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Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents



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- ◆ Dawn's Ravings
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Our next Meeting,

Friday 4 MARCH

at 10.00am, will be by **ZOOM**

Visitors welcome

The early speaker will be Brian who will talk about voice-to-text input to Android phones.

The main speaker will be from the Sensible Sentencing Trust speaking on crime prevention and injustices in our criminal justice system.

Sensible Sentencing Group Trust works alongside and advocates for victims of serious violent crime.



1 NEW MEMBER

DREW STEWART

Yesterday my husband thought he saw a cockroach in the kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned thoroughly. Today I'm putting the cockroach in the bathroom.



Almost 5,000 people queued for hours in the rain at a swabbing event in Worcester, to get tested to see if they were a match to help save the life of a five-year-old boy fighting a rare cancer after parents asked for help.

We are Zooming again for our 4th March meeting. St Andrews has spaced the seating to meet Covid rules but is not well ventilated and refreshments cannot be served.

We recognise that there are a number of members with specific roles at the meeting who are cautious about the current surge both for the effects of the illness itself and the need for isolation which could be extended depending on the number of people living at home.

Someone in isolation, either those who have meeting roles or the presenters themselves could disrupt the day's activities. It can strike quickly as I have just found out that one grandchild has come home from college, has tested positive and now their family and close contacts are isolating

We send out "how to Zoom" guides with the meeting notice but if you would like extra help to get Zoom going on a PC tablet or phone please request it via our email help@senpak.nz

Ramblings

Dawn Howarth

Our first meeting for the year was by Zoom and was really good. Keith Erikson demonstrated the Otter speech to text app. I will certainly try to dictate and email and check out the result. Graeme's history lesson on NZ car assembly was a great presentation. It appears our own Mike Empson's great grandpa was a pioneer in that he built NZ's first car. Wow. How sad all that production, skill, jobs have been lost from NZ. I don't think we have ever had so many questions and comments after a presentation. Thank you Graeme for entertaining and educating us.

March is supposed to be the beginning of Autumn—I really hope it will be cooler than Feb has been. The heat and humidity make everything so much more difficult. I'm so glad we have a heat pump in our lounge and a ceiling fan our bedroom. Without them I would not be someone pleasant to live with—a screaming shrew comes to mind.

It looks like we are still in the clutches of Covid and will have to keep Zooming. When we have more cases restrictions will be eased. At least I think that is what it all means. In the meantime, keep yourselves safe, keep smiling and check in on Zoom on 4 March for another exciting online SeniorNet presentation.

PS: I hope you like this month's fillers instead of jokes. I think they are wonderful.



Her Boyfriend Is In The Army And Couldn't Make It Back In Time For Prom. So Her Boyfriends 2 Year Old Brother Took Her In His Place 🙄🙄



SCAM REMINDER

A member has advised that he has received two phone calls attempting to scam him in the past few days.

Both these were about broadband, one from “Spark”, including threats to disconnect him.

This is most disconcerting and we **must be aware, wary and hang up** the minute you receive such a call.

The writer has also received four calls from “Visa” in the past week, telling me my card had been used for various amounts. All rubbish. Hang up and don't even speak to the caller.

Here are more scams currently circulating:

1. Car registration scam:

- a. You receive an email indication you rego is about to expire. (Now this is always true for about 10% of all recipients.)
- b. They make it easy to pay, just click on the link and enter your bank details . (Note they haven't mentioned your actual car Plate Number)

2 Amazon scam:

A phone call says that Amazon is about to renew your premium account unless you call with details to stop the action.

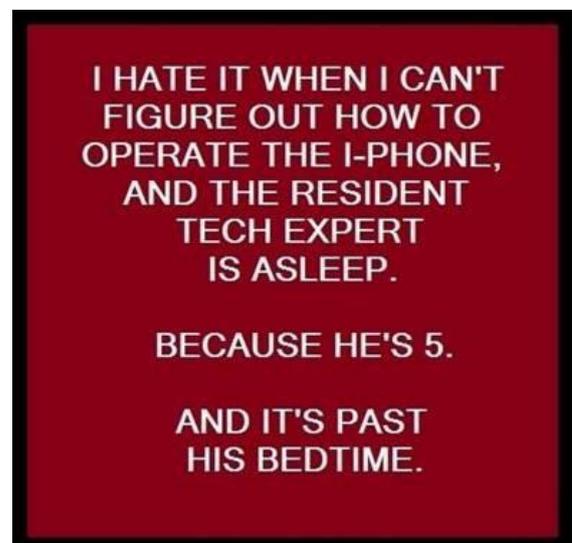
3 Spark Technical department:

- a. If your phone displays caller ID you will see that its coming from overseas
- b. The voice notes that there a problem
 - It may be router faults
 - Illegal internet usage
 - Someone stealing your internet capacity

(Note that Spark and the like generally don't call you, you call them. You could ask for the Supervisor, but there is one on hand, however if you ask them to quote your account number the call hangs up. Some people ask for the illegal details so they can report it to the police as it's a crime committed against them and not Spark)

4 Overseas incoming calls that have no voice.

They would appear to rely on Caller ID and your curiosity to call back. This could resulting a call to a per minute service fee on top of the actual call cost.



With visitors imminent, I flew through the house with vacuum cleaner and mop. I was so pre-occupied with my efforts to give the illusion that I am a domestic goddess that I completely forgot about our SeniorNet Zoom meeting. What a bummer! I was looking forward to listening to our two speakers, Keith Erikson and Graeme Fitzgerald.

Otter ai – an audio recording and transcription App by Keith Erikson

No panic, I thought, it's bound to have been recorded. But, alas, not all of it so my review of the App "Otter ai" is based solely on the exuberant opinions of teenage Americans on YouTube. I apologise to you Keith, if I do not do justice to the App or to your talk.

"Otter ai" can be downloaded free onto your phone or computer. It creates an audio recording while also making a fully punctuated, simultaneous transcript. It is quite expensive if you go for the professional package but the free version allows 600 minutes of recording, per month, in 40minute sessions.

Although the AI (artificial intelligence) is quite good identifying, perhaps 98% of the words that are spoken, it's probably not attuned too well to Kiwi accents and does make mistakes but you still have the audio recording to check what has been said so that's not too much of a problem. You can search the text for a particular word and the transcript can be copied into a Word document. Interestingly, it doesn't transcribe the "Errs" and the "Ums" which I thought was very clever and in the Pro edition you can add 200 extra words to its vocabulary.

It's probably a very useful tool at the doctors or a similar situation, when there is a lot of information to take in and need for accurate recall at a later date. But be warned, if the speaker has highly accented English the App may well give some interesting interpretations that may make you smile.

Many thanks to Keith for bringing the App to our attention.

The History of the Car Manufacturing Industry in New Zealand by Graeme Fitzgerald

Fortunately, Graeme's talk on the History of New Zealand's Car Manufacturing Industry had been recorded so I will just pick out some of the key facts from his talk as it is available on YouTube.

In 1903, 153 cars and motorbikes were imported into NZ which was the same year the AA was established here. The first Ford to arrive was in 1906. However, it wasn't long before the government could see there was some money to be made in taxes and new jobs for kiwis if tariffs were applied.



In 1907, a **Completely Built Car (CBC)** incurred a 20% tariff but there was no tax on imported chassis which initiated the local car body building industry and the start of car manufacturing in NZ. The company, New Zealand Motor Bodies had a 200 ton press to create the car panels.



In 1913, 303 Model T Fords arrived from Canada but it wasn't until the early 1920s that Colonial Motors in Wellington had an assembly plant where the **Completely Knocked Down (CKD)** Model T's from Canada were put together in NZ.



This manufacturing facility was very unusual in that it was a multi storied building. The cars were built from the top floor down. Lifts connected the various floors, each dedicated to a different stage of manufacture. The cars would arrive finished on the ground floor and were then driven away

Kate's Take continued ...

Kate's Take continued ...

In 1926 General Motors built an assembly plant in Petone where the Chevrolet was first manufactured.

By 1934, the import tariffs increased for non-empire trade to 42% giving an advantage to English **CKD** operations but it left open the door for Ford cars from Canada.

By 1936 Ford had built their own plant in Seaview.

In 1939 Dominion Motors built a **CKD** plant at Two Double Seven, Newmarket where they could build ten units a day.

From 1939, at the outbreak of the second world war, the car plants were adapted to support the war effort. General Motors built 1200, Bren Gun Carriers while Ford Seaview produced grenades and trucks.

By 1950, **Completely Built Units (CBU)** were coming in from England to mitigate the long wait for locally assembled cars. Wealthy people, with overseas funds, were able to take advantage of this fact. The cars that were imported were the Austin A30, the Humber 80 and the Austin Mini, the first car with a front wheel drive. Although, front wheel drive cars were invented in the 1920's the Mini was the first mass produced vehicle. Today most cars are front wheel drive.

In 1963 **CKD** packs arrived from Japan. New Zealand Motor Bodies started assembling Datsuns at their bus manufacturing plant and Steele Brothers manufactured Toyotas by 1964 and then Motor Holdings started assembling VW Beetles.

From 1966-1973 Motor Holdings built the Trekka, the only vehicle to be designed and manufactured in NZ. They built 2,500 units.

In the 70s a range of vehicles were assembled at various plants around the country. These included Nissans, Land Rovers, Bedfords, Holden Utes, Ford Falcons and the fuel hungry, rotary, Mazdas CX3s.



In the early 1980s Ford and Mazda worked together for a while until global politics intervened and each company went their own way again. Mazda expanded and modernised at the Silvia Park plant producing a car every 9.6 minutes and Ford consolidated its production at Wiri producing a car every 4.2 minutes. However, within in a couple of years they were back together again.

In 1986 political change in NZ removed subsidies and reduced import duties. Within 3 years there were more Japanese imports than local cars being built. By 1998 all the car manufacturing plants had closed down. Between 1987 and 1998, 76,000 manufacturing jobs were lost.

At the start of Graeme's presentation, he showed a short video about Henry Ford. It's well worth a look. As well as creating the manufacturing assembly line, he instigated a living wage for his workers, the forty-hour week and the franchise system of selling.



A big thank you to Graeme for giving us such an interesting talk.

COMMITTEE

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Some months back in Nigeria one naked and dying 2-year abandoned child was seen being fed by a lady charity-worker from Denmark - Anja Ringgren Loven, that pic went viral in social media. She later adopted that child and named him Hope. Today, Hope looks like this:



This little girl with Down syndrome got up from her seat during a papal audience and went towards Pope Francis during ministration.

The security guards quickly moved in to take her back to her mother.

The Pope stopped everyone and said to the girl, "come sit next to me." The girl then sat down near him and the Holy Father continued to preach while holding hands with the little girl.

The bride's father died and donated his heart. The man who received the transplant walked her down the aisle.



COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

MARCH HELP DAYS

Until we return to Orange Traffic Light level, we are unable to hold Help Sessions in our Learning Centre.

Therefore, if you need HELP now

send a email to help@senpak.nz describing the problem, as best you can. We will then get one of the tutors to contact you to help resolve the problem.

It is recommended that you download AnyDesk to your device so the tutor can look over your shoulder and if necessary make the changes to fix the issue.

To learn how to load AnyDesk onto your Windows Computer [Click Here](#)
To learn how to load AnyDesk onto your Android Phone [Click Here](#)

This picture is from an article called "The Rescuing Hug". The article details the first week of life of a set of twins. Each were in their respective incubators and one was not expected to live. A hospital nurse fought against the hospital rules and placed the babies in one incubator. When they were placed together, the healthier of the two threw an arm over her sister in an endearing embrace. The smaller baby's heart stabilized and temperature rose to normal.



It was considered the best photo of this century. A lioness and her cub were crossing the savannah but the heat was excessive and the cub was in great difficulty walking. An elephant realized that the cub would die and carried him in his trunk to a pool of water walking beside his mother. And we call them wild animals.

15:17