

SeniorNet (Pakuranga) Inc
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FEBRUARY 2024

Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents



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

Our next Meeting,
Friday 2nd 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

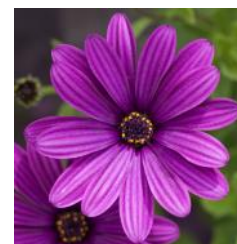
We will hear from our entertaining Kate who will challenge us with another App. After Kate's talk we will trial having refreshments at 10.30. For this to work it would be appreciated if members would help clear up after the tea break so Rosemary and Lesley are able to hear the whole presentation from our main speaker.

The main speakers will be a team from Eastern Busway enlightening us on the work along Ti Rakau Drive and the flyover from the Waipuna Bridge to Pakuranga Road.

**FEBRUARY
HELP DAYS**

Wed	07 Feb	10am
Tues	13 Feb	1pm
Thurs	22 Feb	10am
Tues	27 Feb	10am
No appointment necessary		

In front of the Learning Centre there is a very neglected garden. Management of Cascades Storage have asked whether any member/s would be interested in bringing this plot back to life. They suggested perhaps a vegetable garden, however any beautification idea would be welcome.



I am sure Cascades Storage will happily fund or refund any expenses for plants, etc.

If you would like to do this, please ring Cascades Storage, 576 8224, and discuss it further with them.

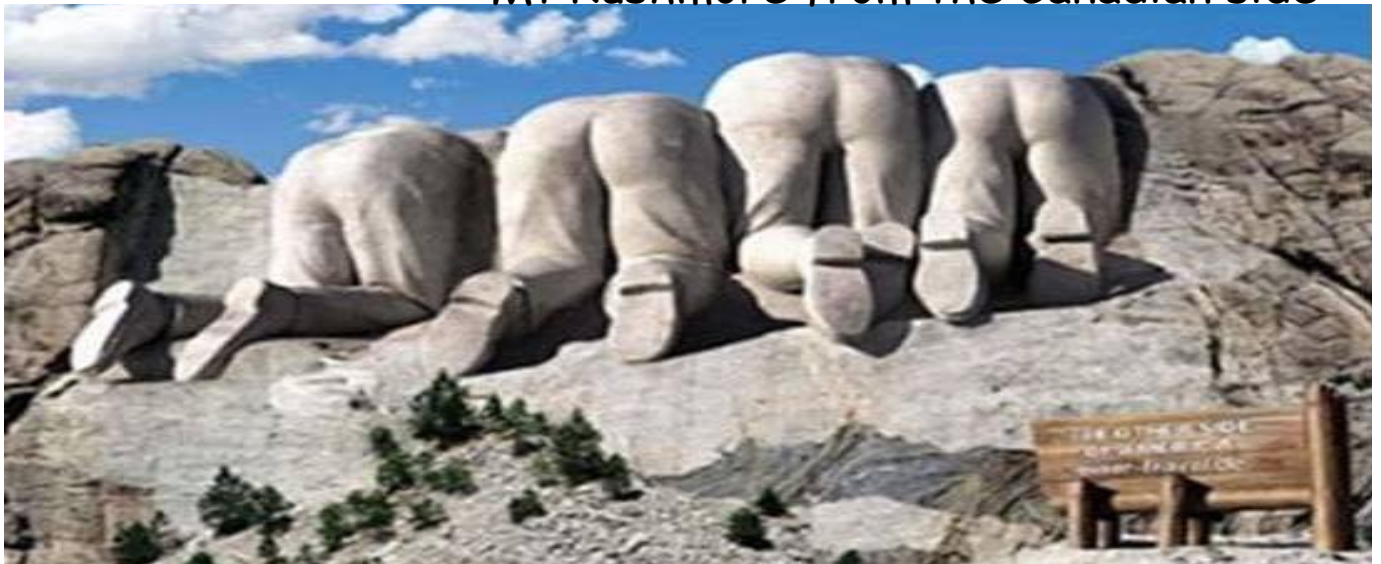


Thank you to members who participated in the three surveys we undertook on our current courses and potential new short courses. This has already resulted in a rearrangement of the current courses and we are looking at the tutor needs to meet the very good response for the short courses. In some cases we can bring in outside skills to a monthly meeting, like our local Librarians to cover the accessibility of library digital resources. If you completed the short course survey and noted a topic that you are already comfortable with please consider sharing that ability by volunteering to lead a topic. (Volunteer via pc9@senpak.nz)

The SeniorNet Federation is holding its annual 2-day seminar in Auckland this year at the Jet Park Hotel, Auckland Airport. The dates are Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th May. The seminar concludes with the 2024 Federation AGM. The topics and presenters are being finalised and if you would like to attend one or both days we will meet your registration fees within our allocation numbers.

AI, like ChatGPT has quickly moved from being a phrase we have heard for the first time to now being a Microsoft offer of CoPilot or Samsung building AI into the hardware of their latest topline release.

Mt Rushmore from the Canadian side



Ramblings

Dawn Howarth

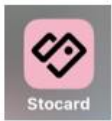
Can you believe we are looking at our February meeting next week. Seems like yesterday we were shopping for Christmas dinners. I must admit, I have had to do very little shopping since Christmas. A good thing too, my card took a beating last month.

The lovely weather we are having now has made my garden produce lovely beans, lettuce, tomatoes and rhubarb with the most enormous leaves. I asked for advice at the local plant centre with slow growing tomatoes and discovered that the sheep pellets I put in before planting makes the plant and leaves grow, not the flowers or fruit. I have now fed the beans, tomatoes and the rhubarb with tomato plant food and had great results. Does that sound like I know what I am doing? I only wish I did.

Would you believe in a recent decluttering, I gave away my overlocker — never used it and it took up space I could better use. Last week I needed my overlocker and have had to ask around for some kind person to do an overlocking job for me. Isn't that the way it always happens. I can't win.

Best wishes to everyone for a great 2024 full of sunshine and smiles.

Review of useful shopping apps



--**Stocard** enables all your bar-coded loyalty cards to be stored in one place. Make sure to load your Super Gold Card. Catalogues appear weekly for latest specials.



Countdown/Woolworth/Fresh Choice apps facilitate online and pick up shopping and create shopping lists.



--**Grocer** makes it possible to compare grocery prices at designated shops.



PAK'nSAVE/New World apps facilitate online and pick up shopping and create shopping lists.



Although most of us will have a Super Gold Card tucked away in our wallets how many of us actually make use of the benefits that are available. Download the app and explore the categories. You will be surprised how much money you can save.

The collage consists of six screenshots from the SuperGold app:

- Top Left:** Home screen showing "Discover benefits with SuperGold" and "20 new offers added in Auckland!". The "More" icon in the bottom navigation bar is circled in green.
- Top Middle:** "More" menu with options like "Preferred categories", "What's new in this version?", and "Take the app tour". "Preferred categories" is circled in purple.
- Top Right:** "Preferred categories" list with items like "Accommodation", "Automotive", and "Food & Beverages". "Food & Beverages" is circled in blue.
- Bottom Left:** "Your preferred categories" list with "Food & Beverages" circled in blue.
- Bottom Middle:** "Search Results" for "Food & Beverages" showing 47 offers from Manukau. "Food & Beverages" is circled in blue.
- Bottom Right:** "Search Results" for "Home & Garden" showing 92 offers from Manukau. "Home & Garden" is circled in green.

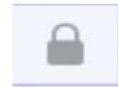
Kate's Take continued ...

Things to consider when shopping on line

- If it seems too good to be true. It probably is.
- Check reviews and delivery times on a different device and be wary of poorly written or repetitive language. Clear your search history. The review you are reading may have been generated by a "bot".
- Ignore the "sales" hype. Beware of phrases like, "limited stock" and "selling out fast".
- Don't automatically assume it's a kiwi business if it has a "co.nz" domain name.
- Look for a physical street address of the business. Check it out on Google Maps.
- If you are buying goods from abroad costing over \$1000 you will have to pay GST. It is not a simple process to recover the GST should it be necessary to return items.
- For online shopping and subscriptions have a dedicated credit card or debit card.
- Maintain a debit card with nominal funds, then add purchase price to the card when ordering online.
- Have a dedicated credit card with a low credit limit. Keep an eye on your bank statements to monitor the financial transactions.



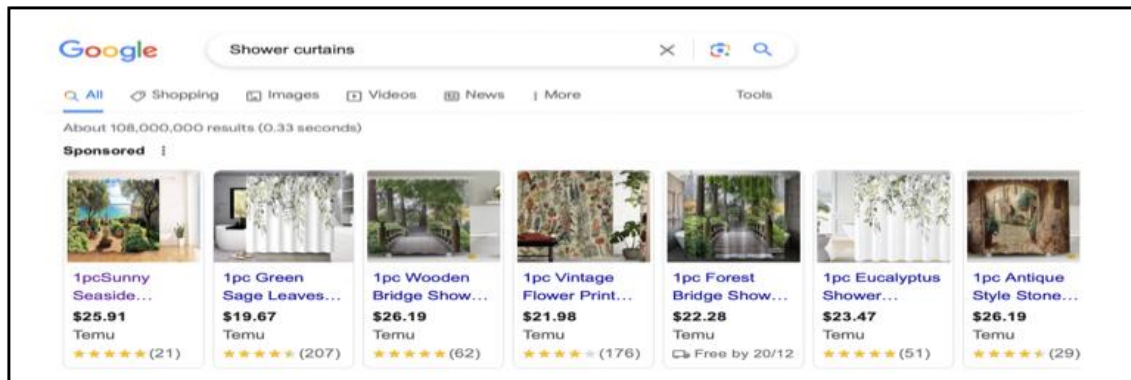
If entering debit / credit card details into a website on your browser make sure that there is a small padlock in the address bar.



And that the address starts with "**https**". The "**s**" in "**https**" stands for **secure** rather than the standard "**www**" or "**http**".

TEMU

Tempted to download or make a purchase on TEMU Well, think twice before you do. Currently the most downloaded app in the UK and the USA. There have been more than 100 million downloads in US and Europe since January 2023. Enter any commodity into your search engine and Temu comes up first. **See below- Shower curtain search.**



A few Words from Wikipedia and from the press on Temu

- Temu uses large-scale aggressive, online advertising campaigns on Facebook and Instagram.
- Temu requires its sellers to offer their products at prices lower than those found on AliExpress.
- When multiple sellers offer the same product, Temu authorizes only the one with the lowest price.
- Items not meeting Temu's minimum sales requirements, of 30 pieces to a value greater than \$90, in 14 days, are removed from the platform.
- In June 2023, a US House Select Committee delivered a critical evaluation of Temu. Evidence suggested that forced labour was used within Temu's supply chains.
- Time Magazine- According to Andrew Chow, Temu is developing a reputation for undelivered packages and unresponsive customer service, missed orders, product discrepancies and mysterious charges.
- Politico - Cites Apple as saying that Temu violated the company's mandatory privacy rules and misled people about how it uses their data.

A common complaint from online and NZ users

- They are inundated with emails, pop up ads and offerings of "rewards" after engaging with and or signing up to the site.

K.Senner Jan 2024

Kate's Take continued ...

"Food Matters Tours" and "EatAuckland" – gastronomic adventures in NZ and Overseas



Mary Taylor

What a wonderful story. A big thank you to Mary Taylor who grew up on a King Country Farm where she would help Great Aunt Dorothy with the cooking. Aunt Dorothy was responsible for feeding the shearers and farm labourers during shearing and hay making on the farm but she was also famous for her Victoria sponges.

The preparation of the King Country Christmas Dinner was another communal affair. The new kidney potatoes all had to be scraped and the turkey had to be captured from the bush. It was accompanied by bread sauce with nutmeg, glazed ham spiked with cloves and trifle with cinnamon, which was topped with shaved chocolate. The Christmas Cake always had almond icing. Mary became intrigued to know the origin of all those exotic spices and how they had travelled around the world, first to the UK then on to NZ with the early settlers.

Fascinated by food, Mary went to Otago to study Home/Food Science. After college, she secured a job in product development. She was involved in the development of "Frying Saucers". In the advertisements, the rissoles were described as containing country fresh vegetables, and quality beef wrapped in a tasty potato batter that could be fried, baked or put on the barbie. They were on the market for over 20 years. At first, they were manufactured under the Haymarket brand but when that company was taken over by Watties they were rebranded under the Irvine's name.



Mary then moved on to the rolled oat company, Flemings. There she was involved in the development of muesli bars suitable for the school lunch box. At first, sales were poor but after Mary did some research at Quaker Oats in the US, a new recipe was developed which was sweeter, chewier and contained chocolate. Sales sky-rocketed into the millions.

From there, Mary went to Foodtown where they were developing their "own label" products. This sent Mary all over the world sourcing products. Most of the products she sourced were based on shape, size, colour and cost but in Sri Lanka the tea was purchased entirely on taste. Sri Lankan tea is hand-picked and consists of the bud and the first two leaves of the *Camelia Sinensis* plant. The other tea producing countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia use machines so the harvested tea contains twigs and older leaves.



Mary loved the time she spent travelling in this region but things changed in 2001 when Foodtown was bought by Woolworths, Australia. All their product was sourced through Australia, so opportunity for travel was lost and the new job Mary was offered did not inspire her.

Discussing her situation with Merrill Fernando, the founder of the Dilmah Tea Company, she concluded that this set back was, in fact, an opportunity to embark on a new venture. His philosophy was that life is like the national flower of Sri Lanka, the purple waterlily. Out of the quagmire something beautiful can grow when you pursue your dreams. Mr Fernando's advice resonated with Mary so she started her own food tour company, "Food Matters Tours". Over the years, Mary has escorted travellers to Bali, India, Morocco, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Turkey and other exotic places to experience the local foods and culture.

Kate's Take continued ...



The emblem for her business is a dragon fly. In Sri Lanka, dragonflies are a delicacy and a rich source of protein. One of the first experiences for her clients was to create their own delicious evening meal from dragonflies that Mary taught them how to catch, on a stick baited with jack fruit.

For over 20 years Mary organised these escorted tours and after the Boxing Day tsunami she raised thousands of dollars to help in the recovery. The funds were funnelled through an existing trust set up by Merrill Fernando to ensure that it was spent on the correct things that were needed by the impacted villagers. Boats and fishing nets were acquired so that the villagers could earn a living having lost everything in the tsunami.

But yet again, there came another setback. Covid meant that overseas travel was curtailed however, another opportunity came Mary's way. Between her offshore tours, Mary had helped out at the business, "Eat Auckland". This company took guided walking tours around various ethnic restaurants in the City. During covid Mary had the opportunity to buy the business and it has since gone from strength to strength. The first Walking Food Tours were centred around Sandringham where you could experience



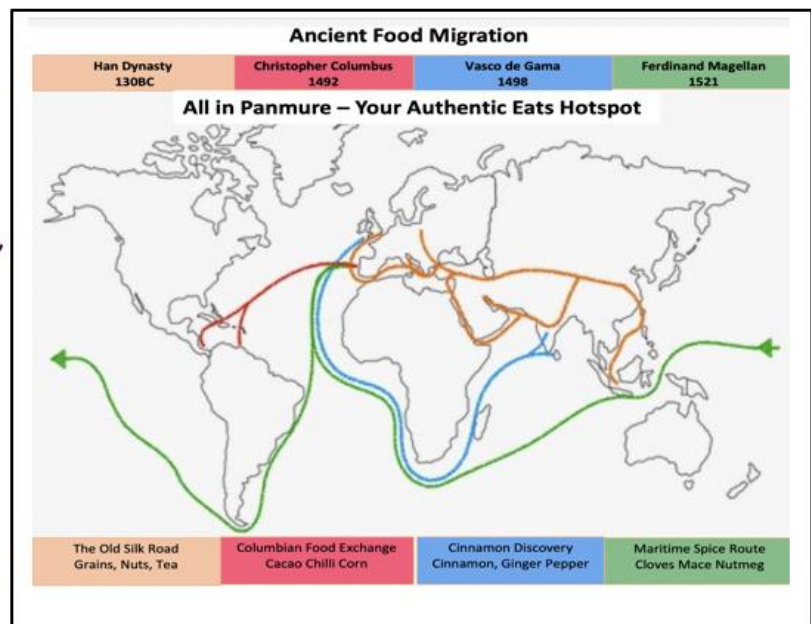
Sri Lankan and Indian cuisine. These foods range from the traditional snack foods, spiced nuts and rice pancakes of Sri Lanka to modern Indian fast-food, award-winning Biryani, Manchurian-influenced food, and Indian dishes introduced to India by the Arab traders.

But who would have thought that Panmure could hide so many epicurean delights. Mary has created three distinct tours for Panmure based on the Ancient Trade Routes

- [Tastes of the Maritime Spice Routes](#),
- [Tastes of the Old Silk Road](#)
- [Taste of Sri Lanka Tour](#)

These tours need to be booked online. They are 3 hours long, starting at 2pm from outside the Panmure Library Entrance, 13 Pilkington Road, rain or shine.

They cost \$75 per head



Now that many of the restrictions regarding covid are no longer in place Mary is researching options to restart the overseas tours for 2024. For further information regarding the walking tours or the overseas adventures go to <https://www.eatauckland.co.nz> or <https://www.foodmatters.co.nz>

A big thankyou to Mary Taylor for her fascinating talk. What a wonderful job she has. While enriching our lives by introducing us to different foods and cultures she is also helping us to support local, family run businesses, in our community and overseas.

K.Senner, Jan 2024

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Every time I start thinking too much about how I look, I just find a Happy Hour and by the time I leave, I look just fine

So Daffy Duck and Elmer Fudd break into a distillery. Daffy turns to Elmer and says: "Is this Whiskey?"

Elmer says: "Yeth but not as whiskey as wobbing a bank!!"



COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

To view all SeniorNet courses and timetable, click here

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

FEBRUARY HELP DAYS

Wed	07 Feb	10am
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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.
- * 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.
- * Our Courses are all held at our Learning Centre at
12 Ben Lomond Crescent, Pakuranga.
- * Please park on the road or in the Gym carpark across the road as no parking is permitted on site. **If you use the gym parking it is important that you park on the left, next to the gym. You can printout the parking advice from our website or write your own and leave on the dashboard of your car.**