



August 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 21st August at noon

The Y Bar Yamanto Tavern.
Seniors' lunches from \$18

Friday 18th September

50th Anniversary Celebration

See page 4 for details.

Our big event this year is celebrating 30 years of operations completely run by volunteers.

Our function will take place at 11a.m. on 18th September in the Function Room at the Prince Alfred, Booval.

A pre-arranged 2 course lunch for \$28.00 is offered. Orders will be taken from this fixed menu on display at the Sunday School Hall Wildey Street and circulated prior to the Event. Payment and Menu choices will be required by 10th September either by direct credit to our Bank Account BSB 633 000, 129 070 264 with your name included or at the Sunday School Hall on a Thursday Morning.

August Coffee and Chat Guest was Michael Angerame from Guide Dogs introducing their new initiative SeeWay. Recognising as our sight begins to change and suggesting how we recognise it and begin to seek options. He touched on phones and tablets apps to help us on the journey. I hope we can get him back in the new year to present a workshop.

Probus of Ipswich have invited us to join them on a journey to Esk to enjoy a lunch and concert.

Joan has extended her leave so we will be starting a new series 26th August. Bring your laptop along, set it up for comfort, exploring the keyboard and what you can expect to produce searching the internet and lots of other things along the way.

Please promote it to your friends and acquaintances.

John McVeigh

Sunday 23rd August

Lunch at Brothers Leagues Club.
Seniors meals \$13.

Sunday 13th September

Lunch at Punjab Curry House, Redbank Plains. Lunch special \$14

Sunday 20th September

Lunch at Club Parkview. Lunch specials \$16.

Just Friends Social Group

Sunday 30th August

Coach trip Redcliffe Market and Redlands

The Market overlooks the sea. There are plenty of stalls and cafes for refreshment, or the RSL for lunch if you prefer. In the afternoon we will visit the Chinese Temple at Priestdale. Cost of coach \$50.

Sunday 27th September

Coach trip to Noosa Botanical Gardens

The gardens overlook Lake Macdonald and as well as a wide range of plants it houses prizewinning statues. We then lunch at Cooroy RSL and in due course return to Redbank. Cost of coach \$60.

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: August – September 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
19th August Android Microsoft Excel <i>Ken Curwen</i>	20th August Introduction to Computing <i>Judith Beitzel</i>	21st August Social Lunch <i>Yamanto Tavern</i>
26th August	27th August Introduction to Computing <i>Judith Beitzel</i>	28th August
2nd September Basic Excel 1 <i>Ken Curwen</i>	3rd September Introduction to Computing <i>John McVeigh</i>	4th September Coffee & Chat
9th September Basic Computing <i>John McVeigh</i>	10th September Introduction to Computing <i>John McVeigh</i>	11th September Trove <i>Bette Fritz</i>
16th September Basic Excel 2 <i>Ken Curwen</i>	17th September Introduction to Computing <i>John McVeigh</i>	18th September 50th Anniversary Function <i>PA Hotel</i>
23rd September Basic Computing <i>John McVeigh</i>	24th September Introduction to Computing <i>John McVeigh</i>	25th September Family History: Sources <i>Esmee Mander</i>
30th September Basic Excel 3 <i>Ken Curwen</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

Android Microsoft Excel

If you have a copy of Microsoft Office you can also install the Excel app on your device. It has most of the capability of the PC version but necessarily cannot use the same interface. And the interface is different on a phone and on a tablet. Learn how to do some of your documents from the comfort of an armchair.

Basic Computing

These classes are for the absolute beginner, enabling you to find out enough to take part in our main Introductions programme

Basic Excel 1

Excel is a spreadsheet programme which comes bundled with Microsoft Office. In this first session you will discover what a spreadsheet is, the Excel interface and basic operations

Basic Excel 2

Learn about simple formulas – arithmetical and Autosum. Discover how to sort the data in a worksheet. Understand some tricks for working with large worksheets

Basic Excel 3

See how to format cells, and the use of relative values in formulae. And the final step – how to print your worksheet.

Family History: Sources

Searching almanacs, directories, and gazettes can be a useful way to discover information about people, places, and events from the past. By using these sources together, researchers can gather detailed historical information and build a clearer picture of the people and communities they are investigating.

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.

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 New Members





Our function will commence at 11a.m. on Friday 18th September in the Function Room at the Prince Alfred Hotel, Booval.

You can choose from the two-course menu below for a cost of \$28.00. Payment will be required by 10th September either by direct credit to our Bank Account BSB 633 000, 129 070 264 with your name included or at the Hall on a Thursday Morning. You will also need to inform Judith of your choices from the menu in advance. If you have any special dietary requirements or enquiries contact Judith 3816 1653 or Karen 0408 889 195.

Mains

Silverside w Mash & Peas.

Roast Pork w Roast Vegetables & Gravy.

Crumbed Steak w Chips, Salad & Gravy.

Mushroom Risotto (GF, DF, Vegan & Vegetarian).

Desserts

Sticky Date Pudding.

Belgium Waffle with Ice-cream.

Recipe of the Month

Accidental Carrot Soup

Prep time 5 minutes, cooking time 20 minutes, serves 6 as main course

Ingredients

500g carrots, chopped
1 onion, quartered
1 leek, sliced (white only)
2 Tbs olive oil
1 litre chicken stock (see note)
Seasoning
Shredded parmesan (optional)
1Tsp Vegemite (optional)

Method

Chop vegetables finely in a food processor.
Put in large saucepan with oil and sweat for 5 minutes, stirring
Add stock and bring to boil.
Simmer 5 minutes, season to taste
Serve, with parmesan minestrone-style if preferred

Note

It's accidental because I was given a bag of carrots to use up.

The recipe I adapted this from took well over an hour but was to create a soup course at a posh meal – it included juice of two oranges, and the carrot tops were to be used as garnish – it's years since I saw bunches of carrots anywhere.

Tech Talk

Kens tip- OK Google

At the beginning of the year I bought a new phone and assumed that since it could accept dictation it would also accept commands via Google's OK (now Hey) system. I haven't been asked to train Hey Google when I set up the phone.

Somewhat embarrassingly this turned out to be untrue when I taught a session on Android voice commands and it didn't respond. I couldn't find the set up in settings so I asked Gemini AI for help. Gemini told me to use Google Assistant but the facility wasn't there. Ultimately it turned out that Google rehosted it into Gemini itself.

1. Use Settings→ Apps→ Assistant→ Digital Assistant to verify that Gemini is the default.
2. Open the Gemini app, tap your profile picture or initial in the top right corner and select Settings→Talk to Gemini hands-free
3. Check that Hey Google is turned on and tap Manage Voice Model
4. Follow the instructions to set up the voice model

Note: This training should stop the phone from responding to other voices than mine.

Ken Curwen

Turn it off and on again (Redux)

The photo of the 'plugged in' power board in the July newsletter reminded me of something that is also treated as a bit of a joke - 'Have you turned it off and on again?' – but which actually works a surprising number of times. I have written about this before but thought it might be worth a reminder.

Many of the devices and appliances in our home are on all the time. Even when you press the Off button on a remote, you don't really turn the device off. It is just placed in standby mode. Over time, small corruptions can occur in the memory of these devices which can cause problems. Turning off all power and then turning on again, can clear these corruptions and start everything afresh.

With Windows, Shutdown also acts a sort of standby state. Windows saves certain settings and functions so that it can start faster next time. This means some problems can reappear even after having done a Shutdown. To ensure a total shutdown and clean start, use the Restart option.

So before calling a tech, try turning it off and on again. It won't always work but if it does, it's the cheapest fix. But if that fails, see below...

Phil Buchanan

My computer doesn't turn on

One of the most common calls for help to a tech is 'My computer does not turn on!' Unfortunately that can mean something different between the tech and the caller. What happens when you press the power switch on a computer?

1. **The computer powers up.** Lights will come on. The keyboard may light up (if it is backlit). Fans turn on and you should be able to hear some noise from them (although some computers are very quiet). If there is absolutely no signs of life from the computer, it could indicate something minor like a power switch not being on (at the wall and some desktop computers have a power switch at the rear on the power supply) or something more significant such as a failed power supply.
2. **The computer will do a Power-On-Self-Test.** Firmware on the computer will test all the main hardware components (processor, memory, video and storage). This is referred to as a POST. The computer must pass the POST to move to the next step. At the end of a successful POST, a logo for the manufacturer should appear on the screen. If the computer powers on but stalls and never completes the POST, it is an indication of a problem with one of the significant hardware components and more diagnosis is required.

3. **The computer boots.** The firmware on the computer looks for a device with an operating system and transfers control (called ‘booting the computer’) to the device and, if successful, the operating system loading screen should appear (for most people that will be Windows) followed by a login screen or Desktop. If the POST completes successfully but Windows does not appear or the loading screen just goes on and on, it could indicate an issue with the storage drive or could be a corrupted Windows install.

The phrase ‘The computers does not turn on’ could be applied to any of these three steps. It sounds pedantic but by describing the problem more clearly: ‘The computer turns on but does not POST’ or ‘The computer turns on, POSTs OK but does not boot to Windows’ will give the tech a clearer idea of what is happening and be better able to assist you.

Phil Buchanan

Potty Science

Simon Whistler’s You Tube channel gave me these examples of fake science. Both have persisted in our general knowledge.

Lemming Suicide

in the Disney Academy Award winning documentary “Wild Wilderness” lemmings were shown committing suicide by diving into the ocean. The whole scene was faked – the scene of lemmings running across the arctic wilderness was actually filmed in a studio on turntables and the photographer, James Simon, drove the lemmings off the edge of a cliff for the suicide scene.

Immunisation Causes Autism

Dr Andrew Wakefield probably killed more people than World War 2 did when he falsely stated autism could result from MMR immunisation. His paper in The Lancet only cited 12 cases and he failed to mention he had been paid \$400,000 to write it by lawyers keen to sue the vaccine manufacturers. He also had been involved with work on an alternative vaccine. The resulting anti-vaccine movement caused millions of children to die from the vaccine targets of measles, mumps and rubella.

Potty History

French Dressing in German Armour

Who would have imagined one of the victors of World War 2 would use German tanks?

In May 1945 Germany surrendered to the western allies – America, England, France and Russia. German cities had been reduced to rubble, the Nazi leaders were either dead or in prison, and floods of refugees were leaving Germany to return home while floods of Germans were trying to return to Germany before the borders closed. The allies had to take over government from the Nazi bureaucrats and restore democracy. They had decided how to do this at the Potsdam conference; England would rule the North, Russia the east, America the south and France the west.

But France had a unique problem; under German occupation they had no armed forces. While the first three allies had thousands of tanks to keep the peace France had just one, a botch up of parts (including a gun from a battleship) built by the French resistance. As well there were two designs on paper that would take at least three years to get into production. They also had the Citroen factory which had been making army lorries for the German army (which proved remarkably unreliable as many of the engine oil dipsticks were substituted with wrongly calibrated ones causing the engines to seize up). But dodgy trucks are no substitute for a pukka tank when it comes to crowd control.

Germany designed two new tanks shortly after their invasion of Russia, as they realised how the Russian T34 tank outclassed their Panzer 4. One was the Tiger heavy tank, which outclassed the American Sherman and could take out a Sherman at 2km range. The other was the medium Panther tank (don't confuse Panzer, German for armoured, with Panther, German for panther). This tank suffered from Hitler's interference - he demanded thicker armour and more machine guns - and the original 35-ton chassis blew out to 45 tons, with resulting overload of the transmission making them unreliable. They frequently lasted only 150km before the transmission broke and the tank became a sitting duck. The design also made repairs difficult - an engine replacement on a Panzer 4 took three hours but for the Panther it was a week, by which time, towards the end of the war, the front line had moved on.

So when the French desperately needed tanks they realised there were plenty of Panthers littering the battlefields of France. The French army recovered enough to recondition and update the transmission that they ended up with 50 tanks which served well from 1946 to 1952. (Any similarity between this History and the efforts of a local country to get itself a functional submarine fleet is pure coincidence)

Ken Curwen

Ken Curwen

Humour

I had forgotten these jokes from my mis-spent youth

"Mummy Mummy can I lick the bowl?" "" No, dear, flush"

Mummy Mummy can I play with grandma" "Shut up and keep digging"

"Mummy Mummy I don't want to go to America!" "Shut up and keep swimming."

"Mummy Mummy Daddy's on fire!" "Shut up and get the marshmallows."

"Mummy Mummy I don't like Grandpa." "Shut up and eat what's on your plate."

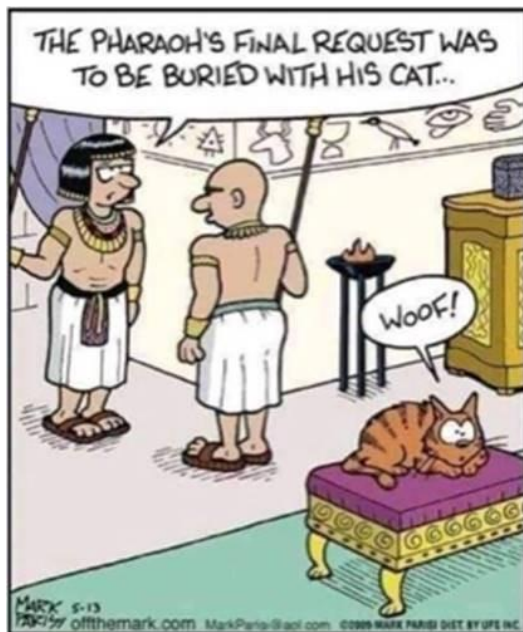
"Mummy Mummy I hate my sister's guts." "Eat up or you won't get pudding."

One liners

“Why is it that when we talk to God we are said to be praying; but when God talks to us we’re schizophrenic?”

Lily Tomlin

I was at the bar last night and the waitress screamed “Anyone know CPR?”. I replied “Hell, I know the whole alphabet”. Everyone laughed...well everyone except for one guy.



Thank you for saving me the trouble of having to do the math for myself.



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.