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AUGUST 2023

Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents



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- ◆ Next meeting
- ◆ **August Help days**
- ◆ New members
- ◆ **Brian's Bits and Bytes**
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HELP DAYS

Wed	2 Aug	10am
Thu	10 Aug	10am
Wed	16 Aug	10am
Tue	22 Aug	10am
Thu	31 Aug	10am

Street golf

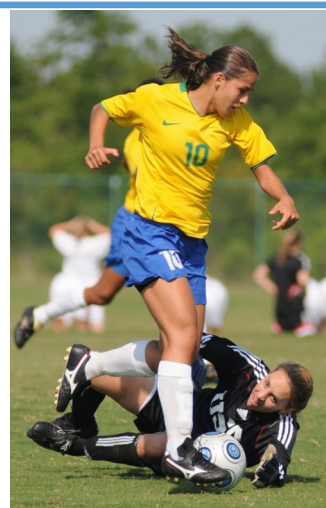


Our next Meeting,
Friday 4th AUGUST

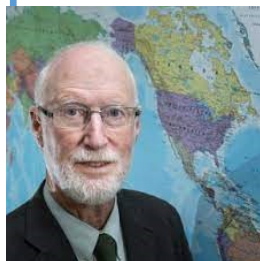
at 10.00am

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 our delightful Kate. She will be followed by our main speaker, *Associate Professor Politics and International Relations in the Faculty of Arts, Auckland University* **Stephen Hoadley** whose subject will be **International Influences on NZ Senior Citizens**.

I am sure this will make us appreciate our great little country a little more.

**THE OLDER YOU GET
THE MORE YOU APPRECIATE
BEING AT HOME DOING
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.**



3 NEW MEMBERS

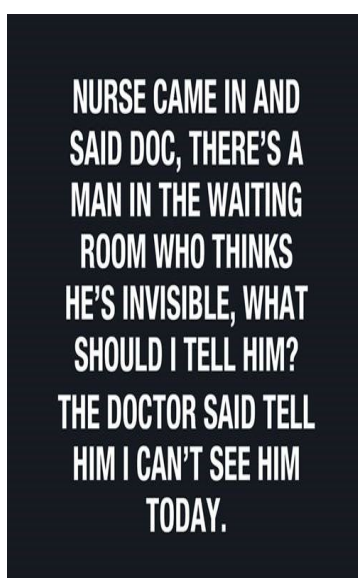
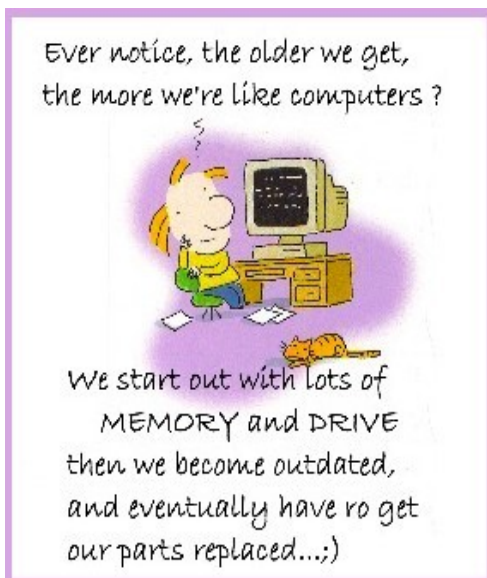
Dianne Chisholm
Philip Newbury
Barbara VanRyn

A short bits and bytes as I have had some other matters to deal with.

Firstly, our August Guest Speaker is Associate Professor Stephen Hoadley of Auckland University, School of Social Science, has extensive international experience in academia and media. Professor Hoadley's presentation is "International Influences on Senior Citizens". An extensive profile is available at <https://profiles.auckland.ac.nz/s-hoadley>

Have you given much thought to the fact that we live on a dormant volcanic field and that may not be an accurate description of Rangitoto. Nearer to home we have Ohuiarangi / Pigeon Mountain with a number of craters in the vicinity. This radio interview is a good description of how and why activity 100 Km below the surface gives us the major features in our landscape.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/saturday/audio/2018899513/volcanologist-graham-leonard-the-magma-under-auckland>



Ramblings

Dawn Howarth

Oh my goodness, it is still freezing cold outside. It was none too warm at our meeting in the church yesterday either. The coffee certainly helped thaw out my fingers but I had forgotten about wearing socks and my toes didn't appreciate that. Do you think that is why our numbers were so low. Staying home and warm was certainly tempting. Well done to those of you who braved the weather and made it to the church on time.

It was disappointing for Kate that her device didn't connect with the church device to produce the talk she wanted, but she still managed to educate and amuse. Thanks Kate for persevering with us.

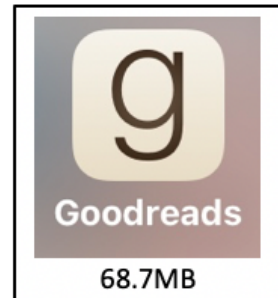
Brian played a short burst of the Karelia Suite by Sebelius as an introduction to Finland and he certainly gave us an insight into the history and some surprising facts about Finland and their impossible names. Imagine such a big part of Finland being Swedish. I wonder if that could happen here. Hmm, maybe it already has.

Brian deserves a medal for trying to translate by computer. Well done young man. It is interesting that you can not only translate but share that work and get help from family members to enhance the family story at the same time.

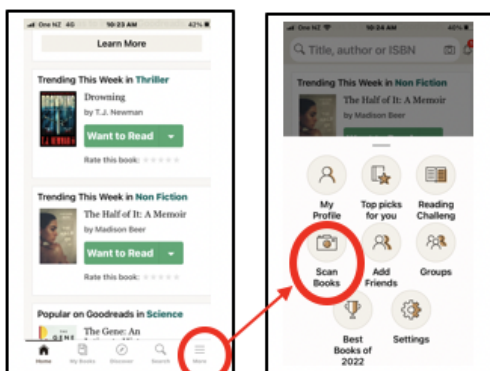
Keep warm, dry and smiling people.

Apps to help you make choices

Goodreads is a popular social cataloguing and book recommendation platform that allows users to discover, track, and discuss books. It offers a range of capabilities to enhance the reading experience and connect with fellow book lovers. Here are some of the main features and capabilities of the **Goodreads** app:



- **Book Catalogue:** **Goodreads** provides a vast database of books, including popular titles, bestsellers, classics, and more. Users can search for specific books, explore genres, and browse through author profiles.
- **Personal Bookshelves:** Users can create personalized virtual bookshelves to organize and track their reading progress. These shelves include options such as "Want to Read," "Currently Reading," and "Read," allowing users to keep a digital record of their reading history.
- **Book Recommendations:** **Goodreads** offers personalized book recommendations based on users' reading preferences, previously read books, and reviews. The app analyses users' reading habits and suggests titles they might enjoy, helping them discover new books and authors.
- **Book Reviews and Ratings:** Users can write and read book reviews, providing insights, opinions, and ratings on the books they have read. This feature helps readers make informed decisions and offers a platform for sharing thoughts and engaging in discussions with other users.
- **Reading Challenges:** **Goodreads** allows users to set reading goals and track their progress throughout the year. It enables readers to challenge themselves and stay motivated to achieve their reading targets.
- **Community and Social Features:** **Goodreads** encourages interaction and community engagement among book lovers. Users can connect with friends, join book clubs, participate in group discussions, and follow authors or influencers to stay updated on their latest works and recommendations.
- **Author Interaction:** The app provides opportunities for users to connect with authors through author profiles, Q&A sessions, and author-hosted events. This feature allows readers to interact directly with their favourite writers and gain insights into their works.
- **Literary Quotes:** **Goodreads** offers a collection of memorable quotes from books. Users can explore and save their favourite quotes, share them on social media, or use them as inspiration.
- **Book Discovery:** The app helps users explore new books by offering lists and curated collections, such as best of the year, popular in a genre, award winners, and more. It provides a platform to discover books beyond one's usual reading preferences.
- **Reading Statistics:** **Goodreads** provides users with personalized reading statistics, such as the number of books read, pages read, average ratings, and more. These insights offer users a better understanding of their reading habits and preferences.



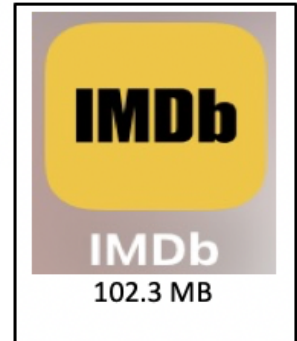
By clicking on **More**, **Scan Books** can be accessed. This opens the phone camera which can "read" the cover of the book and then add the book to your "Want to Read" folder.

Goodreads is a great app that takes the place of keeping a note book to record books you have read and books you plan to read.

If you have limited space on your device this app can be accessed on your computer. For full functionality on your device or on your computer you need to register.

Kate's Take continued

The **IMDb** (**I**nternet **M**ovie **D**atabase) app is a comprehensive platform for movie and TV show enthusiasts that provides a wealth of information about films, TV series, actors, and industry professionals. It offers numerous capabilities to enhance the user's movie and TV show experience. Here are some of the main features and capabilities of the **IMDb** app:



- **Extensive Movie and TV Database:** **IMDb** boasts a vast collection of movies, TV shows, documentaries, and more. Users can search for specific titles, explore popular releases, browse through genres, and access comprehensive information about each entry.
- **Ratings and Reviews:** **IMDb** provides user-generated ratings and reviews for movies and TV shows. Users can rate and review the content they have watched, helping others make informed decisions about what to watch next.
- The app also aggregates critical reviews from professional critics.
- **Watchlist:** Users can create a personalized watchlist within the app, where they can save movies and TV shows they plan to watch or track upcoming releases. This feature helps users organize their entertainment preferences and ensures they don't miss out on anticipated content.
- **Celebrity Information:** **IMDb** offers a wealth of information on actors, directors, producers, and other industry professionals. Users can access biographies, filmographies, awards, and other details about their favourite actors and filmmakers.
- **Trailers and Clips:** The app provides access to a vast collection of trailers, teasers, and clips for movies and TV shows. Users can view promotional videos to get a glimpse of the content before deciding what to watch.
- **Personalized Recommendations:** **IMDb** offers personalized movie and TV show recommendations based on users' viewing history and ratings. The app analyses user preferences and suggests content that aligns with their interests, helping them discover new movies and TV shows.
- **News and Updates:** Users can stay up to date with the latest news, announcements, and industry updates from the world of movies and TV shows. **IMDb** provides articles, interviews, and behind-the-scenes content to keep users informed and engaged.
- **Awards and Events:** The app covers major film and TV awards ceremonies, providing information about nominations, winners, and red-carpet events. Users can access details about prestigious events like the Oscars, Emmys, and Golden Globes.
- **User Community:** **IMDb** has a vibrant community of movie and TV show enthusiasts. Users can participate in discussions, rate and review content, and engage with other fans through the app's message boards and user forums.

It's easy to become completely overwhelmed with the almost limitless amount of television now available to us in our own homes. **IMDb** is a great app that helps you make informed choices. Choose your own filter. In the search panel enter the name of a particular actor, director, genre, etc . As new films arrive at the local movie theatre the **IMDb** app brings together reviews from around the world. This is a large app. If you have limited space on your device this app can also be accessed on your computer. For full functionality on your device or on your computer you need to register.

K Senner July 2023

Presentation by Brian Erikson

Preserving, Updating and Sharing My Swedish/Finish Family Story using Google Apps, such as Maps, Drive, Docs and Translate

Brian introduced his use of Google Apps to preserve and share his Finnish family history by playing the Sibelius "Karelia Suite" which has been regarded as unofficial Finnish national anthem along with "Finlandia". Excerpts from the Karelia Suite were used in editing parts of the 1970 "This is New Zealand" film produced for the Brisbane Expo 70. You can replay this via YouTube on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbArpYyVcwA>.

There was some debate from the audience about the status of the national anthem. There is no law establishing an official national anthem in Finland, in the way the coat of arms and flag of Finland are legally defined. Instead its position has been established gradually by convention over the years. In 2018, "Maamme" was described by the Government of Finland as the 'Finnish national anthem'.

Despite lack of official status, in usage, "Maamme" fills the function of a national anthem. For example, it is played during state visits, and is used to represent Finland at international sporting fixtures. There are 11 verses viewed at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maamme>

Ring out, dear word, oh sound!
No rising hill, or mountain grand,
No sloping dale, no northern strand,
There is, more loved, to be found,
Than this — our fathers' ground. □

Our land, our land, our Fatherland!
Ring out, dear word, oh sound!
No rising hill, or mountain grand,
No sloping dale, no northern strand,
There is, more loved, to be found,
Than this — our fathers' ground. □

Google Maps was used to show the current borders of Finland, particularly that western area on the Gulf of Bothnia sometimes known as Ostrobothnia or Eastern Sweden and the village of Munsala and the rural area of Vexala where Brian's grandfather, father, aunts and uncles emigrated from in 1920. You may also discern from Maamme there are no significant mountains or even hills.

The site <http://time.unitarium.com/events/shortest-day.html> (choose shortest day in the top left 3 bar menu) was used to show the effect on day length as one moves the pointer northwards. Vexala gets about 4 hours of daylight on the shortest day but 400 Km north 0 hours commences, i.e. that's the Arctic Circle and Rovaniemi the home of Santa Claus.

Drag the pointer south to New Zealand and this of course is the reverse, it gives you our longest day settings. Go to the 3 bar menu again a choose longest day and you get the option of 24 hour daylight at the Arctic Circle.

In 1993 Susan Holmlund published a study of her lifelong interest in family names as they evolved Vexala. As well as children adopting modified family names like Erik's son using Eriksson and Erik's daughter Eriksdotter it was not uncommon to add the name of the farm estate you owned or farmed as a tenant farmer. The farm Svartnas was one such property and a typical name might be Anders Eriksson Svartnas. The naming of a property would be quite a study as well as Svartnas variously translates into Black, Little Black or Black Nose.

Continued ...

Brian's presentation continued

The 1993 book (our family refer to as the Yellow Book because of the cover) was manually prepared in Swedish, is out of stock and the author doesn't intend to reprint. It covers 6 family dynasties linked to Svartnas and has about 1400 names recorded from 1565.

Using Google Maps satellite view you can see that there are frequent rows of some small building form. These are on properties where the farmer is describes as farmer of small furry animals. You can interpret. Google Maps street view shows a typical dispersedly settled rural environment. Not all the roads are in street view as some roads are impassable in the worst weather. In fact, the locals use a Vexala Facebook group to post info or inquire on the state of roads.

I have one of the only copies of the Yellow Book in New Zealand and the project I have started is to make it available to those who don't have a copy and also update it for the changes of the last 30 years. I've chosen to do this using Google Drive, Google Docs and Google Translate as these a freely available to anyone and Drive provides the option of Sharing with others who can have editing rights or view only rights. I am seeking permission of the author to undertake this update and sharing.

Google Docs has number of useful features for this project

- 1) It has access to the full Swedish alphabet Å å ä å Ä Å å Ö ö Ó ó and this makes a big difference in translation
- 2) It uses Normal styles and Heading styles. Heading styles lets you highlight text as a section heading and later insert or update an automatic table of contents from which a click jumps you to that section.
- 3) Bookmarks can be inserted to jump from say a text section to a relevant photo collection.
- 4) It has a page-less layout which is good for online working. At any stage printing would require choosing a page layout but only when you know what page size you will publish as it may not be A4.
- 5) It has a voice typing input for many languages and if you have a microphone on your computer or device you can get people to recall their memories without having to slow down to your keyboard speed.
- 6) Photos in Google Photos can be readily inserted.
- 7) The associated APP "Google Translate" seems to work well but you need to take care with the alphabet

Häradsskrivare och länsräkenskaper: = District clerk and county accountants:

Haradsskrivare och lansrakenskaper: =Harad writers and lancers: (in fact this may just be a best attempt and not real words).

If you want to use these Apps for your own project consider our courses on Google Drive and Google Docs.



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I recently spent \$6,500 on this registered Black Angus bull.

I put him out with the herd but he just ate grass and wouldn't even look at a cow.

I was beginning to think I had paid more for that bull than he was worth.

Anyway.....I had the Vet come and take a look at him.

He said,, the bull was very healthy, but possibly just a little young, so he gave me some pills to feed him once per day.

The bull started to service the cows within two days..... all my cows!

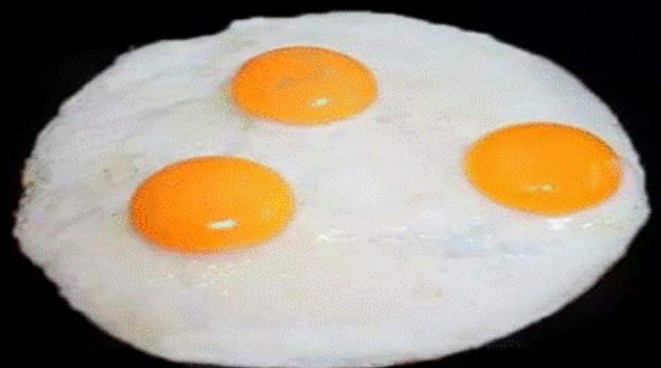
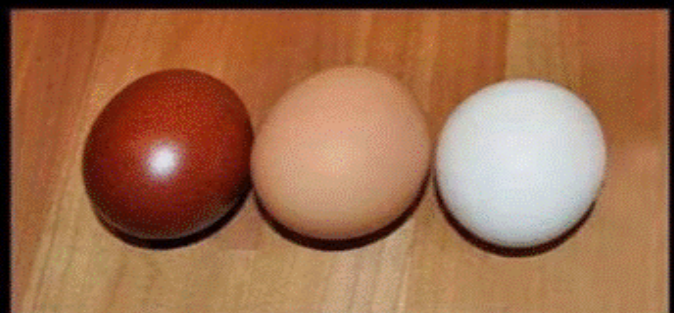
He even broke through the fence and bred with all of my neighbor's cows!

He's like a machine!

I don't know what was in the pills the Vet gave him ... but they kind of taste like peppermint.

People who wonder whether the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable.

Racism explained for dummies



COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

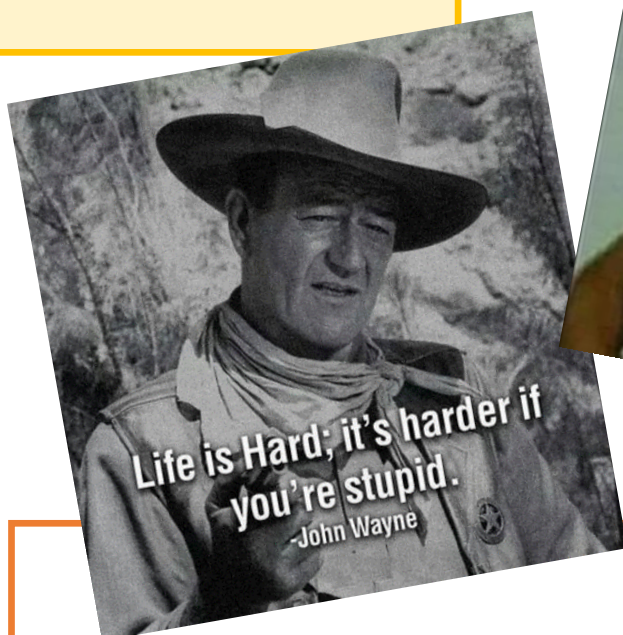
To view all SeniorNet courses and timetable, click here

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

AUGUST HELP DAYS

Wed	2 Aug	10am
Thu	10Aug	10am
Wed	16 Aug	10am
Tue	22 Aug	10am
Thu	31 Aug	10am

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.
- * All courses are held in our Learning Centre at
12 Ben Lomond Crescent, Pakuranga.
- * 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.