

SeniorNet (Pakuranga) Inc
12 Ben Lomond Crescent, Pakuranga Auckland 2010
Telephone 09 576 4500

JUNE 2025

Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents



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- ◆ March Help Days
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Our next Meeting,

Friday 6 JUNE

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 Kate and after coffee time, Matthew, a member of Friends Heritage of Purewa Cemetery will tell us of the history and interesting stories of Purewa.

JUNE HELP DAYS

3 Jun (Tue)	10:00 AM
11 Jun (Wed)	1:00 PM
16 Jun (Mon)	1:00 PM
26 Jun (Thu)	10:00 AM

**ALL MY
PASSWORDS ARE
PROTECTED BY
AMNESIA**



A SHORT GUN STORY

A GUY WALKED INTO A CROWDED BAR, WAVING HIS UNHOLSTERED PISTOL AND YELLED, "I HAVE A 45 CALIBER COLT 1911 WITH A SEVEN ROUND MAGAZINE PLUS ONE IN THE CHAMBER AND I WANT TO KNOW WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING WITH MY WIFE."

A VOICE FROM THE BACK OF THE ROOM CALLED OUT,

"YOU NEED MORE AMMO!!!"

Welcome to the new Constitution. The Registrar of Incorporated Societies has issued our Certificate of Incorporation. Thank you for putting up with special meetings and lengthy document for study. I've asked Dick Harris to look at the best place to have copies of these on our website.

A few features of the 2022 Act that we need to adhere to are:

New members to be approved by the committee. We will do this once a month and people who have joined online or at the monthly meeting will have "honorary" membership until that takes place.

Ex members record of membership have to be retained. In the past we deleted these records after 12 months although we have maintained an informal list of previous members.

Members Interests Register. We have to set up a Register for possible conflicts of interest such as doing business with a person or company that has links to a committee member. We even have to record sibling relationships on the committee. ie: my brother and I, presumably so that one doesn't second the other's proposal.

Disputes Resolution. Describes what a dispute might be and how it is resolved.

Now on a more IT tech matter. We have resolved the difficulty of linking the operations of membership management, ASB bank membership payments, course scheduling, website updates, course attendance recording and Mailchimp email members email addressing.

Apart from attendance recording these are all done at home by various committee members at a time that suits them with the ability to transfer the actions to a deputy if they are away. What had happened is that Microsoft's One Drive stopped interaction with our Access folders (a worldwide problem). Google's AI said they could do it, but it proved their AI was out of date, so some time was spent discovering Google Drive was unable to fix the problem either. After some exploration I discovered SyncThing an App in the public domain developed and maintained by about 500 volunteers. After the normal learning difficulties and trials, it has been implemented.

My thanks to a new tutor Collin Bliss who did tests in the Learning Centre to complement my home tests. One feature of SyncThing is that it's fully in our control once its operating. There is no central server/storage like One Drive or Google Drive, it just links over the internet point to point as you log on to your PC. The transferred data is encrypted for security.

Switching to EV batteries. CATL a Chinese company who make the highest percentage of EV battery manufacture have just announced a practical lower cost battery that doesn't use Lithium. It uses Sodium instead (ie: an element in soda ash and salt that is really abundant). The battery functions well in extreme heat and cold, a limitation for Lithium. They claim at least 10, 000 full charge discharge cycles life compared with about 2000 for Lithium and a practical range of 1500 Km per cycle. That's 1,500,000 Km lifetime distance well beyond what most cars reach but good for buses, trucks, and electric ferries. Because of its temperature tolerance it can handle ultra-fast charging of 530Km in 5 minutes.

Ramblings

Dawn Howarth

Well I think May was a good month to get past. Him indoors has caused no end of trouble and almost 24/7 staying home for both of us. This morning it is cold, wet and not very nice outside so I am more than happy to stay home where it is warm and comfortable. I'm still managing lovely coffee dates with girlfriends, lots of visits from friends and love my mah-jong lessons at home. They are great but hard work for my tiny brain and playing never seems to get easier.

I have been spoiling him of late cooking old fashioned recipes—Lambs fry and bacon (with onions and mushrooms to take away some of the offal feel), and Steak and Kidney stew, (with carrots, onions and parsnips to take away some of the offal feel). Actually both were delicious, very budget-friendly, and because of the added extras there was enough for two nights each.

Another bright spot last week—I picked a heap of beans from my much maligned runner beans. They were delicious and they still have flowers so maybe there might be another dinner soon. Not bad considering they were supposed to be for Christmas dinner *last* year.

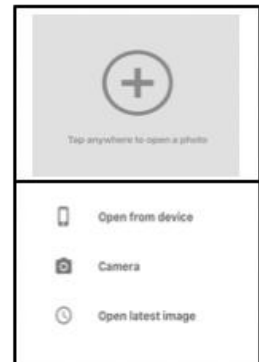
Keep smiling people, and enjoy all the sunshine you can. It's great.

Snapseed – a free photo editing application

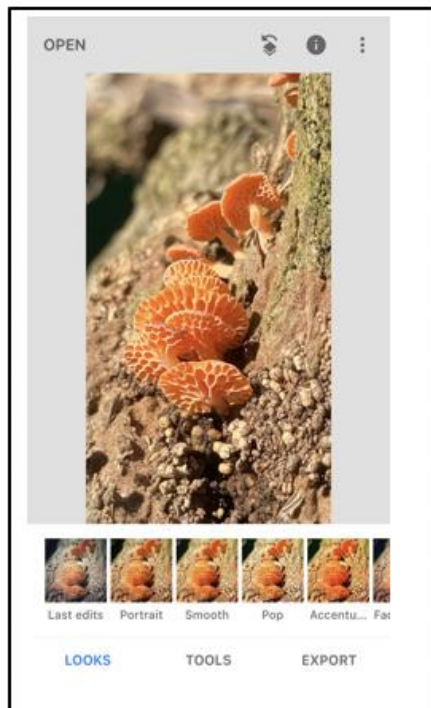


Snapseed, developed by Google, is a powerful and user-friendly photo editing app available on Android and iOS. It includes 28 tools and filters, each designed to help you fine-tune your images.

The grey opening screen, requests a tap to reveal three options.



1. **Open from device**, which gives access to all images on the device.
2. **Camera**, which allows access to the camera.
3. **Open latest image**, which allows access to images previously edited.



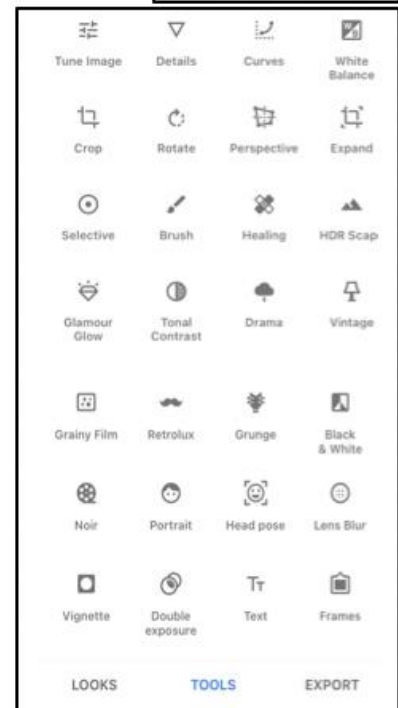
The image is opened on the **LOOKS** page which provides thumbnails to various automatic pre-sets and a record of previous edits.

TOOLS, opens 28 tools that are user controlled. See right

BASIC EDITING TOOLS

1. **Tune Image** - Adjusts brightness, contrast, saturation, ambience (a smart contrast control), highlights, shadows, and warmth.

2. **Details** - Enhances fine details in the image with:
-Structure (mid-tone contrast and clarity).
-Sharpening (crispness).



3. **Curves**- Gives full control over tone and contrast via a graph. You can adjust brightness levels in shadows, mid-tones, and highlights.

4. **White Balance**- Corrects colour temperature and tint to ensure whites look neutral; includes auto and manual adjustments.

5. **Crop**- Crops your image with free or pre-set aspect ratios.

6. **Rotate**- Rotates the image in 90° increments or lets you manually straighten it using a level guide.

7. **Perspective**- Adjusts the image's perspective—vertical, horizontal, or free transform—and auto-fills background gaps.

8. **Expand**- Expands the image canvas and intelligently fills the new area using content-aware fill or a solid colour.

SELECTIVE EDITING TOOLS

9. **Selective**- Applies localized edits (brightness, contrast, saturation, structure) using Control Points you place on specific areas.

Kate's Take continued ...

10. Brush- Manually paint adjustments onto the image: Dodge and Burn, Exposure, Temperature, or Saturation. Painting over an area using the Burn tool will darken and intensify its appearance while using the Dodge Tool will lighten and reduce its impact .

11. Healing- Removes unwanted objects or blemishes by blending them with surrounding pixels. It works best by “zooming in” as tightly as possible and then remove the required area, bit by bit.

PORTRAIT AND FACE TOOLS

12. Portrait- Enhances portraits by adjusting skin smoothness, clarity of eyes, and facial lighting.

13. Head Pose- Slightly rotates the subject's head or changes perspective—ideal for selfies or portraits.

14. Face Enhance- Automatically detects and enhances eyes, smooths skin, and adds light to faces.

CREATIVE AND STYLIZING TOOLS

15. Lens Blur- Simulates the shallow depth-of-field effect of DSLR lenses, with adjustable blur strength and shape.

16. Glamour Glow- Adds a soft glow, particularly flattering for portraits or dreamy effects.

17. Tonal Contrast- Enhances contrast in highlights, mid-tones, and shadows independently, preserving details.

18. Drama- Applies HDR-like effects and contrast enhancements for a gritty, moody look.

19. Vintage- Adds retro, film-like filters with faded tones and grain.

20. Grainy Film- Simulates classic black-and-white or colour film with controlled grain and contrast.

21. Retro-lux- Applies light leaks, scratches, and aging effects for a worn photo look.

22. Noir- Adds black-and-white film filters with grain, plus control over film brightness and contrast.

23. Black & White- Converts images to black-and-white with control over brightness, contrast, and colour filtering.

24. Frames- Adds stylized borders to your photos. Frame thickness and style can be adjusted.

25. HDR Scape- Enhances details using High Dynamic Range (HDR) effects. Comes with pre-sets like Nature, People, and Strong.

26. Grunge- Applies textured, edgy filters with randomized styles. Good for abstract or artistic photos.

27. Text- Adds stylized text with various fonts, colours, and alignment options.

28. Double Exposure- Combines two photos in creative ways. You can choose how to blend them with different blending modes and opacity. Create your own ghosts.

By clicking on the **Export** button, there are options to, “**Save**” with changes that can be undone, “**Save a copy**” with changes that can be undone or “**Export**” which creates a copy with permanent changes.

The icon at the top of the screen



gives access to **Undo, Redo, Revert** and **View Edits**.

For Tutorials click on the three dots at the top of the screen or view on YouTube.

K Senner May 2025

Looking at North Korea through different eyes



Peter Wilson

A big thank you to Peter Wilson for his fascinating talk on North Korea. He highlighted that much of what we know about North Korea comes from an American perspective, and that we rarely hear unbiased information about the country's population. Peter is the Secretary of the New Zealand–Democratic People's Republic of Korea Society (NZ DPRK). Under the auspices of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), he has visited North Korea many times in his role as an agricultural specialist. Peter brings 50 years of experience in planning and implementing humanitarian projects across 21 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including North Korea. His work has ranged from small-scale initiatives costing a few hundred dollars to major projects valued at up to \$32 million, with a focus on livestock production and crop rotation.

Peter explained that the IFAD focuses on supporting the poorest rural communities in the world's poorest countries.

His first visit to North Korea in 1997 revealed severe food shortages, which led to a project focused on small livestock production—including poultry, rabbits, ducks, and geese.

During his second visit in 2007, he was involved in a project aimed at improving crop rotation practices within agricultural cooperatives, which are a common feature of North Korean farming.

Historical Context of the Korean Peninsula

Peter provided a historical overview of the Korean Peninsula, highlighting its homogenous culture and lack of indigenous minorities.

The first American contact with Korea was in 1866, when the American merchant ship, SS General Sherman was destroyed in the Taedong River during an unsuccessful and illegal attempt by the ship's crew to open up trade with the isolationist Joseon Dynasty which had been in control of Korea for 500 years. Through a series of misunderstandings, a battle ensued and the crew were killed.

In 1871, the Americans made a retaliatory naval attack with five ships. Although the Americans emerged militarily victorious, the Korean government maintained its isolationist stance. This only ended in 1876 when the Japan-Korea Treaty was signed which made Korea a protectorate of Japan. At the time the Americans, the Russians and the Japanese were all trying to gain territories similar to the acquisition of territories by the British and the Dutch.

From 1904–1905, the Russo-Japanese War was fought over ambitions in Manchuria and the Korean Empire. In 1905 a treaty was drawn up which led to 35 years of Japanese control.

At the dropping of the atom bombs in Japan it was estimated that 40,000 Koreans were killed. The Koreans were working as slave labour in factories to support the Japanese war effort.

The post-World War II period saw the Russian and American forces divide Korea at the 38th parallel, leading to the establishment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK).

Post-World War II Political Developments

Peter described the political developments following World War II, including the appointment of the American-backed, strongly anti-communist Syngman Rhee (1875–1965) as the leader of South Korea. At the time, Rhee had limited knowledge of the country, having lived in exile for more than 30 years. In contrast, Kim Il Sung (1912–1994) knew the country well and supported by the Soviet Union, was installed as the leader of North Korea.

The actions of American General John Hodge, particularly the suppression of local people's committees in South Korea, resulted in significant loss of life, including many community leaders. In contrast, Kim Il Sung encouraged the development of village committees, which later formed the foundation of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The Korean War (1950–1953) saw direct American support for Syngman Rhee and broader UN military intervention. The war caused devastating casualties and solidified the division of the Korean Peninsula. It is estimated that over one million Koreans died during the conflict.

Kate's Take continued ...

Parallels with Vietnam and Peace Efforts - Peter drew parallels between Korea and Vietnam, highlighting the strong American influence in both countries and the division between charismatic nationalist leaders in the North and U.S.-backed leaders in the South. The Korean War Armistice of 1953 resulted in a military stalemate, with no formal peace treaty ever signed—largely due to American opposition. Efforts to build peace included the 1972 North–South Joint Communiqué and subsequent inter-Korean meetings, though these were often undermined by U.S. pressure on South Korean leadership. The “sunshine years” under liberal Democratic presidents in South Korea saw a period of optimism, marked by summits and joint declarations with the North. However, progress was frequently disrupted by American influence and shifting geopolitical priorities.

Peace Efforts and Challenges

In 2014, “The Women Cross DMZ”, (Demilitarized Zone), a global peace organization, was founded by Christine Ahn. The aim was to mobilise women to advocate for peace, reconciliation, and denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula. The group gained international attention in May 2015 when 30 women peace activists from 15 countries and organizer Christine Ahn—crossed the Korean DMZ from North to South Korea. This symbolic act aimed to draw attention to the unresolved Korean War and promote dialogue between the two Koreas.



Peter discussed peace efforts between North and South Korea, including meetings between President Moon, Kim Jong Un and Trump in 2018 and 2019. However, at the summit in Hanoi, talks broke down with disagreements over sanctions relief and denuclearization.

North Korea's Self-Sufficiency and Agricultural Challenges

Peter highlighted North Korea's *Juche* philosophy of life. *Juche* asserts that a country will prosper once it has become self-reliant by achieving political, economic, and military independence. North Korea's agricultural sector is limited, with only 15% of land being arable and frozen for six months of the year. The country is susceptible to extreme weather events, including droughts and floods, which can devastate crops. The 1990s famine was exacerbated by the collapse of the Soviet Union, North Korea's major economic backer. The Soviet Union had provided oil, food, fertilizer, and machinery at heavily subsidized rates. According to international agencies, an estimated 3 million people died as a result of malnutrition and associated diseases between 1994 and 1998. It was caused by a combination of economic mismanagement, natural disasters, and geopolitical shifts. Severe flooding in 1995 and 1996 devastated crops, submerged farmland, and destroyed grain reserves and infrastructure. This was followed by droughts in 1997, further reducing harvests. Initially, the North Korean government refused international aid and concealed the crisis. By the time international agencies like the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF were allowed in, the famine was already widespread.

Living Conditions and Social Support in North Korea.

However, compared with other developing countries, Peter noted that North Koreans have better housing, medical care, and education. Housing is state-owned and allocated free of charge to citizens. Education is free and compulsory from for 12 years and the government claims 100% literacy. North Korean students perform well in international maths and science Olympiads but there is no access to the open internet. Healthcare is free to everyone but the quality of care varies, with urban areas, especially Pyongyang, receiving better services. North Koreans do not pay tax.

K Senner May 2025



COMMITTEE

Chairman Brian Erikson
brian@senpak.nz

Treasurer Mervyn Coward
mervyn@senpak.nz

Secretary Dawn Howarth
dawn@senpak.nz

Membership Secretary Robyn Carter
robyn@senpak.nz

Publicity Warren Taylor
warren@senpak.nz

Course Co-ordinator Mike Empson
mike@senpak.nz

Website Assistant Keith Erikson
keith@senpak.nz

Guest Speaker Co-Ordinator Maggie Burrill
maggie@senpak.nz

Asst Guest Speaker Co-Ordinator Fay Mullins
fay@senpak.nz

Newsletter Editor Dawn Howarth
dawn@senpak.nz

The father of this little girl says he brought her a cat to forget about the phone, but this is what happened.



the correct place for the phone is below and slightly to the left of the bread plate



Procrastination is totally a good thing. You always have something to do tomorrow, plus you have nothing to do today.

COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

To view all SeniorNet courses and timetable, click here

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

JUNE HELP DAYS

3 Jun (Tue)	10:00 AM
11 Jun (Wed)	1:00 PM
16 Jun (Mon)	1:00 PM
26 Jun (Thu)	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.
- * 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.**

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.