

ANNUAL REPORT SWITCHED ON SENIORS INC



Seniors Learning About Mobile devices

1 JANUARY 2024– 31 DECEMBER 2024



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Shoalwater	Rockingham	Waikiki

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF SWITCHED ON SENIORS INC.

Switched on Seniors began its 12th year in operation in 2024. It was a year of consolidation, achievement and recognition, It's previous emphasis on iPads and iPhones was expanded to include Android devices and by the latter half of the year a sustainable team of Android mentors was taking shape.

In February Switched on Seniors was invited to present at the West Tech Assemblage which has a focus on collaboration to reduce digital exclusion. This opportunity provided Switched on Seniors with exposure to a an audience beyond the City of Rockingham and led to the later sponsorship to submit for WAITTA Incite award for Digital Inclusion. It also led to Sheena being invited to partner with the WA Digital Inclusion Project and to speak about Switched on Seniors at the WA Digital Inclusion Leadership Group and subsequently be invited to become a member of that group.



The Easter Monday Public Holiday saw a group of 14 team members attend a specially scheduled teaching session for our group at the Apple Perth Store. This practice was repeated on two more Monday public holidays in June and October. Apart from providing extra knowledge and skills to our team this also created a connection between Switched on Seniors and Apple that indicated their recognition of the significant contribution we make to digital inclusion with Apple devices.

In May, Jan Thair who has volunteered with Switched on Seniors for 10 years was awarded the Volunteer Of The Year Award in the City of Rockingham Volunteer recognition program and Mitchell Thomas was a finalist in the Youth section,



Mid year Switched on Seniors was approached to become a partner with the WACOSS WA Digital Inclusion Project and Act, Belong, Commit. Sheena was also invited to meet with the State Library of WA & Public Libraries WA to discuss opportunities to support digital inclusion through WA Public Libraries.

In June Switched on Seniors received a visit from 22 members of the Merriwa Broadband Group. The link with Merriwa was forged in 2020 when Sheena & Lynn travelled to their group to provide Digital Mentor Training.

In July Switched on Seniors won the Connected State Digital Inclusion Award and in seniors Week in November Switched on Seniors was the winner of the WA Age Friendly Local Business Award sponsored by Council of the Ageing and Department of Communities.

In the latter half of the year both the website and the brochure were revamped with the significant help of Alicja Nolan from the Waikiki group and the new brochures were printed in December.



Also towards the end of the year Sheena began working with the Digital Inclusion Leadership Forum and Working Group to expand the Switched on Seniors model into metropolitan libraries. Though this evoked some interest from the libraries with representatives of six libraries visiting the Friday group, the proposal did not come to fruition because the libraries were not geared to work with volunteers.

Visiting speakers during 2024

March - Clare Phillips from 777 Pharmacy

April - Safety Bay Library staff speaking on More Things You Can Do with a Library Card

May - Janet West from Mountain Lawyers speaking on Estate Planning

June - Dr Catherine Bondonno from ECU speaking on Enhancing Health through Diet

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August - Shyanne from City of Rockingham on services for seniors

September - Jackie Thompson from Chippers Funeral Parlour on planning a funeral

AUTUMN CENTRE REPORT

The Autumn Centre Group is continuing to grow and over the year we averaged 15 people at each session.

We held a Get Online Week event and invited anyone from the Autumn Centre and the general public to attend. This proved to be popular with approximately 50 people in attendance. Beconnected sent one of their team along to observe and they were impressed with what Switched on Seniors is offering.

Once again we had intermittent assistance from NIT. These students prove very helpful, particularly with Android users, but it is disappointing that they are not regular attendees.

Sheena, Andrea and Maire all assisted with presentations throughout the year and with assisting on other days. Their contribution is most appreciated by myself and the group members. It is so advantageous for members to have someone to assist throughout the lesson.

Sheena also took on training one of our volunteers. Ahmed, to assist with new people who need one on one sessions.

We had some guest presenters throughout the year which proved popular and very informative.

Thank you, in particular to Trish and Annette, and the other group members who set up, organise morning tea, keep track of attendees and generally assist me to ensure everything runs smoothly.

With the introduction of AI and the new IOS updates we are looking forward to a interesting year ahead filled with lots of new ideas and new training sessions.

Lynn Locke

Statistics 2024

Shoalwater had 1263 attendances over 43 weeks with an average attendance of 29/week.

The max attendance on any day was 46 . There were 16 weeks of 30 or more. 104 people attended at least once during the year.

Autumn Centre: Average attendance 15 each week

Waikiki: Average attendance 15 each week.

Grateful thanks to the 2024 team:

Jan, Bev, Andrea, Lynn, Gerry, Sue, Fiona, Ingrid, Jeff, Máire, Alice, Mitchell, Peter, Kelvin

The Committee: Sheena, Jan, Andrea, Bev, Gerry, Fiona, Máire, Jeff

And those who come early to set up: Bev, Jeff, Fiona, Alice & Ingrid

Extra special thanks and grateful acknowledgement go to Jan Thair and Bev Southcott who are stepping back from the committee this year after many years of faithful service. Bev's amazing contribution with morning teas for many years is also acknowledged and appreciated.

Sheena Edwards
Chairperson
June 25th, 2024

