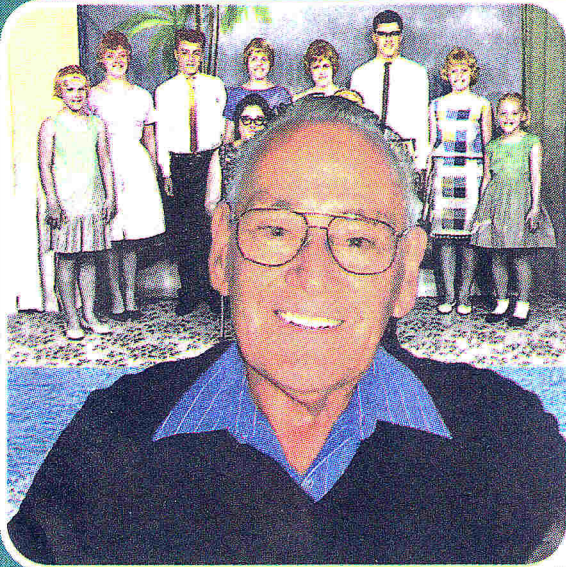## Me and my...

Noel Finch fleshes out his old photos with colouring software. www.akvis.com

A family's old black and white photos have been transformed with a computer program called Coloriage. The image shown here behind Noel Finch is of his wife's family taken in Rabaul in 1964.

"Before my mum passed away, she gave me a small bundle of photos of myself as a baby and child. I've got dozens of photos of my brothers and sisters and other ones of my dad that I've coloured. They're beautiful. I scan them in grayscale and then ! colour them from there. The program is a plug-in for most of the photo-editing suites on the market. When you open an image, you select 'Filter' and start the process."

You can colour everything from the background to people, then?

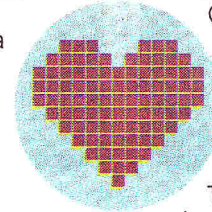"The choice of 'People' in the colour palette is broken down into skin, eyes, hair, lips. If you select 'skin', this is further broken down to Asian, African or Caucasian, with hundreds of shades in each category from which to choose. I just find it such an exciting way of preserving old photos, as well as keeping my brain active."

You're 63. Are many older people into technology?

"I run a computer beginners' group for the Uniting Church. People [in my area] tend to inherit their kids' old computers, and consequently they don't even know how to turn them on. You'd be surprised just how many people are really getting into it.

"I run another mature-age computer group. We've got 40-odd members. They're nuts. They're surfing the internet, fixing up pictures, downloading music and storing music from their LPs onto CDs."

Charles Purcell

Own a gadget you love or hate?
Email meandmy@smh.com.au