

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

**NOVEMBER 2025**

Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents



## This issue:

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## **NOVEMBER HELP DAYS**

Monday	3rd	1pm
Wednesday	12th	10am
Thursday	20th	10am
Tuesday	25th	1pm

**NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY**

Just because something is  
on Facebook doesn't  
necessarily mean it's true.

- William Shakespeare

Our next Meeting,  
**Friday 7th November**

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 be our early entertaining speaker.  
The main speaker is Warren Yardley who will talk  
about Auckland Streets and street names. Warren will  
show early photos of Auckland as well as more recent  
ones. Certain to be very interesting.



## **2 NEW MEMBERS**

Todd Milbank  
Emmie Watt

I think my wife has started to  
show the first signs of dementia...  
She said she can't remember  
what she ever saw in me!

In the tech world new jargon words pop up at an increasing rate. Have you heard of “Agenic”. I came across it when reading Microsoft’s future plan for Windows 11. They have used the word to describe their plans to eliminate the use of keyboard and mouse when you use Windows 11. Your interaction with the computer will be by voice via Copilot. Can you remember Hal the computer in a TV programme from the 80’s?

This plan seems to be progressing rapidly; you may have encountered Co-Pilot already trying to do your Word and PowerPoint tasks. I had a call from a SeniorNet member quite concerned that the counter effect it was having on a PowerPoint presentation being prepared. I explored further, via Copilot, to find out how to turn the assistant off. It’s in the File tab, Options, Copilot, tick or untick as you want.

Copilot can help in many ways. For example, we run a series of Microsoft Access applications developed and enhanced by Graeme using VBA code. One of the reports generates an output we use to claim a \$2.50 per hour support from the SeniorNet Federation for the member training hours each month. We have to break it down into about 8 categories of training, laborious if done manually. This App has run well for some time but recently stopped. I copied the particular code (about 3 pages worth) into Copilot and got this response on how to fix it. It now awaits my action.

## General Observations

- The code is well-structured and clearly targets a monthly reporting workflow.
- It uses Access forms, queries, and reports effectively.
- The logic for calculating date ranges and aggregating student data is sound.
- Incorrect Loop Condition
- Do Until Rs1.EOF
- The inner loop should iterate over Rs2, not Rs1. This is likely a copy-paste error.
- Fix:
- Do Until Rs2.EOF

## Ramblings

Fireworks time again..I’m a real grinch and don’t even open the curtains for that. It is hard to believe that so many people spend so much on fireworks, then frighten all the animals in the vicinity. The sooner fireworks are banned the better. Mind you I have been saying that for years, but nobody listens.

I have a “Life’s Little Instruction” calendar and today’s instruction is *“Read carefully anything that requires your signature. Remember the big print giveth and the small print taketh away.”* Sadly I’m someone who never reads any contract print, especially if it comes via my computer. I just scoot to the bottom and click on the “read” box. Are we all like that or is it just trusting, impatient and lazy me. I am sure I will rue that bad habit one day.

Keep yourself safe, keep smiling and keep your shoulders back.



## Dawn Howarth



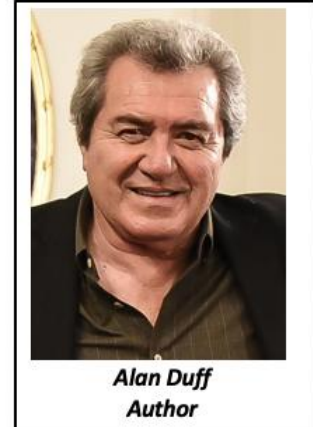


## Duffy books in Homes



Linda Vagana  
General Manager

A big thank you to Linda Vagana for her inspirational talk on **"Duffy Books in Homes"**. She is General Manager of this wonderful organisation. Many of us may also remember her as a New Zealand representative in the national netball team, the Silver Ferns, where she played from 1993 to 2002 earning 61 caps. Linda shared stories of her childhood in a large Samoan family and recalled the excitement of bringing home the Scholastic Lucky Book Club catalogue from school. She would pore over its pages, knowing, however, that in her household "\$10 for two books was just too much."



Alan Duff  
Author

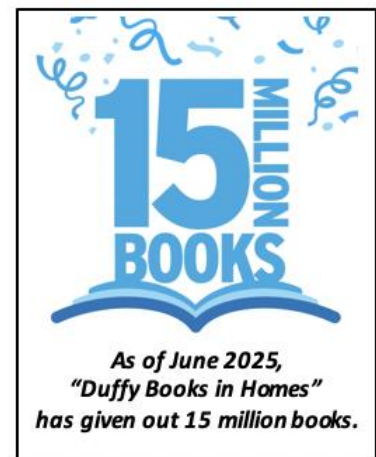
Her parents had to focus on making sure the family was fed. This reality is still shared by thousands of children in our most vulnerable communities and is the reason **"Duffy Books in Homes"** exists today. The programme was founded following a visit by novelist and newspaper columnist Alan Duff to Camberley School in Hastings in 1992. Duff is best known as the author of the novel *"Once Were Warriors"*, later made into a film of the same name in 1994. During his visit to Camberley School, Duff discovered that most of the children came from bookless homes and showed little, if any, interest in reading. From this grew the key concept of book ownership to encourage an interest in reading and a love of books. Having books in the home also created the opportunity for children to share them with other family members.

In 1994, with the support of Christine Fernyhough and the sponsorship of Mainfreight, who provided office space then and continue to do so today, the **"Alan Duff Charitable Foundation, Books in Homes"** programme was launched.

**"Duffy Books in Homes"** was established to break this cycle of "booklessness". Its mission is to bridge this resource gap by ensuring children have consistent access to books they can own, cherish, and read again and again. By doing so, the organisation aims to inspire a genuine, lifelong love of reading, creating book-rich homes that serve as the foundation for educational achievement and future success.

### The Duffy Programme Model is based on a Three-Pillar Approach.

The cornerstone of the programme is the direct provision of brand-new books to children. Each participating child receives up to six new books per year to take home and keep forever. For Duffy kids, it's like Christmas when they get their books. **Scholastic** is the programme's main partner for book supply, catalogue development, and distribution logistics. This consistent flow of reading material is made possible through a unique partnership model that brings together schools, sponsors, and



### The Power of Choice and Ownership

Each child receives four core books of their choice that are co-funded by the participating school and a dedicated funding partner sourced by **"Duffy Books in Homes"**.

- An additional two books per child are fully funded by the New Zealand Government, reflecting a long-standing, non-partisan commitment to the programme's goals into the future.
- Crucially, the programme is built on the principle of choice. Children select their own books from the comprehensive Scholastic catalogue. This empowerment generates immense excitement and personal investment, and it is a key driver of engagement.

The organisation works hard to honour every child's choice, achieving an impressive 98% success rate in fulfilling each first-choice selection.



## Kate's Take continued ...

### Inspiration Through Role Models.

- Recognising that simply providing books may not be enough for children who have not yet developed a love for reading, the Duffy Role Models programme was created as a vital source of inspiration. During school assemblies, ambassadors share their personal stories, emphasising the importance of reading not only for enjoyment but also as a critical life skill.
- There are now more than 200 active ambassadors from all walks of life, including authors, television personalities, and athletes. Some of these ambassadors openly admit they disliked reading at school but go on to explain that they still needed to learn how to read.

The rugby heroes, for example, might talk more about their flash cars than books but then they explain how they needed to be able to read contracts in order to buy the car and to advance their careers. These relatable stories make the value of literacy real and relevant for the students.

### Engagement Through Live Theatre

- To further ignite children's imaginations, the Duffy Theatre component brings the world of books to life. Each year, a professional theatre troupe tours all participating schools, delivering a dynamic, 45-minute performance.
- The show always centres on the adventures of the character "**Duffy**". This year's production is titled, "**Duffy and His Pawsome Adventure**" is a spoof on the 101 Dalmatians story featuring an evil villain determined to stop Duffy from getting books into children's hands. The adventure revolves around reading, problem-solving and breaking codes.

Transporting the theatre group around the country is expensive but costs have been reduced thanks to **Mazda** which sponsors the tour by providing the vehicles ensuring all eligible schools can experience the magic of the **Duffy Theatre**.

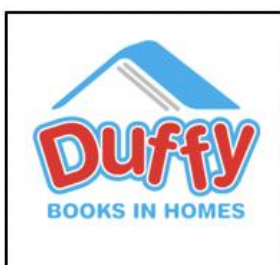


"**Duffy Books in Homes**" is a large-scale, well-managed national programme with a proven operational framework. Its structure enables it to efficiently and effectively serve thousands of children across diverse communities.

The programme's scope and eligibility criteria are clearly defined:

- The programme currently serves 566 schools and approximately 260 early childhood centres, spanning the full length of the country from New Zealand's most northerly school to Bluff.
- A school's eligibility is determined by the government's Equity Index (EQI) which ranges from 344-569. The programme primarily targets schools formerly designated as Decile 1-3 including all schools where the EQI is **above 470**. Any value above this figure indicates socioeconomic challenges and it would qualify for inclusion into the scheme.
- To ensure the book selection is relevant and inclusive, the catalogue is carefully curated to reflect New Zealand's diversity. It features English titles, te reo Māori and bilingual titles, as well as Pacifica titles. The organisation is also working to source books representing other ethnicities and cultures.

The Duffy model has been successfully adapted internationally, with a presence in more than 200 schools across Australia, as well as programme offshoots established in New York and Philadelphia in the United States.



To learn more or become involved in the programme, visit the excellent "**Duffy Books in Homes**" website, where you'll find answers to all your questions. Simply enter [booksinhomes.org.nz](http://booksinhomes.org.nz) into your browser's search bar or scan the QR code on the right using your phone's camera.



K Senner Oct 2025

## LUCK

Winston Churchill once raised his glass and said:

“I prefer not to wish anyone health or wealth — but only luck.  
Because most people on the Titanic were both healthy and rich.  
But very few of them were lucky.”

It makes you think.

Did you know a senior executive survived the 9/11 attacks because he took his son to his first day of kindergarten?

Another man lived because it was his turn to grab doughnuts.

One woman survived because her alarm didn't go off.  
Someone else was late because of a New Jersey traffic jam.

One missed the bus.

Another spilled coffee and had to change clothes.

Someone's car wouldn't start.

Another returned home to answer a phone call.

One parent was delayed because their child was being unusually slow.

One man simply couldn't catch a cab.

But the story that struck me most?

A man who wore new shoes to work that day. On his way, his feet hurt.

He stopped at a pharmacy to buy band-aids.

That's what saved his life.

Ever since I heard that, I think differently.

Now when I'm stuck in traffic...

When I miss the elevator...

When I forget something and have to turn back...

When my morning just doesn't go as planned...

I try to pause and trust:

Maybe this delay is not a setback.

Maybe — it's divine timing.

Maybe I'm exactly where I'm meant to be.

So next time your morning falls apart...

The kids are slow, the keys go missing, you hit every red light —

Don't stress. Don't snap.

It might just be luck in disguise.



## COMMITTEE

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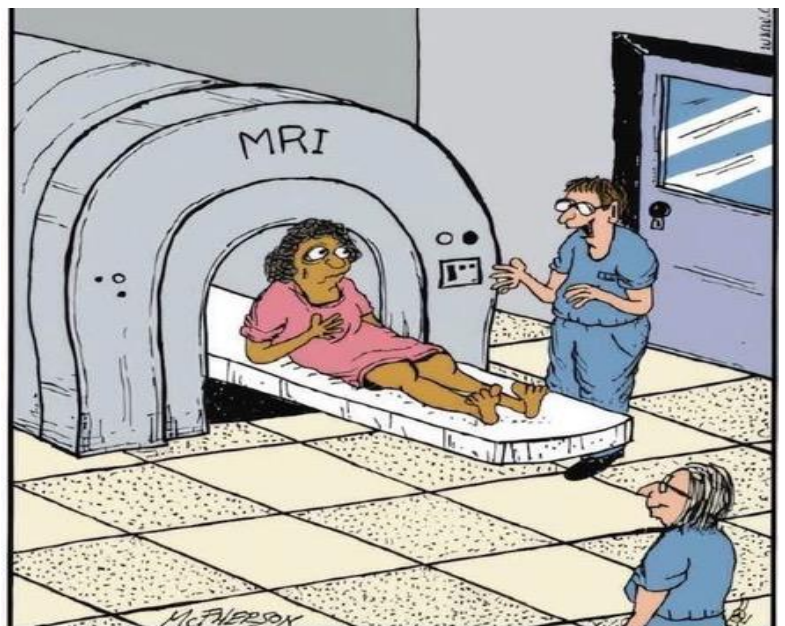
**Newsletter Editor** Dawn Howarth  
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My new girlfriend and I were travelling to meet my parents, when she got a flat tyre.

So I called my parents and said, "Sorry mum, we're going to be late. My girlfriend's got a puncture!"

"Oh!" she sighed, "I thought you had a real one this time!"



"So, Mrs. Tyler, we're going to take a scan of your brain to see why you have such debilitating claustrophobia."



# COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

To view all SeniorNet courses and timetable, click here

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

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### 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.**