Newsletter

September 2024

www.rotoruasenior.net
Member of NZ Federation of SeniorNet Societies

Rotorua SeniorNet

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From the Chairman

Hello members

A common query we get at our drop-in sessions is how to transfer photos from a phone to a PC or laptop. Some of you might find the following tips useful.

The simplest way to get one or two photos from your phone to your computer is to email them to yourself using the share function in your phone gallery. However, remember that most email services have a limit on message size, so don't be too ambitious and send a lot of photos at once.

A USB cable is the easiest and most efficient way to shift a lot of photos. Connect the phone to a USB port on your computer using its charging cord. (Some cheap USB cords will not transmit data. The cord provided with your phone is likely to be data-capable.) Your phone may ask you to confirm that it is OK to link. Your phone should now show on the file explorer on your computer. Click on it and go to the phone directory titled DCIM (Digital Camera Images), where you will find your photos. You can drag them from there to any folder on your computer.

Here are a couple of tips:

- We usually suggest that before moving photos from your phone to your computer, you create a special photos folder with sub-folders for various categories to suit yourself, so you are sorting as you go.
- When you have your master folder and sub-folders set up, find it in the left-hand panel on your file explorer and click the small arrow alongside it. This will display your sub-folders, and you can drag photos direct from your phone to these.

Regards
Keith Garratt
Chair

Rotorua SeniorNet is just one of over 20 local groups in the New Zealand Federation.
If you would like to know more about what goes on elsewhere, OR what discounts or services are available to members, go to the Federation website. www.seniornet.nz

Next members' forum
Monday 9 September 2 pm at Parksyde

Remember too – if you need one-on-one help with your pesky electronic equipment, drop in on Monday mornings (9 am to noon) in the Community Meeting Room behind the Children's Section.

From Bert, Activities Co-ordinator

Our Monday morning drop-ins at Rotorua library have become very popular. We are working with up to a dozen people most weeks. Quite a few of our visitors return for additional sessions and have become members. It seems appropriate at this point that I should take advantage of our monthly newsletter to welcome all these new members.

Because many of our new members have become members as a result of working with us at drop-ins or from our Tuesday Tech sessions at Parksyde, they may not be familiar with the background of SeniorNet and some of the reasons for its existence. As a part of our welcome I have included a condensed version of the SeniorNet story.

SeniorNet originated in America in 1986 with the purpose of familiarising the Senior population with a new-fangled gadget called a home computer. The original members would have been Senior hobbyists, enthusiasts and the curious. The early desktop home computers were not particularly useful and they were very expensive. Microsoft and apps such as the word processor and spreadsheets were just beginning to appear. All of these innovations popularised home computing to almost universal acceptance. This led to the growth of SeniorNet into a world-wide organisation.

SeniorNet NZ and SeniorNet Rotorua were formed to assist our retired population in keeping up with the technological innovation which was taking place, particularly after the introduction of the internet, which took the computer from useful to indispensable. It has transpired that almost every transaction we make in our daily lives can be carried out using the internet.

Since those early days there has been a tsunami of new technology. We now have a choice between a desktop computer, a laptop, a tablet and of course our mobile phone. In addition to this we have four operating systems, namely Windows, Apple, Linux and Android.

Plus, in order to use our mobile phones we need to have an account with one of the many companies that supply contracts. Every supplier has a different structure and a variety of offers for different data usage and for bandwidth. Buying a new phone and setting up an account can be bewildering for the new user!

Developments in recent years have changed the way that we at SeniorNet need to operate to answer the wide variety of questions that people now routinely ask. We have found that the process of providing lessons about a few aspects of computing no longer match the issues we are presented with.

The "Drop In" system allows people to bring their wide variety of devices to us. We are able to resolve their issues and we also show them how to deal with the issues themselves. It often happens that during this teaching process other aspects arise which we can also explain and the learning process expands to include other useful features provided by their devices. This has resulted in people becoming interested in learning more and many have made the decision to become members of SeniorNet Rotorua.

A further benefit which we have only recently begun to realise is that our team gets together weekly and a lot of positive interaction takes place. Previously their interaction was largely limited to formal meetings with a restricted agenda.

We do run a series of talks twice a year which are also open to the general public. These talks cover the wider aspects of technology as they relate to the Senior community and are sponsored by Age Concern, for which we are very grateful.

To conclude, we run a social session at Parksyde once a month which is shown on the SeniorNet Rotorua website as a monthly forum. This sounds a bit formal, but it is actually a really entertaining session provided by ourselves, or occasionally we throw in an amusing or informative YouTube clip. Following the talk we have a get together in the cafeteria where coffee, tea and really yummy biscuits are served, allowing everyone to mix and mingle and make new friendships. All members are welcome.

FYI/FYE (For Your Information/From Your Editor)

This month I was planning to enlarge upon the what3words app, which is quite fun to use and could be very useful as well. However, as happens, work was just beginning on that when there was a definite little jolt under my house. 'Gremlins!' I hear my grandmother saying.
Whatever it was, it made me think of the Geonet website and Whakaari White Island. This is a very useful and interesting site to visit (the web one, not the island –I'll leave that to braver souls than me!) Just search for 'geonetnz' or go straight to geonet.org.nz.
Apart from the possibly unsettling information, there is historical information going back more than a century and advice on preparing for, and dealing with, natural emergencies. It was interesting to note that the Napier earthquake occurred 10 days before my father's 10th birthday. By then, the Tucker family had moved from Napier to Auckland.
I had also noticed, earlier in the week, that my mobile phone signal was interrupted during an exchange of text messages with someone in Tauranga. When I checked afterwards, Whakaari had thrown a minor tantrum, sending out a small ash plume, at just about that time. Hmmmm.

Office Holders

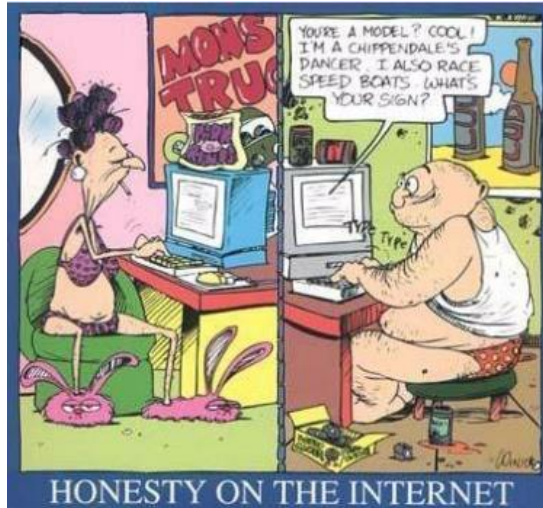| Chair/Webmaster	Keith Garratt	07 357 2020
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