Discussion Group.

The Discussion Group has eight members. We meet monthly and cover a wide range of topics within our discussions. Our most recent topic was Artificial Intelligence (AI). There had been media reports of the resignation of Geoffrey Hinton (known as the Godfather of AI) from Google and his fears of its effect on humanity. Also, that Elon Musk and other leaders in technology had written an "open letter asking the scientific world to slow down the advancement of AI because it is moving at a speed with which the world cannot keep up. The group, with levels of technical expertise from worse than zero to quite knowledgeable, considered it a topic worthy of our joint intellect. This is a short outline of our discussion.
A definition of AI is the theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision making and translation between languages."

Our quite knowledgeable member provided us with an outline of what Artificial Intelligence is about and that there is great concern within the technical world of what it can do and is likely to be able to do in the future. He has an ap on his smart phone which he can converse with by voice and not know that it is not a human at the other end. A picture can appear of the "person" you are talking to and you will not know that is just an image. But, one of the alarming abilities displayed by AI, is its ability to learn from that conversation and pass on that knowledge to other systems within micro seconds. These systems have the ability to be in operation and communicating all day every day and use their knowledge to make decisions.

AI can benefit mankind in all aspects of life such as science, medicine, business, education, government etc. It can write poetry, novels, songs, music, newspaper articles etc. It is capable of original thought and to develop ideas.

The group agreed that without the proper controls AI would take skills, and decision making from people and humanity would become dependent on AI and machines. Already major employers are planning to substantially reduce their workforces due to the introduction of AI. This will include control centres and legal processes such as conveyancing.

It was an interesting discussion with different opinions and the opportunity to let our minds run a little wild.