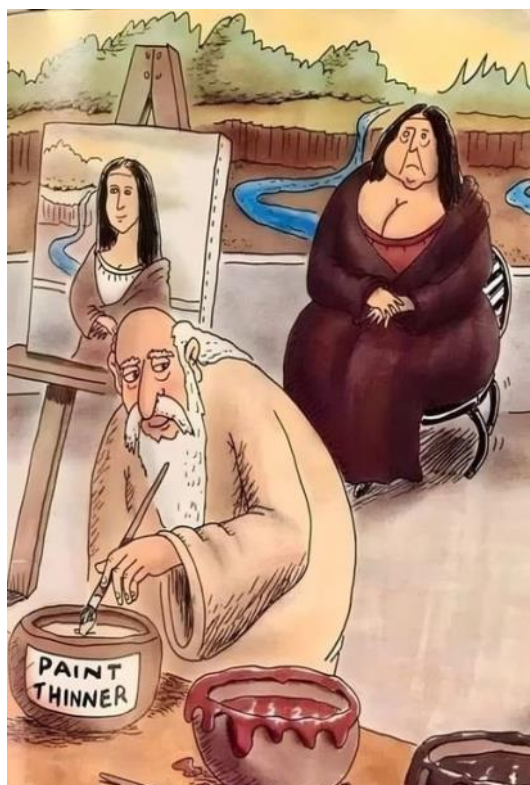


SeniorNet (Pakuranga) Inc
12 Ben Lomond Crescent, Pakuranga Auckland 2010
Telephone 09 576 4500

JULY 2024

Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents



Our next Meeting,

Friday 5th July

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 speaker followed after morning tea, by Guy Marks, Chief Archivist from St John Ambulance Service, speaking on the history of that great organisation.

JULY HELP DAYS

| | | |
|-----------|---------|------|
| Wednesday | 3 July | 10am |
| Monday | 8 July | 1pm |
| Tuesday | 16 July | 1pm |
| Thursday | 25 July | 10am |

9 NEW MEMBERS



| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Philippa Waara | Sue Frostick |
| Susana Moral | Colin Devereux |
| Pamela Hunter | Lisa Armstrong |
| Marianne Penney | Qiang He |
| Carole Devereux | |



A new Constitution is required

While this can seem a mind-numbing detail it is noted that SeniorNet Pakuranga was incorporated in 1996, and it was done so under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

In the last couple of years there has been an extensive review of this Act, the outcome of which is the enactment of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 which came into force on 5 October 2023.

The Act aims to provide a modern legal, governance, and accountability framework for incorporated societies and those who run them. It replaces the previous legislation and introduces new provisions to guide self-governing groups.

All existing Incorporated Societies have until 5 April 2026 to reregister under the new Act. Failure to do so will result in it no longer being an Incorporated Society and that exposes us to significant risks.

So, what does all this mean for us?

Firstly, we need to have a new Constitution that complies with the 2022 Incorporated Societies Act as our existing Constitution is not compliant.

To this end, the Federation of New Zealand SeniorNet Societies has saved us considerable headaches by developing legally reviewed/compliant templates which Member Learning Centres are able to use for their own specific Constitution. The committee has commenced the development of a new Constitution using one of the templates as a starting point.

There is a process to follow once a draft Constitution is completed, the first being its acceptance by our Committee, and then it must be referred to our membership to be voted upon at a Special General Meeting. Once there is membership agreement on the new Constitution, it is submitted to the Companies Office for approval.

We will keep you updated and have the draft available in the Notice section of our website. Its going to be about 26pages long!

Ramblings

Dawn Howarth

I had an '0' birthday this month and was rewarded with a new mini iPad. Apple stopped updating my 11 year old iPad several years ago, then our Auckland Public Library couldn't update their app because my updates were out of date. So it was time for a newer model. Would you believe Apple has also changed the plug and now my 2metre charging cables don't fit. It also operates differently so I need to go to one of Dick's classes to find out how it all works. I have since learned that my iPhone 7 is no longer being updated and I am unable to download the Apple app that they keep suggesting I install. Blimmin Americans. (The censor made me modify what I called them.) American politics and laws, especially surrounding Mr Trump, leave me speechless and shaking my head. Now Apple seems to be ripping me off and shaking my loyalty to them.

How has your month of June been? We had a big surprise a couple of weeks ago when that storm came through Auckland. The back wall of our entrance porch blew out, frame and all. Broken glass (6 large panes), bent frame, broken garden plants, porch furniture, umbrellas, etc, all blown out with the wall. I was scrambling about in the dark trying to retrieve what I could. Fortunately first thing in the morning our good staff cleaned up all the glass, straightened the frame and reinstalled it—with double the amount of pop rivets to hold it in and now they have replaced all the glass.

Him indoors is just now at his first day at HBH Day Club and I have been in tears. Just like a mum taking a child to their first day at school. Fingers crossed he will be keen to go back next week.

Hang in there people, we are nearly half way through another year. You have time to save for your own Santa present, something I do every year.

Have another great month, smile at everyone—they will wonder what you have been up to.

Living in a world with Artificial Intelligence



Some months ago, we looked at ChatGPT 3.5 but version ChatGPT 4 has now been released, free of charge.

Its knowledge base has increased exponentially and it has been updated to 2023. ChatGPT is a powerful conversational **Artificial Intelligence** (AI) designed to understand and generate human-like text, suitable for a wide array of applications.

Its versatility, contextual awareness, and extensive knowledge base make it a valuable tool across the vast array of human endeavour. It can understand and generate human-like text while responding to complex queries, providing coherent and contextually relevant responses.

Unlike an enquiry made on Wikipedia, ChatGPT maintains context from one question to the next, allowing for natural and meaningful interactions in a conversational and nuanced way.

It can provide information on an infinite range of topics and with its exponential growth it will become integral to our everyday living. By the end of the year all manufacturers of computers will be incorporating AI into the operating systems of their new models. Microsoft is already running Copilot.

Throughout history there have been key inventions that have led to sudden and overwhelming changes in human society such as the Wheel (over 5000 years ago), Gunpowder (9th Century), Printing Press (15th Century), Steam Engine (17th Century, leading to the Industrial Revolution), Electricity (19th Century), the Automobile (the late 19th Century), Transistor (mid 20th Century), the Internet (late 20th Century) and the inventions for improved health, Vaccinations (18th Century) to 20th Century antibiotics.

Within the next ten years AI will start to impact every aspect of our lives in ways greater than any of these inventions of the past.

For example :-

Economic Transformation

- **Automation of Jobs:** AI will increasingly automate routine and repetitive tasks in industries such as manufacturing, logistics, and customer service. This will boost productivity but may also lead to job displacement, necessitating reskilling and upskilling of the workforce.
- **New Job Creation:** While some jobs will be lost, AI is expected to create new roles.

Healthcare Revolution

- **Personalized Medicine:** AI will enable more personalized healthcare through advanced data analysis. A simple blood test will predict individual health risks. Tailored treatments will be created.
- **Improved Diagnostics:** AI-powered diagnostic tools will enhance the accuracy and speed of disease detection, potentially saving millions of lives through early intervention.
- **Gene Therapy:** AI can identify genetic mutations and help to design therapies to cure disease.

Enhanced Transportation

- **Autonomous Vehicles:** Self-driving cars, trucks, and drones will transform transportation, making the roads safer and more efficient. This will impact urban planning, reduce traffic accidents, and lower transportation costs.
- **Smart Infrastructure:** AI will optimize traffic flow and infrastructure maintenance, leading to smarter, more efficient cities.

Education and Training

- **Personalized Learning:** AI will enable customized educational experiences, adapting to individual learning styles and paces. Educational opportunities will be available to everyone.
- **Lifelong Learning:** As job markets evolve, AI-driven platforms will facilitate continuous learning and professional development.

Improved Decision Making:

- **Business Intelligence:** AI will provide deeper insights and predictive analytics, helping businesses make more informed decisions and optimize operations.
- **Government and Policy:** AI can assist in policy-making by analyzing vast amounts of data to predict the outcomes of different policy options, potentially leading to more effective governance.

Enhanced Human-Machine Interaction Natural Language Processing:

- Advances in AI will make interactions with machines more intuitive through improved voice and text interfaces, enhancing user experiences across various applications.

Kate's Take continued ...

Augmented Reality (AR):

- AI will enhance AR experiences, blending the digital and physical worlds in areas such as retail, entertainment, and education.

Scientific and Technological Advancements Accelerated Research:

- AI will expedite research and development in fields such as materials science, biology, and climate science by analyzing complex data sets and simulating experiments.

Revolutionize agriculture and food production:

- AI will make more efficient uses of resources, provide real time insight into areas that may need attention such irrigation or fertilizer. It will create more resilient and sustainable food systems.

Space Exploration:

- AI will play a crucial role in space missions, from autonomous spacecraft navigation to data analysis from remote sensing technologies.

The societal impact of AI over the next decade will be vast and multifaceted, driving significant advancements but it will pose challenges that require careful management and ethical considerations.

Ethical and Social Considerations, Bias and Fairness:

- Ensuring AI systems are fair and unbiased will be a significant focus, requiring ongoing attention to ethical considerations and regulatory frameworks.

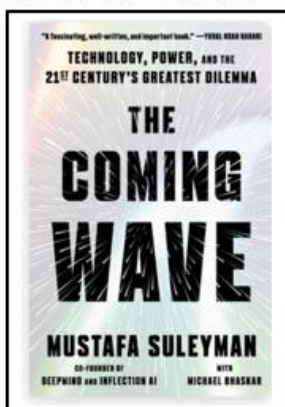
Privacy and Security:

- AI will necessitate new approaches to data privacy and cybersecurity, as the volume and sensitivity of data processed by AI systems increase.

How will such power be kept from those who only have self interest in mind?

On one hand, AI promises an exciting future but on the other hand, it is terrifying.

Mustafa Suleyman CBE, is a British AI entrepreneur. He co-founded **DeepMind**, an AI company later acquired by Google, where he served as the head of applied AI. After leaving DeepMind, Suleyman co-founded **Inflection AI**, a machine learning and generative AI company. Currently, he is the CEO of **Microsoft AI** and the **Executive Vice President**. He has recently published a book, "The Coming Wave". It is available in all formats from the Auckland Library.



In his book Suleyman discusses:- The rapid advancements in AI, such as large language models like ChatGPT and the breakthroughs in synthetic biology, such as CRISPR which can create and modify genes. He questions how such technologies can be contained or controlled. He likens it to past struggles with nuclear containment. He highlights the ethical, societal, and political ramifications of these advancements, stressing the need for a balanced approach to harness their benefits while mitigating their dangers. He describes this as navigating a narrow path between disaster and authoritarian overreach. He urges collective action and improved governance to ensure these technologies contribute positively to humanity's future. It certainly is a thought provoking read but for further information type "Mustafa Suleyman, AI", into the

YouTube search bar. There are many short and long format interviews with Suleyman. They are well worth watching. He has also created an animated overview of his book titled, "**The Coming Wave Animation**" which sums up both the positive and negative aspects of AI.

Another animated YouTube video gives an insight into how AI works. Type into the YouTube search bar "**Generative AI in a Nutshell – how to survive and thrive in the age of AI by Henrik Kniberg**".

STOP PRESS – Article in UK, Guardian Newspaper, 23/06/24 - **HUME**, a Manhattan-based start-up claims to have developed "the world's first voice AI with emotional intelligence". **Watch this space!**

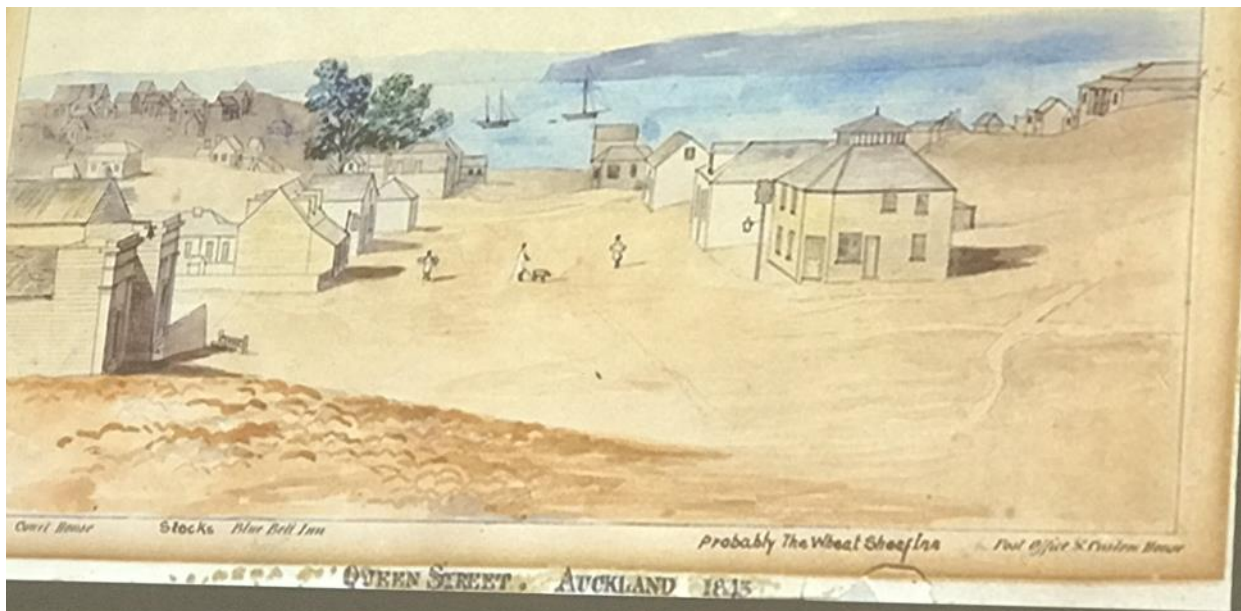
K Senner. June 2024

Dawn's Take ...

LAW AND DISORDER IN 19TH CENTURY SOUTH AUCKLAND

by TERRY CARSON

An interesting and sometimes shocking lesson on just how lawless NZ was, or at least South Auckland in the early 1800's. Terry Carson gave an amazing talk about our own suburbs and it was surprising to learn that we had no law at all until the Treaty was signed. Even then it was cruel and merciless with floggings, stocks and public hangings. Criminals were even branded !!! It was nice to learn that NZ deported the worst criminals to Australia from 1843. Most of the convicts were soldiers although a few rebellious Maori and a woman were deported. Many soldiers thought being a prisoner in Australia would be better than being in the army in New Zealand. All they had to do was commit a heinous crime and off they go. Because of the numbers being deported to the "good life" NZ stopped the practice of deporting altogether in 1853.



Queen Street, Auckland 1843 - In the left foreground is the Courthouse.
In front of the Court House are the stocks and just around the corner was the gallows.

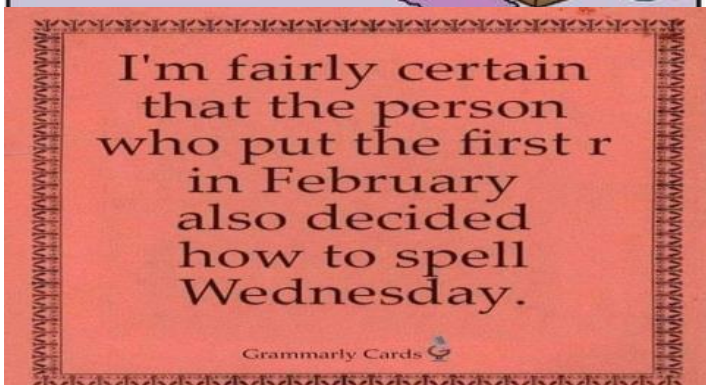


Mt Eden Prison, 1860 - The stone Mt Eden prison we know today was started in 1882 using convict labourers and took 35 years to build.

COMMITTEE

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- Asst Guest Speaker Co-Ordinator**
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I had this delicious omlette this morning. I seasoned the eggs with sugar, oil and chocolate, and threw in a little flour for texture.



COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

To view all SeniorNet courses and timetable, click here

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

JULY HELP DAYS

| | | |
|-----------|---------|------|
| Wednesday | 3 July | 10am |
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| Tuesday | 16 July | 1pm |
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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 (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.**

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.