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I have been a member of Nelson SeniorNet for more than 12 years. During that time we have never held a workshop which has been as successful as our Internet Safety Workshop.

I first met John Parsons when he presented a workshop on Internet Safety to another organisation to which I belong. I went along not expecting to learn much that was new, because as a regular Internet user I thought I already knew how to safeguard myself against most of the risks.

I sat enthralled at John Parsons' presentation. At morning tea when he was only about one third of the way through the presentation I introduced myself and asked him if he could give a talk to Nelson SeniorNet.

He agreed, and the response from our members was such that I asked John if we could discuss a workshop, specifically designed for digital immigrants such as myself. Over the next few months, and after several drafts, a four hour, two session workshop was organised.

John's workshop covers Protection of online Identity, Identity fraud, Email scams and cold calling, Cyber crime, Real world theft and Group security. More importantly, it looks at these areas through the eyes of a criminal. Most of our members, being good law abiding citizens, have absolutely no idea how criminals think. The information has been a revelation to our members, who are mainly in their 60s and 70s.

The workshops have been an outstanding success. After restricting the numbers to 30 for the first trial workshop and turning many away, we increased the numbers to 50 for the second and third. Again, we had to turn members away.

John Parsons is an exceptionally skilled presenter, has a thorough and in-depth knowledge and is passionate about his subject. Everyone who uses the Internet, sends or receives emails or uses a mobile phone should attend one of John's Internet Safety workshops. Thousands of dollars could be saved every year if people knew how to more easily recognise cyber criminals or more carefully protect their identity. The Internet Safety workshop covers all these points.

The range and complexity of cyber technology has increased faster than our ability to cope. Older members and younger members need information to be made available far more easily than it is now. This is why John Parson's workshops are so valuable to our members. For the first time, someone has presented this information in a package and in a way that they can understand and appreciate. This type of information should be available to everyone and we are now working on ways to deliver it to SeniorNet Learning Centres throughout NZ.

Thankyou John, for your brilliant, witty and informative workshops to our Nelson SeniorNet members.

Duncan Fuller  
Immediate Past President  
Nelson SeniorNet.