

## A GREAT DEAL ... OF LUCK!

### JOIN OUR FUN AND FRIENDLY CARD GAMES AT SENIORNET

Looking for an afternoon of laughter, friendly competition, and great company? Our twice-monthly SeniorNet North Shore Card Group, led by Campbell Stanford, is the perfect way to sharpen your skills, enjoy some classic card games, and connect with fellow members.

Whether you're an experienced player or just keen to learn, we welcome you to join us for 500, Cribbage, and Oh! Hell—three exciting games that combine strategy, skill, and a bit of luck! The atmosphere is relaxed yet competitive, with plenty of banter and a great community spirit.

#### 📍 When & Where?

We meet twice a month at 12:45 PM—check the SeniorNet schedule for upcoming dates. Each session costs just \$3 per person, making it an affordable and entertaining afternoon.

Playing cards is not just about fun—it's a great way to keep your mind sharp, stay socially engaged, and challenge yourself in a supportive environment. If you've never played before, don't worry—Campbell and the group are always happy to guide new players.

Come along, bring a friend, and enjoy an afternoon of good games, good laughs, and great company!

For more information, check our schedule or ask at the club. See you at the card table!



## THIS MONTH'S SPEAKERS

### ERICA STANFORD & IAN HANDRICKS

Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education, Minister of Immigration, is a dedicated MP for East Coast Bays since 2017, Erica will share insights on “A Month in the Life of a Minister of Parliament”—offering a behind-the-scenes look at politics, leadership, and community impact.



**Ian Handricks** presents an insightful talk on the SeniorNet North Shore website. Learn how to navigate its features, access resources, and stay updated on upcoming events. Don't miss this opportunity to explore everything SeniorNet offers online!



## AT THE MOVIES

### PLAY IT AGAIN SAM

Join us for another unforgettable classic with Marina Sanderson's Film Appreciation Group! This month, March, we present *The Lion in Winter* (1968), a gripping historical drama starring Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn. Set in 1183, this tale of power, intrigue, and royal rivalry brings the Plantagenet family to life with wit and intensity.

Enjoy the full screening in our club rooms, complete with an intermission for tea, coffee, and biscuits (no popcorn!). It's the perfect chance to relive cinema's golden moments and connect with fellow film lovers. Don't miss it!



Let our membership secretary know if you have changed your email address and/or phone numbers so we can update our records



# ESSENCE

## SENIORNET NORTH SHORE NEWSLETTER

### CLUB DIRECTORY

WEBSITE	<a href="http://www.seniornetns.com">www.seniornetns.com</a>	FACEBOOK	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61562462001329">www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61562462001329</a>
EMAIL	<a href="mailto:snetns@xtra.co.nz">snetns@xtra.co.nz</a>		
TELEPHONE	486 2163		
CLASSES	Learning Centre, Suite 3, St John Ambulance Building, 2 Shea Terrace, Takapuna		
MEETINGS	2nd Sunday of each month, 10 am in the Hall, St John, 2 Shea Terrace, Takapuna		
CONTACT	The Secretary, SeniorNet NS Inc. <a href="mailto:snetns@xtra.co.nz">snetns@xtra.co.nz</a>		



### COMMITTEE & SUPPORT TEAMS

2024 – 25

CHAIRPERSON	Ruth Healy	<a href="mailto:ruthhealy54@gmail.com">ruthhealy54@gmail.com</a>	027 291 1489
VICE CHAIRPERSON	Jurgen Schubert	<a href="mailto:jschubert@outlook.co.nz">jschubert@outlook.co.nz</a>	021 257 8814
TREASURER	June McCullough	<a href="mailto:june.apollo@gmail.com">june.apollo@gmail.com</a>	021 885 117
SECRETARY	Marina Sanderson	<a href="mailto:marinasanderson@gmail.com">marinasanderson@gmail.com</a>	021 02789790
MEMBERSHIP	Patricia Lough	<a href="mailto:loughie@outlook.co.nz">loughie@outlook.co.nz</a>	413 6322
WEBMASTER	Ian Handricks	<a href="mailto:ianhandricks@gmail.com">ianhandricks@gmail.com</a>	029 477 4491
TECHNICAL	Rex Oddy	<a href="mailto:rex.oddy@xtra.co.nz">rex.oddy@xtra.co.nz</a>	021 758 851
SPECIAL PROJECTS	Campbell Stanford	<a href="mailto:camstan69@gmail.com">camstan69@gmail.com</a>	021 717 008
COMMITTEE	Lois Kay	<a href="mailto:lois.kay@xtra.co.nz">lois.kay@xtra.co.nz</a>	027 2710154
COMMITTEE	Debbie Seekup	<a href="mailto:d.seekup@xtra.co.nz">d.seekup@xtra.co.nz</a>	021 429 039
AUDITOR	Glen Plaistowe		
PROOF READER	Patricia Lough	<a href="mailto:loughie@outlook.co.nz">loughie@outlook.co.nz</a>	413 6322
NEWSLETTER	Ian Handricks & Lois Kay	<a href="mailto:seniornet.newsletter@gmail.com">seniornet.newsletter@gmail.com</a>	029 477 4491
PROVIDORE	Jeanne-Anne Jacob	<a href="mailto:jacob-jeanneanne@xtra.co.nz">jacob-jeanneanne@xtra.co.nz</a>	027 279 2854
SUNDAY MEETING TEA			
SPEAKER ORGANISER	Jurgen Schubert	<a href="mailto:seniornet.newsletter@gmail.com">seniornet.newsletter@gmail.com</a>	021 257 8814



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### CHAIR REPORT FEBRUARY 2025

February is a short month so has galloped along at speed. It has been a very busy one in our Rooms. Looking at the Calendar there have only been 3 weekdays where there has not been a session. And sometimes there were 2 on the same day.



A huge thank you to all our Tutors who give their time and knowledge to us all. We are truly fortunate.

Ian's First AI (Chat GPT) session was very well attended. AI (ChatGPT), is entering all phases of our lives now so really important to learn how to understand and use this powerful tool.

Our new Cooking Chat was great. We swapped some recipes, looked at what is in the Supermarkets. Its always good to share ideas, recipes and different ways to cook.

I am trying to get to as many as possible and finding meeting the same people at one or more of them means I am slowly getting to know more of you. So keep coming, try something new and make new friends. I even enjoy just sitting and chatting while others knit at the Craft Group. It's the best way to age I am told. Keep the mind and body going. And laughter is one of the best medicines for any ill and we do a lot of that.

Jurgen is doing an amazing job of finding interesting speakers for our Sunday Meetings. Not quite sure how he does it but I think that is his Super Power. He also organises the monthly outings, finding interesting places to visit Those that go thoroughly enjoy the day. It's nice to go with others, visit or revisit places of interest and enjoy a cuppa with friends.

So a bouquet to Jurgen for his energy and enthusiasm for this very special part of our Club.



The humid weather is continuing, but the days are getting shorter. March is officially the first month of Autumn, although I think it is the most settled month of the year. Time to sort the next plantings in the garden. We are trying the mini Cauliflower at the moment. Perfect for one or two people. And growing well. Also trying the Flat Beetroot.



Have a look at the Calendar at whats on and see you there.

## Ruth Healy

Chairperson SeniorNet North Shore



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## CALENDAR MARCH 2025

Select a class, discussion group or tutorial that appeals from the tutors notes on pages 6 to 9. This calendar details date, time and venue for activities, including type, cost and whether it is necessary to book (if booking is required please contact the tutor). Pay at door. All welcome.

Monthly meetings are held in the hall 10am – 12:00 noon on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Come along and listen to some interesting speakers. Gold coin donation appreciated. Everyone welcome. Please wear your name tag to all sessions to put name to a face. Free refreshments are provided at all Discussion Groups, Tutorials, and Monthly Sunday Meetings.



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TUTORIALS

D = DISCUSSION GROUPS

TIMES: AM = 10.00 to 12.00

PM = 1.00 to 3.00

Schedule - March 2025								
Day	Date	Time	Session	Tutor	Phone	Email	D/T	Cost
Sat	1	am	Tips N Tricks incl iPad and iPhone	Ian Handricks	029 477 4491	ianhandricks@gmail.com	D	\$3
Sat	1	pm						
Sun	2	am						
Sun	2	pm						
Mon	3	am	Intro to Watercolour Painting	Glen Plaistowe	027 541 2241	glenp19925@gmail.com	T	\$5
Mon	3	pm	<b>Committee Meeting</b>					
Tue	4	am	Photography for Beginners	Rex Oddy	021 758 851	rex.oddy@xtra.co.nz	D	\$3
Tue	4	pm						
Wed	5	am						
Wed	5	pm	Film Appreciation (1:30pm)	Marina Sanderson	021 02789790	marinasanderson@gmail.com	D	\$3
Thu	6	am	Cryptic Crosswords and Sudoku	Bridget Taylerson	09 410 8309	taylersonb@gmail.com	D	\$3
Thu	6	pm						
Fri	7	am	First Friday Genealogy	Ian Handricks	029 477 4491	ianhandricks@gmail.com	D	\$3
Fri	7	pm						
Sat	8	am						
Sat	8	pm						
Sun	9	am	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>10am in hall</b>		<b>All Members Welcome</b>		
Sun	9	pm						
Mon	10	am						
Mon	10	pm						
Tue	11	am	Photography	Rex Oddy	021 758 851	rex.oddy@xtra.co.nz	D	\$3
Tue	11	pm						
Wed	12	am	AI (Chat GPT etc)	Ian Handricks	029 477 4491	ianhandricks@gmail.com	D	\$3
Wed	12	pm						
Thu	13	am	Handcrafts	June McCullough	021 885 117	june.apollo@gmail.com	D	\$3
Thu	13	pm	Card Playing Group (12:45)	Campbell Stanford	021 717 008	camstan69@gmail.com	D	\$3
Fri	14	am	Highwic House visit	Jurgen Schubert				
Fri	14	pm						
Mon	17	am	Intro to Watercolour Painting	Glen Plaistowe	027 541 2241	glenp19925@gmail.com	T	\$5
Mon	17	pm	Nostalgia	Host varies			D	\$3
Tue	18	am	Computer Chat Group	Melson Lee			D	\$3
Tue	18	pm						
Wed	19	am	Family Tree Maker Q & A	Bernice Hyde	027 617 3959	bernice52@xtra.co.nz	D	\$3
Wed	19	pm						
Thu	20	am	Cryptic Crosswords and Sudoku	Bridget Taylerson	09 410 8309	taylersonb@gmail.com	D	\$3
Thu	20	pm						
Fri	21	am	Genealogy Workshop	Lois Kay	027 2710154	lois.kay@xtra.co.nz	D	\$3
Fri	21	pm						
Mon	24	am						
Mon	24	pm						
Tue	25	am	Photoshoot - email Rex for location details	Rex Oddy	021 758 851	rex.oddy@xtra.co.nz		
Tue	25	pm						
Wed	26	am						
Wed	26	pm						
Thu	27	am	Our World	Glen Plaistowe	027 541 2241	glenp19925@gmail.com	D	\$3
Thu	27	pm	Card Playing Group(12:45)	Campbell Stanford	021 717 008	camstan69@gmail.com	D	\$3
Fri	28	am	Book Ends	Patricia Lough	021 268 8677	loughie@outlook.co.nz	D	\$3
Fri	28	pm						
Mon	31	am	Intro to Watercolour Painting	Glen Plaistowe	027 541 2241	glenp19925@gmail.com	T	\$5



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### TUTOR NOTES

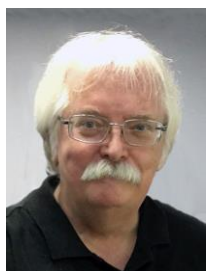
MARCH 2025



#### GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Tutor: Lois Kay

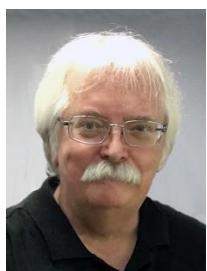
Please continue to bring any treasures to our Genealogy Workshop – we have had many items in the past that have had wonderful stories attached to them and they add colour and significance to our life stories. We will continue with worthy websites and although many of our group are already skilled at researching we always run into the odd “brick wall” scenario which is where others can assist.



#### TIPS'N'TRICKS including iPHONE & iPAD

Tutor: Ian Handricks

A tutorial and discussion forum where you can ask questions and get answers and also learn tips and tricks for a wide range of computer/ipad/iphone/laptop situations. We will endeavour to provide solutions for your questions and will introduce you to a bevy of useful tips, shortcuts, hidden features, useful tools, actions and ways to achieve results on your computer and technology devices. Each session, we will provide you with a hot list of new ideas, tips and tricks to explore and use.



#### 1<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY GENEALOGY

Tutor: Ian Handricks

Ian will talk about new research sites, search techniques, AI solutions for genealogy and a collection of tips and tricks. Maybe you have solved some brick walls or found new information over the break, or found a new site, if so, bring it along. It will be good to see you all again. We will enjoy helping you.



#### PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS

Tutor: Rex Oddy

Most years we run a beginners course in photography. March 4th is the date for 2025. We cover getting the best from your mobile phone, or that old camera you have in the cupboard or that new camera you bought that turned out to be a bit more complicated than you thought it would be. We cover still photos, video and whatever you need to know, give or take a bit. To make whatever you need to know happen please register with Rex Oddy.

Email [rex.oddy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rex.oddy@xtra.co.nz)



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*Photography for Beginners -  
Tuesday 4th March 2025 - 10.00 am*



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### CARD PLAYING GROUP

Tutor: Campbell Stanford

What a fun time playing cards can be! For raw beginners and cardsharps alike. Beginners are appreciating the comfortable pace at which they can learn and hone their skills. Great camaraderie in a very friendly group that is much more than just card playing. Learning and developing strategies combined with luck and great humour alleviates stress and keeps your mind sharp and active. Currently our most popular game is "Oh Hell" which goes down well with all players with winners switching around from session to session. Depending on the number of participants, we also play 500 and Euchre and have dabbled with cribbage, one of the best games for as little as 2 players. We have sessions twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays between 12:45 and 2:45pm. Please come and try it. You are also most welcome to bring a guest with you for a free session.



### OUR WORLD

Tutor: Glen Plaistowe

Our World is a mix of current affairs, a sharing of places we have visited, events that have been part of our lives or what we have explored - people and places that are of interest. You do not have to have skills in PowerPoint. You just need to have an interest in our world and world events and are happy to share any insights or experiences you have.



### NOSTALGIA

Host: Ian Robinson

This session will allow us to remember the good, crazy and unusual. Join us for thought-provoking conversations, fun memories, and interesting insights. You'll have the opportunity to share your own experiences and hear from others in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.



### BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS

Tutor: Patricia Lough

This is not a 'Book Club'. We will discuss all sorts of things to do with books, complete with trips down memory lane with short cuts and detours. Give some thought to books you've read and enjoyed and those which you read and thought "Well that was a waste of time" but couldn't quite stop reading in case it improved. It isn't necessary to book (excuse the pun). Those who know me, will know what to expect and those who don't - well take a chance.





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### FILM APPRECIATION

Host: Marina Sanderson

Experience the magic of cinema at SeniorNet North Shore's newest session, "Film Appreciation." Join us in the cosy clubrooms as we transport you through time with a curated selection of timeless classics and contemporary masterpieces. Dive into the world of storytelling, cinematography, and emotion as we explore the art of filmmaking together. Discover the rich history of cinema and share your thoughts and insights with fellow film enthusiasts. Whether you're a cinephile or just looking for a delightful movie, this session promises to be a "reel" treat for all.



### COMPUTER CHAT GROUP

Tutor: Melson Lee

Melson will be available to have your computer questions answered and discussed – and with luck – resolved! What a great opportunity for us all! We have great attendance at these sessions (up to 20 people) and benefit from Ian's extensive knowledge.



### CRYPTIC CROSS WORDS & SUDOKU

Tutor: Bridget Taylerson

Bridget will be hosting another session on cryptic crosswords & sudoku. The last session enabled participants to develop skills and techniques to solve these mysteries.



### PHOTOGRAPHY

Tutor: Rex Oddy

Each month photography group members are invited to bring along digital images or videos that are either based on the theme for the month or are of a personal interest. We have a theme each month, because having a theme can create a challenge and meeting that challenge helps us to improve our photography. Above all, photography like all hobbies and art forms is a personal activity. We take photos for ourselves, it doesn't matter if other people don't quite get the point, its whether we like them or not that matters most and being part of a group helps us to learn and improve. Most months in addition to our workshop there is a photoshoot, a photographic fieldtrip. Everyone is welcome to join the photoshoot but the location is not decided until just before the date of the outing. The date of the photoshoot is on the monthly schedule but for time and location details email [rex.oddy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rex.oddy@xtra.co.nz). The theme for March will be based on the February photoshoot at the Waterfall Gully Nature Reserve, Shakespeare Regional Park.



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## CLUB PHOTOGRAPHY

The Senior Net Photo Group visited the Auckland Botanical Gardens in February. Its always a good time to visit the gardens but this visit was to see and photograph the sculptures from both the permanent collection and the temporary Sculpture in the Gardens display. Debbie Seekup, pictured with friend, took these photos.



## BUTTERFLY CREEK

### OUR FABULOUS VISIT ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025

On January 30, 2025, sixteen members of SeniorNet enjoyed a delightful visit to Butterfly Creek under sunny skies. The day was filled with encounters of dinosaurs, nature and wildlife, making for an enjoyable experience.

It began with a visit to the Aquarium with its dainty tropical fish and the small reptiles sitting very still. In the warm and humid environment of the Butterfly House, vibrant, colourful Butterflies fluttered gracefully around, creating a magical atmosphere as they landed on plants.

Butterfly Creek engages in conservation, particularly the rear and release program for the giant Wētā and the brown Kiwi. It was fascinating to hear that kiwis lay the largest egg of any bird relative to their body size. The incubation period lasts an incredible 70 days, and once hatched, the young Kiwis are carefully nurtured until they reach a weight of 700 grams or are 30 days old, at which point they are released into protected environments to support their survival.

Observing the feeding of the playful Otters was a delight to see. A thrilling moment was witnessing the Crocodile feeding. Seeing these incredible predators up close dozing in the sun or walking ungainly belies their ability of speed and sheer power. We learned that they can snap their jaws shut with a force of 3,700 psi - a staggering comparison to the mere 32 psi of a standard car tire!

After all the excitement, we were ready for a relaxing and sociable lunch together, sharing thoughts of the day's highlights. To round off the visit, everyone took a ride on the charming little train, which meandered through the picturesque grounds of Butterfly Creek, offering a final chance to take in the surroundings.



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## BUTTERFLY CREEK ... CONTINUED

OUR FABULOUS VISIT ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025



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## BUTTERFLY CREEK ... CONTINUED

OUR FABULOUS VISIT ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025



## FEBRUARY SUNDAY MEETING STORM CHASING

### PETER WHARTON'S THRILLING STORM CHASING ADVENTURE

SeniorNet North Shore members were treated to an exhilarating presentation in February by Peter Wharton, who shared his experiences chasing storms across the United States. His talk took us deep into the heart of Tornado Alley, a region notorious for its extreme weather, including massive supercell thunderstorms and tornadoes.

Peter described storm chasing as a thrilling mix of adventure and science, where meteorology meets the open road. Contrary to popular belief, storm chasing isn't just about tornadoes—it's about witnessing the raw power of nature in motion. His presentation featured breath-taking photographs and time-lapse footage of rotating supercells, showcasing the sheer scale and beauty of these weather phenomena.

One of the key takeaways from his talk was the unpredictability of storm chasing. Peter humourously described it as "road-trip roulette aided by meteorology", where each day begins with no certainty of where one might end up. He detailed his 2024 chase, which spanned 15,577 miles (24,923 km) over 11 states in just four and a half weeks. This journey led him through the vast plains of Texas, Nebraska, and Kansas, following severe weather patterns that could change in an instant.

The science behind storm formation was a fascinating part of Peter's discussion. He explained how moisture, jet streams, and atmospheric instability combine to create the towering storms that can spawn tornadoes. Using detailed charts and diagrams, he broke down the different layers of the atmosphere, highlighting how factors like wind shear, lift, and temperature gradients contribute to storm development. He also touched on the importance of forecasting tools, including satellite imagery, Doppler radar, and the Spotter Network, which helps track severe weather in real time.

Peter made it clear that storm chasing is not disaster tourism. Many chasers, including himself, contribute valuable data to meteorologists and emergency responders. This information helps predict tornado paths and improves early warning systems, ultimately saving lives.

The highlight of the talk was a virtual ride-along, where Peter walked us through a real storm chase, from the early morning weather analysis to the high-speed pursuit of a developing supercell. The dramatic images of towering cloud formations, swirling mesocyclones, and lightning-lit night skies left the audience in awe.

His presentation was a perfect blend of education and adventure, leaving us with a newfound appreciation for the forces of nature and the dedicated chasers who track them.



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## FEBRUARY SUNDAY MEETING FOUNTAIN PENS

### KIM SNOWBALL

At our February Sunday meeting, SeniorNet North Shore had the pleasure of welcoming Kim Snowball, the founder, proprietress, and CEO of Everything at FitzgeraldTaylor, a boutique stationer based in Devonport. Kim's journey from corporate marketer to solopreneur has seen her create one of New Zealand's premier destinations for fine writing enthusiasts. Her passion for stationery and the art of handwriting was evident throughout her engaging presentation.

Founded 22 years ago, FitzgeraldTaylor has become the foremost specialist stationer in the country, boasting the largest range of fountain pens, inks, and related accessories in New Zealand. With both a brick-and-mortar store and a comprehensive online shop, FitzgeraldTaylor offers a thoughtfully curated selection of the world's finest writing instruments and supplies, many of which are unavailable elsewhere in the country. The Devonport store is more than a shop; it's an experience—a sensory delight with award-winning window displays that attract locals and tourists alike.



Kim's talk focused on three main topics:

- Fountain Pens in the Modern World
- Why Writing Is Still an Important Skill
- How Writing Can Be Part of Our Everyday Lives

### Fountain Pens in the Modern World

Kim began by taking us on a journey through the history of fountain pens, once the reigning kings of writing instruments. The rise of the ballpoint pen in the 1960s, with its smudge-free ink and ease of use, seemed to spell the end for fountain pens. Yet, rather than fading into obscurity, fountain pens have endured and are even experiencing a resurgence.



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Today's fountain pens have overcome many of the challenges that plagued earlier models. Innovations in filling mechanisms, such as cartridges, piston converters, and vacuum fillers, have made fountain pens more user-friendly and reliable. Advances in nib technology, including iridium tipping and precision machining, have resulted in smoother, more durable writing experiences. Some modern nibs even come in vibrant colors—red, green, blue, purple, and black—adding a unique aesthetic appeal.

The materials used in fountain pen construction have also evolved. High-tech resins, acrylics, carbon fiber, and titanium have expanded design possibilities, while modern inks offer an astonishing variety of over 500 colors at FitzgeraldTaylor. Today's inks are pH-balanced to prevent corrosion and are available in shimmering, sheening, and color-changing varieties, catering to every writing style and preference.

### Why Writing by Hand Is Still an Important Skill

Kim passionately spoke about the enduring value of handwriting, even in our digital age. Research shows that writing by hand offers numerous cognitive, psychological, and educational benefits.

Handwriting engages the brain more deeply than typing, activating areas responsible for fine motor skills, memory, and language processing. Studies have demonstrated that taking notes by hand leads to better memory retention and a deeper understanding of the material.



Handwriting also enhances creativity, encouraging a slower, more deliberate thought process. Beyond cognitive benefits, writing by hand can be therapeutic. Expressive writing, such as journaling, has been shown to help manage stress, anxiety, and depression, offering a reflective outlet for emotional processing.

### Writing in Our Everyday Lives

Kim shared how writing remains a meaningful part of daily life for many people, from doctors and lawyers to artists and students. Fountain pens are used for everything from jotting down to-do lists and signing documents to creating art and writing personal letters.



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She introduced us to the concept of “Morning Pages,” a journaling practice popularized by Julia Cameron in *The Artist’s Way*. This method involves writing three pages of stream-of-consciousness thoughts first thing in the morning, serving as a form of mental housekeeping and a tool for creative release.

For those seeking alternative ways to incorporate writing into their lives, Kim highlighted projects like Postcrossing—a global postcard exchange—and urban sketching, where artists use special fude nib fountain pens to capture cityscapes and travel experiences.

Kim’s talk was a heartfelt reminder of the beauty and value of handwriting in our fast-paced, technology-driven world. Her passion for fine writing was truly inspiring, leaving many of us eager to rediscover the joy of putting pen to paper.

To learn more about Kim’s store and explore the world of fine writing, visit FitzgeraldTaylor in Devonport or browse their extensive collection online.



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● ● ●  
fitzgeraldtaylor  
*boutique stationer*



Shop 2, 2 Queens Parade, Devonport  
[fitzgeraldtaylor.co.nz](http://fitzgeraldtaylor.co.nz)



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### MARCH SUNDAY MEETING SPEAKER PROFILE

#### HON ERICA STANFORD

Hon Erica Stanford Minister of Education, Minister of Immigration, and the Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions.

Subject: "A Month in the Life of a Minister of Parliament"

Erica is proud to have represented East Coast Bays as its Member of Parliament since 2017. She has worked hard to achieve results on a wide range of projects that are important to the community.

Born and raised in the East Coast Bays, Erica went on to attend Rangitoto College, before completing a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours at the University of Auckland. Erica has never left and has raised her two children with her husband in Okura.

Erica's early working career saw her hold several export sales roles for New Zealand manufacturers. She also produced a range of local television shows including Piha Rescue. Erica's love for politics then saw her transition into working for the former MP for East Coast Bays, Hon Murray McCully. During this time Erica helped thousands of locals, businesses and organisations navigate their way through various government departments.

Today, Erica is the Minister of Education, Minister of Immigration, and the Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-



based Institutions.



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### MARCH SUNDAY MEETING SPEAKER PROFILE

#### IAN HANDRICKS

##### Discovering the Hidden Gems of Our Club Website

We're excited to announce that one of our own, Ian Handricks, will be one of the featured speakers at the upcoming SeniorNet North Shore Sunday meeting in March 2025. A Life Member of the club, tutor and the mastermind behind our club's website, [www.seniornetns.com](http://www.seniornetns.com). His upcoming presentation will offer a deep dive into the website, revealing its hidden treasures and showing how it can be an essential tool for learning, research, and staying connected.

##### Meet Ian Handricks: More Than Just a Webmaster

Ian has a passion for teaching. He has been running monthly workshops on artificial intelligence and frequently helps members navigate the digital world, whether it's troubleshooting computer issues or guiding them through complex programs.

##### A Closer Look at Our Club Website

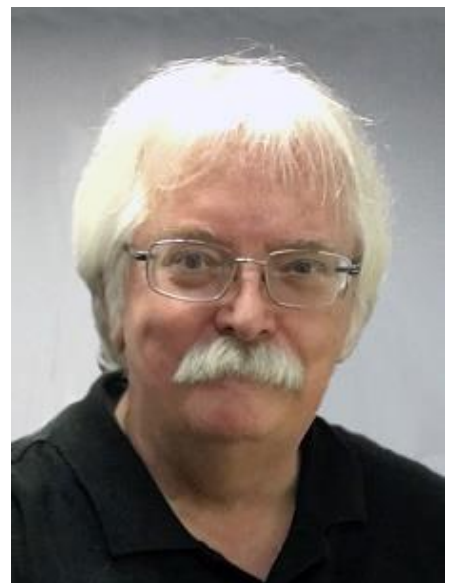
During his presentation, Ian will guide us through [www.seniornetns.com](http://www.seniornetns.com), showcasing not only its basic features but also the many "hidden gems" that even long-time members may not know exist. Here's a sneak peek at some of the highlights Ian will cover:

**Member Resources:** Ian will walk us through the expansive library of tutorials, guides, and videos available on the site. From beginner-friendly how-tos to more advanced tech topics, the resources section is a treasure trove of information that members can access anytime.

**Event Calendar:** Never miss another workshop or meeting again! Ian will demonstrate how to use the event calendar to stay updated on upcoming sessions, including workshops, tutorials, and guest speaker events.

**Research Tools:** One of the less-known features of the site is its range of tools for research. Whether you're exploring genealogy, diving into a new tech topic, or simply looking for trustworthy resources online, Ian will show how the website can be a starting point for your learning journey.

**Hidden Gems:** Ian has embedded some unique features throughout the site that even regular users might not know about. He'll reveal tips and tricks for navigating the website efficiently, uncovering useful pages, and making the most out of the available content.



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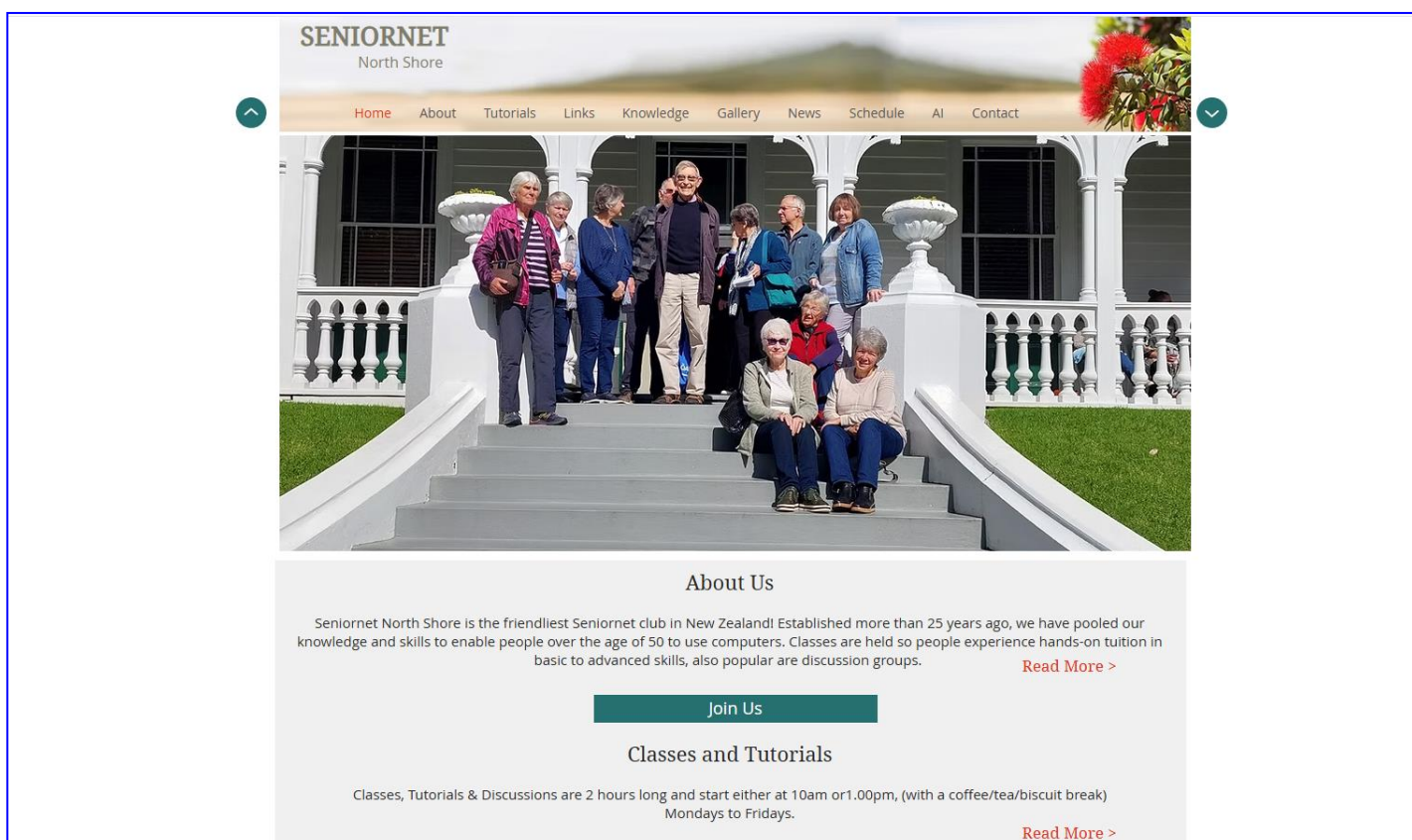
**Interactive Sections:** Ian will also highlight the interactive parts of the website, including forums and discussion boards where members can ask questions, share tips, or simply connect with others who share similar interests.

### Why You Shouldn't Miss This Presentation

Ian's talk promises to be both educational and eye-opening. Whether you're a frequent user of [www.seniornetns.com](http://www.seniornetns.com) or someone who hasn't visited the site in a while, this presentation will help you see the website in a whole new light. You'll learn how to leverage the full potential of the platform, making it easier to access resources, stay informed, and connect with fellow members.

### Join Us in March!

Mark your calendars and join us for this informative and engaging session. It's a fantastic opportunity to learn directly from the person who built our website and to discover how it can enhance your SeniorNet experience. Whether you're looking to sharpen your tech skills, delve into new areas of research, or simply get more involved with the club, Ian's presentation will offer something for everyone. We look forward to seeing you there and diving into the world of [www.seniornetns.com](http://www.seniornetns.com) together!



The screenshot displays the SENIORNET North Shore website. At the top, the logo 'SENIORNET North Shore' is visible, followed by a navigation menu with links: Home, About, Tutorials, Links, Knowledge, Gallery, News, Schedule, AI, and Contact. Below the menu is a large photograph of a diverse group of senior citizens standing and sitting on a white balcony with ornate railings. The main content area features three sections: 'About Us' with a paragraph describing the club's history and a 'Read More >' link; a green 'Join Us' button; and 'Classes and Tutorials' with a paragraph about class schedules and a 'Read More >' link.

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### WISDOM

#### QUOTES BY STEVE JOBS (The founder of Apple)

**“Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower.”**

It’s easy to jump on the bandwagon and follow along with what everyone else is doing. But true leaders are the ones coming up with out-of-the-box ideas that set a new standard for “business as usual.”

**“Your time is limited, so don’t waste it living someone else’s life.”**

In order for you to fulfil your purpose, the world needs you to be who you are. Trying to copy someone else or act like someone you’re not will only limit your contribution.

**“Don’t let the noise of others’ opinions drown out your own inner voice.”**

It’s easy to become overwhelmed by the thoughts and opinions of others. But if you spend too much time dwelling on other people’s opinions, you’re going to lose the spark of creativity that made you successful in the first place.



**“You can’t connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future.”**

It can be hard to trust in the process when you can’t see the bigger picture. But you never know what might be around the corner, so you have to keep moving forward. And one day, you may recognize that some of the hardest things you had to go through were also the best things that ever happened to you.

**“Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren’t used to an environment where excellence is expected.”**

Jobs was known for having extremely high standards for himself and his employees at Apple. Sometimes this made him unpopular, and it caused conflict with other people he worked with. But he was always committed to delivering quality and maintaining a standard of excellence.

**“Stay hungry. Stay foolish.”**

One of the biggest downsides of success is that it can cause you to become lazy and complacent. It’s important to continue to take risks and push yourself to try new things. Stay hungry for new ideas and new opportunities.

**“I’m convinced that about half of what separates the successful entrepreneurs from the unsuccessful ones is pure perseverance.”**

Being an entrepreneur is challenging, and it’s easy to give up and move on to something else. But the biggest part of being successful is having the stamina to stick through the hard times without quitting.





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"You can't just ask customers what they want and then try to give that to them. By the time you get it built, they'll want something new."

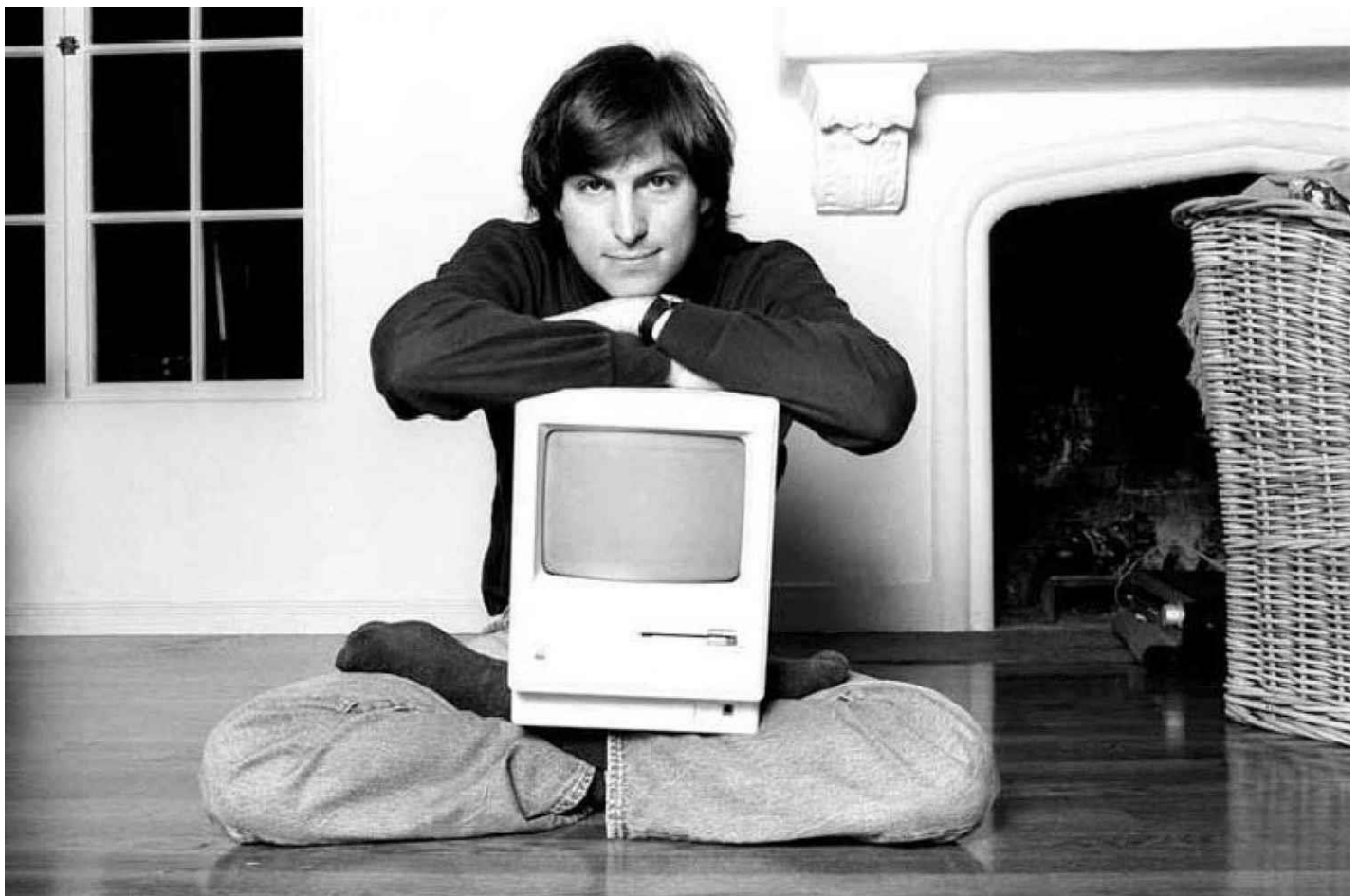
Most people don't even know what they want until they see it. So sometimes you have to give people what they need, not what they're asking for. This is exactly what Jobs did when he disrupted the cell phone market with the iPhone.

"People think focus means saying yes to the thing you've got to focus on. It means saying no to the hundred other good ideas that there are. You have to pick carefully."

We all have limited time and resources, so you can't say "yes" to everything. Sometimes, being great at one thing means refusing to entertain all the distractions that will pop up along the way.

"We're here to put a dent in the universe. Otherwise why else even be here?"

This is one of Steve Jobs' most famous and inspiring quotes. At the end of the day, your goals and accomplishments are never about you. It's about the contribution you make to the world.



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## LOOKING FOR A BUILDER?

### MEET JEFF BELL

Jeff Bell, a licensed builder with over 30 years of experience, leads Urban & Lifestyle Homes, a trusted Auckland-based company offering design, construction, landscaping, and home styling services. Holding a Site S1 Certification, Jeff ensures top-quality craftsmanship in every project. His team includes a qualified horticulturalist and home stylist, allowing them to provide a comprehensive "one-stop shop" for clients.

Urban & Lifestyle Homes specializes in new builds, renovations, project management, and alternative energy solutions. They also design small, relocatable buildings up to 30 square meters that don't require consent, perfect for home offices, leisure spaces, or retail units, all built to NZ Building Code 3604 standards.

Jeff's dedication to quality and customer satisfaction shines through glowing testimonials, highlighting his integrity, adherence to timelines, and excellent workmanship. Thanks to our chairperson, Ruth Healy, for introducing Jeff to our SeniorNet club—his expertise is an asset to our community.



**LICENSED BUILDER Ph 0274 545 274**

For All Work. Big or Small. References Available.

Jeff Bell & Bach & Lifestyle Homes.



## VISIT TO HIGHWIC HOUSE FRIDAY 14 MARCH 2025

### Step Back in Time – SeniorNet’s Upcoming Visit to Highwic House



We are excited to announce an upcoming outing for our SeniorNet North Shore members—a visit to the historic Highwic House in Epsom, Auckland, scheduled for Friday 14 March 2025. This will be a wonderful opportunity to explore one of Auckland’s most treasured heritage homes, enjoy a stroll through its beautiful gardens, and immerse yourself in the fascinating history of colonial New Zealand.

Highwic House, built in 1862, was the home of Alfred Buckland and his family, a prominent figure in Auckland’s agricultural development. Designed in Carpenter Gothic style, the house features distinctive steep gables, intricate woodwork, and charming bay windows, reflecting the elegance and craftsmanship of the Victorian era.

Stepping inside Highwic is like stepping back in time. The home is filled with original furnishings, period décor, and intriguing artifacts that tell the story of the Buckland family and colonial high society. Visitors can explore rooms filled with Victorian charm, including the formal drawing room, the elegant dining room, and the atmospheric billiard room.

The gardens surrounding Highwic are equally enchanting, with manicured lawns, heritage roses, and winding paths that offer a peaceful retreat from the bustle of the city. There’s even a croquet lawn, a nod to the leisure activities enjoyed by the Buckland family.



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This outing promises to be both educational and enjoyable, offering insights into Auckland's past while sharing good company. We'll finalize the date soon and share further details about transport, costs, and optional activities. Don't miss this chance to explore one of Auckland's hidden gems and enjoy a delightful day out with fellow SeniorNet members!



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### ADVANCED COMPUTERS

#### FACEBOOK SAFETY

**Facebook:** Staying on top of digital privacy should be a priority in the modern age, especially while using apps like Facebook. Luckily, Facebook has a feature called Privacy Checkup. Privacy Checkup lets you easily navigate all of Facebook's complicated security features from one place while providing helpful information to help you make the most informed decisions regarding your data. Here's how to use the Privacy Checkup feature to control how Facebook uses your data.



#### 1. Accessing Privacy Settings:

- **Desktop:** Click the down arrow in the top right corner of Facebook and select "Settings & Privacy" > "Settings."
- **Mobile App:** Tap the three horizontal lines (menu) in the top right (Android) or bottom right (iOS), then go to "Settings & Privacy" > "Settings."

#### 2. Adjusting Privacy Settings:

- **Privacy Checkup:** Use the Privacy Checkup tool to review and adjust your settings.
- **Who Can See Your Posts:** Go to "Privacy" in the settings and set who can see your future posts, who can see the people, Pages, and lists you follow, and who can look you up using the email address or phone number you provided.
- **Profile Information:** Under "Profile and Tagging," control who can post on your profile, who can see what others post on your profile, and who can see posts you're tagged in.
- **Blocking:** Use the "Blocking" section to block users, app invites, and event invites.

#### 3. Managing Ad Preferences:

- **Ad Preferences:** Go to "Ad Preferences" under "Settings & Privacy." Here, you can review and manage how your data is used for ads, including interests, advertisers you've interacted with, and ad settings.
- **Ad Settings:** Limit how ads are personalized by adjusting settings under "Ad Settings," including using data from partners, categories used to reach you, and audiences.

#### 4. App and Website Permissions:

- **Apps and Websites:** Review and manage apps and websites you've logged into using Facebook. Remove any you no longer use to limit data access.

#### 5. Controlling Location Data:

- **Location Settings:** Adjust your location settings to control whether Facebook can collect and use location data from your device. This can be managed under "Location" in the settings.

#### 6. Activity Log:



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- **Activity Log:** Use the Activity Log to review and manage your activity on Facebook, including posts, comments, and reactions.

### 7. Downloading Your Information:

- **Download Your Information:** You can download a copy of your Facebook data by going to "Your Facebook Information" > "Download Your Information." Select the data range, format, and media quality to get a copy of what you've shared on Facebook.

### 8. Deactivating or Deleting Your Account:

- **Deactivation:** Temporarily deactivate your account under "Your Facebook Information" > "Deactivation and Deletion."
- **Deletion:** Permanently delete your account from the same section. Note that it can take up to 90 days for the data to be fully deleted from Facebook's servers.

### 9. Third-Party Data Sharing:

- **Off-Facebook Activity:** Review and manage information that businesses and organizations share with Facebook about your interactions with them, found under "Your Facebook Information" > "Off-Facebook Activity."

### 10. Two-Factor Authentication:

- **Security and Login:** Enable two-factor authentication under "Security and Login" to add an extra layer of protection to your account.

Regularly reviewing and updating these settings helps maintain control over your data on Facebook.

Don't wait until the last minute! Upgrade now and ensure your computer is ready for the future.

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### TEKZONE TIPS

#### GMAIL GUIDE

Creating an email list in Gmail involves using Gmail Contacts to organize and manage your contacts efficiently. Here are step-by-step instructions on how to create an email list in Gmail:



1. **Open Gmail:** Log in to your Gmail account if you aren't already logged in. Make sure you are using the new Gmail interface.
2. **Access Google Contacts:**
  - Click on the "Google Apps" icon (represented by nine dots) in the upper right corner of the Gmail interface.
  - Select "Contacts" from the list of available Google apps.
3. **Import or Add Contacts:**
  - If you already have contacts in Gmail, skip this step.
  - To add new contacts individually:
    - Click the "+ Create Contact" button.
    - Fill in the contact's details (name, email address, etc.).



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- Click "Save."
  - To import contacts from a CSV file:
    - Click "Import" on the left sidebar.
    - Choose a CSV file from your computer.
    - Follow the on-screen instructions to map the fields correctly and complete the import.
4. **Create a Contact Group:**
- On the left sidebar, click "Labels."
  - Scroll down and click "Create Label."
  - Give your label a name (e.g., "Work Colleagues" or "Family").
  - Click "Save."
5. **Add Contacts to the Group:**
- Go back to the "Contacts" tab.
  - Select the contacts you want to add to your group by clicking the checkboxes next to their names.
  - Click the "Label" icon (looks like a tag) above the contact list.
  - Choose the label (group) you just created and click it to add the selected contacts.
6. **Compose an Email:**
- Go back to Gmail by clicking the "Gmail" icon in the upper-left corner.
  - Click the "Compose" button to start composing your email.
7. **Use the Group in Your Email:**
- In the "To" field, start typing the name of your group (e.g., "Work Colleagues").
  - Gmail will suggest the group as an option. Click on it to add all the contacts from the group to the recipient list.
8. **Compose and Send Your Email:**
- Write your email as usual.
  - Click the "Send" button when you're ready to send your message to everyone in the selected group.

That's it! You've successfully created an email list in Gmail and used it to send an email to a group of contacts. You can manage your email lists and contacts in Google Contacts for future use.

## Need help with computers?

### Tekzone can offer you:

- \* Genuine advice on what hardware and software is best for you
- \* Top quality components from reputable companies
- \* Pick up & set up anywhere in the Auckland metropolitan area
- \* Transfer of files to your new computer

- \* Personal help at your office or home, any time you need it
- \* Broadband, Network & Wireless Setup
- \* Free advice on all related matters
- \* And, we charge only what we quote (no hidden extras)



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### WINDOWS 10 VS WINDOWS 11 ANOTHER HANDY GUIDE

Windows 10 and Windows 11, both operating systems by Microsoft, have distinct features and enhancements. Here's a comparison based on several key aspects:



#### 1. User Interface (UI) and User Experience (UX):

- **Windows 10:** Familiar and consistent UI with the Start Menu, taskbar, and live tiles.
- **Windows 11:** Features a more streamlined and modern design. The Start Menu and taskbar are centred, offering a cleaner and more simplified experience. Live tiles have been removed in favour of a more static set of icons.

#### 2. Performance:

- **Windows 10:** Stable and robust performance, compatible with a wide range of hardware.
- **Windows 11:** Optimized for newer hardware, promising faster wake times from sleep, better handling of background tasks, and more efficiency in processor usage, potentially leading to better battery life on laptops.

#### 3. System Requirements:

- **Windows 10:** Supports a broad range of hardware. Requires a 1 GHz processor, 1 GB RAM (32-bit) or 2 GB RAM (64-bit), 16 GB of hard disk space, DirectX 9 or later with WDDM 1.0 driver, and a display of 800x600.
- **Windows 11:** More stringent requirements, including a compatible 64-bit processor with at least two cores, 4 GB RAM, 64 GB storage, UEFI firmware with Secure Boot, TPM 2.0, DirectX 12 or later with WDDM 2.0 driver, and a 720p display larger than 9 inches diagonally.

#### 4. Gaming:

- **Windows 10:** Supports DirectX 12, enabling good gaming performance.
- **Windows 11:** Introduces features like Auto HDR and Direct Storage, aiming to improve gaming performance and load times, provided the hardware also supports these features.

#### 5. Productivity and Multitasking:

- **Windows 10:** Offers virtual desktops, snapping assistance, and Timeline feature for multitasking.
- **Windows 11:** Introduces new features like Snap Layouts and Snap Groups, and integrates Microsoft Teams directly into the taskbar, enhancing the multitasking and communication experience.

#### 6. Security:

- **Windows 10:** Robust security features, including Windows Defender Antivirus, BitLocker, and Windows Hello.



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- **Windows 11:** Builds on Windows 10 security by requiring TPM 2.0, offering hardware-based isolation, encryption, and malware prevention. It's positioned as the most secure Windows version yet.

### 7. Compatibility:

- **Windows 10:** Broad compatibility with most apps and devices.
- **Windows 11:** While it aims to maintain a high level of compatibility, the stricter hardware requirements and new OS architecture may lead to incompatibility with some older apps and devices.

### 8. Update and Support Policy:

- **Windows 10:** Receives regular feature updates. Microsoft has committed to supporting Windows 10 until October 14, 2025.
- **Windows 11:** Features a new Windows update approach that aims to be less disruptive. It also introduces a once-a-year feature update cycle, reducing the frequency of major changes that require user adaptation.

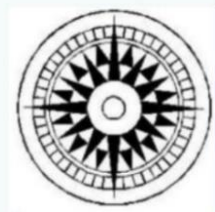
### 9. App Store and Android App Integration:

- **Windows 10:** Has a Microsoft Store for apps but with limited appeal and mixed reviews.
- **Windows 11:** Revamped Microsoft Store, which is more open to third-party apps. Notably, Windows 11 plans to integrate Android apps directly into the OS through the Amazon Appstore, although this feature was in development and not initially available at launch.

In conclusion, while Windows 10 provides stability and broad compatibility, Windows 11 offers a more refined user experience with performance improvements, a focus on security, and features aimed at enhancing productivity and gaming. However, the transition to Windows 11 may require users to have newer hardware and adapt to a new interface and operational paradigms.

### Tech Home Help

- Independent pre-purchase technical advice
- Installing and configuring your new PC, printer or device
- Transferring data over to your new PC & clearing out your old one
- Help getting photos/scans off your camera, scanner or phone
- Email, email accounts and setting email up on your mobile device
- PC 'housekeeping' to reduce program-clog and unwanted pop-up messages
- Checking your security against Viruses Spyware is current & working correctly
- Sorting files and photos, and organising an appropriate backup procedure to protect your data files



I am a former PC Direct & Gateway service technician and trainer, covering the greater Auckland area, and supporting SeniorNet North Shore members since 2000.

**Standard rates \$65/hr Discounted rate \$60/hr to current SeniorNet North Shore members**

**Rowan Cammell, Personal Computer Service, Ph 027 266 8941 [rapid.start@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rapid.start@xtra.co.nz)**

