



October 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 17th October

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

Friday 21st November

Lunch at The Q@Purga. Meals from \$22 for members.

Friday 5th December

Reserve this date for our Christmas function.

I am pleased to welcome Bette Fritz to the Position of SeniorNet Membership Officer, one of our more demanding executive positions. I also thank Margaret for her six years contribution in that position. The calendar for the rest of the year is almost complete but there are still a few days waiting for a workshop title. If you have any suggestions please drop me a line. We attended the Seniors' EXPO at the Showground, but disappointingly the general attendance was well down. It is possible that the early date (Wednesday 1st October) in Seniors' Month reduced the publicity access to seniors. However we made some firm contacts for future activities.

On Thursday 30th October we have another EXPO coming up at the Whitehill Church of Christ, 219 Whitehill Rd, Raceview, QLD 4305, It runs from 9.30am- 12pm.

Could we have some volunteers to meet and greet those seeking information on SeniorNet.

The end of the year approaches and our Christmas party springs to mind. It will of course be an agenda item for the Management Meeting agenda on Monday 10th November. If you have any preferences as to venue or menu please contact me.

Cheers

President John Mc Veigh.

Email: training@seniornet.com.au

Sunday 19th October

Lunch at Commercial Hotel, Redbank. Lunch specials \$16

Sunday 9th November

Lunch at Springfield Garden Restaurant (Chinese). Lunch specials \$14

Sunday 16th November

Lunch at Punjab Curry House, Redbank Plains. Lunch special \$13.

Just Friends Social Group

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

Sunday 30th November

Coach trip to Brindabella Rose Gardens and Cabarlah Markets

The Rose Gardens are a leading rose nursery just north of Toowoomba. After a guided tour there, we go on to the truly traditional farmers' markets at Cabarlah and then lunch at the Grand Old Crow Hotel in Crows Nest. Cost including lunch \$65. Pickup 8.20am Redbank Plaza

SeniorNet Workshop Programme: October – November 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
22nd October Word C & C <i>Ken Curwen</i>	23rd October Introduction to Computing: Email 3 <i>John McVeigh</i>	24th 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>
19th November Libre Draw: Christmas Cards <i>Joan McKenzie</i>	20th November Introduction to Computing <i>John McVeigh</i>	21st November Social Lunch <i>The Q @ Purga</i>
26th November Shop Safely Online <i>Ken Curwen</i>	27th November Introduction to Computing <i>John McVeigh</i>	28th November Family History: 100 Years Ago <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@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

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: 100 Years Ago

In this workshop, we travel back a century in time. How much do we know about how our families enjoyed their festive season?

Participate in a fun filled morning turning back 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 Draw: Christmas Cards

Using the Libre Office Draw module, we will create a Christmas card. 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 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/>

Shop Safely Online

Online shopping opens a virtual Aladdin's Cave of things to buy. There are many horror stories of things going wrong but by taking some relatively simple precautions, you can have an enjoyable and economical experience.

Word C & C

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

Recipe of the Month

Peperonata

This is a tasty Italian side dish – can be served hot or cold.

It's not well known in Australia, but is simple to cook.

Ingredients:

4 to 5 Mixed Red and Yellow Peppers
2 Hot Banana Peppers (Optional)
3 Tablespoons Olive Oil
1 Medium Onion
Salt & Pepper
2 Garlic Cloves Minced
400g Chopped Tomatoes (or tin) + 300ml tomato juice to make up
Fresh Chopped Parsley

Directions:

Deseed peppers and slice into 25mm strips.

Slice the onion into thin slices and cut these slices into quarters.

Heat the olive oil in a large, heavy pan, and add the onions and peppers.

Cook for about 10 minutes on medium heat, stirring frequently, until both the onions and peppers have softened and taken on some colour. Add the garlic.

Add the tomatoes with juice and reduce heat to a simmer.

Season with salt and pepper and cook for an additional 30 to 40 minutes, adding more juice if the mixture seems to be drying out too much.

Add the parsley and cook for an additional 5 minutes.

Taste once more and adjust seasonings if needed.

Some cheffing jokes

Did you hear about the Italian chef that died? He pasta way. We cannoli do so much. His legacy will become a pizza history.

What do you call the Tom Cruise movie about cooking? A Few Good Menus.

What did the French chef give his wife for Valentine's Day? A hug and a quiche!

Why did the pastry chef get arrested? For baking and entering.

Why did the chef have to stop cooking? He ran out of Thyme.

Why did the chef quit? They cut his celery.

What music do chefs play in the kitchen? Wok N Roll.

How many pastry chefs does it take to make a pie? 3.14

Have you heard about the Sauna that serves food? Their specialty is steamed mussels.

Tech Talk

My Electric Car

I have been planning for some time to switch to an electric car in the next couple of years, both because it would be a zero-emission vehicle and because I believe electric cars will become standard and the value of petrol cars will drop to about zero. But the failure of my Impreza air conditioning meant that I would need to spend about \$3000 to have it repaired when the hot season commenced – the car was not designed to ventilate properly with the windows open. So it made sense to expedite the changeover and trade in the Subaru in September.

Since I had heard good reports of MG (Saic Motor) cars I chose to buy the MG4 Excite which has a fully charged range of 300km around town. Using power from my solar panels (or from the grid) through a standard 15A power socket the car takes 25 hours to charge from flat to full (the charge lead only delivers 2KW and the battery is 51KWH). In practice it goes on charge during the day when I am at home; this adds about 20KWH or 120km of travel. But my doctor, who drives a Tesla, advises me that some electricity suppliers offer night rates of 6c/KWH, and that would allow a full charge for \$3 – as against \$15 at the full rate.

Being a new car, it has numerous bells and whistles that I find useful, including self-steering (as part of the smart cruise control) when in stop-go traffic. But an unexpected feature is that, since the air conditioner does not depend on an engine compressor, it can be turned on remotely (there's an app for that) when it has been left in an exposed car park while shopping. The app also includes “find my car” and reports on the recharging status.

Its acceleration is amazing – 0-100Km/hr in eight seconds (my Impreza took ten seconds, the first two being the time it required to spin up the engine). The batteries give it a very low centre of gravity, so it is remarkably stable; and its inertia means that it can pass over speed bumps without jumping.

Ken Curwen

Keyboard locked by Filter Keys

No matter how long you have worked with computers, problems can still arise which leave you scratching your head. One such case recently was a brand-new laptop where the keyboard would not accept any key press. No keys were working. At first I thought it was a hardware issue and the laptop would need to be returned under warranty.

However since the laptop was brand new with no user data or programs loaded, I decided to do a reset. This returns the laptop to a fresh Windows state and ensures that any changes made (deliberately or inadvertently) are wiped out. Once the reset was complete, the keyboard was working perfectly.

On further investigation, it appeared the owner had changed some of the setting in the **Ease of Access** settings. These settings are designed to assist people with disabilities to use a computer. Some of these settings impact the way the keyboard works. One, *Filter Keys*, has the unintended consequence of ‘locking’ the keyboard and making it appear unresponsive.

This article explains what Filter Keys are and how to turn the feature off in Windows 11.

<https://allthings.how/how-to-unlock-keyboard-on-windows-11/>

For Windows 10, go to **Settings**→**Ease of Access**→**Keyboard**. You will see a toggle to turn on or off Filter Keys (it should be off by default). I would also suggest taking the tick out of the box beside the shortcut key. Filter Keys could be turned on inadvertently by something resting on the Shift key on the keyboard.

Unless you need them, I would also suggest turning off all the other keyboard modifiers on this page and their shortcuts – I have had Sticky Keys cause problems for people when it has been accidentally turned on.

Phil Buchanan 2023

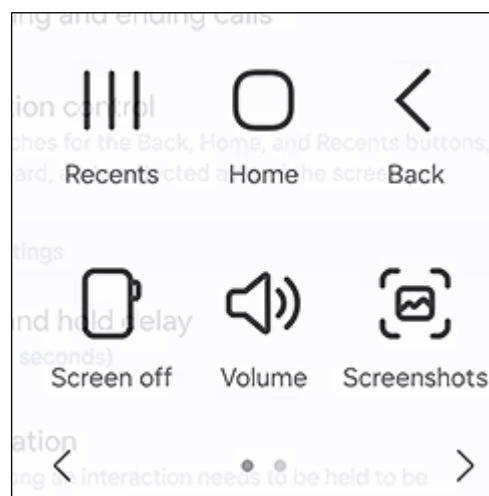
Samsung Accessibility

Phil's article discussed an unfortunate side effect of an accessibility feature in Windows. But Samsung have a feature whose side effects, I find, greatly improves my use of my tablet.

Their Assistant menu is a floating button with quick shortcuts for various functions, including taking screenshots, going to the home screen, and accessing the notification panel. Most of its functions bypass the built-in methods using multiple physical buttons or complex swipes.

Once you have activated it you just tap it to open the menu as shown on the right. The Recents is more reliable than swiping up – sometimes you find that you have closed the current app in the process; and Screenshots is otherwise started by simultaneously pressing Power and Volume Down on the side of the device – but there you are quite likely to turn the device off instead.

The two arrows at the bottom switch between two sets of functions. The Back arrow replaces swiping left – which again can have unintended results.



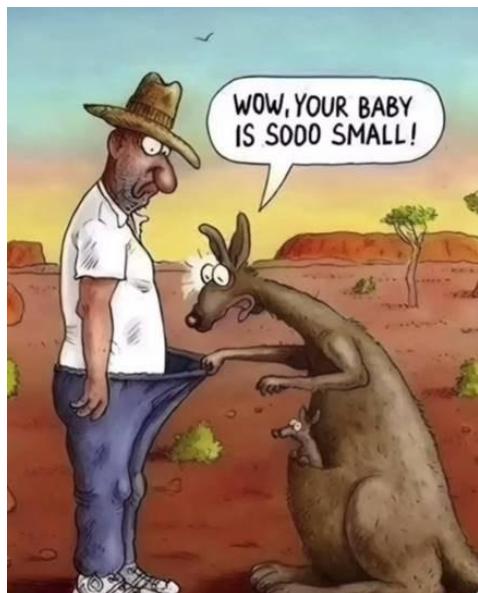
Activating the Assistant Menu

- Open Settings: Swipe down from the top of your screen and tap the gear icon to open the Settings app (or open it from your home screen if it is there)
- Go to Accessibility: Scroll down and tap on Accessibility.
- Select Interaction and dexterity: On the Accessibility screen, find and tap on Interaction and dexterity.
- Turn on Assistant menu: Locate Assistant menu and tap on the toggle to turn it on.

Editing the Assistant menu

There are a range of functions beyond the default sets, and you can change them around by tapping on “Select Assistant menu items” just below the activation toggle and then dragging and dropping items to and from the store below.

Ken Curwen



Potty History

Goliath beats David

The cruise ship Resolute, the Goliath of this comedy, had a somewhat chequered career. It was named for HMS Resolute which had been involved in seeking for the North West Passage around the north of Canada (and the US Presidential 'Resolute' desk was built from timbers from the latter ship). The cruise ship, pictured, weighed 8000 tonnes and took some 180 passengers on luxury cruises to Antarctica.

In March 2020 Resolute's engines needed overhauling and to minimise docking charges it was decided that this would be done at sea. To make it possible to work on the engines Resolute stopped both of them and was found drifting in international waters by the Venezuelan coastguard ship Naiguata, the David of my story, which is also pictured. The latter ship had a displacement of some 1700 tonnes (about a fifth of Resolute) and was equipped with a 76mm (3") gun. The captain of Naiguata decided that Resolute was up to no good and ordered Resolute to follow his ship to port for further investigations. The captain of Resolute replied that this did not suit his plans, which were to repair the starboard engine supercharger in situ and then proceed to Curacao.



Naiguata's captain did not want to accept "No" for an answer and fired a warning shot over Resolute, to no effect, and then decided on a drastic course of action. Naiguata turned on Resolute and rammed her starboard side. This did NOT have the desired result – recalling that Resolute was designed with a hull strong enough to cut through Antarctic icefields, she suffered only minor damage...but Naiguata's bow was totally destroyed and she sank within the hour. The Venezuelan authorities attempted to define the action as terrorism on the part of Resolute but this suggestion was laughed out of court.

Ken Curwen, inspired by a video by Simon Whistler.

Classic naval joke

A Sailor and a Marine were in a bar drinking beer and arguing which was the better service. Well into the argument the Marine said "We took Iwo Jima!"

The Sailor then stated "We won the Battle of Midway!"

The Marine then said, "Not exactly, there were a lot of Marines fought and lost their lives in that battle." The Sailor conceded to the Marine that the Navy could not have won the battle without the help of the Marines and out of desperation blurted out "The Navy invented sex!"

The Marine answered with "Maybe you did, but it was the Marines who introduced it to women!"

Humour

Old Man Humour

I asked my wife what women really want. She said “A tent of lovers” Or was it “Attentive lovers” (I wasn’t really listening).

I was told that I wouldn’t have kids after my vasectomy. But when I got home they were still all there.

My new car has a button for everything. Even one that says “Rear wiper”. I’m still too afraid to push that one.

One minute you are young and fun. The next you are turning down the stereo in your car to see better.

Famous People Humour

“When I was a boy I was told anybody could become President. I’m beginning to believe it” – Clarence Darrow ... and anybody who has seen a Donald Trump speech (Ed).

“It isn’t the ups and downs that makes life difficult. It’s the jerks.” – Charlie Chaplin

“A successful man is one that can do the job better than most.” - Vince Lombardi

“It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop.” - Confucius

“It’s kind of fun to do the impossible.” - Walt Disney

“Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.”—Oscar Wilde (June 1954)

“Sometimes the road less travelled is less travelled for a reason.”—Jerry Seinfeld (February 1997)

“Never go to bed mad. Stay up and fight.”—Phyllis Diller

“If you can’t be kind, at least be vague.”—Judith Martin

“Misers are no fun to live with, but they make great ancestors.”—Tom Snyder

“If you want to know what God thinks of money, just look at the people he gave it to.”—Dorothy Parker

“Doing nothing is very hard to do. You never know when you’re finished.”—Leslie Nielsen

“Just be good and kind to your children. Not only are they the future of the world—they’re the ones who can sign you into a home.”—Dennis Miller

“Instead of getting married again, I’m going to find a woman I don’t like and give her a house.”—Rod Stewart

“Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes.”—Jim Carrey

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.