

**SeniorNet (Pakuranga) Inc**

12 Ben Lomond Crescent, Pakuranga Auckland 2010

Telephone 09 576 4500

## AUGUST 2024

Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents

This issue:

- ◆ Next meeting
- ◆ August 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 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*

Kate will present more apps for us to try and the after tea speaker will be Brian demonstrating **Using Clipchamp within Windows Photos** to edit and combine your video clips.



**1 NEW MEMBER**

Mahendra Rasiklal



**AUGUST HELP DAYS**

Mon	5 Aug	1pm
Thurs	15 Aug	10am
Wed	21 Aug	1pm
Tues	27 Aug	10am

Its been a rather busy month. I refer you to the **Proposed Constitution** on our website. We will send out an email notice with the click link to it. It's 26 pages long and the clauses and format have been used by the SeniorNet Federation in registering a new constitution so I see no issues from the Registrar.

It will be available for your review and send any questions to [brian@senpak.nz](mailto:brian@senpak.nz).

If that seems to be going well I will add it as an agenda item for approval at our AGM in the October meeting. I don't want to do it earlier as you will have less time to read the proposed constitution and we have to provide a notice 21 days ahead of the meeting.



## ANCESTRY

For those interested in Ancestry, Auckland City Council is running a two day workshop on 10,11<sup>th</sup> August. 2024, at the Fickling Centre, Mt Albert.

Lectures start 9 am and run through to 5.30 pm.

There will be over 20 industry exhibitors dedicated to helping you find your ancestors.

Full details of speakers etc can be found on the website.

You are invited to bring your laptop or other devices to join in on hands on sessions.

Seats are on 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> served basis and cannot be reserved.

Session rooms will be emptied after each presentation.

Raffle tickets will be available at the Information Desk.

## Ramblings

*Dawn Howarth*

Oh crumbs it has been cold. I felt better when I saw somewhere down in the frozen South had a high temperature of 0c. At least we have been having gorgeous sunny blue sky days. Long may it last.

A month full of nothing special, same old, same old. At least my month hasn't been full of stress and worry. We just coast along very grateful that our problems are manageable and we are coping. How lucky can you be. My dad used to think he was lucky because he had three meals a day and half a bed. What more could you want, he would say.

I was reading Mary Holm's column in the Herald this morning suggesting I should stop buying Lotto. I agree really, I need to win it just to get my money back. Still it is nice to dream for a day or two before the draw. Then of course, it is the same old, same old, yet again.

Enjoy your days and love each day of sunshine. They certainly make me feel more cheerful. Keep smiling.

**Be grateful that no matter how much chocolate you eat, your earrings will still fit.**

## Back to Nature

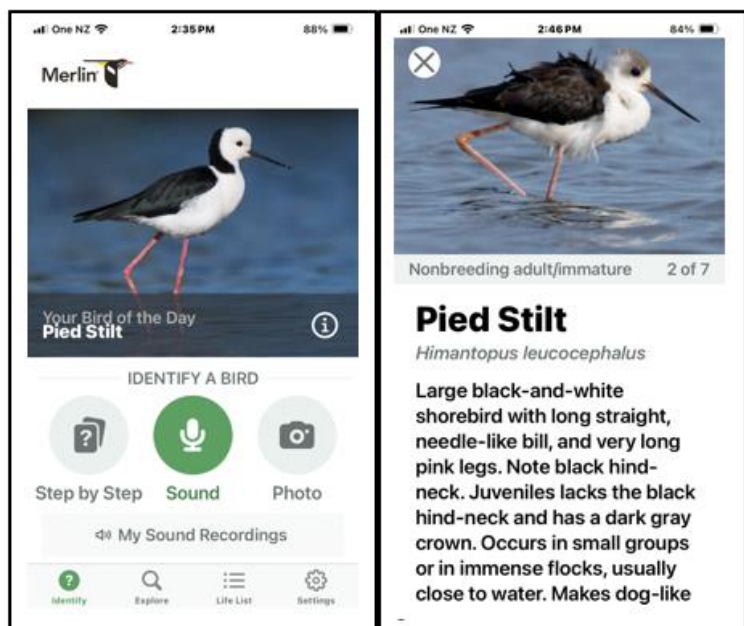


The Merlin App is developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It is an outstanding tool for bird enthusiasts of all levels. Its combination of advanced technology, user-friendly design, and educational resources make it a valuable app for bird identification and learning. It is a free app available for both iOS and Android platforms. Merlin can identify birds from photos, recordings or descriptions derived from a series of questions regarding the size, colour, behaviour and the bird's location.

There are thousands of birds in the Merlin database but rather than holding every bird on your personal device you can specify the bird pack dedicated to a specific region. If you are heading away for a holiday you can remove the data pack for your home country and download the pack for your holiday location. For large countries you can specify a particular region. It has offline functionality enabling its use in areas without internet access.

It is a wonderful learning resource providing extensive information on bird species, including audio clips of bird calls. There are numerous tips and guides for bird watching and bird identification. It also allows import of photos from your own photo library that may have been taken years before you actually loaded the App on to your device.

The App is remarkably accurate, especially with good quality photos and recordings. There are regular updates that enhance the app's reliability and accuracy. The App opens on "Your bird for the day". Tapping the image reveals extensive information, the bird's call and numerous images of both sexes and juvenile stages.



A bird can be identified directly from recording its call, from a photo or by supplying **Step by Step** information.



The above six images demonstrate the use of text clues to identify the bird that has been seen. The Tui was identified as the possible bird however, scrolling down, further options were supplied that would have been covered by similar criteria. The app offered several other birds including Kingfisher, Starling, Pigeon and Saddleback.

If neither a photo, sound recording nor text description generates a satisfactory identification the app is linked to [eBird](#), another free Cornell app, which links ornithologists around the world to help with the identification. If something new is recorded it will be added to the **Merlin** app.

## Kate's Take continued ...



A free app, iNaturalist allows users to record and share observations of plants, animals, and other organisms. The primary mission of iNaturalist is to connect people to nature and generate scientifically valuable biodiversity data.

Since 2017 iNaturalist became a joint initiative between the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society and as of mid 2023 it has well over 150 million verifiable identifications.

iNaturalist is easy to use, with straightforward steps for recording observations and contributing to the community. The AI-powered identification tool simplifies the process for users unfamiliar with specific species. The app serves as an educational tool, offering users the chance to learn about biodiversity, ecology, and conservation through direct engagement with nature and other naturalists.

iNaturalist has significantly impacted citizen science by providing a platform for the public to contribute valuable data to scientific research. It empowers individuals to participate in scientific discovery and environmental monitoring.

Users can upload photos or audio recordings of their observations, which are then identified by the community and, or automated tools. Experienced naturalists and experts frequently contribute to the identification process.



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3

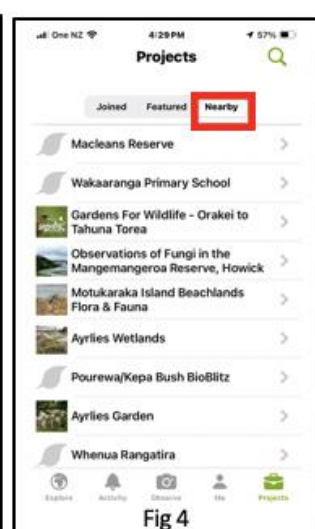



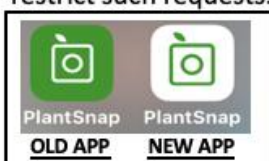
Fig 4

The app opens on the **Explore** page where a local map appears with numerous sightings designated by markers. Tap on a marker for more information. Some of these markers will only have a generic identification but further options are available to supply extra information. By selecting  on the top menu bar, images will be revealed Fig 2, associated with the markers from Fig 1. Tapping an image reveals further information. To access on going projects, click on **Projects**, to the right of the bottom menu. This provides access to country wide projects under the heading **Featured**, Fig 3. For local projects tap the tab to the right, **Nearby**, Fig 4. To use the identification tools for your own specimens, tap the camera icon in the bottom menu.

On the next screen options are provided. Take a photo by activating the camera icon or select images from your photo library. Sound recordings may also be taken but these have to be processed within SoundCloud (another app). This seems very



“clunky” so use **Merlin Bird ID** if recording birds. To gain full benefits from iNaturalist, it's best to sign up to the website. However, I do have reservations as iNaturalist requires extensive permissions. I always do my best to restrict such requests. I use a subsidiary email that has **no** link to my personal data.



The **PlantSnap** featured at the last meeting appears to be an old iteration. The new **PlantSnap** only allows three, free identifications a day. A lifetime subscription is \$60. It is a good app but I plan to stay with the free version. I can take lots of photos “in the field” then do the identifications later, over a period, by accessing my photo library.

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K Senner Jul 2024

## Kate's Take continued ...

### The History of St John



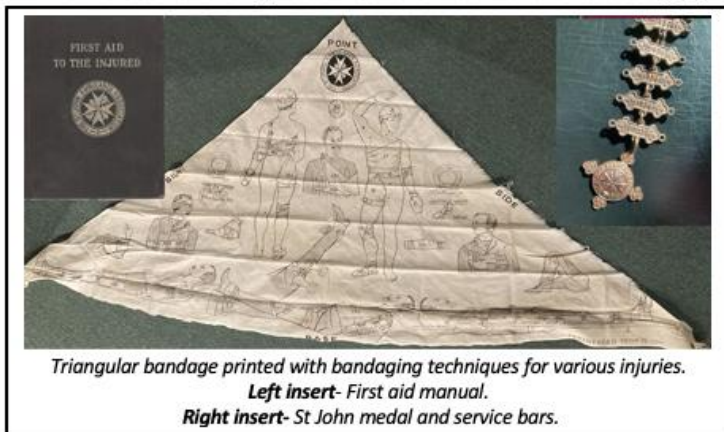
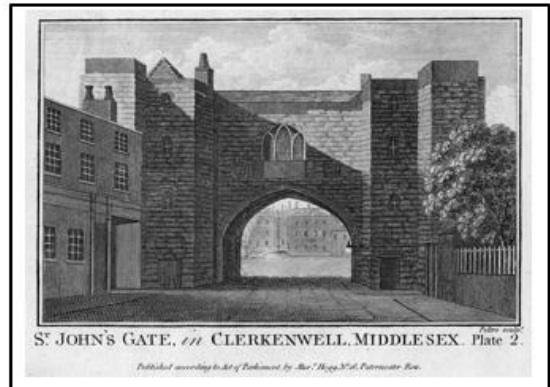
A big thank you to Guy Marks for his fascinating talk on the history of St John. He is one of the curators of the St John Archive based in Pacific Rise, Silvia Park.

St John can be traced back to the middle of the eleventh century during the Crusades when the Christians were fighting the Muslims around the Mediterranean.

In 1099, the Christians overwhelmed Jerusalem. At the time a Benedictine monk named Gerard had already been running a hospital in Jerusalem to help pilgrims and the sick regardless of their race or religion. It wasn't long before many of the knights joined him in his work.

The Order of St John flourished across Europe and by 1140 the Knights had built a headquarters in Clerkenwell, London at the place still known, as St John's Gate. It continued to prosper until 1534 when Henry VIII left the Roman Catholic Church dissolving all the religious orders and confiscating the assets of St John. For several hundred years, after this, St John faded into obscurity, but by the start of the 19th Century it re-emerged in Britain.

This coincided with the proliferation of factories, heavy industry and mining as the Industrial Revolution took hold. With little thought of health and safety, injuries were everyday occurrences. It soon became apparent that lives could be saved if there were individuals on site who could supply first aid and so courses were set up under the umbrella of St John. In England in 1877, the St John Ambulance Association was founded and thousands gained first aid and home nursing certificates. By 1887, the St John Ambulance Brigade was formed so that groups of trained men and women could then go out into their communities to supply first aid.



In April 1885, the vicar of St Mary's Church, Merivale, Christchurch, Rev T Flavell decided to form a branch of the St John Ambulance Association. Over 60 persons showed interest and 40 women enrolled on the first course which was held over a 6week period. The course was so popular that in the following year 13 courses were run. Later that year, four Ashford Litters were placed around the city, complete with a first aid boxes. These were New Zealand's first ambulances.

Auckland too, relied on these Litters. A number were stationed around town to be used by volunteers to transport the sick and injured to hospital in Grafton.

During the first World War, St John personnel were early volunteers. In December 1914 Evelyn Firth set up a convalescent home for the returning soldiers in a former mansion, at 2 Domett Avenue. This property was taken over by the Hospital and Charitable Board and staffed by nurses of the newly formed Epsom Nursing Division. Similar establishments were set up on the North Shore and in Parnell. That facility was named after Evelyn Firth.



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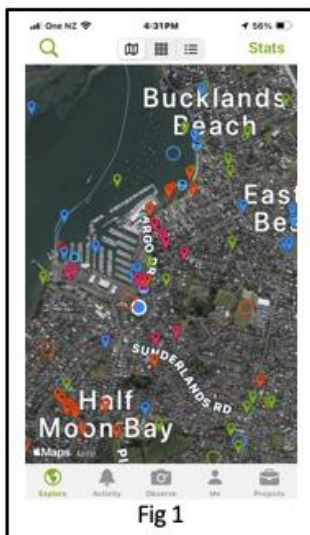


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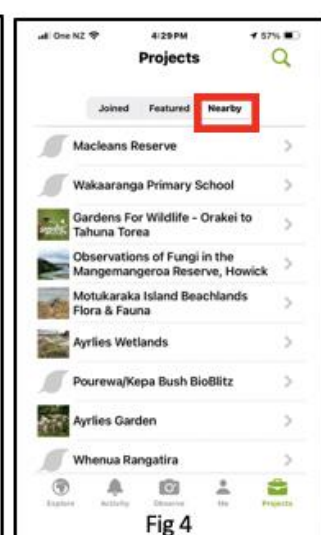



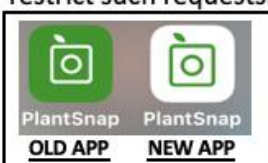
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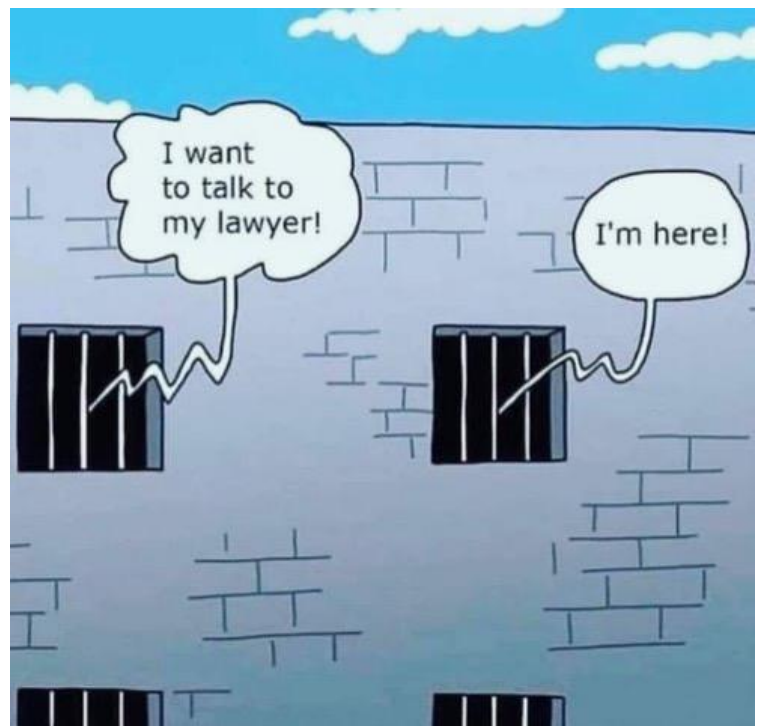
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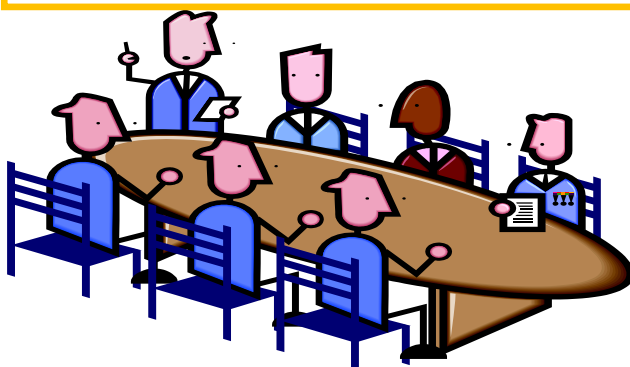
K Senner Jul 2024

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**IT'S BETTER TO  
GROW OLD WITH  
A SENSE OF  
HUMOR THAN  
TO GROW OLD  
WITH NO SENSE  
AT ALL**



## COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

To view all SeniorNet courses and timetable, click here

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

### **AUGUST HELP DAYS**

Mon	5 Aug	1pm
Thurs	15 Aug	10am
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Tues	27 Aug	10am

**NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY**



*"Yeab, but the one in Vegas has an endless shrimp buffet."*

### 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 (not available Monday or Thursday mornings) it is important that you park on the left, next to the gym. You can printout the parking advice from our website (under the Courses tab) or write your own and leave on the dashboard of your car.**

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