



North Shore Supernews

Newsletter of the North Shore Sub-Group Government Superannuitants Association

March 2022

From the Chairman:

2022 is already zipping past and life seems even more uncertain that it was in 2021. Looking at the rise in infections of the Omicron variant of Covid, and noting the reluctance of many members of organisations with a similar demographic to ours to meet, **we have reluctantly cancelled our meeting planned for 25 March.**

We can but hope that we are able to get together in the middle of the year.

I behold with some bemusement, the mandate protestors on the muddy area (once lawn) in front of parliament and in other parts of the country. I have some sympathy with those who have suffered job-losses because they cannot, for whatever reason, comply with the mandate, but I do accept that the government is acting, or believes that it is acting, in the best interests of the people of New Zealand. The Labour government will be influenced by the philosophy of the party but I do not personally subscribe to the suggestion of a national conspiracy, and certainly not of an international one. One wag commented that he “did not feel that ANY government or party in New Zealand was sufficiently capable of running a good conspiracy”. That’s a view to which I can concur and while one may feel that the government has made mistakes and missteps in tackling Covid, I doubt that any government, in dealing with a pandemic such as this, might have done any better.

One (hopefully) positive step the government has introduced is the appointment of an Aged-Care Commissioner ([see later article](#)) to “investigate complaints about aged care, home care, needs assessments and palliative care” also to “investigate systemic issues in aged care and advocate for improvements.” The new commissioner has an interesting track record and according to the article originally derided the decision to establish such a position. We will watch with interest!

Despite it all, life goes on and at least we have had a reasonable summer, though it has been incredibly muggy at times. I hope you have not suffered from the humidity too much. Likewise I trust that the rise in inflation and concomitant rise in the cost of living is not affecting you adversely too much. As we move into autumn and then into winter I trust that you will remain safe, and in good health and I look forward to actually meeting in a few months’ time.

Please feel free to call me 021 182 4545 if there is anything you wish to discuss.

Warmly,

LARRY ROBBINS

Aged Care Commissioner Appointed

A nurse who headed a huge rest home and retirement village business has been appointed as New Zealand's inaugural Aged Care Commissioner, and tasked by the Government with "leading much-needed systematic change in the sector".

Carolyn Cooper has resigned as the managing director of Bupa Villages & Aged Care NZ, which has about \$1.6 billion of assets in Aotearoa, to take up the new watchdog role for a five-year term, starting next month.

She has also been on the board of the Aged Care Association, which represents most rest home owners and operators and in the past criticised the Labour Government's decision to establish an Aged Care Commissioner as "another layer of bureaucracy doubling up on already rigorous audit and reporting".

She told the Herald the association's concerns lessened as it became clear how the role would work with other regulators. However, her industry ties wouldn't mean she lacked bite as a new watchdog, she said.

"I have a very broad health experience background. I understand the way DHBs work, I understand how other parts of the sector work. And I am there for older people, that is my main thing - to make sure of their rights, protection and access to healthcare.

"I have lived experience in the area - my mum is in aged care - so I understand what it's like to be a family member. There's lots to me other than my experience with Bupa."

Seniors and Associate Minister of Health Dr Ayesha Verrall said Cooper had a more than 40-year career in all parts of the health service, mostly in the public hospital system and including governance, executive and clinical leadership roles.

NZ Herald 14 February 2022

MSD:

An excellent resource for all of us with internet access (or with family/friends who help us) is the MSD Office for Seniors website officeforseniors.govt.nz.

If you register for their monthly emailed newsletter there are articles of current interest to us all, and all the latest Gold Card discounts etc.

It's not a joke, but I was amused when out shopping again after lockdowns. The thought entering my mind, on seeing a young man at the store entrance, checking phones and counting numbers coming in, was— They told kids at careers counseling at school- 'The job you're likely to do hasn't been created yet.'

I'm sure no one was ever thinking of 'Covid Compliance Officers.'

So sad really the world we are living in now, but this bizarre thought stuck with me.



Who Are Your Ancestors?

Eric Bowater

This is a question for everyone, in all age groups. You may know a lot about who they are, or maybe you have only skimpy stories and details, but you need to write down what you do know to pass on to your descendants or to someone else in your clan who is digging into the genealogy.

The present time, while Covid restrictions keep us from other activities, would be a good opportunity to do this. Even if your knowledge only goes back to your grandparents or great-grandparents, with some names, dates, occupations, places lived at and migrations, that is a good starting-point. There may be some fanciful stories and traditions that need checking and verification.

But someone in your family system who is digitally-savvy may be able to use what you have provided to do further research, using websites such as Ancestry, and NZ resources such as PapersPast, to create a fuller picture of your ancestors through many generations, back into the British Isles, Europe, America or Australia. If you have some Maori ancestry, your whakapapa back to iwi, hapu and named ancestors needs to be discovered.

Many people in our retired age group have already tackled this for themselves. Even getting so far before hitting “brick walls” is worth writing down for someone else in the family to take further.

I have been one of the lucky ones in my retirement years doing family history research. I took what my parents and other relatives gave me, learned how to do the research in a Genealogical Society group, paid for an Ancestry subscription that gave me access to British and Australian records on-line, and ended up writing three books: one on my parents’ stories, one on my maternal ancestry going back to the 1700s, and one on my paternal ancestry going back to the 1500s. There was a lot of collaboration and support from relatives on both sides.

From this, I can claim to be $\frac{3}{4}$ of English origin and $\frac{1}{4}$ Scottish. My wife Margaret has done similar work and can claim English, Scottish and Irish origins.

But still there are surprises. My eldest son sent away a sample for genealogical DNA testing. The results he received showed that as well as the above, he has some Viking genes in his makeup. Probably many of us do, because in the 800-1100 AD period the Vikings raided and then settled in many places around Britain and Ireland.

DNA testing is a broad-brush approach of population genetics, without identifying particular ancestors. It can even go back tens of thousands of years to tell you that you may even have some Neanderthal DNA! So, get started now on what you know!



Your Committee:

Chairman: Larry Robbins **Secretary:** Pat Christian **Treasurer:** Eric Bowater

Members: Eunice Napier, Mary O’Sullivan, Graeme Wake, Val Walby, Sylvana Whyborn, Robert Whyborn.

Phones: Pat 09 4101052 Eric 09 4820250

A judge was interviewing a woman regarding her pending divorce. He asked, "What are the grounds for your divorce?" She replied, "About four acres and a nice little home in the middle of the property with a stream running by." "No", he said, "I mean what is the foundation of this case?" "It is made of concrete, brick and mortar," she responded. "I mean", he continued, "what are your relations like?" "I have an aunt and uncle living here in town, and so do my husband's parents." He said, "Do you have a real grudge?" "No," she replied, "we have a two-car carport and have never really needed one." "Please," he tried again, "is there any infidelity in your marriage?" "Yes, both my son and daughter have stereo sets. We don't necessarily like the music, but the answer to your question is yes." "Ma'am, does your husband ever beat you up?" "Yes," she responded, "about twice a week he gets up earlier than I do." Finally, in frustration, the judge asked, "Lady, why do you want a divorce?" "Oh, I don't want a divorce," she replied. "I've never wanted a divorce. My husband does. He said he can't communicate with me."



Why:

Are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?
Do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?
Is "phonics" not spelt the way it sounds?
If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
If love is blind, is lingerie so popular?
Is bra singular and panties plural?
Do you press harder on the buttons of a remote control when you know the batteries are dead?
Do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?
Doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
Do they call it a TV set when you only have one?

A man is recovering from surgery when the Surgical Nurse appears and asks him how he is feeling. "I'm OK. But I didn't like the four letter words the doctor used in surgery," he answered. "What did he say," asked the nurse. "Oops!"



Two blokes living in Australia saw a job advertised by the Queen of England. She was looking for footmen to walk beside her carriage. They applied and were very happy to be flown to London for an interview with Her Majesty. On meeting them she says, "because my footmen must wear long white stocking, I must see you ankles to be sure they are not swollen or misshapen." After they show her their ankles, the Queen says, "It is also important that you don't have knobby knees, so I need to see your knees also." Once she has seen their knees, she says, "Now everything appears to be in shape, so I just need to see your testimonials." Ten years later, when the pair are finally released from prison, one of the blokes says to the other, "I reckon, if we just had a bit more education we would have got that job!"

Jim's world:

Teacher: "And did you see the Catskill Mountains on your visit to America?"
Jimmy: "No, but I saw them kill mice."

Teacher: Ann! Point out Australia for me on the map". Ann went to the front of the Class, picked up the pointer and showed the rest of the class where Australia was. "Well done! Now, Jim! Can you tell us who discovered Australia?"
"Er....Ann, Miss?"

