

MAY 2020

Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents

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This issue:

- ◆ New members
- ◆ **Bits and Bytes**
- ◆ Dawn's ramblings
- ◆ Your Committee
- ◆ A few smiles
- ◆ Course/Help information



Our next Meeting,
I don't know
but not soon enough

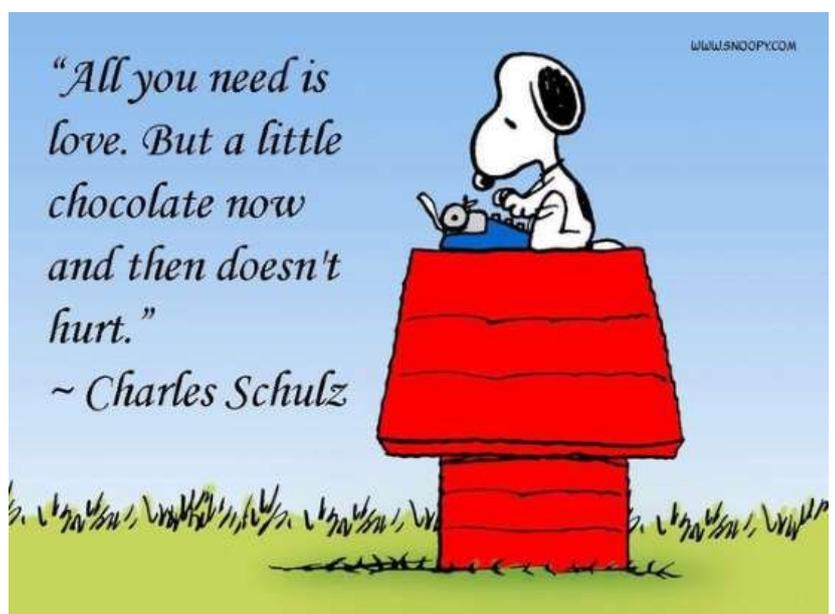
8 NEW MEMBERS



Heather McFarlane
Clive Bolt
Stephen Dancer
Wendy Fletcher
Frank Hayes
Keith Erikson
Donald Silvester
Robin Tuckey

Marriage tip:

When your wife is mowing the lawn, that's not the best time to ask when dinner will be ready.



When this is over... what meeting do I attend first... Weight Watchers or AA?

By now we have become old hands at social distancing and as a consequence we may have had to depend on our digital devices to interact with families and friends, to purchase groceries and other goods as well as entertain ourselves.

Ok we have had to forgo our Monthly Meeting and cancel our Training and Help programmes but a lot of thought is going into making progress.

Graeme FitzGerald has been generously putting in a lot of effort to get together and distributing via our email system a range helpful hints and new things you may like to try.

The nine committee members met on Zoom and that went quite smoothly after Graeme rehearsed a few of us in the correct video and microphone settings.

We are puzzling over conducting our own remote training courses. Schools are running remote lessons but the trick for us is to work out how you can receive the remote instruction on the same device that you are trying to learn about and then give help if something is not understood. The SeniorNet Federation also have a Resource Team looking at the issue.

The two interactive self-paced training we have circulated so far are provided by Auckland Libraries accessing *Lynda.com* and our recommendation <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/topics>.

More about free Zoom for not for profit use. It might seem a little complicated first time but once you have used it you will appreciate how well it is put together and use it yourself to link friends and family. Here is a pdf introduction to Zoom as a participant: (I think we can do a shorter version.)

https://www.goucher.edu/learn/graduate-programs/distance-learning-resources/documents/student_documents/HowtoParticipateInAZoomMeeting.pdf

Zoom can have a very large number of participants and probably becomes impactable to manage until we build up experience. We are looking at how smaller groups could be set up for special interest or topics:

In this case you would register your interest, the host would schedule a meeting and invite you from within Zoom Host control using your email address. To join you click on the zoom link within the email and Zoom is installed (first time only if you don't already have it). Click to join the meeting and if you are early you go into the "waiting room" and when the host comes online you get admission. (Once you have zoom installed you can schedule and host your own meetings)

There are a few controls you need such as is the microphone on and is the video camera on and details of these can be found in the tutorial link above.

I am contemplating whether a larger meeting for over 100 could be held to replace the monthly meeting. Additional study is need in inviting large number and logging them in from the waiting room and it seems we should use their "webinar" option which is about \$70 per meeting for up to 100 attached devices or quite a bit more for the next capacity step. We could get in-house speakers to present stuff they have already done using "Share Screen" or we could have general help questions and pass these to the appropriate person to answer within the meeting. With larger meetings the participants should use the "current speaker" mode which highlights over about two-thirds of the screen the person talking the loudest. As participants who are listening only should mute their microphones to avoid a lot of background noise. Even with the microphone muted a participant can text a query to the host via the Chat option.

You know if you keep a glass of wine in each hand you can't accidentally touch your face

Ramblings from Dawn

Hello fellow Isolationers,

I hope you are coping well with our sudden and severe isolation. Actually it is going extremely well for me. I am certainly not spending it doing housework. My pantry shelves are still a mess, the fridge needs a good empty and clean as do my all my kitchen cupboards and drawers, my wardrobe, my sewing room, even my computer. But, I am in isolation and consider I must do whatever it takes to make me happy. I have therefore been spending hours on the phone chatting, I have been stitching, reading, I baked bread one day, I have made some delicious meals, installed Netflix and watched *The Crown*, an excellent series. I'm a royalist so have crossed the Duke off my Christmas card list. I have also been playing Rummicub and until yesterday kept winning, I was beaten twice yesterday so I will hide the game now. I have really been busy and don't think I will get everything done by the time we are allowed out. On a sad note, the gin is almost gone and the supermarket doesn't sell it, so keeping our happy hour happy will be a challenge. Tea doesn't cut it there.

I must say everyone we meet when we go for walks, is so much more friendly than they were a month or two ago. There are big smiles, cheerful hellos, waves from those passing when I sit near a window — next to my 75 year old teddy who is also waving to everyone. I hope you are smiling and waving, it does make you feel better.

Time to wish you happy isolation, have fun — and phone a friend.

I swear my fridge just said "what the hell do you want now?"

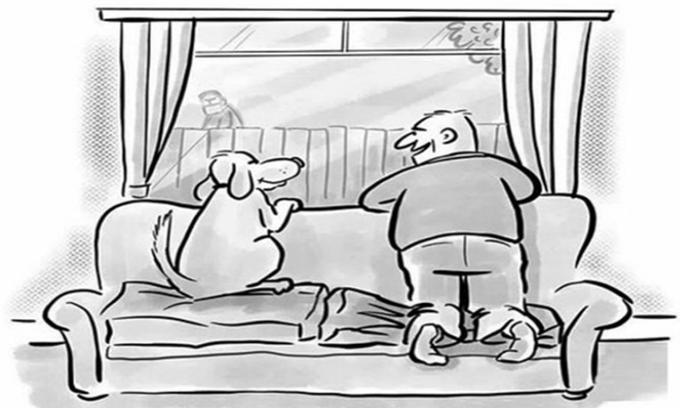


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"How do you feel about me going to my sister's for two weeks?"



"Until now, I never understood why you got so excited when someone walked past the house."

How long have we been on Lockdown.

THE OLDER YOU GET
THE MORE YOU APPRECIATE
BEING AT HOME DOING
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.



HELP AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

We are exploring ways of supporting the members with distance learning using **Zoom** to deliver courses, and **AnyDesk** to provide one-on-one help with computer problems.

By now you will have received an email listing the tutors contact email addresses and instructions on how to download **AnyDesk**. I have also listed the tutors and their contact email addresses below. Please don't hesitate to contact the appropriate tutor, but if you are unsure who best can help, send your request to help@senpak.nz and the Course Coordinator will send your request to the appropriate tutor. Make sure you include your name, membership number and phone number.

We are currently working on how best to deliver courses via **Zoom**. When we are ready, we will start sending detail on how to install **Zoom**. When the schedule is set up, invitations to courses will be sent via email.

In the meantime, hang in there. We will get out of our isolation one day.

Graeme FitzGerald, Systems Manager

Apple iPads, Windows 10 operating system:- Contact Dick Harris dick@senpak.nz

CD/DVD Burning & Flash Drives, Google apps, Smart Phones/Tablets: - Contact Brian Erikson brian@senpak.nz

Facebook, WhatsApp: - Diane McGregor diane@senpak.nz

Genealogy, Windows 10 Photos: Graeme FitzGerald graeme@senpak.nz

MS Excel: - Mike Empson mike@senpak.nz

MS Word: - Janet Gardner janet@senpak.nz

Caution on this music site. <https://youtu.be/87-ZFjLfBAQ>

It promotes a number of famous artists as a way of fundraising. Its operated by Global Citizen , an American charity. You can certainly look/ listen to the music on the site but it takes a while to start.

Be careful if you are tempted to click SUBSCRIBE in the lower righthand corner to speed things up. SUBSCRIBE gathers your credit card info from somewhere within YouTube or Facebook (note the spelling ofyoutu.be in the link- the dot is ignored) and sets you onto a repeat subscription price, but with one month to cancel. This is known as an "opt out" transaction and obviously making false clicks lucrative because it is very difficult to find out how to stop the subscription. On about page 12 of their terms and conditions is a way of writing to them to request the termination of your account- its certainly not a click to terminate and its not all that clear whether these terms relate to viewers or artists offering their services.

