



June 2026

"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 July at noon

Bottle Tree Hotel,
Glamorganvale. Lunches \$23

Coffee and Chat

Monday 3rd July at 10

Robyn Robinson, Energy 4
Seniors will follow up understanding your electricity bill & finding a better offer. Participants please bring along their Electricity Bill.

A big thankyou to Judith who stepped at a moment's notice to keep the Thursday Workshops running when I fell ill and to Barry for opening and getting the morning prep underway.

I am on the mend and exploring the new norm. However Joan has not been so lucky and has been attacked again by an aggressive virus and will be taking extended leave. Is there someone who could take a lead in the Apple area, however basic, rather than drop the subject from our forum?

We are in the preliminary planning for our 30th anniversary.

Recently I watched the gutter on my shed overflowing, thinking I would not need to go more than 3 rungs on the ladder. I spied the ladder behind some junk but then remembered a little discussion with number 1 daughter some years ago, that went like this.

- Most ladder-related injuries occurred in the home
- The number of ladder-related injuries is increasing, particularly for persons aged 60.
- Men over 70 suffer the highest rates of complications.
- Four fifths of ladder-related injury incidents involved males
- Injuries to the elbow and forearm, knee and lower leg are common.
- Two-thirds of hospitalised injury incidents due to falls from ladders resulted in fractures.
- Injuries to the head cause long-term disability, and death.

I guess the gutter will overflow next time it rains.

John McVeigh

Sunday 12th July

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

Sunday 19th July

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

Sunday 9th August

Lunch at Eden Brewhouse,
Redbank Plains. Pub specials \$16.

Just Friends Social Group

Sunday 28th June

Coach trip to Fassifern Valley

Guided tour of Summerland
Camels; and visit the Scenic Rim
Farm Shop and the Kooroomba
Lavendar Farm and Vineyard. Buy
lunch at the Dugandan Hotel. Cost
of the trip including tour \$65.
Pickup Redbank Plaza 8.30am

Sunday 26th July

Coach trip to Australian Rodeo Centre, Warwick

The centre is a purpose-built
museum with a comprehensive
collection of rodeo memorabilia.
We then buy lunch at Warwick RSL
and visit Leslie Dam before
returning home. Cost \$70
including entry and annual
membership of Just Friends.

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

SeniorNet Workshop Programme: June – July 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
24th June Paint.4 <i>Ken Curwen</i>	25th June Introduction to Computing <i>John McVeigh</i>	26th June Family History: Life, Work, Worship <i>Esmae Mander</i>
1st July Paint.5 <i>Ken Curwen</i>	2nd July Introduction to Computing <i>Judith Beitzel</i>	3rd July Coffee & Chat <i>Robyn Robinson</i>
8th July Paint.6 <i>Ken Curwen</i>	9th July Introduction to Computing <i>Judith Beitzel</i>	10th July DNA Interest Group <i>Bette Fritz</i>
15th July Snapseed 4 <i>Ken Curwen</i>	16th July Introduction to Computing <i>Judith Beitzel</i>	17th July Social Lunch <i>Bottle Tree Hotel</i>
22nd July	23rd July Introduction to Computing <i>Judith Beitzel</i>	24th July
29th July Android Q & A <i>Ken Curwen</i>	30th July Introduction to Computing <i>Judith Beitzel</i>	31st July

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: Q&A

This workshop is open for general Questions and Answers on any Android related subject. It will be of general interest to all Android users. You need to bring your own Android device and cable with you. Please make sure your Android device is charged. Make sure you know any passwords you need for your device. The presenter welcomes novice users.

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: Life, Work, Worship

During this workshop we endeavour to locate ancestor's addresses & more. If you have an address in the UK, and/or documents pertaining to the workshop subject, bring them along with their name to enable extended searching. If you haven't an 'Old Country' address, don't worry, as we will search the name and hopefully find at least one. Addresses for ancestors can be found on census returns, parish records and certificates (think BDM's). Let's concentrate and zoom in and see what can be found.

Introduction to Computers

If you are new to using a computer or are not confident around computers, come and find out about the basics. These classes are user-driven; the content will depend on the requirements of those attending.

Paint.4

This series uses the free program Paint.net for editing your images. This Step introduces the concept of layered images, allowing one selected element to be changed without affecting the underlying elements.

Paint.5

This series uses the free program Paint.net for editing your images. In this step we will edit photos with a range of problems using layers. We will also add a missing person to a photo

Paint.6

This series uses the free program Paint.net for editing your images. In this final step we will do a complex image and then explore the range of Add-Ons available in Paint.net which enhance the basic program.

Snapseed 4

Google has released a significant update of the Snapseed photo editor. This workshop will explain the changes.

Recipe of the Month

Mediterranean Chicken

This is one of my favourite dishes – the mix of chicken, chorizo, olives and Neapolitan sauce is a great flavour combo

Ingredients (serves 4)

- 1/4 cup plain flour
- 8 (1.2kg) skinless chicken thigh cutlets
- 2½ tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium brown onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 tablespoon roughly chopped fresh rosemary leaves
- 1 tablespoon roughly chopped fresh sage leaves
- 1 (140g) chorizo sausage, quartered lengthways, chopped
- ½ cup dry white wine (optional)
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 575g jar Napolitana pasta sauce
- ½ cup pitted kalamata olives, sliced

Method

Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan-forced. Place flour and chicken in a large bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Toss to coat. Remove chicken, shaking off excess.

Heat 2 tablespoons oil in a large, heavy-based, flameproof casserole dish over medium-high heat. Cook chicken, in 2 batches, for 8 to 10 minutes or until golden. Transfer to a plate.

Heat remaining oil in dish. Add onion, garlic, rosemary, sage and chorizo. Cook, stirring, for 3 to 4 minutes or until onion has softened. Add wine, if using. Simmer for 30 seconds. Stir in stock and sauce. Return chicken to dish. Cover and bring to the boil.

Transfer the dish to the oven. Bake for 1 hour. Remove the lid and add olives. Bake, uncovered, for 30 minutes or until chicken is tender and sauce has thickened.

Tech Talk

The CAPTCHA scam - Protect yourself from sneaky tricks

We've all seen them: those little puzzles which are used to prove that we are human and not a robot. Often a picture puzzle ('Click on all the pictures of a bus') or a line of distorted letters and/or numbers or sometimes just a simple tick box with 'I am not a robot'. It's relatively easy, familiar and we do it without much thought. And the scammers have taken note.

CAPTCHA stands for **C**ompletely **A**utomated **P**ublic **T**uring test to tell **C**omputers and **H**umans **A**part (something to remember for your next Trivia night). It is designed as a simple (if somewhat frustrating) test which is easily completed by humans but which computers find difficult. Solve the puzzle, click the *Verify* or *I am not a robot* button and move on.

It's the 'moving on bit' where the problem lies in the scammer's version. Once you have completed the puzzle, you will be asked to complete more steps as part of the verification process. You may be asked to download a file. Or asked to type WIN-R (windows key + R) which opens a Run dialog box and then paste in a line of code. These files or lines of code are malicious and will download malware which will steal information from your computer

A real CAPTCHA will never ask for this additional step. Once you have click *Verify* or *I am not a robot*, its job is done and there is nothing further needed. If a CAPTCHA requires additional steps, then it is likely a scam.

There is more information on the MalwareBytes website [here](#)

Phil Buchanan

Office 2019 limited functionality for Apple devices after July 2026

This may not impact many SeniorNet users but if there are (or you know) any Apple users still using Office 2019 then this could be important.

Office 2019 went end of life in 2025. Microsoft had previously stated that apps in the Office suite (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc) would continue to function. Being end of life, the Office suite would no longer receive bug fixes and security updates, which is something of a security risk, but many people were happy to continue using their version.

For Windows users, nothing has changed. The Office suite will continue to work as it did (at least for now).

For Apple users, Microsoft has announced that the program will have 'limited functionality' after 13 July 2026. You will still be able to open, view and print existing documents but you will no longer be able to edit existing or create and save new documents. I believe this will apply to all Apple devices: Mac and iPad.

Apple users will need upgrade to Microsoft 365 (subscription) or a later version of Office, switch to Microsoft Office on the Web (free but needs an Internet connection and Microsoft account) or switch to another alternative. I am not overly familiar with Apple software but the excellent free suite LibreOffice is available for MacOS and is compatible with Office documents.

Phil Buchanan

Is There a Robot on the Line?

Recently I received three unsolicited phone calls. One wanted to arrange a home visit from someone who could "improve my living environment." Another was raising funds for a worthy cause. The third wanted to review my health insurance.

All perfectly reasonable — except I'm fairly sure none of the callers were human.

AI voice agents are software programs that can hold a phone conversation, respond to what you say, and pursue a sales or fundraising script with tireless patience. They sound natural, they pause convincingly, and they use your name. Increasingly, they are being used to make the kinds of calls that would once have tied up a real person's time.

So how do you spot one?

They don't listen — they wait. When you interrupt a human caller, they adjust. An AI caller typically finishes its thought anyway, or simply re-runs the same line. If someone seems to be talking at you rather than with you, beware.

Vague answers confuse them. Try being deliberately non-committal. A human will probe, clarify, or just laugh. An AI script often stalls, skips awkwardly ahead, or ignores what you said entirely.

Ask directly: "Are you a real person?" In my experience, a genuine human will say "Yes!" immediately and probably sound a little offended. An AI system may go oddly quiet — and then hang up. Which, frankly, is answer enough.

There is currently no law in Australia requiring AI callers to tell you they are AI. That seems like a gap worth closing, but for now the burden falls on us to notice.

The simplest advice: if a call feels slightly off — too smooth, too persistent, a little deaf to what you're actually saying — trust that instinct. You're not imagining it. And if they hang up when challenged, you have your answer.

Written for Ken Curwen by Claude AI

Additional comment: I believe that the medical profession is working towards using AI for some receptionist work. Thus instead of the doctor calling you with the results of a test the task would be delegated to an AI bot. The bot would have enough knowledge to answer most of the questions you might have about the test report, and would be smart enough to pass you to the doctor if it didn't know the answers (and not make up answers, as many AIs are inclined to do).

Potty History

Operation Creek – Dad’s Army turns Commando

With the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, three German cargo ships, Ehrenfels, Braunfels and Drachenfels, took refuge in the port of Mormugão in Portuguese Goa, because Portugal was neutral in the war while British India was not. In 1940, they were joined by an Italian ship, Anfora. The British were aware of the presence of the ships but did not perceive them to be a threat.

However, in 1942 the Special Operations Executive (SOE) intercepted coded messages to German Navy U-boats, relaying detailed information on the positions of Allied ships leaving Bombay. Subsequently, in the autumn of that year forty-six Allied merchant ships were attacked. The SOE then discovered that a Gestapo spy, Robert Koch (known as the "Trumpet"), and his wife Grete were living in Goa. The SOE now suspected a secret transmitter aboard Ehrenfels was guiding German U-boat attacks against Allied shipping, on instructions from Koch. Attacks in the Indian Ocean continued, and in the first week of March 1943, German U-boats sank twelve American, UK, Norwegian, and Dutch ships, totalling about 80,000 tons.

The British could not infringe on Portugal's neutrality by openly invading its territory. The SOE decided to try a covert operation to capture or sink Ehrenfels without the involvement of regular British armed forces. They recruited eighteen military reservists in Calcutta, who were the most unlikely ever to participate in a special operations mission – middle-aged, overweight, and decades removed from active military service.

The pre-mission plan called for the men to travel from Calcutta to the southwest Indian port city of Cochin (Kochi) where they would rendezvous with the ship that would take them north to Mormugao. But instead of an expected warship or trawler they got the Phoebe, a hopper barge used to dredge rivers.

Meanwhile one member went directly to Mormugao, using funds provided by SOE to secretly arrange a diversion. He organised a lavish festival and free prostitutes. Officially the festival was for all the officers and sailors of ships in the harbor. He bribed key government officials and made the appropriate financial arrangements with the brothel owners. He also bribed the harbour master to turn off all the lights. On the night of March 9, 1943, with the festival in full swing and the brothels bustling with sailors, everything was ready for the boarders.

At about 2:30 a.m. March 10, the Phoebe's hull ground against that of the Ehrenfels. Immediately the men of Operation Creek threw their grappling irons, clambered up makeshift boarding ladders, and began to fan out, Sten guns and explosive charges at the ready, to accomplish their assigned tasks. Surprise was on the attackers' side, and response by the skeleton crew on the Ehrenfels was slow and uncoordinated, in part because her captain was among the first killed. Though the radio codebooks were destroyed, they captured the transmitter. Twenty minutes into the raid, the captain of the Phoebe noticed the Ehrenfels beginning to list. Some members of the Ehrenfels' crew had opened sea valves, letting in tons of seawater. Immediately the captain ordered the lines to the Ehrenfels cast off, and pulled three times on the ship's horn, the signal for the attackers to return to the Phoebe.

Astonishingly, all the attackers returned to the Phoebe safely, with some suffering only minor injuries. Then they heard a series of explosions on the other Axis ships. Fearing an attack, the other captains had pre-emptively scuttled their ships.

As Phoebe left the harbor before Portuguese authorities could intercept her, the team transmitted to headquarters the code word "Longshanks" – meaning all Axis ships sunk. Thereafter U-boat attacks plummeted. For the rest of March, U-boats sank only one ship; in April, only three merchantmen went down.

The volunteers were never recognised for the success of Operation Creek as it was a top-secret assignment; but in 1978 a journalist wrote a book "Boarding Party" about it and this was dramatized in a film "The Sea Wolves".

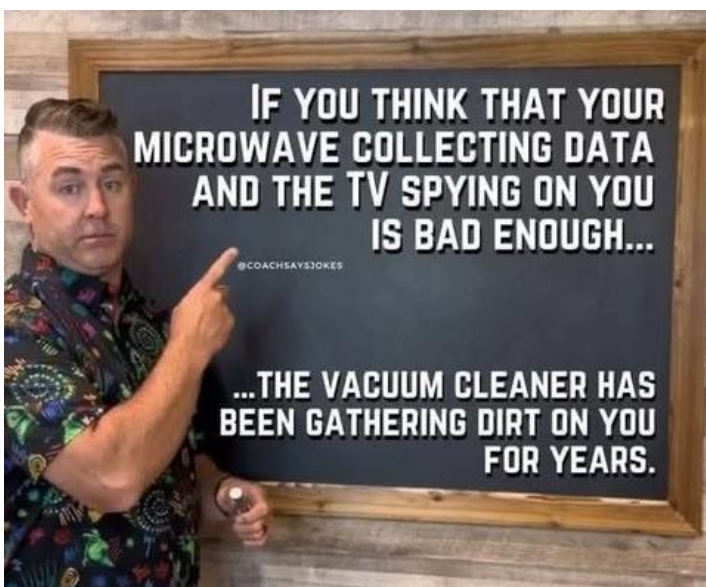
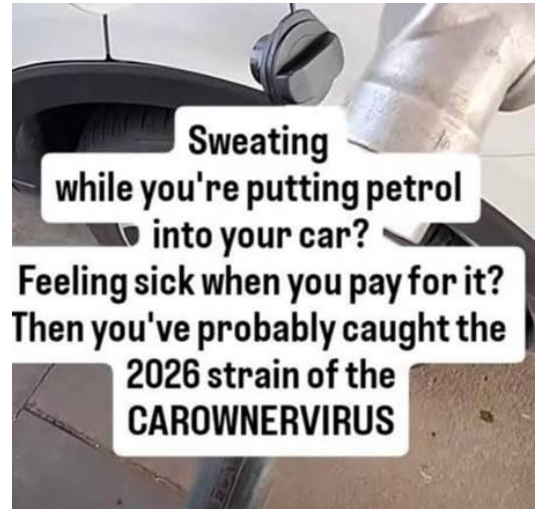
Ken Curwen, from many sources.

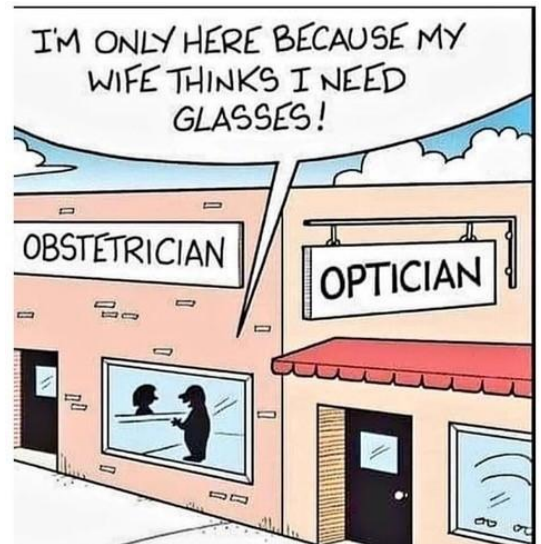
Humour

It's really tough for lumberjacks to get a ride to work.



Does anybody know anything about drones? I bought this off a lad outside the pub last night and I can't get it to take off. 🤔🤔🤔





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.