

## Greetings from the team at CFS...

Hopefully midway through 2017 you are as optimistic as I am about the world in general, and able to ignore the maddening media 'noise' about the end of the world! I was fortunate to be invited to a presentation recently and the speaker was Mark Jennings, ex head of TV3 news, talking about a news website that he has set up with Tim Murphy, former NZ Herald editor-in-chief. The website [newsroom.co.nz](http://newsroom.co.nz) has articles written by journalists presenting interesting topical balanced stories - amazing! Actually I found it tough going initially as I was used to 'popcorn' articles, not 'meaty', articulate, reasoned prose, initially very challenging but certainly worthwhile.

In a similar vein I have just finished two very interesting biographies, the first about Elon Musk, of Space X and Tesla fame and the other on Steve Jobs, of Apple fame. Both men exhibited, and one man continues to exhibit, single minded focus but Jobs unfortunately failed to appreciate the short span we have on the planet and while conventional medicine cannot solve all of our health maladies, it can solve some basic ones.

Please enjoy our 'popcorn' offering, but remember in order to benefit from our experience and knowledge you'll have to speak with us!



Donald Trump recently received a coded message, reportedly from NATO.

It read: **370HSSV-0773H**

The President was stumped and asked his Son in Law what the message could mean. The Son in Law was totally stumped too, so they passed it to the top White House aides, who spent 2 days trying to decipher it. Knackered, the aides sent it to the FBI.

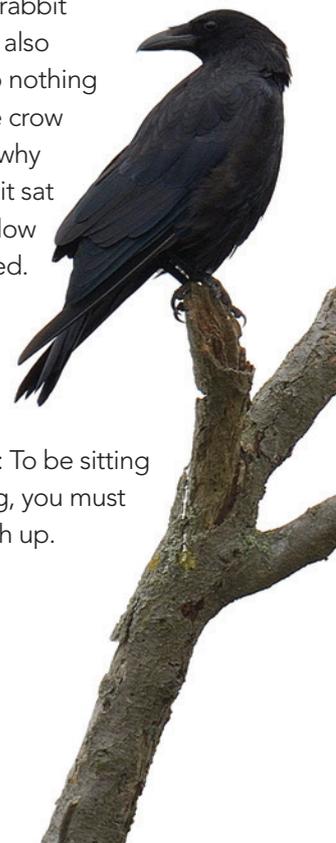
The Director of the FBI suggested the President should turn the message upside down...

## A Common Parable

A crow was sitting on a tree, doing nothing all day. A rabbit asked him, "Can I also sit like you and do nothing all day long?" The crow answered, "Sure, why not." So, the rabbit sat on the ground below the crow and rested.

A fox jumped on the rabbit and ate it.

Moral of the story: To be sitting and doing nothing, you must be sitting very high up.



# Auckland traffic chaos

As I read about Auckland traffic nightmares during rush hour I'm continually amazed by efforts to mitigate the symptoms of our expanding city, but completely ignoring the cause; everyone wanting to move to work between 7-9 am and from work between 5-7pm.

Only one town planner in a recent North & South magazine article spoke about the need to move away from this conditioned behaviour or else we are destined to

always require more motorway lanes, more trains, more ferries, more buses in their own lanes, congestion charges etc. I thought it was an excellent point that was quickly ignored by the solution providers, no money to be made if the solution involves no extra spending!

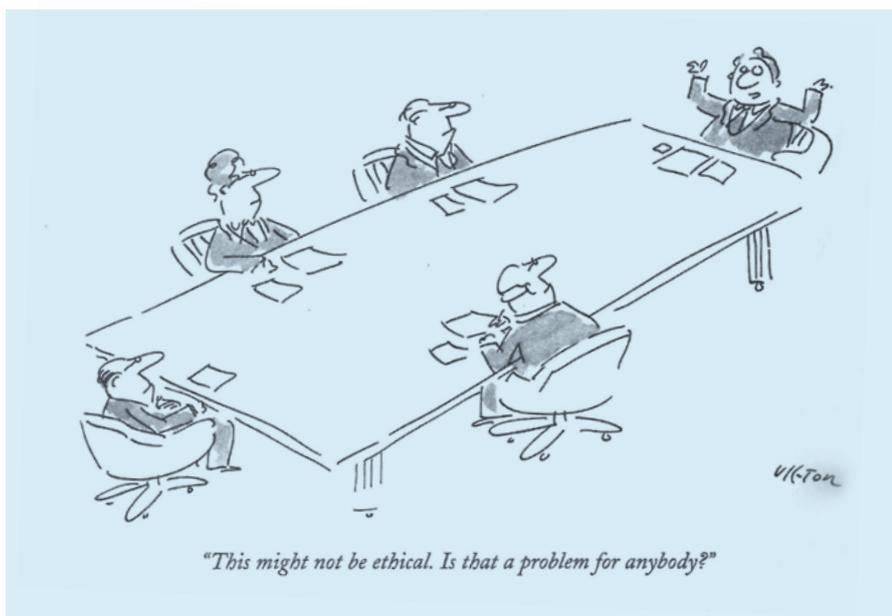
Of course to move away from our behavioural norms won't happen because it's a good idea, we have to find a way of initiating such behaviour.

A simple solution could be to start changing our behaviour at school, as easy

as allowing schools to operate whenever they wanted, not have predetermined start times or even holiday times. The only results demanded by the Education Ministry being that the curriculum standards are to be achieved over the year. One school may decide that starting at 6am and finishing at midday would suit while another may start at 1pm and finish at 7pm. Goodness, maybe this actually provides the solution to building new schools. One school with two rolls, students and teachers!

Imagine if all the schools took holidays at different times, imagine that when your family went on holidays you weren't competing with limited transport and holiday accommodation! Imagine allowing schools the autonomy to operate in the education sector with defined goals and the right to decide how to achieve them! Such a change in behaviour could be expected to result in an entire sector changing their work habits plus the entire young generation having flexible attitudes to work routines.

Or we could continue discussing how extra motorways, trains, ferries and buses will mitigate the symptoms and never have a discussion about mitigating the causes.



## CONFUSING LANGUAGE

An AUT linguistics professor was lecturing his class the other day. "In English," he said, "a double negative forms a positive. However, in some languages, such as Russian, a double negative remains a negative. But there isn't a single language, not one, in which a double positive can express a negative."

A voice from the back of the room said, "Yeah, right."

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