



November 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 5th December

Christmas break up lunch at PA Hotel.

See next page for details.

Friday 6th February 2026

Coffee and Chat and remember our holiday activities

The end of 2025 has arrived; our last workshop is planned for 28th November.

Christmas Breakup Party will be on Friday 5th December (see full invitation later in the newsletter). You might like to consider wearing something Christmassy.

We attended three Seniors' Month EXPOS recently and received lots of positive comments from the passing crowd however the outcome was disappointing – particularly as the major one at the Showgrounds had a quarter of its normal attendance.

I am pleased to report we have received two grants totalling \$7000.00 that will reduce the financial burden for our members in 2026. But we will still be soliciting your membership payments – see page 2.

We will start next year's programme with a Coffee and Chat on Friday 6th February 2026, with workshops starting in the following week.

In an effort to reduce the Management Committee workload over the Christmas break we are planning our first meeting for 19th January 2026. One matter under consideration will be the Annual General Meeting (NOTE, it is the thirtieth for SeniorNet) in March, provided we can get the books audited and nomination forms for executive positions distributed and returned in time.

A special thankyou to all those who work behind the scenes to share the workload.

May your Christmas be happy and the New Year be kind.

Sunday 14th December

Raceview Tavern (buffet)

Christmas Break up Lunch at 12 noon.

Subsidised for members \$20, non-members \$31

Just Friends Social Group

Sunday 30th November

Coach trip to Mount Lofty and Cabarlah Markets

Visit the Boyce Gardens and the Mount Lofty lookout in Toowoomba. We then go on to the farmers' market at Cabarlah and after that lunch at the Grand Old Crow Hotel in Crows Nest. Cost including lunch \$60. Pickup 8.20am Redbank Plaza.

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

Sunday 22nd February 2026

Coach trip to Springbrook

Weather permitting, travel up to Springbrook National Park to view the waterfalls and views, and enjoy a picnic lunch on the mountains. The fare including lunch will be \$55. Pickup Redbank Plaza 8.00am

From Your Membership Officer

As we start winding down for 2025, this is just a reminder that membership renewals fall due in January 2026.

The Period of Membership is January to December and Annual fees are Ordinary Membership: **\$20.00** or Family Membership: **\$25.00**. Please help by following the steps below.

1. Pay your Membership to Bendigo Bank **BSB: 633 000** Account: **129 070 264 SeniorNet Association Inc. - Add your name as reference.**
2. Email confirmation of payment to: membership@seniornet.com.au

ALSO NOTE: The new Email Address for the Membership Officer is as above. We can no longer access the old email address so will not see anything that is sent to it. Please delete the old one and add the new one to your Contacts list, Thank You.

Looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year,

Bette Fritz, Membership Officer.

CHRISTMAS BREAK UP LUNCH



DATE: FRIDAY, 5TH DECEMBER 2025.

VENUE & TIME: 11.30.a.m. AT CHAR'D. PRINCE ALFRED HOTEL, BOOVAL.

ORDER & PAY FOR YOUR LUNCH FROM THE MENU ON THE DAY.

R.S.V.P. Karen, Social Co-Ordinator – 1/12/2025.

EMAIL: - srnetsocialcoord@gmail.com



Tech Talk

Phil Buchanan writes:

I have always been concerned about how few people have an adequate backup of their computer and the important data it contains. A common comment is 'I don't know how to do a backup'. So I thought I would try to put together a guide which uses a free bit of software (Hasleo Backup Suite) and give a specific tutorial on how to create a backup with it. To keep things as simple as possible, the guide does not cover all the options available in the software but provides (I hope) a clear tutorial on how to create a basic backup and keep that backup up to date.

The problem is the guide grew too rapidly and became too large for newsletter articles. I have been fiddling with it over the last few months and there are still some bits which I think could be improved but it basically does the job.

The resulting guide has been posted to our website and can be downloaded [here](#)

Editorial

Since the October issue contained all the remaining activities, this Christmas issue allows me to broaden my usual material; the first two pages are all you need to read, the rest are for enjoyment. There is a Christmas quiz for Seniors; and a Potty Quiz “Are You Smarter than a 12th grader” which checks out your knowledge of the correct Caesar (Julius) as set in the end of year exams (but can deviate occasionally). And, of course, some humour to fill any gaps.

And what do you get from doing the quizzes? Bragging rights at the break up (see previous page).

At the recent Committee meeting it was suggested that archive copies of past Newsletter article (basically Tech Talk and Potty Histories) be linked under the Newsletter menu.

I would like to extend to you my wish that your Christmas be Merry and your New Year’s Eve ROCK.

Ken Curwen

THE FUN STARTS HERE

Christmas Quiz

Quizmaster’s suggestion – you may look for many of the answers on You Tube but the results you find may not be the right ones

1. What is the name of the jolly, happy soul in the popular 1950 Christmas song?
2. What did my true love send to me on the first day of Christmas?
3. And how many drummers drumming were there?
4. In the same song what are the five gold rings? Hint: what gifts otherwise feature from seven down.
5. “Silent Night” was first performed in what country? Supplementary question, who wrote the tune?
6. What famous crooner sang the hit version of “White Christmas”?
7. Why does Santa wear a red costume?
8. Who popularised the Christmas Tree in the English-speaking countries?

[Jump to Answers](#)

9. What is the traditional treat often hung on a Christmas Tree that is said to have originated in Germany?
10. What plant is traditionally kissed underneath at Christmas? Supplementary question: Where would you be most likely to find it in Ipswich?
11. What Christmas ballet features a young girl named Clara and a journey to the Land of Sweets?
12. Who wrote the classic novella “A Christmas Carol”?
13. When it’s Christmas day in Australia what day is it in America (this is a trick question)
14. Who wrote the “Australian Xmas Carols”
15. Who performed “Six White Boomers” (again, this is a trick question)
16. When is the cyclone season in America (the final trick question)

BUT WAIT THERE’S MORE

Potty Caesar Quiz

Quizmaster's Opinion

I think that "studying for the examination" is only slightly worse than not studying at all. You may think that you know what is going to be in the examination – as happened notoriously last month when many schools picked Augustus rather than Julius as the topic for the Year 12 external ancient history exam.

But my major concern is that when you finish your studies, at whatever level, you will be required to do things for which you have not prepared (especially if you are a professional). If your superior could have done it they wouldn't have asked for your assistance (assuming they had the time to do their job and yours).

This particularly annoyed me when the University started taking full fee paying students; for some, the attitude was "we have paid to study here, so it is your job to give us a degree". Sorry and all that, I am also implicitly saying that you can, for example, put together a safe control system for the electric car I am now driving.

Note for quizzers: you won't know most of the answers (the quizmaster himself was surprised by some of them, but unlike most AI he knew that the questions could be asked)

1. What river did Julius Caesar cross in 49 BC to initiate a civil war, and what modern idiom did this act create?
2. How did Caesar cross the alps?
3. What is now the name of the area he conquered – and bonus points if you know what it was then.
4. Why did he go so far; what was in it for him?
5. Why were his soldiers prepared to fight to the death for him?
6. British Conquest: He could see England; did he conquer all of it?
7. Above Suspicion: Which wife did Caesar divorce, and why?

[Jump to Answers](#)

8. The Man of All People: Who is often credited with saying of Caesar that he was "Every man's woman and each woman's man" (don't snigger in class!)
9. Where did Octavian fit into the pattern? Who did he end up as?
10. Nominal question (and clue to previous answer): how do you know Julius from Augustus?
11. He mucked about with the Roman calendar – what was wrong with the old calendar? Bonus points if you know that the date in question 1 could not have been part of the calendar and why.
12. The new calendar: What was the date of the change, and the consequent name given to the previous year.
13. Amazingly two months of the new calendar were given new names, one almost immediately and the other nearly forty years later; see if you can guess which months they were.
14. When Julius Caesar was assassinated what was his official title (people from across the Pacific might be better at guessing that answer).

Another example of why punctuation matters.

Announcement from Buckingham Palace "We have decided to withdraw all remaining honours from: the man formerly known as Prince; Andrew (Vice); Admiral of the Fleet."

Christmas Quiz Answers

1. Frosty the Snowman

2. A partridge in a pear tree

3. Twelve drummers drumming (what else can they do?)

4. Five ring-necked pheasants

The lyric "five golden rings" from the "Twelve Days of Christmas" song is often misinterpreted as referring to five literal golden rings. However, this interpretation is incorrect. The correct meaning of "five golden rings" is five ring-necked pheasants, which are birds. The confusion arose from the lyrics being misinterpreted,

5. Franz Gruber was the Austrian composer who wrote the music for the Christmas carol "Silent Night" in 1818. He collaborated with lyricist Joseph Mohr, and the song was first performed in Oberndorf near Salzburg, Austria. The carol was added to UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage in 2011.

6. Bing Crosby.

7. You would think that a person in the area where polar bears roam would NOT wear red. But...

In the late 19th century, political cartoonist Thomas Nast's 1881 depiction of Santa in red and white was particularly influential.

And... advertising...starting in 1931, Coca-Cola's holiday advertising campaigns, featuring a jolly Santa in a red suit designed by Haddon Sundblom, were highly successful. While not the inventor of the red suit, the company's marketing cemented the modern image of Santa as an old man in a red suit trimmed with white fur.

8. Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, popularised the Christmas tree in England in the mid-19th century. An illustration of the royal family with their decorated tree in the *Illustrated London News* in 1848 inspired many other families to adopt the tradition, though the custom was first introduced to Britain by German-born Queen Charlotte decades earlier.

The last line was a surprise even to the Quizmaster

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9. A gingerbread man (or gingerbread in general).

10. Mistletoe. Supplemental answer: Mistletoe spreads along roads in Australia primarily because it thrives in the isolated trees found there and is dispersed by animals, particularly the mistletoebird. The bird eats the berries and deposits the seeds in its droppings on other trees, facilitating the plant's spread. This process is common on roadsides and in cleared paddocks where conditions favour mistletoe growth, though it is less common in undisturbed bushland.

11. The Nutcracker AKA Tchaikovsky "Nutcracker Suite"

12. Charles Dickens. *He wrote most of the books the Quizmaster has never got around to reading.*

13. Obviously Christmas Eve; but arguably it is not daytime in the Americas

14. William James. But don't search for William James, there are HEAPS of him/them

15. NOT Rolf Harris, he was committed to prison for indecent assaults on young girls and thus although he composed the song he is **politically incorrect**.

The next best answer is Russel Coight in the 2004 album "The Spirit of Christmas"

I told you not to rely on You Tube.

16. They don't have cyclones; they have hurricanes (which spin counter-clockwise, is that how you can tell if you are not there???)

Caesar Quiz Answers

1. The Rubicon river; this marked the official boundary of ancient Rome (about 300km north). So he (with his dedicated soldiers, see question 5) were now committed to a civil war. Minor detail (according to Wikipedia) outlying legions had already taken a city on the other side of the border.

The idiom is “Crossing the Rubicon”; meaning to pass a point or situation from which there is no return.

2. Trick question; Hannibal of Carthage got elephants over the passes 150 years previously; they were the main battle tanks of the time, but unlike the tanks they could be frightened and squash adjacent friendly troops.

Caesar could have ridden or gone by Uber for all we definitely know.

3. France / Gaul (think Gauloises without the tobacco). Took his troops about 8 years (including Switzerland / Helvetia)
4. This is a bit complicated; think World War 2 meetings of Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill, except that two of the three Triumvirs (Caesar, Pompey and the money man was Crassus) got to conquer and divide. Pompey played it safe and went east – plenty of pillage but they had all been there before. Caesar took the long shot and ended up with the jackpot.
5. Short answer...money. Long answer...even more money. He certainly doubled the salary of his troops over the norm of the time and I have seen an article stating that the ones who survived the Gaul conquest were paid off with a lump sum equal to an entire career’s pay. RSL eat your heart out.
6. He did send a couple of, effectively, scouting parties; but again his main game plan was to get Rome, not some sodden island in the north. Eventually Caesar Claudius, the fourth Emperor from the dynasty, decided it was worth conquering and with his characteristic efficiency completed the conquest of everywhere south of the Mersey in five years. The family tree of that dynasty would be a challenge even for Esmae Mander.
7. The wife concerned was his second, Pompeia. He divorced her after a man snuck into a women-only religious festival at his house (there was no suggestion that he got into contact with Pompeia). Caesar was pontifex maximus (high priest) of the vestal virgins, hence the at-home was required. The whole episode was treated by the Roman Senate in much the same way as the Jeffrey Epstein matter has been in the United States. But it could have been a disaster for Caesar and he instigated the divorce “Saying that even the suspicion of impropriety could not be attached to his family”. His third and final wife was Calpurnia.

Why pontifex maximus? It was the first step in the political ladder leading to the prize position of Consul, in effect joint prime minister with another Consul. Each step cost a small fortune in bribery and spectacles for the Roman populace, meaning a budding politician would be deeply in debt to the money men, and needed to get a large fortune of their own by, for example, collecting tributes from Gallic tribes.

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8. Caesar himself was quite a lad. The phrase was uttered in the Senate by Curio the Elder. Compare with the previous question if you will.
9. If you didn’t succeed in siring a legitimate heir (and many of the Julio Fabian dynasty didn’t meet that challenge – see answer 6) you could adopt a likely lad. For Julius the lad was Octavian. After the assassination he morphed into the leadership of the Caesar faction, eventually repeating history by eliminating Mark Anthony (Lepidus was the money man this time). He then decided he was Sublime (or Majestic) which is Augustus in Latin. The rest is history... well so is the whole of this page.
10. Julius Caesar, Caesar Augustus

11. That's a whole book in itself. The founding calendar was decimal (and incidentally for the bonus point...nobody's calendar runs backwards going forwards; the Roman dates were suffixed AUC, short from the date of the start of the cited calendar and what we now would call 753BC; if you are really with it in these days 753BCE...look it up). The year started with March (god of war Mars, what would you expect); Aprilis (spring is sprung); Maius (goddess of fertility); Junius (Juno, goddess of women) but then it got boring, the Latin for "month 6" through to December "month 10". The first six were 30 days, the final four 31 (as they still are apart from September which sacrificed a day to August). And yes, that gives 304 days to the 365-day year. So they were unnamed except for perhaps "gap months". The freedom of the unnamed blocks allowed the start of March to be shifted to correct for lunar time. But what if you set up for the 365.25 day year? Julius added two months, January for Janus the god of Entrances and February means "purification month" but with January being 31 days, February could have had 30 except for the need to handle leap years.
12. It was implemented on January 1, 45 BC. The preceding year, 46 BC, had 445 days to correct the drift already incurred by the previous by guess calendar; it was called the "Year of Confusion". Suddenly you had to wait an extra 80 days for your next birthday! See a bit more on this general topic below. As noted below, the following year...
13. Bad guess if you didn't think of July for Julius and August for Augustus. Hence the day swap with September, an Emperor cannot have a short month to his name.
14. Dictator for Life (Dictator Perpetuo). Didn't last very long, only a couple of months in 44BC. Donald eat YOUR heart out.

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Later Calendar Changes

Pope Gregory XIII realised that things were a bit out of alignment in 1582 and popped in the leap-year-not-every-century-year patch. At the time there need to be an adjustment dropping 10 days (less time between birthdays, but a black hole in there somewhere). Most Catholics followed the Papal recommendation, but Protestant countries would have nothing of it. In George II reign the transition period for all the Empire had become eleven days and complaints were made about "Give us back our eleven days". Today...would Centrelink make an extra payment???

Ken Curwen

Humour

One Liners

Whenever I have a panic attack I put a brown paper bag over my mouth and drink all the whisky inside... it seems to help

My partner's female intuition is so well developed that sometimes she knows I am wrong before I even open my mouth

Old age can come at a bad time; just as I was beginning to think I knew everything I am forgetting everything I knew

I will never forget that day at Bunnings when I bought a packet of birdseed and asked the girl on checkout "How long does it take for the birds to grow after planting?"

At last we are learning what it's like being the same age as old people.

I have removed all the bad food from the house. It tasted delicious.

In Australia 1000km is a short distance and 100 years a long time; in England 100km is a long distance and 1000 years is a short time

Blast from the Past - The New Mill, Eversley

When I was a kid our next-door neighbours were (Squadron Leader) Royston and Sheila Albrechts. He worked on parachute design during the war and silk offcuts from the workshop were prized by all the women nearby (most became knickers, as I recall).

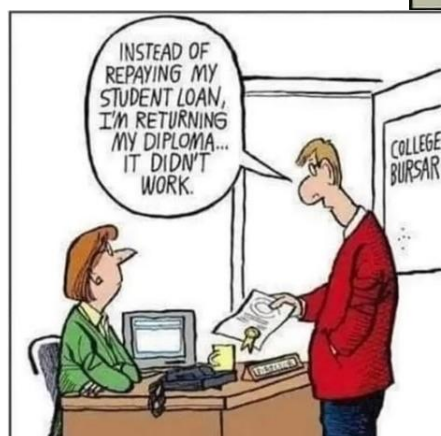
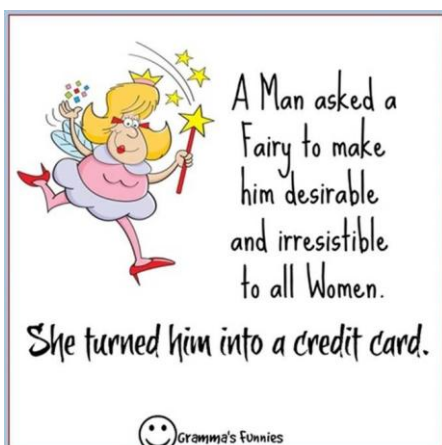
After the war he was demobbed and they moved away having purchased the New Mill in Eversley. We would visit regularly, and they told us of its history.

In 1237, a mill pond was mentioned in an agreement regarding the Eversley manor and by 1374, there was a mill, which was in ruins by 1435. The next information is 300 years later.

The "Old Mill" was destroyed by fire around 1760, and a replacement mill, known as the "New Mill", was built on the same site. It was a lovely undershot water mill but no longer functioning in 1948. In about ten years Royston rebuilt it to the stage that he could once again grind corn.

As can be seen, "New" can be 200 years old. Checking it out now, it is a high-class restaurant and wedding venue.

Ken Curwen (perhaps that is why I value my history)



See my comment
on page 4
Quizmaster

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Ken Curwen. Newsletter Editor.