

SENIORS' ROUNDUP

Local and Worldwide Items of Interest

November (2) 2024 - Issue No. 80

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Editorial: We don't know how lucky we are!

As we sit in our cozy armchairs and watch night after night scenes of tragedy and human suffering unfold around the world, we are inevitably overwhelmed with feelings of despair and helplessness.

While our feelings are genuine and heartfelt, I suspect that many of us give little thought to just how lucky we are to be living in such an enviable part of the world.

We could put to one side for a moment politics and social issues, and reflect on New Zealand as a whole. Our geographical position in the world, must surely fill our hearts with gladness as we take in our natural beauty and the boundless opportunities that surround us. The age-old proverb, "There are none so blind as those who will not see" can probably be applied to most of us as we concentrate on and are influenced by the many issues that affect our daily lives. Naturally, during times of conflict, deprivation and personal health issues it is difficult to appreciate the wider aspects of just how lucky we are, living in New Zealand. Given these circumstances, it may not always be easy to take a step back and appreciate a national perspective of our surroundings but if we can do so, the rewards to our physical and sociological wellbeing may well result in a new and valuable frame of reference to our wellbeing.



I was recently talking to visitors from overseas who were on their first visit to Nelson. As they looked across the glistening waters of Tasman Bay, to the snow-capped peaks of Mount Arthur and Kahurangi National Park, they exclaimed with just one word. "Wow!"



Nelsonians take this breadth of natural beauty for granted. Many view it on a daily basis and give little thought to how lucky they are living in such a wondrous and peaceful part of the world.

As with so many regions of New Zealand, we have an embarrassment of riches when it comes to our native bush, our lakes, our mountains, our beaches and our forests. We have some of the most diverse and naturally beautiful coastlines in the world. Our East Coast beaches, in particular in the north of the South Island and the Far North never fail to impress visitors to our shores with their pristine golden sand often backdropped by native bush and productive farmland.

Turmoil, with its regrettable but inevitable effect on humanity and infrastructure is 'par for the course' in many parts of the world. Many countries that do have magnificent scenery and opportunities for their inhabitants to enjoy and visitors to marvel at are denied the privilege as a result of continuous civil unrest.

This brings to mind (once again!) the immortal words of our very own, Fred Dagg aka John Clarke - "We don't know how lucky we are mate.

We don't know how lucky we are."

Garry Thompson - UNIVERSITY OF LIFE

The World's Youngest Billionaires:



Mark Zuckerberg -

Mark Zuckerberg is aged 39 and has an estimated net worth of \$125 billion. The Facebook CEO was worth 127.7 billion in 2021 according to Forbes magazine.

He made his fortune when he was still at Harvard University where he invented a social network site that was originally just for those on campus. The site was so successful that it has become the largest social networking site in the world. Billions of people use Facebook in which Zuckerberg has the controlling shares, is CEO and Chairman.

Quotable Quote:

"Adulthood is like looking both ways before you cross the road and then getting hit by an aeroplane `."

- Unknown



Lukas Walton -

Lukas Walton is 37 years of age and has a net worth of 15.6 billion.

Since February 2021, Walton has seen his fortune decrease by almost \$7 billion, which for most billionaires would put them off the elite list of world billionaires. Lukas Walton however is not like most billionaires. His father was Sam Walton, the man who founded Walmart in the United States.

After Lucas's father and Sam's son died in a plane crash in 2005, Lukas became the sole heir to the Walmart empire which has a current dollar value of \$486 billion.

Travel Tales:



"That's mistletoe.

We like to give every passenger a chance to kiss their luggage good-bye."



"Honestly, I wasn't flirting. I ask everyone in the exit row if they're 'willing and able'."



The Atacama Desert is famous for being the driest place in the world. It is a virtually rainless plateau that sits across a location nearly 600 miles wide and is 50 times drier than Death Valley in the United States. It has a rainfall of just 1 millimetre per year across the whole region. Some weather stations have never reported any precipitation since records began. The desert sits in a unique volcanic area. The whole area offers beautiful sunsets and clear skies making it a tourist attraction for many.

It has the unique feature of white salt in the foreground in front of snowy peaks. The desert was at the centre of a huge land dispute between Chile and Bolivia in the 1800s, mainly because the area has a large supply of sodium nitrate, a source of considerable economic possibilities. The mining industry is big business and although Chile won the land dispute there remains considerable resentment across the border.

Now, Here's a Story For You:

Two police officers were on patrol at 4 am in the morning when they suddenly came across an older man walking alone on the footpath wobbling and barely able to walk. They stopped and questioned him to make sure he was OK and not getting into a car to drive home. "Where have you come from?" they asked him. "I come from the best place in the world!" he answered in a slurred voice. "This is my favourite bar that has the best drinks and the nicest girls! Each one is friendlier than the next!" the man continued as he winked at the cops.

"It sounds like a great place." said one of the officers. But where are you going now? Shouldn't you be home in bed?"

"What? Sleep? No way, I'm on my way to a lecture on alcohol addiction and its effects on the body, the harms of smoking and proper social behaviour."

"Reaaaaly?" Said one of the cops dubiously as he exchanged knowing looks with his partner. "Are you sure you didn't drink too much tonight? I seriously doubt if anyone is giving lectures on these topics at this time of the night."

The man signed and said, "Tell that to my wife..."

An unlikely destination



"I knew you'd come crawling back."

Too Drunk to Drive?

Forget Ubers, take a Basket Man instead!

There is nothing more objectionable than a person who is too drunk to stand let alone too drunk to drive. These days we are lucky enough to have taxis, Ubers and the like to save us from despicable and illegal situations.

In the early 1960s, Istanbul overcame many of these problems by employing 'basket men'. In the Turkish language, "Kufe" translates to being so drunk you can not walk and another saying they have is "Kufelik Olmak" which means "needing to be carried home in a basket". This transportation was widely used and the basket men became a popular drunk service in Turkey during the 1960s.

Most of Turkey's basket men had other jobs during the day and carried drunks home at night as a secondary job.

Many of these hard-working individuals worked as porters during the day carrying luggage and other heavy things for a price, and then at night reverted to carrying people for extra money.

Most of the basket men were not paid by the drunk they were carrying home. Instead they were employed by the taverns and bars as a service to their customers.

We are told that the term "basket case" originated from WW1, indicating a soldier who was missing arms legs or both and was carried around in a litter or "basket".



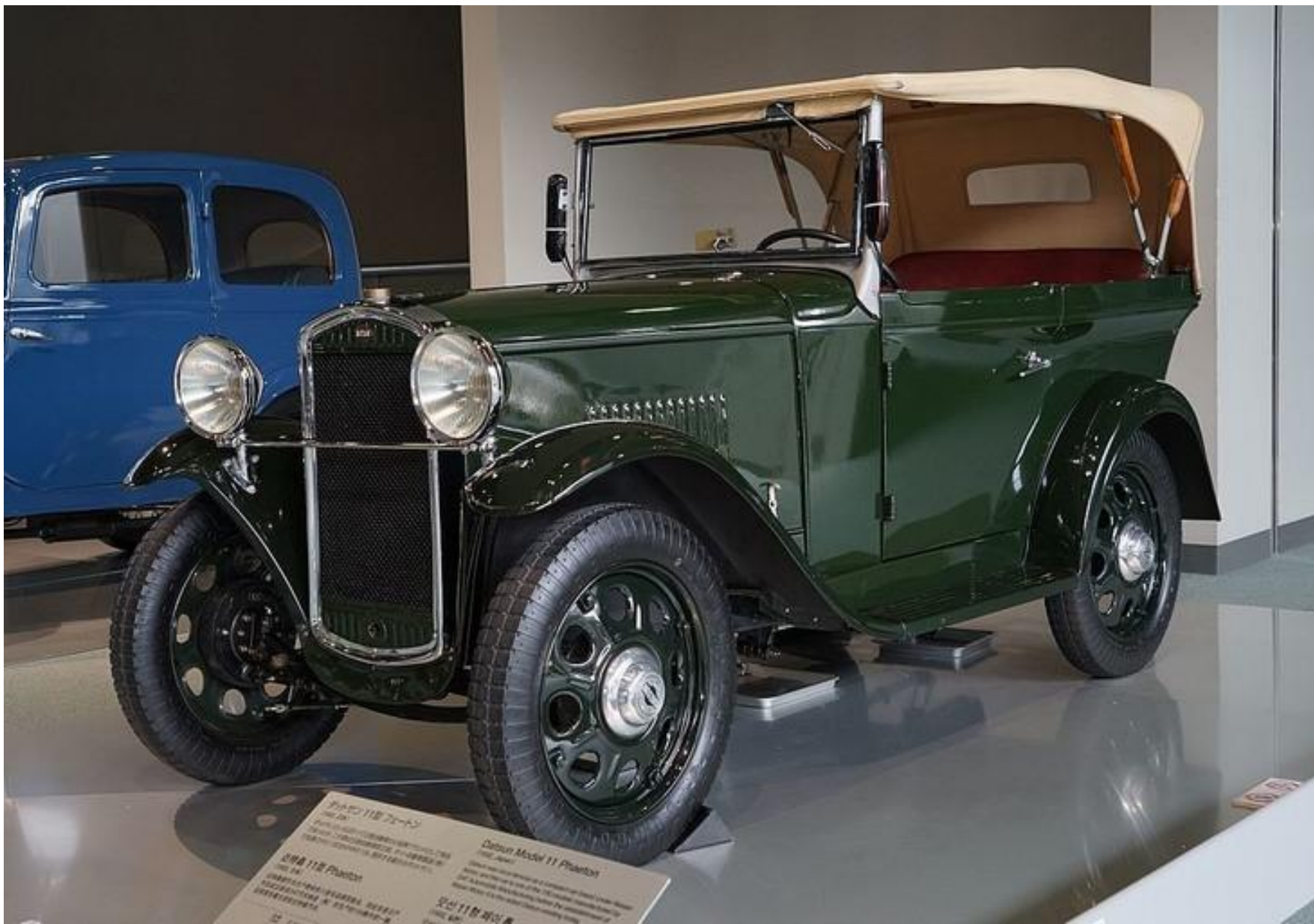
Quotable Quote:

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**"Always do sober what you said you'd do when you were drunk.
That will teach you to keep your mouth shut."**

- Ernest Hemingway

First Models of Famous Car Brands:



Nissan - DAT -

In 1911, even before Nissan was called by that name, and was known as Kyoushinsha, the company created its first vehicle call DAT. The initials formed the names of the investors in the company. After several years, a smaller version of the DAT was released which can be seen in the picture above, and was given the name "Datsun", The name was originally spelled in English as Datson, meaning "son of the Dat," but the name was changed to Datsun because the Japanese word 'son' means "loss".



Toyota - A1 -

In May 1935, Toyota finished the A1 prototype and a Buddhist monk blessed it during a special ritual. Kiichiro Toyoda, the founder of the Toyota company then drove the car to his father's burial site as his father had provided the first capital to get the company started. The A1 had a 6-cylinder engine of 62 horsepower, with the engine resembling a Chevy and the chassis and electrical components resembling Ford cars. In 1936 the car was redesigned and became known as the A1.

From Our World Fact File:

How many babies are born each day in the world?



According to the publication, 'World Counts' between 385,000 and 400,000 babies are born each day.

Each hour about 16,300 babies arrive into the world. That makes for about 270 babies a minute and between 4 and 5 a second.

According to researchers, most babies are born in the month of September while February has the least number of births.

And That's About The Truth of It:



**"A body goes through changes during the teen years.
When you started dating my hair turned grey.
When you started driving, I got heart palpitations. . ."**



"I could be a healthy person if you'd stop finding things wrong with me."

Advances in Road Safety Around The World:



In France, some pedestrian crossings have lights that turn on to warn drivers when a pedestrian is detected. The flashing lights have been a welcome safety enhancement at crossings resulting in a greater number of drivers than before slowing and giving way.



Speed camera lotteries in Stockholm, Sweden have proved very successful in lowering speed. If you drive below the limit, you automatically go into a lottery with a prize fund derived from the fines paid by speeding motorists.

Here's Some Irish Logic For You:

FRIENDSHIP
is when people know
all about you...
but like you anyway

I don't like to think
before I speak...
I like to be just as
surprised as everyone else
about what I say.

OLD IRISH BLESSING: (But as usual, open to interpretation!)

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face.

*May the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again,*

may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

- Origin unknown

One law for all?

Quotable Quote:

At a recent presentation to the New Zealand Parliament Justice Select Committee concerning perspectives around the *Marine and Coastal Amendment Bill*, Te Pati Maori MP, Takuta Ferris referred to the law as "Pakeha Law".

However, Brigitte Morten responded by saying -

"As a lawyer, I only recognise laws from the New Zealand Parliament which does not distinguish between "Pakeha law" and "non-Pakeha law".



The Life And Times of Elizabeth Taylor:

For many of us, Elizabeth Taylor is remembered as much for having been married eight times as for her well-endowed charms, her on-screen presence and her acting ability.

Dame Elizabeth Rosemond Taylor was a British and American film actress. She began her career as a child actress in the early 1940s and was one of the most popular stars in Hollywood during the 1950s and 1960s. It was not long before she got her big break with a role in the 1942 film *There's One Born Every Minute*. Soon after she was cast in the feature film *Lassie Come Home* and her career as a child actor began to take off.

In 1944 she transitioned to grown-up roles when she starred in the film *National Velvet*. Elizabeth Taylor was nominated for best actress for her role in *Raintree County* (1957), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1958), *Suddenly Last Summer* (1959), *Butterfield 8* (1960) and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* in 1966 with the last two gaining her the converted Oscar award.



Elizabeth Taylor with Richard Burton in *Cleopatra* (1963)

As her fame as a movie star continued to grow, Elizabeth was also gaining off-screen fame for her string of eight marriages to seven different men. Her first marriage, a ten-month affair with Nicky Hilton of hotel fame ended in 1951 and was followed by a marriage to Michael Wilding in 1952. Then followed Mike Todd (1957-1958), Eddie Fisher (1959-1964), Richard Burton 1964-1974), Richard Burton (again, 1975-1976), John Warner (1976-1982) and Larry Fortensky (1991-1996).

A very busy girl indeed!

Elizabeth Taylor was an avid supporter of the American Aids Foundation and travelled the world as a spokeswoman for the organisation. She also used her fame to create lucrative perfume and costume jewelry lines.



Elizabeth Taylor 1932-2011

In 1993 she received the American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award. She received the French Legion of Honour in 1987 and was made Dame Commander of the Order of The British Empire in 2000. She died of congestive heart failure in 2011 at the age of 79 years. Her net worth was estimated at nearly \$1 billion mainly accrued from her business interests.



Old Structures in The World:



Tower of Hercules Lighthouse, Spain-

Known as the oldest functioning lighthouse in the world, Hercules is possible one of the most well-preserved structures dating back to Roman times.

According to legend, this was the precise spot where Hercules slew the giant monster, Geryon and was originally known as the 'Brigantia Lighthouse', Built in the 2nd century, it stands 55 metres tall and has only been renovated once.



Arles Amphitheatre in France -

Built in 90 A.D. this is another great example of Roman architecture inspired by the Colosseum in Rome. The amphitheatre was built to seat 20,000 people and has 120 arches along with a number of galleries and staircases. It was built to host a variety of spectacles such as gladiatorial battles, chariot races, executions and animal combat and it served for over four centuries.



Two of the oldest buildings in New Zealand are the Stone Store and the Mission House at Kerikeri.



"Mary, I believe in historic preservation too, but . . ."

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Now, Here's a Story For All of Us:

A psychologist hosted a well-attended workshop about stress management.

At one point, she raised a glass of water. The audience assumed that she would ask them the well-known question: "Is the glass half empty or half full?"

Instead, with a smile on her face, she enquired: "How heavy is this glass of water?"

The audience call out a range of numbers from 8 oz to 20 oz.

The were eager to discover why they were asked this question.

But to their surprise the psychologist responded:

"The weight of the glass does not matter. What does, however, is how long I hold it."

"If I hold the glass for a minute, it's not a problem."

"If I hold it for an hour, my arm will ache."

"If I hold it for a day, my arm will feel numb and paralysed."

"Your stresses and worries in life are like this glass of water."

"If you think about them for a while, nothing happens."

Think about them for a bit longer and they begin to hurt.

But if you think about them all day long, you will feel paralysed and incapable of doing anything."

It is important to let go of your stresses, your fears and your worries.

Early in the evening, put all your burdens down.

Don't carry them into the night.

Always remember to put that glass down and give your arm a rest."

"I wasted all day worrying about yesterday that nobody will remember tomorrow."

- Anon (or - most of us!)

The weight of the water



History of The Seat Belt:

Before they appeared in cars, seat belts were invented in the late 1800s for glider pilots (it was handy to prevent them from falling out). They were designed by Sir George Cayley who built the first successful and commercially viable glider in 1853. In 1885, the first US patent was issued for a safety belt. This was a belt style contraption described as "to be applied to the person, and provided with hooks and other attachments for securing the person to a fixed object. "

By the early 1900s, cars were already reaching speeds of over 50 kph but it was not until the 1950s that there were serious conversations about the safety of drivers and passengers.

In 1956, Ford positioned itself as the safety-conscious car which saw both front and rear lap belts fitted to all new cars.

This turned out to be a disaster for Ford as no one was particularly interested in car safety during that era and their sales plummeted so seat belts were dropped as a standard inclusion in their new cars. Interestingly enough, just a few years earlier in 1954 the Sports Car Club of America required seat belts to be fitted for all racing drivers.



In New Zealand in 1965 it became a legal requirement for all cars to have front seat belts fitted, but it wasn't until 1975 that you had to wear them. After 1979 they had to be fitted and worn in both the front and rear of all cars. In 1979, Australia was the first country in the world to legislate for compulsory seat belt wearing in front and back seats.



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"No need to wear your seatbelt son, if you crash my car, you won't want to live!"



The Bashkir Curly Horse -
The origin of this fascinating horse is a mystery. The bashkir horse is known to be calm with a mild temperament. It has a thick bone structure, round hooves, and is quite intelligent with an exceptional memory. This horse has a distinctive curly coat and a thick mane and tail. The breed comes from Russia where it was used as a draft and utility horse. It also produces milk and meat. The mare's average milk yield is 1,500 kg of marketable milk.



A transparent fish called the Sea Salp -
These fish are semi-transparent barrel-shaped marine animals that move through the water by contracting bands of muscles which ring the body. The muscles contract to draw water in the front and expel it out the rear. Salps feed by filtering plankton and algae and move using a very effective jet propulsion system. The most concentrations of scalps are in the Southern Ocean. They are non-selective filter feeders eating everything they trap in their net.

New Zealand Senior Moments:

seniormoments.co.nz

'Senior Moments' is a New Zealand website developed especially to enable senior New Zealanders to share special moments and experiences and to comment, advise and generally help others to enjoy all those special moments we all experience.

Check it out now!



Aging is a journey filled with memories, lessons and moments that shape who we are. Seniors have a unique way of seeing the world, often summed up as 'timeless'. Back editions of *Seniors' Roundup* can also be seen on seniormoments.co.nz

Talking About Retirement Planning:



Explainer: Maori Language Week - Seniors' Roundup editorial November (1) 2024

I have received welcome feedback relating to the editorial, 'Maori Language Week' in the November (1) edition of Seniors' Roundup, all of which is appreciated.

While the majority were supportive of the views expressed, one or two may have misinterpreted the intent. In this regard, perhaps a second reading of the editorial may provide clarification.

The essence of the editorial was not actually about the language itself but about the lack of translation during a period when the Maori language was being strongly promoted.

It is interesting to note that the somewhat widespread use of the term "te reo" only came about following the passing of the Maori Language Act 1987 which made the Maori language an official language of New Zealand. Prior to this, "Maori language" was the most common usage. According to my research, both versions are correct as the term "te reo" simply means "Maori language".



Earlier this year, The TVNZ ONE "Seven Sharp" show received many complaints about the use of Maori language without accompanying English translation. In response to this, they designated a whole segment of a following show to give clear and concise English translations of all Maori words spoken on the show. Great!

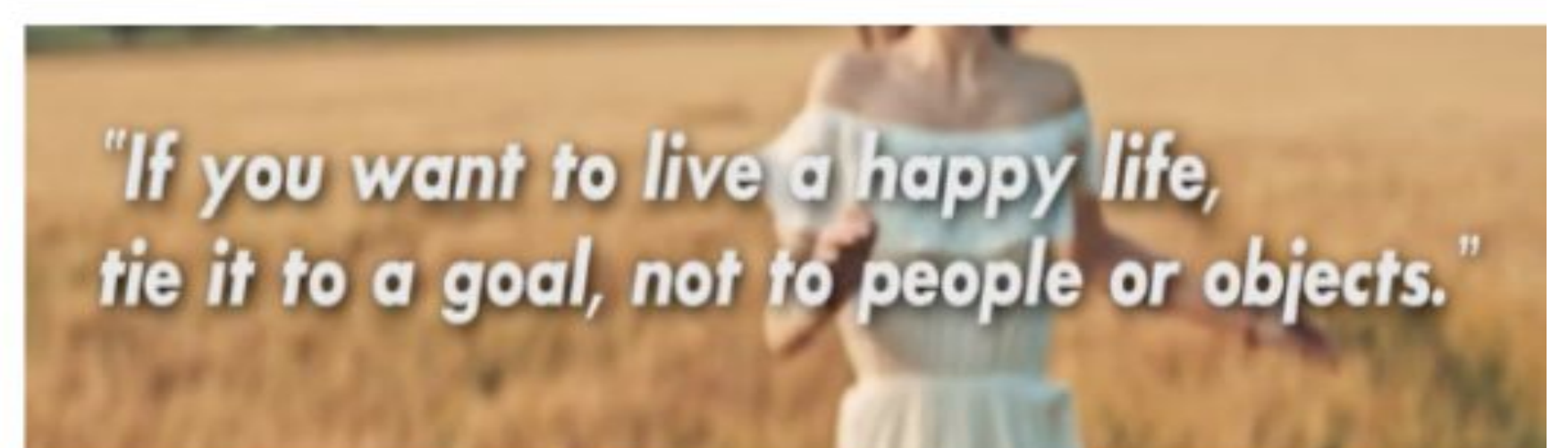
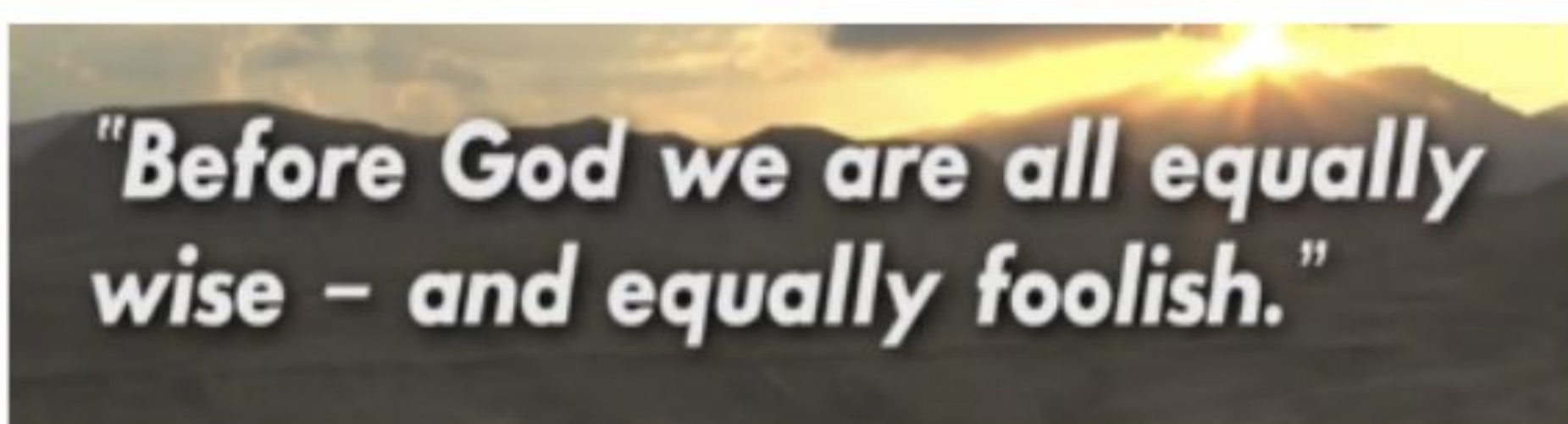
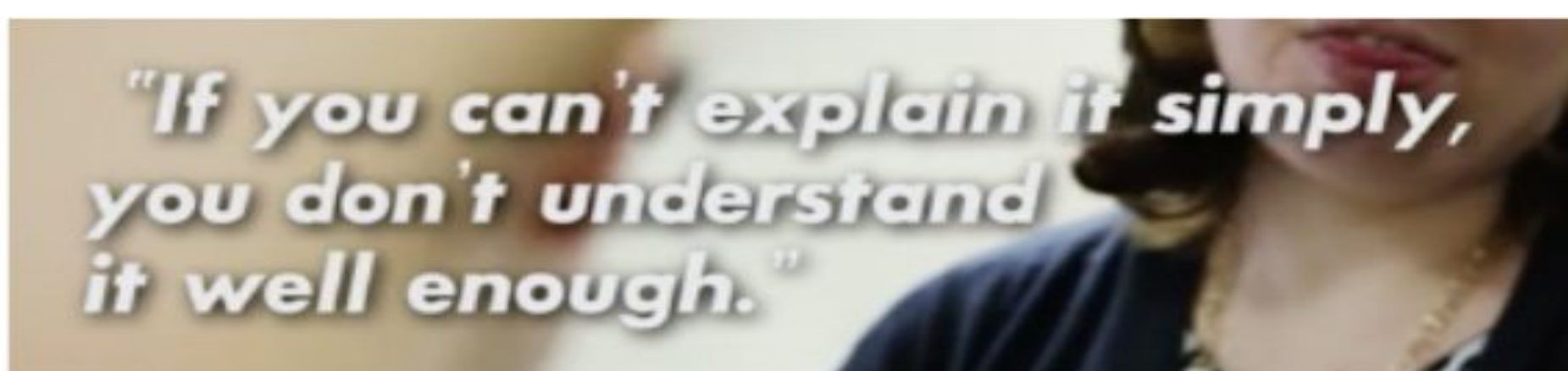
More often than not, reference to New Zealand place names during the weather segment on both TV1 and TV3 are both in English and Maori (te reo) which is very helpful. Unfortunately, this was not the case with many programmes presented during 'Maori Language Week'. I would suggest that this lack of thought did not do the promoters any favours when it comes to encouraging people to speak the Maori language (Te Reo).

An editorial is in reality, just an 'opinion piece'. The topics of the editorials in Seniors' Roundup are largely based on casual comments made in the public arena and which the editor feels will be of interest to the majority of readers.

In this regard, I stand by the comments made in the November (1) edition of Seniors' Roundup. The lack of English translation with many programmes containing a considerable degree of Maori language during 'New Zealand Maori Language Week' was very disappointing. The exceptions of course, are the dedicated Maori television channels provided by TVNZ, such as Te Karere and Marae.

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Memorable Quotes of Albert Einstein:



The World of The Cat:



Incredible Wonders of The Engineering World: Thinking outside of the box

This is the world's only rotating boat lift.

The Falkirk Wheel links the Forth and Clyde Canal 300 metres above allowing vessels to connect.

The Falkirk Wheel opened in 2002 and replaced a flight of 11 locks that once lowered the Union Canal to the Forth of Clyde, more than 40 metres below. Once travellers had a hard day's work opening and closing 44 lock gates to complete the journey between the two canals. The Falkirk Wheel does the job in just a few minutes.

The Falkirk Wheel is one of Scotland's main tourist attractions with over 500.000 visitors a year . People come from all over the world to marvel at system which combines modern engineering and technology with the ancient principles documented by Archimede more than 2000 years ago.

The Falkirk Wheel was opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 2002 and cost £80 million.



When one of the structure's gondolas is lowered, the opposite one rises, keeping the vast 1800 ton boat lift in perfect balance as it carries canal barges 35 metres into the air in a matter of minutes. The machine uses only just 1.5 W power for each rotation. The gondolas always carry a combined weight of 5--tonnes of water and boats. Care is taken to maintain the water levels on each side to balance the weight on each arm.



One For The Golfers:

Forgiveness is a tricky thing! (not too subtle in this case)

Fred was about to tee off on the first hole when a second golfer (George) asked him if he could join him. Fred said that he usually played alone, but agreed to the twosome.

They were even after the first two holes and George said, "We're about evenly matched, how about playing for five bucks a hole?" Fred said that he really wasn't into gambling, but agreed.

George easily won the remaining 16 holes. While they walked off number eighteen, George began counting his winnings of \$80. He then confessed that he was the pro at the neighbouring golf course and "liked to pick of suckers."

Fred was shocked and revealed to George that he was the local Parish Priest.

The pro was flustered and apologetic and offered to return the \$80. But the priest said, "You won fair and square and I was foolish to bet with you. Please keep your winnings."

The pro was very embarrassed and asked the priest, "Please, is there anything I can do to make it up to you?" The priest said, "Well, you could come to Mass on Sunday and make a donation. And, if you want to bring your mother and father along, I'll marry them."



"Now just remember what the Good Lord said about blasphemy."



"And for those of you who plan to play golf today, remember the third and ninth commandments."

In The Kitchen:

FOOD FACT:



Flip the bell peppers over to check their gender. The ones with 4 bumps are females and those with three bumps are male. The female peppers are full of seeds, but sweeter and better for eating raw and the males are better for cooking. I didn't know this.

Sorry folks! You can stop looking because this is just a myth!

There is no such thing as male and female capsicums. Some have maintained that the ones with three lobes are more bitter than the other with more lobes which they term "female", they have more seeds and are sweeter tasting.

The parts of the flower that the pepper comes from are male or female but the pepper itself is neither.

The number of lobes and sweetness depends entirely on variety, growing conditions and ripeness.

Why Do We Call it "Black Friday"? It is not a straightforward name

Black Friday is thrust upon us again by retailers looking to have a final sales push before the much anticipated Christmas sales get underway. In New Zealand, *Black Friday* sales tend to go on for at least a week following the initial date of 22 November.

The term *Black Friday* originated in America and has no association with New Zealand whatsoever. It is just another ploy that has crept in, largely by stealth, into our New Zealand retail scene over the years. Given our current economic climate and the increasing effect offshore buying is having on our domestic retail market, it is not surprising retailers are taking advantage of every conceivable opportunity to drive sales.

It is interesting to note that this year more than ever, industry watchdogs in New Zealand have been issuing frequent warnings relating to the authenticity of sales prices in store and in the media. They warn against knee-jerk reactions to "Special" advertising and advise comparing prices historically before committing to purchase to ensure that a "deal" is actually a "deal".

The pursuit of sales is alive and well with widespread advertising by 'large-box' retailers advantaged by their national store and media coverage. Their in-your-face endeavours to entice you to buy is often hard to ignore but such action should be balanced with the knowledge that for most of us, buying presents or upgrading essential items (perceived or otherwise), is often only one expense associated with the Christmas period.



The Oxford dictionary defines the term "Black Friday" as a term which English speakers, since the 1570s have attached the adjective "black" to the name of a day or period to denote a specific event.

The specific term "Black Friday" was first used in 1610 when schoolchildren used the phrase to refer to any Friday on which exams took place. It was during the 1860s that the term took on an economic connotation mainly by stockbrokers and journalists in relation to financial downturns in the economy.

It is not clear exactly when Americans began to use the phrase to denote the day after the United States Thanksgiving holiday but it became widely used from the 1960s onwards. There is no evidence to suggest that the term "Black Friday" in any way relates to slavery in America. Some have suggested that the word "black" relates to the black ink on company's balance sheets because it was a highly profitable period.

Happy shopping, but remember to check prices!

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Origins of Popular Food - Related Idioms:



This has to be one of the most popular and commonly used idioms there is. It is an old proverb from an earlier form of "no weeping for shed milk". The origin is not certain but it may have come from European folklore. It was common in the past for people to build shrines which often included their favourite drink - milk.

Whenever someone spilled milk, it was considered to be a little extra offering for the fairies, hence nothing to worry about.



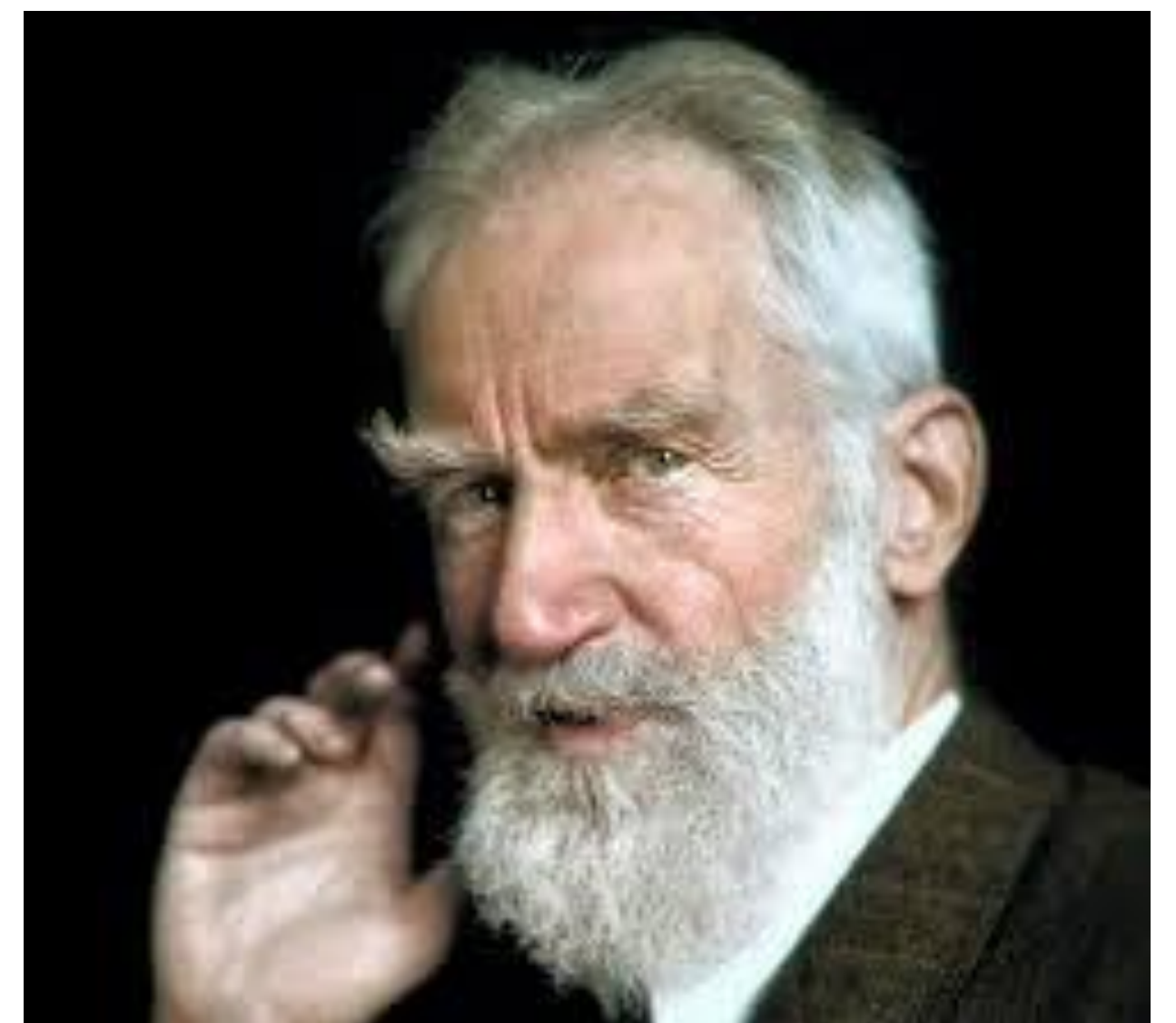
In the context of the idiom 'use your noodle', the word noodle refers to one's head or brain. But interestingly, none of these things resembles a noodle in any way.

The use of the word may relate to the old term *noddle*, originally meaning 'the back of the head' in the 15th century. "Use your noodle" used to be an insult but nowadays, it's considered a way to ask someone to concentrate.

Quotable Quote:

**"A life spent making mistakes
is not only more honourable
but more useful than a life spent doing nothing."**

**- George Bernard Shaw
Irish playwright
1856-1950**



Window on America!

(No caption
required - Ed.)



My Smart Family:

My family drives a smart car.
We watch a smart TV.
The phones we use are smartphones.
We're as smart as we can be,
We live inside a smart house
with smart appliances,
which makes us smart at math and art
and all the sciences,

I like to wear a smartwatch
to track my health and heart.
I shouldn't have to go to school
Since I'm already smart.

I asked to stay at home.
I figured, why not take a chance?
My dad just frowned and told me,
"Don't be such a smarty-pants."

"But Dad," I said, it's clear that
my IQ is off the charts."
My dad was quick with his reply
and ----- ouch! ----- it really smarts!

- Kenn Nesbitt



Window on New Zealand Parliament:

Bills put forward in the House must involve civilised debate, not threatening behaviour

Our government is elected to have the right -

- i) to govern the country for **all** New Zealanders.
- ii) to honour and uphold the rights of **all** New Zealanders
- iii) to maintain a policy that **all** New Zealanders are equal under the law with the same rights and duties.



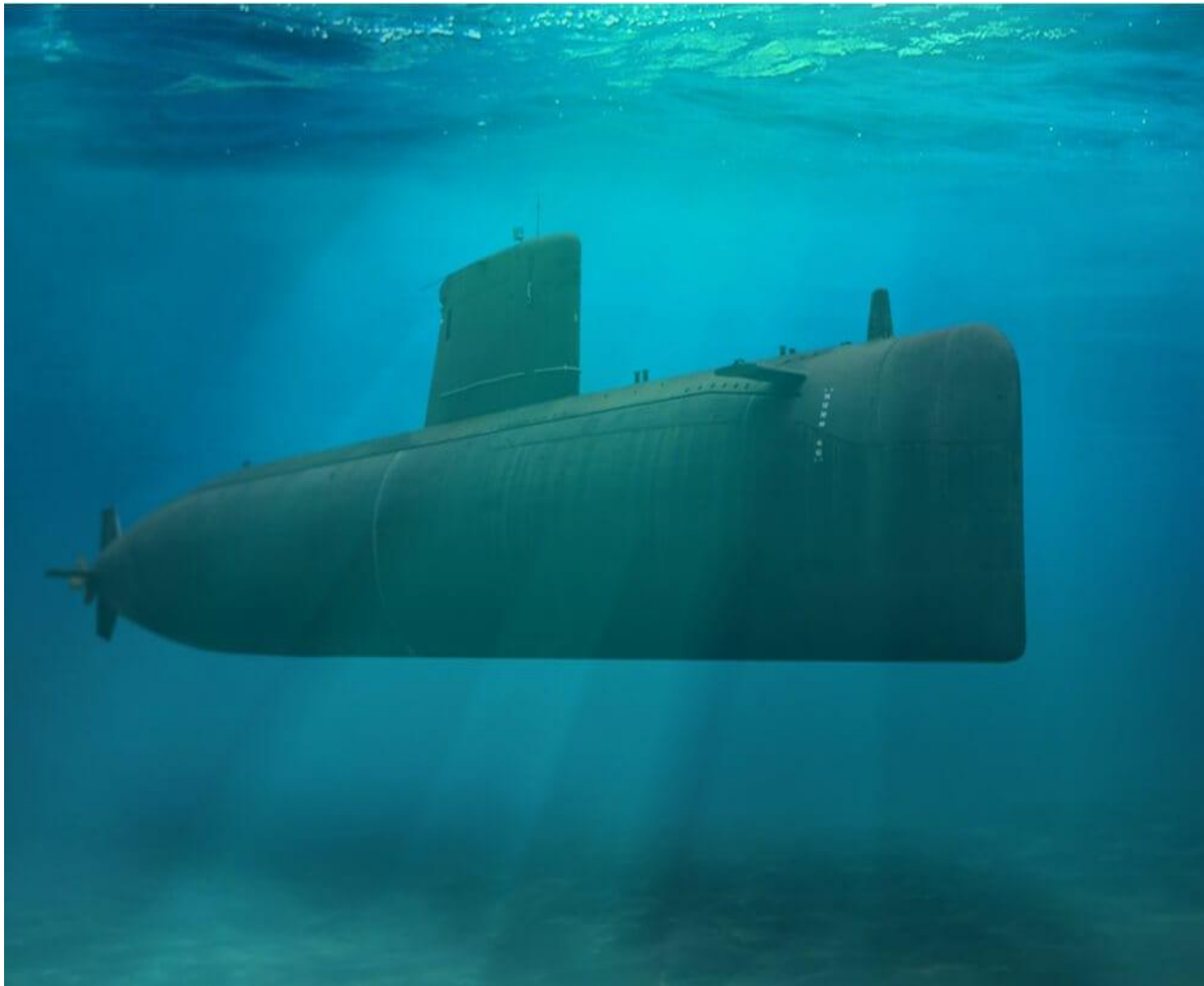
An absolute disgrace in the New Zealand Parliament on Thursday 14 November 2024

Healthy and respectful debate, subject to the rules of parliament are the cornerstones of our democracy as we move forward as a multicultural nation. The debacle seen in parliament on 14 November 2024 has taken the principles of democracy back 100 years! It was a disgraceful exhibition of division and disrespect.



Members of Parliament who abuse parliamentary privilege should be held to account.

Engineering Mistakes That Cost a Fortune to Fix:



The submarine that 'Can't Resurface' -

Despite paying over \$2.2 billion to create a new state-of-the-art submarine in 2013, the Spanish government never ended up using it because of this very expensive mistake.

It turned out that the new submarine was so heavy that it couldn't float properly owing to an engineering miscalculation. The cost to remedy this was several million dollars but that wasn't the end of the problem. They decided to make the vessel larger only to find it then could not fit in the port provided.



Trains that were too wide -

In 2014 the French railway authorities ordered 2,000 new trains that cost in excess of \$20.5 billion. They encountered a massive hitch when they found the new engines were far too wide for the tracks and could not safely pass each other on the rails. Apparently the network operator measured platforms that had been built 30 years ago and took a "one size fits all" approach to railway platforms.. The mistake cost \$70 million dollars to fix.

As Kids See It:



"My maths teacher keeps asking me questions. You'd think she would know all that stuff by now."



"No, not my dog. I do my homework on my computer...and the cat ate the mouse."

Seniors' Roundup Magazine:

The fortnightly edition of *Seniors' Roundup* is available free of charge to anyone interested.

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