Ipswich

Christmas 2026

"Seniors helping seniors use computers and the internet"

SeniorNet Association Inc.

www.seniornet.com.au

Christmas Special

CHRISTMAS LUNCH.

OUR CHRISTMAS BREAK UP LUNCH 2026.

DATE:- Friday, 4TH DECEMBER 2026.

VENUE: PRINCE ALFRED, BOOVAL.

MEET AT 11.30am

BUY YOUR OWN LUNCH

RSVP BY FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER TO

Karen: social@seniornet.com.au



Just Friends Social Group

Sunday 15th November
Lunch at Eden Brewhouse, Redbank Plains. Pub specials $16.

Sunday 22nd November
Lunch at Brothers Leagues Club. Seniors' meals $14.

Sunday 29th November
Coach trip to Pittsworth
See the collections at Pittsworth Pioneer Historical Village and then enjoy a sausage sizzle. In the afternoon visit the Lolly Shop before returning home. The inclusive cost will be **$75**. Pickup 8.00am Redbank Plaza.

Sunday 31st January 2027
Coach Trip to Cobb & Co Museum
Start at Picnic Point, Toowoomba and then view the museum. Lunch is at the Grand Old Crow and we then return via Esk. Cost inclusive of entry and lunch $80. Pickup 8.00am at Redbank Plaza.

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

Recipe for Christmas

Fruit Mince

This can be used for seasonal dishes such as fruit crumble and mince pies. It beats shop products (if you can find them – they only come out at Christmas – that's why I started on homemade).

Prep time: 15 minutes + 40 minutes cooling

Cook time: 10 minutes

Ingredients

1 green-skinned apple, peeled, coarsely grated
160g sultanas
125g pitted prunes, chopped
110g raisins
80g currants
100g red glace cherries, chopped
60mL dry sherry or dark rum (optional)
1 orange, rind finely grated and juiced
1½ teaspoons mixed spice
50g unsalted butter, chilled
75g brown sugar

Method

Combine apple, dried fruit, sherry, orange rind and juice, mixed spice and 1 cup water in a saucepan. Cook over low heat, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes until liquid has been absorbed. Set aside for 40 minutes to cool to room temperature. Coarsely grate butter over fruit mince. Add brown sugar and stir well to combine.

Note: you can play with the fruit ingredients to suit your pantry stock

Tech Talk

Changes to Microsoft 365 Family Plan

Microsoft offers a family plan for Microsoft 365. The plan provides for up to 6 individuals to be covered under the one subscription. The plan also allowed for up to 1TB of OneDrive storage for each individual – a total of 6TB in all.

In recent news, Microsoft has announced that the online storage will be reduced to 2TB of shared storage. In other words, all members of the plan will share the same 2TB (each users' files will not be visible to the others). This applies to all new subscriptions and existing subscriptions on renewal.

If you do not make use of the OneDrive online storage component, there is minimal impact. However if the members of the family subscription make extensive use of OneDrive, then you may be exceeding the new 2TB cap. If your subscription exceeds 2TB you will not be able to upload to OneDrive until it is reduced. If you do nothing, it is possible that Microsoft may delete data to meet the cap.

For existing subscriptions, the changes will take effect at your first renewal after May 2027. If you use a family subscription to Microsoft 365, it may be a good idea to check how much OneDrive space is being used by members.

Phil Buchanan

Welcome New Members









Potty History

The Ones that Nearly Got Away

In late 1941 two German airmen, fighter pilot Leutnant Heinz Schnabel and bomber pilot Oberleutnant Harry Wappler, were being held at Shap Wells, a former hotel in the English Lake District that had become a prisoner-of-war camp. They had been shot down in 1940 and now had spent a year of free time with a view of aeroplanes training over Shap Fell. They did what any sensible pilot would do and planned to fly home.

The first problem was the wardrobe. They had altered their Luftwaffe uniforms to pass as Dutch pilots, even making appropriate tunic buttons from plaster of Paris covered in foil. They also forged identity papers. The Dutch, like many Nazi occupied countries, had fought alongside the RAF and many had continued to fight in England, so a pair of Dutchmen wandering about in flying kit would raise no eyebrows – and who could distinguish a vaguely Dutch accent from a vaguely German one?

On Sunday 23rd November, a foggy day, the two started their escape hidden in a wood pile at the border of the camp. They waited until dark and then cut through the wire fence with wooden pliers made by fellow prisoners. This must say something about the quality of British fencing wire!

They hitchhiked to Kingstown (about 50km away) and mingled with the soldiers watching a movie, and then hid until morning, before walking into the RAF base nearby. Seeing a Miles Magister trainer being worked on outside a hangar, they asked the RAF mechanic if they could use the plane to practice runway passes. The mechanic obliged them and was somewhat surprised when the plane took off heading eastward.

When they reached the North Sea they checked the tank and realised they had insufficient fuel to reach the Netherlands. They turned back planning to get the tank topped up and landed in a meadow near Scratby, north of Great Yarmouth. Police Sergeant Clifford Fisk was sent to investigate them and they showed their false Dutch papers to him. The sergeant was satisfied and because it was late, a car was sent to take them to RAF Horsham St Faith, a Bomber Command station (now Norwich Airport), where they asked for fuel for the Magister.

The RAF did what it does best and put the visitors up for the night. The two "Dutch" officers were shown to the officers' quarters and invited to tea. While the hosts were being hospitable, news of the stolen Magister was going out across the country.

By morning, Horsham St Faith had put two and two together, and the police arrived. Legend says that Harry was arrested while in the bath - there is no dignified way to be recaptured in a bath, and he doesn't appear to have found one. Before they left to face justice they were invited to dinner at the mess where they were praised for their daring attempt to escape.

The two were returned to Shap and given 28 days of solitary confinement. They were then moved to more secure camps in Canada, and Parliament asked how two prisoners had got hold of an RAF aeroplane without raising an alarm.

Imagine the chances that English airmen attempting to escape Germany would not be shot in the head when captured. But Heinz and Harry presumably lived on to enjoy post war life in Germany.

Researched and drafted by Claude AI, edited by Ken Curwen

Humour

If you want to know why seniors go to gyms, ASK them

I was sent a video, presumably from a British comedy show, with this question-and-answer sequence. I found it funny enough to put in the Humour section in text form. You will have to imagine the actors. - ed

Why are you still training at your age

> Well Derek from next door is a right wanker and one of these days I'm going to give him a smack so I want it to be a good one

What's your favourite machine at the gym

> Well for me it would definitely have to be the vending machine

Hi, can I just ask why you're still coming to the gym at your age

> Well one of my grandkids is a right fat little bugger and I just want to be able to pick him up

What's the worst thing about working out

> The worst thing is that it makes every single one of my muscles stiff, except the only one that I want to get stiff

You look hot – why do you wear track suit bottoms

> Well I used to wear shorts but at my age my balls dangle down to my knees so I got told to cover up

What's your long term goal at the gym

> Just to be a bit more appealing to women I suppose. The last time I had a 69 was during a game of bingo, so I'm hoping to change that

How is your life changed since starting the gym

> I used to be fat, ugly and single but now I'm just ugly and single

Do you enjoy the exercise bike

> No not really; if I wanted to get sweaty and have a ride on a bike for a few minutes I'd rather go round to Betty's room at the nursing home

Do you enjoy the sled push

> I don't particularly enjoy it but my wife's in a wheelchair and she's a bit of a fat lass so this is good practise

What do you like most about the jacuzzi

> It's the only place I can fart with no judgement

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.

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Ken Curwen. Newsletter Editor.