

**SeniorNet (Pakuranga) Inc**  
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**SEPTEMBER 2022**

Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents



This issue:

- ◆ Next meeting
- ◆ September Help days
- ◆ New members
- ◆ **Bits and Bytes**
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- ◆ Kate's Take
- ◆ Your Committee
- ◆ How to join a course

Our next Meeting,

**10am Friday 2nd SEPTEMBER**

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**

Kate will continue to try to educate us with her App Chat. The main speaker will be Guy Slocum, enlightening us on his experiences as a pilot with RAF during the Cold War.

## SEPTEMBER HELP DAYS

Thur	8 Sep	10am
Wed	14 Sep	1pm
Thur	22 Sep	10am
Wed	28 Sep	10am

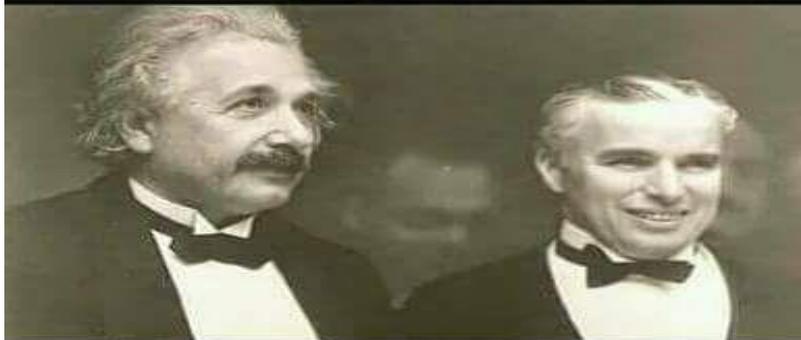
## NEW MEMBERS



Clifford Graves  
John Wigston  
Anne Wilson

## When Albert Einstein Met Charlie Chaplin

ThinkingHumanity.com



**ALBERT EINSTEIN:** -What I admire most about your art, is its universality. You do not say a word, and yet, the world understands you!

**CHARLIE CHAPLIN:** -It's true, but your fame is even greater! The world admires you, when nobody understands you!

Warren Taylor represented us at the regional meeting of Auckland/Northland SeniorNets. We are awaiting a late August report from a working group looking into the viability of 'learner hour' payments made as support from NZ Seniorsnet Federation. These are amounts distributed from income received from our supporters and sponsors and to some SeniorNets at the Auckland meeting represent a large proportion of their income. It was also noted that member numbers had dropped away significantly in many of the clubs attending. In contrast we are not greatly dependent on learner hour income and our membership numbers, while lower than pre-Covid, are still satisfactory.

Part of the decline can be attributed to the fact that many people who are entering the age group traditionally regarded as 'senior' have had digital technology exposure for many years and probably face the prospect of working longer. We have discussed this aspect and see that our traditional courses may not attract the same demand while support for members via Help Days is likely to increase as creeping changes to devices and applications is inevitable. Therefore, for a trial period, we will increase the number of Help days.

As an example of change, we were assured by Microsoft that Windows 10 would be the last release. Then Windows 11 arrived and Microsoft has announced that they will now release new versions every 3 years.

A final paragraph to remind each of you that our AGM is scheduled for October and we will be seeking nominations for committee positions.

- \* You know you're old when Happy Hour is a nap!
- \* My friend thinks he is smart. He told me an onion is the only food that makes you cry, so I threw a coconut at his face.
- \* Two old people were sitting on a bench, one turns to the other and says "My butt fell asleep". The other says, "Yep, I heard it snore a couple of times."

## *Ramblings*

*Dawn Howarth*

Not much to ramble on about this month. I loved hearing Kate's App Chat and was blown away at the work that went into building the Maui gas pipeline. I thought Victorians created amazing structures for their time, but I think that pipeline is right up there with them after seeing all that was involved creating such a wonderful resource.

It's spring and definitely warming up—perfect for me right now. I'm not a fan for hot summer weather. It would be my preference to live permanently in winter or spring. One nice part of winter has enabled me to motor through the Outlander series of books. The hours whizz by when following the trials and tribulations of Jamie and Claire.

I have been asked to remind you that we should wear our name badges at all meetings and at Help days or classes at the Learning Centre. This is a friendly and easy reminder (for others) of your name. Very few of us are skilled at name-recall these days. In fact recalling anything can be a chore, easily proven especially if you leave your grocery list at home. So please collect your membership card from Robyn and wear it to our meetings—and use the Noel Leeming discount stamp on the back. Some great deals have been reported using that, sadly not by moi.

Take care and come to our September meeting wearing your best smile (and your name).

I may be pushing my luck here, but please tell me at our next meeting, that you would like to join our committee. It's so easy and everyone is so nice, you will love it. Honest.



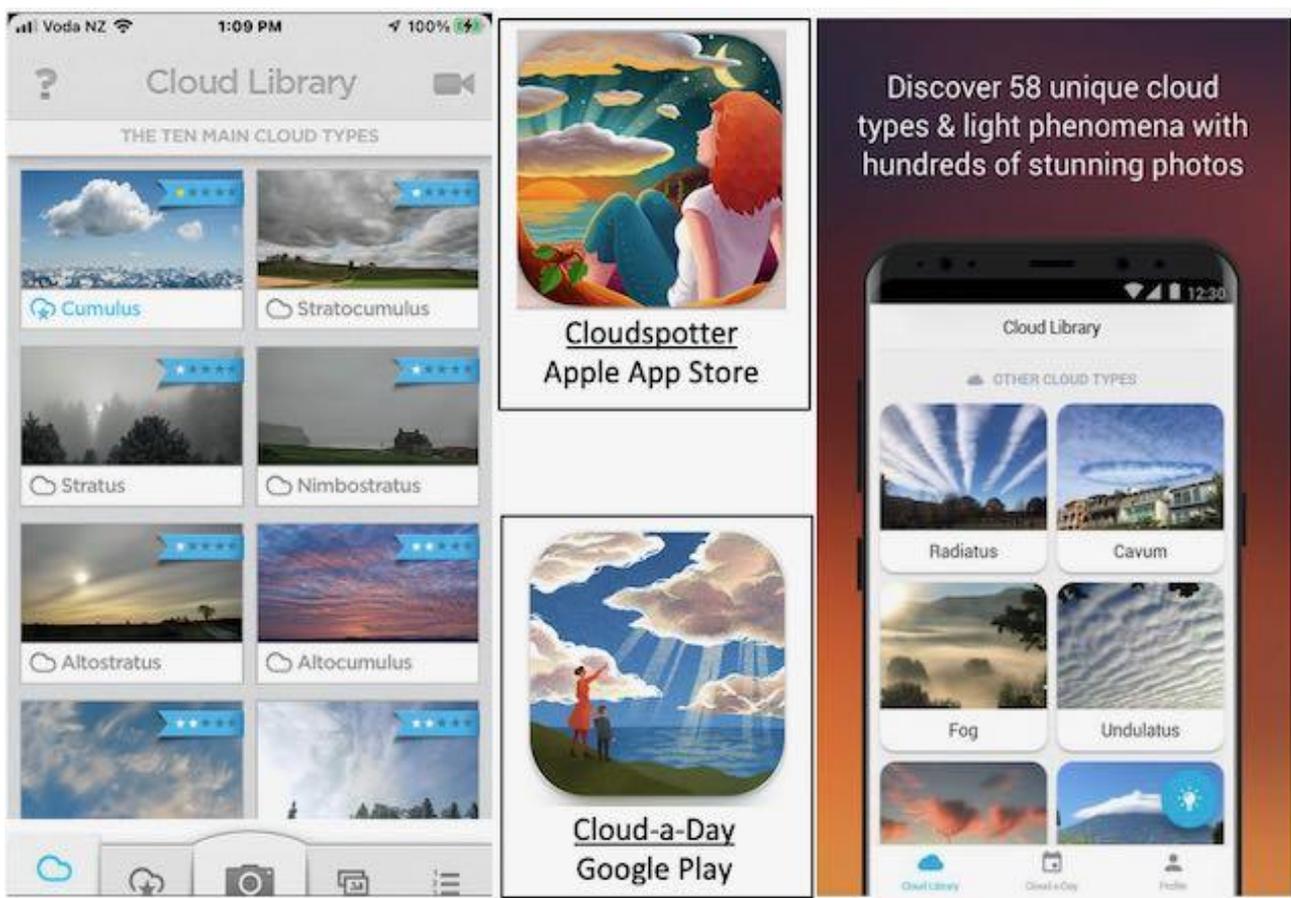
## YOUR MOBILE PHONE IS A WINDOW ON THE WORLD OR RATHER A WINDOW ON THE UNIVERSE

**Universe?** Rather pretentious I can hear you say but over the next few months I plan to introduce you to some interesting apps that I guarantee will broaden horizons and stimulate brains ----

**Marks for effort.** We all know what Robert Burns said ----- “the best laid plans of mice and men”. Well, that adage applies to wrinkly, old ladies too. I’m a bit on the obsessive-compulsive side so when I prepared my talk I thought I had covered all the issues, but no, **CloudSpotter only has an Apple version.** **No panic, Google Play has the Cloud-a-Day app** for those phones using the Android operating systems.

Both Apps have extensive libraries of cloud images to help you identify a particular cloud or optical phenomenon. They also supply information to help you interpret a cloud’s significance, how they are formed and the type of weather that can be expected.

Have a look at YouTube video from the Bradbury Science Museum. This explains how clouds are formed.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe09Qu9baac>



In CloudSpotter, by touching the camera icon at the bottom of the page you can take a photo of a cloud or optical phenomenon and work out what you have photographed. Once you have named the cloud you can forward the image to the experts.

It took over a week for my identification to be confirmed but then I was awarded a star and gained two badges that are displayed within the app.

There is also a CloudSpotter Ranking page. Here my CloudSpotter stars and badges are displayed. I am ranked 6279<sup>th</sup> in the rankings so I still have a long way to go to achieve the 115 Stars and 20 badges that are available. You create a fictitious username so you cannot be identified directly from the app.

## Kate's Take continued

### STAR WALK

**Star Walk** is a truly, amazing piece of software and I suggest you all have a look at this great app. There is a free version and a newer version, without advertisements, that costs under \$10 but the free version will give you hours of enjoyment.



We have all gazed up at the moon and noticed a bright star close by or a satellite moving across the sky. What is the star? What is that satellite doing? Where can the Southern Cross be found? This app will answer all your questions.



The app is very easy to use and you will soon find that it is stacked with amazing information as you go from page to page exploring its depths.

When you open the app you may think nothing is happening. Star Walk opens with a static image of the stars but as soon as you re-orientate your phone or tablet towards the sky the screen will come to life. It knows what part of the sky you are scanning because of the built-in navigation tools within your device.

Perhaps, you don't like standing outside on a cold night? Then sit on your couch, and keep warm. Point the phone in any direction and you will see what stars are going to appear later in the evening or what satellites will be coming into sight.

If you spot a satellite moving across your screen touch the graphic. The satellite will be highlighted. A (i) will appear. Touch the (i) and now you can read about the purpose of the satellite and where and when it will be visible from your location.

As you move your phone across the sky, images of the constellations will appear. You will see how a particular constellation gained its name. An augmented reality image will appear before your eyes linking the stars to create familiar shapes.

You may think the night sky is uninteresting but this app is packed with so much information I am confident that you will soon be star gazing with enthusiasm.

## The Laying of the Maui Gas Pipeline



A big thank you to Robert Finley for his fascinating talk on his involvement, during the late 1970s, in the construction of the 300km Maui gas pipeline. It was laid from the Oaonui Production Station, south of New Plymouth to Huntly Power Station, in the Waikato. The Maui Gas Field was first discovered offshore in the late 1960s and the pipeline eventually came on line in 1979 and it currently carries about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of NZ gas usage.

Its construction contract was a let as a joint venture to McConnell Dowell Constructors, NZ and Saipem SpA of Italy. As in all major construction it over run its original cost. It went from \$33 million to \$41 million however this cost did not include the value of pre-wrapping the pipe with bituminous felt which cost an additional \$10 million.



*The grounds around the old New Plymouth Airport were used to wrap and store the pipes. The white blocks in the above image show the pipes lined up in piles.*

The trench diggers were the first of the many different crews to start. They would be followed by additional crews each with different tasks to perform. But the respective crews were reliant upon the crews in front before they could move on. This meant everyone was under significant pressure to perform.

At times crews were spread out over a distance of 200kms.



*Once the trench was dug the pipes had to be strung out. Here you can see a D6 bulldozer being helped up a slope with an additional winch.*

The contractors had to make their own arrangements to gain access across the many kilometres of farm land through which the pipeline was to be laid. The farmers soon accepted the inconvenience when they realised that significant improvements were going to be made to their properties. The muddy farm tracks were metalled, drainage and fences improved.



*McConnell Dowell acquired an old bucket wheel excavator but that soon failed and they found that back hoe excavators were more efficient.*

The pipes came in 12m lengths and although they were quite flexible in strings there were places where a significant bend had to be created. Using a mandrel attached to a special machine it was possible to create a 15-degree bend. However, it was not possible to create the bend in the correct position until the pipe was adjacent to the last pipe that had been laid. The bending had to be done just prior to putting the pipe in place.

## Kate's Take continued



Above you can see the mandrel going into the pipe. (red arrow). In the centre image the technician is measuring the angle of the pipe and in the image on the right you can see the bend in the pipe and how it is being supported at the far end.



Once the correct bend had been created the pipes were welded together (1). Any excess slag from the weld was removed with a grinder (2). In image (3), the joint is being heated so that it can be wrapped in special bituminous felt (4) and (5). This was then sealed in place with boiling bitumen.



Saipem was responsible for bending, welding and wrapping all field welds. The lifting of the pipe into the trench using D8 side boom tractors was another task that required a highly skilled workforce, the majority being recruited locally. The yellow arrow indicates concrete blocks that were attached to the pipes to prevent them from floating when the pipeline had to transverse a river.

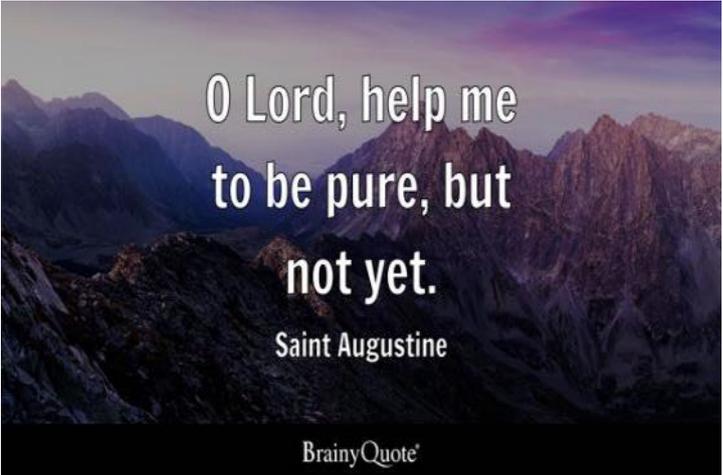
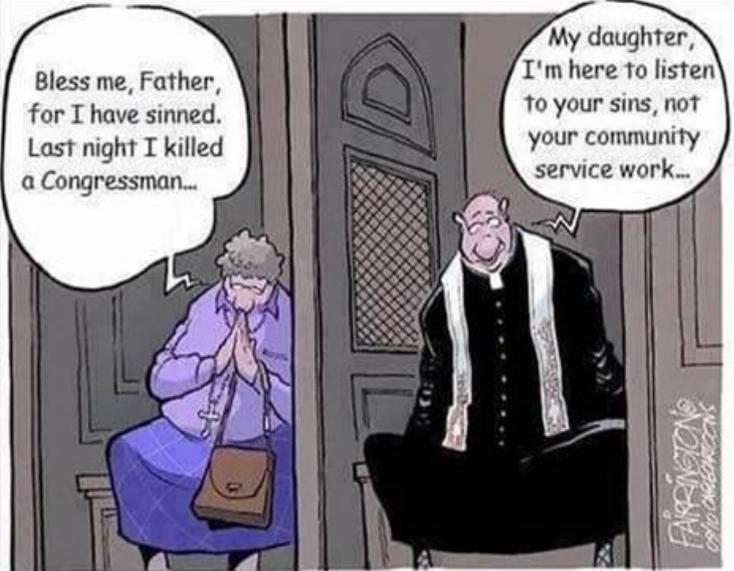


The pipeline had to go under roads and cross gullies and rivers. The biggest challenge was an area to the coastal side of Mount Messenger. The price of this part of the contract was left open as no one could anticipate the problems that were likely to be encountered. The laying of the Maui Gas Line was certainly a remarkable piece of engineering. **Another, great presentation from Robert Finley, thank you.**

**Comments, Queries,  
Suggestions,  
Free Advertising**

**COMMITTEE**

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## COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

To view all SeniorNet courses and timetable, click here

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

### SEPTEMBER HELP DAYS

Thur	8 Sep	10am
Wed	14 Sep	1pm
Thur	22 Sep	10am
Wed	28 Sep	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.

Tip of the day: blow on the wine in your coffee mug to convince the rest of the zoom meeting that it is tea.



### 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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