

August 2016



# Gizmoe

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This is the fourth edition of *Gizmoe* in 2016. There will be two further editions this year.

*Gizmoe* will also be posted on [www.seniornet.co.nz](http://www.seniornet.co.nz) from 6th August 2016.

I am writing this edition of Gizmoe whilst on holiday in London.

It's fair to say the UK like any other country is reliant on many forms of technology, much of it is in your face! You get the feeling there are security cameras providing blanket coverage of the entire country. In-fact one report suggests there's one security camera for every ten people, more than that in large cities. Actually it gives me a sense of safety, which for a visitor is a good thing. Aside from the dominance of security cameras the Brits have a high reliance on GPS for getting from A to B. It seems the country is driven by post code, if you know the post code where you are heading then typing that into your GPS mapping program makes getting there a breeze. It seems the most favoured navigation system is the Waze App with its ability to provide up to the minute traffic information and recalculation of routes on the hop. Yes, Waze is a very widely used App in New Zealand too.

I've taken the opportunity to hold a few public presentations in four different locations to see if people might be interested in starting a similar concept to SeniorNet here in the UK. For sure there are a few computer learning facilities for older people in some parts of the country but nothing like what we have with SeniorNet in New Zealand. Sad to say there seems little interest, as it was only a few friends and family, that helped to arrange the events, bothering to turn-up to the presentations. Of course it could be that the 50 plus age groups are more savvy in the UK than their New Zealand counterparts. Or maybe that don't have the volunteering spirit? Anyway it was a bit of fun and from the few that did turn-up they gave me a sense their issues were the same as ours – mainly trying to keep up with their kids and grandchildren.

Remember, learn something new every day!

Best wishes,

Grant Sidaway – Executive Officer SeniorNet Federation



## Windows 10 – did you or didn't you?

Microsoft confirmed a few days before the 29<sup>th</sup> July cut-off date that, after months of pestering us, its Windows 10 free upgrade would indeed end and that after that date a hefty cost would apply if we wanted it.

However, it seems, despite this cut-off, anyone can still pop over to Microsoft's website and download the software for free.

The free download is reserved for those who use assistive technology.

"With the end of the free Windows 10 upgrade offer today for the general public, we want to remind customers who use assistive technologies that the deadline will not apply to you," Microsoft said.

However, as I've found out, any Thomas, Richard or Harrold - who doesn't mind lying about the fact they use assistive technologies - can download the free update, and the upgrade appears to work in the exact same way as Microsoft's free Windows 10 offer for all.

Microsoft likely will cotton-on to this loophole soon, so if you missed Microsoft's previous deadline, you should probably upgrade as soon as possible.

Of course, some won't be bothering. For them, the cut-off was good news, as if Microsoft is true to its word, there will be no more "*nagware*" for Windows 7 and 8 users who don't want to make the change. And wow we were nagged!

Microsoft's current figures suggest that about 300 million machines now run Windows 10, but this is significantly short of the target of one billion that the company projected by the end of year two.

Those already on Windows 10 will have more upgrading to do. Microsoft released Windows 10 Anniversary Update on 2 August, known internally as Redstone (phase one), which adds a whole lot of new functionality.

This is the evolution of the old-style Service Packs to reflect the new Windows as a Service rather than a product. It will be followed by a second Redstone early next year to tie in with new hardware, after which it is expected that the "10" will be quietly dropped in favour of simply "Windows".



## **Cold Weather - Higher Power Bills**

With the cold weather in full force, Grey Power Electricity ran a competition with its current customers to come up with winter warming and power saving tips to help keep your house warm this winter.

Here are a few that you could try at home:

- Have a warm shower in the early evening to warm you up, so you don't need to turn the heating on so early.
- Wear a beanie and woollen bed socks to bed.
- If you make several cups of tea or coffee during the day, fill a thermos with hot water to save multiple jug boiling.
- Use a wheat bag or hot water bottle to warm your bed rather than an electric blanket.

Grey Power Electricity is currently running an exclusive offer for all SeniorNet members.

If you switch your electricity to Grey Power Electricity and **mention 'SeniorNet'** you will go in the draw to win a \$200 Prezzy Card.\*

Grey Power Electricity is only available for Grey Power members. To find out more and see if you could save money on your electricity (and gas if you have it) by switching, call one of our friendly team on **0800 473 976** or visit [www.greypowerelectricity.co.nz](http://www.greypowerelectricity.co.nz), **we would love to hear from you!**

To find out more about becoming a Grey Power member visit [www.greypower.co.nz](http://www.greypower.co.nz)

\*Applies to new customers who sign up before 30 August and reference SeniorNet. Winner will be drawn on 1 September. Prize cannot be redeemed for cash.



**Grey Power  
Electricity**

**Would you like to  
save money on  
your power bill?**

**You could save money by joining Grey Power Electricity today!**

## **A new resource for Genealogists**

One of the most popular hobbies of a SeniorNetter seems to be genealogy, if you are into tracing family history this may be of interest to you.

The NZ Society of Genealogists (Inc) is about to release a new genealogical DVD resource entitled *New Zealand Land Records*. This resource becomes available from mid-August 2016.

This name searchable database contains about 210,000 records of land owners, linked to a specific LINZ document that contains Land Title references and in most cases, a range of legal documents including Wills and vital record certificates. It's anticipated that this resource will be well received in the genealogical community especially when Land Records are filed by Legal Description and not by name.

Available from mid-August 2016 online at:

[www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz)

Or phone (09) 570 4248.

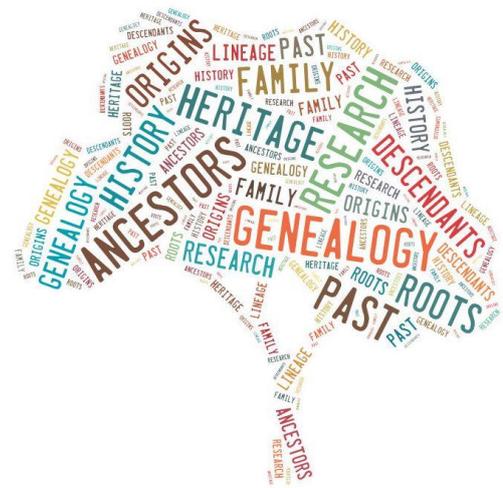
Or if you live in Auckland, visit the Family Research Centre at Level 1, 159 Queens Road, Panmure, Auckland.

## **New - From Our Partner Suzuki**



Go to <http://www.suzuki.co.nz/baleno/> for all the details.

Remember as a SeniorNet member the on road costs will be paid by the dealer.



## **Decades in Colour**



Decades in Colour is about New Zealand and New Zealanders from the 1940's to the 1980's but told primarily through home shot colour films and videos. It's very much history from the inside out using the old 16mm, 8mm and super 8mm footage. Series 2 is about to be produced.

In series one each episode was about a particular decade but this series will traverse across all decades in every episode and instead split them by theme. So, there will be one episode on HOME, one on WORK and one on PLAY.

Greenstone TV is making the second series of Decades In Colour for PRIME TV – social history from the inside - but they need our help. If you have any home shot colour footage from the 1940's through to the 1980's they would love to hear about it, especially around the themes HOME, PLAY and WORK.

Please email [decades@greenstonetv.com](mailto:decades@greenstonetv.com) or call them on 09 630 7333

Take a look at their Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/decadesincolour/>

## **Book your Travel Accommodation with Expedia**

Thanks to those of you who have already taken advantage of the new Expedia app (found at [www.seniornet.co.nz](http://www.seniornet.co.nz) ) and is so doing have helped generate some extra funds for SeniorNet.

Expedia offers over 150,000 hotels worldwide and at the most competitive rates available. They are so confident of their competitive rates that if you happen to find a cheaper rate on your hotel reservation up to two days before your check-in, Expedia will refund the difference and give you a \$ 50 travel coupon for future travel.

You will also find 'Special Deals' released weekly with some of these providing up to 50% off their regular hotel rates.

- Every Expedia booking made via our SeniorNet site earns us 2% of the accommodation value and this is available to all members as well as their families and other organizations
- You pay exactly what you would pay by accessing the Expedia site directly - there are no hidden charges or fees.

## Pokémon Go

For right and wrong reasons the new smartphone game App has taken the world by storm.

Your children and grandchildren will be well up to play with this clever application, oh gosh, maybe you have downloaded it and can be found wandering the streets and parks trying to capture the little critters.



Pokémon Go is one of many applications that sit under the heading of augmented reality.

Augmented reality (AR) is a live view of a physical, real-world environment whose elements are augmented (or supplemented) by computer-generated information such as sound, video, graphics or GPS data. Virtual reality replaces the real world with a simulated one. A very simple example of this is showing sports scores on TV during a match.

Taking this several steps further; with the help of advanced AR technology (e.g. adding computer vision and object recognition) the information about the surrounding real world of the user becomes interactive and digitally manipulable.

Enter, Pokémon Go the free-to-play, location-based augmented reality game developed and published by Niantic for iOS and Android devices. Released in selected countries just last month. In the game, players use a mobile device's GPS capability to locate, capture, battle, and train virtual creatures, called Pokémon, who appear on the screen as if they were in the same real-world location as the player.

So if you see zombie like kids walking the streets with their smartphones held at arms-length in front of them and only focusing on the screen then odds on it's a Pokémon player you have encountered.

Unlike most other gaming applications the user must actually get off their backside and walk about – often over long distances to play the game – that's the good thing (getting kids out into the fresh air and off the sofa).

Some not so good stories have emerged in the few weeks the game has been available, like people being killed when walking mindlessly onto busy roads or driving cars while playing the game. Clearly, such people have become devoid of the real world.

That said it's a fun game and provided it's played in moderation and the person playing the game is still also in the real world then there is every chance that person will be that much fitter through the additional walking undertaken.

Over 100 million downloads have occurred to date with the creator of the game now worth in excess of US\$4.0 billion – how crazy is that, considering the game is free!!!

Expect to see hundreds of augmented reality apps appear in the next few months.

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