

## NEWSLETTER

*Join with SeniorNet activities for learning and companionship*

### News Update

Those members that attended the April meeting were treated to some truly fascinating facts in Nigel's News.

This was followed by a very entertaining and useful talk by Tom Osborne (son of Glenys) who described, in a very humorous way, how they solved the problem of a weak broadband signal in a house where the children, parents and Grandma all struggled for a share of the limited Wi-Fi.

The solution was ingenious and may provide the answer for others living in areas where obtaining a decent broadband signal is difficult.

Brian and Nigel gave brief previews of the planned training courses for April, and once again the clipboards were filled with members wanting to attend.

At the time of writing this newsletter, Nigel's session on "Chrome Bookmarks" has been successfully completed and Brian's session on Windows "File Explorer" will be taking place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April (Currently fully booked)

### "Drop In" Days

These are the times when you can get one-to-one help with problems or questions.

To avoid wasting tutors time when there are no visitors and help us to get more tutors available if there is going to be a significant number of visitors, please continue to contact Nigel or Brian at any time up to 5 pm on the day before Drop-in Day, by e-mail, phone or text and let either of them know if you intend to be there.

If there have been no contacts by 5 pm on the day before the Tutors will not attend the church on Drop-in Day.

The "Training & Events Timetable" shown later in this issue gives full details of all of May's planned activities including the date and times of "Drop in" day

### Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at the St Chad's Church hall on Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> doors open at 09:45am.

This month we are looking forward to a talk by Glenys on the subject of **Wi-Fi Mobile Calling**

We will also be providing a quick overview of next months training sessions, which will include **A guide to mastering "Tabs" in Google Chrome** plus **An introduction to "Photoshop Express"**. (Which works well on iPads, Android Tablets and Windows Laptops).

The clipboards will be passed round for you to sign up for the trainings you would like to attend. (Remember they are all FREE this year!)

As always, Nigel will be updating us with "Nigel's News"

Plus, Judy's great Raffle

Plus, tea, coffee & Cakes

Plus, lots of friendly people

Hope you can all be there.



## Training & Events Timetable – May 2021

Event	Date	Time
Monthly Meeting – All Welcome	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	09:45am - St Chad's
A guide to mastering "Tabs" in Google Chrome	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	10am – 12noon –St Chad's
SeniorNet Committee Mtg (Committee members only)	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	10am – 12.00 St Chad's
Drop In Day- Get 1-to-1 help with your tech problems	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	10am – 12noon St Chad's
Introduction to Photoshop Express	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	10am –12noon St Chad's

This "Training & Events Timetable" will be updated throughout the month as training courses or other events are established. A copy will be sent to all members after every update to give you the opportunity to join your preferred classes.

A "Clipboard" will be passed round at the monthly meeting giving you the opportunity to sign up for any of the planned courses/ workshops.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to attend any of these training sessions please contact Nigel Dempster at [nigeldem@outlook.com](mailto:nigeldem@outlook.com) or Brian Lacey at [brian@lacey.nz](mailto:brian@lacey.nz) Mobile: 0221831811

### **REMINDER**

2021 annual subscriptions are now due, if you haven't yet paid, **we would very much prefer you to pay on-line using:**

**ANZ HUAPAI- Account No. 01-0141-0071822-00. Please ensure that you put your name as reference.**

Alternatively, you can pay by cash at our next meeting on May 5th by placing the money in an envelope with your name clearly marked on the front and giving to our treasurer Glenys.

## About the Monthly Meetings

We are trying to streamline the “Entry process” at the start of our monthly meetings in an attempt to minimise “Bottlenecks” at the door by doing the following

- We plan to have 3 committee members helping at the door for future meetings.
- Doors will be open at 09:45 and the meeting will start at 10:15 (After tea & cakes)

Could members please:

- Have your \$2 entry fee ready (preferably in coin)
- Allow the committee member on the door to find your badge for you. (It gets confusing with several people trying to rummage through the badges to find their own!)
- AMI members please be aware that AMI are paying your annual subscription for 2021 and all training fees, but you will still need to pay the \$2 entry fee.

Thank you all for your co-operation

## COVID 19 - VACCINES AND VARIANTS

Our very own Treasurer, Glenys, who as many of you may know is a retired Doctor, has put together this article on the subject of **Covid 19 Vaccines and Variants**, which without doubt, will be of interest to us all.

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The pandemic has thrown us into the world of biological science and statistics. For many the terminology and concepts are difficult to understand and interpret especially as, with all science, they are modified as new facts are discovered. Viruses change frequently when they replicate and move from one person to another. This makes for ever changing advice and confusion.

### VACCINES

New Zealand has bought 10 million Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines. It is a mRNA vaccine. The trade name is COMIRNATY. It is enough for all of us to have the recommended two doses each. It has been used extensively in the USA, Europe and Australia. At present it has one of the best profiles of those available. It covers 97% of people immunised and stops serious illness and death in all.



It has good coverage against most variants of concern identified today (more later). There is evidence that it is safe and effective for children and for us, most importantly, in people over 65. There is an excellent website from The Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC). This is an independent organisation based at Auckland University with detailed but understandable information on all aspects of the vaccine. These include -what it is - how it works – ingredients in the vaccine.

[www.immune.org.nz](http://www.immune.org.nz)

When the site has downloaded go to COVID-19 and then to COVID-19 VACCINES

The vaccine has one major advantage and one major disadvantage compared with other vaccines. The major advantage is, if necessary, it can be easily modified to cover significant variants when they arise. The company are saying about 16 days to produce the modified vaccine.

The major disadvantage is that it requires refrigeration at -70C until 5 days before use. The vaccine arrives here in batches because of production cycles, transport by air, and storage requirements. For those 5 days the vaccine requires freezing but not at such a low temperature. Once defrosted it needs to be used within hours.

Therefore the supply chain for the vaccine is critical and vaccinations

given in centres where were large numbers of vaccines can be given each day in order not to waste doses. We will be travelling to get the vaccine not the vaccine coming to multiple sites near us.



Some people may get mild side effects from the vaccine and it can differ between first and second doses. The vaccine does not contain live, dead or deactivated virus and there are no animal products in the vaccine. The side effects can be some of the following: Pain at injection site, tiredness, headache, mild fever. There are full details of these on the Ministry of Health website below.

If you have concerns about side effects speak to your doctor before going for the vaccination. Serious reactions are very, very rare and have been identified as due to one of the components of the vaccine. The list of components is listed on the IMAC website. When you have been given your vaccine, you are asked to remain under observation for 15-20minutes with medical staff on hand if needed.

[www.health.govt.nz/our-work](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work)

Then go to Diseases and conditions and follow the trail

Covid-19/ Covid-19 vaccines/Vaccine safety and approval/Side effects and reactions.

## VARIANTS

Covid-19 virus, in common with all viruses, develops mutations – changes in the mRNA it contains. This occurs when the virus is replicated within the host cells. The more it spreads in the community the greater the possibility of mutations occurring. Most of these changes do not affect how it behaves. Some may be lethal for the virus. However, some may change its behaviour so that it can be transmitted between people more easily and faster and some could make the disease it produces more severe.

The changes affecting its ability to spread and perhaps cause more severe disease are called either variants of interest if they are still being evaluated and VARIANTS OF CONCERN if they are a threat to the control of the epidemic. The latter are given a number and a name indicating where they were first isolated such as B1.1.7(UK), B.351(South Africa), P1(Brazil), B1617(India).

The Pfizer vaccine will give good overall protection to all known variants though this is only part protection to some of them. You may catch the virus but only have mild illness. The vaccine is excellent in protecting you from serious illness and admission to hospital. It is not known yet whether the vaccine will stop you transmitting the virus but falling rates of infection in highly vaccinated countries, UK and Israel, does indicate that it might.

The news about variants is updated daily. It is reassuring to know that the Pfizer vaccine can be updated to cover any important variants very quickly. There is still so much we do not know about COVID-19 but no one is safe until we are all safe. It will be a significant part of our lives for some time yet.

Glenys Osborne

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## Auckland Council

We are very careful to avoid articles of a political nature, however we were approached by one of our members and asked if we would pass on the following request from the Rodney Ward Councillor, Greg Sayers.

The feedback form does provide some Rodney specific information, which may be of interest to you.

You don't have to answer the feedback form, however if you do, you don't have to answer all of the questions, it's entirely up to you.

We have included this in our newsletter as we think it may be of interest to our members. The letter from councillor Sayers is as follows:

*Auckland Council is in the process of deciding on its transport budget for the next 10 years.*

*This is spending that really affects you. This is a big decision being made by Auckland Council and that is why I have emailed you to let you know.*

*Called the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP), it is the 10-year plan and budget for Auckland's transport network. Auckland Transport would love your feedback on the draft*

*plan.*

*I have created a Rodney specific feedback form to easily submit to Auckland Transport (part of the Auckland Council Group) about what you want your rates and fuel taxes spent on over the next 10 years.*

*Your opportunity to have your say needs to be completed by the close off date of 2 May 2021.*

*Please click on [HERE](#) to give your feedback.*

*The total numbers of submissions, and comments, supporting different projects will be given to the Mayor and Councillors to approve, once Auckland Transport has made any changes as a result of public feedback/ submissions.*

*So your voice counts!*

*Thank you for taking the time to comment on what Auckland Transport should be doing for Rodney.*

*Kind regards,*

*Greg Sayers*

*Rodney Ward Councillor*

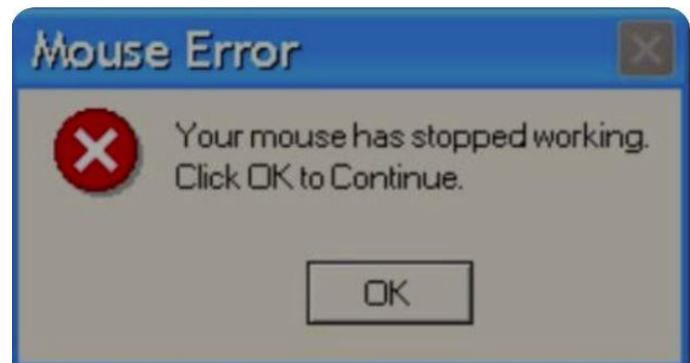
## Click Corner

**This month's "Clicks" were provided by Nigel**

- Reindeer form a spinning cyclone to [protect their young](#)
- The future of flight: check these [futuristic plane cabin concepts](#)
- Selfies in space. NASA's [Mars curiosity rover has snapped itself](#)
- These are the [strangest inventions of the last 20-years](#)
- Enjoy dinner and a view at 900ft in this [downtown LA restaurant](#)

Remember you may have to press  
Ctrl+Click to follow the link in Windows 10

Have fun! 



## Committee Members

Chairman/ Training	Nigel Dempster	<a href="mailto:nigeldem@outlook.com">nigeldem@outlook.com</a>
Vice Chairman	Keith Presswell	<a href="mailto:keith.presswell@gmail.com">keith.presswell@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Jennifer Morris	<a href="mailto:jen.r.morris@gmail.com">jen.r.morris@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer /Membership	Glenys Osborne	<a href="mailto:glenyosborne@hotmail.com">glenyosborne@hotmail.com</a>
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