



West Auckland Men's Rebus Club

<https://www.rebuswestauckland.nz/>

Affiliated to Rebus New Zealand Incorporated

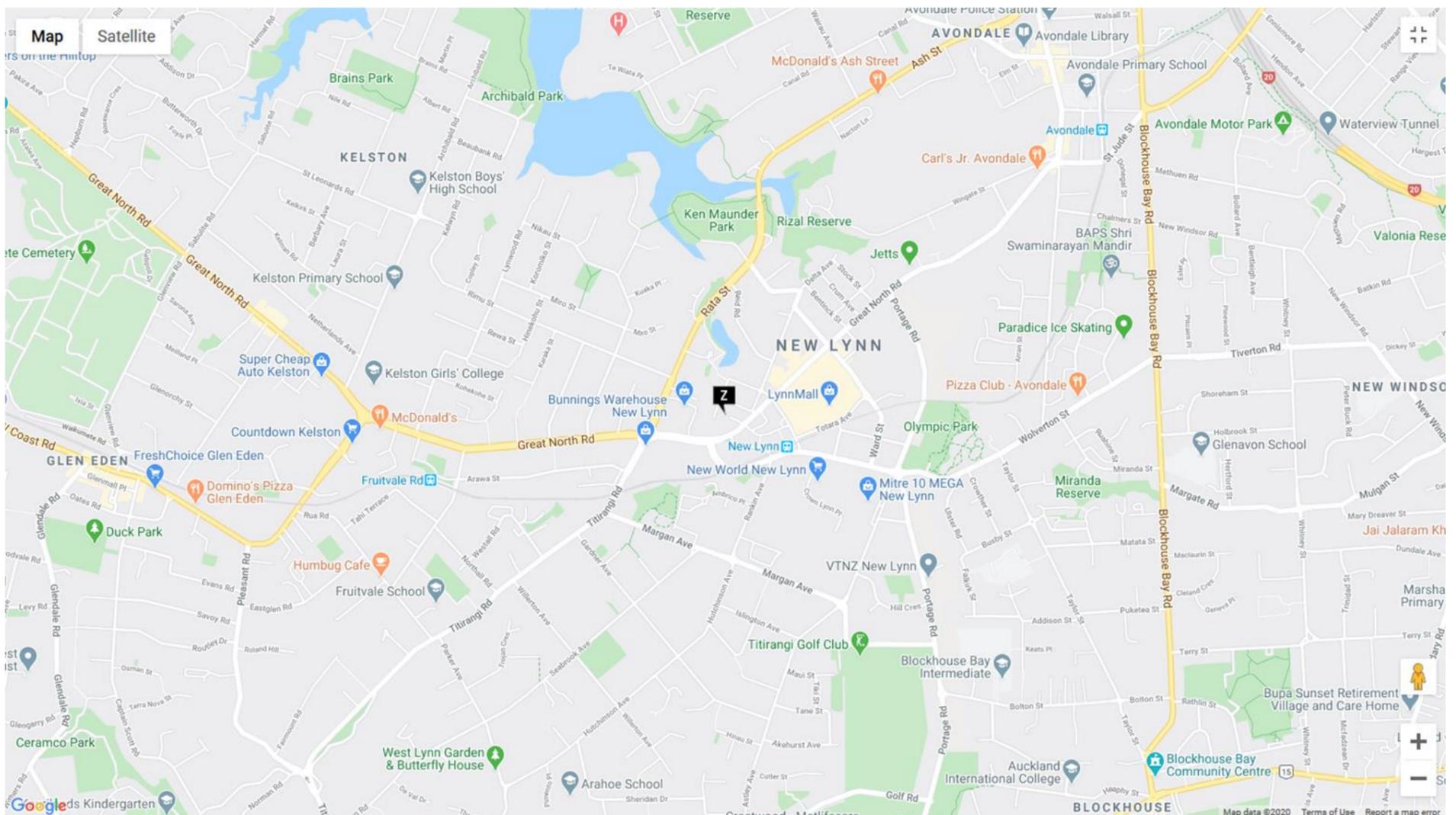
<https://www.rebus.nz/>

Newsletter

JUNE 2020

Meeting starts at 9:45 am Friday 12 June, at the New Lynn Friendship Hall, 3063 Great North Road, New Lynn

For those who are unfamiliar with our new venue and how to get there, Z marks the spot:



2020 COMMITTEE

We now have a new committee, with members from both New Lynn Men's Probus and West Auckland Men's Rebus. Note that three positions (Almoner, Hospitality and Attendance) each have two officers, one from each group, because each Almoner and Attendance Officer knows his own people, and to cope with the extra workload in the kitchen made necessary by the larger membership.

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* We need a new Speaker Organizer.

CLUB EVENTS

The situation has now improved to the point where we can now resume Club events, although we have not yet had time to do much. In fact, to date we have had only one event, although several others are already in hand.

The only event we have had so far since the easing of Lockdown was a Coffee Morning. Ian decided that it was time to start recycling venues, and organized our first post-Pandemic Coffee Morning at the Swanson Station Cafe, which was where we began Coffee Mornings a year ago. He changed the date from Friday to Wednesday (27 May).

Despite the less than ideal weather and possible lingering concerns about Covid-19, 15 members and spouses attended. The then still current limit of no more than 10 people per group was not a problem. Ten sat around the big table and 5 around another, smaller table. As usual, a good time was had by all.



The view along the Big Table with a (very) obscured view of the Little Table – you can just see Vince and his cap. Trevor did not bring any flowers this time; just his wooden kiwi, in pride-of-place in the middle of the table.



A closer view of the Little table, with the Big Table in the background.



Ian decided that I should feature – I think I would have preferred to remain incognito! At least Vince is happy.

We all came through the Lockdown unscathed, though not necessarily unchanged. Bill Fairs, in particular, felt the effects of 2 months without barbers:



◀ Before

After ▶

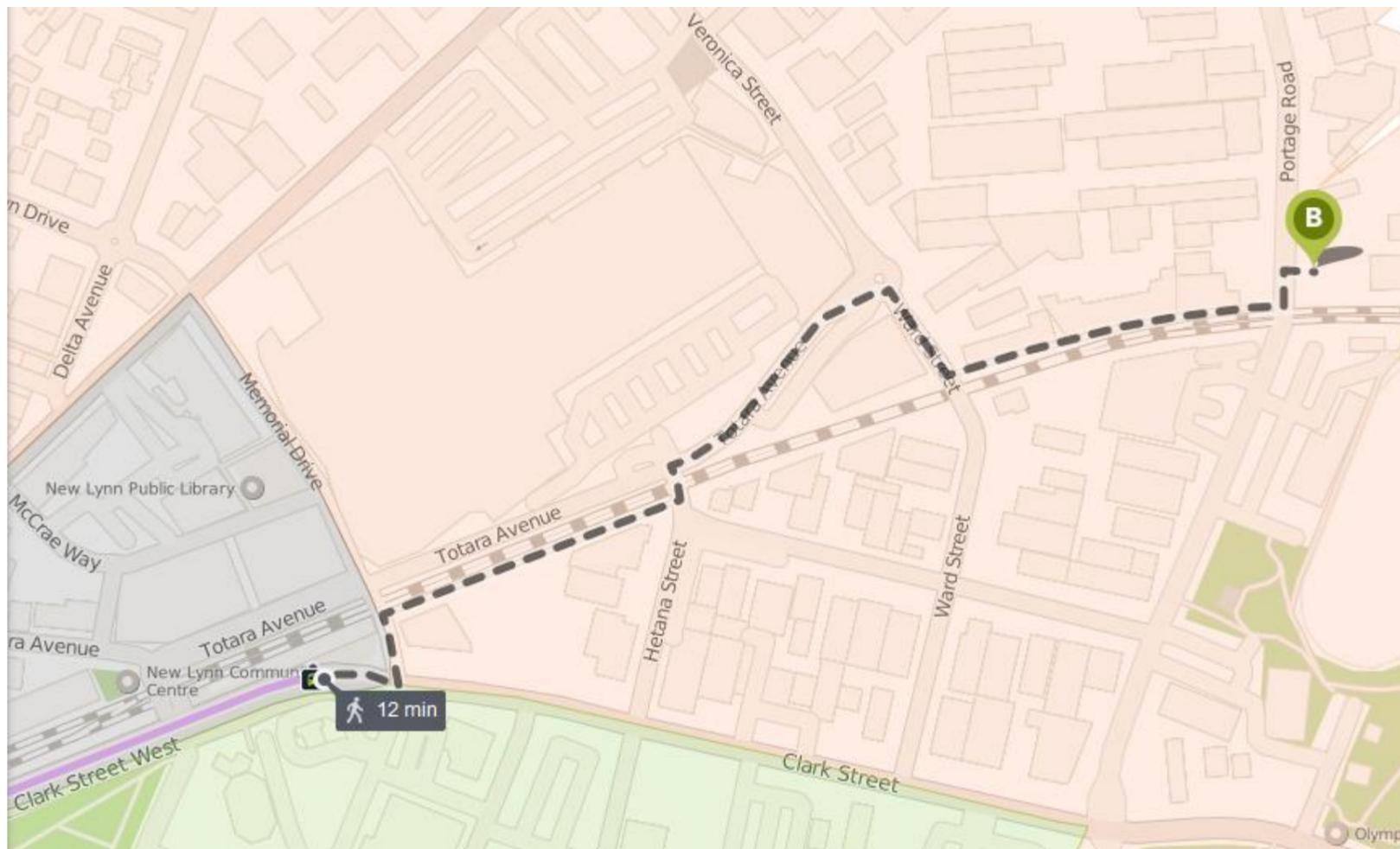


He informs me that he intends to keep his new Beatlesque coiffure and not revert to a skinhead.

Ian has organized another Coffee Morning: Huckleberry Farm, 34D Portage Road, New Lynn, at 10:30 AM on Thursday 18 June. Despite its name, it is very much an urban establishment:



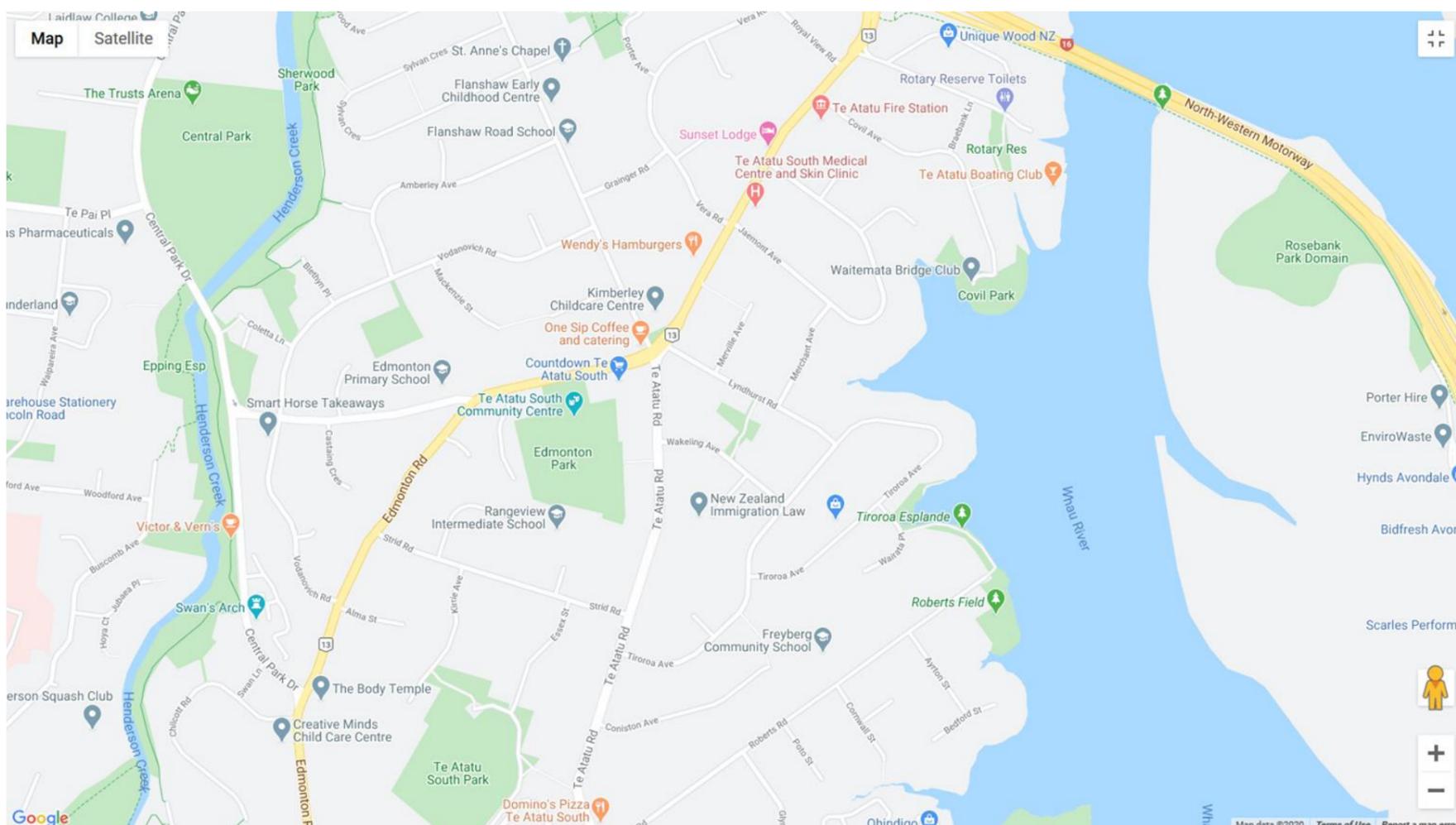
It's not far from the New Lynn Transport Centre,



773 metres, or 12 minutes walk, according to AT's Journey Planner, and plenty of parking. For more, see <https://www.huckleberry.co.nz>.

Ian has certainly been busy during the Lockdown, organizing not only two Coffee Mornings, but also an Outing: a trip to the Chelsea Sugar Factory, on Thursday 13 August, in conjunction with the Waitakere Combined Rebus Club.

The bus starts from, and returns to, the car park at the St Johns Hall, Te Atatu South. This is adjacent to the Te Atatu South Community Centre, off Edmonton Road, just past Te Atatu South Countdown, along from Te Atatu Road:



The bus will leave about 9:15 am and return about 3 pm.

The cost for the bus and factory tour is \$35. Payment is required by 10 July 2020. Bank account (ASB) for payment is 12-3232-0318628-00. Enter your name and phone number in the particulars/code/reference fields.

Because Chelsea limits the number of people in each tour group through the factory to eighteen, only 2 x 18 = 36 people will be able to go on the trip. Advice is to get in early because with the two clubs combining, available places could quickly fill.

The Chelsea Sugar Factory Tour requires the following conditions:

Factory Tour Dress Code:

All visitors MUST wear long sleeved top, long trousers and closed-in flat-soled footwear. Other factory safety gear will be provided. You must wear the safety gear provided at all times and in accordance with the instructions for use given by Chelsea Bay staff. Failure to correctly wear and use safety gear could result in injury.

Safety & Risks:

• The Chelsea Sugar Factory is a large industrial food manufacturing site and as such, there are many potential hazards and restricted access areas in the factory. Visitors must not attempt to enter any restricted access areas.

- All visitors must comply with the Chelsea Bay staff instructions.
- All visitors must stay with the group and on designated walkways at all times.
- Children must be fully supervised at all times while on site

Some areas of the Factory Tour may be noisy or hot – the time spent in these areas is very short and moved through quickly.

- There may be bees' onsite. If you are allergic, we recommend bringing an Epi-Pen, if required.
- You agree that Chelsea Bay will not be liable for any sickness, injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may arise, either directly or indirectly, by reason of any defect or any other cause, or through acts of default by Chelsea Bay people or any other people engaged in the Factory Tour
- You accept the risk of possible injury or harm associated with the Factory Tour
- Chelsea Bay may refuse entry to or evict any person it reasonably believes is adversely affected by alcohol or drugs
- Personal property is your responsibility and Chelsea Bay will not be responsible for any loss of or damage to personal property

Factory Tour General Information:

- There are 80 stairs to walk up and down across the tour therefore, we cannot accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, pushchairs and the use of crutches or walkers.
- Please arrive 15 minutes before your Factory Tour time booking to allow time to put belongings in the lockers and get your safety gear on
- No food or drink is permitted on the tour
- There are no toilet facilities during the one hour tour
- No bags, phones or cameras are permitted. They must be stored in our secure lockers which are provided free of charge

See <https://www.chelsea.co.nz/chelseabay/factory-tours/factory-tour/>.

It is good that not only can we now resume trips, but because of our increased membership, we can now go on (hire) bus trips, which we have not been able to do for some time. Things really are getting back to normal. Long may it last.

Now that we can have meetings with up to 100 attendees (if only!), our regular monthly meetings will resume on Friday 12 June, with Bill Hohepa speaking on *Fishing*. See <https://www.fishing.net.nz/fishing-advice/maori-fishing-calendar/>. Please remember that we now meet in the New Lynn Friendship Hall, in New Lynn, not in the Kelston Community Centre. See above for a location map.

The Mid-winter lunch, at Ryders, scheduled for Friday 26 June, is on. Please order your lunch and pay at the June meeting: the order form is appended to this Newsletter.

SPEAKERS

With as yet little activity to report, I will continue to recycle previous events. Some of you will have already read these, and may even have featured in them. I hope you will enjoy experiencing them again, albeit vicariously. Some of you will have joined the Club too recently to have experienced these events directly. I hope these accounts will show you what a fun bunch we are at West Auckland Mens' Rebus and that it confirms the wisdom of your joining us.

Most of our speakers illustrate their talks, usually with PowerPoint presentations. However, such visual aids do not have to be high tech to be effective. As shown by the repeat in last month's Newsletter of our own Neil Castle's talk on his gold mining experiences, analogue visuals can be just as effective. Not even a Magic Lantern is necessary. This month's encore speaker shows that pictures are not always necessary either: a talk can be interesting and informative using words alone. Ivan Pivac, who spoke on *The Kauri Gum Industry from 1880 to World War I* in October 2018, is blind. Not that that has stopped him. As well as being an accomplished public speaker on the side, he is an acupuncturist by profession.

October 2018's Guest Speaker, introduced by Bill Fairs, was Ivan Pivac, who spoke on *The Kauri Gum Industry from 1880 to WWI*.



Ivan Pivac

Ivan noted that he speaks often, at many venues, but that ours is the only one he has able to walk to from home, where he works at his day job, as an acupuncturist. If you travel along Great North Road, you can see the sign outside his home/workplace, on the eastern side of the road, between the Kelston Community Centre and the Glendene shops. Ivan lost his sight at the age of 12. Members may recall Chris Orr, who spoke to us on his experiences with his blindness at the September 2017 meeting (reported in the October 2017 Newsletter). Neither has allowed his disability to disable him.

Despite being blind, Ivan has had a long and successful career as an acupuncturist, along with a great interest in history, an aspect of which is reflected in this talk. He has just returned from a trip to Europe.

Being blind has not prevented him from studying, both for his profession and for his personal interests. He observed that it would be difficult without technology, and how that has changed over the years. When he was at university, he had to rely on his mother reading and recording text books and other material. Now his iPhone will scan any text (on paper or downloaded from The Cloud) and read it back to him! If necessary, he can have it transcribed into Braille. On his recent trip to Europe, he had the pleasure of visiting Louis Braille's grave, in the Pantheon, Paris. He appreciates the independence such technologies allow him.

Ivan has a personal connection with the gum industry. His grandfather came to New Zealand, from the Dalmatian island of Brac, as an 18-year-old, in 1907. He initially joined an uncle, who had a gold mine near Hokitika. Boredom led him to move to the northern gum fields, to Dargaville and further north. Three brothers joined him. His grandmother came to New Zealand in 1913, to look after the men. Grandmother and grandfather married, and Ivan eventually ensued.

Much of the material Ivan relies on is available online, including about 3 million pages of newspapers.

The kauri industry originally involved only timber, the kauri gum industry developing later. It was not just 'up north', but was wherever kauri could grow. Although kauri grew as far south as Invercargill in the distant past (about 120 thousand years ago), when the climate was warmer, it is now confined by the temperature to the area north of a line from Raglan to Tauranga and Te Puke (about 38° South latitude). The New Zealand kauri, *Agathis australis* (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agathis_australis) is one of 12 species world-wide. Their major range is from New Zealand north through the islands of the south-west pacific into South East Asia, with outliers in Africa (Sierra Leone and Zanzibar)



Bill and a tape measure

The kauri is a large tree, second only in size to sequoia of North America. Northland's Tane Mahuta is 4.1 metres in diameter and contains about 450 cubic metres of timber. This is actually small for a kauri. There is one known from Thames that was 8.6 metres (28 feet in old money) across. Ivan used Bill and a tape measure to demonstrate this – it more or less stretched right across the width of the meeting room. The photo shows Bill by the window – the other end of the tape is by the kitchen. The geological record shows that kauri first appeared about 185 million years ago, and have been in New Zealand for about 20 million years. New Zealand was then a very different place from it is now: most of what we know as New Zealand was then under water. Kauri were almost wiped out from New Zealand by the last ice age, but has recovered since then as the country became warmer, moving south at about 200 metres per year. The current kauri forest is actually the third since the last ice age ended, about 15 thousand years ago. The first was wiped out, then a second grew over the top of the first. This second forest was also wiped out, then the third (current) forest grew over that. Trees from these ancient kauri forests, up to 30 thousand years old, survive in swamps and form the basis of a thriving swamp Kauri industry. Careless exploitation of this resource may have caused the oil pipeline rupture last year.

Initially, Europeans in New Zealand were interested in the kauri only for its timber. They ignored Maori use of the gum, for toothpicks, fishing lights, pigment and insecticide. When the first shipment, in 1814, was sent to Sydney, no one there knew what to do with it. Although its potential value was recognised, by Samuel Marsden, as early as 1819, it was not until the 1840s that the kauri gum industry got under way. Auckland pioneers Logan Campbell and LD Nathan sent a shipment of gum, for which they had paid \$5 per ton, to London. On arrival, no one knew what to do with it, and it was dumped into the Thames.

Then it was found that melting kauri gum produced an excellent varnish, which was much in demand by cabinet makers. Kauri gum has a low melting point and was very clean. It produced a high-quality varnish that was resistant to UV light – nineteenth century polyurethane.

By 1850, 1000 tons of kauri gum was being exported per year. By then it was an important contributor, along with Coromandel gold, to the economy of the Auckland Province, attracting gum diggers, including Maori, from further afield. At that time, the Auckland Province was everything north of Taupo, which is why that northern part of the North Island now shares the same Anniversary Day.

By 1870, 5 thousand tons of gum was being exported every year. By then, the New Zealand Land Wars were over, and many demobbed soldiers turned to gum digging for a living. Vogel's 1871 New Zealand Workers Act encouraged immigrants, many of whom also turned gum digger. In 1874 there were 39 thousand immigrants, a number that was not exceeded until 2002.

Until the 1880s New Zealand was doing well economically, which attracted economic refugees from the UK, which was not doing so well. However, in 1884 New Zealand as a whole entered a long period of severe depression, which lasted until 1896. Gum digging was one of the few industries that still thrived. It was estimated that a gum digger could make, on average, £1/5/- per week, with living expenses only 14 shillings. This drew many town dwellers to the gum fields, and also farmers. Gum tidied people over.

An important aspect of the industry were stores set up on the gum fields by enterprising individuals - 'Four-Square shops', as Ivan described them. Gum diggers would sell their gum to the shop keepers and buy their supplies from them. The shop keepers, in turn, would sell the gum to traders, who would take it to Auckland, where it would be graded, boxed and exported.

The problem was that no one knew what the correct price was, so they could not know whether they were getting a good deal or were being ripped-off. There was much chicanery in the industry.

Already concerned about this by 1884, the gum diggers turned to politics. In July 1886, a 'Gum Diggers Union' was set up in Dargaville, to pressure MPs to look after their interests. One of their concerns was the number of newcomers coming into the industry.

By the end of the 1880s, 6-7 thousand tons of kauri gum was being exported per year.

The industry spread south from Northland. One such expansion was into the Waitakeres, west of Auckland, especially the activities of 'Don Buck' (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don_Buck), a Portuguese immigrant who dug kauri gum on 220 acres of land at Swanson, using labour 'recruited' from the Auckland Courts. Having nowhere else to go, many of these men stayed. He did look after them: every Friday he would take his dray to Henderson to collect a barrel of whisky for their weekend – even if he did add a generous measure of meths to make it go further.

In 1892 1000 men were working South Auckland's 'Ardmore Swamp'. The depression was still on. There was a run on the Auckland Savings Bank, which was nearly bankrupted, but survived.

In Coromandel there was 'Gum Town' (now Coroglen), from where gum was barged to Auckland for export.

As well as London, New Zealand kauri gum was also exported to New York. There were pricing problems in both London and New York. The diggers were ripped off by the importers, especially in New York. The biggest New York importer was a certain Mr Sachs, he of the notorious Goldman Sachs.

A major problem for the industry was the very poor state of the roads in the North. Since roads were vital for getting gum out and supplies in, their poor state was a major problem. Further south, the New Zealand Wars had seen large areas of Maori land confiscated by the Government. Its sale to settlers allowed the Government to pay for infrastructure. Because there had been no Land Wars in the North, there were no land sales, and therefore no money to pay for infrastructure. There were only clay roads, and even coastal shipping was poorly supported. Although there were only about 6-7 thousand diggers in winter, in summer their number swelled to about 20 thousand. It was a struggle to keep them supplied. There was much talk of building roads, and even railways, but nothing ever happened.

In 1882 the export of frozen meat from New Zealand began. This led to changes on the gum fields: with agriculture starting to thrive, there was work elsewhere. By 1886 the long depression was over. The kauri timber industry was also thriving.

Kauri gum exports peaked in 1899, at 11,100 tons. Kauri gum was usually the primary income earner for the Auckland Province, followed by gold and wool, then timber.

The gum diggers continued to be worried about newcomers to the industry. Especially about the 'Austrians', actually Dalmatians from the Adriatic coastal territories of the Hapsburg Empire. They had been coming onto the gum fields from 1885. They were different. They spoke a different language, drank wine not beer, and ate soup not lamp chops. They also worked differently, and more productively. Whereas others worked individually, with every man having to do everything by and for himself, the Dalmatians worked in groups. One man in the group would stop work early and go back to camp to cook the tea, allowing the rest of the group to continue working. After tea, they would clean their gum, so it would fetch a better price. This was second nature to them – it was how they had worked in the old country.

The Dalties also got on well with Maori, who shared their cooperative values.

In 1893 a Royal Commission, brought about by pressure from the Gum Diggers Union, found that the Dalties were very good and honest and caused no problems. Even the locals were favourable. The Dalties just worked harder.

Another Royal Commission, in 1898, also found that there was nothing to worry about.

Not that there were all that many Dalties on the gum fields; only about 1 digger in nine.

By this time, gum from the Philippines - 'Manila Gum' - had appeared on the scene. Of lower quality, it was blended with local gum. Just like Australian wine more recently.

From about 1900, the industry entered a period of serious crisis, and many left the gum fields.

In the 20th century the industry became mechanised. The large pieces of gum that could easily be collected from on or near the surface were now largely gone, leaving only small, deeply buried pieces: 'chips'. These had to be mined using methods and machinery developed on the Otago goldfields. Kauri gum was now recovered by sluicing, using machinery brought from Otago.

By now, kauri gum was used to make linoleum, not varnish. Synthetic varnishes were now available.

World War I saw exports drop. The Government paid to keep men in work, and bought the gum.

By the 1920s the industry was in serious decline. In 1926 a Kauri Gum Commission, comparable to the Apple and Pear Board, was established, but it got into debt and was disbanded in 1932. Some gum digging continued at various places around Auckland in the 1930s. 1953 saw the last exports of New Zealand kauri gum: 300 tons.

Over the life of the industry, about 450 thousand tons of kauri gum were exported from New Zealand. 100 thousand tons of gum was shipped out of the Coromandel. It left a great legacy. It made the Auckland Province the prosperous part of New Zealand it now is.

A very interesting and informative talk. Also a very impressive performance by Ivan. He stood in front of us for over an hour, speaking entirely from memory throughout the whole time. Thank you, Ivan.

Neil Castle's August 2018 talk on *Panning for Gold* was not a one-off. In May 2019 he told us all about *The Narrow Boats of Britain*:

In 2003 Neil had the opportunity to travel on the narrow boats – barges. He told us of this trip, but started with some background of the history and workings of the English canal system (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canals_of_the_United_Kingdom and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_British_canal_system).

It began with the Duke of Bridgewater needing cheaper and easier way to transport the coal which was the basis of his fortune from mine to market. This was achieved by using the mines' drainage tunnels to transport the coal to the nearest river in 'tubs': small vessels that became the precursors of the 'narrow boats' used on the canals. 7 foot wide by 70 long, they were sized to fit the canals.



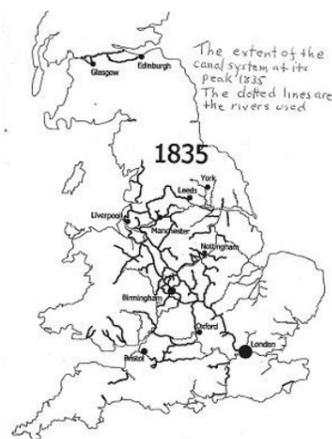
This shows 2 narrow boats in a passing bay. The true width of a canal can be seen in the background – just wide enough. The canals - 'navigations' - were built by 'navigators' - aka 'navvies' (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Navvy>).

In their heyday, canals were the most efficient way of transporting goods. A pack horse, the standard pre-canal way of carrying goods across country, could carry a ton. Pulling a cart, it could carry 2 tons. Towing a narrow boat along a canal, a horse could move 30 tons, so that one narrow boat was the equivalent of 250 packhorses.

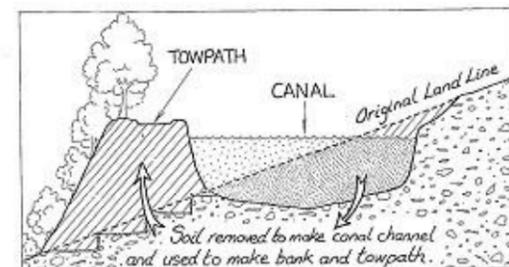
Neil took us through the history and growth of the English canal system and then through the workings of the narrow boats and the canals they operated on:



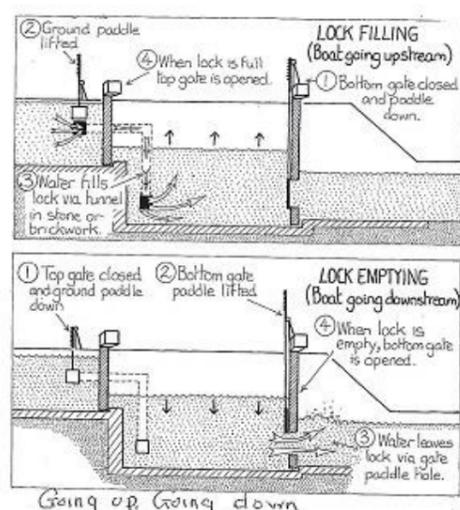
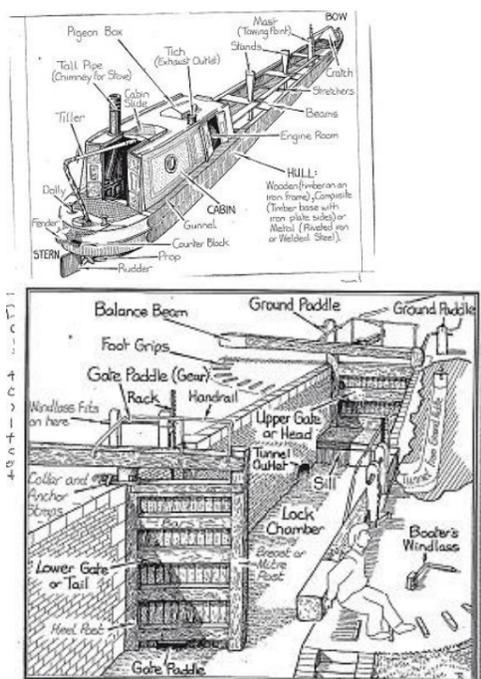
Map of canals as at 1790
Note how the main cities and river estuaries are all now joined and the main coal areas of the Midlands are available.



The extent of the canal system at its peak (1835)
The dotted lines are the rivers used

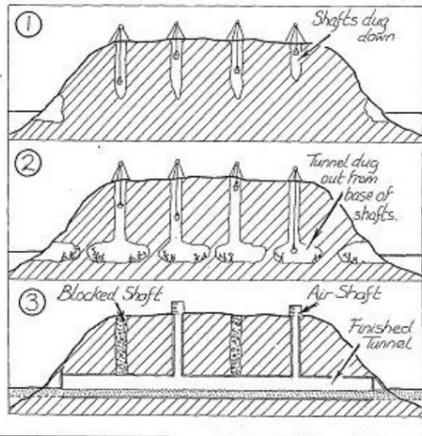


Section through a typical contour canal showing how the ground was used to prevent having to carry soil to or from the site. The canal channel would then be lined with a waterproof layer of clay puddle. This layer of clay being about two feet thick.



Going up Going down
Diagrams of a lock filling & emptying which will hopefully help explain what goes on! Incidentally, the word 'empty' refers to the lock water being at its lower level and does not literally mean empty.

West: General view of a lock showing the main features. The most interesting feature of the canals is probably the locks. Their job is to raise or lower the boat between the canal levels



This tunnelling method is actually a very ancient one – the qanat – dating back several thousand years in the Middle East (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qanat>), though used there for irrigation rather than transport.

Diagram of tunnel construction showing the way that several shafts were used to provide more tunnelling faces. Some of these tunnels were over 4000yds long and taking up to 10-16 years to build.

Not all vertical movement was by lock:



The Anderton boat lift in Cheshire following its complete restoration in 2002. Each caisson can carry two narrowboats which including the water weigh in at around 250 tons. It is a 50' lift from the Weaver River to the Trent & Mersey canal. 1875 hydraulic lift built an engineering masterpiece.

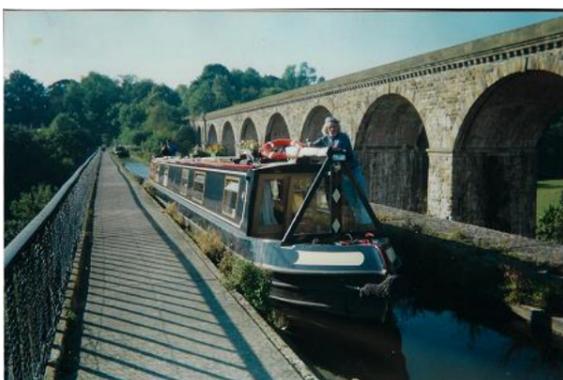
Neil also had a range of pretty pictures on display:



First trip (2003). Charles and Annie, owners of 'Water Gypsy', with mate, on the 127 foot high Pontefyslite Aqueduct, Wales, opened in 1805.



'Water Gypsy's forward cabin and galley. Cosy! The boat has a length of 64' (19.5m), beam 6' 9" (2m) and draught 2' 3" (0.7m).



On the Chirk Aqueduct on the Llangollen Canal, Wales, with the rail bridge alongside.



Approaching Nantwich. The waterway is quite wide here, with boats moored along the bank.



The Shropshire Union Canal, Cheshire. Looks like a conveniently sited pub!



One lock full, one empty. The Audlem Locks, 6 miles south of Nantwich, on the Shropshire Union Canal.



A flock of locks: Hurleston Locks, where the Llangollen Canal leaves the Shropshire Union Canal.



Can't escape the rules of the road even on the water



Narrow ways!

Neil's interests were not confined to the water:



Tetley's warehouse in the Chester town basin, with room for boats underneath.



King Charles tower and old Roman wall, Chester, with canal and towpath below.



Nantwich High Street



Northwich, Chester



Chester Cathedral

The canal system, now more than 200 years old, was a cornerstone of the Industrial Revolution. Although it no longer has that commercial importance, it is a highly valued recreational asset. It is a very peaceful, stress-free way to travel. Canal-side pubs are popular.

A most interesting and informative talk, such as we have come to expect from Neil. He proves that you do not need digital assistance to give a quality presentation: bits of paper do just as well. Well done, that man! Thank you.

The physical distancing necessitated by Coronavirus 19 didn't mean that we also had to remain socially isolated from others during the lockdown. Many of us were able to do that using various online tools. In fact, we were probably already doing so; only now we did it even more. Rebus had prepared us for this, with two Guest Speakers in the previous year or two who told us of things digital. In May 2018 Phillip West and Campbell Roycroft, from Geeks on Wheels (<https://www.geeksonwheels.co.nz/>) on *Solving Computer Problems*; and in April 2019 Grant Sidaway, Executive Officer of the Federation of New Zealand SeniorNet Societies (<https://seniornet.co.nz/>) brought us up-to-date on *Digital Technology*.

Phillip West, assisted by Campbell Roycroft, Geeks on Wheels, on solving computer problems.



Phillip



Campbell

Phillip began with a brief history of, and background to, Geeks on Wheels. This was covered by the material that Phillip had previously provided via Bill and which is in the previous two Newsletters, so I will spare you a third reading - this isn't Parliament!

Bill's introduction of Phillip and Campbell, concerning his young granddaughter and his ailing computer, the io10t story (it's better heard than read), exemplifies just why people like us need people like them.

Phillip made the point that Geeks on Wheels is not just a service, but a total experience. As the name implies, they come to you, with the aim of providing the right solution, at the right time, every time: the best solution for any problem. This may involve not only the problem you specifically called them about, but perhaps also other improvements that they find they can make.

For \$129 per year, you can buy unlimited phone calls, during which they may well be able to talk you through the solution to your problem, or use remote access to your computer to sort it. My own experience with both these approaches (though not using Geeks on Wheels) is that they are often a simple and effective way to fix an ailing computer. If that does not work, they will book a visit by one of their technicians (they have 10 in Auckland, and others elsewhere in the country). This will cost \$160 per hour (not including travel time), with a 90 minute visit initially scheduled, though the actual time taken will, of course, vary according to the specific job.

Phillip then opened up the meeting for a Q&A session: members of the audience could pose specific questions, about specific problems, and he would say if Geeks on Wheels could answer the question or solve the problem. The answer is always 'yes'.

The wide range of questions members asked shows just how wide-ranging computing now is. In the old days (early 21st century!) things were very much simpler.

Geeks on Wheels can help with most things: PCs, laptops, smart TVs, cellphones, printers, data recovery (off a malfunctioning or dead hard drive), security systems, internet security (including internet banking), removing files that are no longer needed (CCleaner, aka CrapCleaner)). They can provide devices, deliver them, set them up and show you how to use them.

A most interesting and informative talk. Given that even old fogies like us make extensive use of computers (of all kinds), useful as well. Once again, Bill has excelled himself. Keep up the good work.

You can contact Geeks on Wheels by phone (0800 4 A GEEK (0800 424 335)) or via their web site (<http://www.geeksonwheels.co.nz/>). You can book a geek or sign-up for their Newsletter there.

If you have already used Geeks on Wheels, or do so in the future, tell me of your experience, so we can share it with all members.

Grant Sidaway, Executive Officer of The Federation of New Zealand SeniorNet Societies, on Digital Technology

Having observed our AGM, Grant began by praising our officers and commiserating with our struggle to find officers, something he is all too well aware of in SeniorNet.

Grant then gave us a wide ranging, informative and entertaining account of just what digital technology has to offer. Just what I had expected, based on my previous experience of Grant, and which was well-received by members. Even by the ones who are not at all digital.

While we were enjoying morning tea, Grant set-up his party piece, a 3D printer. By the time we had finished morning tea, it was well on the way to making a plastic hand:



Members' interest in this particular example of digital technology was evident:



Grant noted that it was physically making an object, not 'printing' per se. It could make anything. Not just show pieces like the hand, but useful things. This 3D printer can place (melted) plastic with a precision of 0.1 mm (the thickness of a human hair), to create complex shapes that it may not be possible to make by any other means. It can, for example, put parts inside parts. Although the 3D printer is controlled digitally, it relies for its precision on its ability to physically move the print head and the table on which the object being made rests to the required degree of precision. In this respect, it is comparable to the (ink) printer we use routinely to circumvent the 'paperless office'.

3D printers are not limited to using plastic or making small objects. Grant's can also print wood – actually a mixture of sawdust and glue. Others can print metal, ceramics and concrete – even biological material, to make body parts. Print-your-own organ transplants need not be as fanciful as it sounds.

Designing things to print is also easy. Software is readily available with which anyone can design whatever they want, then send the design to a 3D printer to make. Grant told of using a 3D scanner to make a digital model of himself – essentially a three-dimensional photograph – then sending it to his 3D printer to make a bust of himself. Something he had always wanted to do! More usefully, for example, dentists can use 3D printers to make false teeth and dentures. Large concrete spraying 3D printers can be used to make houses. A three-bedroomed house has been made in this way in 72 hours.

Being an additive process, whereby material is added to the object being made only as and where needed, 3D printing is inherently zero waste. This contrasts with traditional, subtractive, manufacturing, where unneeded material is removed from a lump of material, by drilling, grinding, cutting, milling, to produce waster material. In this light, Grant noted that 3D printing could eliminate the enormous amount of waste created by traditional building methods. This is something that Grant greatly appreciates, both as the father of a builder and as a keen hobby builder himself.

Hobbyists can use 3D printing to make and repair dolls, and doll houses, and parts for model railways. More prosaically, it can be used to make replacement parts for household appliances that are otherwise unobtainable, thus extending the life of that appliance and removing the need to replace it. Car makers now use them routinely to make prototypes of new models – it is quicker and cheaper. The International Space Station does not (and cannot) carry a full range of spare parts. Instead, its crew uses a 3D printer to make spare parts as and when they are needed.

When devices like Grant's first came on the market, not all that long ago, they cost many thousands of dollars. Now they can be purchased off-the-shelf from the likes of Noel Leeming and Warehouse Stationery for a few hundred dollars. They have become just another consumer item. Schools now have them as standard equipment, and also libraries (I have seen one in the New Lynn Library).

If you want to learn more about 3D printing, start with https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3D_printing. For an example of what 3D printing is capable of, see <http://lists-tracking.komando.com/Click.aspx?id=080038378595370402> – something any one of us might need!

Grant then moved on to a discussion of digital technology in general.



What's it all about

It was at this point that I fell victim to a fundamental limitation of digital technology: its reliance on batteries. Too late to be able to do anything about it, I discovered that the battery in my camera was not as fully charged as I thought it was, and I was not able to take any more photos. Moral of the story: make sure your device's battery is fully charged. Always.

Grant gave a brief history of SeniorNet. Begun 27 years ago, it now consists of more than 70 'Learning Centres' throughout the country, plus the national Federation which Grant heads. In the Learning Centres 'elderly' (50+) volunteers provide training and help to other senior citizens needing help with digital technology. Digital technology is no longer just computers, but now includes 'portable technology': from (dumb) phones up to hand-held and even pocket devices that have the capacity of computers (and more).

As an example of the vast improvement in digital technology over that period, Grant described the vast increase in the speed of data transfer – the backbone of the Internet. The basic unit of digital data is the **bit**. A bit is a one (1) or a zero (0). Or On or Off, in electrical terms. Bits are usually handled in units of eight (8): **bytes**. The number of bytes is measured in kilobytes (KB – 1000), megabytes (MB – million), gigabytes (GB – billion) and terabytes (TB – trillion). A document such as this Newsletter would be several megabytes, while a movie would be a gigabyte or more.

If you want to learn more about digital data, start with https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_data.

In 1991 data could be transferred at about 1200 bits per second (1.2 KB/second). Now, speeds of 5.6 million bits per second are standard, with the new fibre optic cables capable of 30. For example, the Bible (~35MB) took 8 *hours* to transfer in 1991, now it takes only 6 *seconds*: an almost 5000-fold increase! A submarine fibre optic cable, which connects New Zealand to the rest of the world digitally, can transfer the contents of a 4GB flash drive (a small one by current standards) in less than 1000th of a second. Even greater improvements in performance have occurred in memory and storage.

Question: What is the Internet used for?

Answer: Everything.

Every minute (60 seconds) there are:

3.7 million Google searches

266 thousand hours of Netflix viewed

187 million emails

481 thousand Tweets on Twitter (not all by you-know-who)

Most of this is for entertainment; so much so that the Internet is challenging broadcast TV (e.g. Sky's troubles). It is likely that broadcast TV will soon disappear and that we will all be viewing via the Internet. 81% of people in the developed world are connected, and 42% in the developing world. Half the world's total population is already connected. Land lines are going out of use, as we all go mobile. In 2004, 92% of Americans had land line phones and only 5% mobile. Now there are more mobile phones than land line. It is all down to cost and convenience, especially since the Internet can now be accessed via mobile phone.

Online retail giant Amazon has 606 million products, increasing by 1.3 million per day, and selling 600 items per second. This is devastating physical shops, as customers appreciate the cheapness and convenience of online shopping.

The next big thing is the Internet of Things (IOT) – see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_of_things. The first wave was between people, or between people and devices: Us and the Internet. The IOT removes people from the loop: it is now Thing to Thing. For example, fridges were originally 'dumb': they just kept stuff cold. Now fridges are 'smart': using built-in bar code readers they know what they contain and when it is used, so, via the Internet, they order replacements from the supermarket, which delivers. No human involvement needed. Likewise, road sensors can control traffic according to road conditions. Car parking apps allow you to pay online as much (or little) as you need, and adjust the payment period according to circumstances. WhatsApp now connects 1.5 billion people.

Grant sees technology as 'bringing things to us in our everyday lives that we can decide to have or not.' We do not have to have technology, but it does give us choice. Its ever decreasing cost and increasing affordability makes that easy.

It is now not a matter of 'computer', but of 'device'. A single 'device' can now do all the things that previously required many separate devices, and more. A single device combines the operations of a computer, a phone, a camera, a navigation device and sensors. Thanks to its apps (computer programs or software) it can perform these various functions better than their separate predecessors could. All in a single device that you carry in your pocket. And purchase without bankrupting yourself!

Grant sees digital technology as the equivalent of a hammer or saw. It allows us to do many things, whatever we want or need. Despite his great expertise in and use of digital technology, Grant does not see himself as a geek. He likes making things with his hands: building and handyman 'stuff'. His interest in building leads him to the automated home, which he sees as ideal for the disabled and the elderly living alone.

He stresses that digital technology is not just for the young, but something that we all can and should embrace to enable us to participate in the age in which we live. And live better for it and because of it. He gave the example of someone who had been in hospital for treatment. The treatment is successful and the patient is discharged; going from having all the high tech expert care and attention in the hospital to nothing of the kind at home. 'See your GP soon' is the best they can do. Now a device such as FitBit can monitor a discharged patient's condition minute by minute 24/7 and immediately report any problem.

Grant does not regard the keyboard and computer mouse as intuitive ways of communication with a computer. He thinks it is better to speak to the computer or use a touch screen.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Grant acknowledged the sterling work that Bill does as President by giving him the hand made by his 3D printer.

As I expected, a very interesting and informative presentation. Judging by comments, my views were shared by members. Bill, for example, told me 'I must say how much I enjoyed our speaker last month it was much more than I expected'. I know of two other comparable speakers and will pass their particulars on to Bill.

As it happened, a couple of weeks after Grant Sidaway's talk to us, another Grant who is into computing (Grant Stevens, of Eden Computers (<http://www.edencomputers.co.nz/>)) gave a similar talk to SeniorNet West Auckland (SNWA <http://www.seniornet-west-auckland.org.nz/>). I therefore invited our members to come to that. Two of our members, Mensto de Roos and Trevor Pollard, came to SeniorNet and, I think, enjoyed it.

While we are on this topic, please indulge me while I promote SeniorNet. Like us, SNWA has a monthly meeting, in the Kelston Community Centre (in the same room as Rebus used to use before we moved to New Lynn), on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, at 10 am to noon. They have a speaker, often, but not always, on something to do with computers. Feel free to come. Rebus members might find their regular Help Sessions useful. These are held in their Learning Centre, upstairs at the Henderson RSA. Starting late last year, they have been on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, from 10 am to 11 am (extended to midday if required). you do not have to be a member of SNWA to avail yourself of the help provided. So if you have a computer (or device) question or problem, feel free to come. There is a \$5 fee, which will be less than the cost of getting a computer technician.

Both the monthly meetings and Help Sessions are due to resume in July.

Webmaster Vince Middeldorp will soon have all our Newsletters available on our website (<https://www.rebuswestauckland.nz/>) so that we will be able to peruse them at our leisure.

MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS

As well as being Club Secretary and Webmaster, **Vince Middeldorp** also finds time to write contributions to the Newsletter. His latest is on

RISK

Some members will struggle to get back to normal after the Covid-19 lockdown. When they venture outdoors, they know they are putting themselves at risk of coming into contact with the killer corona virus. In that regard, they are correct: there is an actual risk.

It is sensible to ask why take the risk when it is possible to play it safe by staying home. However, the answer is not, "Why take the risk if you can avoid it?" The answer is, "What is the risk and how does it compare with other risks?"

Sometimes things involving risk appear sensible but are not. The perfect example is the "Building (Earthquake prone buildings) Amendment Bill – 2016."

Minister Nick Smith introduced this bill into Parliament. It requires most buildings to be brought up to at least 34% of the New Building Standards. The reason cited is that, "buildings under 34% are likely to collapse in a moderate (100% strength) earthquake."

There are problems with this argument. The major one is that a number of buildings in the Christchurch CBD were under 34% and yet in a 200% strength earthquake they did not collapse. In fact, the majority performed remarkably well. Similarly, the Seddon quakes of 2013 registered 100% in parts of central Wellington and not one building collapsed.

Another problem is the economic impact. One billion dollars in costs will be incurred to save an estimated 24 lives in the next 100 years – that from the Ministry of Business and Innovation. The sensible thing is to legislate to secure building facades and parapets, the collapse of which caused the majority of injuries and death outside of the CCTV building.

Economist Shamubeel Eaqub says the Earthquake prone building's legislation "is likely to cause zombie towns in provincial New Zealand in areas already suffering from population decline such as the West Coast."

In Hastings, the District Council is paranoid about the risk. It closed the Hawke's Bay Opera House after a seismic assessment came back under 34%. Subsequently performed risk calculations showed the risk of death for a member of the audience in a 3 hour performance was about 110 million to 1. The odds of being killed in a 3 hour journey home on New Zealand roads are 1.5 million to 1.

Most of us look at the tragic losses suffered around the world from Covid-19 and feel no amount of money should be spared to keep us all safe. However, we never take that approach to other aspects of our lives. We remove emotion from the argument, look at the risks and decide from there.

The incidence of Covid-19 is now so low there has not been a single case anywhere in the country for five days in a row. We therefore know the risk of catching Covid-19 when venturing outdoors is infinitesimally small. That being the case, we should put aside our fears of Covid-19, keep to the Government guidelines and get back to normality.

Thank you, Vince, how do you find the time?

This from **Eric Strickett**:

YOUTHFUL REMINISCENCES

Collectively, our members, all from another era, have some fascinating stories to tell. Keep on encouraging all our guys to speak about their all most interesting lives.

Personally, very briefly. I was born in January 1934 in my parents double bed at 49 Greys Avenue, Mangere East, on a very hot summers day. My mother's mother assisting, by moping my mum's sweating brow constantly while my mum was having her first baby, me. As our doctor said to mum later, you and Eric have made the way easier for any more children you may have.

By the way, our maternity doctor was Mr. Lange, the father of our later prime minister, David Lange, who was mercilessly teased at the then Otahuhu Technical High School, much later to become Otahuhu College, under its new head, W.C. Drake, the youngest principal of any secondary school in New Zealand. at that time and also unique in the fact that it had both an intermediate school in the same grounds as the secondary school. The reason being in some areas of its catchment were only tiny primary schools and intermediate schools, it was a big jump for those pupils transitioning to large secondary schools.

Otahuhu Technical High School was the largest in New Zealand. with 1,400 pupils. It was also a co-ed school. Its boundary stretched from Penrose to Papakura, coast to coast. There were secondary schools at Penrose and Papakura. Pupils were given free train and bus passes if they lived more than 3 miles from our school! We lived 2 miles away, so had to use "Shank's Pony" or ride our push bikes to get to school. Have you ever heard of that term? Shank's pony? Very old slang term for having to walk.

Getting back to David Lange; he was the size of that rotund school boy I read about in some kids stories I've long since forgotten. David was tall and very tubby, apparently from some sort of genetic defect? And much later he ate too much from stress as a politician/prime minister and had to undergo a bowel stapling operation to get his weight down. He and his wife lived in a modest home in a new state house subdivision at Mangere Central, where a large farm was bought to build a dormitory area for the big increase in workers needed for the many new industries spring up locally.

His wife was very shy. She hated the publicity that came with her husband's political career. Especially when he became prime minister. Rarely appeared with him at official functions.

Very sadly through this they grew apart and David became increasingly friendly with his official secretary, Majorie Pope, who was outgoing and confident in the public arena. A very controversial divorce took place; his wife saying David had deserted her and their family for that woman who had stolen her husband.

But David and Majorie weathered the storm. I can't remember, did they marry? Did he serve more than one term as PM?

Incidentally, his dad was a German. Possibly his parents were German immigrants to New Zealand. The Lange surname is an English change from a German surname? His dad was a huge man, typically of some German men. As I mentioned previously, he delivered me in my mum and dad's double bed! Along with 3 other children. In that same bed. 2 more boys and finally their only daughter, our sister.

Well there's far more than that? All that area, Mangere, Otahuhu were blue collar workers homes. 3 main employers: Westfield/ Southdown freezing works and the massive railway workshops, where all types of repairs were carried out on rolling stock, carriages and wagons but not on steam locomotives! Some were built and repaired at A& G Price, Thames. W.A.B. side tank models the mainstay for local suburban passenger services, as well as hauling local freight trains further afield, those bigger locos were built and serviced much further south – Feilding. As well in the South Island, at Addington. The express locos were of 2 designs: K& KA and an American design, J & JA. These were a liability during WW11, having roller bearing connecting rod bearings - irreplaceable. We lived not far from the railway tracks - during that war you could hear those J & JAs clanking through the night, those bearings worn out. Till finally those locos threw off a con rod. Whereas those Ks had the old style bronze bush bearings. As they wore, being a split bearing they could be tightened up anywhere, finally coming in to be repaired after 1,000's of hours of hard work. On express passenger trains, Auckland/Wellington return, as well as hauling massive freight trains. Those Js were too light for freight work. They were designed for high speed passenger express work on American major networks, then scaled down to small gauge 3 foot 6 1/4 inch width New Zealand track, the British standard used throughout the British empire. Later the British commonwealth, as well as a lot in South America. This width was ideal for mountainous countries, being able to have tighter curves and smaller tunnels.

Finally: a Dutch guy who worked alongside of me in the Physics Department workshop at the University of Auckland, had once worked for the Dutch railways, who sourced their locos originally from England. In the early days the English were way ahead. They had the first Industrial Revolution. Supplied a complete range of railway product all round the world. This Dutch guy told me when he started work everything was metric in Europe, but those earlier locos were all standard British imperial standard. Yards, feet, inches. As an apprentice he could not understand why all the metric tools he had bought would not fit those older locos the apprentices had to start on before they worked on newer locos. Till an older guy told them. These young lads had never heard of this. They were born and bred on the metric system. But here is a true story for you metrics/imperial. The ill-fated Concorde, through no fault of its own, through faulty runway inspection picked up a piece of engine cowling from a previous aircraft that had broken off. Again faulty maintenance inspection. One of the wheels of that Concorde ran over that just before take off. That wheel threw that off, unfortunately straight up, puncturing the wing fuel tank, which spewed fuel out. The air speed blew that fuel directly into that engines huge thrust very hot gases which immediately ignited into a fire ball. That aircraft crashed in a huge fireball, killing every one.

This was a joint English/ French build. So one half of the Concorde was imperial, the other half was metric. So half way along there was a special joining bulk head, joining those 2 halves. Imperial bolts going in one side, in between on the other side metric bolts. What we would call transitional. This is gospel - a political decision from start to finish! British + French! 'Aduie '.

Thank you, Eric. A most interesting piece. You heard the man, guys, get out your pens or keyboards and let me have your personal stories.

This from **Ian Smith**:

PUTTING THINGS INTO BETTER PERSPECTIVE

Perspective! It's a mess out there now. Hard to discern between what's a real threat and what is just simple panic and hysteria. For a small amount of perspective at this moment, imagine you were born in 1900. On your 14th birthday, World War I starts, and ends on your 18th birthday. 22 million people perish in that war. Later in the year, a Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until your 20th birthday. 50 million people die from it in those two years. Yes, 50 million. On your 29th birthday, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, the World GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet. And don't try to catch your breath. On your 41st birthday, the United States is fully pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war. At 50, the Korean War starts. 5 million perish. At 55 the Vietnam War begins and doesn't end for 20 years. 4 million people perish in that conflict. On your 62nd birthday you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we know it, should have ended. Great leaders prevented that from happening. When you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends. Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900. How do you survive all of that? When kids in 1985 didn't think their 85 year old grandparent understood how hard school was and how mean that kid in class was. They had survived through everything listed above. Perspective is an amazing art. Refined as time goes on, and enlightening like you wouldn't believe. Let's try and keep things in perspective. Let's be smart, help each other out, and we will get through all of this.

Sage words. Thank you, Ian.

These from **Laurie Vincent**:

THE BATH TUB TEST

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in a Care Home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No." He said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the windows?"

This is what all of us 70+ to 80+ year olds have to look forward to!!

This is something that happened at an assisted living centre. The people who lived there had small apartments but they all ate at a central cafeteria.

One morning one of the residents didn't show up for breakfast so my wife went upstairs and knocked on his door to see if everything was OK. She could hear him through the door and he said that he was running late and would be down shortly, so she went back to the dining area. An hour later he still hadn't arrived, so she went back up towards his room but found him on the stairs. He was coming down the stairs but was having a hard time. He had a death grip on the hand rail and seemed to have trouble getting his legs to work right. She told him she was going to call an ambulance but he told her no, he wasn't in any pain and just wanted to have his breakfast. So she helped him the rest of the way down the stairs and he had his breakfast.

When he tried to return to his room he was completely unable to get up even the first stair step, so they called an ambulance for him. A couple of hours later she called the hospital to see how he was doing. The receptionist there said he was fine – he just had both his legs in one side of his boxers shorts.

QUOTES

Never test the depth of the water with both feet.

If you think nobody cares whether you're alive or dead, try missing a couple of mortgage payments.

If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving is not for you.

Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.

Thank you, Laurie. Maybe CoronaVirus-19 isn't such a bad thing after all!

But wait – there's more from **Laurie**:

OLD SAYINGS *and what they mean*

DON'T THROW THE BABY OUT WITH THE BATHWATER

During the 1800's most people bathed once a year. The entire family used the same tub of water. The man of the house bathed first, followed by other males, then the females, finally the baby, by which time the water was absolutely filthy.

EATING HUMBLE PIE

During the Middle Ages the lord of the manor would hold a feast after hunting. He would receive the finest cut at the feast but those of a lower standing were served a pie filled with entrails and innards, known as "umbles". Therefore receiving "umble pie" was considered humiliating because it informed others in attendance of the guest's lower status.

SAVED BY THE BELL

As scary as it sounds, being buried alive was once a common occurrence. People who feared succumbing to such a fate were buried in special coffins that connected to a bell above ground. At night guards listened for any bells in case they had to dig up a living person and save them "by the bell".

SLEEP TIGHT

During Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. In order to make the bed firmer, one had to pull ropes to tighten the mattress.

CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE

Could have come from a whip "Cat-o'-nine-tails – flogging left the victim speechless.
OR from Egypt, where liar's tongues were cut out as punishment and fed to the cats.

BIG WIG

Back in the 18th century, the most important political figures would wear the biggest wigs, hence today influential people are called big wigs.

RAINING CATS AND DOGS

In the 16th century England houses had thatched roofs which were one of the few places where animals were able to get warm. Sometimes when it would start to rain heavily, roofs would get slippery, and cats and dogs would fall off, making it look like it's 'raining cats and dogs'. That is why the canopy over the bed came about.

DON'T LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH

When buying a horse people would determine the horse's age and condition bound on its teeth, then decide whether to buy. However, if a horse were given as a present it would be bad form to check its age before accepting it.

HONEYMOON

According to tradition a newly wed couple would have to drink a beverage with honey for an entire month for fertility and good luck.

GIVE SOMEONE THE COLD SHOULDER

Perhaps there is nothing more to the phrase than the idea of a cold, unwelcoming response, a shoddering aside of friendly approaches. But there is a common theory that the *cold shoulder* refers to a cold shoulder of lamb. A house guest who overstayed his welcome, or an uninvited dinner guest, might formerly be served a dish of cold mutton instead of the hot roast he might have hoped for. This inhospitable gesture was intended as a broad hint that the guest was out of favour and would do best not to return. In the finely tuned language of manners in upper-middle-class 19th century society, then, to *give someone the cold shoulder* was in effect to banish him from your household's social circle.

SHOW A LEG

This curt instruction to wake up and get out of bed originated, like so many of our colourful phrases, in the navy. In the old days, apparently, sailors were sometimes allowed to have their wives or sweethearts on board. When work started in the morning, the sailors were all expected to report for duty on deck, but the women could sleep late. The boatswain's mate, during his rounds of inspection, would often come across hammocks or bunks still occupied after the morning turnout, and in order to make sure that the sleeping figure was a woman rather than a workshy sailor, would call out the order "Show a leg!" If a female ankle emerged from under the bedclothes, the sleeper was left in peace. In about 1840, the regulations were tightened, and women were no longer allowed to live on board. Nevertheless, the order to "Show a leg!" continued to be used on ships.

LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG

At markets or at county fairs in the old days, the customer had to be on guard against dishonest traders. A housewife, for instance, wanting to buy a live piglet, might apparently be offered a discount if she bought a 'prepacked' one, sight unseen – tied up in a small sack ready for carrying off with the rest of the shopping. This small sack was called a *poke* (the word is related to *pocket* and *pouch*.) Anyone who agreed to *buy a pig in a poke* was naturally taking a risk: the piglet might be ill or even dead. Or it might turn out to be not a piglet at all. Some unscrupulous traders reputedly tied a stray cat up in the sack instead. The careful purchaser, keen to inspect the piglet before actually buying it, would untie the top of the sack...only to let the cat out of the bag. *To be sold a pup* has the same meaning.

TO MAKE ENDS MEET

There is a longer form of the expression, very seldom heard nowadays, that provides the answer - *to make the two ends of the year meet*. This means living within your means, carefully ensuring that your finances cover the year from start to finish to avoid leaving you in debt.

WHY BRIDES CARRY A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS

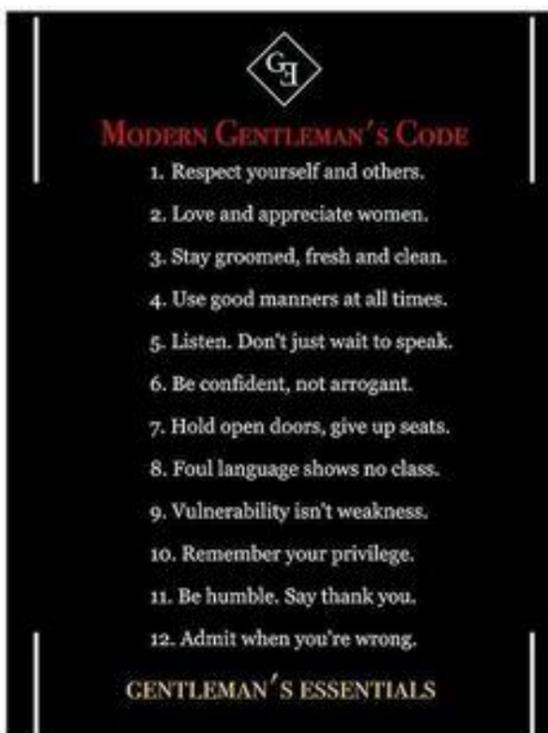
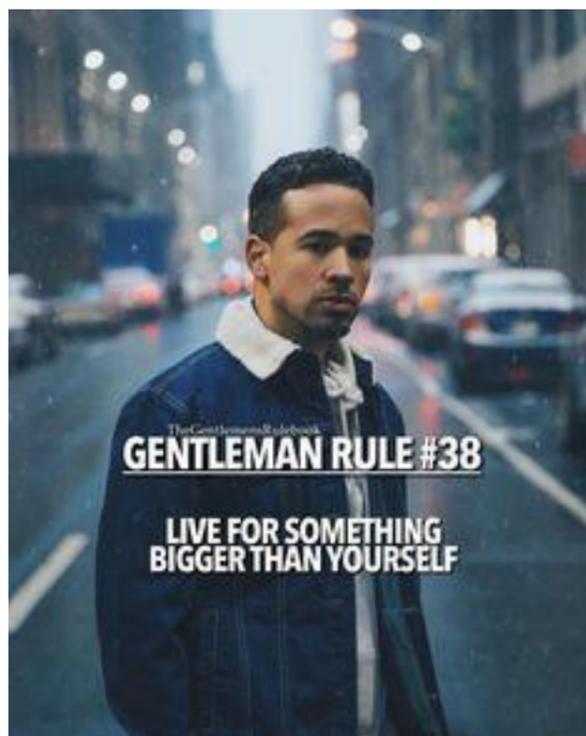
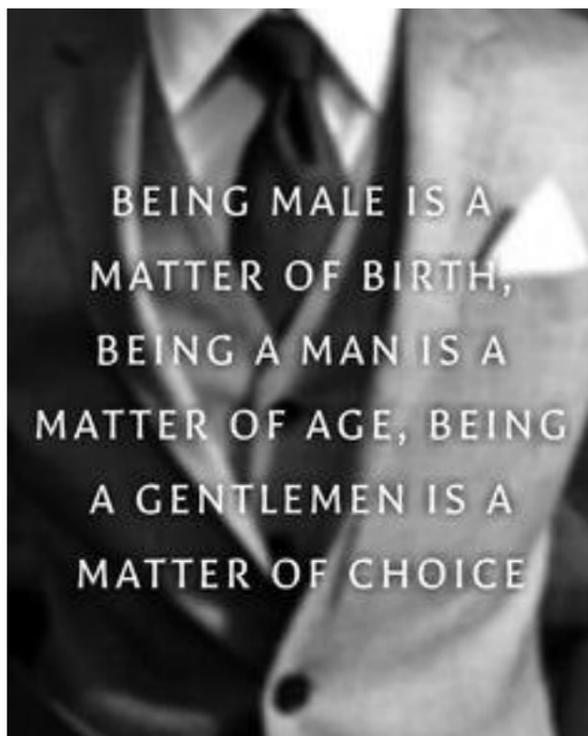
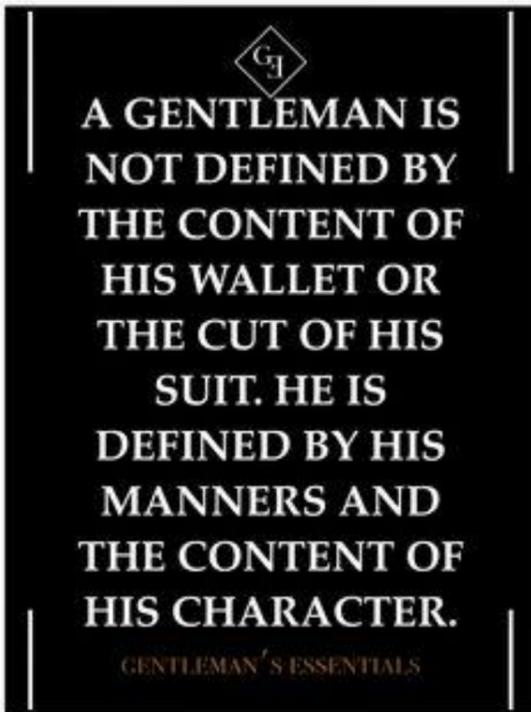
In older times people bathed only once a year, so brides carried flowers to disguise body odour.

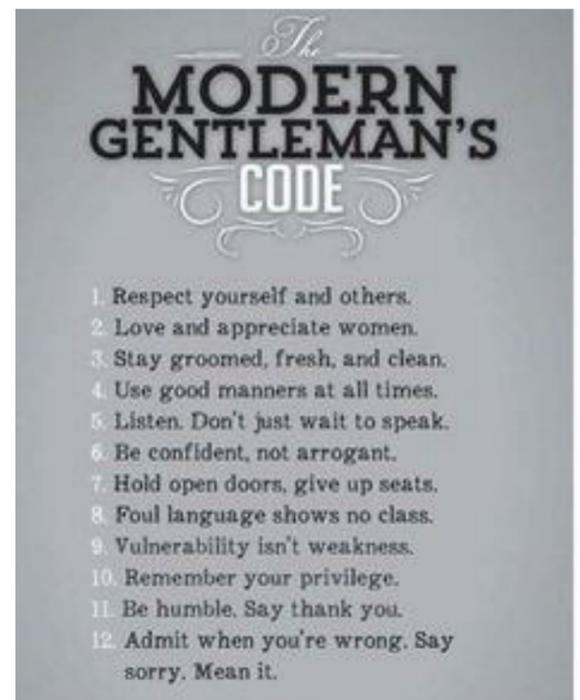
DEAD AS A DOORNAIL

Dates back to the late fourteenth century, is thought to refer to the 'clenching' of a nail: hammering a long nail through perpendicular panels of wood and bending the sharp end flat against the panel so it becomes very hard to pull out. Nails beaten and bent in this fashion are sometimes called 'dead'; the process 'dead-nailing', alluding to their inability to be re-used once bent out of shape.

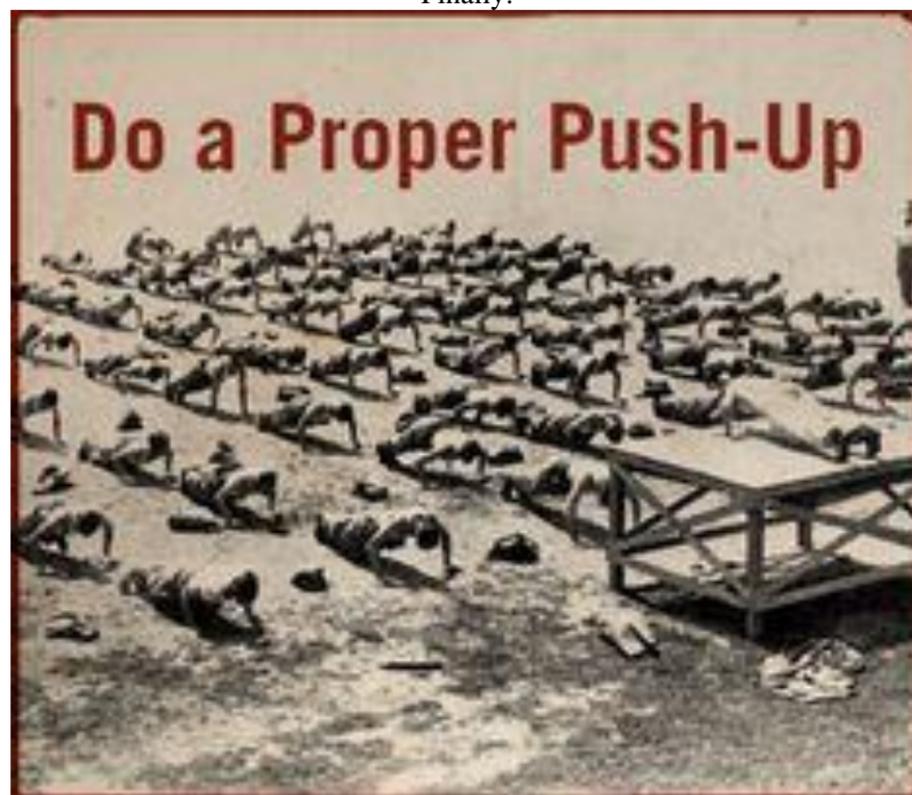
ON BEING A GENTLEMAN

I had intended to include another Comic Corner, but decided that that these serious times called for something less trivial. This from Pinterest (<https://www.pinterest.nz/pin/734227545478221691/visual-search/?cropSource=6&h=642&w=507&x=15&y=16>). Things that members of a (Gentle)Men's club should all aspire to, but perhaps not always be able to achieve:





Finally:



But perhaps best not to try this at home (or anywhere)

OTHER

The Rebus Federation is looking for photos for its 2021 Calendar. This information about that from the Khandallah Rebus website (forwarded by Vince):

REBUS NZ INC - Photographic Competition 2021 - for Rebus Pictorial Calendar.

We hope that some of you shutterbugs have already put aside your entry to this year's competition. As we like to have seasonal shots related to the months on which they appear, don't let the summer, autumn or winter go by without getting that special shot.

A copy of the 2021 Rules follow:

West Auckland Mens' Rebus
2020

18/20

June

- Photos to be submitted in jpeg format to admin@rebus.nz
- Aspect Ratio 16:9 (not 4:3 as cropping to achieve 16:9 can eliminate photo from selection). Check your Camera/phone settings.
- Format to be Landscape NOT Portrait. (Horizontal width greater than height)
- They need to be reasonably high resolution for good reproduction – not less than 3 MB.
- Photo subject to be an eye-catching scene found only in your Club's district.
- The photographer to be either a member - or member's spouse.
- Date photo taken to be between 15th Sept 2019 and 15th Sept 2020.
- Entries closing date is 15th Sept 2020 – but feel free to send them in earlier please.
- Judging will be by the Rebus Board with any member who may have entered a photo, not participating in the selection.
- In addition to the 12 photos selected, 12 highly commended miniatures with attribution to the photographer, will be published on the rear page.
- Members' Photos may be submitted directly to Rebus, but if a competition is being run by a Club internally, a maximum of 5 entries will be accepted from the Club after local judging.

It is anticipated that the price per Calendar will remain at \$10 with orders being sought later in the year.

You can download the Rebus Federation Constitution at <https://www.rebus.nz/documents>, where it is listed under *Rules of Rebus NZ*. It was originally intended to append it to this Newsletter, but 13 pages is too long.

If you are not already in the habit of doing so, you should consult the SuperSeniors site (<http://www.superseniors.msd.govt.nz/>) where you can find much useful and interesting information, as well as sign-up to their Newsletter.

WORDS OF WISDOM

No one has provided any Words of Wisdom this month, so I shall extemporise. This from **Roger Laloli**:



Right on, Donald! The Leader is always right.

Eighty years ago the Leader of a Great Nation, who was extolled as Always Right, bestrode his Continent as an all-conquering hero. (All-conquering certainly, though hardly a hero.) Five years later he was holed-up in a bunker under the ruins of his capital, where he killed himself. History is supposed to repeat itself. First as tragedy. Then as farce. I leave you to pin the tail on that donkey as you will.

Have you noticed that Trump's hair is much whiter than it used to be? Is the strain getting to him?

If anyone has any views, opinions, information, requests or questions they want to share with members, please do not hesitate to send them to me, so that I can include them in the Newsletter. Remember, it is YOUR Newsletter: feel free to contribute to it as you will. I do not want to have to write it all myself – I'm too lazy for that!

If you have any queries or problems with distribution, please raise them with Secretary Vince Middeldorp (vincemiddeldorp@gmail.com or 828 5250). Vince is responsible for distribution, I for content. Any contributions are most welcome (JohnMihaljevicNZ@gmail.com).

John Mihaljevic (Newsletter Editor)



West Auckland Men's Rebus Club
Affiliated to Rebus New Zealand Incorporated

Mid-winter lunch - 26th June 2020

The cost of the lunch at Ryders is \$25 a head.

Would you kindly pay me as treasurer cash or a cheque for \$25 per person.
Please make any cheque payable to "Cash".

Please would you bring this letter with you when you pay by cash or cheque, so that I can sign below as a receipt for you and so that I can tear off and keep the bottom slip as a record to ensure that I have recorded your payment.

Please fill in your choice of meat at the bottom or tick Vegetarian.
Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Justin Griffith

+64 (0)9 2823104 (home) | +64 (0)21 08490906 (mobile) | justin@griffith.co.nz | 1 Miro Street, New Lynn, Auckland 0600, New Zealand

Mid-winter lunch 26th June 2020 (..... places): received from

Name:

the sum of \$.....

Justin Griffith, Treasurer.

----- ✂
Mid-winter lunch 26th June 2020:

Name:

\$.....

Choose 2 of the following meats – beef [], lamb [], chicken [], pork []

OR Vegetarian []

(Please tick but if more than one person, put numbers in boxes)