



Rotorua
SeniorNet

Newsletter

May 2021

www.rotoruasenior.net
Member of NZ Federation of SeniorNet Societies

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From the Chairman

Hello, members

The pandemic is still affecting our lives in many ways. When we see the current situation in India, it is apparent that the world is far from getting past the problem. In New Zealand, we are extremely fortunate in our handling of the problem to date. However, we clearly have to guard against becoming complacent. We all need to continue to do our bit to keep everybody safe.

I trust that you are all being diligent about using your smartphones to scan the contact tracing QR codes at shops and businesses. I believe that we older people should be setting the example for the younger generations. From my observation, many younger people are not bothering with this important task. The value of the tracing system was demonstrated regarding one of the community cases in Auckland, where the person concerned had been using the app. I am sure that this helped to contain what was a potential problem.

If you need help in installing or using the phone app or in activating the Bluetooth capability, please remember that you can visit us at the library on Monday mornings, where we can give you the help you need.

The next step is of course the vaccinations. Our age group will be given priority. To protect yourself and others, I would urge you to get the vaccination as it becomes available. I believe that we can trust the science which tells us that any remote risk from a vaccination is far less than the devastating consequences of the virus itself.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next member forum at Parksyde at 2 pm on Monday 10 May.

Regards
Keith Garratt
Chairperson

Rotorua SeniorNet is just one of 75 local groups in the New Zealand Federation. If you would like to know more about what goes on elsewhere, OR what discounts or services are available to members, go to the Federation web site .

www.seniornet.co.nz

Next members' forum

Monday 10 May 2021

2 pm

"THE MAGIC OF TABLETS"

With its portability, multiple capabilities and versatility, a tablet can be your most useful and friendly device. They can do much of what you would otherwise do on your phone with its small screen, or on a PC or laptop. John and Keith will demonstrate some of the many ways you can use Android tablets or iPads in your daily life.

Our monthly members' forums are at **Parkside Community Centre** on the second Monday of each month at 2 pm, with interesting talks followed by afternoon tea. Visitors are welcome.

Remember the new web site - <http://www.rotoruaseniornet.gen.nz>

From our Course Co-ordinator, Bert

It seems that at our last committee meeting I volunteered to write something for the newsletter regarding communicating with our membership. In order to survive, our club has evolved and we work in a totally new environment in a new and fast changing landscape.

It has been apparent for some time that we needed to look beyond our immediate membership to find a new clientele amongst the Senior population of Rotorua and beyond. We adopted a new policy of "Outreach" and we actively sought to help people outside of our membership. This initially started with the "Drop in" sessions on Monday mornings at the Rotorua library where currently up to 6 of our members help to problem-solve on a one on one basis. All of our members are welcome to attend these sessions and the non-members are invited to make a koha donation. This has proved to be quite popular and has generated a few new memberships.

The “drop ins” have been running for quite some time now and it has become apparent to us that many Seniors are becoming concerned that they will in future need some level of computer skills when dealing with their banks, government departments or Rotorua Lakes Council and many other organisations who are only really accessible online.

The old method of running classes to teach word processing or spreadsheets will not cut it with folks who are mainly using mobile phones or tablets and have specific problems that cannot be solved in group sessions. They need one on one sessions of up to an hour at a time to get them up and running.

Our latest initiative to address this is that we are running one-hour sessions on Thursday mornings at the Rotorua Library in the small meeting room on the ground floor. People who wish to take advantage of this service can phone 022 6879 299 and speak to the course coordinator or leave a message. We will ask a few questions regarding the kind of device you are using and the specific problem or challenge that you need to address. This will enable us to match you to a tutor or mentor who has specific experience with the device you are using and the particular problem you need to address. We will then book a time with that tutor that suits both of you. We do have to pay the library for the small meeting room so we will need to charge non-members a fee (to be advised). This is still in the start-up phase and we will no doubt need to iron out a few bugs to have it working smoothly.

Our committee is very conscious of the fact that although we are providing services to non-members, our paid-up members must not be at a disadvantage and there are many reasons both technical and social to make membership worthwhile.

Our new venue at Parkside Community Centre is a case in point. Initially, we have had a small drop in attendance but we are hoping that people will find the new venue more amenable with easier parking. The forum is divided into two parts, the first part being the normal meeting format. When this finishes we retire to the dining area and regroup around the tables for cups of tea and a muffin or scone. I found this to be very informal and I felt people mixed a lot more than with the arrangement at Regency Park. We would be happy to receive any comment about the new arrangement or any suggestions for improvement.

Bert Harris

COVID VACCINE

How to book your COVID-19 immunisation – for people 65 years or older

If you are aged 65 years or older, you can get your vaccination at the community COVID-19 Immunisation Hub in Rotorua (Central Mall – next to Noel Leeming). The hub is currently open Tuesday – Saturday.

Please contact our administration call centre on 0800 115 117 to make a booking. Please leave a message if your call is not answered.

Please note you can also book in by TEXTING 027 705 4176 with the following information:

- your name
- date of birth
- contact phone number

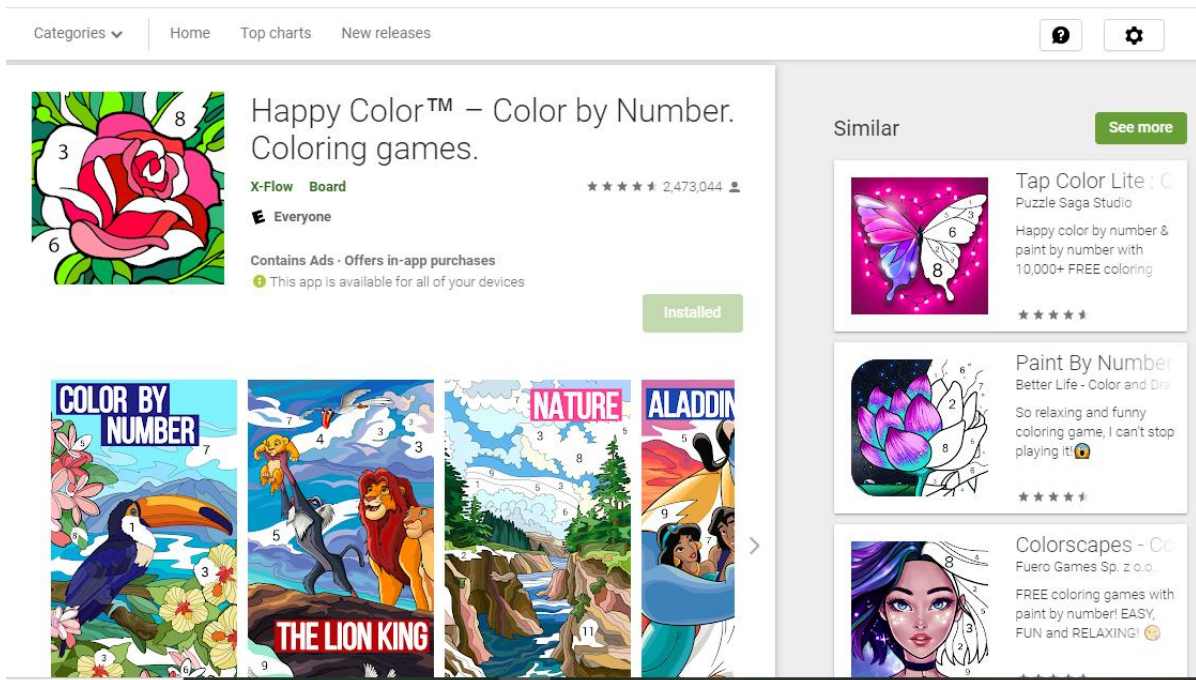
Or you can send this information by email to covid.imms@lakesdhb.govt.nz (use ctrl + click to follow this link)



"Welcome back, sir. Are you planning on being our guest for one night only, or will this be your usual extended stay?"

FYI

Have you seen this?



It's colouring by number for all ages and it's a free download. This is something that can be shared with the kids and grandkids; even the great-grandkids!

Just a tip – if you try it and you can't see what number a shape is, you can increase the size until you can see every tiniest white space. For the touch screen I use the stylus that came with my tablet to fill the spaces, but a finger works just as well. On a PC or laptop, use the mouse. Very relaxing.

And ...

THE FACT THAT
THERE'S A HIGHWAY TO
HELL AND ONLY A
STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN
SAYS A LOT ABOUT
ANTICIPATED TRAFFIC
NUMBERS.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



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