

AUGUST 2019

Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents

Telephone 09 576 4500

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AUGUST HELP DAYS

Thursday 08 Aug @ 10:00 AM
Wednesday 14 Aug @ 10:00 AM
Thursday 22 Aug @ 1:00 PM
Friday 30 Aug @ 10:00 AM

**To view all SeniorNet courses
and timetable, click here**

<http://www.senpak.nz/courses/>

FOUND

Found in the Learning Centre.
If it belongs to you, please contact Graeme.



Our next Meeting,
Friday 2nd August
at 10.00am

St Andrews Church Centre
Corner Ridge Rd and Vincent St

The main entrance is in Vincent
Street with parking in the grounds
and disabled parking near the base-
ment entrance.

Visitors welcome

The early speaker will be Jim Currie who will talk
about Google Drive and its associated applications
from Google Suite.

The main speaker will be Harold Russ of Pakuranga
College with two of his students, Tor Larsen and
Tyler Gamble, who will demonstrate their studying of
Robotics - best thought of as a practical introduction
to engineering, especially in the areas of mechanical,
electrical, electronic and computer systems
engineering.

Tor's "warehouse robot" will be displayed and Tyler
will introduce his "pizza delivery robot".



NEW MEMBERS



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Eunice Bailey
Jane Davis
Neil Nicklin

BITS & BYTES

Brian Erikson

Jim and Adair Currie are moving south shortly and we wish them well in their new community. Jim has been a member of SeniorNet for over 10 years and in that time has volunteered and done wonderful work on the committee, here at meetings and as a tutor in many topics.

We seem to hear more and more about phone and internet scams. This should be a warning that scammers are increasingly bold and aggressive. One recent Listener article mentioned that a caller claimed to be a Spark rep who was investigating potential fraudulent internet banking activity with the assistance of Police. It seems they convince the target to aid their investigation by transferring some of their money to a special account. The end result is that's usually the last they see of it. It is very unlikely Spark or any provider, have spare staff to call you for an event you didn't initiate. Remember the Police, Spark, Vodafone, Call Plus, My Republic etc are keen to clamp down on scams and fraud and will not use pressure tactics or threats to get you to cooperate. All of these organisations track customer issues with a case number. I recommend that if you feel the need to pursue the matter rather than hanging up, ask for the case number and then hang up and call back the organisation using their standard customer access numbers published on your account or the phone book or website. No matter who answers they will have access to the case number and if necessary can direct your call to the correct agent.

The same article mentioned Spark has special phone + service for sale called Call Screen that requires the caller to provide a name before the call is connected to the phone and the name is displayed so that you can determine if its someone you know. One of the benefits are that robot calls that cannot provide a name don't proceed and you can create a list of blocked callers who won't get through.

We have had NetSafe talk at monthly meeting and to get the latest on scams go to their website netsafe.org.nz where you can also report online incidents. Other information sources on the internet are CERT.govt.nz and ConnectSmart.govt.nz.

Notes from July Meeting

Dawn Howarth

Another excellent meeting this month. Graeme stood in for our Brian and did a really great job. He talked about the new slide scanner they had purchased, demonstrated its ease of operation and advised we can book time to use this by contacting him. A nice addition to the assets of our SeniorNet.

Graeme then went on to talk about how very easy it is for us to be *scammed*. A show of hands revealed that almost half of our group has been contacted by the latest 'Spark' scammers. Hopefully none of us have taken their bait. Graeme had managed to find a series of cartoons which show the variety and simplicity of scams and just how wary we must be. Choose a password that is not in the dictionary, add punctuation, capitals in odd places, numerals. *Never, never, never give your password to anyone.* Would you give your credit card PIN to anyone? Same for your computer.

There are simple ways to steal via public WiFi. Only carry out financial transactions at home on your own WiFi. Online dating is another big scam and making money easily is sure to be a scam. You can always contact netsafe.org.nz if you have a problem with a scammer.

On the following page is my lowly attempt at summarizing David Park's amazing address. Thank you David for your mesmerising talk.

Due to technical hitches on an earthly level, there was no lucky draw.

Thank you organisers for yet another great day.

A WISE MAN ONCE SAID NOTHING

SOME THINGS ARE JUST BETTER LEFT UNSAID. AND I USUALLY REALIZE IT RIGHT AFTER I SAY THEM

After our coffee break, Neville Lane (who was standing in for Maggie) introduced David Park, of Austral Aviation Consultants. David has had a career in aviation both with Air New Zealand and our AirForce. Over the last 5-10 years he has been involved with the launching of NASA balloons from the Wanaka airport. Balloons are used as they cost a fraction of launching a satellite.

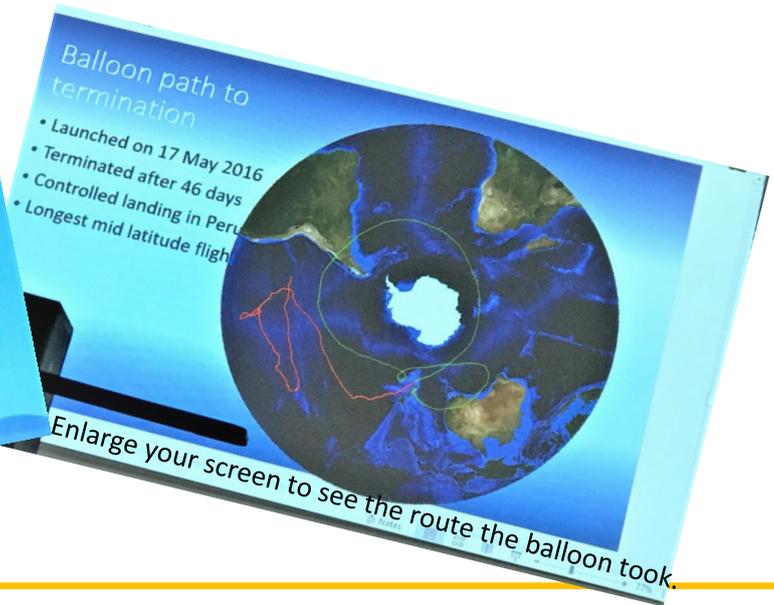
NASA telephoned the Wanaka Airport at 3am one morning asking if they could use the airport to release their balloons. The Airport Manager thought it was a joke and hung up. NASA called back and was eventually believed. This has resulted in years of the inevitable planning permission with a scientific treaty having to be drawn up with the US and inspections of the Wanaka area which includes a 2.1mile radius exclusion zone at launch time.

Wanaka is an excellent location and chosen due to its southern latitude (on the 45° parallel), few other flight restrictions and low population area. There are about a dozen similar sites around the globe including in Australia, however Wanaka is the most southerly.

In 2015 a successful test launch was held without the super expensive technical equipment attached. Then in 2016 saw the successful launch of the a fully equipped balloon followed by the longest flight (46 days) of any of the NASA balloons. What an incredible sight it must have been.

These wonderful balloons are used to gather scientific data, from which they learn more about the birth and death of stars, supernovae, Gamma rays, the discovery of ultra high energy cosmic rays, elements, minerals and even Stardust were mentioned. Most of that however was too complicated for me to elaborate. Suffice to say, we are all made up from billions of years of stardust.

Cost \$1m each balloon and they fly 33km high.
Each helium filled balloon is 275m high, 91m diameter and weighs 2400kgs.
Each of the 280 gores which make up a balloon is over 200m long and these are heat sealed to the next gore.
They float where the wind takes them but are tracked and can be brought down by ground control at any time. The technical equipment can be reused but the balloons are only able to be used once.



Comments, Queries, Suggestions, Free Advertising

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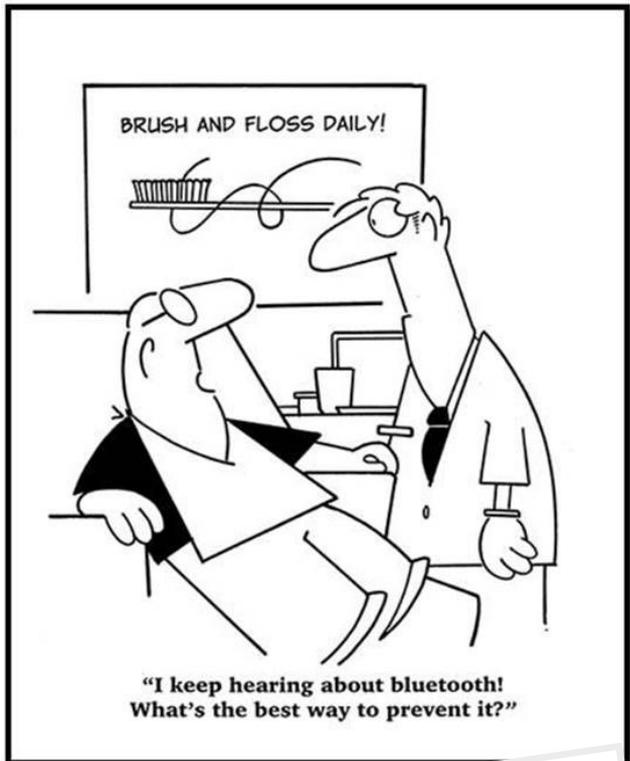
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*I'm all for safer motoring, but really...
I couldn't repair your brakes,
so I made your horn louder.
It did make me smile though.*

When you let your mom cut your hair and she tells you what a handsome young man you are



Laugh More Often

**Common sense is not
a gift, it's a punishment.
Because you have to
deal with everyone
who doesn't have it.**

COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

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A Senior's Version of FACEBOOK

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

Course Booking Information

- * You need to be a member of SeniorNet to take part in our classes.
- * If you need assistance in deciding on a course, please contact the Tutor who will answer any questions and also take your booking.
- * Our Courses are all held at our Learning Centre at
12 Ben Lomond Crescent, Pakuranga.
- * Please park on the road as no parking is permitted on site.
- * Note: We require you to pay a course fee to cover the cost of notes and other expenses. Please bring the correct cash or cheque to the first session.

WAIVER: Some of our members voluntarily and willingly give help and advice to other members on matters relating to computers, associated equipment and software. This includes information contained in the columns of this newsletter and other publications including our SeniorNet Website. This help or advice is taken solely at the recipient's risk and imposes no responsibility or liability of any kind, either on those providing such help or advice, or the newsletter Editors or SeniorNet (Pakuranga) Inc.