



September 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 19th September

Lunch at Brothers Leagues Club.
Seniors Meals \$13.

Friday 17th October

Lunch at Jets Leagues Club.
Meals \$18 for members.

Friday 5th December

Reserve this date for our
Christmas function.

We received no nominations for Membership Officer and therefore Secretary Judith will handle the Membership Officer duties while we search for a replacement.

The Calendar for the rest of the year is almost complete, noting there are still a few days waiting for a workshop title. If you have any suggestions, please drop me a line.

A big thank you to Evan and Helen for hosting SeniorNet members at their home in Dundas for a picnic and a viewing the fireflies on the farm. The fireflies performed on cue; I heard in the background "wouldn't this make a great substitute for fairy lights in a Christmas display."

Another big thank you to the gang who took the concept from an idea, to make the evening such a success.

I noticed in a recent Border News that Andy Nisbet was a Foundation Member of "Rosewood Scrub Arboretum", thirty years ago, and is still volunteering today. (An arboretum is a Museum of Living Trees). Andy joined SeniorNet at the turn of the century. The clipping is on page 5 of this Newsletter.

John McVeigh

Editorial

The committee has agreed that I should henceforth issue newsletters in the middle of the month (to fit in with Trainers' meetings). This fits in well with my other commitments. My Just Friends coach trip (as below) is on the last Sunday of each month and thus to meet the previous deadline for issue at the start of the following month I had an overlap of duties.

Ken Curwen

Sunday 14th September

Lunch at Brothers Leagues Club.
Seniors meals \$13.

Sunday 21st September

Lunch at Eden Brewhouse,
Redbank Plains. Pub specials \$15

Just Friends Social Group

Sunday 28th September

Coach trip to Esk and Gatton

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

Sunday 26th October

Gold Coast Broadwater Cruise

Take a two-hour trip around Broadwater attractions and enjoy a catered light lunch. All-inclusive cost \$65. Pickup 8.00 Redbank Plaza,

SeniorNet Workshop Programme: September – October 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
17th September Android C & C <i>Ken Curwen</i>	18th September Restructure your Stuff to a neat Declutter 1 <i>John McVeigh</i>	19th September Social Lunch <i>Brothers</i>
24th September	25th September Restructure your Stuff to a neat Declutter 2 <i>John McVeigh</i>	26th September Family History: Origins of Surnames <i>Esmae Mander</i>
1st October Seniors' Expo <i>Ipswich Showground</i>	2nd October Restructure your Stuff to a neat Declutter 3 <i>John McVeigh</i>	3rd October Coffee & Chat <i>Sylvan Funerals</i>
8th October Libre Writer Page Formatting <i>Joan McKenzie</i>	9th October Introduction to Computing: Email 1 <i>John McVeigh</i>	10th October Trove <i>Bette Fritz</i>
15th October Word C & C <i>Ken Curwen</i>	16th October Introduction to Computing: Email 2 <i>John McVeigh</i>	17th October Social Lunch <i>Jets</i>
22nd October Libre Writer Revision <i>Joan McKenzie</i>	23rd October Introduction to Computing: Email 3 <i>John McVeigh</i>	24th October
29th October Word C & C <i>Ken Curwen</i>	30th October Seniors' Expo <i>Raceview Church of Christ</i>	31st October Eight Family Surnames <i>Esmae Mander</i>
5th November Libre Office: Presentation <i>Joan McKenzie</i>	6th November Introduction to Computing <i>John McVeigh</i>	7th November Coffee & Chat <i>Bob Walker</i>
12th November Christmas Cards and Calendars in Word <i>Ken Curwen</i>	13th November Expand your View <i>Esmae Mander</i>	14th November DNA Interest Group <i>Bette Fritz</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 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.

Christmas Cards and Calendars in Word

If you don't have a dedicated Card making program you can create half-fold cards using Microsoft Word. Find out how. And how about a calendar, with your choice of photos and important dates?

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.

Eight Family Surnames

Why only eight? Why not sixteen? You have eight relatively close family surnames, but sixteen... maybe that's a bridge too far for some. Today we investigate our ancestral marriages.

With each marriage comes eight new surnames. Crazy, yes. And for those who claim Robert the Bruce as an ancestor, we need to realise that those famous ones are not very close ancestors at all.

Jot down your knowledge of your family names for quick reference or, if you don't have the information, we will endeavour to help you find it.

Expand Your View

Do you find reading your laptop screen fatigues your eyes? Yes, I agree it is small.

By using a monitor in tandem with your laptop, your eye vision will result in less strain compared to using the small screen. Due to their size, monitors enhance viewing distance and have other ergonomic advantages. Let's find out how to preserve our eyesight and endure less backache, though still using our laptop. During this workshop we discuss and demonstrate connecting a monitor to a laptop as well as searching out monitors and connector cables.

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.

Introduction to Computing: Email

Email is becoming our primary communication method, instead of sending a traditional letter; it is delivered to its destination in a matter of moments.

In these workshops we will look at configuring your computers to your liking, managing, sending and receiving messages.

Libre Office: Presentation

Using the Libre Office Impress module, we will create a simple presentation. To take part in the lesson, you will need a copy of Libre Office on your laptop. This can be downloaded free from <https://www.libreoffice.org/>

Libre Writer: page formatting

Once you have created a document using Libre Office Writer, you can format the page to better suit your document. We will look at such things as setting margins, creating columns etc. To take part in the lesson, you will need a copy of Libre Office on your laptop. This can be downloaded free from <https://www.libreoffice.org/>

Libre Writer: Revision

We have had a few lessons using Libre Office Writer. This lesson we will revise what we have learned so far. To take part in the lesson, you will need a copy of Libre Office on your laptop. This can be downloaded free from <https://www.libreoffice.org/>

Restructure your Stuff to a neat Declutter

Find out how to declutter your hard drive, delete temporary and junk files, remove duplicate or old photos you no longer need. Organize your remaining files into logical folders and transfer large, less-used items to an external drive or a cloud storage service to free up space and improve performance.

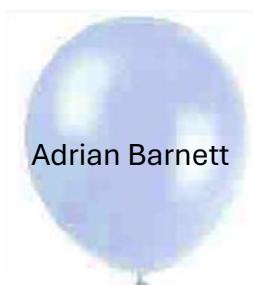
Trove: Searching Old Newspapers

Thanks to the National Library of Australia digitising a vast number of newspapers, gazettes, magazines, maps and more, we are able to access these for free online, much to the envy of the rest of the world as in most countries they have to pay for such a wonderful resource. We can show you how to get the best results when searching these old newspapers, up until approximately 1954, and what you can do with that information once you have found it.

Word C & C

Come along and discuss your Microsoft Word experiences and problems over a cup of coffee (or tea) and homemade cake.

Welcome New Members



Adrian Barnett



David Hall



Scott Matthews



Darlene
Shepherd



Martha
Shepherd

Recipe of the Month

Asparagus Rolls



There have been complaints that there are too many cakes and not enough savory dishes taken to our Coffee & Chat mornings. Here is a simple recipe that does not require complex ingredients, and always brings pleasure, for you to bring along.

You will need 4 bunches of asparagus; 1 loaf wholemeal thin (sandwich) sliced bread; butter (or margarine); toothpicks.

In a large frying pan fill to the depth of the asparagus spears and add salt. Bring to boil and put a layer of asparagus in to blanche for 4 minutes. Repeat until all are done.

If necessary, warm the butter to soften it. Slice the crusts off the slices of bread and spread thinly with butter. Put one large or two small sticks

of asparagus diagonally across each slice. Roll each slice inwards over the asparagus, and secure with a toothpick through the asparagus.

The batch of 19 takes about 30 minutes to prepare.

The crusts can be saved in the water from the asparagus cook and be used as a basis for soup.

Ken Curwen



The late Lloyd Bird suggested it, the late Arnold Rieck instigated it and the dream of two environmental legends became a reality when the Rosewood Scrub Arboretum opened in Peace Park more than 30 years ago. On Saturday, one of the original volunteers, Andy Nesbitt, shared the honour of cutting the 30th anniversary cake with Arnold's wife, Joyce Rieck. The current arboretum co-ordinator Col Thompson, at right, MCed the celebration of the past and the future of the 'museum of living trees'. Photo: LYLE RADFORD

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Tech Talk

A Comedy of Errors

Even trainers and Newsletter Editors can misunderstand how devices work

1. Phone charging failure

I thought my Pixel phone was developing a fatal fault because it often failed to charge when I left it plugged to a USB C charger cord. I tried different cords but the problem remained so I thought it could be an incipient failure of the phone's socket.

I asked Gemini AI and amongst other ideas it suggested dirt trapped in the socket could prevent a good contact. Bingo, and even though no belly button fluff emerged when I scrubbed it with an old toothbrush, the fault was fixed.

By the way, do not use your current toothbrush – as explained last month it could get moisture in where it can do damage.

2. Phone answering nuisance

I have always had trouble answering my mobile phone, finding that it would disconnect when I tapped the green button.

But recently I happened to browse through the phone app settings (tap phone, tap three dots or bars in the top corner to find them). There you can find “Incoming call gesture” or “Answering calls” with the option of swipe or tap. I changed to tap and haven’t missed a call since. As a landline user, I think a “button” is for pressing!

3, Mousing

This tail shows how dumb I can be. I have a nice Logitech “Anywhere” mouse which is USB rechargeable. About twice a year it needs recharging, and I curse and take it to my charge station and stop using my PC. But this time I realised that the USB from the PC can recharge it – a temporarily corded mouse. Simples!

Ken Curwen

Tips for Windows 11

You can set your mouse cursor to not only be bigger or display movement trails but also to change colours so that it always appears in the inverse colour of the background. This guarantees that your cursor or pointer (the setting applies to both) is always visible. Just go to Settings → Accessibility → Mouse pointer and touch. Then, choose the mouse pointer style that appears half black and half white as shown on the right. With this setting active, your mouse or pointer even appears in split colours if it's on the edge of two different-coloured parts of the screen.



If you change a setting to permit title bar shaking you can grab a window's top title bar and shake it to dismiss all other windows, instantly clearing a messy desktop and focussing on the active window. The setting is off by default, but you can enable it in Settings → System → Multitasking (or just search for "shake" in Settings).



Potty History

Maria von Maltzan

Maria, the Baroness of Wartenberg and Penzlin, was a young woman, only 34 years old, on the day in the autumn of 1943 when the Gestapo came to call. When the Nazis seized power in 1933, her sense of justice made her join different resistance movements against the Nazis almost immediately, but due to her status and relation to numerous Nazi officers, von Maltzan was at first above suspicion. Throughout the war, she, in cooperation with the Swedish Church, provided a safe haven for more than 60 Jews, deserters, and forced labourers, arranging for them to escape to safety. She falsified official visas and other documents, and helped many Jews escape from Berlin in trucks that she often drove herself.

Now there were armed men crawling over every inch of her home, searching for the Jew, or Jews, they were sure had found refuge there. As it happens, there was a Jew in the very room where Maria stood, hidden and holding his breath – but still she would not allow herself to show even a hint of fear. She had learned one crucial lesson from her multiple previous encounters with the secret state police: confidence was all. The trick was to convey unwavering self-belief.

The Jew in question was her lover, Hans Hirschel, and they had long prepared for this moment. When he moved in, more than 18 months earlier, he brought with him a sofa bed crafted from heavy mahogany, with a base large enough for a person to lie in. Once the cushions were on, you couldn't even see the opening. Hooks inside made it impossible to open it from the outside. That was where Hans was hidden.

The Gestapo agents wasted no time, pulling out every drawer, tearing open every cupboard. Before long they found a row of suits, clearly belonging to a man. They confronted her with them. Maria told the truth; she had given birth to a baby boy the previous September and "I can assure you, he was not born of the Holy Spirit". Only then did she lie, naming the father not as Hans, but as Eric Svensson, a homosexual friend who had posed as her lover. The search of the apartment continued.

Lying in the box, Hans could hear the sound of feet scurrying across the floorboards. Maria was throwing a ball for her two dogs. Audibly irritated, the Gestapo men asked her to stop, but she refused. This was the hour when the animals were used to their afternoon walk, she explained. They had to be exercised.

By now, they were in the bedroom. Hans could hear the three voices as the formal interrogation began. The men told Maria to sit. She lowered herself on to the sofa bed.

The Gestapo men insisted that Maria open up the two sofa beds that were in that room. Hans could hear as she opened the first easily, doubtless revealing the empty space within with a flourish that confirmed the agents were wasting their time. They turned to the second. His one. "Sorry, it won't open," Maria said. She explained that soon after she bought it, she had tried, but without success. It could not be done. The men were not persuaded. They were tugging at it, determined to prise the opening apart.

And now Maria took a gamble, one that required iron self-confidence. "Take out your gun and shoot through the couch." She seemed deadly serious. As if she were not setting a dare so much as offering a reasonable solution to the standoff. "If you don't believe me, all you have to do is take out your gun and shoot through the couch."

"However," she said. She had one condition. If they went ahead and opened fire, "I insist that you give me a credit note for new upholstery fabric, and that you pay the repair costs". She was adamant that there was no room for "a raggedy piece of furniture" in any home of hers. "And I would like to have that in writing from you. In advance."

Maria had learned one more thing: that such men feared straying beyond their authority. There would be an expenses form to fill in, a superior who would demand an explanation. Sure enough, the bullets remained in their chambers.

Only once Maria was sure the two men were gone and would not be coming back did she dare give the signal for Hans to unseal his tomb and emerge. He came out deathly white, his body clammy with sweat. He had believed those long hours might be his last. What saved him was the swagger, the ingrained self-belief, of the woman he called Maruska, a woman whose blood was so blue she had grown up in an actual castle. These days she was a trainee vet living in an abandoned shop in Berlin, but she was of a class that had spent centuries ruling this land. Not even the Gestapo could intimidate her.

This history edited down from an article in The Guardian newspaper by Jonathan Freedland. It illustrates the fatal flaw in any dictatorship – the fear in every agent of the state of the consequences of doing anything that might displease the dictator and his henchmen.

Humour

This AI is a Joke

This is my conversation with a business whose website phone number went nowhere. I went for the chat option on the website. My answers in normal, AI in italic.

What is your question. Your phone number doesn't work *Phone number doesn't work.* *What is your name.* Ken Curwen. *What is your phone number.* [I answered with my mobile *number*]. *What is your email address.*

Withheld. *That is not an email address.* You do not need my email address. *That is not an email address.* [I give up] not@home . [AI gives up]

I later discussed this with Gemini AI who said IT would not have been so silly, but it would report this activity to higher authority.

If you're Irish – don't read on

I went into the confessional box after many years of being away from the Catholic Church.

Inside I found a fully equipped bar with Guinness on tap. On one wall, there was a row of decanters with fine Irish whiskey and Waterford crystal glasses.

On the other wall was a dazzling array of the finest cigars and chocolates.

When the priest came in, I said to him, "Father, forgive me, for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession, but I must first admit that the confessional box is much more inviting than it used to be."

He replied, "You moron, you're on my side."

You can't win them all – unless you are blonde

An attractive blonde arrived at the casino. She seemed a little intoxicated and bet twenty-thousand Euros on a single roll of the dice.

She said, "I hope you don't mind, but I feel much luckier when I'm completely naked."

With that, she stripped from the neck down, rolled the dice and yelled, "Come on, baby, Mama needs new clothes!"

As the dice came to a stop, she jumped up and down and squealed: "YES! YES! I WON, I WON!"

She hugged each of the dealers and then picked up her winnings (and her clothes) and quickly departed.

The dealers stared at each other dumbfounded. Finally, one of them asked, "What did she roll?"

The other answered, "I don't know - I thought you were watching the dice."

MORAL OF THE STORY:

Not all blondes are dumb.

But all men.... are men.

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.