

ESSENCE

SENIORNET NORTH SHORE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

No. 350

LENDING LIBRARY

Our club is pleased to offer a free lending library for all members to enjoy. Over time, our members have generously donated a wide range of general-interest books, creating a shared collection that everyone can access. Whether you're looking to learn something new, explore a hobby, or simply enjoy a good read, you're welcome to browse, borrow, and return books at your convenience. This informal library is entirely community-driven, operating on trust and goodwill. New donations are always appreciated to help keep the collection fresh and diverse.



As you can see our current shelving system is inadequate and we are considering shifting the library collection to sit on the desktops along the wall in our room.

Do you have a bookcase or shelving system you no longer need – your club would welcome the donation of suitable bookshelves. If you think that you can help, please contact a committee member.

CLUB CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

Join us for our Club Christmas Function on **Sunday, 14 December**, starting at **10.00am**.

We have an enjoyable morning planned, beginning with a series of presentations showcasing the wonderful photographic and watercolour creations produced by our members throughout the year.



At around **11.00am**, we will serve a grand morning tea – a perfect chance to relax, chat, and get to know fellow members. If you are able, please bring a plate to share. We look forward to celebrating the festive season together and recognising the creativity and contributions of our club community.



FESTIVE CATCH-UP

Once again over the Christmas break we plan to have 4 “drop in” sessions in our clubroom at Shea Terrace. Feel free to call in for a chat, coffee or tea and biscuits. Ruth will be there so this is an excellent opportunity to catch up and meet other club members. The sessions are not on our schedule but the dates are:

Monday 22 December, Saturday 27 December, Tuesday 30 December 2025 and Friday 2 January 2026.

Yes, we are getting very close to 2026. So, do pop in – start time 10am and enjoy some friendship and exchange of ideas.



Please let our membership secretary know if you have changed your email address and/or phone numbers so we can update our records



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CLUB DIRECTORY

WEBSITE	www.seniornetns.com FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61562462001329
EMAIL	snetns@xtra.co.nz
TELEPHONE	486 2163
CLASSES	Learning Centre, Suite 3, St John Ambulance Building, 2 Shea Terrace, Takapuna
MEETINGS	2nd Sunday of each month, 10 am in the Hall, St John, 2 Shea Terrace, Takapuna
CONTACT	The Secretary, SeniorNet NS Inc. snetns@xtra.co.nz



COMMITTEE & SUPPORT TEAMS

2025 – 26

CHAIRPERSON	Ruth Healy	ruthhealy54@gmail.com	027 291 1489
VICE CHAIRPERSON	Jurgen Schubert	jschubert@outlook.co.nz	021 257 8814
TREASURER	June McCullough	june.apollo@gmail.com	021 885 117
SECRETARY	Marina Sanderson	marinasanderson@gmail.com	021 02789790
MEMBERSHIP	Patricia Lough	loughie@outlook.co.nz	413 6322
WEBMASTERS	Campbell Stanford & Jurgen Schubert	camstan69@gmail.com	021 717 008
TECHNICAL			
SPECIAL PROJECTS	Campbell Stanford	camstan69@gmail.com	021 717 008
COMMITTEE	Lois Kay	lois.kay@xtra.co.nz	027 2710154
COMMITTEE	Beryl Louis	Beryllouis2@gmail.com	
AUDITOR	Glen Plaistowe		
PROOFREADER	Patricia Lough	loughie@outlook.co.nz	413 6322
NEWSLETTER	Lois Kay & Campbell Stanford	seniornet.newsletter@gmail.com	027 2710154
PROVIDORE	Jeanne-Anne Jacob	jacob-jeanneanne@xtra.co.nz	027 279 2854
SUNDAY MEETING TEA	Various		
SPEAKER ORGANISER	Jurgen Schubert (also Outside Visits)	seniornet.newsletter@gmail.com	021 257 8814



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CHAIR REPORT DECEMBER 2025



Hello Everyone,

Once again it is almost Christmas. The year has flown by again - it really does seem the older you get the quicker time flies by. The year has seen big changes within our club. With the sad passing of Ian Handricks the Team had to rally and regroup. And so a HUGE thank you to all those behind the scenes who have not only stepped up but stepped up hugely. The club has continued to flourish and be the enjoyable place of learning, friendship and cups of tea and coffee (both with a biscuit) that it always has been. Special thanks to Lois and Campbell, who keep the newsletter (and other things) running for us all.

There are a number of new members so Welcome to you all. We will get to know you all over the coming months. There are many sessions for you to come along to and then there are the excursions with Jurgen, Sunday sessions with the great speakers that he organises.

Our committee is a bit smaller this year so I would really like to encourage any of you out there to come join us in the New Year. Help us to plan so that we all can have lots to do in the coming year. We have a lot of laughs and there is not really too much to do - we divide and conquer as we can.

Our Advertisers in our Newsletter continue to support us - so please support them. They are all super easy to deal with whatever the problem - no query is too big or too small. Have a good read of the newsletter and note down the phone numbers for when you need them. It will be worth it. That I can assure you. Read the Blurbs from them in the Newsletter - they really have some very good tips and things we should know about, and how to keep ourselves up to date and safely working in Cyberspace.

This time last year I was reflecting on my time with you all and realised what an amazing Group it is, what amazing people belong and how the friendship and fellowships develop over the many different sessions we have. And how lucky am I to be in this with all of you. My thoughts from last year are the same. Merry Christmas to you all.



Ruth Healy

Chairperson SeniorNet North Shore
Mobile: 027 2911489



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SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2025

Select a class, discussion group or tutorial that appeals from the tutors' notes on pages 6 to 9. The following schedule details date, time and venue for activities, including type, cost and whether it is necessary to book (if booking is required, please contact the tutor). Pay at door. All welcome.

Monthly meetings are held in the hall 10am – 12:00 noon on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Come along and listen to some interesting speakers. Gold coin donation appreciated. Everyone welcome. Please wear your name tag to all sessions to put name to a face. Free refreshments are provided at all Discussion Groups, Tutorials, and Monthly Sunday Meetings.



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T = TUTORIALS

D = DISCUSSION GROUPS

TIMES: AM = 10.00 to 12.00

PM = 1.00 to 3.00

Schedule - December 2025								
Day	Date	Time	Session	Tutor	Phone	Email	D/T	Cost
Mon	1	am	Painting Group	Glen Plaistowe	027 541 2241	glenp19925@gmail.com	D	\$3
Mon	1	pm						
Tue	2	am						
Tue	2	pm					D	\$3
Wed	3	am						
Wed	3	pm	Film Appreciation (1:30)	Marina Sanderson	021 02789790	marinasanderson@gmail.com	D	\$3
Thu	4	am	Cryptic Crosswords and Sudoku	Bridget Taylerson	09 410 8309	taylersonb@gmail.com	D	\$3
Thu	4	pm						
Fri	5	am	First Friday Genealogy	Bernice Hyde	027 617 3959	bernice52@xtra.co.nz	D	\$3
Fri	5	pm						
Sat	6	am						
Sat	6	pm						
Sun	7	am						
Sun	7	pm						
Mon	8	am						
Mon	8	pm	Committee Meeting					
Tue	9	am	Photography	Rex Oddy	021 758 851	rex.oddy@xtra.co.nz	D	\$3
Tue	9	pm						
Wed	10	am	AI (ChatGPT etc)	Ruth Healy	027 291 1489	ruthhealy54@gmail.com	D	\$3
Wed	10	pm						
Thu	11	am	Handcrafts	June McCullough	021 885 117	june.apollo@gmail.com	D	\$3
Thu	11	pm	Card Playing Group (12:30)	Campbell Stanford	021 717 008	camstan69@gmail.com	D	\$3
Fri	12	am						
Fri	12	pm						
Sat	13	am						
Sat	13	pm						
Sun	14	am	Monthly Meeting	10am in hall		All Members Welcome		
Sun	14	pm						
Mon	15	am	Painting Group	Glen Plaistowe	027 541 2241	glenp19925@gmail.com	D	\$3
Mon	15	pm	Nostalgia	Host varies			D	\$3
Tue	16	am	Computer Chat Group	Melson Lee			D	\$3
Tue	16	pm						
Wed	17	am						
Wed	17	pm	Cooking Chat	Marina Sanderson	021 02789790	marinasanderson@gmail.com	D	\$3
Thu	18	am	Cryptic Crosswords and Sudoku	Bridget Taylerson	09 410 8309	taylersonb@gmail.com	D	\$3
Thu	18	pm						
Fri	19	am						
Fri	19	pm						
Sat	20	am						
Sat	20	pm						
Sun	21	am						
Sun	21	pm						
Mon	22	am						
Mon	22	pm						
Tue	23	am						
Tue	23	pm						
Wed	24	am	Christmas Eve					
Wed	24	pm						
Thu	25	am	Christmas Day					
Thu	25	pm						
Fri	26	am	Boxing Day					
Fri	26	pm						



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TUTOR NOTES

DECEMBER 2025



GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Tutor: Lois Kay

Please continue to bring any treasures to our Genealogy Workshop – we have had many items in the past that have had wonderful stories attached to them and they add colour and significance to our life stories. We will continue with worthy websites and although many of our group are already skilled at researching, we always run into the odd “brick wall” scenario which is where others can assist.



1ST FRIDAY GENEALOGY

Host: Bernice Hyde

Bernice will once again demonstrate her ability in thorough research skills. In particular she has recently researched family history for Jurgen which will most interesting. Bernice regularly follows avenues that many other researchers don't consider and comes up with surprising results.



CARD PLAYING GROUP

Host: Campbell Stanford

What a fun time playing cards can be! For raw beginners and cardsharps alike. Beginners appreciate the comfortable pace at which they can learn and hone their skills. Great camaraderie in a very friendly group that is much more than just card playing. Learning and developing strategies combined with luck and great humour alleviates stress and keeps your mind sharp and active. Currently our most popular game is “Oh Hell” which goes down well with all players with winners switching around from session to session. Depending on the number of participants, we also play 500 and Euchre and have dabbled with cribbage, one of the best games for as little as 2 players. Please come and try it. You are also most welcome to bring a guest with you for a free session.



OUR WORLD

Tutor: Glen Plaistowe

Our World is a mix of current affairs, a sharing of places we have visited, events that have been part of our lives or what we have explored - people and places that are of interest. You do not have to have skills in PowerPoint. You just need to have an interest in our world and world events and are happy to share any insights or experiences you have.



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NOSTALGIA

Host: Ian Robinson

This session will allow us to remember the good, crazy and unusual. Join us for thought-provoking conversations, fun memories, and interesting insights. You'll have the opportunity to share your own experiences and hear from others in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.



FILM APPRECIATION

Host: Marina Sanderson

Experience the magic of cinema at SeniorNet North Shore's newest session, "Film Appreciation." Join us in the cosy clubrooms as we transport you through time with a curated selection of timeless classics and contemporary masterpieces. Dive into the world of storytelling, cinematography, and emotion as we explore the art of filmmaking together. Discover the rich history of cinema and share your thoughts and insights with fellow film enthusiasts. Whether you're a cinephile or just looking for a delightful movie, this session promises to be a "reel" treat for all.



COMPUTER CHAT GROUP

Tutor: Melson Lee

Melson Lee of Tekzone Ltd (one of our advertisers) will be available to have your computer questions answered and discussed, and with luck – resolved! What a great opportunity for us all! We have great attendance at these sessions and benefit from Melson's extensive knowledge.



CRYPTIC CROSS WORDS & SUDOKU

Tutor: Bridget Taylerson

Bridget will be hosting another session on cryptic crosswords & sudoku. The last session enabled participants to develop skills and techniques to solve these mysteries.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Tutor: Rex Oddy

Each month photography group members are invited to bring along digital images or videos that are either based on the theme for the month or are of personal interest. We have a theme each month, because having a theme can create a challenge and meeting that challenge helps us to improve our photography. Above all, photography like all hobbies and art forms is a personal activity. We take photos for ourselves, it doesn't matter if other people don't quite get the



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point, it's whether we like them or not that matters most and being part of a group helps us to learn and improve.

Most months in addition to our workshop there is a photoshoot, a photographic field trip. Everyone is welcome to join the photoshoot but the location is not decided until just before the date of the outing. The date of the photoshoot is on the monthly schedule but for time and location details email rex.oddy@xtra.co.nz.



A.I. CHATGPT, etc.

Host: Ruth Healy

Let's keep the momentum going!

We're excited to continue our journey with this ever-evolving program. Many of our fellow members have shared fascinating ways they've been using ChatGPT – from everyday tasks to creative exploration.

We warmly welcome your input, ideas, experiences, and questions. Let's continue growing together through technology!



COOKING CHAT

Host: Marina Sanderson

Come along and learn about cooking for one, two or more people. Share favourite recipes and find new recipes to try. There is a new topic every month to tantalise your taste buds.



COFFEE GROUP (morphed from Book Ends)

Host: Patricia Lough

Not so very different from Book Ends. We will discuss all sorts of things, whatever takes our fancy. Of course, there will be trips down memory lane with short cuts and detours. Some to do with whatever we're discussing but not necessarily. Give some thought to topics you find interesting not only to read about but activities, shows, sports, tv etc etc, etc (to quote The King and I 😊).



PAINTING GROUP

Host: Glen Plaistowe

At our painting group on the 1st and 3rd Mondays we share and comment on the paintings we had done at home and marvel at the range of styles and subjects we have achieved. We then paint together sharing skills and techniques we have learnt.



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HANDCRAFTS

Host: June McCullough

Handcraft is for anyone who likes to craft by hand. It can be knitting, crochet, lace making, hand sewing or hand embroidery, card making. Come along and share your talent. If you want to learn great just bring your supplies. You can knit and sew for the charity we support if you wish or just come along and have a cuppa and chat.



FAMILY TREE MAKER (suspended until next year)

Host: Bernice Hyde

Join Bernice, an experienced user and tutor of Family Tree Maker, as she shares her extensive knowledge of the program's features. Whether you're just starting out or an advanced user looking to refine your family tree, Bernice is here to answer your questions and help you make the most of this powerful tool.

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- PC 'housekeeping' to reduce program-clog and unwanted pop-up messages
- Checking your security against Viruses Spyware is current & working correctly
- Sorting files and photos, and organising an appropriate backup procedure to protect your data files



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NOVEMBER SUNDAY MEETING

IMMIGRATION AND THE FUTURE OF NEW ZEALAND

Professor Paul Spoonley, a leading New Zealand demographer and immigration expert, recently addressed our club on the complex mix of challenges and opportunities presented by immigration.



Drawing on his international work—including with the Max Planck Institute in Germany—he explained that population change, rather than political ideology, is now the driving force behind immigration policy worldwide.

New Zealand, like many developed nations, is facing a sharp decline in birth rates and an ageing population. The fertility rate has fallen to around 1.5 births per woman, well below the replacement level of 2.1. Within two decades, nearly a quarter of New Zealanders will be aged 65 or older. Without immigration, our population would begin to shrink, and our workforce would struggle to meet demand. Business NZ projects a shortage of 250,000 workers by the 2030s.

Immigration is therefore vital to maintaining our economy and essential services. Skilled migrants—especially from India, China, and the Philippines—now underpin key sectors such as healthcare, aged care, and information technology. Yet, as Paul warned, New Zealand

also faces a “brain exchange”: while we welcome skilled newcomers, many of our own graduates leave for higher pay and opportunities in Australia and elsewhere.

He emphasised that integration has largely been positive. Migrant families tend to value education highly, and their New Zealand-born children often excel academically. However, Paul also believes the country lacks a coherent **population and social-cohesion policy**. Unlike Canada, which funds language and settlement support, New Zealand offers little formal assistance to help newcomers adapt to local culture and idioms—things as simple as “bring a plate.”

Globally, Paul noted, anti-immigrant politics are rising even as nations depend more on migrant labour. He urged New Zealand to maintain its tradition of openness while managing migration at a sustainable pace. Immigration, he concluded, is not just an economic necessity but a social opportunity—one that will shape the character and success of New Zealand in the decades ahead.



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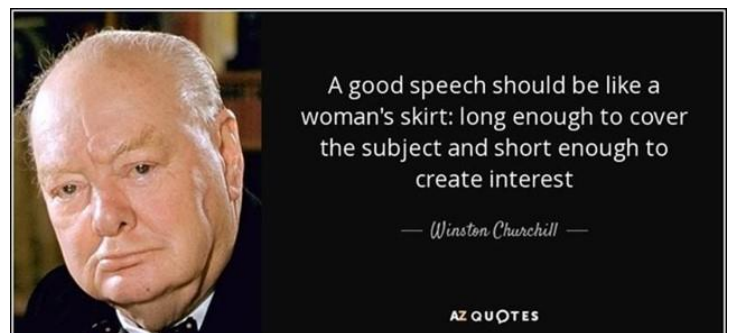
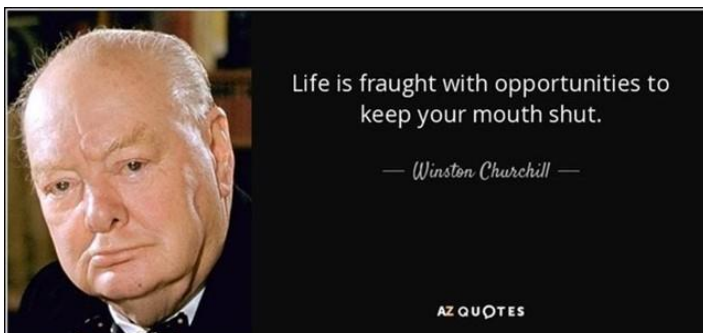
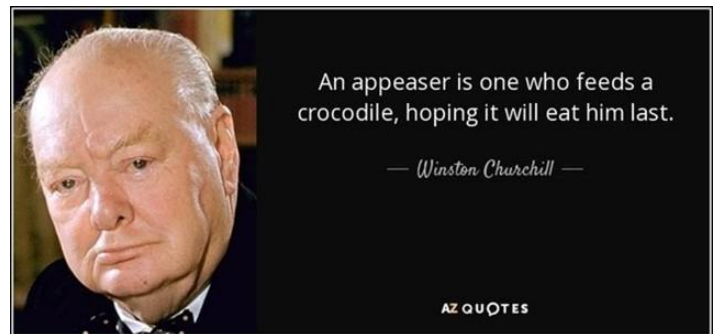
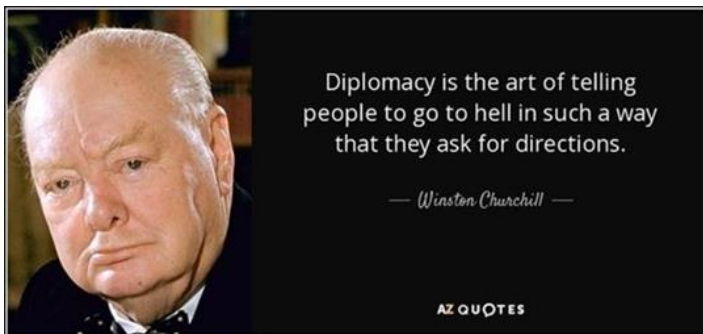
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WINSTON CHURCHILL QUOTES



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NOVEMBER VISIT TO DATACOM CENTRE

When approaching Datacom regarding a visit to their data centre in Albany, they responded: 'We are truly excited to welcome you and your members to our facility'.

The company was founded in 1965, has 5,300 employees at 26 locations in New Zealand and Australia and operates four data centres in New Zealand and two in Australia.



Due to a number of health and safety requirements on the part of Datacom our group only numbered 5 members. The centre is a high security facility and it was an experience to go through the various steps. A list of those attending was submitted days before the visit and we were issued with an access code. Arriving at the gate, we gave our credentials via intercom and the first gate opened allowing us to drive in up to the second gate. That opened only after the first gate had closed to prevent tail gating. The security officer checked each of us against a photo ID, we were photographed and were given a visitor label bearing our name and photo and then our guide took over. No photography was permitted except for one place and confidentiality revolved primarily around client names.

The heart of the data centre are the racks of servers holding all the clients' data and to ensure an absolute continuous operation, a massive support system is in place. Powerful transformers reduce the incoming high voltage to regular mains voltage and feed it into uninterrupted power supply units. They smooth out power fluctuations and switch instantly to battery supply when mains power has been lost. Pre-warmed backup power generators are ready to take over within 20 seconds of a power failure and fuel levels and fuel contamination is regularly checked. Cooling is primarily with outdoor air, which is pumped into the space below the servers, cycling through the server room and rising as warm air into a large space above. There it is mixed with fresh outdoor air and a new cycle commences. Air is only occasionally cooled mechanically. Being environmentally responsible and a 'good neighbour' is another key objective and figures are reported monthly to clients. There are backups and control systems for every function to safeguard a continuous operation and a visit to the control room ended our formal tour to be followed by refreshments.



While there is considerable secrecy about power hungry data centres being built here, we were given a comprehensive tour of Datacom with many detailed explanations and our guide was in no hurry to send us on our way. For us it was a most informative visit.



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TEKZONE TIPS

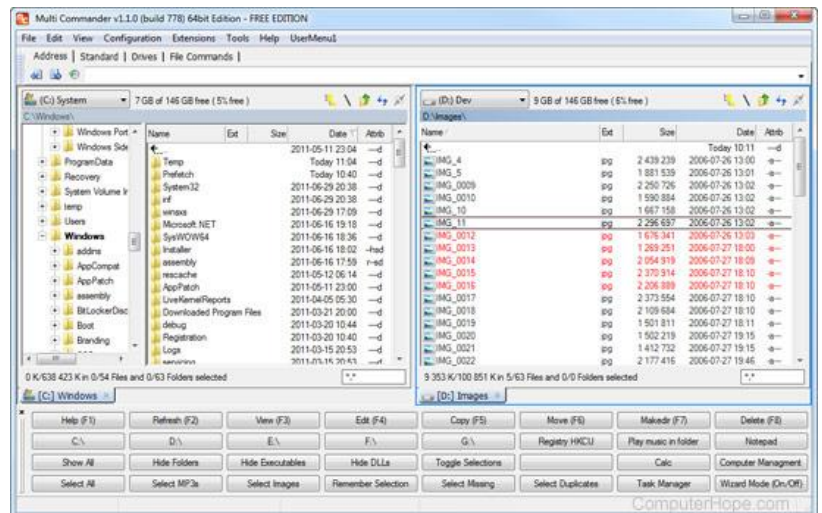
Melson Lee

Multi Commander

Microsoft Windows Explorer is great for general file management tasks. However, there are several more complicated tasks that Windows Explorer cannot handle. **Multi Commander** can accomplish these advanced tasks. It's a free file manager that lets you manage your files and perform many tasks not possible through Windows Explorer. In the picture below, is an example of the Multi Commander interface. As shown, the interface is similar to Windows Explorer with additional features such as multiple panes, tabs, and buttons.

Features of Multi Commander

- Compare the right and left file explorers and show what's different.
- Built using Extension/Plug-in architecture that allows almost any imaginable feature to be added.
- Easily filter and copy or move only the files specified in the filter.
- Excellent keyboard support for anyone who enjoys keyboard shortcuts or working without using a mouse.
- Convert files between Unix (LF), Windows (CRLF), and Mac (CR) format.
- Browse and read files within a RAR (Roshal ARchive) without extracting the files.
- Quickly change a file or folder name to all lowercase, all uppercase, or Camel case.
- Browse, update, and modify the system Registry.
- Create and verify the MD5 and SFV (CRC32) Checksum of files using the MC-Checksum extension.
- Tab support to have multiple folders open at once.
- Script engine support to create scripts to automate tasks.
- FTP (File Transfer Protocol) support.
- Save and load a selection of files and folders to memory or a file.



Why Choose Multi Commander?

Unlike traditional file managers, Multi Commander focuses on **speed, flexibility, and productivity**. Whether you are a casual user looking for a better way to manage files or an IT professional handling complex operations, Multi Commander provides the tools and customization options you need. You can download the installation file from <https://multicommander.com/Downloads> and find out more about Multi Command from <https://multicommander.com/>



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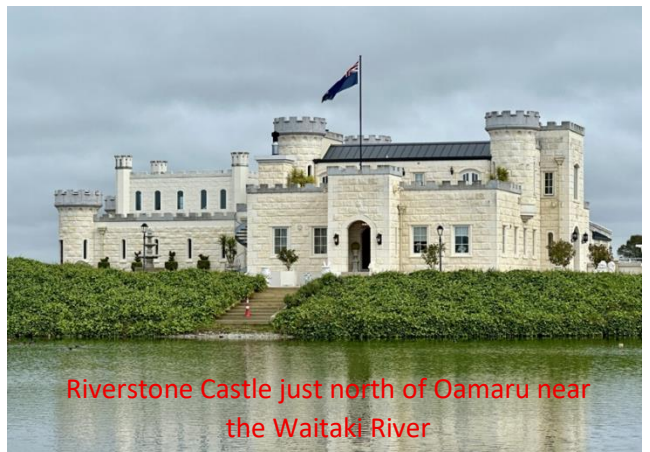


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