

NEWSLETTER 8 CABIN FEVER




Feedback

The committee members involved in compiling this newsletter would like your feedback before we continue. While we are happy to do so we need some indication, from you, that it is of interest given "The Listener" it is not!

Please email one of the addresses below and let us know if we should continue or return to our day jobs: lizcruickshank@hotmail.com; tednola.cav@xtra.co.nz; largs@xtra.co.nz; armadillo228@outlook.com;

Contributions/Suggestions/Ideas

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My Love of Trees

The tree in the background is a dogwood, *Cornus contraversa* "Variegata", known as The Wedding Cake Tree.

We saw one in Helen Dillon's garden in Dublin in 1997, our daughter gave us one for Christmas that year, it was quite small just 2 layers and about shoulder height.

Some of you may have seen Helen on Monty Don's (he is a favourite of mine), T V programme Gardeners World. He has visited both the garden we were lucky to see and Helen's new home where she has made a completely different garden.

The day we visited in Dublin, I thought I had done my research and got times, seasons etc right but when we arrived it wasn't actually open. Lovely lady she is, when I told her the sob story of coming all the way from NZ, she kindly welcomed us in, through her beautiful home and she

delighted in showing us the NZ plants she had. I sent her a gift and a photo of my received a lovely came to Dunedin to our daughter did. She was one of the kiwi's time Helen no longer garden and now had Helen had her own watched an episode garden. He has also praise.



us the NZ plants she had. I sent her a garden after we got home and reply. A couple of years later she give a lecture, I couldn't get to it but got to speak to Helen and said she who gate crashed her garden. By that had the wedding cake tree in her a long rectangular water feature. TV garden programme and I have where she visited Monty Don's visited NZ gardens and had high

This tree is lovely in all seasons, it does have flowers but they are little white clusters so not like the showy *Cornus Milky Way*. In winter the reddish buds are already on the branches.

I have a lovely photo of our daughter under the tree on her wedding day.

The Leaves of a Tree are for the Healing of the Nation.

Ps I have 6 rooted cuttings of *Rose Perle d' Or* to give away, first in first served.

Nola Cavanagh

No Way to Run a Planet

As pointed out, by many commentators, the pause imposed by Covid 19 is an opportunity for change. A chance to reconsider the direction we, as individuals, we as a nation, and we as global citizens, take from here.

More recently Uncle Sam, our self appointed global guardian, has failed to demonstrate, on so many levels, any reason for the rest of us to follow his lead. The old order is changing and not before time. An economic system that must have enemies and wars to function is, I suggest, simply wrong and definitely no way to run a planet. Neo liberalism has had decades to demonstrate that “trickle down” economics is a con. Trickle down, for the many, turned out to be gushing up for the few. A more equitable system is long overdue.



We seem to have accepted homelessness and poverty as normal here in New Zealand. Clearly we can do better. Jetting around the world, because we can, may be great for egos and economies but not for the air we breathe. Heavy and sustained advertising of food in the face of obesity and hunger does not make economic or health sense. These are just some of the reasons to reconsider “where to from here”.

The need for change is there for all to see if only we care to look.

We live in wonderful country with a strong sense of community as we have all demonstrated. Our common bond, or duty of care for each other, is being tested as we move to a new norm. Our duty of care for our planet must also be a part of any change. Isolating in bubbles is unnatural and challenging behaviour for the gregarious and social animals we are. We are cooperative creatures by nature despite those who insist that we are all highly competitive at heart.

Covid 19 is the wakeup call for challenges that lie ahead. Do we cooperate in finding answers or do we point fingers at “enemies” and go to war to demonstrate our “superiority”.

That way has been tried before - time for a change I think?

Daniel Phillips

The Port of Riverton

Riverton or Jacob’s River as it was known in its early settlement days was “founded” by Captain John Howell who was born in Sussex, England in 1809.

Captain Howell and it was whilst of Sydney that whaling station search that he to a sheltered 1835 he returned River whaling



gained captaincy at the early age of 23 he was in the employment of John Jones he was requested to find a suitable site in Foveaux Strait. It was during the came upon the mouth of a river which led harbour ideal for a whaling station. In with 60 men to establish the Jacob’s station. Living accommodation at first for

the men was punga huts plastered with clay on sites cleared from the bush. Many of the whalers had married local Maori girls and eventually Captain Howell followed suit by marrying Kohi Kohi, daughter of Chief Raratoka (Centre Island). By 1840 the station was in full production with 3 ships trading directly to Sydney. The ships returned laden with cargo for the new settlement the future of which Howell visualised lay in farming. In 1845 the settlement was changing. The whalers had forsaken the punga huts and had built new pit-sawn timber cottages for their ever increasing families. The Port itself was thriving so much that by 1858 the little river town was officially declared Riverton by W.H. Cotton, Chief Commissioner, Otago and Wastelands Board. Unfortunately the treacherous channels at the bar prevented Riverton from becoming the provinces Port despite Captain Howell’s attempt to convince the Council that £30,000 would make it such a Port.

Although it obviously did not attract the larger vessels fishing became the mainstay for the economy of Riverton. In 1973 the Fisherman’s Co - operative built a fish packing factory which supplied stability for the fishermen as well as full and part time employment for local townsfolk. Nowadays with the locals and retired people holiday makers still come to the “Riviera of the South”. A quiet fishing village mainly protected from the prevailing winds looks over towards Bluff the main port for the province.

John Henderson

Maru – A Circle of Meaning

The majority of vessels under the Japanese flag have the suffix MARU as part of their name and you may wonder what it means. Contrary to popular opinion it is no way related to the Latin “mare” (the sea). Maru actually means anything round or circular, for example the Japanese flag with the round rising sun known as Hinomaru.

Numerous theories as to why the name Maru became attached to ships have been put forward. The more popular of these are:

1. Derived from an ancient Chinese custom: according to the legend the gods sent Hakudo Maru to earth to teach men how to build ships about 3000 B.C.
2. Ships were thought of as being self contained like a circle and possessed the heavenly quality of roundness so Maru was added to the name to attract the kindly notice of the heavens.
3. Merchants during Japan's feudal age were not permitted to use family names so they used the names of their shops and added the suffix Maru. Since many of them owned ships as well as shops it was easy to give the same name to the ships.
4. A great warlord built a ship named Niham Maru and with such endorsement the practice came into full vogue for lesser mortals.

Nearly all Japanese commercial vessels built since the Meiji era (1868-1912) “the age of modern civilisation” bear the name Maru although there are no laws requiring it. However the Japanese government does encourage it.

So whatever segment of the circle the name was derived from for use on ships should you see one on your travels you will have some idea of the reason behind it.

John Henderson

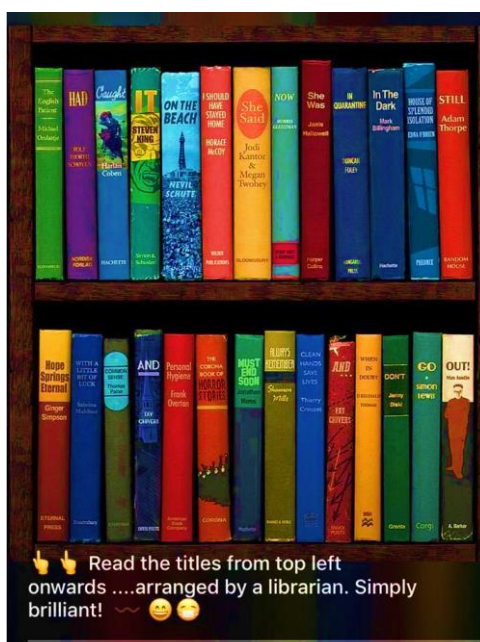


Dr Ayesha Verrall

Dr Ayesha Verrall has been directly involved in work relating to Covid 19 and the present pandemic. She is the daughter of Bill Verrall, a former Principal of Fiordland College, and was a pupil there. She was “Top Scholar” in Japanese for New Zealand in her 7th form year before going on to study medicine at Otago University.

She is now Senior Lecturer Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine (Wellington) She is an Infectious Diseases Physician with a research focus on Tuberculosis. Her research is in the field of clinical epidemiology and host-pathogen interactions.

Thanks to Liz for alerting us to another home grown high achieving Southlander.



Thanks to Phillipa Blackler for this gem.

