

**The Apple mobile special interest group has its first meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.** Ten members were there.

We started off with a problem solving workshop that addressed the following issues:-

- What is Split Screen View and how do you make it work. Mark demonstrated it and everyone who had qualifying iPads had a go. Creating two apps side by side is a little tricky and requires patience. For more on this visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSBZKr5kXYM>
- The importance of knowing one's Apple ID and password was illustrated with a member who did not have his late wife's Apple ID and password and had been diligently working through a process to try and change the password. Luckily he had the passcode for the device with is an advantage. He was heading home to continue to make progress.
- Mail featured for many people with a range of issues from having email return after deleting it, using the new mail features, finding mail and deleting bulk emails in the Apple mail app. Because most mail issues are specific to a device and the mail provider behind it, the best thing to do is to attend the Friday help day with specific issues you can't resolve so that we can review the specific settings and email protocols associated with your mail and look for solutions you can use. Here is a link to Apple support for the mail app which may be useful:- <https://support.apple.com/en-nz/mail>

We then went on the discuss agenda topics for this meeting

- Google and Apple was discussed at length and everyone present had a Google account which was good. Mark presented some advantages to using Google apps on the Apple devices and advantages to using Google when other devices were not in the Apple family. It was suggested that there was no reason to move away from Apple apps if all your devices were Apple, except to say that Apple limits on storage on their cloud service is limited and over time, it will be necessary to pay a small sum to increase your storage.
- He group discussed if it was time to make an iPad your main computer and we were lucky enough to have a couple of members who had largely done just that. We heard from them on their experience and both reported no issues making the change. With support for mouse, keyboard, access to files and printing Apple have removed all roadblocks to making the iPad your computer. Having talked about that, Mark has not yet made a decision to make the iPad his main computer but may do so in the future.
- App of the Month was Bitwarden, a free and fully featured password app that works on all devices and links them to encrypted data on all of your devices. Here is a link to the product: <https://bitwarden.com/> This can be download from the app store to all your Apple devices and from Playstore for Android phones and the Microsoft store for Windows computers.

- The importance of the Apple ID, what it does and safeguarding its username and passwords was discussed. Here is a link to Apple ID with lots of questions answered and tips provided: <https://support.apple.com/apple-id>
- Members seemed genuinely pleased with how the first meeting went. Members warmed quickly to the format, shared and listened and were all active in engaging in the process which is exactly what we hoped would happen. We hope members will build on this experience and come along to other meetings when they happen on the last Thursday of the month between February and November at 11am for up to two hours.
- Share your experience with others who have Apple mobile devices. It would be good to build on this first meeting and really make it work for those who attend.