

SENIORS' ROUNDUP

Local and Worldwide Items of Interest

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Editor: Garry Thompson - seniorsroundup2020@gmail.com

Editorial:

To have or not to have - That is **NOT** the question!

The inter-island Cook Strait ferries are in the news again, for all the wrong reasons. The water that joins New Zealand's two main islands is vital to the national economy. While it can be a turbulent stretch of water, the often coined "continuation of our No.1 State Highway", it is an important piece of our national infrastructure. Apart from freight considerations, the ferries provide essential transport between the islands, for both domestic passengers and overseas tourists together numbering over 800,000 each year. In addition to this, about 15 billion dollars of cargo crosses the strait by ship yearly.

The Cook Strait ferry crossing is 96 kilometres and takes around three and a half hours. The recent government decision to scrap the order for new ferries at a time when recent and continuous high profile events involving the aging fleet is beyond belief. While we will always have to contend with timetable delays due to unpredictable weather conditions and peak loading during holiday periods, delays caused by aging infrastructure and insufficient capacity is not acceptable.



It has been proved that the inter-island ferries with roll-on-roll-off capability provide the most efficient method of moving bulk goods across the strait. This should be encouraged and extended if only to limit the number of heavy vehicles on our roads. Regardless of who owns and who controls the inter-island ferry service, an efficient and modern fleet of ships fit for purpose is essential to meet the demand that is never going to lessen. This is absolutely essential and needs to be one of the government's transport priorities.

To suggest that the roll-on-roll-off ferries be replaced with trucks, containers and forklifts is an absolute nonsense. Likewise the idea of purchasing smaller second hand vessels to meet the demand. Taking this approach has been fraught with problems in the past mainly the disruption to passenger and freight services due to mechanical issues coupled with wear and tear. The cancellation of existing new ferry contracts will add to the sum already spent on upgrading essential infrastructure estimated to be in the region of \$442 million. Any further delay in upgrading the ships and infrastructure at both Wellington and Picton is estimated to increase the costs by 40%. Modern fit-for-purpose ferries are absolutely essential to sustain our national economy. The Cook Strait should be officially included in the government's national roads of significance. To have or not to have is NOT the question. The question is - how much longer do we put up with a 'third world country' service across Cook Strait?





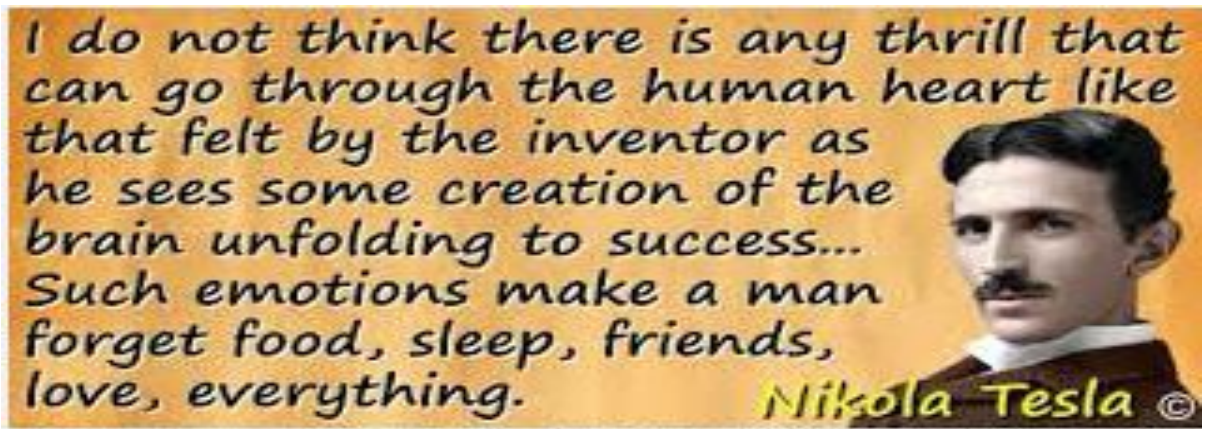
Contact Lenses -

The history of the contact lens is surprising. It actually began in the year 1508 when Leonardo da Vinci made the first known sketch suggesting that it is possible to manipulate vision with the help of water or a glass hemisphere over the eye. The first glass contacts were not made until the 19th century in either Germany or Switzerland. These glass contacts and the later glass and plastic hybrids were very fragile and uncomfortable to wear. In 1959 a Czech chemist made a breakthrough by introducing soft hydrogel contact lenses which paved the way for their widespread use.

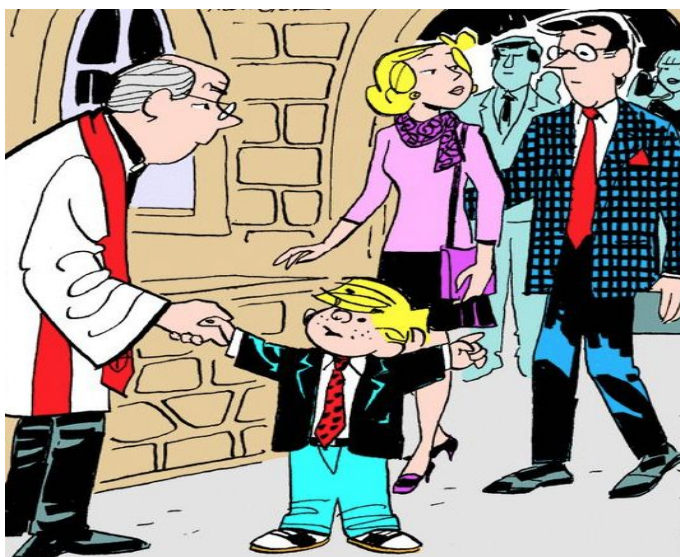
Remote Control -

It is hard to imagine life these days without the use of remote controls. The days of walking to the TV in order to change channels or titles are long gone. The concept of remote control first emerged in Europe when scientists started exploring the potential of radio waves. In 1895 a British inventor used microwaves to trigger a gun and sound a bell from a distance of 23 metres through walls essentially doing the same thing as your TV remote does today.

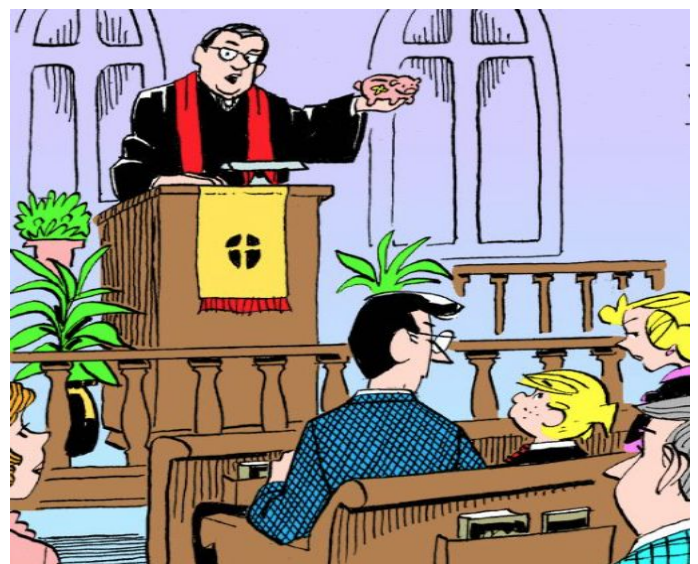
Quotable Quote:



As Kids See It:



"Dad always loves your sermons when you keep them short."



"Will the owner of the piggy bank please stop passing it around with the collection plate!"

A Teacher's Perspective:

Parents are the problem !

"As a retired teacher, I am sick of people who know nothing about public schools or have not been in a classroom recently deciding how to fix our education system.

The teachers are not the problem!

Parents are the problem!

They are not teaching their children manners, respect or even a general knowledge of how to get along with others. The children come to school in shoes that cost more than the teacher's entire outfit, but have no pencils or paper.

Teachers often provide these items out of their own pockets.

When you look at schools that are "failing", look at the parents and students.

Do parents come to Parent-Teacher nights? Do they talk with the teachers regularly? Do they make sure that their children are prepared by having the necessary supplies? Do they make sure their children do their homework?

Do they have working telephone numbers? Do the students take notes in class?

Do the students listen in class, or are they the source of class disruptions?

When you look at these factors, you will see that it is not the schools that are failing but the parents, Teachers cannot do their jobs and the parent's job. Until parents step up and do their job, nothing is going to get better!"

- Lisa Roberson



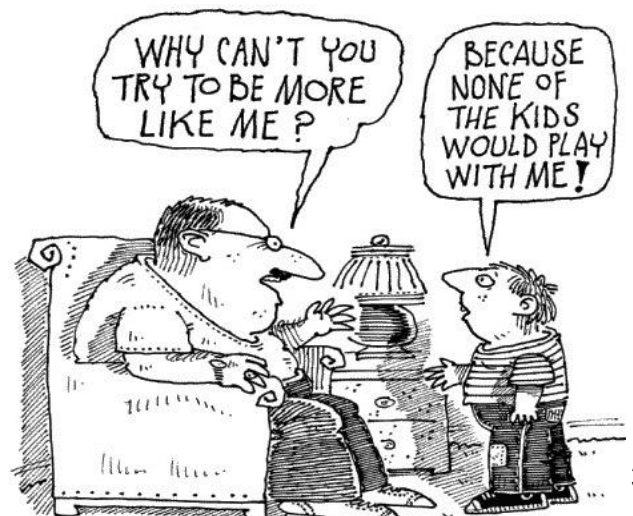
"If you can't bond with him, at least 'like' him on facebook.."



"I'm so proud of them !"



"What do you expect from a failing education system?"



Remembering John Wayne:

The Duke - The man who shot 'Liberty Valance'

Marion Michael Morrison aka John Wayne was born in Iowa, U.S. Wayne was a successful actor who embodied the image of the strong but quietly forceful personality who did not waste his words. The nickname 'Duke' has no royal connection. When he was young he never went anywhere without his dog, an airedale terrier named "Little Duke". As a result neighbours and friends started calling him "Big Duke" which he preferred to the name Marion and the name stuck for the rest of his life. Tall from an early age, he played football for his high school in Glendale and later the University of Southern California.

While at university, Western star Tom Mix got him a summer job in the prop department in exchange for football tickets. His film career started in the late 1920s when he appeared in a number of silent films by director John Ford. His first starring role was in the 1930 epic Western, *The Big Trail* in which the director gave him the stage name of John Wayne.



John Wayne 1907-1979



Although appearing in many war films and frequently being presented as the "All American Hero", Wayne never served in the armed forces. However, his close friend Bob Hope was recorded as saying that Wayne did more for the WW2 war effort than he could ever do on the battlefield. Between 1940, when the military draft was reinstated and the end of WW2 in 1945, he remained in Hollywood and made 21 movies. His draft records were amended to read 'deferment in the national interest'. His manly macho roles made Wayne a huge star with men and women alike.



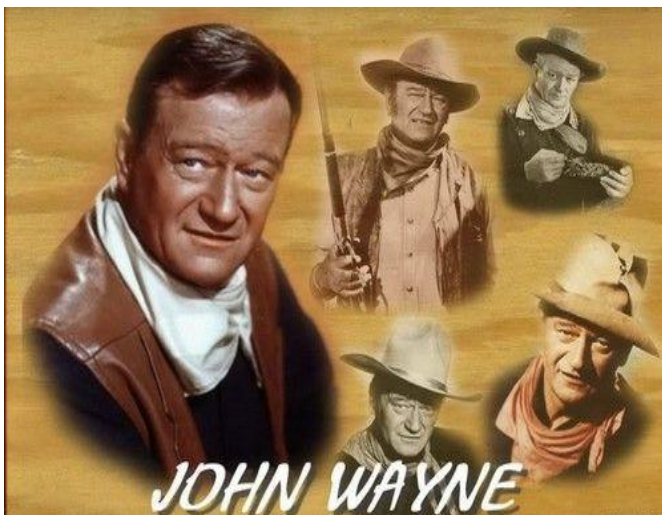
Wayne received considerable criticism throughout his career by those who considered him typecast in westerns and war movies. However his ability to show quiet tenderness in many of the complex characters he played was overlooked. John Wayne was also the subject of controversy with his outspoken right-wing politics but he has generally been accepted as a larger than life Hollywood icon and many have said that he was the greatest star of all time.



John Wayne is fondly remembered by many for his use of the word "pilgrim" primarily in 'The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance' and 'McClintock'. One of his famous lines was - "Well, a man's got to do something for a living these days. Dying ain't much of a living boy." He received several nominations for Academy Awards and won an Oscar in 1970 for Best Actor in a leading role. John Wayne died at the age of 72 after battling cancer for several decades.



Garry Thompson - UNIVERSITY OF LIFE



JOHN WAYNE STILL LIVES.



HANDY-ENGLISCH

- 4E = Forever
- IC = I see
- BTW = By the way
- BRB = Be right back
- U4E = You forever
- IDK = I don't know
- THX = Thanks
- JAM = Just a minute
- JK = Just kidding
- OMG = Oh, my God!
- AFAIK = As far as I know
- RUOK = Are you okay?
- AMA = Ask me anything
- 2G4U = Too good for you
- OMW = On my way
- ASAP = As soon as possible
- TTYL = Talk to you later
- FYI = For your information
- HBD = Happy Birthday
- MM = Mail me
- DK = Don't know
- J4F = Just for fun
- JAS = Just a second



"Mum, when you want some privacy wear this, no one will come within 3 metres of you!"



"If you need help with your homework Ask your father. . . and he'll ask me."



"Grandpa's like a self-parking car, but instead of at the curb, he parks in front of the TV."

Scaremongers And Conspiracy Theorists Can Relax!



The radiation left over from the Big Bang is the same as that in your microwave oven but very much less powerful. It would heat your pizza only to minus 271.3°C - not much good for defrosting the pizza, let alone cooking it.

— Stephen Hawking —

Further Uses For Tea:

It warms the body and gives us inner peace

Tired eyes -

Tired eyes can easily be caused by irritation, too much crying or simple tiredness. Tea bags can help and they are warmer and more pleasant than ice cubes or cucumber slices!

Just place them in hot water, allow them to cool a bit and then place them on your eyelids like a compress.

Improving the taste of meat -

When meat is not properly cooked it can become stale, hard and dry. An effective solution is to use tea bags to make a marinade that will help restore the meat flavour. Soaking hard meat in black tea can also soften it again.

Cleaning fingerprints from glass -

Tea can remove those pesky fingerprints from glass, and make it shine. Just rub a moist tea bag on the surface, then use a spray bottle filled with tea water and wipe with a soft cloth.

Getting rid of that fishy smell -

To get rid of the overpowering smell of fish, wash your hands in tea water.

Use an air freshener -

Bags of tea can absorb bad odours in cupboards, your shoes or in the car. Place a few tea bags on a tray and put them in the cupboard, shoe or car.

Removing warts and blisters -

Soaking a tea bag in water and placing it on the blister for 20-30 minutes may help ease the pain and the appearance. Make sure you throw the bag away afterwards.

Treating burns -

If you suffer from a really bad case of acne or irritated skin from a burn or too much sun tan, use used tea bags to bring relief. Wash the areas involved with a cold tea bag but if a large area is affected, make a bath and soak in several tea bags to gain relief.



"Cups of tea? - It's a habit they picked up during the English raids"



"OK everyone . . . Tea break !"

Window On New Zealand:

Sadly, this could be more truth than fiction!



The Beatles Down Under:

Just over 60 years ago Beatlemania hit New Zealand when the Beatles pop group arrived on 21 June 1964 to commence a nationwide tour. They were met at the Wellington airport by nearly 8,000 screaming fans, the majority of which were young women. The boisterous behaviour and sheer numbers present took the authorities and Police completely by surprise.

Police in particular had underestimated the whole thing badly. This resulted in a hurried reassessment of their coverage of the Beatles tour and all available constables were rostered on.

A constable's reflection



The Beatles stayed at the St George Hotel in the central city. I was one of a number of constables rostered on at the entrance to the hotel trying to control the thousands of fans thronging the intersection and leaning dangerously out of windows and other vantage points. Police dogs were employed to try and control the crowd who appeared to be oblivious to concerns around their safety.



It was a very wet night and some idiots had got onto the roof and were peering through the skylights. By the time police got onto the roof area they had disappeared into the night.



The Beatles on the balcony of the St George hotel

We took the Beatles into the hotel through the Bottle Store as we were unable to control the exuberant crowds outside. It was mayhem and all traffic in the central city came to a halt. The noise was deafening and continuous. I was also on duty at the Wellington Town Hall for the first concert of their tour. I was completely flabbergasted by the row upon row of girls screaming uncontrollably.

Many were on their feet for the whole performance and must have been absolutely exhausted by the end of the concert. At one stage there were issues with the sound system resulting in a number in the crowd trying to mount the stage. The Beatles were frustrated too and left the stage for a time until order was restored.



There were times during the concert that fans had to be manhandled for their own safety. Given the vast number inside and out, we were lucky not to have had a full scale riot on our hands.

Government to Deport Seniors:

In a move to help save the economy, the government has announced that from next month the Immigration Department will start deporting seniors (instead of illegal's) in order to lower Social Welfare and general healthcare costs.

When questioned by the media on this surprise policy announcement, the Minister stated - "Older people are easier to catch and most will not remember how to return home."

I started to cry when I thought of you.
Then it dawned on me . . . Hang on just a minute!!
I'll see you on the bus!

News Flash:



Two of the Biggest Billionaires in History: Some put modern-day billionaires to shame!



John D. Rockefeller 1839-1937

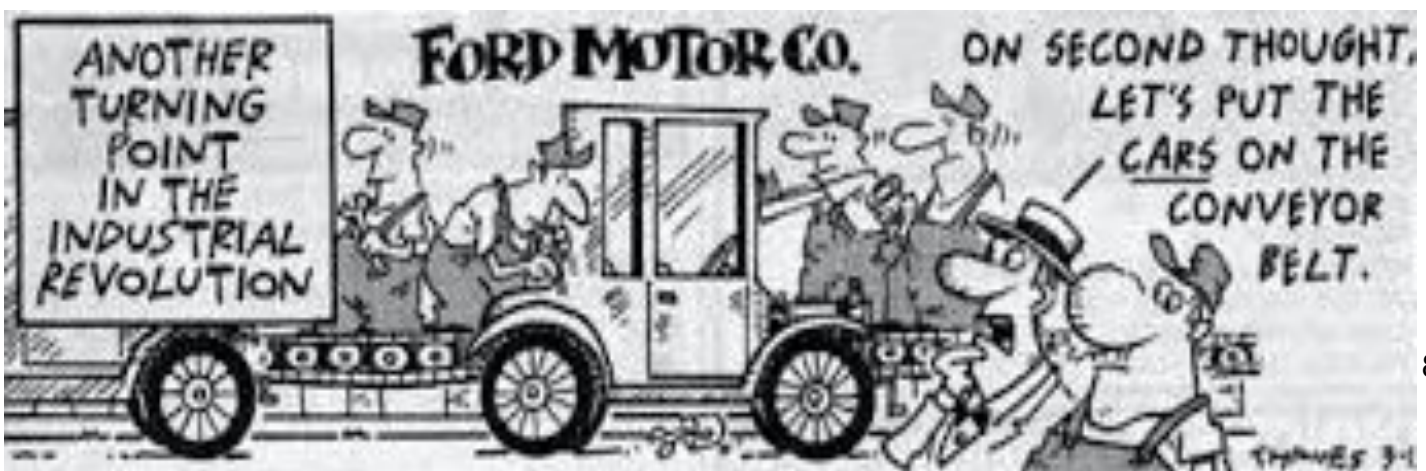
At the time of his death, Rockefeller was worth a cool **US\$340 Billion!**

An American businessman and philanthropist, John D. Rockefeller was the founder of the Standard Oil Company which dominated the oil industry and which provided the majority of his earnings. He ran the company for 27 years and was the wealthiest American of all time and the richest person in modern history. From 1897 he devoted himself completely to charities and philanthropy creating major institutions including universities and medical research centres.

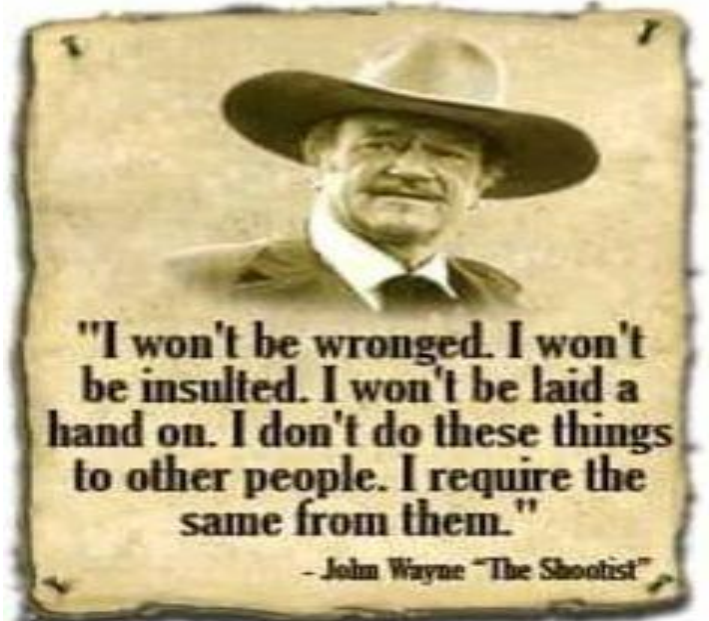
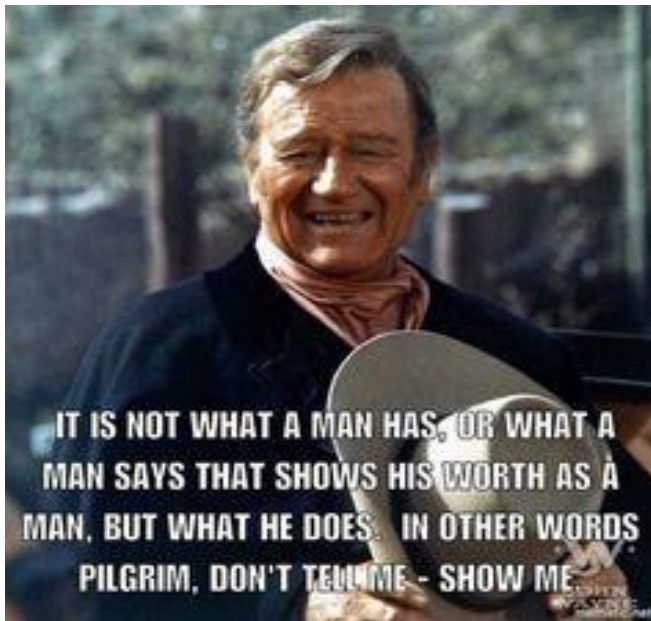


Henry Ford 1863-1947

American businessman Henry Ford (**\$199 billion**) is a well-known name primarily because he was the founder of the world-famous Ford Motor Company. In 1899 the backers of the Ford Motor Company left him as they wanted a passenger car on the market as soon as possible but Henry was more interested in improving existing models. He built several racing cars during this period many of which broke world speed records. The Ford Motor Company was re-established in 1903. Henry Ford Played a key role in the production of the first affordable American motor car.



The Memorable Quotes of John Wayne:



Two of The Most Famous Cars From The Movies: (Apart from James Bond's cars)



Bullitt (Bullitt) -

This is the 1968 Ford Mustang GT 390 Fastback which Steve McQueen drove in the film 'Bullitt'. The Ford Mustang used in *Bullitt* (there were actually two used in shooting the movie) involved probably the most iconic car chase of all time. While one of the cars was scrapped immediately after filming, the other is reported to be languishing in a barn in Ohio.

Quotable Quote:

"See, what you're meant to do when you have a mid-life crisis is buy a fast car, aren't you? Well, I've always had fast cars. It's the fear that you're past your best. It's the fear that the stuff you've done in the past is your best work." - Robbie Coltrane



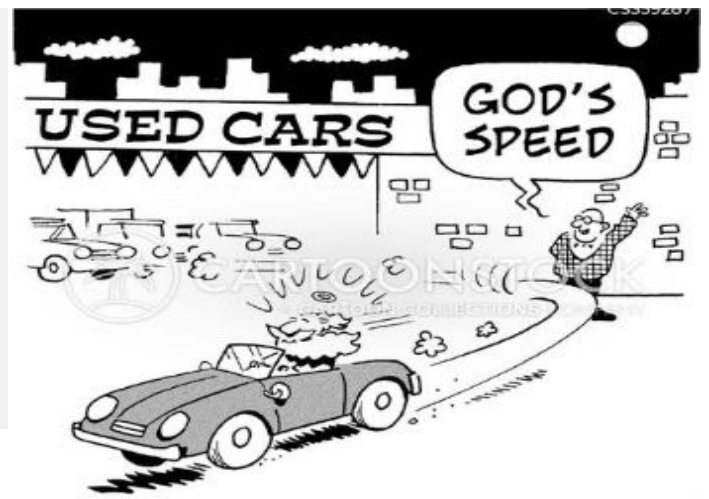
Getaway Minis (The Italian Job) -

These 1968 Austin Mini Cooper S Mk1 had the ability to go just about anywhere in an urban environment. The Mini, already a popular car increased its popularity considerably following the movie. Despite some great acting by Michael Caine and Noel Coward in the film, most would say that the Minis stole the show.

For The Life of A Fast Car!



"We're not actually going that fast - it's just that the ink got smudged!"



Everyone is Welcome to Walk Through The Door:



Library Poem

by Julia Donaldson

Everyone is welcome to walk through the door.
It really doesn't matter if you're rich or poor.
There are books in boxes and books on shelves.
They're free for you to borrow, so help yourselves.

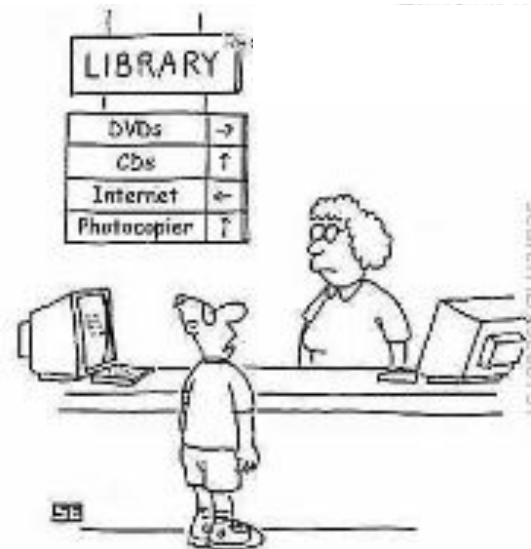
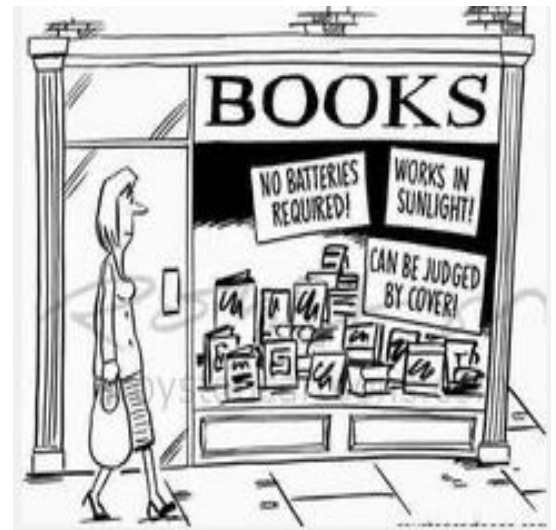
Come and meet your heroes, old and new,
From William the Conqueror to Winnie the Pooh.
You can look into the Mirror or read The Times,
Or bring along a toddler to chant some rhymes.

The librarian's a friend who loves to lend,
So see if there's a book that she can recommend.
Read that book, and if you're bitten
You can borrow all the other ones the author's written.

Are you into battles or biography?
Are you keen on gerbils or geography?
Gardening or ghosts? Sharks or science fiction?
There's something here for everyone, whatever your addiction.

There are students revising, deep in concentration,
And school kids doing projects, finding inspiration.
Over in the corner there's a table with seating,
So come along and join in the Book Club meeting.

Yes, come to the library! Browse and borrow,
And help make sure it'll still be here tomorrow.



"You don't have any books do you?"

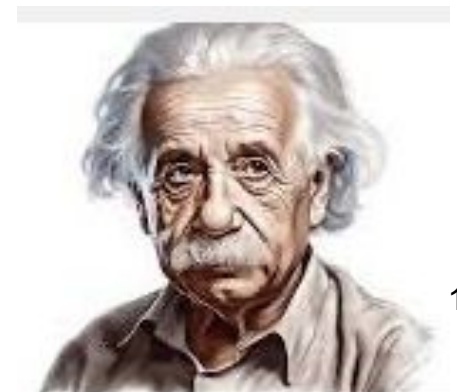


Quotable Quote:

"Reading, after a certain age, diverts the mind too much from it's creative pursuits.

Any man who reads too much and uses his own brain too little falls into lazy habits of thinking."

Albert Einstein 1879-1955



A Golfer's Lament:



Advertisement Fails:

Some stand out for all the wrong reasons



This isn't exactly how scales work!



Joining hands is the opposite of what you should be doing to make a hospital "infection free"!

Will This Be The New Look in Classrooms?

My iPod

My teacher took my iPod.
She said they had a rule;
I couldn't bring it into class
or even to the school.

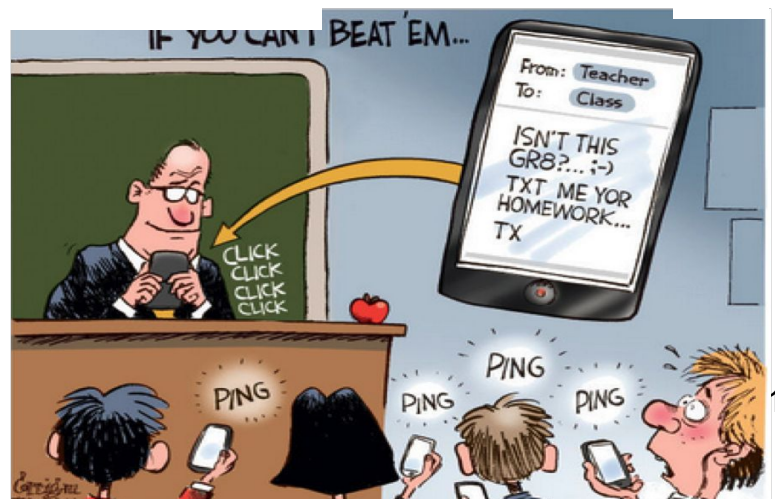
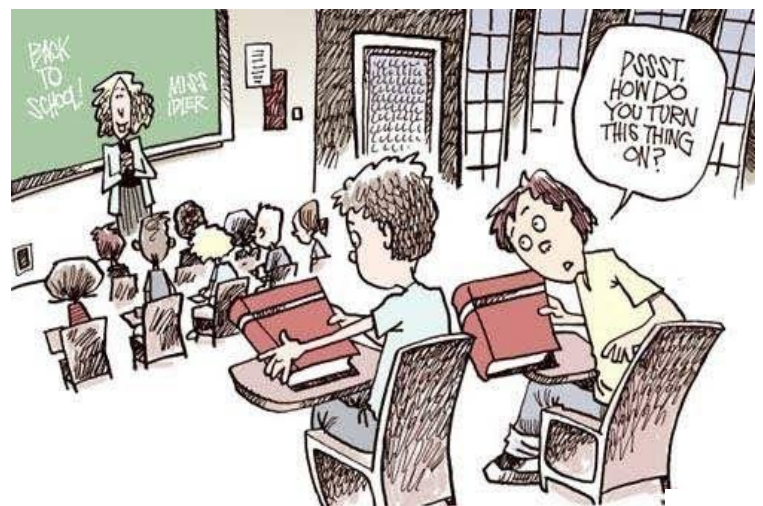
She said she would return it;
I'd have it back that day.
But then she tried my headphones on
and gave a click on play.

She looked a little startled,
but after just a while
she made sure we were occupied
and cracked a wicked smile.

Her body started swaying.
Her toes began to tap.
She started grooving in her seat
and rocking to the rap.

My teacher said she changed her mind.
She thinks it's now okay
to bring my iPod into class.
She takes it every day!

- Kenn Nesbitt



The Life and Times of Howard Morrison:

Howard Leslie Morrison OBE was one of the most famous and loved entertainers in New Zealand who became a household name from the early 1960s. He was responsible for bringing Maori culture to the mainstream of New Zealand society and became one of the countries leading television and concert performers.

His early introduction to music included listening to veterans of the Maori Battalion sing songs at parties, Sunday hymns at church and the Hit Parade radio program. He enjoyed mimicking the songs and learning to sing harmonies. While boarding at Te Aute Boys High School in Hawkes Bay he developed the ability to entertain audiences by using humour and timing. Howard left school at 16 and gained employment at the Whakatu Freezing Works where he often sang to entertain other workers. In the 1950s he joined the Clive Trio where he learnt how to lead a song, sing in harmony and work out arrangement in a variety of styles. In 1956, Morrison toured Australia with the Aotearoa Concert Party which was an important step to him becoming a professional entertainer.

Following his return from Australia Morrison formed a vocal group which later became the famed 'Howard Morrison Quartet'. They sang Maori favourites, country, pop and Italian songs, most with an element of comedy with Morrison in the lead.



In 1960 a song called 'Battle of The Waikato' became an instant hit, selling over 25,000 copies. Another parody, 'My Old Man's an All Black' sold 60,000 copies. The Quartet managed by Harry M. Miller performed a number of sold out nationwide concerts and the group performed in the first public television broadcast in 1960.

The Howard Morrison Quartet decided to disband in 1965 following a final farewell tour. They were instrumental in the introduction of many 'firsts' in the music industry including the coordination of record releases and tours, the use of media for promotion and the widespread acceptance of Maori culture as entertainment of a Pakeha audience. After the Quartet disbanded, Morrison became a solo performer and won the 1966 Entertainer of The Year award.



Sir Howard Morrison 1935-2009

He toured the country with Lonnie Donegan and The Everly Brothers and was a guest on the Dinah Shore Show. Morrison opened the 1990 Auckland Commonwealth Games and in the same year was knighted for services to entertainment. He wanted to use his high profile for the benefit of disadvantaged Maori and in 1990, he rode on horseback throughout the country, raising \$1.2 million for the Life Education Trust.



Howard Morrison performing on stage with Dame Kiri Te Kanawa

Morrison died at home in Rotorua on 24 September 2009, aged 74.

The country mourned a popular entertainer whose charm and charisma had navigated two cultures for the benefit of both.

Garry Thompson

- UNIVERSITY OF LIFE



Sir Howard Morrison Entertainment Centre in Rotorua



WHY IS THERE A HOLE IN MY DONUT?



Is it for putting my fingers through?



Is it for enhancing my eyesight?



NO!
It is to ensure the proper frying of dough due to a larger surface area!

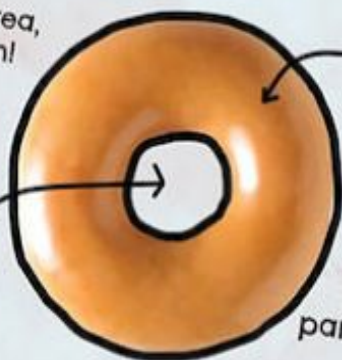
Donut

(Shape: Torus)

Surface area: ~140cm²

Volume: 100cm³

More surface area, more heat gain!



Donut

Don'tnut

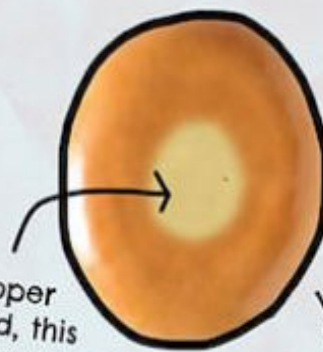
Holeless-donut

(Shape: Ellipsoid)

Surface area: ~120cm²

Volume: 100cm³

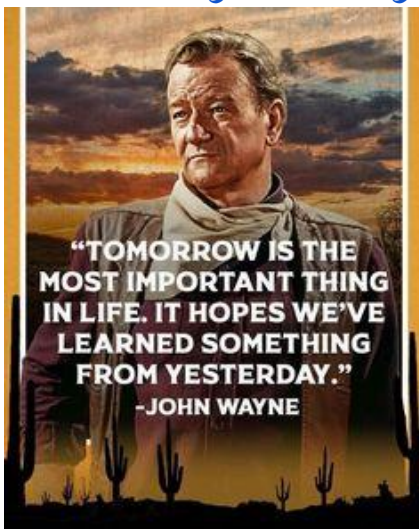
This shape has less surface area despite having the same volume!



Which is why the "holeless" donuts are usually filled in the center

When the proper donut is cooked, this part will still be uncooked

Remembering John Wayne:



John Wayne starring in the film - 'The Longest Day'



"I got an 'F' for my history test . . . But Dad said that John Wayne won the West!"

LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

1. Agree, never argue
2. Divert, never reason
3. Distract, never shame
4. Reassure, never lecture
5. Reminisce, never say "remember"
6. Repeat, never say "I told you"
7. Do what they can do, never say "you can't"
8. Ask, never demand
9. Encourage, never condescend
10. Reinforce, never force


Alzheimer's Poem

Do not ask me to remember
 Do not try to make me understand
 Let me rest and know you're with me
 Kiss my cheek and hold my hand
 I'm confused beyond your concept
 I am sad and sick and lost
 All I know is that I need you to be
 with me at all cost
 Do not lose your patience with me
 Do not scold or curse my cry
 I can't help the way I'm acting
 Can't be different though I try
 Just remember that I need you
 That the best of me is gone
 Please don't fail to stand beside me
 Love me till my life is done

Latin Phrases we Use to This Day Without Even Realizing:

QUID PRO QUO


What it means:
 "something for something", a situation in which someone does something in exchange for something else.



Today. This term is used to describe different facets of society, including legal terminology, a type of allegation, any mutually beneficial arrangement often with a negative connotation. However, the original Latin phrase implies something different. It only meant that something had been substituted whether accidentally or fraudulently.

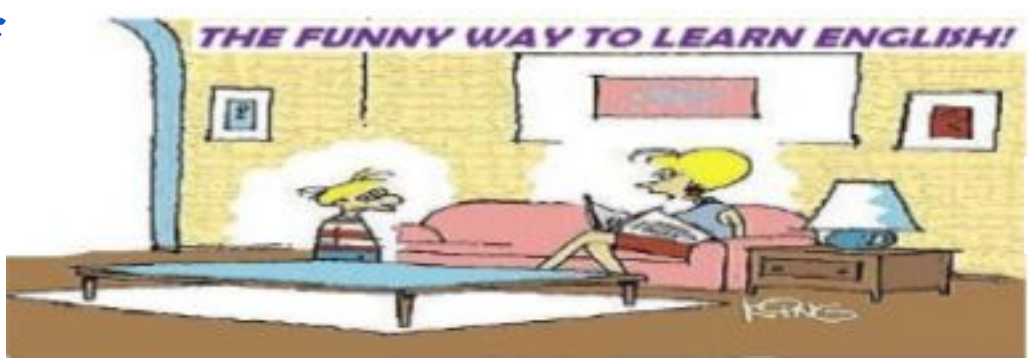
ALIAS

What it means:
 an assumed name or pseudonym.



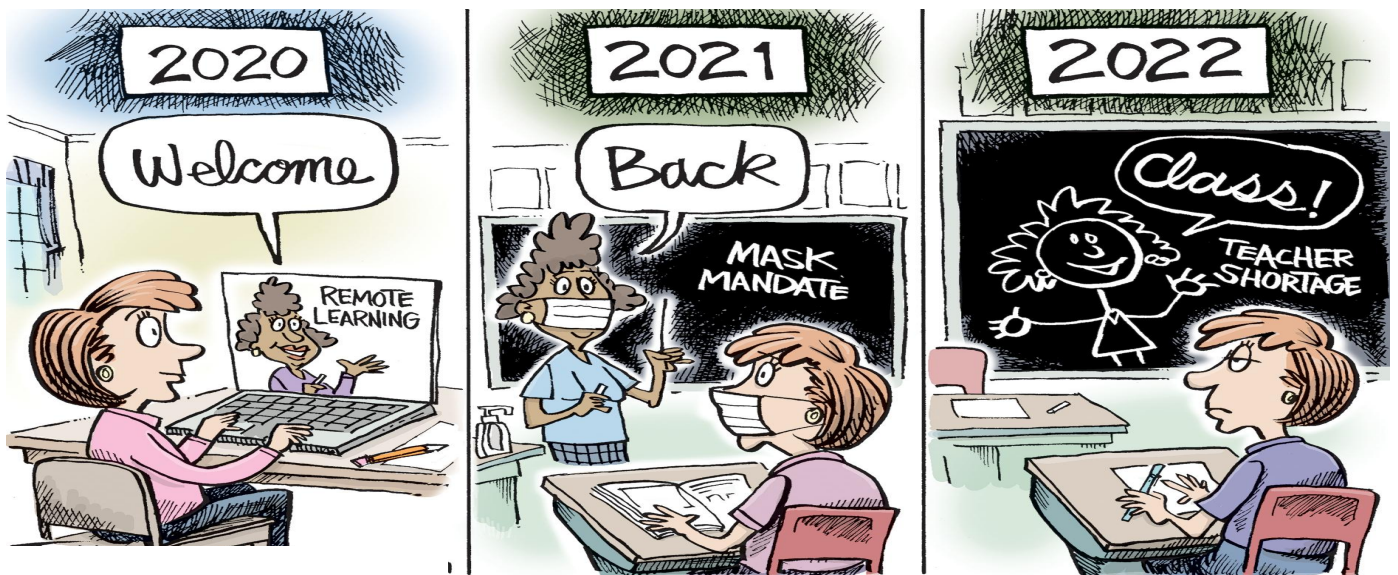
What do Agatha Christie and Tiger Woods have in common? They have both become famous but both of these names are actually aliases and pseudonyms and not their real names. The Latin word "alias" is translated as "at another time" or "elsewhere. The word pseudonym is from Greek meaning literally "false name".

As Kids See It:



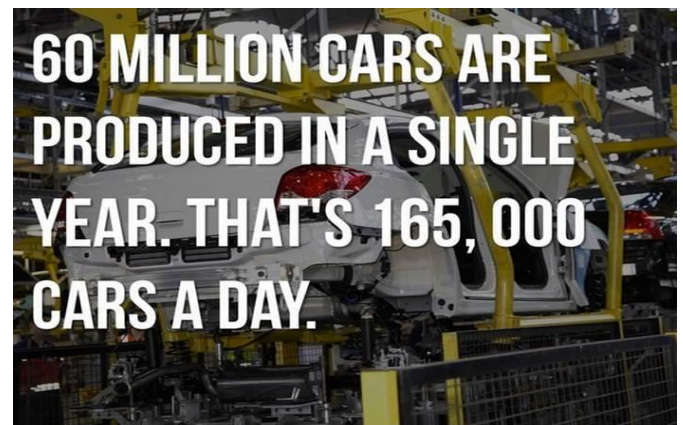
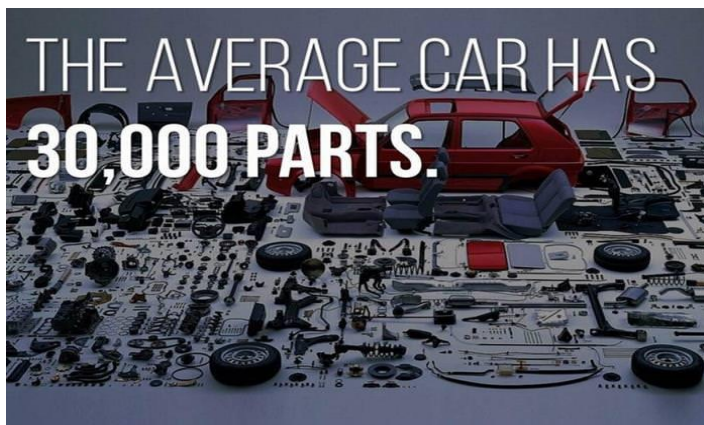
"No, you weren't downloaded son, you were born!"

Evolution of The Classroom:



Interesting Facts About Cars:

The first internal-combustion car appeared in 1885



Window on Cook Strait:

An essential part of New Zealand infrastructure

'Stuff' New Zealand News - June 22 2024

Headline -

"Govt 'committed to new ships' - transport minister"

"Transport minister Simeon Brown, speaking in Picton this afternoon stated "Kiwirail's number one job is to maintain ferries."

Brown also defended the coalition government's decision to axe orders for new ferries after significant cost blow-outs."

(Do we get new ferries or do we just replace a 'dunger' with a 'dunger'? - Ed.)



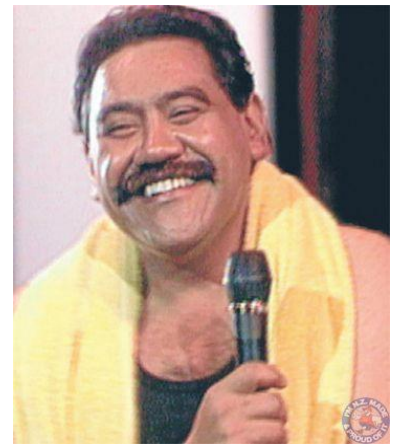
A Quip For Our Times:

"And in accordance with our obligation to the minority, here is the news in pakeha!"

- Billy T James
(cica 2016)

Billy T James, New Zealand's most beloved comedian died on August 7 1991 from heart failure.

The entertainer, comedian, musician and actor was famous for his yellow towel, adored chuckles, and hilarious jokes - making him a household name in 1980s New Zealand leaving the nation roaring their heads off with laughter.)



Famous Lawmen of The Wild West:

Life in the Wild West was hard for everyone



Sheriff **Pat Garrett** became famous after gunning down *Billy The Kid* in 1880. The two men were reported to have been friends despite being on opposite sides of the law. When *Billy The Kid* escaped from prison killing two guards, he was chased by Garrett who waited for him to arrive home and then shot him straight through the heart.



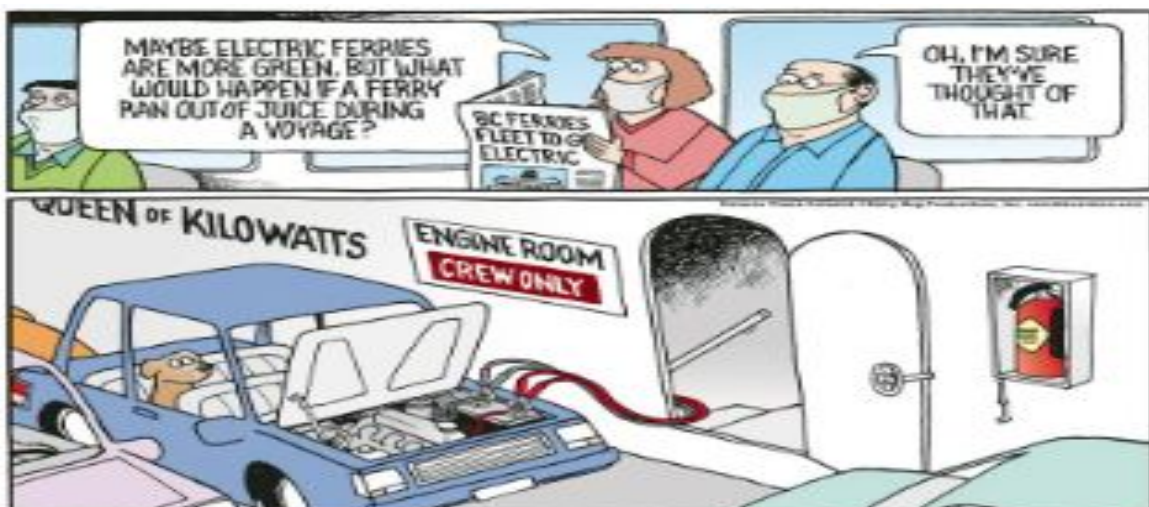
Following a gunfight over a woman, **William Barclay "Bat" Masterson** decided to become a man of the law. He joined his brothers, Jim and Ed, who were deputies in the notorious Dodge City. Soon after he was elected sheriff of Ford County. He was invited by Wyatt Earp to a gunfight in 1881 when he accidentally shot a bystander.

Quotable Quote:

General George Custer writing about Wild Bill Hickok

"Wild Bill was a strange character, add to this figure a costume blending The immaculate neatness of the dandy with the extravagant taste and style of a frontiersman, you have Wild Bill, the most famous scout on the Plains."

Maybe Another Option For Our Cook Strait Ferries:



The Most Luxurious Train in The World:

This train provides you with a real luxury experience and the opportunity to admire the beauty of the Japanese landscape while listening to live piano music and enjoying a Michelin meal. The Shiki-Shima train is operated by East Japan Railway and it takes travellers on a 2-day route from Ueno Station in Tokyo to the Hirosaki Station in the city of Hirosaki. It is one of the most luxurious, extravagant and expensive train rides in the world.

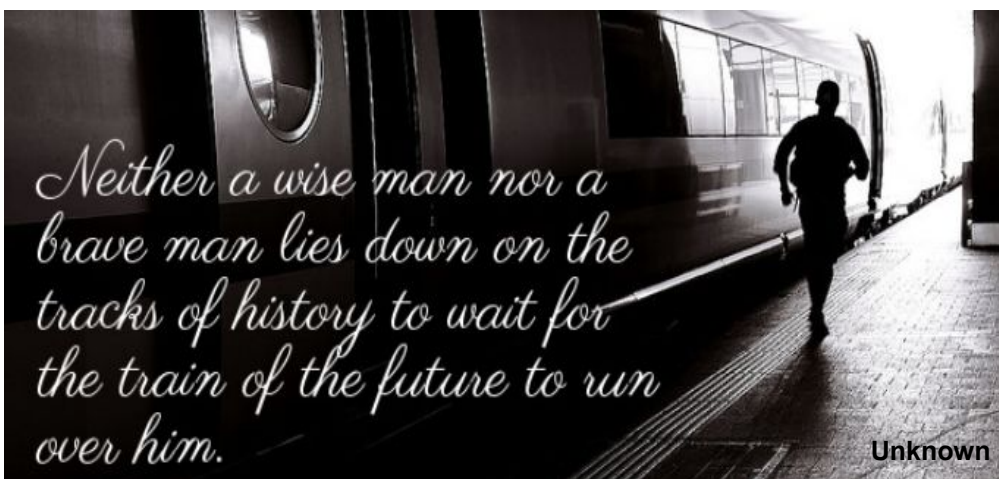


The train consists of 10 carriages which are fitted out to accommodate only 34 passengers. There is a five-star lounge with a fireplace, a piano and an area with panoramic windows. The restaurant on board has a menu created by a world class Michelin chef.



(I made enquiries about a NZ Senior discount, but they just laughed! - Ed.)

Quotable Quote:



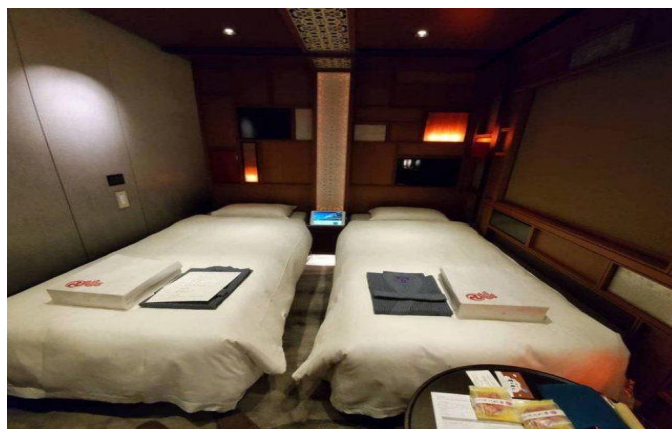
Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him.

Unknown

The Japanese have done it again!



How much money can you expect to spend on a journey like this? The most expensive suite consists of 2 floors and 3 rooms, and it costs 950,000 yen which is equivalent to about USD \$8,700. Standard accommodation will set you back \$2960-\$10,000.



Dwight D. Eisenhower
1890-1969

In The Kitchen:

Uses for lemons you may not have known



Pour some lemon juice around infested areas to repel ants



A cut lemon in the fridge to prevent unpleasant odours



Use half a lemon to remove limescale buildup in sinks and basins. Rinse well.



Heat a bowl of water and lemon wedges in your microwave to remove hard to clean stains

Don't Mess With Lady Bowlers!



HOW TO PSYCH OUT YOUR OPPONENT



THE MARKER