SENIORS' ROUNDUP

Local and Worldwide Items of Interest

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Editorial:

Artificial Intelligence - the potential for help vs the potential for harm

As the world grapples with the ever more complexities of dealing with artificial intelligence, we are faced with the big question - the potential for AI to help humanity against the potential to harm humanity.

The year 2023 was marked not so much by the obvious natural disasters and the New Zealand general election, but perhaps by the stealth by which AI emerged in the public arena. As 2024 progresses, the known and unknown aspects of our lives will be markedly affected by artificial intelligence whether we like it or not much of which we will be totally unaware of.

Much like the cell phone which has taken over the lives of so many, the rapid emergence of AI will inevitably affect all of us at some stage. As with cell phones and the burgeoning social media phenomenon, with it will come the good, the bad and the ugly.



Undoubtedly the impact for good as related to medical and scientific research and development will benefit all mankind. With few exceptions, and dare I say it, the harmful and potentially illegal aspects relating to AI are yet to be determined.

Much of the artificial intelligence that is being injected into our daily lives is happening by stealth and with little reference or consideration of the outcomes both immediate and long term.



In some instances, the application of AI may produce a degree of indifference as with, "what we don't know, we are not going to worry about", The danger here of course, is that this attitude of complacency may eventually limit our ability to think for ourselves.

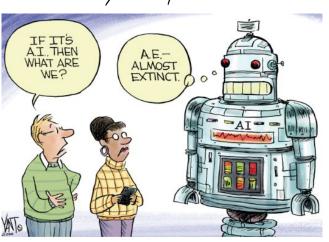
More importantly perhaps, it will limit our ability to interface at human level and so retain all the emotion, pleasure, achievement and knowledge that so much of our human development is dependent upon.

The protection of individual privacy and the retention of our valued humanistic existence is fast becoming one of the greatest challenges of the current century. The efficiency, accuracy and productivity of using robots, not only in industry and science, but also numerous other essential areas of our lives cannot be ignored as we move forward. With this comes responsibility and accountability for the outcomes far beyond what we as humans have experienced to date.

The balance between the potential for HELP and the potential for HARM as the use of Al accelerates and our scientists and innovators scramble to provide the necessary protections to mankind is urgent and ongoing.

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How Monopoly Helped WWII Prisoners of War to Escape:



For over a century, Monopoly has been one of the most popular board games in the world. Nobody could have imagined that it would have played such a crucial role in the Second World War.

Throughout WWII, thousands of British prisoners were held captive in camps with practically no hope of escape.

However, the British intelligence section began to realise that there was a huge advantage to be had by way of the Red Cross parcels supplied to prisoners.

Despite knowing that all packages would be thoroughly inspected before being passed on to the POW's, they managed to use Monopoly boards to their advantage.

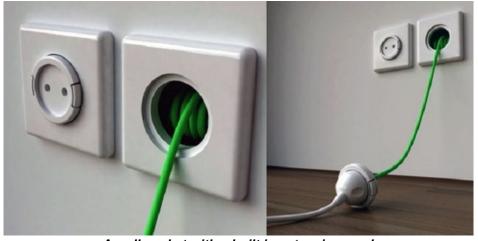


M19, The British intelligence organisation, devised a simple plan. Before sending troops off on a mission they instructed them to be on the lookout for Monopoly games in the event of their capture. In corroboration with the manufacturer of the board game, they managed to masterfully hide tiny maps, tools, magnetic compasses and other useful material within the game itself to aid prisoners in their escape.

One of the tricks used was to get the maps printed on pieces of silk to prevent them from wearing out over time.

It is estimated that nearly 35,000 British soldiers escaped from imprisonment with around 20,000 of them claimed to have used material found within the Monopoly board games.

Genius Inventions With Practical Applications:



A wall socket with a built in extension cord



A thing of beauty doesn't have to be useful."



This power socket provides 360° access



WHEN THE INVENTOR OF THE WHEEL MET THE INVENTOR OF THE DEAL

Happy Father's Day:

Sunday 1st of September 2024

According to historians, *Father's Day* was created by Mrs Sonora Dodd who wanted to pay a tribute to her late father, William Smart, who brought up his six children as a single parent when he lost his wife to childbirth.

She is said to have had the idea in 1909 while listening to a sermon on Mother's Day which was emerging as a public holiday.

Father's Day is celebrated in New Zealand and Australia on the first Sunday in September, which first originated in the 1930s.

There are approximately 1.7 billion fathers worldwide. In America, *Father's Day* is the fifth-largest card-sending day with almost 100 million *Father's Day* cards sent each year.

In Germany, Dads take part in a *Father's Day* hike with groups of men hiking into the forest dragging a wagon full of wine and beer along with local food.

In France, they celebrate *Father's Day* much the same as we do in New Zealand. Fathers are given presents such as chocolates and homemade gifts including paintings and hand written poems. Some families celebrate the day by eating out while others stay at home and prepare a special meal.

The people's Republic of China is one of the few countries in the world that does not observe *Father's Day.*









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Living With Computers:





Adorable Otters:

Without a doubt,otters are some of the cutest, cleverest and most charming creatures in the animal world. With their fluffy coats and their button noses, otters are very affectionate towards each other. For instance, two otters often swim holding paws so they don't get swept away and as shown below, mothers often embrace their babies on their bellies.



A baby otter napping on its mother's belly



All babies love the bottle!



Cute and unquestionably loveable

Ain't Life Grand:





Nothing as memorable as a bowl full of baby otters



Guinness Book of Records:



Records set in 2023

British cat has the loudest purr -

Bella, a cat from Huntington, Cambridgeshire in the UK broke the world record for the loudest cat purr in October 2023.

Her purr was officially measured at 54.59 decibels which was equivalent to the volume of a boiling kettle.

Nicole Spink, Bella's proud owner said, "I couldn't be more thrilled that Bella has broken the world record. She has been our family's companion for many years - we love her to bits and are so proud of her achievement."

14-year old Bella has a purr so loud that the family often struggle to hear the television.

Identifying the most celebrity birthdays in under 180 seconds -

Heidi Crowter, a woman with Down's Syndrome set a world record in June 2023 for identifying the most celebrity birthdays in under three minutes.

Heidi , from Coventry, recalled 70 celebrity birth dates in under 180 seconds, ranging from Britain's Queen Victoria and Margaret Thatcher to Brad Pitt and other famous singers and film stars.

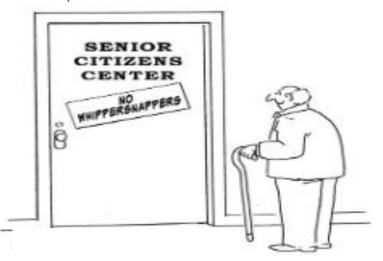
Twenty nine year old Heidi Crowter is an English disability rights campaigner for the anti-abortion group - Don't Screen Us Out.

"In the course of my life, I have often had to eat my words, and I must confess that I have always found it a wholesome diet."

> - Winston Churchill 1874-1965 Statesman, Soldier and Writer



Ain't Life Grand!





"I was always taught to respect my elders, But it keeps getting harder to find one."

Talking About Sisters:

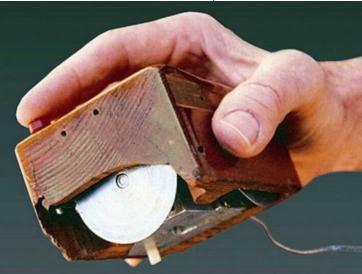


The Invention of The Computer Mouse:





From the original invention to the latest model





Just a Point of View:





"No, I don't believe youth is wasted on the young. I believe that money is."

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Beware of These Trees. They're Hungry!

Nature can't be tamed



Quotable Quote:

"The problem with drinking and driving Is that trees defend themselves very well." - Annon

Facing Reality:





"The WiFi passsword is: 'buysomethingorgetout'."

How Well Are You Doing? **10 SIGNS YOU'RE DOING WELL IN LIFE**

- 1) You have a roof over your head.
- 2) You ate today.
- 3) You have a good heart.
- 4) You wish good for others.
- 5) You have clean water.
- 6) Someone cares for you.
- 7) You strive to be better.
- 8) You have clean clothes.
- 9) You have a dream.
- 10) You're breathing.

BE THANKFUL FOR THE LITTLE THINGS, For they are the most important.

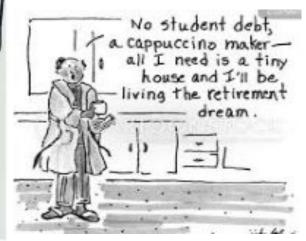








"The only time I live life in the fast lane is when I have eight items or less."



Remembering Sid Going:

All Black No. 655

Sid Going, was arguably one of the greatest halfbacks in All Blacks history. He excelled in his position of half-back (scrum half) and possessed the vision, speed, awareness and quick hands required of a successful rugby player.

Sidney Milton Going MBE, dubbed "Super Sid" by his fans was born at Kawakawa, Northland in 1943. His rugby career began at Mid Northern Rugby Club, making his debut for Northland at the age of 18 years. He represented the province 43 times and was selected for the All Blacks in 1967. Sid Going played 86 games for the All Blacks including 29 Test caps as scrum-half. He captained the All Blacks on five occasions between 1967 and 1977. He built up a reputation as a genuine match-winner and his entertaining style of running rugby inspired fans all around the world,



Sid Going 1943-2024



Sid Going in action against the Lions during the 1977 tour

Considered the highlight of his career by many were the two tries he scored inside the opening 30 minutes against France at Eden Park in 1968. After the match the vivisting French described him as the best halfback in the world. Going was awarded the Tom French Cup for Maori player of the year a record six times between 1967 and 1972. In 1977 he was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire for his contribution to rugby.

Sid Going was inducted into the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame during the 2020 Halberg Awards.

Stocky and prematurely balding, Going weighed 81 kg and his height was 1.78 m. He was a key figure as a dangerous running scrum-half scoring 10 tries in test matches during his career.

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"Yeah, we know you've got the ball. We just don't like this guy!"

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The Dash Poem

by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak At the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on her tombstone From the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came the date of her birth And spoke of the following date with tears, But he said what mattered most of all Was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time That she spent alive on earth And now only those who loved her Know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own, The cars, the house, the cash, What matters is how we live and love And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard; Are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough To consider what's true and real And always try to understand The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger And show appreciation more And love the people in our lives Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect And more often wear a smile, Remembering that this special dash Might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read With your life's actions to rehash Would you be proud of the things they say About how you spent your dash?



"Go get 'em son, and if you should run into any obstacles in your quest... don't worry we'll use litigation."



"I was happy to loan you money to go to medical school, son. It's too bad I've had to sue you to get it paid back."



"I was an incurable romantic, until I met Martha's divorce lawyer."

Now, Here's a Story For You:

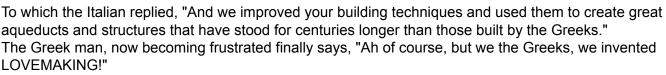
Greeks and Romans

Two old men (I mean 'senior citizens'!) are arguing about history and the achievement of Athens and Rome.

The Greek man says, "Look, all I'm saying is that the Greeks invented everything the Romans get credit for." The Italian says, "Yes, that maybe true but the Romans improved it and made it more useful."

The Greek man replied, "We invented Democracy!" The Italian says, We realised the challenge of direct elections and the benefit of the legislature and thus created the Republic!"

The Greek man says, "Yes, but we created beautiful architecture. For example the Parthenon!"



The Italian thinks for a moment, and then says, "That may be true but WE introduced it to the women!" *Buildings to Catch Your Attention:*

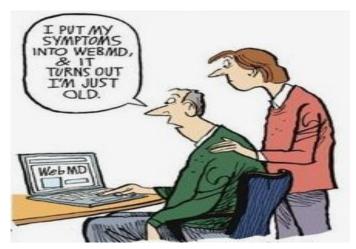


The world's largest picnic basket was built by the Longaberger Company in Ohio in the United States. The company manufactured handcrafted maple wood baskets and used multi-level marketing to sell its products. The seven-story building of 16723 square metres with a glass roof was opened in 1997.

The museum of Teas Culture in Meitan, China is shaped like a teapot and a teacup. The museum is a major tourist attraction and explains the history and changes to tea in China over the centuries and why certain methods are favoured today. It was opened in 1991 with an exhibition area of 2240 sq m.

Dealing With technology:







Whatcha See is Whatcha Gets:

I'VE BEEN Gooder I'VE BEEN BADDER MANY TIMES THINNER LOTSA TIMES FATTER THERE'S STUFF I REMEMBER AND STUFF I FORGET BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ME & WHAT(HA SEES IS WHAT(HA SEES IS WHAT(HA





"I would prefer to dress up after security check . . . "

Quotable Quote:

Anita Öpper

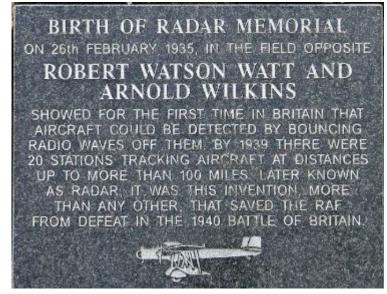
"When preparing to travel, lay out all your clothes and all your money." Then take half the clothes and twice the money." - Susan Heller

Travel Tales!





The Birth of Radar:



Robert Watson-Watt was a physicist who became known for developing radar in the 1930s and being indirectly influential in the success of the Royal Air Force in the Second World War. His inventions gave the RAF advanced warning of German air attacks which was invaluable during the Battle of Britain in 1940. Winston Churchill attributed Britain's ability to fight off the German Luftwaffe as directly attributable to Watt's advanced warning system known as 'Chain Home'. This was a system that linked several radar towers along the coast that could relay information between them. By the end of the war there were 53.



A Chain Home Radar Station at Hopton-on-Sea

In The Kitchen:

Creative to substitute for eggs



When it comes to baking sweet recipes like cakes, Pancakes and muffins, bananas are the most popular replacement. If you love the taste and smell of bananas, it will make your baking irresistible. Ripe bananas in particular can bind all the ingredients together due to their high moisture and creamy texture. The can also help to moderate blood sugar levels, improve digestion and promote weight loss making them a very healthy alternative to eggs.

This May Resonate With Many!



For an egg-white replacement, aquafaba (chickpeas) is the one to go for. The water in which the chickpeas are cooked makes it an ideal substitute for eggs in meringues and marshmallows. It is also rich in antioxidants, carbohydrates and proteins as the ingredients of the seeds are absorbed into the water. This mixture can turn water into a consistency similar to egg white. Vanilla and sugar may also be added to the mixture.



Talking About Language:

10 WORDS AND PHRASES PEOPLE SAY INCORREC 1. Supposably — Supposedly 2. For all intensive purposes For all intents and purposes 3. Irregardless — Regardless 4. I could care less I couldn't care less 5. Expresso — Espresso 6. Pacifically — Specifically 7. Ex Cetera — Et Cetera 8. I seen it — I saw it 9. Of upmost importance Of utmost importance 10. I need to lay down I need to lie down







Word -Noun: A single distinct meaningful element of speech or writing, used with others to form a sentence and typically shown with a space on either side when written or printed 14

A History of Perfume:

If you are a lover of perfume, you probably already know that Coty and Guerlain were the first companies to mass-produce perfume. But did you know that Chanel No. 5 smashed sales records and made perfume history. While scents marketed by famous women such as Elizabeth Taylor and Katy Perry have defined perfume markets for decades, the fancy glass bottles and slick celebrity campaigns of today can relate to a strange history dating back thousands of years.



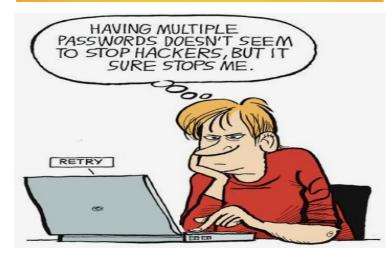
So many ancient Roman and Greek perfume recipes have survived that it is possible to recreate them in our modern era In Pompeii there is a mural that documents the process of making perfumes of the day.

The oils were made by pressing olives, then ingredients such as plants and wood were added by meticulous measurement and left for a period to enable the oil to take on the scent.

Perfume was often used in the belief that it would bring the wearer closer to the Gods. It was also widely used in beauty products, public baths and even on the soles of feet.

How The World Has Changed:

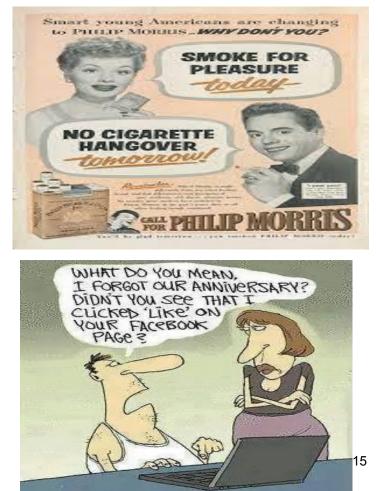
I feel bad for parents nowadays. You have to be able to explain the birds & the bees... The bees & the bees... The birds & the birds... The birds that used to be bees... The bees that used to be birds... The birds that look like bees... Plus bees that look like birds but still got a stinger!!!





The Egyptians loved perfume and they used it for both ceremonial and beautification purposes. Fragrance was believed to be the sweat of the sun-god Ra.

If you were a king or someone else of high status in Egyptian society, perfume would have been a part of everyday life, smeared on you in the form of scented oil to keep you smelling nice. Bonn University is currently trying to recreate a pharaoh's perfume from 1479 BC based on remains found in a jar. Huge volumes of perfume ingredients were imported from Punt in Africa.



Buildings Inspired by Animals:



Above:

The 'Sheep' was built in the 1990s. It is a wool and craft store in Tirau, New Zealand.

Right:

The Grand Koala is situated in Dadswells Bridge, Australia. Dadswells Bridge has a population under 100 but the giant koala is a major tourist attraction.

Memorable Quotes of John Lennon:

Being honest may not get you a lot of friends, but it will get you the right ones.



Count your age by friends not years. Count your life by smiles not tears.



The Joys of Growing Old:

I'M SO OLD THAT I HAVE DIALED A ROTARY PHONE (THAT DIDN'T HAVE AN ANSWERING MACHINE), **RECORDED A SONG THAT I LOVE OFF A** TRANSISTOR RADIO ONTO A TAPE RECORDER, WATCHED A BLACK AND WHITE TV (WITH LESS THAN 10 CHANNELS) THAT HAD FOIL ON THE **RABBIT EAR ANTENNAS, TAKEN A LONG WALK** WITHOUT COUNTING THE STEPS, AND EATEN FOOD THAT I DIDN'T TAKE PICTURES OF.

There is no such thing as a Grouchy Old Man or Woman. The truth is when you get really old, You stop being polite and start being honest.



HOW AGING AFFECTS BELT HEIGHT



YOUTH ADULT MIDDLE- OLD AGE AGE

The Unfortunates:



From Our 'Would You Believe' File:



During the prohibition era of 1922, some got very creative carrying booze inside a hollowed out cane.

The Pros And Cons of Social Media:







Things to Ponder:

- 1. If the No. 2 pencil is the most popular why is it still No. 2?
- 2. Why do we press harder on the remote control when we know the batteries are getting weaker?
- 3. Why are you "in" a movie but "on" TV?
- 4. What was the best thing before 'sliced bread'?
- 5. Why do "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?
- 6. Why do British people never sound British when they sing?
- 7. At the movie theatre, which arm rest is yours?
- 8. When does it stop being partly cloudy and start being partly sunny?
- 9. When French people swear, do they say "pardon my English"?

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