

Ipswich

March 2026



“Seniors helping seniors use computers and the internet”

**SeniorNet  
Association Inc.**

[www.seniornet.com.au](http://www.seniornet.com.au)

## President’s View

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### Social Events



### Lunches

#### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

PA Hotel (after AGM) – meals from \$24

#### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April

Sundowner Hotel, Haigslea.  
Blackboard menu lunch \$15

Twenty-one attended our Annual Meeting and enjoyed lunch at the PA Hotel. All incumbents from last year were re-elected.

President	John Mc Veigh
Vice President	Graham Parsons
Secretary	Judith Beitzel
Treasurer	Desley Badrick
Membership Officer	Bette Fritz
Training Coordinator	John Mc Veigh
Newsletter/Web Editor	Ken Curwen
Social Coordinator	Karen Hounslow
Equipment Officer	Barry Gartside

Thank you to all for your support throughout 2025.

The Treasurer’s report showed a balance of \$22,975 at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

Our trainers Joan, Ken, Bette, Esmae and John continue to ensure we can present three workshops per week, and Christine has come on board temporarily to present some Facebook sessions.

Councillor Jim Madden attended and spoke of difficulties encountered researching Family History information stored on obsolete equipment.

He also presented Graham with his lucky door prize.

Ken and Graham are planning our 30<sup>th</sup> year celebrations and would welcome any suggestions or memorabilia.

We were fortunate to meet Karen Wilson from Seniors Social Isolation Prevention Peak Council at the Leichhardt mini-EXPO to hear their plans for the future.

John McVeigh

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Lunch at Little M Coffee Club, Goodna. Meals from \$18.

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

Lunch at Falvey’s Cecil Hotel.  
Lunch specials \$15.

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April

Lunch at Thai Flame Restaurant, Redbank Plains Town Centre.  
Meals from \$22.

### Just Friends Social Group

#### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 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

#### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

##### Coach trip to Bribie Island

Visit the Butterfly House and the Museum and buy lunch (meals from \$20) at Bribie Island RSL. Cost of the trip including entry to the Butterfly House \$TBA. Pickup Redbank Plaza 8.00am,

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

Sponsors: Ipswich City Council, the Queensland Government and Microsoft

## SeniorNet Workshop Programme: March – April 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
<b>18<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>I love Facebook</b>  <i>Christine Barrett</i>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Introduction to Computers 5: File Explorer - the window to your Computer Step 1</b>  <i>John McVeigh</i>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>AGM and Lunch</b>  <i>PA Hotel</i>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Introduction to iPad &amp; iPhone*</b>  <i>Joan McKenzie</i>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Introduction to Computers 6: File Explorer Step 2</b>  <i>John McVeigh</i>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Family History: The Long Farewell</b>  <i>Esmae Mander</i>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> April</b> <b>Google Maps and Calendars *</b>  <i>Ken Curwen</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April</b> <b>Introduction To Computers 7: File Explorer Step 3</b>  <i>John McVeigh</i>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April</b> <b>Good Friday</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>iPad &amp; iPhone: Settings *</b>  <i>Joan McKenzie</i>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Introduction To Computers 8: File Explorer Step 4</b>  <i>John McVeigh</i>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>DNA Interest Group</b>  <i>Bette Fritz</i>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Android: Snapseed *</b>  <i>Ken Curwen</i>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Introduction To Computers 9</b>  <i>John McVeigh</i>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Social Lunch</b>  <i>Sundowner Hotel</i>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> April</b> <b>iPad &amp; iPhone: Troubleshooting *</b>  <i>Joan McKenzie</i>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> April</b> <b>Introduction To Computers 10</b>  <i>John McVeigh</i>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Android: Voice Commands &amp; Automation *</b>  <i>Ken Curwen</i>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Introduction To Computers 11</b>  <i>John McVeigh</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](mailto: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: Google Maps and Calendar**

Google Maps is about the best app for finding your way to a new destination; but you can also check the travel time, not just now, but in advance. Find out the ways to get the best from this app. Also learn how to use the Google Calendar: how to synchronise it with all your devices, the varieties of activities now supported, how to colour code them, repetition of activities and suggestions for creating a family-wide calendar.

### **Android: Snapseed**

This workshop will introduce the free editing app Snapseed. Snapseed is a complete and professional photo editor developed by Google. Learn how to download and use it for a range of photos.

### **Android: Voice Commands and Automation**

OK Google allows you to control your Android device just by speaking to it – like Spock did on Star Trek. And just as Spock used structured commands, starting “Computer”, OK Google requires structured commands. These commands will be explained and tested.

Your instructor will then demonstrate MacroDroid, an app which can run a sequence of commands from a single action

### **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: 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.

### **Introduction to Computers 5: 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 & iPhone**

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.

### **iPad & iPhone: Settings app**

The Settings app helps you to personalise your device, making it easier to use and more able to cater to your needs.

### **iPad & iPhone: Troubleshooting**

There are some simple steps you can take to deal with a misbehaving iPad or iPhone, which help in most cases. We will cover the basics.

## Recipe of the Month

### Savoury shortbreads

40g finely grated parmesan  
100g salted butter (softened)  
75g plain flour  
33g self-raising flour  
65g goat's cheese (half a 100g roll from Aldi)  
Optional handful of parsley or herb(s) of choice – see below note 2

Mix all ingredients in a food processor till smooth.

Put in container (no lid) and refrigerate for an hour.

Preheat oven to 150C

Roll out to 6mm thick and make biscuits with a 60mm diameter round cutter; each biscuit should weigh 20g.

Bake at 150C for approximately 30 mins (just a bit golden). Keep an eye out after 20 minutes if you have made them thinner.

Cool completely on cake rack; if you put it in container warm it will go soggy.

Makes 16

Note 1 – mixed flours – you can use 110g plain flour but the inclusion of self-raising makes a lighter biscuit

Note 2 – I use 2 tsp Gourmet Garden Italian Herb Blend, from Woolworths produce area – the tube freezes and can be defrosted quickly in warm water

Note 3 – see February 2026 newsletter for tips on resting and rolling the biscuits

## Tech Talk

### AI: Turning photos into answers

While most people associate AI with text-based prompts, it can be just as useful when you share photos with it. Here are some examples.

You can take pictures of food at the supermarket and ask questions like, “how healthy are these ingredients?”, “is this ultra-processed?” and “is there a cheaper alternative to this?”

If you go to the gym or other group activities you can take photos of the schedule pinned up on a notice board, share it with the AI, then ask it to give you a version that only includes specific classes, times and instructors.

If you're looking for a bottle of wine at the store and there's no one around to help, you can again take photos of your options, share your preferences, and get the tool to explain and recommend what to buy.

Is this better than interacting with a human who knows their grape varietals? No! But it can be helpful when you're stuck umming and ahing on your way to a party.

*Edited by Ken Curwen from a resource in the Guardian newspaper.*

## Is Your Doorbell Watching You?

You probably saw that Israel located Iran's Supreme Leader with remarkable precision before the strike that killed him earlier this month. Less reported was how; nearly all of Tehran's traffic cameras had been hacked for years, with footage transmitted to Israeli servers, while AI built detailed profiles of security personnel and their routines. An entire city's camera network was silently turned against its owners.

That was a nation-state operation. But the underlying vulnerability exists in millions of ordinary homes right now.

Cheap internet-connected doorbells and security cameras have been found to have serious security flaws, allowing outsiders to access stored footage remotely, or even track your daily routine. A burglar who can watch your doorbell feed doesn't need to case your street in person.

The concern is growing because the AI tools that made the Tehran operation so powerful are becoming cheaper and more accessible every year. The gap between state-level surveillance and criminal hacking is narrowing.

Simple steps that make a real difference:

- Buy from reputable brands
- Change the factory password immediately
- Enable two-factor authentication
- Keep the device software updated

The lesson from Tehran isn't to fear technology — it's to realise that any camera connected to the internet can, in principle, be turned against you. A little caution is worth a lot of privacy.

The simplest protection of all? **A doorbell that just rings.**

*Written by Claude AI at Ken Curwen's request*

Additional consideration: smart home systems (Apple's Siri, Google's Home and Amazon's Alexa) are also at risk, but have far more sophisticated software and automatic updates.

## Changing a Password

If you use a password manager it is a hassle to undertake a password change for a bank or government bureau because the manager will generate a complex new password to replace the old complex password – but the change password routine requires the entry of the old password, then duplicate entries of the new one, and often you cannot even see what you have typed. So the change is aborted and you have to start all over again.

This is my workaround:

- Drop in the old password from your password manager

(the bureau is in no hurry for the replacement password)

- Switch to the password manager and get it to create a new password
- Return to the bureau and enter this new password (twice if required)

Job done!

Ken Curwen

## Coming Soon

Windows 11 has a feature called Phone Link which makes it really easy to transfer, for example, your photos from your phone to your PC. But it is slightly tricky to use and I am developing an article on a bullet-proof method to do this. I hate to admit it, but inter-device communication was always built in to Apple products; what took Windows and Android so long?

Editor

## Temu

Temu is a Chinese-based on-line shopping site which set up business in Australia a few years ago. It is like eBay in that it offers products from its vendors; but unlike eBay it takes total responsibility for checkout, shipping and returns. The picture shows the results of a search for kitchen scales – messy, but functional. If you click/tap any choice you will be offered details and multiple images of the item – usually one of the images will show the dimensions. Many are duplicates at different prices; and most will suggest that they are nearly sold out.

When you choose one for your basket and try to check out you will discover Temu's final frontier. The scales are mostly around \$15 (compare about \$40 at Robin's Kitchen...if they have it in stock). But Temu offer free delivery if you purchase \$50 worth of merchandise in one order (that's nice) but you cannot check out until you have \$50 in your basket (not so nice).

My approach to this is to have a running list of things I might buy (for example, notepads, zip lock bags or other kitchen items such as bottle brushes) and to use them to fill the order up (but see the last paragraph for a recent twist to the process).

Once the order has been placed – you should check out using PayPal if you can, as you then have a guarantee against any loss – you will receive advice of the delivery date and tracking information. The delivery is in a white plastic bag and you will be told it is out for delivery on the day; but the deliverer will not come to the door and will leave it in a 'safe place' (with a photo to help you to locate where).

If an item is unsuitable or faulty you can request a refund. In practice if it costs less than about \$20 you do not need to return the item; you can donate it to charity. You will often not find instructions for use but you can decide that makes the item unsuitable if you cannot get it to work properly. The faulty unit rate is quite high; I suspect a lot of vendors are selling factory rejects.

I recently found an extra trap – Temu now has Australian based vendors. I tried to purchase items worth \$35 and to reach \$50 I added an electric tin opener worth \$20 – but since the latter was from an Australian vendor (marked **Local** as in the third kitchen scales in the search above) it could not be combined in the order. Reasonable in that they could not be shipped in the same bag, but I had to find a different tin opener which came from China to complete my order.

Temu has a few vices. Firstly, when you open the app it will try to play games with you to win free cash in your account; I once fell for that and no cash occurred. So cancel out of them and get to searching. Secondly it will try to get you to allow notifications; but if you allow them it floods your device (and if you have allowed this go to Settings→Apps, find Temu, and turn off notifications). It makes out that you won't know when your parcel is delivered; but this is always instantly confirmed via Gmail as stated earlier.

Ken Curwen



# Potty History

## Potty Nursery Rhymes

Plague, medieval taxes, religious persecution, prostitution: these are not exactly the topics that you expect to be immersed in as a babysitter. But probably right at this moment, carers of small children around the world are mindlessly singing along to seemingly innocuous nursery rhymes that, if you dig a little deeper, reveal shockingly sinister (though arguable) backstories. However, some reserchers suggest that they were indeed steeped with political and satirical messages, created in such a way to confuse the authorities, thus preventing legal or other backlash. In other words, your ancestors were doing what Australians do naturally: taking the mickey out of those in power, but carefully.

Here are some examples from earliest time to the reign of Henry VIII:

*Baa baa black sheep/ Have you any wool? / Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full / One for the master, one for the dame / And one for the little boy who lives down the lane*

Baa Baa Black Sheep is about the medieval wool tax, imposed in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century by King Edward I. Under the new rules, a third of the cost of a sack of wool went to him, another went to the church and the last to the farmer. (In the original version, nothing was therefore left for the little shepherd boy who lives down the lane). Black sheep were considered bad luck because their fleeces, unable to be dyed, were less lucrative for the farmer.

*Ring a ring o'roses / A pocket full of posies / A-tishoo, a-tishoo / We all fall down*

'Ring a Ring o' Roses' may be the darkest nursery rhyme ever. It seems to be about the Black Death, which struck Britain fifty years after the Wool Tax was imposed. The Death killed millions of people in Medieval Europe. The 'Ring o roses' may be a coded reference to the red circular rash common in certain forms of plague, and that the 'posies' were the flowers that people carried around to fend off the illness. As for the 'a-tishoo' and 'we all fall down', it doesn't take long to figure out what that might mean. Given that the Death killed nearly half the British population it is unlikely the aforementioned wool tax would have been maintainable.

*Oranges and lemons say the bells of St. Clemens / You owe me five farthings say the bells of St. Martin's / When will you pay me? say the bells at Old Bailey / When I grow rich Say the bells at Shoreditch / When will that be? say the bells of Stepney / I do not know says the great bell at Bow.*

*Here comes a candle to light you to bed, and here comes a chopper to chop off your head!*

'Oranges and Lemons' brings us back to bloody Tudor times - what is that 'chopper to chop off your head' all about? Some say it's Henry VIII's marital issues, and the way he went about solving them. However, it seems that the last line of the rhyme 'Oranges and Lemons' weren't originally in the nursery rhyme, so it's more likely that the rhyme refers to events at Newgate Prison, which once stood on the current site of the Old Bailey courthouse, next to St Sepulchre's Church (hence 'the bells of Old Bailey' in the rhyme). Prisoners here would receive a visit, the night before their hangings, by the bell man of St Sepulchre's. This doom-bearing figure would hold a candle in one hand and ring the execution bell in the other.

*Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard to fetch her poor doggie a bone / But when she got there the cupboard was bare and so the poor doggie had none.*

Old Mother Hubbard is another gem for Henry VIII fans. "Old Mother Hubbard" has nothing to do with a matronly woman or a dog searching for a bone. Instead, "Old Mother" refers to Cardinal Wolsey, an English clergyman and close ally of King Henry VIII. Wolsey attempted to secure an annulment for Henry from his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, so that the king could marry Anne Boleyn. But Wolsey found the cupboard (the Catholic Church; the Pope being Catherine's uncle there was no way he would allow her divorce) bare. The dog, of course, is Henry himself. History has rarely been so tidily packaged.

Next month I will expose the rest of the bad bunch.

Ken Curwen, with help from Wikipedia and Chat GPT

# Humour

## Tradie Nicknames

**Wicket keeper** - puts on gloves and stands back  
**Harvey Norman** - 3 years no interest  
**Sensor light** - only works if someone walks past  
**Noodles** - thinks all jobs take 2 minutes  
**Blister** - appears when the hard work is done  
**Showbag** - full of shit  
**Lantern** - not very bright and has to be carried

**Deck chair** - always folds under pressure  
**Perth** - 3 hours behind everyone else  
**G-spot** - you can never find him  
**Bushranger** - holds everyone up  
**Wheelbarrow** - only works when he's pushed  
**Limo** - carries about 8 people  
**Cordless** - charges all night but only works for 2 hours

## A selection of thought-provoking comments

“I have often wanted to drown my troubles, but my wife won't go swimming” – Jimmy Carter

“It isn't the ups and downs that makes life difficult, it's the jerks” – Charlie Chaplin

“When I was a boy I was told anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it” – Clarence Darrow (since he died in 1938, he was not referring to Donald Trump)

“They say marriages are made in heaven. But so are thunder and lightning” – Clint Eastwood (he should know, having had five partners)

“I started out with nothing; I still have most of it” – Anonymous

“You come from dust and you will return to dust. That's why I don't dust – it could be someone I knew” – Ibid

“Always go to other people's funerals; otherwise they won't come to yours” – Yogi Berra

“The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back in your pocket” – Will Rogers

“I'd like to live like a poor man – only with lots of money” – Pablo Picasso

“Want to know what God thinks of money? Look at the people he gave it to” – Dorothy Parker



*'If US stock markets keep falling we might be able to buy America soon'*

## Further Information

### SeniorNet Committee

The listing of the 2026 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.