

SeniorNet Kapiti Inc

2021-2022 Annual Report

As with most organisations, it's been a year of uncertainty due to COVID-19 with either Lockdown or Traffic Light Systems in place. However, in spite of the difficulties we enjoyed a successful year. SeniorNet Kapiti advertised in local newspapers, social media and local radio and our membership at the end of the Financial Year (31 March 2022) was 368 including 10 Honorary Members, a membership growth of 97 new members.

We have achieved a great deal through regular and active recruitment efforts, a good mix of courses and workshops, together with the dedicated commitment of all our tutors. We also have excellent premises and a welcoming and a friendly environment at our classes. This combination, has helped build a solid reputation in our local community. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in the past to building that reputation and to those currently running the organisation, for keeping us up to date with our members' needs. We do need to keep abreast of technology in an ever-changing world, and we are constantly working to achieve that goal.

Along with the above, SeniorNet Kapiti were fortunate to receive grants from The Pub Charity and Pelorus Trust which allowed us to purchase 9 computers and a printer for the Learning Centre.

Community Matters

After a meeting with Dr Simon Laing (Library Digital Inclusion Manager) based at Paraparaumu Library, toward the end of 2021, SeniorNet Kapiti began to assist the library staff by helping our local community to apply for, and download vaccine passes. This was successful for both SeniorNet Kapiti and our community.

SeniorNet Kapiti is now helping our local community, in a different way. We are piloting a 'How do I..?' session (2hrs each fortnight), at the Cameo Society Inc, Drop-in centre in Mahara Place, Waikanae. Currently in its infancy, we will review how this initiative is going in a few months' time to make sure it's meeting the needs of the wider community.

Courses and Workshops

In the past (2021-22) year we have run 165 courses and workshops helping 494 students build their technical confidence and learn more about their devices and how to use them effectively. We undertook 1,730hrs of teaching during the year and received more than \$3326 in reimbursement from The SeniorNet Federation. We continue to see a move toward workshops of 1 to 2 days, rather than in our multi-day courses. It is also pleasing to see the introduction of a new course "Windows 11 OS" which takes a closer look at the changes implemented by Microsoft for their new operating system.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all our Tutors who give freely of their time to assist our members. Without you, SeniorNet couldn't and wouldn't function and we are very lucky to have such a knowledgeable and reliable team.

Facilities

In Kapiti we are very lucky to have access to this building and we are grateful to our landlord, Kapiti Coast District Council, for its ongoing support and maintenance of the building. The switchboard replacement went ahead on the 4th March to meet the current electrical standards. Vodafone completed the upgrade to our fibre connection (to 300mps) download speed of data. Our, special thanks to Barry Bailey for his tireless efforts liaising with the council and Elaine Hopewell as they, each in their own way, keep the premises in tip top condition.

Committee

I am pleased to advise that almost everyone on the current Committee has agreed to stand again for the coming year. Each member of the Committee contributes in different ways, and as a team are effective at making decisions for the good of SeniorNet Kapiti and its members, and I thank you for your support.

COVID-19

In spite of the hurdles caused by COVID-19 we managed to restart in Term 1 of 2022 without endangering the health of tutors or students. Our focus was on having face-to-face classes for those who wished to come to the Learning Centre, and offer online workshops if required. The Federation's SeniorHangouts, online platform covers many subjects and members just need to re-register (for free) and can access recorded sessions or join live sessions that are scheduled weekly.

Again, my special thanks to all our Tutors who proved so adaptable during this uncertain and difficult period. Your loyalty and commitment are recognised and greatly appreciated.

Today we say Good Bye to our past Wellington Regional Representative, Peter Bunkall and Welcome to our new Wellington Regional Representative, Adele Hardie who is also a member of Upper Hutt SeniorNet.

One last item - this year is the 25th Anniversary of SeniorNet Kapiti and we have decided to celebrate this on Thursday 28 July, and more details will be announced in the near future.

Sue Connor – Chairperson