

Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents

Telephone 09 576 4500

SeniorNet (Pakuranga) Inc
PO Box 82-306 Highland Park, Auckland 2143



This issue:

- ◆ Next meeting
- ◆ New members
- ◆ **Bits and Bytes**
- ◆ Dawn's Ramblings
- ◆ Tony's "They said what?"
- ◆ Your Committee
- ◆ Dec/January Help Days
- ◆ Joining a course details

Dear Lord,
Please don't let Brussel Sprouts
be a part of the cure of Covid-19 Virus.



Our next Meeting,
Friday 4 December
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 basement entrance.

Visitors welcome

The early speaker will be Brian carrying on from Rein van de Vusse's talk last month on buying a device. He will cover the choices you should consider in buying a smartphone.

The main speaker will be Warren Taylor on the Story of Skellerup Industries.



9 NEW MEMBERS

Brigid Bates	Carole Harris
Kevin McGreal	Coralie LaRoche
Vincent Cheong	Ian Rodger
Charlotte Brits	Jean Briscoe
Ravneet Grewal	



Its been an off-again-on-again year but here we are and the festive seasons is upon us. Thank you to all our elected committee, volunteer tutors and helpers, and the members who make the monthly meeting flow smoothly. I would like to acknowledge, on your behalf, the generosity of Jan and Doug White who have provided the Christmas meeting morning refreshments. Doug also generously supports us in the Learning Centre situated in his business Cascade Storage.

Our sound expert Jim Hine, who for years was on the committee as Technical Advisor has stepped down from managing the sound system at St Andrews. Dick Harris will take this on but we would like one or two extras to learn the ropes, so if that's you, please approach Dick.

After many years as a keen and effective helper at Help Days, Tony Haack is also making way for others. I don't get to Help Days often but it's a cheerful bunch who learn off each other while helping you. Perhaps you can think about helping too. If you have read the Chairman's lead item in the latest Gizmoe you will understand the importance of succession and the need to have as many people as possible contributing locally.

We take a break from various activities, the last being a Help session on the Tuesday 22 December at 1pm. We do not have a January meeting and will not publish a newsletter until February 2021 so keep an eye out for course booking invitations in your inbox.

A group of about 22 SeniorNet members from around New Zealand is mid-way through trialling distance learning using a combination of Google Classrooms and Zoom for short 30-minute topics under the banner of Senior Hangouts. These are seen as a way of reaching people who are unable to get to a learning centre due to distance or transport issues and can also meet a wider range of time-table hours. The trial is using morning, evening and night slots as well as weekends, to find out the issues that can be important for tutors and learners in this mode of instruction.

In closing, may I take this opportunity to wish you all, a very merry Christmas and happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas meeting or at our meetings next year.



Ramblings

Dawn Howarth

Very little to ramble about this month. I am self-isolating because I have a cold. Because I live in a retirement village and everyone is wary of those with colds, I went for a Covid test yesterday. Certainly easy and painless, but 2 hour wait sitting in the car in the queue was a long time. Quite a few people "gave up" in the queue and left !!

I was "thrilled" (yeah right) to be offered a free Shingles vaccine from our local doctor—because I am under 80. I paid about \$180 for the same thing about 3 years ago. They work for 5-8 years the nurse said. This deal is running until Christmas if any of you are interested.

Some nice news—last week I went on a bus trip to the New Plymouth Garden Festival and loved it. It used to be called the Rhododendron Festival but they are at their best in June so we missed most of them but the gardens we visited were full of beautiful blooms, rhodos, poppies, roses, peonies, daisies and lots of plants I haven't seen before. It was really inspiring to see those huge glorious gardens and now I am wondering how I could do something similar in my 1metre wide strips. Dream on Dawn.

FINALLY, MY BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL FOR A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Last Month, They said what ?

Tony Kendall



Our first speaker was **Rein van de Vusse** who did not elucidate on the word *pchelpathome* that appeared in his introductory notes. We are wondering if it has something to do with psychedelic pathologists in a drugged state. I have since learned it is PC HELP AT HOME—why didn't I think of that.

During **Rein's** introduction, **President Brian** spoke of the continuing email scams and the threatening warning phone calls that many of us are receiving.

The response? DO **NOTHING** and HANG UP!

Rein began his presentation on **Buying a New Computer** with a wise saying from Lewis Carroll, *"If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there"*.

- He then suggested that buying a new computer is like buying a vehicle. First, know what you want and want it to do!
- What is the main use of your computer going to be?
- Do you want a Tablet? a Smart Phone? A Desk top computer? A lap top computer or an all-in-one computer?
- What is the main use or purpose of and for your computer?

Email, Internet, photos, solitaire? These are termed low end computers which seem to suit most of us.

Gaming, Video Editing, Development? These get to the middle to high end range of computers

Rein then talked at length about Chrome Books – they run Linux, not Windows. It is run by Google, looks a bit like Chrome browser and dressed up to look like Windows. It has a low resolution screen 14 inch width, small storage of 16 to 64 Gb not 512 to 1024 Gb, no USB printing facility but uses Cloud printing. It depends on Internet connection and Cloud storage. Generally, it is only a specialist school type, simple low price unit." Sounds like DON'T buy this!"

If you are replacing your computer, **Rein** says "stick to what type you have been using Apple /Apple, Windows/Windows. To change requires a whole new brain and thought process that can be difficult to learn. If you go to Apple, you can work your Word programs.

For Specifications, try and go for bigger eg 8Gb rather than 4Gb, or better still 16Gbs.

Storage: Options are HDD (Hard Disc Drive) or SSD (Solid State Drive) which are reliable, no moving parts and faster

CPU is optional and all ok.

Brand: All well known brands are OK as most are made with generic parts. Avoid a brand that you don't know as some are not reliable, usually at the low priced end of the market.

How to Buy? Things have changed. Go online but you need to know what you want specifically. Then go to www.pricespy.co.nz to research. You can obtain better prices, there is no travelling and no upselling by a salesperson.

Buying ex store: You can actually see the article of your choice, you can get advice from a salesperson and you can take it home with you. No delays! If you are NOT certain about a product, you can always say no and walk out.

Costs? Prices are rising rapidly at present. Laptops \$600 to \$1200, All in one unit \$800 to \$1600, Desktops \$1000 to \$1500. For High performance gaming computers, \$1200 to \$4000.00 Thanks **Rein** for a very easily understood and well presented talk.

Continued ...

Remember— Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

Last Month, They said what ?

continued

After morning tea, we had **Jan Holway** talk to us about the evolution of **Uxbridge Arts and Culture** from 1981 and how it has survived and evolved through local Government changes and administration and funding over the years since then.

Howick has the fifth largest collection of people in any region in New Zealand and has changed culturally over the years to 40% Asian population. The object of Uxbridge is to reflect our cultural differences and to challenge us through art. Significant Korean and Chinese art and culture have been features of display.

Jan outlined the extensive range of activities that happen within the Uxbridge programme utilising the wide range of facilities that exist within the complex.

A 150 seat theatre caters for shows but no longer is a cinema due to the presence of Monterey Cinema and also related distribution costs. Of interest is the use for local school bands for public performances at only \$5.00 per person.

Up to 300 people have attended the Art Gallery at some openings. There are private hire meeting rooms and the venue is also used for weddings and funeral services.

For the future, events must be exciting and enjoyable.

There are 6000 people on the data base and over 350 different programmes are held each year.

Support comes from Howick Local Board through Auckland Council and numerous grants and donations to the operation of Uxbridge.

Let me get this straight—there is no cure for a virus that can be **KILLED** by sanitizer and hand soap ???



COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION



To view all SeniorNet courses and timetable, click here

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



DECEMBER-JANUARY HELP DAYS

Wednesday	Dec 9 th	10:00am
Monday	Dec 14 th	1.00pm
Thursday	Dec 17 th	10:00am
Tuesday	Dec 22 nd	1:00pm
Wednesday	Jan 20 th	1:00pm
Tuesday	Jan 26 th	10:00am

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

Day 7 of Social Distancing: I struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He's a web designer.



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.