

# **SeniorNet North-West Ch-Ch (Inc) 9<sup>th</sup> AGM**

**Papanui Club (Inc) Manuka Room 7.00 pm Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010**

## **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

### **COMMITTEE and TUTORS**

Once again, thank you to all Committee Members for your contribution to SeniorNet North-West. It is pleasing that most of you are willing to put your names forward for re-election to the Committee at the AGM. This will give the organizational side of our society some continuity, but at the same time, it would also be good too if others would be happy to put their names forward. With the pending resignation of Elva Craig, we will certainly need a new Treasurer. Every organization needs those members who are happy to help out with the 'bits and pieces'. In this respect, thanks to Alan Threadgill for keeping the Computer Room tidy and to Jill O'Callaghan for attending to the photocopying of course notes and forms.

To our Tutors, thank you for your sterling work in passing on your skills to others. Some of you have had to bear quite a workload this year with the number of our Tutors slowly declining through transfers, ill health and non-availability. Part of the philosophy of SeniorNet Societies is that those who have been through the system are encouraged to put something back by themselves becoming Tutors. The more people are involved in tutoring, the more the workload for each Tutor will reduce. Training through skills sessions will be given to raise the confidence levels of volunteers. The intention is that no one should be put under duress if they decide that they want to help in this way as ongoing support and mentoring is available. Please consider giving it a go.

### **COURSE NOTES & TUTOR DEVELOPMENT**

With Microsoft regularly updating its operating systems, the latest being Windows 7, there is an ongoing need for Tutor development and the upgrading of course notes to keep up to date with the changes. There have been three Tutor development meetings this year. Ross Taylor has taken the lead in trying to meet these changes. In doing this, he has led the Tutor development sessions and has obtained several valuable resources to use as guides when rewriting the notes. Student feedback has also been a factor. At the same time, Ross has needed to follow the assessment criteria as stipulated by Aoraki Polytechnic. This is no easy task. Any new course notes developed must first be approved by Aoraki Polytechnic before we can use them to ensure that they meet the guidelines given to them by the Ministry of Education. This is bureaucracy at its best, but if we want to continue getting funding from Aoraki Polytechnic, that's what has to be done. Ross would welcome any positive suggestions from Tutors in the future development of course notes and Tutor training workshops.

### **COURSES**

Besides Computer Awareness, the most popular course over the last year was Digital Photography and the highlight of this course was to visit Bishopdale Mall on a fieldtrip.

### **COURSE CO-ORDINATOR**

We cannot operate adequately without a Course Co-ordinator. Anne-Marie Taylor has once again done a fantastic job during the last twelve months in organizing the courses.

### **HELP DESK**

Help Desk on Thursday evenings is extremely popular with mainly Ross and Anne-Marie Taylor providing the assistance to our members, but from time-to-time others help. Such is the demand for our services that Help Desk is starting even earlier than 7:00 pm. Anne-Marie has also continued to use this time to welcome and induct our new members and to give them an overview of what to expect when they do a Course.

### **SPECIAL INTERESTS GROUPS**

Looking ahead, some members have indicated an interest in learning how to transfer music from vinyl recordings and VHS into a digital format. We now have the technology and the resources to do this. With the additional asset of Webcams, we can now run Skype Workshops. The TradeMe Workshop was also very popular and will be run again in the future.

### **SENIORNET NORTH-WEST MEMBERSHIP**

As in previous years, the Membership of our Section remains at a stable level, but with a change in personnel as new members join us and others leave. Since the foundation of our Society, almost 450 people have done courses with us. Current membership is approximately 100 people.

### **NEWSLETTER**

Thanks once again to Stuart Taylor for his great work in producing a monthly newsletter full of interesting and helpful articles. All previous issues of the newsletter can be sourced on our Website.

## WEBSITE

Our Website Course Calendar is regularly updated by Anne-Marie and Ross Taylor and is always worth a visit.

## DEVELOPMENTS AND PURCHASES

Major purchases and developments over the last twelve months have included:

- New Laser Printer
- Additional Office Chair
- 6 new computers with dual XP and Windows 7 operating systems plus new 19" LCD Screens with inbuilt speakers

## DONATIONS

With the upgrading of our computers this year, the old computers, all still in excellent working order, have been kept within the Papanui Club and are being used in the Gymnasium, by the Editor for the Papanui Club Newsletter and in the Library. Two have been kept aside for the proposed Papanui Club Internet Café and the Dell for our own use.

Grants have been made to the Garden Section for their children's Christmas Party and to the Cancer Society.

## CANTERBURY SENIORNET REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Representatives from our society have attended one conference this year.

## SOCIAL

Socially, we have had only one barbecue in the last twelve months. We need to keep these going as a function for our members and invited guests from other SeniorNet Societies.

## FINANCE AND FUNDING

- We remain in a very sound financial position in spite of the fact that we have had some major expenditure during the last twelve months with the purchase of new computers and screens and printer. There were also some additional charges from Telecom when we needed to increase our Broadband usage on a temporary basis when updating the PC operating systems.  
Once again our Treasurer, Elva Craig has kept our accounts in good order. Thank you Elva for the work you have done in this area over the last six years.
- **AORAKI POLYTECHNIC**  
We continue to receive some funding from Aoraki Polytechnic for the Mainstream Courses that we run and this has been increasing as we put more people through those Courses that are eligible for funding from them.
- **THE FEDERATION OF NZ SENIORNET SOCIETIES (Inc)**  
Up until December, 2009 we applied for funding from The Federation of NZ SeniorNet Societies. Because of the considerable amount of paperwork involved when invoicing them and the small return we have received, it is unlikely that we will be invoicing them again this year.
- **DONATIONS**  
Thank you to Anne-Marie and Ross Taylor and to Clinton Pasfield for their donations of lots of bits and pieces for the spot prizes to be given away at this year's AGM.
- **SECTION RAFFLES**  
We have made an approximately \$2500.00 profit from the Club Raffles over the last twelve months. Thank you to all the Committee Members who ordered prizes and were available to help set up or run the raffles.
- **INTEREST ON SECTION FUNDS**  
The Papanui Club no longer pays any interest on Section Funds. The alternative to continue receiving this interest was for Sections to pay for the tickets they used when selling raffles. The cost of this would have amounted to more than the interest we would have been paid.
- **BUDGET**  
Thank you to Shirley Higham for her work in compiling an Annual Budget. This will be handy to have when we look at the costs of any future purchases, or if any organizations we apply to for funding request a copy.
- **HARDWARE/ SOFTWARE**  
We are now getting to the stage where the networking of our computers through a hub is insufficient to meet our future needs. The time taken to maintain and update the computers is huge. A server would considerably reduce this time.

Yours in computing

*Terry Pasfield*

(Chairman)