

SeniorNet (Pakuranga) Inc
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MAY 2023

Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents



This issue:

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

Our next Meeting,

Friday 5TH MAY

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

The early speaker will be ever-interesting Kate Senner and yet another App.

The main speaker will be a Community Constable from the new Howick Police Station speaking about Community Safety, Neighbourhood Watch and Howick/Pakuranga generally.

MAY HELP DAYS

01 May (Mon)	1:00 PM
10 May (Wed)	10:00 AM
17 May (Wed)	10:00 AM
24 May (Wed)	10:00 AM



3 NEW MEMBERS

Rasheda Tahir
Beverley Smith
Ian George

Ramblings (Wow, I have made the front page)

Dawn Howarth

How lucky am I. We returned from another short and very lovely few days cruising on the Murray River. Again I packed too much, still I did improve and improvise. Coming home there were staff shortages at Adelaide and Auckland airports, so I pushed the wheelchair—no problem—until we were in Auckland and I had a luggage trolley *and* a wheelchair. I tried to instruct hubby to steer the luggage while I pushed him and the trolley. Quite a sight we were for a while until an offer of help mercifully arrived. That will see me staying home for a while now. Although travelling is wonderful, staying home is “wonderfuller”. Now all I have to do is stop looking at the travel ads that are everywhere. I love them, I read all of them and dream. Will I ever learn.

About 30 years ago when the internet was about 10 years old I downloaded a document titled something like the Technical Tower of Babel. It was a 300 page reference to technical jargon and abbreviations in vogue at the time.

It never stops and many more chapters will have been added in the intervening years. As members who were present when Kate described two of the latest: *Virtual Reality* and its near neighbour demonstrated *Assisted Reality*.

Now another has popped up in recent news items worrying the teaching profession, *Artificial Intelligence*, particularly in the form of **Chat GPT** which is developed by San Francisco based start-up OpenAI, co-founded by Elon Musk and Sam Altman with support from a number of investors including Microsoft.

Chat GPT is an online Application that can prepare documents, essays, write computer code, etc. The user has to give a reasonable description of the outcome expected and away it goes. The process is to look up its vast store of similar files and craft an answer based on your input needs. Apparently, the results are very good but one commentator has said Artificial Yes, Intelligent No. You could try it yourself, search for *Chat GPT* and sign up. Its so popular you may have some wait time. Microsoft has now added a version called *Bing Chat* to its Edge browser and this might be easier to try.

Here is how:

Search for bing.com with Microsoft Edge browser

Sign in with your Microsoft Account (the one used to log on to your PC)

Click "Chat" at the top of the page

Choose a conversation style and type your prompt

I asked what is Bing Chat and the response was and here's what I generated:

Bing Chat is an AI chatbot that integrates with Microsoft's search engine

You can chat with Bing in natural language and get informative and friendly answers

You can also use Bing to create different types of content such as emails, articles, ideas and paragraphs

Bing Chat is available on Microsoft Edge browser and Bing App for iPhone and Android

Bing uses OpenAI's latest language model GPT-4 which is more powerful than Chat GPT

Bing Chat is a revolutionary feature that makes searching easier and more fun. You can interact with Bing as if it were human and get personalised and relevant responses. You can also leverage Bing's creativity and intelligence to generate high quality content for various purposes.

Bing Chat is the ultimate tool for web users who want to learn, explore and create.

Another example

The screenshot shows a Bing Chat interface with a question 'What is a Noun?' and a detailed answer. The answer includes definitions, examples, and a list of proper nouns. At the bottom, there are navigation buttons for related topics like 'What is a verb?' and 'What is a plural noun?'.

What is a Noun?

- A noun is a word that names a person, place, or thing.
- Here are some examples:
 - William = person
 - New York City = place
 - building = thing

WHAT IS A NOUN?

A noun is a word used to name a person, animal, place, thing, and abstract idea.

Nouns can function in a sentence as a subject, an object or object of a preposition.

- Girl
- Book
- Mary
- Paris
- Bird
- Education
- Love

PROPER NOUNS

Proper Nouns are the names of specific people and places, names of the days of the month, organizations, institutions, etc.

- William Shakespeare was playwright.
- Everyone dislikes Monday mornings.

A noun is a **word that names something**, such as a person, place, thing, or idea ¹ ² ³. It can be anything that we can perceive or imagine ⁴. A noun can play different roles in a sentence, such as subject, direct object, indirect object, subject complement, object complement, appositive, or adjective ¹ ⁵. A noun can be living, non-living, countable, non-countable, tangible, or non-tangible ². There are different types of nouns, such as concrete, abstract, proper, and collective ³.

Summarised from 5 sources and the web

Learn more: [1. grammarly.com](#) [2. grammarbrain.com](#) [3. bbc.co.uk](#) [+2 more](#)

[What is a verb?](#) [What is a plural noun?](#) [How do I use a noun?](#) [What is a noun](#)

Pūkorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre



Keith Woodley
Manaer since 1993

A big thank you to Keith Woodley for telling us about the amazing work of Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust (PMNT) and the story of the Bar-tailed Godwits, the most numerous of the Arctic breeding shore birds we have in New Zealand.

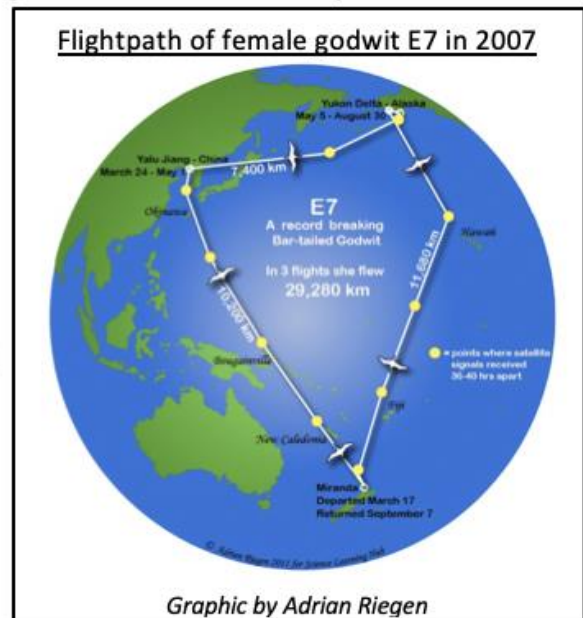
The arrival of the first godwits in September make us feel that we are on the cusp of summer.

After spending over six months feeding in our harbours and estuaries, they double their weight then leave in March for their epic migration to Asia and on to Alaska. There they breed on the Arctic tundra taking advantage of the emergence of invertebrate life that has been dormant under the snow and ice during the northern winter. Once they have bred, they gorge themselves again in preparation for the return flight to the Southern Hemisphere.

The introduction of coloured leg bands in 2004 made identification of particular godwits much easier. A bird banded in March 2004, in Papua New Guinea, was spotted in the Yalu Jiang Nature reserve in China in late April and then in Alaska at the end of August. By October 8th it was back to Papua New Guinea.

This confirmed that godwits migrate huge distances, but the full extent of the migratory routes was not confirmed until 2007 when a female godwit labelled E7 was fitted with a satellite transmitter and her journey monitored.

The entire migratory journey amounted to just under 30,000km with the return southern leg amounting to 11,680km.



E7 left the Firth of Thames on March 17th travelling 10,200km across the Yellow Sea to Yalu Jiang. After five weeks feeding on the mudflats she travelled a further 7,400km to Alaska's Yukon Delta, where the godwits breed. On August 30th she left Alaska and returned to Miranda on September 7th. It was not known if E7 bred in that season.

The female godwit usually lays four eggs, each weighing about 11% of the female's body weight. The incubation is shared by both parents, and when the chicks hatch they are covered with down. Within a few hours they can fend for themselves. Free of parental duties, the adults can concentrate on regaining condition in preparation for the flight back to New Zealand after the stress of their reproductive duties.

The adults leave first, abandoning the chicks. In four months, the chicks grow to adult size and accumulate the fat that is required for their own migration. Despite never having undertaken the journey before, the young birds instinctively know the way over thousands of kilometres of open water.

Godwits fly at about 60 km/h, flapping their wings most of the way. Their wing shape is designed for fast, efficient long-distance flying. They fly in large V-formation flocks taking turns to be the lead birds. These birds encounter the most wind resistance. The V-shape reduces the wind resistance for the following birds.

To successfully achieve these epic migratory flights, the extensive mudflats of the Yellow Sea are an essential link. However, developments in the region over the last 30 years have reduced the size and quality of these areas.

In the late 1990s, South Korea started the construction of the world's longest man-made dyke measuring 33 km in length and joining two headlands, to create 400²km of anticipated productive farmland. This dyke, the Saemangeum Sea Wall, did not generate the economic upturn that was expected but it did destroy an important tidal feeding ground.

The quantity and quality of the invertebrate food generated by the

mudflats was seriously impacted. Consequently, the populations of a myriad of wading shorebird species were drastically reduced. For example, by the early 2000's, 20% of the world's Great Knots had disappeared. It was thought that they would move to other sites but this was not the case.

This population reduction in the number of so many species was a "wake-up" call for the Asian countries and they accepted the fact that the destruction of these habitats had caused catastrophic damage to many species. In 2004 the PMNT established a partnership with the Chinese at the Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve (YJNRR).

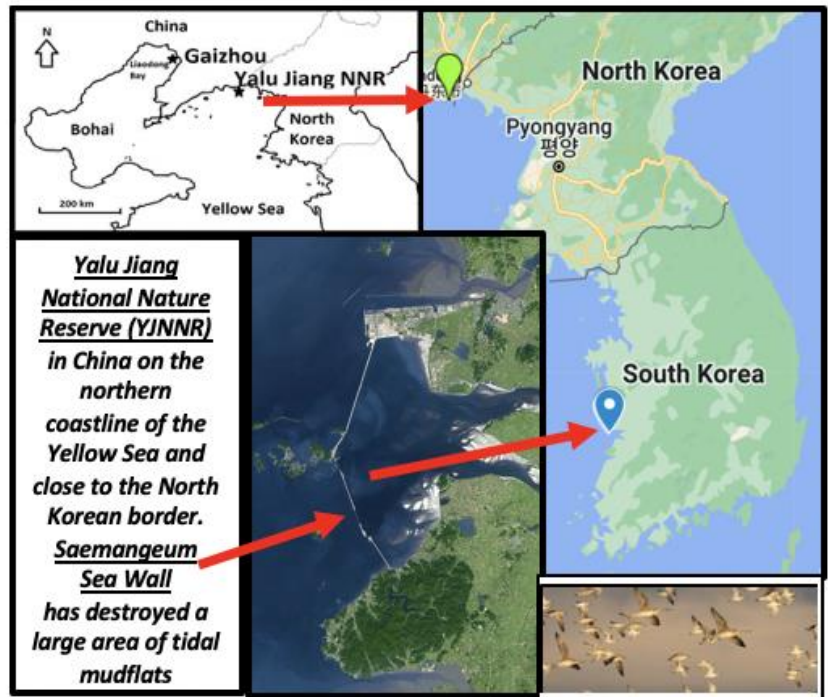
The PMNT helped the YJNRR to set up school projects, workshops, establish training opportunities and promote education and public awareness. It proved to be a great success and now the local population have learnt to value the tidal mudflats and the millions of birds that can be seen on their shores each year.

By 2006, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) was launched. A visit by Winston Peters to North Korea in 2007 laid the groundwork for them to become involved. Collaboration between PMNT and the Nature Conservation Union of Korea (NCUK) took place. In 2014 the Yalu Jiang Estuary Shorebird Survey was completed.

There are now over 30 members of the EAAFP made up of NGOs and 18 countries including New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, North and South Korea, Russia, Singapore, USA, Cambodia, China, Bangladesh, Thailand, Mongolia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The aims of the EAAFP are to protect migratory water birds, their habitat and the livelihoods of the people dependent upon them.

The Flyway is one of 9 major migratory routes recognised globally. Within the flyway, there are 152 fly-way sites and over 210 migratory water bird species. It is heartening to think that so many countries along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway are now working towards a similar goal, protecting the tidal mudflats and the feeding grounds of the millions of birds that rely on these stopping off points to successfully complete their migratory journeys. What a shame these countries cannot achieve the same entente cordiale in regard to the existential issues that affect mankind. Many thanks to Keith Woodley for his talk and all the work he has done to protect the birds and their habitats along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.



Kate's Take continued

LOOKING SKYWARD: The **NASA App** contains such rich content, it is always worth further examination.



The front page (left) offers seven panels for selection.

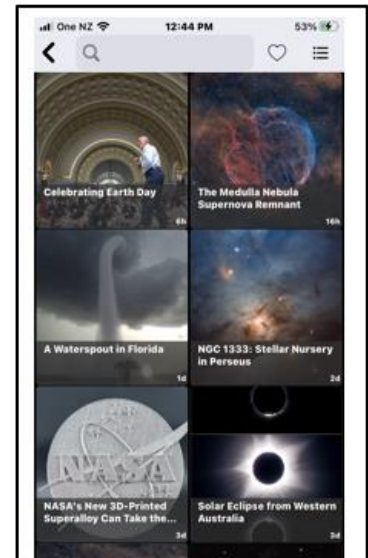
Clicking the **Images** square on this page releases over 20,000 images (right). The most recent images appear on the front page. Scroll down to view images that have been added at an earlier time.

Select an image, then click again for a detailed explanation. There are highlighted words within the text which can be clicked again for additional elucidation on the subject.

Returning to the front page click **Featured**. Here there are a further thirteen squares.

The **AR 3D Models** (right) allows downloading (*only use WIFI*) of various space machines in an augmented reality format. This brings the object into your environment allowing closeup views using your phone to explore the object from all directions.

Solar System Interactive (left) from the **Featured** page will open an interactive orrery with the planets, asteroids and space craft.

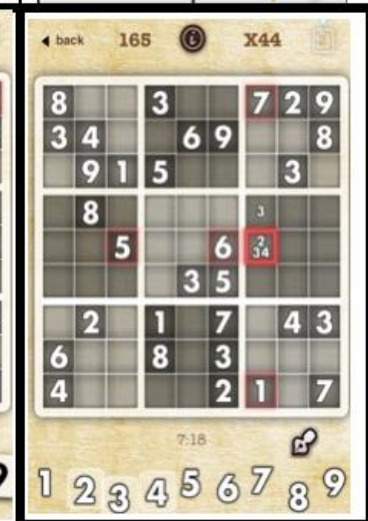


Have some fun with **SUDOKU**

Select the level at which you want to play.

You can resume a game you were playing earlier by clicking the **Resume** Ribbon.

This is how you play.



Select a square. This will be highlighted in red. To enter a number, select from bottom of the page. Incorrect numbers are not allowed. If there are several possible numbers click the black pencil. Numbers will turn white and the pencil changes to a white pen. This allows multiple numbers to be entered in a square. Click on white pen to return to pencil page. A black number will override multiple white numbers.

K Senner Apr 2023

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GREAT BOOK TITLES

- "How to Write Big Books" by Warren Peace
"The Lion Attacked" by Claude Yarnoff
"The Art of Archery" by Beau N. Arrow
"Songs for Children" by Barbara Blacksheep
"Irish Heart Surgery" by Angie O'Plasty
"Desert Crossing" by I. Rhoda Camel
"School Truancy" by Marcus Absent
"I Was a Cloakroom Attendant" by Mahatma Coate
"I Lost My Balance" by Eileen Dover and Phil Down
"Mystery in the Barnyard" by Hu Flung Dung
"Positive Reinforcement" by Wade Ago
"Shhh!" by Danielle Soloud
"The Philippine Post Office" by Imelda Letter
"Things to Do at a Party" by Bob Frapples
"Stop Arguing" by Xavier Breath



COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

To view all SeniorNet courses and timetable, click here

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

MAY HELP DAYS

01 May (Mon) 1:00 PM
10 May (Wed) 10:00 AM
17 May (Wed) 10:00 AM
24 May (Wed) 10:00 AM

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 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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