

SeniorNet (Pakuranga) Inc
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FEBRUARY 2023

Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents



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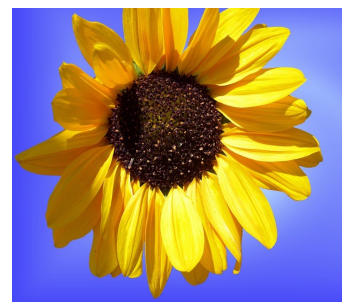
Our next Meeting

Friday 3 February

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

Kate will give her usual interesting mobile app presentation.

The main speaker will be **Nicole Lawton** Stakeholder Communications Manager presenting on behalf of **City Rail Link** and **talking about the Tunnel Boring Machine** working on NZ's largest infrastructure project.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

See Pages 2 and 3

FEBRUARY HELP DAYS

Thurs	2FEB	10am
Tues	14FEB	10am
Tues	21FEB	10am
Mon	27FEB	1pm

**I've started
investing in stocks:
beef, chicken, and
vegetable...
One day I hope
to be a bouillonaire.**

This is your Seniornet.

Do you want SeniorNet Pakuranga to continue ?

We need assistance — we need helpers at Help Days and **we need administration back up.** Not necessarily Committee members but we do need help, NOW.

Currently there is no back-up for any committee members and it will only take one more member to become unavailable and our club may have to close. Currently three vital members are unavailable and we are struggling. Now is the time for you to come to the aid of SeniorNet, please volunteer.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Brian Erikson

Where to from here ?

I chose that theme because Graeme reminded me that when he joined SeniorNet in 2014, I said I thought that SeniorNet had about 10 years to run in its present form and might even be irrelevant to the people who would be 50 by 2020.

This was on the basis of what my children have experienced (now 53, 51 and 48) and the growing digital emphasis in college which is also exposing their parents to computing technology if they had not already become tech savvy.

Computers have not changed fundamentally since SeniorNet started, certainly faster and more powerful with vast storage but someone who had done a PC course in 1990 wouldn't feel totally at sea with today's devices.

What has changed is the emergence of smartphones - a handheld always-on computing and communications device supported by national and international networks. But saturation is occurring in the smartphone feature market even the marketers are finding it hard to add the next attractive feature. So, you see the smartphone use moving into car and household integration to maintain their markets.

The use of Cloud computing, like the large range of Google services will be pushed for the cloud providers business reasons. Microsoft and others are building vast data centres in NZ. It may well be that products like Microsoft 365 being promoted strongly to expand their subscription sales that provide them steady monthly income. This may cost the consumer more but makes sure the services are always up to date, more easily used on any device type, even simplifies the device and can reduce learning needs, device costs and management tasks for the consumer.

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Where do we stand ?

Membership is down to about 250 and new members are only coming in twos and threes, partly I think because of the much wider digital knowledge in the community. Some of the new members come because of sudden changes in their personal circumstances like “my husband did all the financial stuff online and now he can’t”, or “my bank has closed I don’t have a car”, “I’ve never used the internet and I don’t know what to do”. Quite a few of these are coming via Citizens’ Advice Bureau. Their immediate needs are quite specific rather than wanting general knowledge.

The small number of new members and those who only want a smartphone lesson mean that many of our traditional courses get low numbers.

The most popular service, if we add up the total annual numbers, is the monthly meeting both so that members stay in touch, have a social outing and grab the occasional tutor for on the spot advice.

The second most popular service we offer is the Help session because it meets the needs of all our members rather than say new members or someone just refreshing their knowledge.

Our financial position is good to meet most foreseeable events. If we had adequate warning we could try for charity grants as we have in the past.

More significantly is the situation of our committee members and tutors. I can’t imagine many of us see ourselves in this role in three years let alone one year. Most have filled these positions for many years. Recruitment/persuading/arm twisting new people to these roles has been just sufficient to maintain ongoing roles because most of the tutors and committee have remained available.

Graeme’s unfortunate illness is an example of how rapidly we or our partners lives can change. In recent months six of us have had to offer extra support to our partners or experience hospitalisation ourselves.

We can either remain like we are, probably facing a decrease in members or we could look to recruit from the 20,000 plus seniors in our capture areas by emphasizing Help rather than training, at a lower membership fee. U3A, Grey Power and Probus are organisations we could ask for assistance in reaching this age group. This could mean less specific training demand while Help grows.

Any significant membership increase needs a corresponding growth in tutor numbers and a stable committee, three of whom are also tutors. An immediate need is more backup for committee members (outside the committee) and extra tutors for Help and continuing current courses.

I guess the big question is whether we have the collective energy to carry on.

Let’s have your views please.

Brian

Ramblings

Dawn Howarth

Wow, there is quite a lot to digest and think about in this newsletter. The world is in chaos, I guess it is reasonable that our wee club has it’s problems too. I do hope we jump this hurdle and survive.

I also hope you had a lovely Christmas holiday break and are ready to tackle this year with a big smile. My year started beautifully, but then along came Covid, a few days later him-indoors had it too, so we have been isolating for the last 10 days. It was quite painless really.

Yesterday I wanted to find something on YouTube. That was the easy part, after I watched it I couldn’t stop looking at other clips. In the end I spent over an hour playing around and enjoyed every minute. It doesn’t take much to amuse some, does it.

Looking forward to seeing you next week. Take care.

Census 2023

Everyone in NZ has to complete a Census return based on their whereabouts on 7th March, even if you are an overseas visitor or here illegally.

This includes offshore islands, boats in territorial waters and overseas people in transit at an airport.

If you are overseas you do not complete a census form.

Paper Census Packs will be delivered to all addresses including hotels and hospitals etc.

The operators of Retirement Villages will distribute Census packs to their residents.

Census staff will endeavour to reach people without an address.

SeniorNet has been asked to be an [ASSISTED COMPLETION LOCATION](#) to aid people with their census responsibilities in a way that preserves privacy.

This year Census websites open from 13th February and close at the end of April.

The actual record is based on people in your household on 7th March but you can start some preparation from 13th February.

You have two options, paper forms automatically posted to you or direct on line at www.census.govt.nz and selecting "Start your Census". (Again, there is an option for an online request for a paper pack if the posted one has not arrived.)

a) For a paper pack choose "Request paper forms"

Fill in the address for delivery and any other info requested.

If you are not online phone 0800 236 787 and supply details required to make up your unique pack.

b) Online after "Start your Census" choose "Request an access code".

(You need access to a mobile phone to participate on line.)

Type in the address you are requesting an online form for.

Enter your mobile number and select "one-time pin".

Keep the online form open.

When the pin is received enter it in the request form and Submit

This generates your internet access code again sent to the mobile number

On the online form select "Log In" (or record the access code if you are doing this before 7th March and will login later.

Enter the Internet access code

Answer each question and select "Submit" for each completed form.

There are household forms Dwelling forms and Individual forms.

You may complete Individual forms for other members of your household who are staying on the night of 7th March.

Finally, once you are sure all forms have been submitted click "Submit" and close the site.

If you need our ASSISTED COMPLETION LOCATION assistance please email a request to brian@senpak.nz or phone our Learning Centre 5764500.

The Census Help line is 0800 236 787

COMMITTEE

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Comments, Queries, Suggestios, Free Advertising

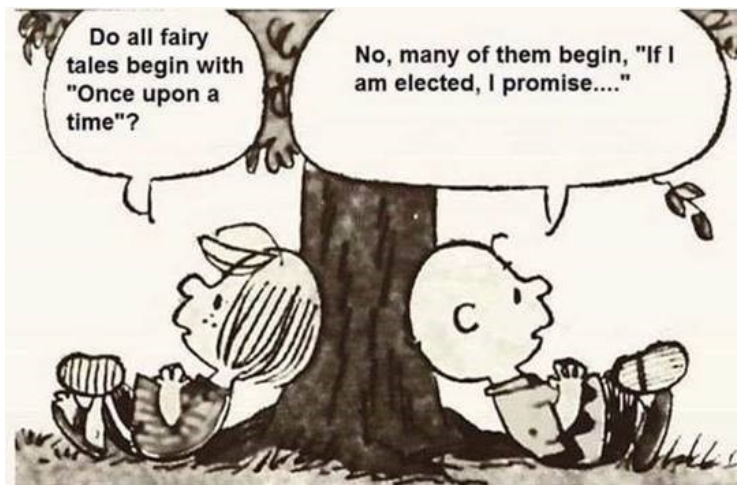
As I watch this generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of .. it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

If you find yourself feeling useless, remember it took 20 years, trillions of dollars, and four U.S. presidents to replace the Taliban with the Taliban.

My mind is like an internet browser. At least 19 open tabs, 3 of them are frozen, and I have no clue where the music is coming from.

Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.

So, you've been eating KFC and McDonald's all your life, but you won't take the vaccine because you don't know what's in it?



I became confused when I heard the word 'service' used with these agencies:

Banking	'Service'
Postal	'Service'
Telephone	'Service'
Pay TV	'Service'
State & Public	'Service'
Customer	'Service'
Bureaucratic	'Service'

This is not what I thought 'Service' meant.

Then I visited my uncle, he's a farmer, and he hired a bull to 'Service' his cows.

Suddenly **WOW!!!** It all came clear.

Now I understand what all those agencies are doing to us!

COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

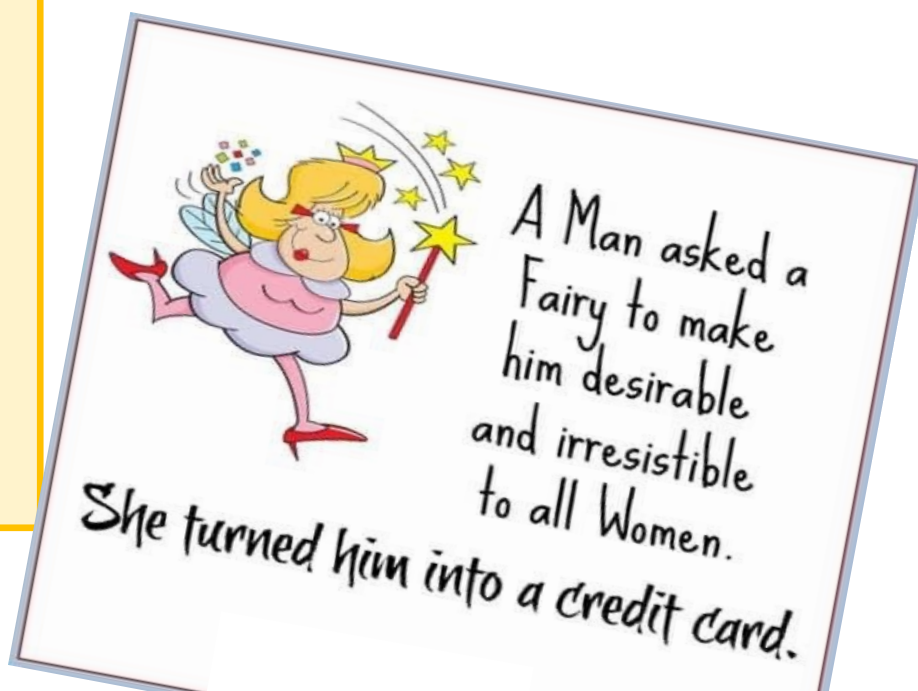
To view all SeniorNet courses and timetable, click here

<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 in our Learning Centre at
12 Ben Lomond Crescent, Pakuranga.
- * 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.

WAIVER: Some of our members voluntarily and willingly give help and advice to other members on matters relating to computers, associated equipment and software. This includes information contained in the columns of this newsletter and other publications including our SeniorNet Website. This help or advice is taken solely at the recipient's risk and imposes no responsibility or liability of any kind, either on those providing such help or advice, or the newsletter Editors or SeniorNet (Pakuranga) Inc.