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MEDIA RELEASE

Mid Murray Seniors Encouraged to get ‘Tech Savvy’ with Free Digital Training

Mid Murray seniors are being encouraged to increase their digital literacy skills and gain confidence using everyday digital devices by signing up for a range of free programs at Mannum and Morgan in March.

The Tech Savvy Seniors program is a partnership between the Libraries Board of South Australia, Telstra, the Office for the Ageing and Service SA, and offers introductory courses on internet use, social media, email and digital devices.

Morgan and Districts Community Hub Coordinator Lisa Walker says the hands-on sessions were designed to be a fun and relaxed way of learning new online skills for seniors.

“In an increasingly online and digitally connected world, where more of our daily interactions and activities move online, digital technologies are now an integral part of life,” she says.

“Digital inclusion is about ensuring every Australian is able to make full use of digital technologies – to be able to access education, online businesses and service, contact family and friends and participate in the digital economy.

Mrs Walker says those who aren’t up to speed with the latest technology and online services can often feel excluded and encouraged them to be proactive to improve their digital literacy.

“The program gives older people the opportunity to develop the skills and confidence to use technology for socialising, accessing important services or conducting personal business,” she says.

“We are hoping to educate and assist more people to keep in contact with family and friends using digital devices and social media by taking some of the mystery out of the valuable tools used for social inclusion and connectivity.”

The program is the first combined project to be delivered under the Mid Murray Libraries Strategic Plan, which was adopted in late 2017.

Mid Murray Libraries were awarded their first combined project grant of \$4,600 from Public Libraries SA to carry out the training, which will be eventually be rolled out through all Mid Murray library sites.

With four sessions scheduled at Mannum and Morgan already, more will be planned according to need and Mrs Walker encouraged residents to discuss their digital literacy needs with library staff.

Morgan and Districts Community Hub Assistant Coordinator Wendy Crabb says library staff are looking forward to seeing some light-bulb moments on the faces of participants during the sessions.

“If the only “tablet” you’re familiar with is the one you take with water, and you think “browsing” is something done only at the shops, you’re not alone,” she says.

“The staff and volunteers at the Mannum Community Library and Morgan Public Library are all looking forward to helping you learn about digital technology through this amazing program.”

Course details are as follows:

Morgan Public Library

- Learning about Android: how to use your smartphone – 9 March from 1.30pm until 3pm;
- Learning about Apple: how to use your iPhone – 16 March from 1.30pm until 3pm.

Mannum Community Library

- Computers for Beginners – 14 March from 2.30pm until 4.30pm;
- Emails for Beginners – 21 March from 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

Bookings are essential and participants need to bring their own devices along to sessions.

For more information, contact the Mannum Community Library on (08) 8569 1503 or the Morgan Public Library on (08) 8540 0060.

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