



Newsletter

August 2024

www.rotoruasenior.net

Member of NZ Federation of SeniorNet Societies

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Contents

[Page 2](#)

Next meeting

Joining Senior Hangouts

[Page 3-4](#)

Bert's Bit

FYI/FYE

[Page 5](#)

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From the Chairman

Hello members

I can remember when the wonder of television came to New Zealand around 1960. Anna and I bought our first TV in 1970. Our ritual was to watch the news at 6 pm followed by the current affairs interview program known as Gallery. We witnessed the famous occasion when interviewer Brian Edwards negotiated an agreement in a major Post Office industrial dispute on screen. Now, over 60 years later we are witnessing the slow death and dumbing down of live broadcast television. In recent months, we have seen important news and current affairs programs terminated. No doubt because of economics, much of broadcast TV is dominated by so-called reality programs, mostly imported from overseas.

This all means that we are now virtually forced into moving to online streaming services to see the programs we want. Smart TVs are one way to go, but some brands do not give access to all the services available. If you do not have a smart TV but you have a more basic TV with an HDMI input, there are very good devices that enable you to tap into all the streaming services available. One common example is Google Chromecast with Google TV, which you can buy for under \$100. Provided you have reasonable broadband and a Wi-Fi modem, they are very simple to set up and operate. In effect, they turn your basic TV into a very capable smart TV.

One problem is that, apart from TVNZ and TV3, most streaming services charge a monthly fee. While these are generally in the range of 15 to 20 dollars a month, costs can rapidly accumulate if you subscribe to all the many services available. There is a need to be selective.

In summary, we need to accept that live broadcast television is not what it was, and we need to adapt to using streaming services.

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

Tuesday 12 August 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.

Thought About Joining SeniorHangouts?

Alan Armstrong

I've had a few inquiries about that from people who weren't able to join, and I'm wondering if they tried and gave up. Did they follow instructions? Those are in every weekly 'What's On' email:

- If you are a registered SeniorHangouts user, you can view the latest session details and a link to join each session on our [Official Calendar](#). *(If you can't access this by clicking on the link, try Ctrl+click)*
- If you are not yet a registered user, you can access our [Public Calendar](#)
- **[To become a registered SeniorHangouts member please ask your Learning Centre].**

If you haven't done that already, Gene Rigney will apply to register you (he's Hangouts' proof you're a member) and that needs to be renewed every 12 months. You get an automatic email with instructions on how to set up your own login and password, and **you must do what it asks**. It may take a few hours to process before you can join anything.

Really easy when you're registered. Click **Official Calendar** in the weekly email which takes you to the Hangouts Login page. Once you're logged in you can scroll the Calendar for the session you want. In it you'll see a link looking like this (**which is invalid so don't use this one – use the one that pops up!**)

<https://seniornet-nz.zoom.us/j/84182595631?pwd=BHP81XdjpN4mXJfx6bQ8Jekt.1>

Click that link to join the meeting at the allotted time and follow the instructions on screen.

If you are joining from the Zoom App, the meeting information and passcode to use, will be given as Meeting ID: xxxxxxxxxxxx

Passcode: xxxxxx

where the x's represent numbers.

If you use a Calendar App on your device (you probably already have Google's) you can click Add to Calendar and the details will be there when you need them.

Once you've learned how to join Hangouts, I run a Hangouts drop-in for beginners and expert users of Zoom on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7 pm that will bring you up to speed. It's in the Calendar.

From Bert, Activities Co-ordinator

“Memories are made of this”

I planned to write a piece about photography for this newsletter and I had written an outline for this early in July. Our most recent “Tuesday Tech Talk” was on the subject of photography as it relates to computers from mobile phones to desktops. To my surprise the speakers at the talk related their experiences with cameras which were very similar to my own.

I decided to stay with what I had already written which outlined my own experience of photography and the changes that have taken place since I bought my first camera.

I was born a couple of years before WW2. I have very few photos of myself growing up. I would imagine that film was in short supply during the war and that processing would have been expensive. We did have a couple of photo albums but they were all pictures taken pre-war. On reflection, I cannot remember my parents even owning a camera. I only mention all this in order to contrast it with the situation today where just about everyone in the world has a camera in their mobile phone and potentially thousands of photos.

I was a young man when I purchased my first camera when I travelled from the UK to NZ. It was a small plastic, inexpensive Kodak Instamatic which took black and white photos. I used it briefly, but I soon upgraded to a new camera which took colour slides. Until that point cameras produced negatives which were printed on to photographic paper. This process produced colour slides which were viewed by two different methods. They could be viewed using a small hand held viewer, loading one at a time. Alternatively, they could be viewed by loading the slides into a cassette for projection onto a screen. In reality, this meant slides were mostly viewed during times where family and friends were gathered in one place to see our holiday snaps. From the late 60's to the late 70's as a growing family we accumulated several hundred of these slides. Little did I know then that I would spend a lot of time during Covid digitising those slides and editing them to clean up the ravages of 50 years in storage. I now have a digital record of our kids growing up from birth to teenagers.

The next giant leap was the digital camera which I started using in 2003 which I recall was rated 3 Mega Pixels which was considered amazing clarity at the time. This was a giant leap in terms of technology. It was now possible to take as many photographs as you wished at zero cost. It really was a “fill your boots” moment in history.

In addition to the sheer quantity of photos it was now possible to save them into a file on my computer and there were programs available which allowed me to edit those photos. I could crop the photo and change the exposure and play with the colours with a click of the mouse.

In 2005 we upgraded to a Nikon with a 10 mega pixel rating which was bulkier than our previous camera but with a huge improvement in the specification. It was fortunate that when we changed cameras, I labelled the folders by the year the picture was taken and by the camera in use. Eventually we were using more than one camera with more than one person taking photos, often in different locations. This method of recording made it easier to search for specific shots later as the number of photos stored started building up. A common question at our “Drop In sessions” is how do I set up a tree for photo storage?

At some point someone decided that the newly invented mobile phone should be equipped with a camera. This began a new era where today everyone’s mobile has a high quality camera which will fit into a pocket and is ready for instant use. The mobile camera has a wide range of uses. They are used by Tradies as evidence of completion of work. Cars are photographed for illegal parking. People record recipes from magazines. Millions of pictures are uploaded to social media everyday. New uses for the mobile camera are just about a daily occurrence.

The internet has provided a place to store this tidal wave of data in the form of the Google Photos app which allows storage in the “Cloud” which is the short name for the large server farms that are built for this and other storage purposes. We now have somewhere to store all of our memories. Finding the time to look at them has become the biggest problem.

NB: Thanks to Ivy, we have available for members’ use, a slide and negative scanner. Members can borrow this to back up their old records.

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

Youth Today!

I know that we’ve all been there – fighting our way through adolescence, then fighting our way through our children’s, nephews, nieces, grandchildren’s, etc adolescence. Fortunately, it was usually over, done and dusted in a couple of years and things settled down again. So when, why and how did adolescence turn into something that now seems to last about 20 years? Some people even seem to be teenagers until they’re ready to retire! They ‘want’. Everything! Now! And it’s not fair!

At first glance, there seems to be a mixture of causes. Around the same time, in this country, anyway, we had ‘Tomorrow’s Schools’ foisted on us. Advertising and consumerism ramped up. Multimedia became available. A little bit of sleuthing on ‘The Net’ brings up some interesting opinions. Going past those opinions to actual research is even more interesting. I found an article from *The Atlantic* magazine that was published in April 2021. Not being a subscriber, I can’t access the whole article, but there’s enough of it available to see that, in fact, extended immaturity is not a new

phenomenon. Socrates is quoted saying ‘Youth now love luxury. They have bad manners and contempt for authority.’

It is an established fact that young people are taking longer to reach adulthood now and are more reliant on their parents than previous generations. But then the article gives some interesting facts:

- In 1950 the median age for first marriage was 23 for men, 20 for women
- In 2018 the median age for first marriage was 30 for men, 28 for women, but
- In 1890 the median age for first marriage was 26 for men, 22 for women (and this was even though the average life span was much shorter then – around 56 years)

So, having found a little evidence showing that this is nothing new, really, maybe there’s still hope. But modern life is still a problematic factor. Consumerism and entitlement are not mentioned in the part of the article I can access, and, being a USA-authored article, it can’t take ‘Tomorrow’s Schools’ into account. Time will tell.

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