

September/October 2019



Gizmoe

This is the fifth edition of *Gizmoe* in 2019.

Gizmoe will also be posted on www.seniornet.co.nz from 24th September 2019.

Government funding to assist with digital literacy training which was announced in the budget has not reached the Federation yet, however some progress has been made. I was invited to attend a workshop hosted by the Office for Seniors and Ministry of Social Development (MSD) earlier in September to discuss the intended process to be used. Several other community groups also attended. It would seem MSD will be writing a specification for interested and suitable groups to make application via the government tendering process. We hope to learn more, soon. The target is to start distributing funds from the beginning of next year.

Thanks for the huge response to the book draw last month. I was inundated! The lucky winners were: Sean (Cambridge), Rex (Hamilton), Errol Levin), Joan (Lower Hutt), Greg (Khandallah), Claire (Christchurch) and Don (Auckland). It was great to be given the opportunity to hand out Tom Enright's book "Many a Close Run Thing", we wish Tom every success with his new book. There is another competition for you to enter as well, so if you enjoy photography, enter and be in the running to win a \$150 Noel Leeming voucher – see details in this edition.

The Federation has received several good applications for the position of Executive Officer. A selection panel has been appointed and they are working their way through the process over the next few weeks with a view to making an appointment early in November. Thank you to those who made referrals that was very helpful.

Enjoy the read and..... Learn something new every day!
Grant Sidaway Executive Officer



Spend My Super helps Superannuants Change the Future

Liz Greive, Founder of Spend My Super has always remembered a particular girl she met during her days as a social worker. The girl was 13 years old. She tried to act tough, but she wasn't. Her young life was fraught with challenges. She was simply an innocent child trying to survive.



When Liz received a letter telling her she could claim superannuation her first reaction was, "Oh dear, am I really that old"? That was followed by, "I don't need this to continue living a comfortable life." She thought of that young girl, who had such a tough start.

Today, 1 in 4 Kiwi children are born into poverty. Their lives are full of challenges through no fault of their own. How can we help children like these to reach their potential, and overcome everything that stands in their way?

Liz has built a good life, and she's grateful, but she's never stopped asking how our country can be a fairer place to grow up.

"I think my generation has been fortunate to be born into a time of peace and growing affluence. We've enjoyed considerable improvements in healthcare and education. Often, we've been able to buy our own homes and save enough for a comfortable retirement.

"Many of us haven't lived with the dread that we won't be able to pay the power bill or for the next day's meals. I pictured physically taking the money from my superannuation and handing it to someone who did need it, but that was hardly practical.

Liz says, "I know I'm not the only person whom fortune has favoured. I've realised that together, superannuants can do something amazing. We can make sure every Kiwi kid has the chance to reach their potential.

Spend My Super enables people to easily support charities by donating some, or all of their superannuation toward vital work for Kiwi children living in poverty.

Liz says, "We've found 12 outstanding charities making a difference in New Zealand. We're putting all our effort into supporting these charities by giving them what they need most - money.

It's all about making a genuine impact right across the country. Spend My Super ensures the charities we choose are accountable and transparent. Between them, they work on areas which will have the greatest impact on reducing inequality and childhood poverty in New Zealand. Whether it's frontline support or policy advocates, their work is impactful and impressive. It's a privilege to connect them with generous superannuants.

We're out to make a difference, not a dollar, says Liz. Spend My Super is privately funded, so everything donated goes straight to the charities. We don't take any percentage whatsoever. In some cases, we even have matching pledges, doubling the power of your donations.

We've made Spend My Super flexible, allowing superannuants to choose exactly how much they donate, from a small amount to all of their pension. Donation timing and destinations can be set easily. Changing or stopping donations is simple too.

If you can help and want to learn more visit: <https://spendmysuper.org.nz/>

Magic – Article submitted by Heather Cashin, Dargaville SeniorNet

Technology is magic!

My Grandson was to marry his sweetheart a German girl in Germany, all his family were going over, but I felt it was a long way and I would hold up all the younger ones. So, I asked my grandson if we could have a live streaming of the ceremony for those other family members who were staying home? Well it seemed that it was going to be in the too hard basket when everyone was wanting to have a good time in a new country, so I was a bit despondent.

Then two days before the wedding we got a “message” to say that it would all be set up for live streaming and a link would be sent to all those who wished to tune in! I rushed around and made arrangements for family to be together for the occasion, plus other friends and relations who had not gone were also gathering in their homes. We were all together with our nibbles and drinks when Aidin, who was the Bestman, popped into our screens to say he was setting it up for 3 hours start time, this didn't go as he had planned so he changed the App to “HangOuts” still didn't work so he told us all to turn off our phones and use a laptop which was chrome cast to the TV – hey presto there he was on our big screen – it worked!

A few more drinks and lovely nibbles which turned into our tea when up popped Aidin again this



time at the wedding venue, we could see a wide angle of bridal party (who had seats) and our Kiwi group and then the German family and friends too. The photographer who was darting all over the place, and the sun brolleys that were over the German side and our lot in full sun! It was special that we could make jokey comments with each other while everyone over there was so formal!

The sound was good – except it was all in German! But we did enjoy watching

everyone, and also it was really good, as we could see all the other Kiwis who had tuned into the link (they were down the bottom of our screen) which made us feel we were all part of the ceremony too. It was a very long sermon all in German (40 minutes) and just as they got to saying their vows, the screen went black! We all began texting to say we had no picture! And eventually one of the Kiwi guests picked up the text and came up with a battery booster, so we had sound only for the vows. Miriam who is an English teacher, said her vows in very fast and excited German, there was lots of laughter, not sure what she said? Then Theo said his vows in English, so lovely to hear him speak of the different culture and that with God's help it would work, he also made some promises which were a giggle for us. Then the battery booster kicked in and we had picture again and were able to see them going off to have photos taken. We have a quick wave at our family (even though they couldn't see us).

An amazing experience, all the fun and awesomeness of the occasion without the hassle of getting there. We enjoyed our little party at home and waited for the photos to come.

PS: There are many apps that work for live streaming we used Google HangOuts -

<https://hangouts.google.com/> - but you can check out your most popular one, just do it for those who can't attend your next wedding or funeral.

Connected by Copper?



As I've written about before, more and more home telephone and internet users are moving their services off the old copper phone line network onto new technology, like fibre or fixed wireless, which provide better internet reliability and speed as they become available.

Eventually, the copper lines are likely to be progressively retired as everyone transitions away, but this is a few years off according to the lines' operator.

In the meantime, for some telephone users, the priority may not be faster and better internet, but the sense of security and dependability copper lines provide (since they have their own power source and can run through emergencies and blackouts). This may be the case for some users who do not have internet at all, as well as those who rely on copper connections for their security alarms and medical emergency alerts.

In recent months some retailers have started more aggressively pursuing customers who only have copper landline telephones, writing to offer deals for switching over to alternative products.

Anecdotally, some of these tactics have amounted to "hard sells" saying that copper landlines are being turned off imminently.

If you have any concerns about approaches from your telephone provider on this issue, or any advice you have received from their call centres on switching, it would be good to know as we would want to help remove any confusion for people. Happy to hear from you, simply email me: grant@seniornet.co.nz



I don't wish to alarm you, but..... Hackers could kill more people than a nuclear weapon

I'm quoting from a recently published article at <https://www.livescience.com>, alerted to me by John at SeniorNet West Auckland, after a presentation I made to their members a short time ago.

You may be worried about nuclear tensions rising? The fact is that a major cyberattack could be even more damaging — and apparently those nasty hackers are already preparing for it.

To date, most hacking incidents, have done little more than steal data. But, there's plenty of signs to suggest hackers have placed malicious software inside U.S. power and water systems, where it's lying in wait, ready to be triggered. The U.S. military has also reportedly penetrated the computers that control Russian electrical systems.

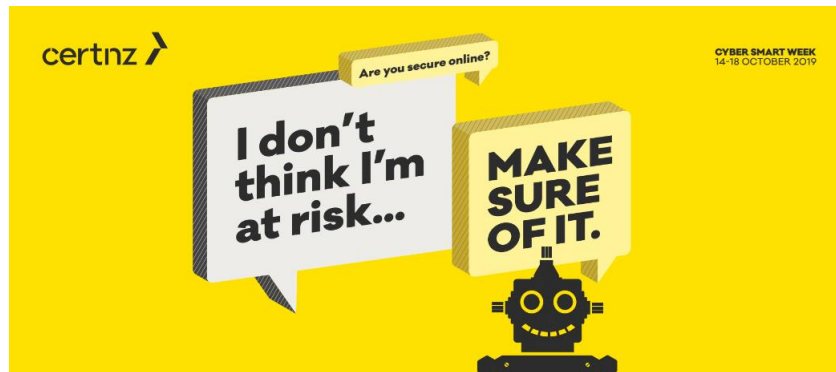


By way of example: In 2016 and 2017, hackers shut down major sections of the power grid in Ukraine. Officials think it was designed to send a message. In 2018, unknown cybercriminals gained access throughout the United Kingdom's electricity system and this year a similar attack may have penetrated the U.S. grid.

Given that most infrastructure is managed by networked computer systems, the havoc caused through a hacked power system, water filtration plant or even control systems for transport would be devastating. Forget about being vaporised by a nuclear attack and consider a country brought to its feet, within days of a significant cyber attack.

Investing in cyber security maybe more important for a government than investing in missiles!

This is a good way of leading into my next article.... So read on!



Cyber Smart Week 14-18 October

SeniorNet in conjunction with CERT NZ and other partners will be trying to lift awareness of the need to be Cyber Safe. Many of our Centres will be running workshops during Cyber Smart Week so I encourage you to attend and learn more how to keep yourself safe.

Don't think you're at risk from a cyber-attack? **Make sure of it.**

More than just few of our favourite things are stored, shared and displayed online. Photos, emails, documents and the things you post on social media — they're all alive and (mostly) well on the internet. But, let's face it, we're generally not as careful about keeping those things as safe and secure in our online world as we are in our 'real' world.

This could be because the risks we take online are not all that obvious, making them easier to ignore. Also, many of us think we wouldn't be targeted as we've got nothing of interest or value to attackers.

Regardless of the why, it's important to be aware that cyber-attacks are becoming more frequent and that anyone can be a target. It's not just large organisations and businesses who are vulnerable — small businesses and everyday Kiwis are also at risk.

I'm not wanting to worry you (well, maybe just a bit) but your personal information is highly valuable to attackers who are looking for easy ways to get information to use to their advantage, often to get money. Imagine the damage that could be done if an attacker accessed your bank account and helped themselves to your savings, or signed into your social media account and pretended to be you.

Given that the impact of a cyber-attack can be life-changing, it's definitely worth setting aside a bit of time to get the basic safeguards in place.

So, while you might not think of yourself as a likely target of a cyber-attack, how about taking these four simple practical steps to **make sure of it?**

1. Use a password manager
2. Turn on two-factor authentication
3. Update your devices
4. Check your privacy

To find out more about getting cyber smart? Go to <http://www.cert.govt.nz/cybersmart>

Is Neil our oldest SeniorNet Member?

In February 2012, a sprightly gentleman joined Hibiscus Coast SeniorNet, he had a laptop in the box ready to be set up. His son had created an email address which he had in his pocket at the ready.

This 95-year-old had been pressured by his grandchildren in Canada and Australia to “get with it grandpa!”

Since 2012, Neil has been emailing around the world and checks his email inbox daily, often getting requests from family historians for photos. After completing the basic skills courses, the Files & Folders workshop helped him sort his photo collection into the numerous folders in his laptop.

Now 102 years old (January 2019), still with the energiser bunny attitude, he is a prime example of learning is achievable at any age. Neil is a shining star for us all to admire!



Is Neil our oldest SeniorNet member, or do you know of somebody even more grownup? Regardless I'd love to hear your quirky story's, Sharron, from Hibiscus Coast SeniorNet contributed with Neil's story – thanks Sharron.

Worldwide Photo Walk

I know a lot of SeniorNet members are great photographers – The digital photo groups at our Learning Centres being one of the most popular.

The Worldwide photo is being held on Saturday, 5 October.

In New Zealand, there are a number of walks being held in various cities that I am aware of: Auckland, Wellington, Palmerston North, Nelson, and two options in Hamilton.

It's totally free to take part, and anyone of any age and any skill level is very welcome. No matter what the camera may be, even a phone camera is fine. And there will be experienced photography enthusiasts at every event who can assist the lesser-experienced folk on the day.

Grandparents may also like to bring their grandchildren along to introduce them to photography, or to gain further experience.

To find out more go to www.worldwidephotowalk.com just click on Find a Walk and meet up on the 5th October.

Photo Competition

Be in to win a \$150 Noel Leeming voucher.

Send your best photo to grant@seniornet.co.nz snapped on 5th October.

1. It can be any photo you take on the day, but it must be taken on the day!
2. No enhancing after taking the photo – just as you took it.
3. File size to be no larger than 200KB
4. One entry per person
5. Competition closes 10th October 2019.



Happy snapping!

Your next new car?

I seem to always be on the road. Sometimes it's lots of short trips; sometimes it's a couple of long trips. Either way, I'm in and out of the car dozens of times a day.



The new Baleno, on loan from Suzuki makes travelling a lot easier. It's spacious, economical and full of extra features to make every day driving enjoyable. "The Baleno is perfect for older people who would like something larger than the popular Swift model, but still compact and easy to park. It's very fuel efficient around town or on the open road and has all the little extras to make you feel very comfortable.

Loaded with Suzuki small car know-how, the new 2019 Baleno hatchback is competitively priced from \$21,990 plus on road costs up to \$25,990 for the higher specification RS BoosterJet 6-stage auto.

As a SeniorNet member, you are entitled to the exclusive added value of free on road costs when you purchase any new vehicle from a participating Suzuki dealership.

The practical and roomy Suzuki Baleno 5-door hatchback has excellent all-round visibility, a tight turning circle and first rate manoeuvrability. Based on a strong but light platform, this stylish Suzuki is very fuel efficient, achieving 5.1-5.4 litres/100 km in the combined fuel test cycle.

Safety equipment built into every Baleno includes six airbags, an electronic stability programme, anti-lock brakes with EBD and braking force automatically modulated to provide the right amount of pressure, brake assist function and reversing camera for easy safe reversing and parking.

The Baleno range has a headlamp levelling device, automatic lights and guide-me home lights. The leather covered steering wheel has tilt adjustment and incorporates controls for the on-board computer, cruise control, speed limiter and Bluetooth functions.

A centrally located 7-inch touchscreen features voice-activated audio and Bluetooth connectivity, plus built-in satellite navigation and reverse camera. Smartphone compatibility is covered with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto to allow connection via USB to make calls, access music, send and receive messages, and get directions.

The Suzuki/SeniorNet preferred vehicle partnership is another initiative in our attempt to bring added value arrangements to our SeniorNet members so please support it and make sure you consider Suzuki on your shopping list if you are looking to purchase a new vehicle ... now or in the future!

SeniorNet is grateful for the support we receive from our sponsors:

