

MEDIA RELEASE

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Banana Shire Senior Library and Information Services Advisor Ruth Thompson explains to Wowan resident Graham Bell what some of the tutorial in the digital literacy lessons will cover.

New program to open digital world to elderly residents

Graham Bell is counting down the days until the Banana Shire Library Service commences delivery of digital literacy lessons.

The Wowan resident relies heavily on his laptop and the internet to communicate to family and friends and for dabbling in research.

But what he really wants to do is access podcasts, digital television shows and carry out more intensive research.

“When you are an older resident, living in a small rural community, you can be quite isolated,” Mr Bell says.

“The internet allows you to break down these barriers, but it is pointless if you don’t understand how it works or how to access some of the wonderful programs and technology that is out there.

“I can’t wait – I will be able to start watching some of those fantastic documentaries.”

Banana Shire Council Library staff will roll out a series of digital literacy lessons at sites in Biloela, Moura, Baralaba and Taroom having successfully applied for the Tech Savvy Regional Queensland Grant 2018. Banana Shire Council will be receiving the \$9850 grant funded by the State Library of Queensland.

The “Rural Seniors Communicating Digitally” program will deliver 10 sessions of 1.5 hours in duration in each location.

Banana Shire Mayor Nev Ferrier says Council is hoping to launch the program during Adult Learners Week 1-9 September.

“Structured topics will be covered in half of the session time, the other half will be for participants to ask questions about their own devices, or area of particular interest, and ask specific questions of the facilitators about concerns they are having with different aspects of the digital world,” Cr Ferrier says.

He says Council can provide six laptops and six iPads that can be used during the lessons.

Mr Bell says the program is a wonderful initiative and will be popular among older residents living in the Shire.

“Unfortunately, those living in small rural communities often get forgotten about,” Mr Bell says.

“As you get older communicating and connecting with other people, and the wider world is very important, not only for your own wellbeing, but also to expand your life.

“I am sure these training sessions will be well attended.”
