

Eden-Roskill Newsletter



Season's Greetings



Chairman's Report

Yes, another year has flashed passed. As this is the last communiqué for 2011, and with Christmas and New Year fast approaching, it is an opportune time to extend to you and your families our very best wishes for the coming festive season.

I would like to begin the wrap-up for the year by reporting back on election results for our 2012 Committee. At the Special General Meeting held on Monday, 12 November, the following Committee was appointed:

- Chairman: Ray McDonald
- Deputy Chairman: Grant Coyle
- Secretary: Noelene O'Keefe
- Treasurer: Ray McDonald (Acting) – No nominations were received, and the meeting resolved that I again manage this role until a suitable replacement is found. I will, however, this time round be supported by Betty Silva as an Assistant Treasurer.
- Committee Members: Gavin Bruce, Lesley Challis, Leslie Den Harder, Jan Dwyer, Hetty Goodwin, Brian Holden, Rod Melville, Margaret Osbourn and Betty Silva.

The above Committee will take office effective from 1 January 2012.

Officer reports for 2011 will be presented at our AGM on Monday, 20 February 2012, as well as the appointment of an auditor for 2012.

Each year has brought its own special challenges, and this year has been no exception. But the challenges we have taken on this year have produced some very positive results;

- There was the refurbishing of our Learning Centre with new computer workstations, and establishment of a new workstation hub to better utilise the TV screen as a teaching aid; and the addition of new storage space. The room now looks bigger and brighter.
- We introduced the Apple MAC into our Learning Centre to help open up new learning opportunities. This was achieved through consultation with our local community, the acquisition of three iMac systems, sourcing teaching material, and tutor training;
- Through the addition of MAC courses and holding another successful "Open Day", our membership for 2011 reached a total of 382, a level unprecedented since we were established in 2002. It has been gratifying to see that our membership numbers have been increasing year on year. So I guess we must be doing something right.
- With the increasing number of members attending our monthly meetings, we recognised that there was a need to provide a higher quality of projection for our visual presentations. To meet this need we acquired a new wide-screen data projector and screen, and used it for the first time at our November meeting. It was outstanding.

Yes, there will be challenges for us. It is important that we continue to provide a learning environment that sees new and interesting topics and technologies being introduced, as well as providing opportunities to expand on the knowledge that has already been acquired.



At a national level, SeniorNet has continued with its project to revitalise our image and to help stimulate the learning environments in which Learning Centres conduct their activities. Looking at and encouraging the use of new technologies has been one of the principle themes. It has also identified that "succession planning" is something that Learning Centres need some more assistance with and there will be some initiatives taking place in 2012 to help with this.

Also at a national level, the SeniorNet Federation has been able to secure funding from the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) for 2012, although this funding will be at a reduced level than that provided for 2011.

We will soon be issuing our new Schedule of Courses for 2011 where you will find some new inclusions which have resulted from changes in technologies and there will be a wider choice of workshop options. A Class Timetable for February/March 2011 will accompany this newsletter.

To those members who have re-joined for 2012, we thank you for your continued support.

To those who are still considering rejoining, we would love to have you back, but please decide soon. Alas non-renewed memberships will lapse as at 31 January 2012.

To those folk who have advised us that they will not be rejoining, we thank you for your past support. Unfortunately this will be the last communication you will receive from us. Notwithstanding this, you will always be welcome back.

In closing, I would like to thank the many people who have helped make things happen over the past year.

To Committee members, I thank you for your support and guidance, particularly to Grant Coyle, our Deputy Chairman, Gavin Bruce for organising our guest speakers; Noelene O'Keefe, our Secretary, Hetty Goodwin, Membership Secretary & Publicity, Margaret Osbourn, Publicity, and Noelene Gordon, our Class Coordinator.

I would also like to especially thank retiring Committee members Gordon Kelway and Rob Lennox for their valuable contributions during their tenure.

To the Tutors who have given freely of their time each week, your efforts and patience are appreciated by all. Be assured, you have made a difference.

To Valerie Candy, and Margaret Osbourn, I thank you for your initiative and management of the Genealogy and Digital Camera Interest groups. The continued support and enthusiasm from participants is a testament of what you have achieved.

To the membership at large, your participation, enthusiasm, and support make it all worthwhile.

Again, I wish you all the very best for the festive season. Look after yourselves, relax and enjoy the moment, and I look forward to welcoming you back in February 2012.

Ray McDonald
Chairman

Annual General Meeting and Tutor Presentations

Monday, 20 February 2012 at 1:30 pm

Presentations will be given by our tutors at the conclusion of the AGM.

