

SENIORS' ROUNDUP

Local and Worldwide Items of Interest

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Editorial:

Christmas is upon us again!

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A time which means many different things to many different people, not the least of which is, as they say, "Tis the reason for the Season".

While some see Christmas as a time of Christian celebration, and remembrance, others, (perhaps a majority), view the Christmas period as a time when we have a few extra days off work and for many it is their annual holiday time. Of course for young children, it is all about presents and that is not necessarily a bad thing. Be that as it may, the majority of people in New Zealand laud Christmas as a time to concentrate on family, maybe not always together but certainly a special time for loving contact wherever they may be.

Retailers of course look forward to the period prior to Christmas as the opportunity for a major sales push hoping that the traditional customer spend will offset the difficult trading leading up to that magical time.

In New Zealand we have an increasing tendency to celebrate Christmas twice. New Zealand along with other Southern Hemisphere countries such as Australia, South Africa and Brazil often celebrate a mid-winter Christmas in July in order to have Christmas with a winter feel in common with the Northern Hemisphere.

We live at a time where love, tolerance and goodwill are all in short supply in the world. Where greed, power and an increasing disregard for fellow human beings take precedence over all else. Even in 'God's Own', we are wrestling with an ever increasing disregard for the rule of law and consideration for others.

The 'Grinch' from the 1957 children's book by Dr. Seuss, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, sums up what I believe our approach to Christmas should be.

"Maybe Christmas, he thought doesn't come from a store.

Maybe Christmas, perhaps means a little bit more."

- The Grinch



While Christmas is a time when we give 'special' thoughts to our families (and often spend beyond our means in the process!), it is sad that the sentiment for many is largely confined to the months of December and January. While most will adhere to the premise that the value of true love is in the giving and not the receiving, it is beholden on us all to follow through with this concept throughout the year ahead.

Can we turn this depressing and unworthy state around? Of course we can! Not perhaps in terms of 'New Year resolutions' but with the realisation that we are all affected to some extents by the actions of others. Even the perpetrators of crime, violence and disregard are embroiled in the outcomes to some extent.

Enjoy Christmas as it was meant to be, remember 'the reason for the season' and if that does not fall within the realm of your personal beliefs, use the occasion as a catalyst to be more thoughtful, kind and considerate during the ensuing year and beyond.

To those who have lost loved ones and those who have suffered with health conditions during the past year, our sincere condolences and our warm regards go out to you.

However, despite the doom and gloom that at times may seem all-consuming, we must always hold positive our thoughts for a better future and on this note, *Seniors' Roundup* wishes you all a happy, safe and healthy Christmas.

Garry Thompson - UNIVERSITY OF LIFE



From Our Christmas Fact File:

The Highest-Grossing Christmas Movies

Highest-grossing Christmas-themed movies internationally (in million U.S. dollars)



As of Dec 14, 2021
Source: Box Office Mojo



The Downside of Christmas:





Increase in Road Traffic Policing For The Festive Season:





A Christmas Wish



What do I want for Christmas?
 Nothing to buy, nothing to sell.
 Family gatherings. Laughter. Music.
 Multitudes of happy children, warm and fed.
 An end to the current war, and to all wars.
 Water in the well, food on the table.
 Companionship for the lonely.
 Solitude for those in search of calm.
 Understanding for the prisoner.
 Compassion for those who judge.
 Strength for the belittled.
 Comfort for the torn.

I want what everyone wants,
 But believes can never happen.
 Truth instead of lies.
 Generosity instead of greed.
 Knowledge instead of fear.
 Modesty instead of arrogance.
 An open heart, an open mind.
 To follow Life where it leads,
 With gratitude for hard times
 And what they teach,
 And, when good times come,
 To pass them on for others to enjoy.

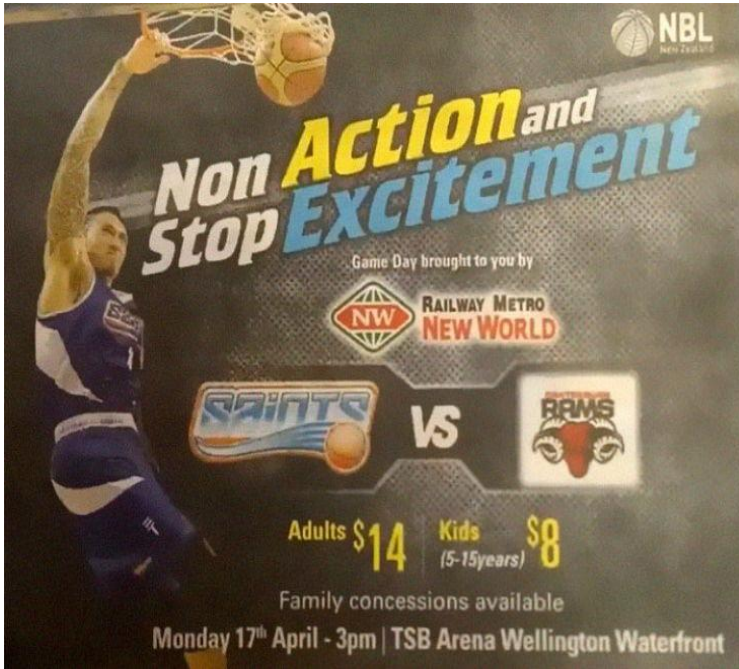
- William Michaelian



It's Holiday Time Again!



Signage That Gives The Wrong Impression:



Are sports events in New Zealand always so understated?



Take from this what you will !

Startling Discoveries in New Zealand:

On the 7th of January 1987, archaeologists carrying out an expedition inside a large cave system on Mount Owen came across a frightening and unusual object. It was an enormous dinosaur-like claw still intact with flesh and scaly skin. The claw was so well preserved that it appeared to have come from something that had only died recently.

Scientific analysis found the claw to be the 3,000-year-old mummified remains of an upland moa, a large prehistoric bird that had disappeared from existence centuries earlier. The Upland Moa was a giant flightless bird that was regularly found in areas of New Zealand and which grew up to four metres in height. It was hunted indiscriminately by the Maori people resulting in it being wiped from existence.

At 1875 metres, Mount Owen is the highest peak in Kahurangi National Park which is situated in the Tasman district at the top of the South Island.



Age Catches Up With All of Us!



We Don't Know How Lucky We Are

(John Clarke aka Fred Dagg)

At the dawn of day in the great Southern Ocean
where the world's greatest fish was being landed
and the boat they were pulling it into was sinking.
The sea was quite lumpy and the weather was foul
and the bloke with the map was as boozed as a fowl
and the boys called out "Maui, ya clown, let it go".

I was speaking to a mate of mine just the other day
a bloke called Bruce Bayliss, who lives up our way.
He's been travelling the world for a year more or less

I said "Describe the global position Bruce"

He said "Fred it's a mess".

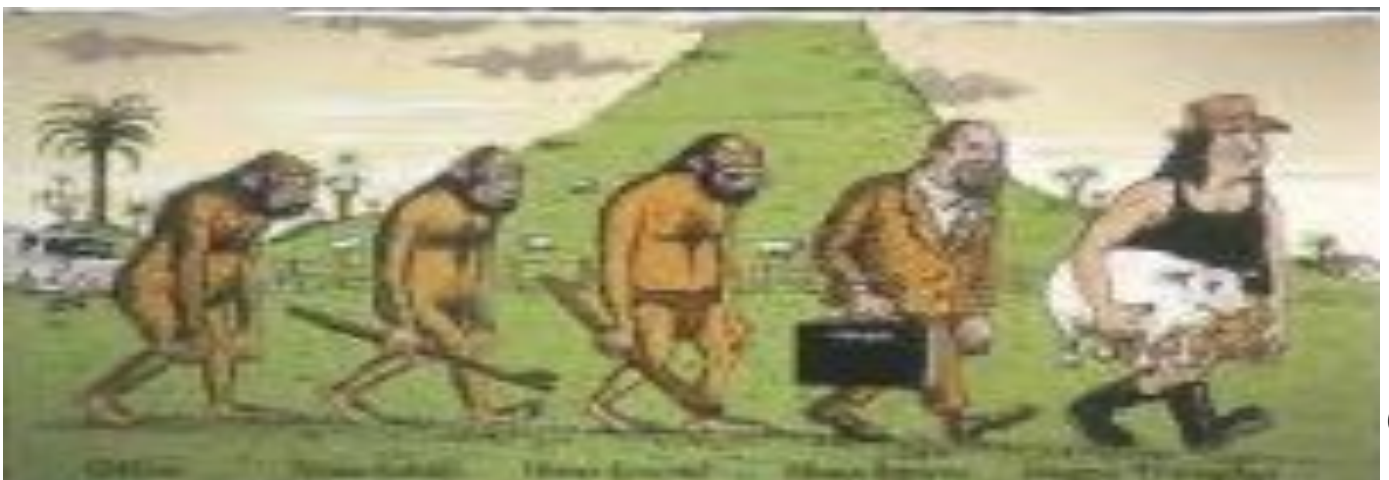
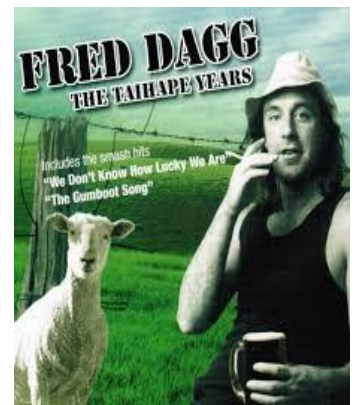
We don't know how lucky we are in this country,
we don't know how lucky we are to live here mate.

So when things are looking really bad
and you're thinking of giving it away,
remember New Zealand's a cracker.

And I reckon come what may,
if things get appallingly bad
and we're all under constant attack
remember we want to see clean ball
and remember to feed your backs.

We don't know how fortunate we are to live in New Zealand

We don't know how lucky we are!



From Our World Fact File:



We all love to sing along to *Jingle Bells* but have you ever noticed that the song doesn't have the word 'Christmas' in it? Or Jesus or Santa Claus. That's because it wasn't originally a Christmas song. In fact the anthem was written in 1850, entitled 'One Horse Open Sleigh' for American Thanksgiving.



Can you imagine if there was no Christmas? Well, believe it or not, in 1644 Christmas celebrations were made illegal in England and soon after in the English Colonies. Members of the government felt at that time that the religious meaning of Christmas had been forgotten. It was 20 years later before Christmas became legal again.

Travel Tales:



Only In Japan:

A country of crazy inventions!



The Hay Fever Hat -

Designed to take the tissues out of your pocket and put them on your head for convenience (but not appearance!)



The Baby-Grow Mop -

Harnessing the effective cleaning power of energetic babies!

The Magic of Louis Armstrong: What a Wonderful World

I see trees of green
Red roses too
I see them bloom
For me and you
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world



I see skies of blue
And clouds of white
The bright blessed day
The dark sacred night
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world

The colours of the rainbow
So pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces
Of people going by
I see friends shaking hands
Saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying
"I love you"

I hear babies cry
I watch them grow
They'll learn much more
Than I'll ever know
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world
Yes, I think to myself
What a wonderful world
Ooh, yes...



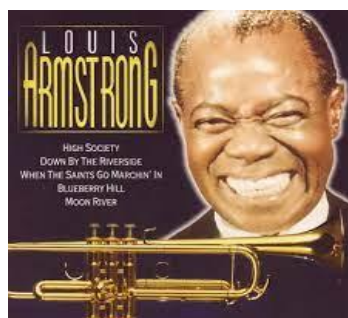
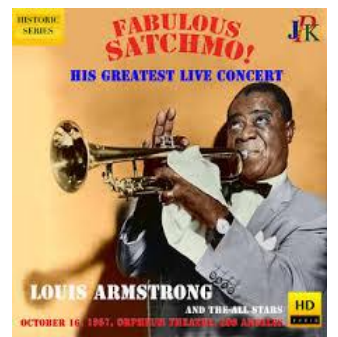
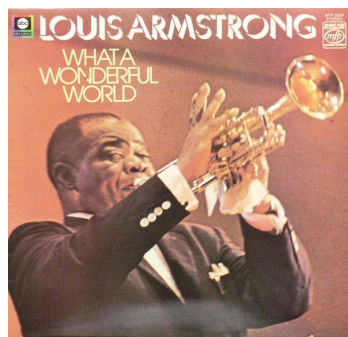
The Legendary New Orleans singer Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong had been making records since 1923, but in 1967 he released "What a Wonderful World", which would become the biggest-selling song of his long and celebrated career.

The song highlights the little things in life that are beautiful and which people seem to lose sight of. It reminds us to take a step back and focus more on the positive aspects the world has to offer. It may be a difficult time or a difficult week, but the world won't stop spinning. It reminds us not to take things for granted, but instead appreciate the wonder of the world around us. It makes us cry. It grabs our attention and makes us think twice.



Louis Daniel Armstrong 1901-1971

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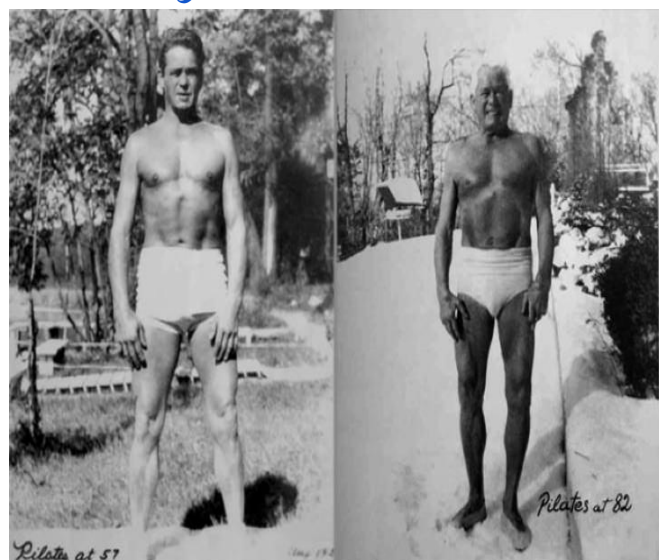
Two Colourful Sayings That May Brighten Your Day:



World War One Inventions That Are Still in Use Today:



Heavy serge coats were first worn during WW1, When trench warfare was first introduced. The heavy serge coats became no longer practical for soldiers and In the late 19th century a new fabric was developed. This was lightweight and water resistant. The new coats had large pockets with rings and flaps which served as storage for maps, weapons and personal belongings, Soon these garments were dubbed "trench coats" and were mass produced with a slightly altered version being available to the general public. They soon caught on and before long became a real fashion statement.



The popular exercise yoga, started during WW1 when Joseph Hubertus Pilates, a circus performer and boxer, who was German but worked in Great Britain. While on the Isle of Man he developed an exercise technique inspired by yoga bodybuilding and martial arts to strengthen and train his body. After the war he moved to New York where he opened a fitness studio named after him. The technique originally names *Contrology* became widely popular by the 1930s and *Pilates* as it is now known has become popular worldwide.

Pets Love Christmas Too!



SECTION 1 ★ NZ Herald, Monday, November 13, 1989 5

Pakeha rights reminder

The Maori people must remember that the Treaty of Waitangi gave the Pakeha a right to be in New Zealand, the Minister of Maori Affairs, Mr Wetere, told the Maori Wardens' Association at its annual conference in Kawerau at the weekend.

"We must remember that if we are the tangata whenua, the original people, then the Pakeha are the tangata tiriti, those who belong to the land by right of that treaty," he said.

Mr Wetere said he had been concerned by near-hysteria about the Maori ownership of land.

"The anxiety and alarm these sorts of outbursts create cause irreparable damage to any notion of partnership that we must continue to forge for this country.

"It is important for us to conduct ourselves with dignity in the

debate surrounding land claims and in the wider issue of race relations."

Mr Wetere said that if the Maori people were to honour their forebears they must never challenge, threaten, compromise or prejudice the rights of the Pakeha to be in New Zealand.

"We cannot claim our own rights if we do not first respect the rights of others. We cannot honour our own people, our forebears, if we do not first honour others."

"The paramount concern of our people is that any government should honour the Treaty of Waitangi and honour the partnership between the Crown and the Maori people that the principles of the treaty impose."

Mr Wetere also signalled the introduction of legislation to em-

power iwi authorities. The legislation, to be introduced soon, would "provide a framework in which iwi can seek to be recognised as the official representatives of their people," Mr Wetere said.

"It is you, your whanau and your hapu who will decide which iwi authority will represent you."

As part of the devolution process, the Iwi Transition Agency will, over five years, transfer the Government-funded programmes it conducts to iwi authorities.


Until they are legislated for, these authorities have interim status only.

Mr Wetere said the legislation he intended to introduce would make provision for the recognition of Maoris who had left their tribal base to live in cities.

—Tauranga staff and NZPA.

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The Life And Times of Kirk Douglas:

American actor and film producer

Kirk Douglas was born in New York in 1916. He was the son of Russian Jewish immigrants and was known as Issur Danielovitch and later on also as Izzy Demsky before taking the stage name of Kirk Douglas. He worked as an usher, a hotel attendant, a waiter and a professional wrestler while attending university and the American Academy of Dramatic Art during 1939-41. He served in the U.S. Navy in 1943-44 and was then drawn to Hollywood.

His first role was in *The Strange Love of Martha Ivers* (1946) with Barbara Stanwyck. In 1949 he received an Oscar nomination for his portrayal as a ruthless boxer in *Champion*. Although he was viewed in the industry as cocky, intense and a self-absorbed individual, his on-screen charisma made him an audience favourite.

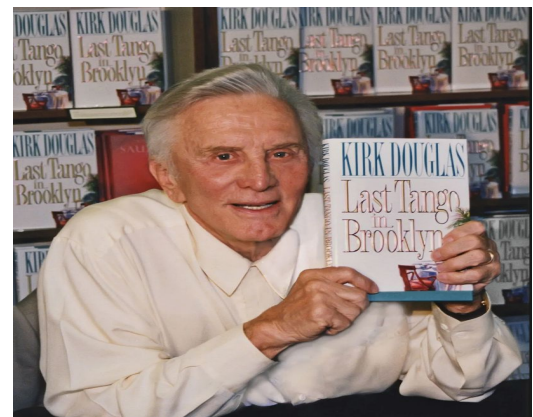


Kirk Douglas 1916-2020

His final feature film appearance was in *Illusion* (2004) and his last screen role was in the TV movie *Empire State Building Murders* (2008)



Kirk Douglas was very athletic with a distinctive voice and a deeply cleft chin. He worked on some of the most highly regarded films of the 1950s and received his second Oscar nomination when he played the part of a corrupt motion-picture executive in *The Bad And The Beautiful* (1952). One of Kirk Douglas's most memorable performances was his portrayal of the tormented genius Vincent van Gogh in *Lust For Life* (1956).



Kirk Douglas at a book signing in 1994



As he appeared in Spartacus (1960)

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Kirk Douglas as Vincent van Gogh in Lust For Life

In addition to acting, Douglas wrote a number of books including the best-selling novels *Dance With The Devil* (1990) and *The Gift* (1992) and a nonfiction work titled *I am Spartacus!*

He received a Life Achievement Award from The American Film Institute in 1991 and an honorary Academy Award in 1996.



Heartwarming Pictures of Animals in Love:



One of The Greatest Speeches in History:

The speech Martin Luther King gave at Washington on August 29 1963, is arguably one of the most legendary speeches in history. An estimated 250,000 came to take part in what was then the largest gathering in Washington's history.

King's speech was eloquent and inspiring, making relatable use of universal themes and reference to depict the African American struggle for freedom..

Surprisingly, the famous "I have a dream..." segment that he used did not appear in his speech notes which had been hastily prepared the night before.

Martin Luther King Jr. 1929-1968



"I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice," he said in his speech.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today."

- Martin Luther King

The Real Value Of a Banana:

Banana and duct tape sold for \$6.2 million at art auction!



The Trouble We Have With Passwords:



If Only We Could Be So Lucky:



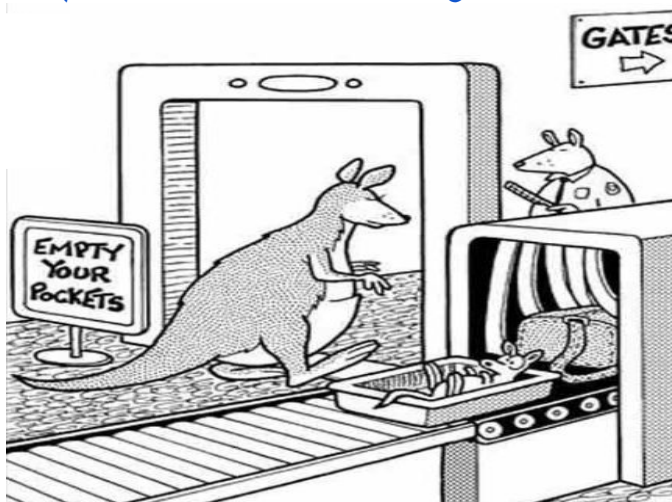
In 2009, a builder was redecorating the house of his old school friend. When he dismantled the tiles in the bathroom he found two metal medicine chests stuffed with envelopes full of money. They contained \$182,000 US.

While the two friends were elated about the find, they could not agree on how to share the money. The owner of the house offered his friend 10% of the find but he said he should have at least 40%. They couldn't agree and were forced to go to court which determined the money should be shared equally between the parties.



The Royal Opal - In 1873 a lucky guy in Australia found one of the world's rarest opals. During a regular work day he found a big sparkling opal at the bottom of a bucket filled with ordinary stones. The man did not know what it was and kept it as a souvenir. Fourteen years later he got around to showing the stone to a specialist and was told that he had found an incredibly rare black opal. The stone was named "Royal One" and according to experts, its value was in the vicinity of \$3 million. It was thought by some to be not genuine because it was impossible for a gem to have such "fire".

Airports Can be Interesting Places!





Now, Here's a Story For You: An unlikely destination

A police constable on mobile patrol in the early hours came across an older male walking alone along the street wobbling all over the place. When stopped for questioning, to make sure that he was not about to get into a car to drive home, the constable asked him where he had come from.

"I have come from the best place in the world!" he answered in a very sloshed voice. "This is my favourite bar, it has the best drinks and the nicest girls in the world. Each one is more friendlier than the next!" The man continued as he winked at the cop.

"It sounds like a great place" said the officer. "And where are you going at this time of the night?" "Shouldn't you be in bed?"

"What? Sleep? No way. I'm on my way to lecture on alcohol addiction and its effects on the body, the harm smoking does to one and the need for proper social behaviour."

"Really?" the officer responded dubiously. "Are you sure you haven't drunk too much tonight? I seriously doubt anyone is giving a lecture on these topics at this time of the night."

The man sighed and said "Tell that to my wife..."



Quotable Quote:

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to injustice everywhere."



King Charles III

Seniors' Roundup Magazine:

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Seniors' Roundup goes out to seniors all over New Zealand and a number overseas. You may unsubscribe at any time.



Remember The 'Tiri'?

Infamous pirate radio ship in the sixties

In October 1966, a group of determined young men defied the police and the government by launching a coastal ship that had been converted into a pirate radio station which they intended to use to broadcast from the Hauraki Gulf.

Given the enormous advances in technology and the intervening liberalisation of society, it seems inconceivable that there was a time when independent radio stations in New Zealand were illegal.

Yet, such was the situation during the sixties.

The coastal scow 'Tiri' was redeployed to provide radio broadcasts from outside our territorial waters in the Hauraki Gulf in defiance of the laws of the day. This action was largely in response to a growing youth audience who were clamouring for radio that was more aligned to their generation. Radio Hauraki, as the ship was known, broadcast their popular mix of rock music and general chatter from the international waters 50 miles from Auckland beyond the reach of the law and prosecution.



The M.V. Tiri was launched in 1931 and for many years served as a coastal freighter in New Zealand waters. She had a hull of oak and a keel of iron, 31 meters in length with a displacement of 169 tons. The Tiri was powered by diesel motor rated at about 200 horsepower. Her cargo hold was full of radio gear-transmitting an AM signal at 1480 Kilohertz.

During that era, Pirate Radio stations had also been tried in the United Kingdom but with little success. Radio Hauraki however did achieve a degree of unexpected success through their perseverance in the face of political interference, harassment, court cases and financial difficulties.



M.V. Tiri at anchor in the Hauraki Gulf

On December 4th 1966, she dropped anchor in the gulf, and Radio Hauraki went on air. Listeners loved the programming and clamoured for more which resulted in increased advertising revenue. Within months, they had reached market saturation with over a million listeners. It seemed that all ages tuned in at some point during their day and the majority of young people listened to nothing else.

Radio Hauraki played the music of local artists and the latest rock and pop hits from America and the UK. As there was no room to store records on the ship, most of the programming was recorded at an Auckland studio a week in advance. It was then flown to Great Barrier Island and shuttled out to the Tiri.

The records they played were often supplied by Air New Zealand pilots who would go to Tower Records in Los Angeles and pick up a copy of every album in the American Top 40.

The New Zealand Broadcast Authority was in no hurry to grant licences to private competitors as they had a nice little monopoly going on. The immediate success they achieved was largely due to the airplay and promotional opportunities it gave to homegrown productions. On the 24th of March, 1970 it was finally given a licence after 1,111 days at sea.

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"Try to smile a bit louder."



The Left And Right and Inbetween of Politics in New Zealand:

Those who follow politics or who even take a cursory interest in the policies of the various political parties in New Zealand often struggle with the current definition of 'Left', 'Right' and 'Centre'.

While there are 18 political parties currently registered with the Electoral Commission, there only two New Zealand political parties that have won the popular vote in four consecutive elections twice. The centre-left NZ Labour Party and centre-right NZ National party. The National Party is considered to be a more conservative party and is often dubbed 'right wing' while the Labour Party is generally considered to be more open to liberal ideas.

When looking at the current coalition government in New Zealand, the Act Party would be classed as right wing and Conservative and the New Zealand First Party right-wing. On the Opposition benches, the Maori Party's political position is left-wing and the Green Party's ideology is environmentalism and left-wing.



The New Zealand political parties currently registered (2023) with the Electoral Commission -



A Poem For Christmas:

by Helen Steiner Rice

I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book,
and every year when Christmas comes, I go and take a look.
And that is when I realise that these names are a part
Not of the book they are written in, but really on my heart.

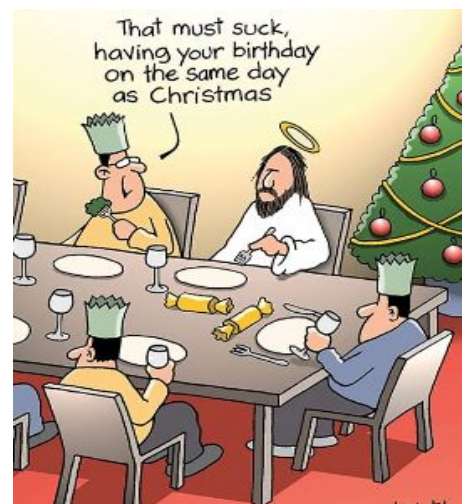
For each name stands out for someone who has crossed my path
sometime, and in meeting they have become the rhythm in each rhyme.
And while it sounds fantastic for me to make that claim,
I really feel that I'm composed of each remembered name.

And while you may not be aware of any special link,
just meeting you has changed my life a lot more than you think.
For once I've met somebody, the years cannot erase,
the memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face.

So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine,
of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between.
For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,
it is because you're on the list that I'm indebted to.

For I am but the total of the many folks I've met,
and you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget.
And whether I have known you for many years or few,
in some ways you have been a part in shaping things I do.

And every year when Christmas comes, I realise anew,
the best gifts life can offer is meeting folks like you.
And may the spirit of Christmas that forever endures,
Leave its richest blessings in the hearts of you and yours



Reflecting on 2024:



A Controversial Artwork That Changed Art History:



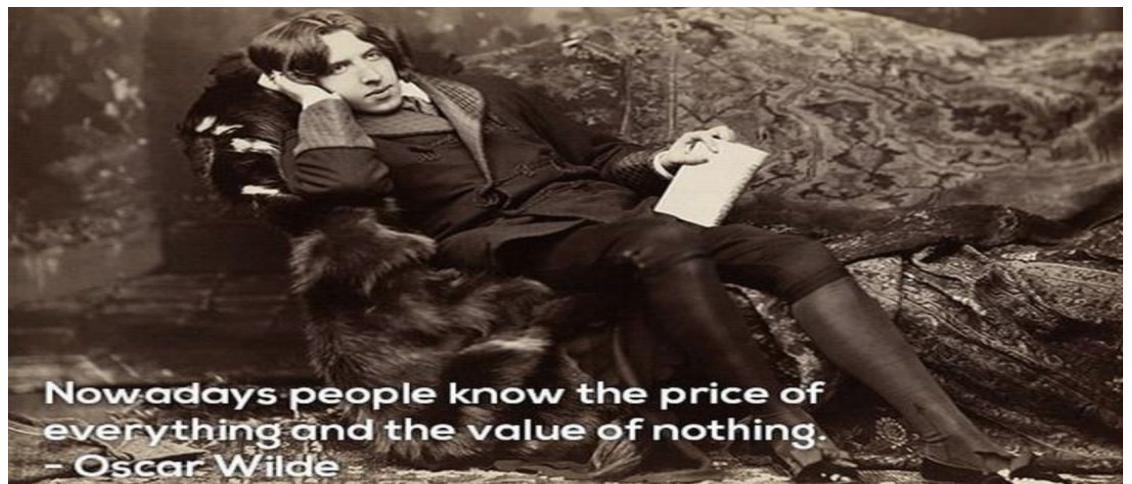
Michelangelo, *The Last Judgement*, 1536-1541

From the moment Michelangelo's *The Last Judgement* was unveiled in 1541, it attracted immediate controversy. Audiences were equally amazed and horrified when they saw this depiction of the Second Coming of Christ.

Nude bodies had appeared in art before but what shocked viewers was the expansive display of nudity relating to all types of ordinary people as well as martyrs.

Religious officials spoke out against the painting including the style in which Michelangelo had chosen to paint Jesus. In a move called a fig-leaf campaign, bits of fabric and flora were placed over the exposed body parts of the 300 figures, changing the nature of the original work. Some of them were later removed as part of a 20th century restoration but by then his painting had already impacted art history.

*Oscar Wilde's
Thoughts
on
Price
and
Value:*



And You Think That You've Had it Tough!

