holding down the CTRL key while you turn the scroll wheel will zoom in or out.

Sometimes the size of web pages may seem to change of their own accord. This can be caused by a Windows update, an update to your browser or user error. There is a quick way to return web pages to their normal size. Hold CTRL and type 0 ('zero'). This should put the page back to 100%. From there you can then use the CTRL + scroll wheel to adjust the size for comfortable reading if necessary.

Phil Buchanan

I pee ratings

In device specifications IPxx stands for ingress protection – how resistant it is to dust (0-6) and liquids (0-8). Premium mobile phones would be IP68 and withstand being dropped into a swimming pool (let alone a toilet). Low end devices – for example Samsung A series phones – are mostly IP40 (leaks like a sieve), and, up until last year's S9 which is IP67, Samsung tablets were also IP40. But this is not universally true – for example, all Oppo phones pass the toilet test.

If you have the misfortune to immerse your vulnerable device you should minimise damage by turning the phone completely off (see below), wiping its orifices, especially the charging socket, and giving it a few days to dry out while crossing all fingers and toes. Embedding in rice doesn't work.

As a precaution against the likely destruction of the device you should keep it fully backed up to Google so that your replacement device can restore most of your settings.

To turn a device completely off long press the on-off switch until you see a shut down notice – if that fails to respond try long pressing volume up or down at the same time as the on-off switch.

Ken Curwen

Dictating documents in Word

Dictation lets you use speech-to-text to author content in Microsoft 365 with a microphone and reliable internet connection. It's a quick and easy way to get your thoughts out, create drafts or outlines, and capture notes. You will find the Dictate command on the home ribbon; when running click the icon to toggle off and on.

The way dictation works is by taking what you say to a cloud computer and then returning it as text onto your document. It works better than speech recognition on phones and tablets because there is some understanding of grammar in the resulting text. Also the system doesn't turn off if you hesitate while you are dictating.

My laptop has a built in microphone which will provide for voice input: if you have a PC you will need to get a USB microphone or webcam for the purpose .

Dictate also supports formatting commands on the fly. A short list follows:

Punctuation

period (=.) comma, question mark, exclamation mark, new line, apostrophe s, colon, semicolon, open quotes (“”), close quotes, hyphen (-), left parenthesis (round bracket), right parenthesis

Editing

backspace [1-100], delete [word or phrase], delete [1-100], delete from [x] to [y], delete last/previous [1-100] characters/words/sentences/paragraphs, delete next [1-100] characters delete or scratch or erase, delete that or scratch that, delete word/sentence, insert space, undo

Navigate/select

select [word or phrase], select word/sentence/paragraph, select that, select last/previous [1-100] characters/words/sentences/paragraphs, select from [x] to [y]

Other commands

There are commands for Formatting, Lists (dot point, numbered), comments and symbols; but it is easier to use the ribbon than to memorise the commands.

For a full listing see [this](#) link:

Ken Curwen

Potty History

Margaret Brown: A Woman Ahead of her Time

I recently watched the movie *Titanic* and a mention of the “Unsinkable Molly Brown” triggered my curiosity. It turns out that Margaret Brown (known as Maggie to her friends and only getting the *Unsinkable* soubriquet from the press after her death, was far more than a *Titanic* survivor.

She was born in 1867 in Hannibal, Missouri, to Irish immigrants, and her life was shaped by early exposure to poverty, labour struggles, and the resilience of working-class communities.

When she was 18 she moved to the boom town of Leadville, Colorado and soon fell in love with James (JJ) Brown and after a short internal argument on the merits of marrying for love or for money she married him. In the event she got both love and money; James was a mining engineer and five years later located a substantial seam of ore at the Little Jonny Mine and was rewarded richly by his employers, who gave him a large share in the company.

The couple soon had a million dollar home (today’s money) in Denver and a summer home out of town. Maggie threw herself into philanthropy - she helped establish the Denver Women’s Club, which promoted education and social welfare for women. She also raised funds for children’s causes, including public playgrounds and nurseries for impoverished families.

JJ was not interested in the social life and the couple drifted apart; after 23 years of marriage they separated under generous terms; her allowance was \$23000 per month in today’s money.

Maggie’s activism extended into the political realm. She became a vocal supporter of labour reform, particularly after the Ludlow Massacre in 1914, where striking coal miners in Colorado were attacked by the National Guard. Maggie not only provided aid to affected families but also used her public platform to demand justice and better working conditions.

She also organized multicultural fundraising events like the Carnival of Nations, inspired by the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. These events not only raised money for causes like the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception but also celebrated Denver’s diverse communities.

Her commitment to women’s rights was equally fierce. She joined the National American Women’s Suffrage Association and campaigned for voting rights long before the 19th Amendment (which assured voting rights for women) was ratified. In 1914, she ran for Congress under the Women’s Party ticket, becoming one of the first women to seek federal office in the United States.

Her charitable reach extended into juvenile justice. She partnered with Judge Ben Lindsey to reform Denver’s treatment of children in the legal system. Together, they raised funds for public playgrounds, a courthouse nursery, and even a basement bathtub for children in custody. Their model became a blueprint for juvenile justice reform nationwide.

During World War I, she travelled to France to work with the American Red Cross, where she served as a nurse and ambulance officer. She brought medical supplies, treated wounded soldiers, and helped establish relief stations. Her fluency in French proved invaluable in coordinating aid efforts.

After the war, Maggie continued her philanthropic work through the Committee for Devastated France, helping rebuild communities ravaged by conflict. In recognition of her service, she was awarded the French Legion of Honor in 1932—a rare distinction for an American woman at the time.

In that same year Maggie died aged 65 while visiting New York – her autopsy revealed a brain tumour.

Ken Curwen, with help from Copilot and from Wikipedia

Humour

Old jokes – some are VERY old

You know you're getting old when your back goes out more than you do.

I don't have a bucket list; I have a 'f*** it' list. It's much more achievable.

I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.

My doctor told me to watch my drinking, so now I drink in front of a mirror.

At my age, 'getting lucky' means finding my car in the car park.

I'm not old; I'm just chronologically gifted.

When you get older, three things happen: The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two.

Life is like a roll of toilet paper—the closer you get to the end, the faster it goes.

At my age, 'Happy Hour' is a nap.

I'm so old that when I was a kid, rainbows were in black and white.

I'm at the age when an 'all nighter' means I didn't need to get up for a pee



It's OK to talk to yourself.....and ok to answer yourself. But it's sad when you have to repeat what you said because you weren't listening!!



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.