



seniornet
pakuranga

NEWS

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AUGUST 2022

Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents



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- ◆ August Help days
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- ◆ How to join a course

Our next Meeting,

10am Friday 5 AUGUST

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.

DON'T FORGET YOUR MASK

Masks are required at the meeting although optional when we break for morning tea.

Visitors welcome

The early speaker will cover another approach to backups using the Windows File History tool.

New—**Kate's App Chat**—Each month Kate will give us a 10 minute chat on new apps we can try.

The main speaker will be **Robert Finney** educating us on the **Maui Gas Line**.

AUGUST HELP DAYS

| | | |
|------|-----------|------|
| Mon | 1 August | 10am |
| Tues | 9 August | 10am |
| Mon | 15 August | 1pm |
| Thu | 30 August | 10am |



FOUND THEM



**AUGUST
1 NEW MEMBER**

MALCOLM CAMPBELL

In Wellington circles new buzz words are added to the political jargon all the time. I don't keep up-to date with these but one has cropped up through SeniorNet Federation. Its "Outcomes" and like its predecessor "Learnings" the word is pluralised for effect, and is always used in the positive sense.

Now if you go to many government department websites Outcomes feature in their headlines

Mind you, if you have been doing tax returns online, the IRD is one department that doesn't — maybe they know that your outcomes will not always be positive.

Back to the Federation. Sponsors no longer support us for what we put into tutoring and help but are asking what outcomes we can demonstrate. Heather Newall (Federation CEO) comes from a background in working with charities and has identified aceaotearoa.co.nz an organisation that has developed the ACE Learner Outcomes Tool. That is a web-based, learner centred framework that tracks learner outcomes. I'm sure we will hear more of this but in essence it asks each participant two questions on a simple sliding scale. These questions are answered from home in a way that your privacy is well protected.

Did you learn what to expect to learn.

Has it changed the way you do stuff to the better.

WHY IS NETSAFETY WEEK HAPPENING?

Netsafe.org.nz has worked hard for over 20 years to create a safer and more positive online experience for people.

We share advice so that people feel empowered to take advantage of the opportunities offered by technology. But even then, problems can arise from an error in judgement, risk-taking behaviour or being targeted by others. This can happen no matter what precautions are put in place. When it does, people can report incidents and get support from Netsafe.

The past year has reinforced the importance of connectivity, but we are continuing to receive more requests from people needing help under the [Harmful Digital Communication Act](#). We are hosting Netsafety Week 2022 to make a difference and to help people get the support they need.

WHEN IS NETSAFETY WEEK?

Netsafety Week will take place between **25 and 29 July 2022**. There will be a variety of activities people can participate in. As the programme and activities for the week are finalised we will be updating this page.

THEME

This year's Netsafety Week theme is: **Diversity Matters. Online Safety Done Together.**

The week is about understanding different communities' online safety perspectives and promoting respect and positive relationships online. The goal? To create transformational online safety change for the people of New Zealand and have our most inclusive and diverse conversations yet.

Ramblings

Dawn Howarth

My goodness it is certainly cooling down a lot. I'll bet a lot of you are getting hot under the collar though, after the All Blacks recent display. Maybe they need a series loss to really shake them up and get them firing they way they used to.

I have spent a lot of the weekend watching The Open. Much less stressful than rugby and better for the players too. No rattled brains, broken bones, damaged joints. I hate what we know is happening to all those sports heroes of today who really damage their brains every week playing soccer, football and boxing. It is probably outrageous to think it should be banned, but I think it should be if so many participants end up with dementia because of it. Schools should be promoting sports that aren't ruinous in the long run—tennis, golf, athletics, rowing or any of hundreds of sports that promote good health and wellbeing and don't harm the keen boys and girls and men and women who are the next generation.

Don't buy a new computer resurrect the old one with Zorin Core

Zorin OS



A big thank you to Keith Erikson for introducing us to the Zorin version of the Linux operating system. In our April newsletter, I explained how I had converted an old ASUS laptop to the Linux.

On that occasion, I used the Ubuntu version of Linux. Everything worked but I must admit I found the computer rather slow.

After discussing the issue with Keith, he suggested that I replace my old hard drive with a new 480GB SSD and load the Zorin version of Linux instead of Ubuntu.

At PBTech the new drive cost under a \$100. I also purchased a case to house that old hard drive so that it can be repurposed as a backup disc for my Zorin Laptop.

The Zorin version of Linux can be downloaded at zorin.com . I also visited linuxhint.com , a website with lots of information on Zorin. Type "Zorin vs Ubuntu" into the search box for a comparison.

There is a Pro version of Zorin at \$39 US but **Zorin Core**, (64-bit), is the free option that will have our computers working perfectly. Type "How to install Zorin OS on a PC step by step" into the YouTube search box or click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDJu54SBOq8> There you will find a clear tutorial explaining how to convert your computer to the Zorin operating system.

The system requirements for Zorin are significantly less than Ubuntu and there is even a 32-bit version for very old computers with less than 4GB RAM, called Zorin OS Lite. Zorin can be loaded on to computers up to 15 years old but please note that, the 32-bit version will still look rather dated and it will struggle to load some websites.

Zorin Core has lots of free software such as LibreOffice set out in a format that will be familiar to you all.

If you are thinking about buying a new computer why not try upgrading the hard drive on the old one and changing the operating system to Zorin. It will work very well for a fraction of the cost of a new computer.

You can find out how to change the Hard Drive for your computer by typing into the YouTube search box, "How to change the Hard Drive of **'write in the make and model number of your computer'**."

Give it a go. If you don't feel confident I'm sure one of our computer wizards would be happy to help you out at one of our training sessions.

Continued ...

Kate's Take continued

I do believe that Alan La Roche is one of Howick's Treasures. For over sixty years, he has been curating and documenting the history of Howick. As the driving force behind the creation of the Howick Historical Village he has made history accessible to everyone, bringing life to the times of the Fencibles and helping us all to understand the place where we live today. His contribution to the people of Howick and the local environs is immeasurable. Thank you, Alan.



So here I am, having to write a few words on the fascinating talk Alan gave us at our last meeting. In less than an hour he told us so many interesting stories that I feel I cannot do justice to his talk, so please bear with me as I just give you a little sample of the things he said. I suggest that you enter Alan La Roche's name into your search engine. You will be amazed at the number of publications he has authored. "Grey's Folly" by Alan La Roche is the perfect book to have on your coffee table. Open the book to any page and you will find an engrossing read.

Alan was brought into the world, at his home, on Paparoa Road by Otahuhu doctor, Roy Lange (father of Prime Minister David Lange), who was the nearest doctor to Howick at the time. However, the La Roche Bush Reserve on Paparoa Road is named after his Father, Ernie La Roche. Ernie became the Mayor of Howick in 1952 after the boundaries of Howick were extended and it became a Borough.

Alan grew up on a 5acre Fencible allotment where all his neighbours had similar 5acre blocks. They cultivated an extensive vegetable garden and had a house cow, Cleo, that was eventually sold so Alan could go to Otago University.

Much of what we know about 1850s Howick comes from the diary of Rev Vicesimus Lush, who was one of twenty siblings. At that time quill pens, made from sharpened feathers, were used for writing but apparently Lush equipped himself with one of the new metal, nibbed pens. However, these pens were still inclined to be rather messy so his wife presented him with a special wiper to keep his work free of blots. In those days, metal pens cost 4pence each which was very expensive. It was some time before they replaced the feather quill that only cost ½ penny.

If the Reverend Lush wanted to post a letter he would take it to the cottage of James White, who was the "Honorary Sub deputy Postmaster-without salary" from 1849. The mail was then passed on to Ngamapu, the Maori, barefoot, mail runner who carried mail to Auckland on Monday and Thursday returning to Howick on Wednesday and Saturday. He was paid a £1 a week, significantly more than the Fencibles working on the roads and farms. In 1857, Ngamapu lost the tender to a European with a horse.

As a child, Alan would often see Tommy Mold, on Dufty Bell's reaper and binder, harvesting oats. Pakuranga was called the "granary of Auckland" often producing 40 bushels per acre which was considered a very high yield in those days. A bushel is a volumetric measurement and is equivalent to just over 36 litres. Alan also remembers Stockade Hill being fenced to retain a flock of sheep.

In the early days, wheat would be as tall as a man. The grain was harvested and the long stems were cut up to create chaff for the horses. As horses were superseded by motorised vehicles on the farm and for transport, demand for chaff fell so the plant breeders created a short-stemmed wheat variety. Many of the Fencibles brought their own fruit seeds with them but in an 1840 seed catalogue there were 290 apple, 50 peach, 30 pear and 57 plum varieties, respectively. Much more choice than is available today.

Continued ...

Kate's Take continued

Auricularia sp



Tony Willis www.inaturalist.org/photos/8386529

A common pastime among the children in early Howick was to gather pig's ear fungus (*Auricularia sp*) which grows on native softwoods. In the 1950's, this fungus was still being gathered and sold to Chinese merchants. It was processed and then exported to China supplying a good source of income.

The Settlers learnt from the Maori that the bar tailed godwits were a good food source, especially in February and March when they were plump in preparation for their long migration North. The Maori used manuka branches to trap the birds but the Settlers used shot guns. A single shot could bring down as many as 40 birds. The Maori would store the prepared birds in their own fat in gourds while the Settlers would use ceramic pots for storage. It was not until February 1941 that bar tailed godwits were fully protected.

Alan went to Howick District High School which was located where Howick Intermediate is situated today. From there the children would walk to Mellons Bay where they would learn to swim and have swimming races. They would gain certificates for the 50 yd and 100 yd distances then they would all walk back to school. The teachers always caught the bus. Howick beach had bathing sheds similar to the ones seen on British beaches. Often, the sheds had two doors and were partitioned, one side for women and one side for men.

The first automobile arrived in Auckland in 1898. It was not long before the combustion engine superseded the horse and cart. In 1903, the Auckland Automobile Association had their first car run from Auckland to Picton Street, Howick. It must have been a very bumpy trip as they had solid rubber tyres and the roads were full of potholes and ruts. They would have had to go over the first Panmure Bridge that was built in 1865. The present-day Council have promised to conserve the remnants of the bridge that can still be seen on the banks of the Tamaki today.

The roads along the ridges around Howick, such as Selwyn, Ridge and Botany were thought to have followed the tracks made by the little bush moa, *Anomalopteryx sp*. There is abundant evidence that this moa was present in the area. A Cleveland Farmer discovered the bones of 45 moa in his swamp. Governor Grey and Hobson wrote to the UK government requesting convicts from the UK to increase the work force but the request was denied. The justification being that if the convicts escaped they would be eaten by the Maori. This meant that road building was carried out by the Fencibles.

The streets of Howick were named in 1847 by, Lieutenant Colonel Godfrey Munday and Governor Grey. They decided to name the streets after celebrated battles and leaders. Cook Street was named after General, Sir George Cook. Uxbridge, Elliot, Baird, Picton, Abercrombie and Wellington were all military leaders. Nelson, Howe, Vincent, Rodney and Drake were naval leaders. Waterloo and Gibraltar were famous battles and Union Road was named after the famous Union Brigade Charge at the Battle of Waterloo. Sale and Minerva were named after the first two ships that brought the Fencibles to Howick.

To maintain these roads the locals would cut Kanuka, tie it up in bundles and sell them to the council to fill in the pot holes. Cockle shells were also used for road fill. When Alan was growing up he remembers how cockle shells were processed in five lime kilns situated on Eastern Beach. The lime produced was then taken to Auckland for the manufacture of plaster.

Death and disease were always constant companions. In 1854, 49 Settler children died of scarlet fever. Many more Maori children would have also died but this was not documented. The Maori population had no resistance to the diseases brought to New Zealand by the Fencibles. . **Continued ...**

Kate's Take continued

The first bus service was Crawford's horse bus service in 1883. The stables were situated in the area we now know as Crawford Reserve. When the motor buses arrived, they were unpopular. The fuel emitted horrible fumes and the heavier motor vehicles often got stuck in the mud.

Howick had the first community newspaper in New Zealand called "The Pensioners Gazette". The Army, Pensioners who arrived in 1847, started the paper in 1848. Michael Ford of Panmure and doctor, Surgeon Captain Bacot, whose house was called Bleakhouse, on the road of the same name also wrote many of the articles. However, they were very critical of the Governor so after 13 issues the publication was banned. Interestingly, the Maori Gazette at the same time was also banned for criticising the Governor.

The first Howick Town Hall was built in 1884, however, over the years, it was relocated within the Town several times. Alas, we no longer have a Town hall but the Community Board do give money to various churches so that they can be used by the community for functions and meetings. In 1918, during the great flu epidemic, the Town Hall became an emergency hospital. This must have been very challenging as electricity did not arrive until 1927.

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The Anglican, "All Saints Church" is the oldest church in Auckland, with its erection starting in 1847. It was prefabricated in the backyard of St John's College and transferred to Howick in sections. The Rev Vicesimus Lush was Minister from 1850-1866. The construction of the Roman Catholic Church, "Our Lady Star of the Sea", was started after the Anglican Church but was finished first.

A commemorative plaque to the children who died in the scarlet fever epidemic can be seen on the lychgate of "All Saints Church" today.



Shamrock Cottage is the second oldest building in Manukau and was originally called the Royal Hotel starting as a wet canteen for new immigrants in 1847. In the 1960's Shamrock Cottage was in danger of being bulldozed but after lobbying by the Historical Society the cottage was donated to Howick Borough Council and Sir William Stevenson, Mayor of Howick donated the land.

The Historical Society restored the old part of the cottage and the Howick RSA rebuilt the toilet and kitchen block so that the building could be used as a restaurant that we can all enjoy to this day.

So, on that note, I would like to say a big thank you again to Alan La Roche for a wonderful talk and for all his hard work over the years. The next time you go to the Shamrock Cottage, ponder a moment and imagine what wonderful stories could be told if only the walls could talk.

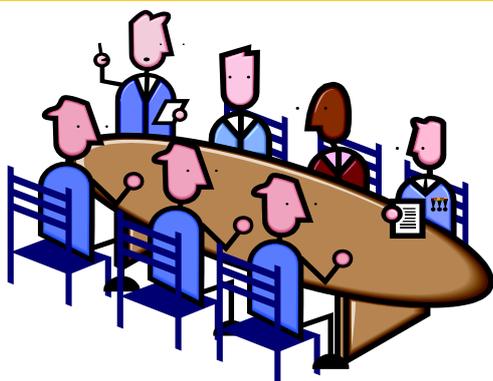
The end

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**Comments, Queries,
Suggestions,
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I found that I have
been happier since I
changed from coffee in
the morning to orange
juice. My doctor
explained that it's the
vitamin C and natural
sugars but I really
think it's the Vodka



COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

To view all SeniorNet courses and timetable, click here

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

AUGUST HELP DAYS

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| Mon | 1 August | 10am |
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| Thu | 30 August | 10am |

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

Currently we limit the numbers in the Learning Centre to six, including three tutors. Any additional people will be asked to wait and be seated in the corridor until a space becomes available.

Pulled a nose hair out today to see if it hurt!
Judging by the screams of the guy asleep on the bus next to me! Yes it did hurt!!

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.

**If you get a LOAN at a bank, you'll be paying it back for 30 yrs.
If you ROB a bank, you'll be out in 10 yrs.
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