

December 2016



Gizmoe

This is the final edition of *Gizmoe* in 2016.

Gizmoe will also be posted on www.seniornet.co.nz from 8th December 2016.

Well, that's 2016 almost done and dusted.

Next year will mark 25 years of SeniorNet in New Zealand, so we hope that it will be a year of celebration and a time to marvel at how far technology has moved – from clunky desktops to dinky Smartphones – even exploding ones (see article in this edition).

Many of our Learning Centres close over the Christmas and New Year period – a time to relax a little and a time for volunteers to take a break. What a great bunch you are, freely giving of your time to help others grasp new technology and asking nothing in return except the hope that their students become more motivated to use technology in their everyday lives. Oh... and also in the hope that they too will become a tutor at SeniorNet to help the newbies – Hint, Hint!

Thanks to all the volunteers in all our Learning Centres. More than 600 volunteers collectively giving 240,000 hours (approximately) to help others. That's \$3.66M worth on a minimum wage of \$15.25 per hour, of course our volunteers are worth far more than that! It's often said that without volunteers the country would come to a standstill, that is certainly the case with SeniorNet, without them SeniorNet would not exist. My sincere thanks to every volunteer in SeniorNet.

Thank you for all the feedback regarding the Alternative Funding Model report. 46 Learning Centres responded to the survey plus a couple of more detailed responses have been received. The Federation National Management team meets later in the month to review the report and responses to plan for 2017 and beyond. There will some difficult decisions to be made, however I am pleased to announce that in the past month we were fortunate to receive a substantial grant from the National Lottery Grants Board plus Westpac Bank have committed to a further 12 months of funding valued at \$50,000 which is great news and a good start for 2017.

Wishing you a fabulous Christmas and a happy and safe time over the holiday period.

Remember, learn something new everyday!

Grant Sidaway – Executive Officer SeniorNet Federation



The case of the exploding Smartphone(s)

You have no doubt heard about the Samsung note 7 exploding smartphones! It's been on the news quite a bit and if you have travelled by plane, domestically or overseas then the constant reminders from airlines before and after you board a plane is enough to make you quiver in your apps!

It's the battery that powers the phone that has been the cause of concern. So, what's the problem, a battery is a battery and we have had them for years.

All batteries carry a safety risk, ask that of their inventors!

The science behind phone battery fires is simple, and well understood, phones use lithium ion battery packs for their power, and it just so happens that the liquid swimming around inside most lithium ion batteries is highly flammable. If the battery short-circuits -- say, by puncturing the incredibly thin sheet of plastic separating the positive and negative sides of the battery, that puncture point becomes the path of least resistance for electricity to flow. It heats up the (flammable!) liquid electrolyte at that spot. If the liquid heats up quickly enough, the battery can explode.



The Galaxy Note 7 certainly isn't the first phone to catch on fire. In 2009, Nokia recalled 46 million phone batteries that were at risk of short-circuiting. Exploding phones have even allegedly killed people. No brand or model is necessarily safe: for instance, unlucky iPhone owners allegedly suffered nasty burns from exploding devices in 2015 and 2016.

My advice to Galaxy Note 7 owners is to stop using the phone and return it for a full refund or a different phone – it's not worth the risk even if it appears to be working fine.

The following tips can be used for any phone (and other electronic devices like tablets) to avoid failures, explosions or fires.

- Use the right charger – Ideally, use the supplied charger with your device.
- Unplug once charged – Try and be aware of when your phone is fully charged and unplug it to avoid unnecessary heat build-up.

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Do you (or a family member) have hearing problems? How does it affect you? Do you have difficulty hearing the doorbell, the phone, the microwave timer, and most importantly the smoke alarm? Do you feel safe at home? Deafness/hearing impairment can be very isolating and is considered an 'invisible' disability. How much do you miss out on because you're not able to hear something properly?

A highly trained hearing dog can play an important part in keeping its owner safe and in contact with the world, as well as being a great companion, improving well-being, self-confidence and self-esteem, encouraging independence and reducing stress.

Hearing dogs are taught to respond to sounds in the home that are relevant to a particular deaf/hearing-impaired person's lifestyle. Recipients of the dogs may be of any age.

Over their lifetime, hearing dogs cost about \$30,000 to train and assess. Once fully qualified, the dogs go through an annual assessment to maintain their Public Access Rights. Fully qualified hearing dogs wear a yellow service dog jacket when they are out in public.



Hearing Dogs are currently looking for sponsors.

If you would like to help sponsor a puppy or donate, or if you are hard of hearing and would like to know more about applying for a hearing dog, please go to our website for more information. www.hearingdogs.org.nz

Clever App

With 2.2 million Android apps and 2 million Apple apps it seems there is an app for almost every purpose in life, truth in the phrase “isn’t there an app for that”?

It would seem Regional and City Councils are no exception to the array of apps for us to help in our daily lives. One such caught my eye – the Fixit App. It seems many councils have this App, if yours doesn’t give them a nudge to get it!

If you see a problem, like a leaky fire hydrant, or a city rubbish bin overloaded or graffiti sprayed on a retaining wall or any issue that you think needs fixing in the city simply use the app.

Here’s how it works; first you need to download the app to your smartphone.



1. Take a photo using your smartphone
2. Give a location – it has a geolocation function but you can enter it manually
3. Describe the problem
4. Enter your contact details
5. Press the submit button

This will send a Fix It request directly to the council and the great thing is you get a response confirming when the issue has been fixed.

It’s simple to use and as the council says “its like everyone is helping to fix problems”

Oh.. just in case you were wondering the five most popular mobile apps in the world are all Social Media based apps, they are:

- Facebook
- Facebook Messenger
- YouTube
- Instagram
- Skype

Haven’t got a Smartphone yet? – 2.16 Billion others have and wow do they use them with over 40 million downloads of new apps every day, most of them free!

Uber and SeniorNet

SeniorNet has teamed up with Uber to give a free first ride up to \$20!

UBER is a smartphone app that lets you get a safe, reliable, affordable ride in minutes. UBER is in over 400 cities around the world, including New York, London, Paris, Auckland, Wellington and now Christchurch!

The process is simple:

1. Download the UBER app on an iPhone or Android device, and create an account.
2. Enter the promo code "SENIORNETNZ" when prompted (you can even do it right now and it's locked in).
3. Set your destination, check the Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA), click 'REQUEST' when you need a car, and enjoy the ride!



Suzuki special deal of the month

Enjoy the benefits of a new Suzuki with no deposit, at 3.9% interest and payments from just \$69 per week! Get a 5 year warranty, roadside assist package, and that new car smell. **So why buy used?** Hurry, offer available for a limited time. Talk to your local dealer today.

Three promotional banners for Suzuki cars are displayed side-by-side. Each banner features a white Suzuki car against a colored background. The first banner is purple and for the Celerio, showing a price of \$69 per week. The second is orange for the Swift, showing \$85 per week. The third is blue for the Baleno, showing \$98 per week. Each banner includes the car's name in large white letters at the top and 'FROM JUST' and 'PER WEEK' in smaller text around the price.

Model	Price per Week
CELERIO	FROM JUST \$69 PER WEEK
SWIFT	FROM JUST \$85 PER WEEK
BALENO	FROM JUST \$98 PER WEEK

Christmas special offer from Grey Power Electricity

Grey Power Electricity is currently running a special Christmas offer for all SeniorNet members.

Switch your electricity to Grey Power Electricity before 20 December and go in the draw to win 1 of 2 Christmas hampers! To go in the draw, simply mention the promotion code **SeniorNet** when you sign up.

What are the benefits of Grey Power Electricity?

- **A low price upfront**
Grey Power Electricity doesn't have prompt payment discounts as they have already built this into their pricing, they simply offer you a great price upfront.
- **Freedom to choose**
Grey Power Electricity offers no long term contracts. This means you can freely terminate for whatever reason, provided you give 30 days' notice. If you do not give the required notice, then an early termination fee of \$150 will apply.
- **Price Protection on your Energy Rate**
Grey Power Electricity will protect your Energy Rate from increases beyond the Price Protection rate until 31 March 2019. Price Protection only applies to your Energy Rate and excludes charges for Delivery.*
- **Natural Gas and LPG**
By combining your electricity and gas with Grey Power Electricity you will receive our All Energy Discount.



Call 0800 473 976 or visit www.greypowerelectricity.co.nz for more information. Grey Power Electricity is available exclusively for Grey Power members.

*Price Protection only applies to your Energy Rate and excludes charges for Delivery. Delivery includes Network Services, Retailer Services, Metering and the Electricity Authority Levy.



Remember to support our supporters



End of Gizmoe