Ipswich

SeniorNet

February 2026

"Seniors helping seniors use computers and the internet"

SeniorNet Association Inc.

www.seniornet.com.au

President's View

On Other Pages

Social Events

Lunches

Friday 20th February
Social Lunch Mihi Tavern –
Lunches from $15; 11.45am for 12

Friday 20th March
AGM and Lunch – PA Hotel –
lunches from $24; 11.45am for 12

Coffee and Chat

Friday 6th February
Pop Saari – Norfolk Island slideshow

Friday 6th March - TBA

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2026.

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break and are looking to recommencing SeniorNet activities.

Our first Coffee and Chat will be on Friday 6th February. See poster on page 4 for details.

Our workshops recommence on Wednesday 11th February; the Editor is first up with the answers to "How do I get this phone to do what I want" ... provided it is not an Apple iPhone.

Joan has extended her break and will not recommence Apple iPhone/iPad workshops until March. Any suggestions of subjects or trainers who could fill the vacant Wednesday morning sessions would be appreciated.

The training programme overleaf has been posted on our website.

We will hold our AGM on Friday 20th March at the PA Hotel. Please arrive at 10.30am as the meeting will commence at 11.00am, followed by lunch; you should order off the menu as we did at Christmas. **We expect that all who come to lunch will also attend the meeting.** The PA management team assure us that all meals will be delivered at the same time (unlike the delays that occurred at Christmas).

Please consider nominating for any Executive Officer positions. Nomination forms will soon be available on the Website or at any of our functions.

This is our 30th year of SeniorNet training and we have commenced planning for a mid-year celebration.

We have booked this year's Christmas celebration for Friday 4th December at the PA, provided that the AGM runs smoothly.

John McVeigh, President

Just Friends Social Group

Sunday 8th February
Lunch at Punjab Curry House, Redbank Plains.   Lunch special $14

Sunday 15th February
Lunch at Commercial Hotel, Redbank. Lunch specials $16

Sunday 22nd February
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

Sunday 29th March
Coach trip to Jondaryan Woolshed
Travel to Jondaryan Woolshed just past Oakey. We will have a picnic lunch at the Damper Shed there and walk around the property. Cost including lunch and admission $60. Pickup Redbank Plaza, 8.20am

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

SeniorNet Workshop Programme: February – March 2026

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
4th February *Presenter*	5th February	6th February Coffee & Chat *Pop Sarri*
11th February Android Basic: Settings & Apps * *Ken Curwen*	12th February Introduction to Computers 1: Welcome, Setup and Housekeeping *John McVeigh*	13th February Family Tree Maker *Bette Fritz*
18th February	19th February Introduction to Computers 2: Getting your fingers on the keyboard *John McVeigh*	20th February Social Lunch – 11.45 for 12 noon *Mihi*
25th February Android: Apps * *Ken Curwen*	26th February Introduction to Computers 3: Browsers - Beginning your Research Journey *John McVeigh*	27th February I Love Facebook *Christine Barrett*
4th March Android: Games * *Ken Curwen*	5th March Introduction to Computers 4: Be Connected - Help from the government *John McVeigh*	6th March Coffee & Chat *TBA*
11th March Android: Searching * *Ken Curwen*	12th March Introduction to Computers 5: Setup multiple views on a single screen *John McVeigh*	13th March Trove *Bette Fritz*
18th March	19th March Introduction to Computers 6: File Explorer - the window to your Computer step 1 *John McVeigh*	20th March AGM and Lunch – 10.30 for 11am *PA Hotel*
25th March Introduction to iPad * *Joan McKenzie*	26th March Introduction to Computers 7: File Explorer Step 2 *John McVeigh*	27th March Family History: The Long Farewell *Esmae Mander*

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 Basic: Settings and Apps

Learn about the most common settings for your Android device and follow this with a look at some useful Android apps, loading them up and having a play. You can then decide whether to keep them or remove them from your Android tablet or phone.

Android: Apps

A journey through the land of Android apps, stopping at interesting ones, loading them up and having a play. You can then decide whether to keep them or remove them from your Android tablet or phone.

Android: Games

This will be a round-up of the games your Trainer enjoys regularly, plus a run through of the best games of 2025. Be sure to have your Google account details with you in case you decide to install your game of choice.

Android: Searching

You are sure to have used the Chrome browser but there are many tricks and tips that are far from obvious and will be covered in this workshop. You will also see the impact of AI in current browsers. Finally you will learn the comparative place of Wikipedia in finding information.

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.

Introduction to Computers 1: Welcome, Setup, Housekeeping

If you are new to using a computer or are not confident around computers, come and find out about the basics including what you see on the screen, what you can do with the computer and how to personalize it.

Introduction to Computers 2: Getting your fingers on the keyboard

Practice using the keyboard and mouse. Explore the ease of access features of Windows 10 and 11.

Introduction to Computers 3: Browsers – Beginning your research journey

Learn how to research the internet using web browsers. Find out how to distinguish trash from treasure. Practice Safety on Line - how to avoid dangers that lurk in the undergrowth.
See how to use the new artificial intelligence features which illuminate some of the darkness.

Introduction to Computers 4: Be Connected - Help from the government

Be Connected is an Australian Government initiative aimed at increasing the confidence, skills and online safety of older Australians in using digital technology. How can it help YOU?

Introduction to Computers 5: Setup multiple views on a single screen

Splitting your screen in Windows allows you to work more effectively by displaying multiple apps simultaneously. This means that you can cross check one aspect of your life with another – for example, your future plans against your budget. Let's dive into the steps to make this happen.

Introduction to Computers 6: File Explorer - The window to your computer

What happened to all the stuff you put on your computer? File Explorer manages the filing and retrieval of information created and or downloaded. This topic will spread over several workshops.

Introduction to iPad

Did you get an iPad recently? Or have you had one for a while but do not feel confident enough to start using it? Come along and start enjoying it. Bring along any cables that belong to it.
Bring along also any usernames and passwords that were used to set the device up (if someone else set it up, ask them to write this information down for you). If your device is still in its box, bring along your email username and password. If you do not have an email account, just bring the device. If the device has never been used, or not used for a while, please connect the cable to a power point and charge the device before the day of the workshop.

I Love Facebook

Facebook replaces our newspapers, your choice of magazine content and hobbies of your choosing all for free.

The Long Farewell

Review a settlers' journey of emotional, physical, and social separation involved in migrating from Britain to Australia, particularly during the 18th and 19th centuries. The voyage itself took several months by sea, making return unlikely and communication with family left behind slow and uncertain.

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.

WELCOME TO 2026 – COFFEE & CHAT- 6TH February 2026.

Members and Guests are invited to our first get together for 2026 at Congregational Church Hall, 117 Wildey St., Raceview.

Please bring a plate to share for Morning Tea.

Start up time 9.30a.m. to gather, greet and organize your Morning Tea.

SENIORNET MEMBER, POP SAARI WILL ENTERTAIN US WITH A VISUAL PRESENTATION ON NORFOLK ISLAND.

Recipe of the Month

Dawn's Lettuce Soup

Dawn gave the editor this recipe on a coach tour; it's great for using up aging lettuce in summer. You can freeze it until you feel like soup.

Ingredients

> 15g butter
> 1 Granny Smith apple peeled cored in 8 portions
> ½ onion diced
> ¼ Iceberg lettuce cut to wedges
> ½ cup frozen peas
> 1 tsp curry paste
> Stock

Method

Melt butter in a saucepan and soften onion and apple

Add lettuce, curry paste, and stock to cover (about 1 cup); bring to boil

Add frozen peas and return to boil

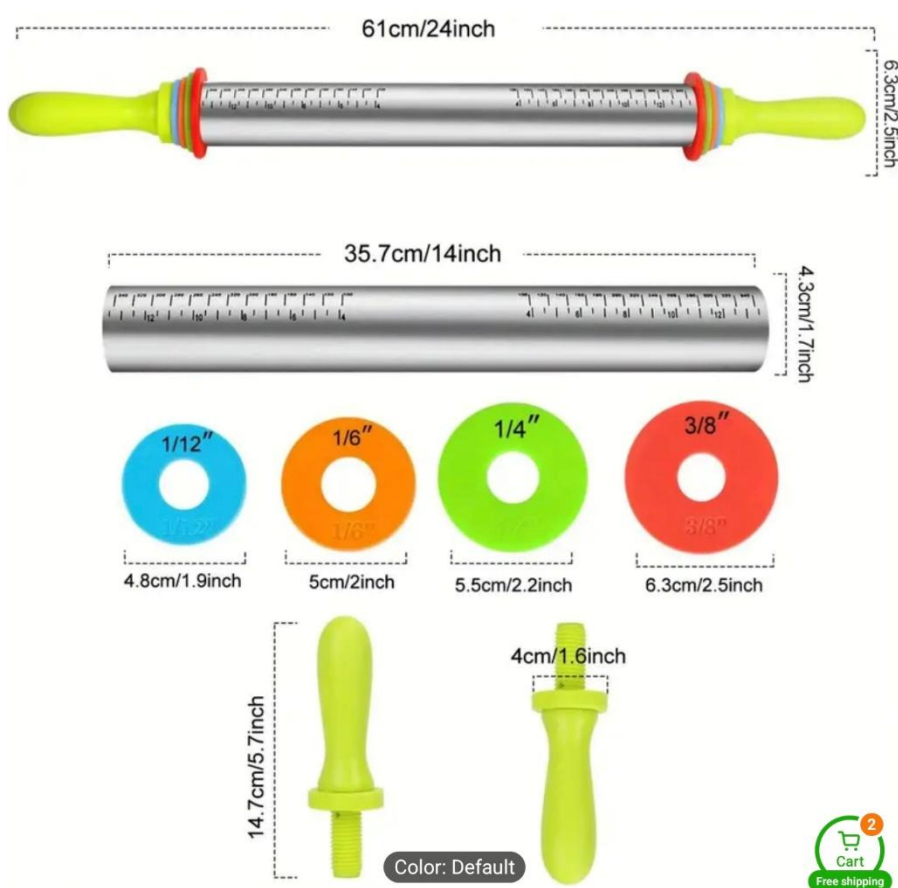Remove saucepan from stove and blitz to preferred consistency.

Makes 3 serves

Ken's Tips for Biscuits

Most biscuit recipes suggest you let the dough rest by wrapping it in cling wrap and putting it in the refrigerator. This process allows the dough to cool and firm up making it easier to roll out. The cling wrap stops the dough from drying out (if the dough is moist, you can just rest it on a plate). But cling wrap is notorious for clinging to anything as well as to itself, and making a neat parcel usually involves extra wrap to enclose fissures where it didn't quite make it around. So I thought – why not use a normal kitchen container (Décor is my favourite); and choose either a low profile if the recipe suggests flattening the ball, or higher profile if not. Putting on the lid is, as before, optional. You have to wash up the container, but you are already washing the mixer bowl.

My second offering was found on Temu. It is an adjustable roller, so you can guarantee the thickness of your biscuits before putting them in the oven. With normal rollers you have to be really competent to ensure the dough is the right thickness before cutting the biscuits out – I always had to do at least two rolls and test biscuits, checking thickness and weight, before cutting the whole batch – and even then some biscuits came out too thick from one side of the rolled pastry and too thin from the other.

The principle is easy to see in this illustration:

The coloured discs are fitted as a pair to each end of the roller using the screw in handles.   The image is imperial measure, but the discs are proud of the roller by, in order, 2mm (wafer); 3mm (cream sandwich); 6mm (standard biscuit) and 10mm (shortbread). The handles do not rotate, so you have to roll the roller from the top with the flat of your hands – but this is the best controlled method anyway.

Tech Talk

Ken's Tip - Complex AI Query

It is very frustrating in these days of AI browsers to try to ask a complicated question. If you pause to think while you are dictating or typing the browser will give an answer to PART of the question which is NOT what you wanted.

I have found that a good way out is to compose the question as a document (within an email if you don't have a program like Word on your device). Then long press a word, choose Select All, then Copy. Go to the browser and long press in the query bar to get a paste command. Now watch as the AI tries to wrestle with the problem.

Optus Email Not Sending

Over the last few days I have had numerous phone calls from Optus users being able to receive email but not send. Incoming email is received correctly but an error is given when trying to send.

From what I have been able to determine the issue lies with Optus. The fault is occurring in several email clients including Outlook (Microsoft Office/Microsoft 365), Outlook for Windows and Thunderbird.

In their setup instructions, Optus requires that the SMTP server (which handles outgoing email) be configured with Port 25. But it appears that Optus is blocking this port. I am not sure if this is some new change at their end (although there are reports of the problem on forums going back some time) or it is a problem they are having in their system.

I found some instructions which can confirm if this port is blocked for an Optus user. Right click on the Start button and select Terminal (Admin). This will open a command line window. In this window type the following and press Enter:

```
tnc mail.optusnet.com.au -port 25
```

This will take a while to establish the connection. What you are looking for is the error message:

WARNING: TCP connect to (<some IP address> : 25) failed

The result beside the line `TCPTestSucceeded` will be `False`.

(https://techsolvers.com.au/blog/how-to/cant-send-emails-from-optus-heres-the-fix/)
Dated 2022 so this is not a new problem but one which seems to recur at intervals

If you can confirm the Optus problem, I think there are three immediate solutions.

1. Switch to the Optus webmail service. Use your web browser (Edge, Chrome, etc) to go to https://webmail.optusnet.com.au. You will need to enter your Optus email address and your password. You should be able to send and receive your email from here. You will need to know your password and some of your received email will be missing if it has already been downloaded by your email program. Your Address Book will also be empty since it is in your Windows application.

2. Change the server settings in your email application. This may not be easy for you if you do not have access to technical help. Basically you need to find the Port number for the SMTP server and change it to 587. Here are the settings you need for the SMTP server. **Before changing anything**, take careful note (write it down! Or better still, take a screenshot) of the current settings so you can put things back if it does not work.

   SMTP Server: mail.optusnet.com.au
   PORT: 587
   SECURITY STARTTLS (or just TLS)
   Username: <Your OPTUS email address>
   Password: <Your OPTUS password>

   All the other details should be OK and not need to change. Just change the 25 to 587 and then click **OK** or **Save** or whatever your program needs. Exit and restart the program and try sending a test email.

If you are using *Outlook* that comes as part of Microsoft 365 you should be able to find these settings under **File→Account** settings. Then click on **Change** and then **More Settings**.

In Outlook for Windows (previously Outlook (New)) which comes with Windows, go to the Search Box on the Taskbar and search for **Control Panel**. Open the Control Panel and search for **Mail**. Open Mail and click on **Email Accounts**. Click on **Change** and **More Settings**.

Thunderbird: go to **Settings→Account Settings**. Then go to **Outgoing Server (SMTP).** Find the Optus server on the list (you will likely only have one) and select **Edit. ***

Contact Optus and request them to unblock Port 25. This is advice from the TechSolvers page referred to previously but that is a bit old so I am not sure if it still holds true. The webpage includes suggested wording for what to say to the Optus Help Desk. If this works it would mean that no changes likely need to be made to your email settings. So if you are trying to avoid changing your settings this may be the first option to try.

Phil Buchanan (November 2025)

** I guided someone through on the phone with this and it did fix their problem

Ken's Tip - Fast Charger

Nowadays new phones do not come with a charger; it is assumed that you can continue to use the charger for your last phone. But although new phones have the same size battery (about 4000mAh) the ability to charge rapidly has changed.

Using the old charger it will take about 2 hours to recharge – which is fine if you remembered to put the phone on charge last night. But if not...you don't have a phone today.

There is an answer. Samsung put out a charger rated at 25W, which costs about $30. This can give your phone a half charge in about 30 minutes. So plug in to that charger before you have breakfast and you are ready for the connected world.

Potty History

Hitler's Bomb

Niels Bohr, the Danish physicist who had developed the theory behind using Uranium 235 for nuclear fission, had a meeting with Werner Heisenberg, the head of Hitler's nuclear weapons programme, in Copenhagen in 1941. This spooked the Allies into believing Hitler's Reich intended to develop atomic bombs. Given the indiscriminate blitz campaigns in the war so far, the allies decided they should develop nuclear weapons as well. However, within a year (unknown to the Allies) the German nuclear weapons programme was abandoned; this Potty History attempts to explain why.

The Nazi regime's anti-Semitic policies drove many brilliant physicists, engineers, and mathematicians, including key figures in nuclear research (like Albert Einstein, who warned the US of the German interest in an atom bomb) to emigrate. Many of them later contributed significantly to the Allied effort. In all eight top level physicists fled (including Niels Bohr).

The remaining German scientists, notably Werner Heisenberg, made a critical mistake in guessing the amount of uranium 235 required for a bomb at about 60,000 tons – many times more than the actual amount of 64kg in the Hiroshima bomb – and hence far more expensive and time intensive to produce. This contributed to the German belief that building one was impractical during the war.

Also, Walther Bothe in 1941 measured the ability of graphite to moderate the neutrons in a nuclear reactor so that a sustained chain reaction could be achieved. His result indicated that the graphite absorbed too many neutrons, making it appear unsuitable for a nuclear reactor using natural uranium. It turned out that the graphite he was using contained impurities and pure graphite would have been fine. So the Germans turned to heavy water, which could only be obtained from Norsk Hydro plant in German-occupied Norway (which then became a favourite target of the RAF). The Manhattan project scientists got the same initial results but realised that boron-free graphite (petroleum coke) was the answer, and thus the US could also create a plutonium atomic bomb as was dropped on Nagasaki.

Finally, since the Reich High Command (under Hitler) believed they could conquer the whole of Europe by 1944, they concentrated work on comparatively short-term projects such as jet fighters (Messerschmitt 262), V1 "cruise" missiles and V2 ballistic rockets.

To sum up, the Nazi regime was forced by its ideology and its Führer to make decisions which decimated its scientific manpower and removed any urgency from the development of a bomb. **So perish all tyrants!**

Ken Curwen, prompted by a Simon Whistler You Tube presentation

Humour

Little Larry at school

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses.

She started her class by saying, 'Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!'

After a few seconds, Little Larry stood up.

The teacher said, 'Do you think you're stupid, Larry?'

'No, ma'am, but I didn't like to see you standing there all by yourself!'

Little Larry with Dad

Little Larry attended a horse auction with his father.

He watched as his father moved from horse to horse, running his hands up and down the horse's legs and rump, and chest.

After a few minutes, Larry asked, 'Dad, why are you doing that?'

His father replied, 'Because when I'm buying horses, I have to make sure that they are healthy and in good shape before I buy.

Larry, looking worried, said, 'Dad, I think the milkman wants to buy Mom .....'

Oldies but not Goodies

As I've grown older, I've learned that pleasing everyone is impossible, but pissing everyone off is a piece of cake.

I'm responsible for what I say, not what you understand.

Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it the most never use it.

It's not my age that bothers me, it's the side effects.

I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the kerb on bin day.

As I watch this generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of .. it will be misspelled and have no punctuation marks.

If you find yourself feeling useless, remember it took 20 years, trillions of dollars, and four presidents to replace the Taliban with the Taliban.

Turns out that being a "senior" is mostly just googling how to do stuff.

God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world. Then he made the earth round...and laughed and laughed and laughed.

I put my scale in the bathroom corner and that's where the little liar will stay until it apologizes.

My mind is like an internet browser. At least 19 open tabs, 3 of them are frozen, and I have no clue where the music is coming from.

Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall and, when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.

Apparently, RSVP-ing to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time" isn't the correct response.

She says I keep pushing her buttons. If that were true, I would have found mute by now.

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.