

## From the Chair, What's New

The end of March sees the end of the financial year for many organisations. SeniorNet Kapiti and the SeniorNet Federation are among these. The SeniorNet Federation's AGM and symposium is being held in Hamilton on May 6 and 7. This will be held in Hamilton and all members of SeniorNet Kapiti are welcome to attend. If you would like more information, please let me know.

SeniorNet Kapiti's AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 24 June. Now is time to consider who you would like to see on the committee. The constitution allows the Chair to serve two consecutive years, this can, under defined conditions, this can be extended to three years. I am not eligible for re-election to the chair. All members of SeniorNet Kapiti are eligible for election to the committee, I would encourage you all to consider this opportunity.

I would like to welcome the following new members Nina, Janice, Denice, and Cathrine.

The Kapiti Arts and Crafts Society are holding an Open day of 21 March, they have offered SeniorNet Kapiti a space where we can promote our activities. I would encourage you and your friends to attend and learn more about the activities that are available in our community.

We are having some issues with our web based membership form while these are partially resolved, if you know of anyone who is wondering why they have not been contacted following completion of this form please ask them to email SeniorNet Kapiti at [Kapiti@seniornet.nz](mailto:Kapiti@seniornet.nz). We are anticipating that this form will be fully operational in the next week.

We would encourage you all to check out SeniorHangouts. SeniorHangouts is a New Zealand social networking and online learning platform designed by SeniorNet New Zealand to help members of SeniorNet connect, learn, and gain confidence with technology. It offers interactive, live-streamed sessions on digital skills, hobbies, and security, allowing seniors to interact with peers and tutors (buddies).

ey details about Senior Hangouts NZ:

**Purpose:** To combat isolation and improve digital literacy through community and peer-to-peer learning.

**Sessions:** Small-group video sessions cover topics such as smartphones, tablets, online safety, social media, genealogy, and photography and much more.

**Accessibility:** Senior Hangouts is a "Virtual Learning Centre"—meaning users can participate from home.

**Who Runs It:** It is run by the Federation of NZ SeniorNet Societies.

**Access:** It is free but requires SeniorNet membership.

**Interactive:** Sessions are not just lectures; they often include live questions & answers, discussions, and specialized interest groups.

The program began in 2020 as a response to COVID-19 lockdowns, providing a social lifeline, with over 13,000 seniors participating in thousands of sessions since its inception.

To join SeniorHangouts go to [www.seniorhangouts.nz](http://www.seniorhangouts.nz).

**Click on “SeniorHangouts”** at the left of the menu bar and select the “About” option to access the About page.

**Scroll down the page** to find the “Join SeniorNet/SeniorHangouts” button and click it. A form will open,

**Complete the details** on the form and click Submit (there are several pages to this form).

SeniorHangouts will contact SeniorNet Kapiti to confirm your membership.

Once SeniorNet Kapiti have confirmed your membership SeniorHangouts will contact you with details of how to finalise your membership of SeniorHangouts.

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## Hello to the Internet of Things (IoT)

Hi I'm Teresa, many of you will know me and I recently attended a new workshop offering from SeniorNet Kapiti about the Internet of Things (IoT).

The **Internet of Things (IoT) workshop** is designed to help members

understand and make use of the growing network of smart devices that connect everyday life. The session opened my eyes to just how many aspects of my daily life are connected to the Internet of Things. As an example, I can control my heat pump through my phone, and I've also got an Alexa device in the kitchen that responds to voice commands.

The approach used by the tutor (*Geoff is excellent by the way*) took the audience from the outside of your home through the front door and right through the house pointing out the systems that can be automated. I really liked this approach, relating the technology available today to real world situations. There were demonstrations and descriptions of how IoT is being used for security systems, door cameras, door locks, and all kinds of appliances, including refrigerators, washing machines and robotic vacuums. I was especially enamoured of the Skylight calendar demo from one of our members (thanks to Catherine for sharing).

I would highly recommend this workshop to expand your knowledge about what technology is available (not just computers and mobile phones) and it may spark your imagination about how to integrate that technology into your own life. At the least, it updates your understanding of what is happening. SeniorNet is offering the workshop again soon and I would like to encourage members to see what IoT is about.

*Tereza - March 14, 2026*

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