

Golden Bay Newsletter

September 2021 | Number 4



Our Newsletter

After a year of being nearly covid-free and with few restrictions, we are all back at square one, in lockdown. It will be interesting to see what dominates our thinking this time around. Meanwhile I can say how impressed I am at the diligence with which most local people are abiding by the regulations. Special thanks must go to the workers who have to continue to put themselves at risk for our benefit. Thank you, dear friends. If you have heard something interesting or had a useful experience that you could share with our members, please send it to me mbarker@farmside.co.nz.

A Message from Sally

Hello All.

Welcome to our bi-monthly newsletter. This is the Lockdown edition. Even if the levels have been lifted by the time you read this, it was compiled under level 4 restrictions.

So, thank goodness for technology I say. We are keeping in touch with family and friends and keeping abreast of national and international happenings. Some people are working from home and some are learning at home. We are also being notified if we have visited any places of interest and need a test. Can you imagine how quickly the disease would have spread if we had been relying on writing letters and reading newspapers, for example?

Our most recent committee meeting was held by Zoom. The good thing was that we all know each other and there were only six of us. I've been occasionally joining the regular Saturday morning calls among members from all over the country and there are a lot more participants. I'm starting to learn the protocols. (Like muting oneself when one is answering a husband's question!). And raising your hand if you want to speak at the meeting. I find the Zoom meetings very tiring. More so than regular face to face meetings. I wonder if it's just that it's relatively new or requires more concentration perhaps.

Well, my garden is finally getting some attention, and I've been out walking and biking on the fine days. I'm thankful for our lovely Bay. I am missing social contact though. It is very important for our health and wellbeing. Talking on the phone, sending texts and emails although important are just not the same as personal interaction! I'm sure you find it so as well.

Thanks again to the committee. These great people keep things happening, and you will pick up some of what's going on when you read the rest of the newsletter. And thanks to M for being our editor although not on the committee.

On a final note, I want to extend my condolences to the family and friends of Charmaine Grainger who died recently. Many of you would have known her, as she came along to quite a number of our workshops and help sessions. She will be missed. Kind regards, Sally

2021 Committee

John Barraclough
Karen Brookes
Sally Douglas
Paul Heimel
Jim Mackie
Jenny Maclaren
Liz Thomas

Committee Meetings.

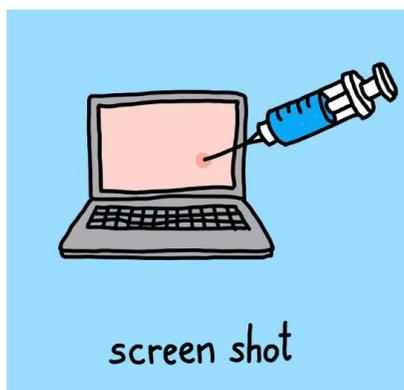
St John's Rooms,
Recreation Park.
Tuesdays 10 am
Next – postponed due to
lockdown.

Courses

Due to the Covid 19
lockdown the courses for
August, Android on Thursday
19th and Photobooks on
Thursday 26th have been
cancelled .

When the way
ahead becomes clearer,
these will be rebooked,
hopefully for September.
Wait and see.

You will be notified once they
are up and running again.



News from Your Committee

Points of interest from the Golden Bay SN committee minutes in July 2021:

- We have bought a new Bluetooth speaker to use with the great new screen that Search and Rescue have installed in the Rooms. The speaker is now permanently attached to the wall.
- St John have put up instructions for using the new water heater, on the wall beside it. Make sure you follow these if you are the tea or coffee maker!
- The National SN Federation has designed a new logo ... if you are wondering when it appears on our newsletter.
- We had a lengthy discussion about various courses, but you will get more up-to-date info elsewhere, so I won't go into detail here.
- Our internet/modem is not working. Also we pay a high fee to Spark for our internet and a copper line phone, which we NEVER use. We therefore decided to cancel Spark and move to Wireless Nation. At \$59/month for 60 GB (we mostly use only 8-10 GB) we will save \$40/month. We have been donated an appropriate modem, saving us an additional \$214.
- Liz, our treasurer, runs SNAP for us – statistics of classes we run, membership numbers etc that we must supply to the National SN Federation, which then subsidises us to a certain extent. SNAP is quite awkward to run, so we are considering various options eg possibly subscribing to Microsoft Office or even reporting SNAP details in a different way. Wait for the next minutes to find out!

Further Developments from the August committee meeting, run on Zoom:

We are sad to report the death of one of our members, Charmaine Grainger. We have sent a card to her family, on behalf of our SN branch.

The changeover from Spark to Wireless Nation as our internet provider has gone smoothly, thanks to Paul, Liz and John.

We have postponed the decision over Microsoft Office (see last point in July minutes above), because the Federation is playing around with possible changes to the system anyway. It seems prudent to wait and see ...

We have also had to postpone courses, because of lockdown.

Jenny Maclaren, Minutes Secretary

More From Your Committee

Windows 11 ... well, well, well!

Microsoft had said that Windows 10 was to be the final version of that operating system (OS), with upgrades added for free every so often. It seems however that this 'upgrade' is different enough to require a new name, but they are sticking to the "added for free" aspect.

Windows 11 was announced at the end of June, but it won't be available on new devices till later in the year – some sources say October. Those of you with W10 will be able to get a free upgrade (if you wish) early in 2022, as long as your device meets the minimum system requirements. These include the TPM Trusted Platform Module, version 2.0, which ensures that your device has the required level of security.

In the meantime you can Google W11 and see what you think of the new features: a changed opening page, a store where you can buy apps other than Microsoft ones, amazing gaming graphics, fewer updates and the like. When we get nearer the time of its release, SeniorNet GB will be there to help. There is no hurry though, because you can be fairly sure that W10 and W11 will overlap considerably. W10 will be around for some time yet!



Course Coordinator's Report Senior Net Courses.

At present we have a big reliance on our present tutors and would welcome anyone new who feels confident to run a course on a subject of interest to volunteer. There might well be a particular aspect you've mastered that you could assist others with.

There's been a suggestion that projects such as writing a memoir could introduce more than one necessary skill and therefore enable us to put together a course. If any ideas along these lines occur to you please share them with us and we'll see what we can do .

Liz Thomas is still offering training via your computer at home and remotely on how to use Zoom. In the meantime remember that Senior Net Hangouts is available on Zoom for face to face discussion of various topics. There's also access to past Hangout sessions at which many different problems have been sorted. How many of you could do with a session on computer security? If you have any answers to these questions, please contact me.

If you have a preference for a certain subject, please feel free to email Karen Brookes, Senior Net Course Coordinator and I'll see what I can do. kabro@kinect.co.nz

Senior Hangouts

In these strange times, we don't know how long we'll be in lock down. Until we get back down to Level 2, we won't be able to run any Senior Net courses face-to-face. However, this doesn't mean you can't brush up on your technology skills or learn new things. We're developing ways of delivering courses online for example teaching people how to use zoom – on zoom. There are also excellent learning opportunities on Senior Hangouts, developed nationally and available for all Senior Net members everywhere.

Senior Hangouts are 30 minute on-line training sessions produced and developed by Senior Net members around the country. These are excellent, well produced and informative. You can join the new sessions from the comfort of your own home, either live where you can join in the discussion, or you can access the recording later, in your own time.

At present Senior Hangouts uses 3 platforms. When you register you get **emails** telling you what's coming up, **zoom** calls to join the sessions live, and **Google Classrooms** to access all the previous sessions. Very soon – hopefully by the end of August - a new App will be launched which will combine all three onto a single platform. You'll be able to download this from Google Play store (Android), Apps store (Apple), or through your browser.

In the meantime, instructions for how to register, join sessions, and access all the previous sessions are below. If you would like help with this, please contact Liz 525 7035.

To register for email notifications of upcoming sessions <https://forms.gle/bHa1t7GfVcZY2Wy17>

To connect to sessions <https://seniornet-nz.zoom.us/my/seniorhangouts> passcode: SH123
or without the passcode:

<https://seniornetnz.zoom.us/j/5945680835?pwd=TndGQ2pFNmtPNGNQOVpIT2hyOW80UT09>

To access all the previous sessions on Senior Hangouts

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MTY0NjUwOTQ1MTg2?cjc=s6ps2dy>

Covid Tip from SeniorNet Motueka



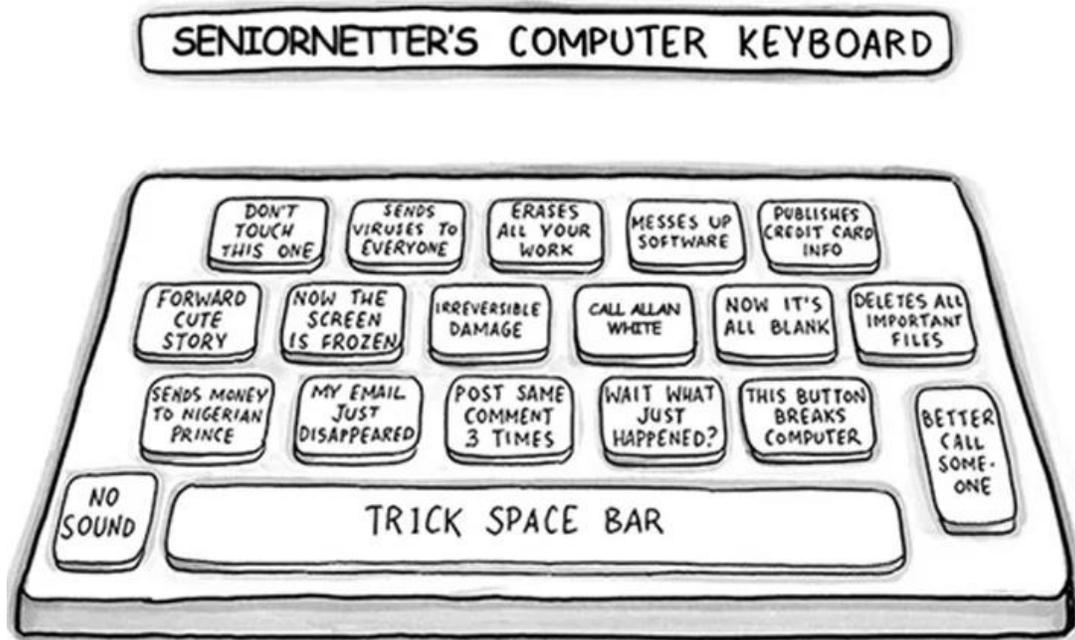
When you have had both injections take your Covid Vaccine Card to say, Warehouse Stationery or similar and get it laminated so it is protected.

If you intend to travel overseas when it is safe, you could keep this with your passport.

Also, take a photograph your Covid vaccine card – that way you won't lose it and you can provide a copy of it to anyone anytime.

Additional note from the Editor

I was informed at GBCH that the card may not be sufficient for international travel. You should ask your doctor for a more formal certification.



From Gizmoe

Register 111 emergency services – Vulnerable Consumer Register

Without a landline, what happens to customers when the power goes off?

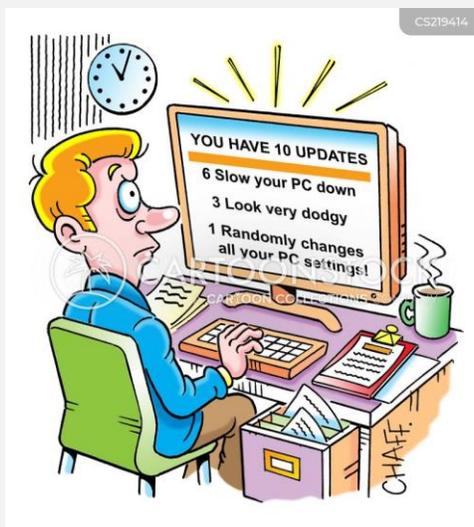
If you or someone in your family relies on a Fibre or wireless landline for health, disability or safety reasons and you don't have a mobile phone or any other way of calling 111 in the event of a power cut, you can apply to be on Spark's Vulnerable Consumer Register.

If you do have a mobile phone, you will need to ensure it has enough battery power during a power cut. Keep it charged. Alternatively, you may source an Uninterrupted Power Supply device (USP), which will keep you connected for a short period of a few minutes. If you are reliant on your landline, then Spark will give you a way to call 111 in the event of a power cut, at no expense to you.

If you or a family member is vulnerable, call 126 to be listed on the register or go to spark.co.nz/vulnerable.

Editor's Note

The SeniorNet Federation has just announced the issue of a new branding kit to cover logos, fonts and styles to be used by clubs. I haven't got all the details yet but I do know that they want us to switch to the Open Sans font. They consider it to be much more readable, in print and on screen, than Myriad Pro, which is what we have been using. I have made the change in this edition, and would be interested in your reactions to the change. Many thanks, Morfydd.



Flu Tracking

NOTE for Flu Tracking contributors: This service will soon be asking for additional information on headaches. Please record when you have a headache so that you can report this to Flu Tracking.

A Committee member has alerted us to this important, government sponsored initiative that could help all of us to deal with possible flu outbreaks this winter.

By agreeing to answer a short questionnaire every week you will help the researchers view the distribution of flu cases in our country.

Visit this website to get full information: <https://info.flutracking.net/>

What is FluTracking?

FluTracking is an online health surveillance system used to detect the potential spread of influenza.

Whether you're vaccinated or not, as long as you live in **Australia** or **New Zealand** and have easy access to email on a weekly basis, we need your help!

Click [here](#) for more info...

Join Now



Track flu in your local area

Footnote

We hope you enjoyed this Newsletter. Please send us your comments and also items for the next edition. Here are some useful contacts:

President Sally rsdouglas@farmside.co.nz

Course Bookings Karen kabro@kinect.co.nz

Newsletter Editor Morfydd mbarker@farmside.co.nz

It would be great to see you at some of our forthcoming meetings. The Committee members work hard to keep the Club going, but we depend on your input as well. There are many members who have benefited from the support that our Club provides. You may be amongst them. So please help us to keep the Club alive.

Best wishes from all at SeniorNet Golden Bay.