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Our next Meeting,

**Friday 6TH MAY**

**at 10.30am**

**by ZOOM**

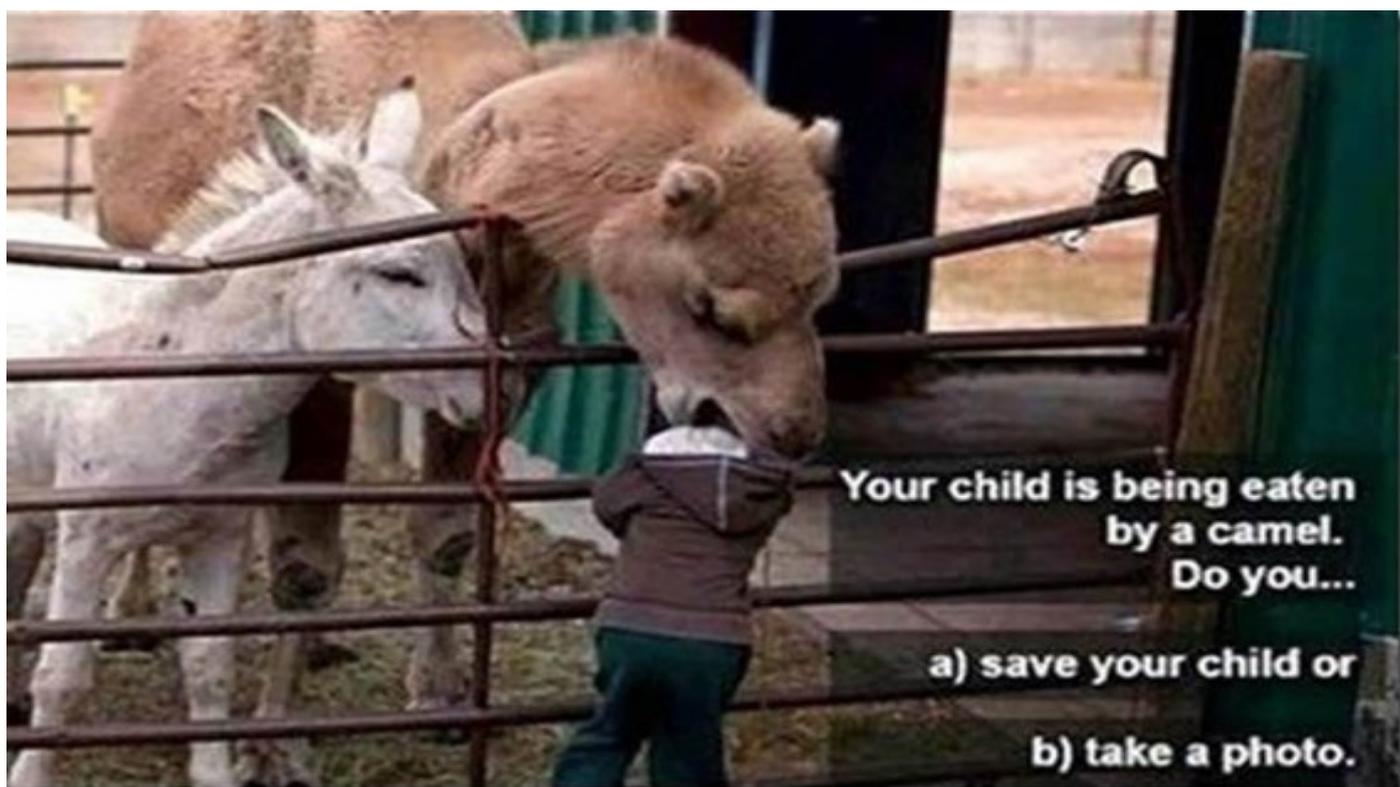
*(Note start time of 10.30am)*



The early speaker is Keith Erikson who will talk about **Dish TV SV11 and the WAZE map app for driving.**

The main speaker will be Brian Erikson who will give a presentation on **Telecommunications Through the Ages.**

You don't stop laughing when you grow old,  
You grow old when you stop laughing.



# BITS & BYTES

Brian Erikson

Thanks to the 59 members who responded to our form regarding reopening the Learning Centre and taking our monthly meetings back to St Andrews Church Centre. I am sorry if you thought it was another Covid scam and did not take part.

70% of the answers favoured returning to St Andrews and there was even division between having a morning tea break and doing without

83% favoured reopening the Learning Centre with the majority of those supporting a limit to four members being helped at the same time. If there was an overflow of numbers they would be seated in the corridor or could choose to remain outside until their turn came.

For the Learning Centre the number of tutors to help you will vary depending on individual circumstances so it may not be the full quota. We are gathering the actual tutor requirements now. On line help will remain.

The committee was not unanimous on returning to St Andrews have decided to wait at least a month to see how Orange traffic light plays out, so we will continue with Zoom for May. Interestingly only 5% opted to watch an internet live stream on Zoom of a St Andrews meeting while nearly 20% said they would watch a recording later. I wonder if this means that a meeting in the afternoon is preferred

If you have not taken the step of downloading and installing Zoom, this can now be done very simply and free using the Microsoft Store icon on your task bar.



Just enter "Zoom Cloud Meeting App" on the Store search bar and click in this blue icon when it shows up. It will download, install and open for you in one easy sequence.

*Just to reiterate what I wrote in April— After a number of years coordinating the refreshments for our tea break Jan and Doug White wish to take a break so I would welcome a volunteer to come forward for the time we eventually meet in person.*

## Ramblings

*Dawn Howarth*

My boring little world had a wake-up call on Saturday. I managed to test positive for that dreaded Covid, so I plan to do lots of reading - that's always great, and yesterday we binged watched Anatomy of a Scandal. Very good too. Hubby so far is clear. We are only up to day 3 of isolation so there is a long way to go !!

Living in a retirement village had an odd perk earlier last week. We were invited to help reduce the contents of a liqueurs cabinet for happy hour (over 2 hours actually). Another yummy way to spend time with friends and neighbours. We hardly made a dent in the number of bottles available so decided we need to do that many more times.

Take care and keep smiling.

YOU KNOW WHEN  
YOU BUY A BAG  
OF SALAD & IT  
GETS ALL BROWN  
& SOGGY?  
COOKIES DON'T  
DO THAT

## How about putting new life into that old computer?

With many of us finding that our computers cannot be upgraded to Windows 11 it was great to hear from Keith and Brian Erikson about alternative operating systems. Many thanks to you both.

With our computer wizards extolling the virtues of Linux I decided to give it a try. Versions of Linux are the operating systems beneath many of the proprietary brands of our varied digital systems and devices. All of our computers, whether PC or Mac can be modified to work on the Linux system.

I didn't think hubby would let me play with his PC despite the expletives I often hear coming from the Office when his computer has crashed or it won't let him start work as it's updating. However, we did have an abandoned ASUS laptop that had nestled beneath a pile of papers in our filing cabinet for the last five years. Surely, this was perfect for my first adventure into the inner workings of a computer. There was no stored data on this old computer but if you should decide to go on this journey make sure you **BACK UP ALL YOUR FILES** before you install your new Linux operating system.

There are lots of versions of Linux but I went to the website [Ubuntu.com](http://Ubuntu.com), clicking [Download](#) on the top menu bar.



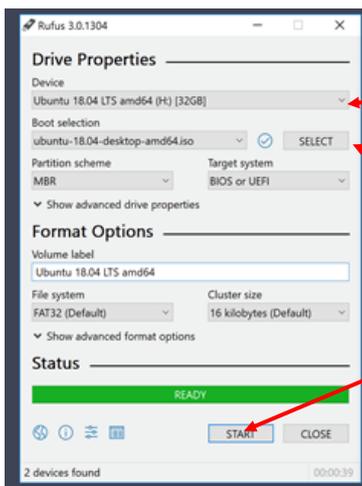
Under the heading Ubuntu Desktop there was [20.04 LTS](#) and the version 21.10 which was recommended by the YouTube tutorial I was following. I downloaded 21.10. It was quite a large file taking over 5 minutes to download.

Next, I typed [Rufus.ie](http://Rufus.ie) into Google. Rufus is a free downloadable program that allows you to convert a USB drive into a Boot drive. I expect you will remember how, in the old days, we were supplied with a CD with our new computers. Most of us would have never taken that CD out of its packet but in the event of our computer "running amok" you could use that disc to reboot your computer and return it to the way it was when you took it out of the box.

The [Rufus.ie](http://Rufus.ie) website showed the image below. I scrolled down the page, beyond the DOWNLOAD sub-heading, to the highlighted file [Rufus 3.18](#) (1mb). This I clicked and downloaded.

At this stage I plugged a new 16Gb USB drive into my computer to create the Linux Boot. Remember, all files saved on the USB will be lost as the USB will become a dedicated Boot Drive.

In my download folder, I clicked on the Rufus file. Again, I saw the image below.



It seemed to know I wanted the Ubuntu file as when I clicked the [Device](#) drop down menu Ubuntu was already selected.

Under [Boot selection](#) I had to select the USB that I had just plugged in. For most of us that will be the only one that is offered.

Everything else was left, as is, and after clicking on the start button the green status bar progressed across the screen until it indicated **Ready**.

Leaving the USB in place, I now turned off the computer with view to **restarting, but now, going directly into the computer's BIOS system.**

To convert the computer to Linux you have to ensure that the computer does not engage its inbuilt Boot system when turned on. You will need to find out from the internet or your computer manual what keys you need to activate while turning on the computer to bypass the internal Boot so you go directly to your computer's BIOS. Not all computer manufacturers or models use the same keystrokes to access the BIOS menu.

## Kate's Take continued

BIOS stands for Basic Input / Output System which is the built-in core processor software responsible for booting up your system.

It is at this point that you may have to search the internet for guidance. My ASUS computer required changes on the Security page and the Boot Page of the BIOS. Other computers went directly to the Boot Page with just two options, the main Boot or the USB. In that case, all that was required was to click on the USB option and press enter. Those computers will then flawlessly download the Linux operating system allowing you to personalise during the downloading process.

Just a **word of caution**. Try not to be too picky with your choices. Probably it's best to go for the default settings at this set up stage. I thought it would be great to have a UK system in an attempt to get rid of all those irritating spellings of humor, color and honor etc. However, the UK system does not have a # on its keyboard. After supplying my Linux powered computer with an amazingly secure password at the setting up stage, I was nobbled when the computer went to sleep. I couldn't get back into it. Horror, upon horrors, every time I tried to enter the # it entered a £ sign. BUMMMER! I then had to reinstall it all again. But in the end, **YIPPEE!!** I had done it.

I expect most families have an old computer hidden away in a cupboard somewhere so why not have a go at converting that to Linux. It's very satisfying to have a little tweak and get everything working. You might find that old computer has a new lease on life. Just think you may never have to put money into the coffers of Apple or Microsoft again. Linux also comes with extensive free software such as Libre Office which is very similar to Microsoft Office.



Another big thanks, to Graeme Fitzgerald who updated us on the new **Seniorhangout's** website.

You can access the new website directly from our **Seniornet Pakuranga website** by clicking "**Notices**" on the top menu of the Home page. At the bottom left of the "**Notices**" page there is a link to take you to the Home page of **Seniorhangouts** where you can Login or register.

I have been registered since the inception of **Seniorhangouts** however when I went to the website it did not recognise my login details. I re-registered on the site and now I have no issues.

There is an **Accessibility** function in the left-hand corner where you can customise the website to facilitate easy usage for all.

Click on **Calendar** to find the upcoming presentations and their links. These sessions are about 30min in duration and as long as you have downloaded Zoom onto your computer you will be able to click on the link, at the designated time and ask questions or contribute if you wish. From the website you can search the **Library** for any of the previous sessions. If you do not feel confident using Zoom, you can still watch the sessions as many times as you like via YouTube.

If you have a particular interest or query you can click on **Forums**. You may ask questions or set up your own interest group from there.



## Kate's Take continued

### THRIVES -- Aotearoa



A big thankyou to Jayne Crothall, our main speaker, for sharing her story and informing us of the work that she is doing to support those who are victims of serious crime. You may like to watch her story from TVNZ's "I AM" series, Season 3, episode 2. It's available On Demand.

**Wikipedia** - *[background to the Sensible Sentencing Group Trust](#)* . *The Sensible Sentencing Trust was started over 20 years ago by Garth McVicar for more sensible sentencing and as time went by extended into victim advocacy. In 2010 the Trust's tax-free charitable status was revoked by the Charities Commission on the grounds that it had become a political lobbying group. McVicar decided to split the Trust into two separate entities.*

*The Sensible Sentencing Trust (SST) became the non-charitable political arm that would lobby for harsher penalties for crime and the Sensible Sentencing Group Trust (SSGT) would become a charity set up to support and advocate for victims.*

In 1997 Jayne was attacked with a hammer and her little girl was murdered. 13 years after the murderer's conviction Jane went to the first parole hearing and she realised she needed some support. The SST put Jane in contact with another mother, Lee, whose child had also been murdered. Jayne realised how valuable this support had been so she decided to join the victim advocacy arm of the SST and eventually she became National Advocacy Manager for the SSGT..

The SSGT organised conferences which enabled victims to get together. The victims were able to meet other people who had also gone through terrible experiences like themselves. They were able to see, that with support, there was a way to get through their trauma. The SSGT organised eight conferences, attended by hundreds of victims over the years however these conferences could not continue as the SSGT was unable to access money to fund them.

During her time with the SSGT it became apparent that within the Justice system plea bargaining was becoming more common. This drastically reduced the time in prison for perpetrators of the most horrendous crimes against, and murder of, small children. If they pleaded guilty to manslaughter a trial would be unnecessary and the sentence given out would be a fraction of the time they would be required to serve if they had been found guilty of murder.

In 2015, a 3 year old boy, Moko died after being brutally treated by carers who were looking after him while his Mother was staying with her eldest child at Starship Hospital. Although, they were initially charged with murder, to which they pleaded "not guilty", they subsequently pleaded guilty to manslaughter which does not carry a life sentence. According to Jayne, they are already eligible for parole.

This was the catalyst for the SSGT to set up a Facebook page, called "Justice for Moko" which generated support protests around New Zealand and Australia. This page then evolved into the Facebook page "Stand up NZ" designed to draw attention to sentencing inequities associated with violent offending.

Over the years various members of the SSG left the organisation and at the end of March 2022 the Trustees decided it was time for the SSG to disband. However, Jayne knows the value of the work that has been done and has joined with six other like-minded people to set up a new organisation called

### **THRIVES.**

This is an acronym of **T**rust, **H**ealing, **R**espect, **I**nspire, **V**ictim, **E**mpowerment equals **S**urvivors.

They have applied to the Commission to become a Charitable Trust and together with her team they hope to continue the work of supporting and advocating for victims of violent crime.

For more information go to Facebook Page – Thrives Aotearoa.

**COMMITTEE**

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A moment of tension in Vatican.  
If the bishop moves forward the  
queen can take him.



# COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

## ***MAY HELP***

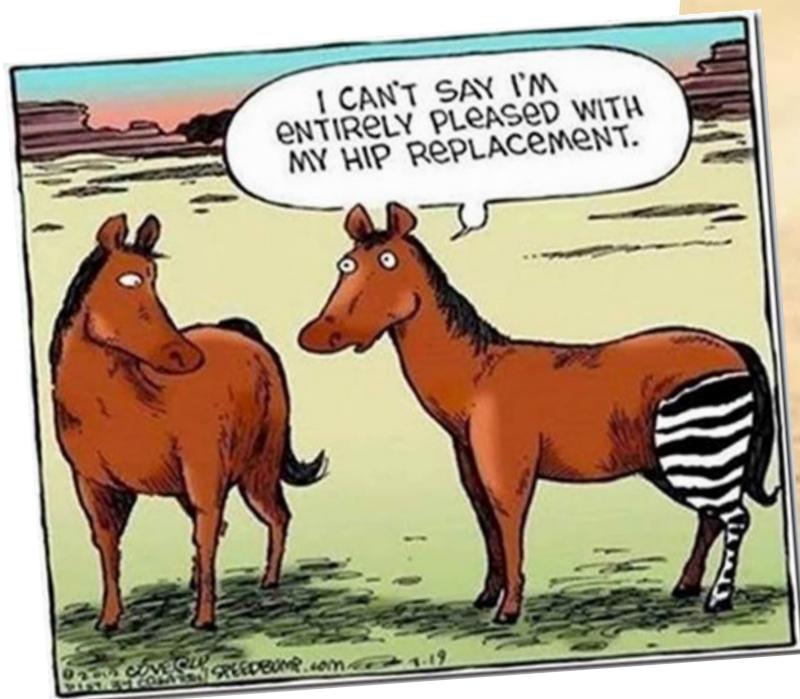
### **If you need HELP now**

send a email to [help@senpak.nz](mailto: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](#)*

Pee on the electric fence  
they said...  
It will be fun they said...



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