Ipswich SeniorNet Association Inc.

October 2026

"Seniors helping seniors use computers and the internet"

www.seniornet.com.au

President's View

On Other Pages

Training Programme	page 2
30th Anniversary Pics	page 4
Tech Talk	page 5
Potty History	page 7
Humour	page 8
Further Information	page 8

Social Events



Lunches

Friday 20th November
Walloon Hotel. Lunches from $20.

Friday 4th December
Christmas Break-up Party
PA Hotel – see page 3

Our Celebration at the PA Hotel recognising 30 years of **SeniorNet** appears to have gone off without a hitch. A sincere thank you to **Judith, Karen, and their support crew** for making the event such a success.

On the assumption that there may not be a November newsletter, it is worth looking ahead to the challenges and opportunities that await us in 2027.

Our greatest challenge is the need to recruit and develop **new Trainers and Tutors** to support future programmes. At the same time, the growing presence of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** across all our devices is changing the way we learn, work, and communicate. AI is here to stay, and learning how to use it confidently and effectively is becoming an essential requirement.

This raises an exciting question: "Can AI help us introduce new Subject areas, support our Tutors, and assist in the development of future Training Programmes?" While this may seem a daunting task, it also presents a significant opportunity for innovation and growth.

During the Christmas and New Year Break, please take some time to consider how SeniorNet might embrace these changes and prepare for the future. Your ideas and suggestions will be invaluable as we plan for the years ahead.

On behalf of the Management Committee, we wish you a 2027 filled with hope, happiness, good health, and continued learning. May you enjoy a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to sharing another rewarding year with you at SeniorNet.

John McVeigh

Just Friends Social Group

Sunday 1st November
Lunch at Little M Coffee Club, Goodna. Meals from $18

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

SeniorNet Workshop Programme: October – November 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

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28th October Excel 5 *Ken Curwen*	29th October Introduction to Computing *John McVeigh*	30th October
4th November Excel - Membership *John McVeigh*	5th November Introduction to Computing *John McVeigh*	6th November Coffee & Chat *Jodie Correl*
11th November Excel 5 *Ken Curwen*	12th November Introduction to Computing *John McVeigh*	13th November Family Tree Maker *Bette Fritz*
18th November Excel - Membership *John McVeigh*	19th November Introduction to Computing *John McVeigh*	20th November Social Lunch *Walloon Hotel*
25th November Excel - Membership *John McVeigh*	26th November Introduction to Computing *John McVeigh*	27th November Family History: Grandmother *Esmae Mander*

Workshop Topics Described

Excel - Membership

These two workshops will develop a membership list for a typical senior's group, demonstrating the pitfalls and solutions in such an activity

Excel 5

Formulae in Excel – how to do complex data manipulation

Excel 6

Continuation of formulae in Excel and course roundup.

Family History: Grandmother

Let's focus on Grandma

Family Tree Maker: Recording Your Ancestors

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 Computing

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.

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**

CHRISTMAS LUNCH.

OUR CHRISTMAS BREAK UP LUNCH 2026.

DATE:- Friday, 4TH DECEMBER 2026.

VENUE: PRINCE ALFRED, BOOVAL.

Please note this date in your calendar.

More Information to follow.



Recipe of the Month

Toasted Muesli

I developed this muesli when Kellog's cut their premium muesli from their range. I then upgraded it by including macadamias and cranberries.

Ingredients

1 tbs canola or grapeseed oil
2 tbs honey
2 tbs pure maple syrup
½ cup (80g) slivered almonds
1 cup macadamia nuts
3 cups rolled oats
½ cup almond meal
4 tsp linseeds
½ cup cranberries
1 cup Angus Park Fruit Medley OR
- ½ cup sultana
- ½ cup blueberries
- ½ cup dried apples

Method

Preheat oven to 170°C. Line two baking trays with baking paper.

Place oil, honey and syrup in a large saucepan over low heat for 1-2 minutes until combined and runny, then mix in almonds, macadamia nuts and oats with ring still on low.

Turn out onto two large baking trays. Bake for 12 minutes until toasted and golden, stirring once during cooking. Remove and cool to room temperature.

Chop up the larger berries (especially cranberries).

Layer toasted ingredients, berry mix, and almond meal in storage container and tumble well to combine. (recently I have dropped them all in a mixer and given about 10secs to mix)

Store muesli in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 10 days or freeze if keeping longer (though in winter you can get a month anyway).

30th Anniversary Celebration



Our Visitors



John Cuts the Cake



John's Life Membership



Three Members

Potty Research

On Writing "How the West was Won"

I watched "The Alamo" (the original John Wayne film) and thought about the expansion of USA across America; and I knew of the Louisiana Purchase. But once I started the article I realised that I needed to work out how the Spanish Empire could collapse, and how Texas developed from within the Republic of Mexico. Why did the Emperor Napoleon sell Louisiana and why did Tsar Alexander II sell Alaska. And what triggered the War of 1812? All of this had to be checked and condensed into a single page. See page 7 for definitely the toughest Potty History I have tackled.

Ken Curwen

Tech Talk

The Loyalty Tax

Last year I was notified that a piece of software I use was due to auto renew. Normally when I install subscription software I turn off the autorenewal feature but in this case I had overlooked it. The autorenewal fee was $159. I logged into the publisher's page and turned off autorenewal. I was immediately provided a notice that stated if I turned auto renew back on, I could have a 40% discount on the renewal fee. I turned it back on, accepted the discount and made a note to watch for the renewal this year.

This year I was again alerted to the autorenewal of $159. I again logged in and turned it off and I was again offered the 40% discount. But this time I did not turn autorenewal back on. I still had time before the renewal date so I thought I would see what happened. Last week I received an email with a discount of 50% if I renewed. I did renew and I will wait to see what happens next year.

This is an example of what has been termed the loyalty tax: it is the extra we pay because we are loyal to a company or perhaps just too complacent. It is why I do not like autorenewal schemes – it is too easy to just let things roll over and pay what is being asked without seeking a better deal.

Another example: earlier this year my Internet provider was sending out promotional emails offering a $20/month discount to new customers. Existing (loyal) customers were expected to continue paying the full amount. I rang the company and questioned this. Without too much argument on my part I was put through to the 'retention' team who offered me the same monthly discount through to January 2027. I assume any existing (loyal) customer who rang would have received the same offer. But how many did?

The moral here is not to be a quiet, loyal customer. If you do not think you are receiving a fair deal then you should speak up. The worst they can do is say 'no' but you might be surprised.

Phil Buchanan

Word Tips

Jump to Your Most Recent Edits

One of Word's hidden keyboard tricks is Shift-F5. If you recently made an edit at some remote place in your document, you can get back to it with a keystroke. Press Shift-F5 once to jump to the place in your document that you most recently edited. Press it again to jump to the edit you made before that, and again to jump to your third most recent edit. After the third keystroke, it takes you back to where you began. To repeat a recent edit use F4 in the new spot.

Keyboard shortcuts

It's always easier to press a key combination than to navigate a menu for what you want. I want the old-style Find and Replace dialog when I press Ctrl-F, not the new Navigation toolbar. Here's how I got it back. You can use the same technique to assign keyboard shortcuts for almost anything in Word.

Use File→Options→Customize Ribbon, and click the Customize… button next to Keyboard Shortcuts. In the keyboard-customizing dialog, in the left-hand box, under Categories, scroll down to All Commands. From the right-hand list, select EditFind. Move the cursor into the Press New Shortcut Key field and type Ctrl-F. The dialog will tell you that this key is currently assigned to SmartFind, which is Word's internal command that opens the Navigation pane. Click Assign, then Close, then OK, and you can use Ctrl-F to open the full-featured Find and Replace dialog. If you want to use the Navigation pane, you can open it from the Editing box on the Home tab in the Ribbon, or you can assign another keystroke to it, using the same technique I described here.

Remove unwanted horizontal lines

If you type three or more hyphens on a separate line, Word will insert a horizontal line across the page, and, unless you're an expert, you won't know how to remove it. If you're suffering from one of these intrusive lines, the trick is this. Click on the paragraph with the line below it. Go to the Home tab, and, in the Paragraph box, find the Borders icon, which looks like a four-cell table. When you click on it, you'll see that Bottom Border is selected. Click on No Border, and the line will disappear

Customize the Status Bar
The status bar at the foot of Word's window can be as clean or as cluttered as you like. Right-click on the status bar and check or uncheck the dozens of items that the status bar can display.

Use Word's Built-In Calculator
Microsoft keeps this almost secret, but you can add a built-in calculator to Word's Quick Access Toolbar. Follow the procedure in tip 6, above. In the Choose commands from... dropdown, select All Commands, then scroll down to Tools Calculate [Calculate] and add it to the list on the right.

Unless you choose the option to display the Quick Access Toolbar under the ribbon (Windows only) you'll see only a grey or blue circle icon in the toolbar. But that's the calculator. Enter a calculation like (7*9)/5 (don't include an equals sign), select it, click on the Tools Calculate tool in the toolbar, and Word will display the result in the status bar.

Change font size incrementally
This is handy if you want the text to fit an exact space.
Select the text concerned (or Ctrl-A for the whole document)
Key Ctrl-] to increase font size by one point (Ctrl-[to reduce). Repeat until satisfied.

Ken Curwen

Why you should update your devices

A recent disaster at a French supermarket chain demonstrated the importance of updating. Hackers got into their freezer systems and commanded a defrost in the middle of the night and all their frozen food had to be thrown out. Their IT staff had ignored a warning issued a month earlier to perform a critical security update. (Woolworths slightly smugly noted that their freezers were controlled directly by staff).

If you have a PC system updating is very reliable – it will update when you turn it off using the Start menu, and will update itself in the wee small hours if you leave it running overnight. Or you can respond to the update icon on the taskbar at your convenience.

It's more of a problem with a phone as you don't close it overnight. You should get a notification that an update is ready, but there is a temptation to defer action. Also the default setting for a phone is to download updates only through Wi-Fi. So if you don't have wi-fi in your house you should change the setting to download from wireless data.

To update an Android phone:

Open Settings
Navigate to System Update – this will depend on your device brand:
Pixel / many Android phones: Settings → System → Software update
Samsung: Settings → Software update → Download and install

At the end of the process the phone will restart; this may take more than five minutes, so you should schedule your update to a time when you can find some other activity to do.

To update an iPhone

Open Settings → General → Software Update. Your current iOS version and any available update will appear.
Tap Download and Install, then follow on-screen instructions. Keep your device plugged in and connected to Wi-Fi.

If prompted for a passcode, enter it to begin installation.
Once again, schedule your update to a time when you can find some other activity to do.

Ken Curwen

Potty History

How the West was Won (but not the North)

Australia has called itself the Lucky Country but the USA was super lucky in its first century. The first twelve states were trapped behind the Appalachian mountains and needed to expand to the West but were blocked by territory owned by other countries. But these obstacles just fell away as this History will show.

After Columbus discovered the Americas vast quantities of gold and silver were shipped to Spain, making it the richest country in Europe. Spain laid claim to the largest empire ever, the original one upon which the sun doesn't set, and they included in it all the area of the American West (pink and red on the map) although they made no effort to exploit the plains- the Incan and Aztec federations were the logical focus of their rule. They also captured Florida (in green) because it controlled the gateway to the Caribbean.

Meanwhile Dutch and British colonies developed on the east coast of America – the Dutch notably purchased Manhattan for $24 in 1626. Then the treaty of Westminster in 1674 swapped the Dutch titles for other British possessions.



The last accession to the British in North America was when Spain ceded the unprofitable Florida gateway to UK in 1763 and transferred its activities to Cuba. And in 1783 the treaty of Paris sealed the independence of the (then) thirteen states of USA.

The first stroke of luck for USA was in 1803 when Napoleon offered them the bargain of the century, selling the Louisiana area – red on the map – for $15 million ($18 per square mile and $400 million in today's money) to help finance his European wars. To be fair nothing had been done to develop the area, but it contained the entire Mississippi/Missouri catchment.

By this time the Spanish Empire was falling apart. The Spanish kings wasted money on European wars and increased taxes while replacing local officials with king's men. When Napoleon invaded the Iberian Peninsula in 1808 he appointed his brother Joseph as king. This broke the bond of fealty to the King and the resulting rebellions split the Empire, with the Mexican Republic holding the areas in pink and blue (Texas) on the map from 1821.

Texas itself was highly attractive to settlers from USA, with cattle ranching being the main activity. By 1830 Texans were agitating for an independent republic and in 1836 they succeeded (remember the Alamo…but the crucial engagement was the battle of San Jacinto, where Sam Houston's forces captured the Mexican president, Santa Anna, who was forced to sign away the territory). Unsurprisingly the Republic of Mexico reneged on this but the USA in response fought and won the Mexican-American war 1848 and Mexico agreed to transfer Texas and the Mexican Session lands to USA for $18 million in reparations. As luck would have it, the crowning glory of the Session was California!

USA's final acquisition was Alaska in 1867; the Russian Tsar Alexander II found himself short of cash after Russia lost in the Crimean War in 1856 and sold the state for $7 million ($182 million today). Once again Lady Luck favoured the USA – the Yukon gold rushes in the 1890s resulted in $460 million of Alaskan exports over the turn of the century.

The only misstep in this saga was when the newly-created USA decided it would look better if it annexed Canada (and they were unhappy with British maritime practices). The War of 1812 would be a walkover, why wouldn't the Canadians welcome American troops? But they overlooked a vital detail – all the diehard British loyalists fled to Canada after the formation of USA and so all American incursions were blocked. And to add to the situation, the British, once they had sent Napoleon to Elba, had the military strength to capture and burn Washington. But in the upshot both parties agreed to kiss and make up.

Ken Curwen, with help from Claude AI and Wikipedia.

Humour

I am a fan of cryptic crosswords. The solution to most clues requires a knowledge of the cryptic shorthand used by the setters and a good ability to solve anagrams. But the following are three recent clues and answers where the solution just jumps at you. (The parenthesised numbers are the number of letters to each word)

"How angry can a kangaroo be?" (7,3) *Hopping mad*

"The battle of the doorbells" (4,4) *Ding dong*

"Patsy's date of birth" (9) *Yesterday*

One Liners

I got invited to a party and was told to dress to kill. Apparently a turban, beard and a backpack wasn't what they had in mind.

My mate just hired an Eastern European cleaner, took her 15 hours to hoover the house. Turns out she was a Slovak.

Seven wheelchair athletes have been banned from the Paralympics after they tested positive for WD40

Two Indian junkies accidentally snorted curry powder instead of cocaine. Both in hospital...one's in a korma. The other's got a dodgy tikka.

A boy asks his granny, 'Have you seen my pills, they were labelled LSD?' Granny replies, "Blimey, forget your pills, have you seen the dragons in the kitchen?''

A woman standing nude in front of a mirror says to her husband: 'I look horrible, I feel fat and ugly, pay me a compliment.' He says 'Your eyesight is excellent.'

An elderly couple is attending Mass. About halfway through, the wife leans over and says to her husband, 'I just let out a silent fart; what do you think I should do?' He replies, 'Put a new battery in your hearing aid.'

Seniors

I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to reach my destination – it also tells me why I wanted to go there.

People who ask me what I'm doing tomorrow probably assume I even know what day of the week it is.

I don't understand why people have to "get ready for bed". I'm always ready for bed.

What's the secret to having a smoking hot body in old age? Cremation.

Why do retirees smile so much? Because they can't hear a word you're saying

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.