

February 2017



Gizmoe

This is the first edition of *Gizmoe* in 2017. There will be six editions of *Gizmoe* this year.

Gizmoe will also be posted on www.seniornet.co.nz from 10th February 2017.

The start of another exciting year with technology. January is a fantastic month in so many ways, it heralds the start of a new year, we relax in the sun (well maybe without the sun this year!) It's a time for family and it's also the month the world's largest consumer technology expo is held. It's called the Consumer Electronic Show and is held in Las Vegas, this year they celebrated the 50th anniversary of the event.

With more than 3,800 exhibiting companies and exhibit space of about 2.6 million square feet, it was the biggest so far. It showcases emerging technology, so what have we got in store for us in 2017? How about a laptop that has two additional fold out screens branded Valerie, or the Denso vacuum shoes, they don't use batteries: every time you step, you press down on a pedal, which powers the motor and sucks dirt into a tiny internal receptacle. Not impressed then the touch texture screen of a tablet that fools you into thinking you're touching fabric instead of glass? it uses vibrations to (supposedly) let you tell the difference between corduroy and silk, among other things.

Okay I must admit the annual CES in Las Vegas is on my bucket list!

The Federation has come a long way since its inception ten years ago, when it was formed primarily as a distributor of education funding – during which time it acquired \$3.76M from TEC and also raised a further \$1.64M to help fund SeniorNet in New Zealand. That said 2017 will be an important year for the organisation as some difficult decisions will need to be taken in respect to funding and sustainability. Such debate and decisions will take place at the AGM/Symposium in May so its vitally important that your Learning Centre is represented at this event.

I hope the year has kicked off well for you and your family and remember, learn something new every day!

Best wishes,

Grant Sidaway – Executive Officer SeniorNet Federation



Smartphones - Apple v Samsung v and the also rans

It seems the case of the exploding case has really hit Samsung hard as for the first time in five years Apple has surpassed its closet smartphone rival in annual sales.

The iPhone maker reclaimed the top spot after selling 78.3 million handsets in the final quarter of 2016, while Samsung sold 77.5m.



"This was the iPhone's best performance for over a year, as Apple capitalised on Samsung's recent missteps," said Neil Mawston, executive director at Strategy Analytics.

Samsung will be banking on the rumoured Galaxy S8 model in a few weeks' time to reignite growth and return to the top spot or will Apple hold the reigns for while longer.

Meanwhile.... "back at the ranch" Apple, Samsung, Huawei, Microsoft, Google and others all working on their next generation of Smartphones to be released this year.

Here's a sneak look at what to expect perhaps:

Apple iPhone

Apple has a lot to prove with the next iPhone with significant criticism of their decision to drop the headphone socket meaning Apple might be looking for redemption.

We could expect Apple to doing something special this year as believe it or not it's the iPhone's 10th anniversary. There's little in the way of design changes to the iPhone 7 from the iPhone 6, so speculation is that the next iPhone could be fairly radical?

Patent filings suggest a curved screen could be in the offering which could see the sides of the new



iPhone used for virtual buttons. Like the MacBook touchbar which would change depending on what app being used.

Samsung Galaxy S8

There's a lot hinging on a successful launch of the S8 for Samsung after the Note 7 fiasco.

It's expected they will add the Bixby artificial intelligence assistant into the S8. Bixby (or at least that's the male version of the name currently floating around), will let you do everything from control Samsung home appliances and third-party apps to search for objects in pictures and process payments with your voice. In terms of features, It will supposedly beat all other voice control assistants from the likes of Apple, Amazon, Google, etc. If they get it right this will be a huge advantage for users of smartphones – less pecking with fingers and squinting of eyes!

With the popularity of Selfies, last year 30 million selfies were uploaded, its reported that the new Samsung smartphone will feature auto focus on the front camera where most other manufacturers merely have fixed focus – I mean we do need to look sharp in our selfies!

Huawei P10

Huawei has gone from being an obscure budget phone maker to the third largest player and they look set to hold that position.

Leaks suggest the P10 getting a QHD display, with 2560 x 1440 resolution at 534ppi. This is an exceptionally high resolution which will make images on the screen appear really sharp. Note the iPhone currently has a resolution of 750 x 1344 at 326ppi.

With a likely 6GB of RAM and a storage of up to 256GB the Huawei P10 will gain parity with the iPhone 7 Plus.

Microsoft Surface Phone

Microsoft has struggled to gain traction with Windows phone. For sure this year will be make or break for them in the mobile market. If that occurs, it will be the price they paid for not understanding consumer appetite for being mobile and having information at our fingertips.

Microsoft chief executive Satya Nadella let slip that they're working on an "ultimate mobile device".

The rumour is that the Surface Phone will come in three versions. A Consumer Edition (an affordable smartphone with 32GB storage/3GB RAM), a Business Edition (with a physical keyboard, 6GB RAM/128GB storage), and an Enthusiast Edition (with a stylus, 256GB storage/8GB RAM). All three are said to have a 5.7-inch display.

The Surface Phone is all but guaranteed to run Windows 10 Mobile and that Continuum may be built-in, allowing it to be docked and deliver a PC-like experience – or is that Microsoft simply hanging onto an outdated concept, the traditional computer!

Google Pixel 2

In 2016, Google rebranded its phones with the Pixel moniker. Reviews of the Pixel have been positive, but can Google keep climbing the smartphone ladder in 2017.

Its likely that much of the exciting stuff is likely to be software based such as the Google Assistant, no surprises there as that's their strength.

Hardware specs are improvements rather than innovations. RAM is expected to be increased to 6GB. Like the Huawei phone it too will have a 2560 x 1440 QHD display. QHD will be important for Google as it endeavours to ramp up its Daydream VR ecosystem. Google Daydream is essentially a virtual

reality headset that - like Cardboard before it - relies on the handset to drive the entire VR experience, so if you or the grandkids are into Virtual Reality applications then the new phone is just the ticket for you!

Look at me, look at me, look at me.....

Controlling a computer remains the barrier for most of us. What is in our minds, what we want to do and then being able to do it is what is known as the human interface. Typically, that has meant controlling the device using hands and fingers with either a mouse, touchpad or more recently touching the icons on a screen. With other advances, we have been able to use our voice to control certain aspects of computers. Now with the so-called gaze technology you can control a computer with your eyes just by gazing at places on the screen.

Eye tracking, or gaze interaction, is a technology that is used to see where a person is looking on a computer screen. The technology is used to control a computer with your eyes instead of using a traditional keyboard and mouse.



Eye tracking, is not a new concept, however, only recently has it taken off as a viable way for helping individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities live more independent lives.

As a concept, eye tracking is a rather straightforward process.

The eye tracker sends out near infrared light. The light is reflected in your eyes, the reflections are picked up by the eye tracker's cameras, through filtering and a few tricky calculations the eye tracker knows exactly where you are looking.

A small device is positioned at the bottom of your computer screen then plugged into your computer via a USB port. The software in the device adds a line of special icons to your screen, effectively replicating the mouse (right and left mouse click, drag and drop etc....) you look at these when you want to perform mouse functions. There is also an on-screen keyboard for you to gaze at the keys so you can type and perform the normal functions of a keyboard. Eye tracking is a perfect example of how technology is being used to provide independence for those who might otherwise feel isolated through disability. Imagine, shopping online just using your eyes!

Go to this link to see a demonstration on how it works:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6n38nQQOt8U>

Subscription fees and Learner Hour fees

SeniorNet Learning Centres are registered charities however the fees paid by members are not considered to be a donation to the charity therefore are unable to be claimed as a tax exemption. In recent times a few people have asked if the fees could be termed a donation then individuals could get a tax advantage; unfortunately as the fees are paid for a service i.e. learning technology then it is not considered to be a donation. If, however a person decided to donate money to the learning centre for no purpose other than to help the charity then that donation would be able to be claimed.

Resources for Seniors

Information is power, knowledge is wisdom?

The Dalai Lama said: “Share your knowledge. It’s a way to achieve immortality”.

In a vain attempt to become immortal here’s some interesting and knowledgeable links for you to explore. Of course if you too would like to become immortal please share them with others. But seriously, there’s some really good stuff here, just be aware that these sites are either based in the USA or UK.

[Making the Move to Assisted Living](#)

[Senior Health Resources](#)

[Moving Tips for Seniors](#)

[Boomer's Roadmap to Aging in Place](#)

[Guide to Senior Nutrition](#)

[Financial Resources for Seniors](#)

[Legal Planning for Alzheimer's and Dementia](#)

Here’s a few homegrown (New Zealand sites) you may find useful too:

[Senior Services at Work and Income](#)

[Super Seniors at Ministry of Social Development](#)

[Health of Older People at Ministry of Health](#)

Movie tickets to give away

The promoters of the movie Toni kindly donated 10 free passes to the Federation.

“First in first served”

The first 10 people to email me: grant@seniornet.co.nz get the tickets. The rest of us will need to purchase tickets to enjoy what appears to be a terrific film.

Toni Erdmann opens in NZ cinemas on February 16. It’s an original, exceptionally well-reviewed German comedy about a strained father-daughter relationship - it is both hysterically funny and deeply moving. TONI ERDMANN dominated the European film awards winning Best European Film, Best Director, Best Actor and Best Screenwriter and is one of the frontrunners for Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards, It’s being brought back for a theatrical release after such a successful debut at the NZ International Film Festival.



Operatunity – Daytime Concerts Nationwide SeniorNet Special Offer

The Daytime Concert Series has been presented with pride by Operatunity for over 15 years and it's fun, informal, top quality concerts have gained a loyal following with many thousands of people enjoying the concerts each month.

Eight variety concerts are toured nationally (24 cities across NZ) each year, amounting to over 200 concerts annually, and each concert series is carefully crafted to present a different theme and music. Upcoming in 2017:

- Waltz of My Heart,
- That's Amore,
- Glenn Miller & The Andrews Sisters,
- From Phantom to Les Mis,
- It's Rainin' Men,
- The Last Night of the Proms,
- Fabulous 50s,
- Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.



Each concert is presented by professional artists highly accomplished in their own musical genres. These artists join you for lunch after the show (included in your ticket price) and are happy to mingle and treat you as part of the Operatunity family.

Concerts are presented with a chat, a laugh and with warmth eliciting such comments as: "Come to the concerts feeling 81; I leave feeling 21 again", "Beautiful voices, stage presentation, excellent and big smiles", "you bring so much pleasure to so many".

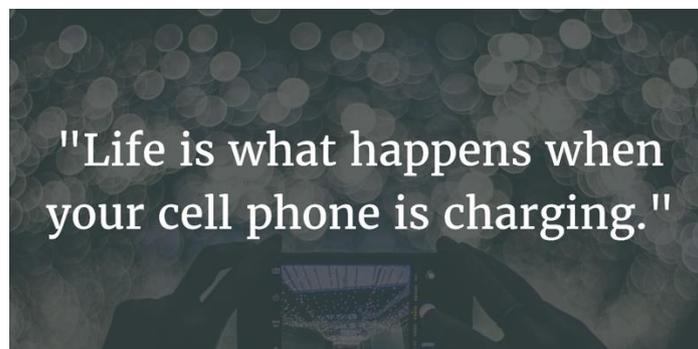
Special Offer to SeniorNet Members

As a SeniorNet member, you will receive the discounted rate of \$31 per person to any of the Daytime Concerts. To book please call the toll free number on 0508 266 237 and mention that you are a SeniorNet member to receive the discount.

All concerts start at 11am and include lunch.

For more information or to request a brochure please contact Operatunity:

P: 0508 266 237 (toll free) ~ E: bookings@operatunity.co.nz
www.daytimeconcerts.co.nz



Suzuki – Special Offer for February

Enjoy the benefits of a new Suzuki with no deposit, at 3.9% interest and payments from just \$69 per week! Get a 5 year warranty, roadside assist package, and that new car smell. So why buy used? Hurry, offer available for a limited time. Talk to your local dealer today.

Remember to say you are a SeniorNet member and they'll pay the on-road costs for you.

Suzuki have just launched a new model called the Ignis a great little SUV, click here to see more: <https://www.suzuki.co.nz/Overview/Ignis?VehicleCategory=SUVs>



Federation AGM and Symposium

A further reminder that the SeniorNet AGM and Symposium will be held in Nelson this year.

Registration forms for the event will be sent to all Learning Centres very soon. We are looking for a strong attendance and would like to have at least one person from each Learning Centre attend.

Meeting people from other Learning Centres and sharing ideas is often the springboard to creating new learning activities in your centre.

Here's the detail:

2017 SeniorNet Federation AGM/Symposium

Tahuna Function Centre, Nelson

9th May	2.00pm – 4.00pm AGM
	6.00pm – 10.00pm Annual Dinner
10th May	9.00am – 3.00pm Symposium

