

MAY 2021

Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents

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Our next Meeting,

Friday 7 MAY

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 speakers will be Graeme and Brian covering "Participating in SeniorHangouts and viewing previous sessions".

The main speaker will be Garnet Tregonning, who will talk on Cartilage and Joint Replacement. This is something many of us will have experienced or maybe look forward to.



MAY HELP DAYS

22 Apr	Thurs	10:00 AM
30 Apr	Friday	10:00 AM
06 May	Thurs	10:00 AM
14 May	Friday	10:00 AM
19 May	Wed	1:00 PM
24 May	Mon	10:00 AM



4 NEW MEMBERS

Ray Tucker
Jacqui Rollason
Susan White
Geraldine Rose



Using the internet to transact business is rapidly becoming the way to interact with Government departments, commercial organisations and clubs. We are also faced with the discontinued use of cheques and the closure of bank branches, (e.g. IRD, Banking and SeniorNet). This probably affects people in our age grouping more than the “digital natives” which describes our children and grandchildren.

Examples of the support we have seen from sponsors is in AMI Insurance supporting its clients’ membership and Westpac, a funding sponsor of SeniorNet, providing a series of 5 workshops dealing with, for example, safety online, confidence in banking on line and confidence with bank cards.

Westpac Bank have a staff member who has previously been a secondary school teacher, revise and further develop these courses from similar ones we have presented in past years. They have also trained 200 of their staff to assist with these courses, which are of a general nature.

Their “Westpac One” course logs on to a training account with some “monopoly” money and lets you practice actions specific to Westpac Bank.

Because about 20% of our members don’t appear to use internet banking, we have sent you a survey (answers are anonymous) to find out whether other banks need to improve or assist us with training.

In recent weeks you will have received email timetables for Senior Hangout events. These take place live at 10 am most week day mornings and last for 30 minutes. These events which are like our mini speaker, are supported by Google through the use of Google classrooms although the initial distribution is via Zoom and are prepared and presented by SeniorNet volunteers from throughout New Zealand known as Buddies. Work is underway to make distribution available via a range of services in addition to Zoom such as Google Meet. The notice also includes the link to a video archive of about 160 previous presentations which range from how to lobby your MP or a Parliamentary Minister to Tips in being a tutor. I find it best to download the particular topic video you want and then play it at leisure when you can pause or rewind to revise a point.

Ramblings

Dawn Howarth

Another month has whizzed by without me noticing. How does it do that? I can’t see what I have done or achieved in the last month so I don’t understand. This week has been busy with parties, including a 60th Wedding Anniversary, an 80th and 90th birthday. I’m not used to all this social life.

While I am grumbling I wonder what has happened in parliament. I see ties are no longer required, men can wear hats in parliament and in the Herald I learn an MP likes to knit while in the House. She thought that as they were ‘only’ paying their respects to Prince Philip it would be alright to knit !!! What next. I thought it was poor taste for men to wear hats indoors at any time.

On a happier note, I renewed my acquaintance with jigsaw puzzles this month and have completed two. One took a week and was difficult but so addictive, I couldn’t stop. I was up until after midnight most nights, didn’t even watch TV. Another major time-waster but most enjoyable. The second was a larger-piece puzzle for those with poor eyesight. I thought I could get ‘him indoors’ interested, but that didn’t work—snoozing is definitely his favourite exercise.

Another success I had was pie making. A delicious leek, fennel and salmon potato topped pie. It is definitely on the must make again list.

Really, it has been a good month, largely because Kate sort of volunteered to write about our last meeting. Thank you Kate. Here’s hoping May will be equally as kind to us.

PS Last night I sat up until 3.40am to watch the Duke’s funeral. I think he was a good man who will be sorely missed by the Queen. She certainly has my sympathy.

Banking Going Digital

Graeme FitzGerald gave us a great over view of the new age in banking. Cheques will soon be gone. The high street bank is becoming more elusive and perhaps it won't be long before cash is a thing of the past. I have listed below some of the points Graeme made that we should note.

So how do we pay?

- * Use a credit card and arrange to fully pay off each month.
- * Direct Debit- arrange to pay utility bills automatically each month.
- * If you have a smart phone you can download your bank's app and use your phone just like an EFTPOS card but without having to enter a pin.

How to keep safe online

- *Have a firewall turned on and anti-virus and anti-spyware software on your computer.
- *Update regularly

We recommend using Windows Security which is built into the Windows operating system

- *Monitor your accounts on a regular basis
- *Choose passwords that are hard to guess
- *We recommend using S10 Password Vault

Passwords

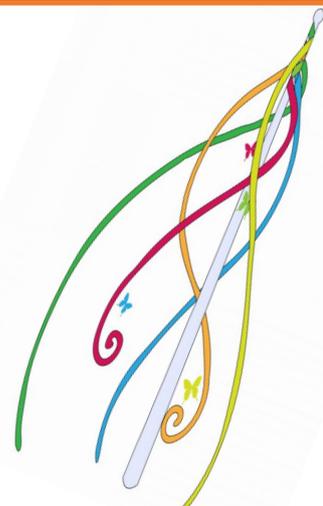
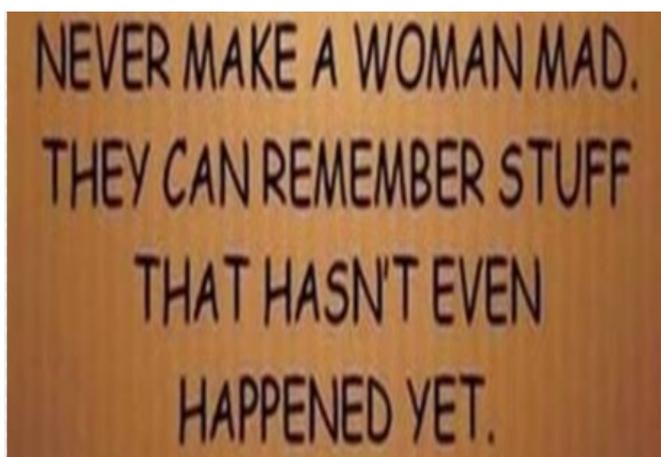
- *Never use your banking password for any other application.
- *Change your banking password regularly and don't click on "Save my password".
- *Always log out of your bank website, don't just click on the X to close the window.

ALSO REMEMBER:

- *NEVER access Online Banking from cafes or shared computers because the line is not secure and can easily be intercepted by criminals.
- *Banks usually refer to you by name.
- *Never click on an http:// web site without the "s". Look for the "s" https:// which means the site is secure and uses encryption.
- *Never click on a link that looks odd, is from a suspicious source or in an email that doesn't look right

A big thank you to Graeme for a great presentation.

Kate's Take continued over ...



Kate's Take continued

A journey to the Jining to Tongliao Railway

Our second speaker, Robert Finley, a steam engine enthusiast, gave us a wonderful talk on his adventures in Inner Mongolia, in 2002. Equipped with a dozen flash cards to help him communicate and a couple of 35mm film cameras, that would often seize up in the minus-20C temperature, Robert headed off to see the steam engines running on the 600mile railway between Jining and Tongliao.

Those cameras were put to good use and so Robert was able to show us lots of photos depicting the daily lives of Mongolians, as he passed through the villages on his journey, through the country.

He took us to building sites where there were few safety provisions and where the scaffolding was made from saplings. On the road, he encountered all sorts of precariously loaded transport that defied gravity.



He took us to a market where everyone was well wrapped up. The temperature was well below freezing most of the time but they certainly were not short of inner warmth as we saw huge piles of chillies. Sifting the chaff from the grain was another common activity which was enabled by the relentless wind.



Every village seemed to have its own brick works and there were some very interesting construction methods however the building of the railway bridges on the Jining to Tongliao Railway were very expertly built to the same design throughout its length.

The Jining to Tongliao railway was built in 1995 and designed to carry huge volumes of freight such as oil, coal and timber between the north east and north west of China avoiding all the densely populated regions. The trains were very long and most had two locomotives to pull the wagons. It is a single-track railway and so there are numerous loops along its length to allow trains to pass one another. Between the towns of Reshui in the east and Jingpeng in the west the railway climbs about 300metres in 22kilometres to the summit at 1200metres and then descends 300metres and another 22kilometres to the other side but as the "crow flies" the distance amounts to about 12kilometres.



Altogether a truly entertaining, humorous and highly informative presentation, for which we thank you Robert.

COMMITTEE

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👉 Exchange Of Text Messages:

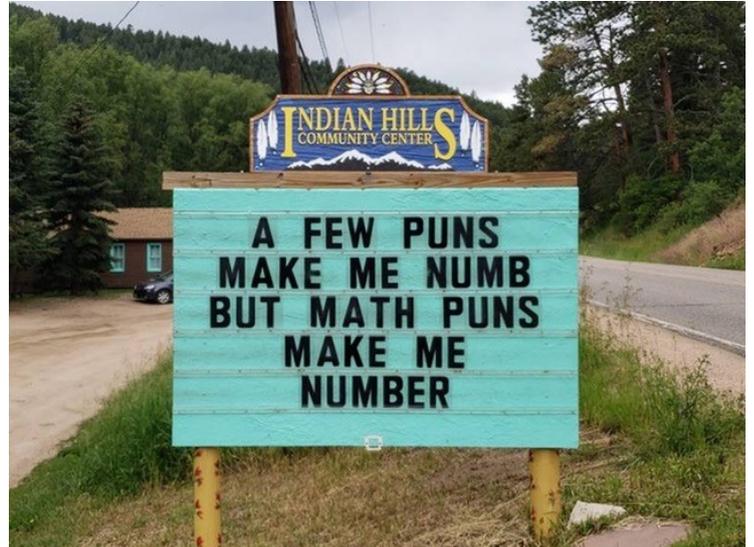
Husband: You are negative.

Wife: And you are stubborn, arrogant, a low life, care about no one but yourself and your friends, all you are interested in is your own self, all your life not fulfilled even one of your promises. It is only I who is putting up with such a miser and insensitive man. You good for nothing, fat, ugly man. Even your hair transplant failed.

Husband: I was just informing you that your Covid test is negative.

Wife: Oh.....sorry!

How to stop time: kiss.
How to travel in time: read.
How to escape time: music.



COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

To

view all SeniorNet courses and timetable, click here

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

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY



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 to the first session.

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