



REBUS CLUB NEWS

August 2025

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The local roadside stall is selling daffodils for \$2.50 a bunch – so it must be Spring! This month we have another wonderful selection of submissions from Rebus Clubs throughout New Zealand for you to peruse. Enjoy!

FROM REBUS NZ: Dear Members, at our latest Board meeting it was agreed that “The Chronicles” will be a bi-monthly report unless there are urgent matters to be circulated to the Affiliate Clubs. The next issue will go under the title of “Chairman’s Report” and will be distributed in September.

As usual if there are any queries or issues, please don’t hesitate to contact me at rebuschairman@gmail.com or our Secretary Janet at secretary@rebus.nz

Warmest Regards, **Garth Dutton**, Chairman, Rebus NZ Inc

REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON



Our latest trip was to the Ports of Tauranga at Mt. Maunganui and to Tauranga Historic Village. (Photo above) More than twenty members enjoyed the village experience of interesting little shops and quaint artifacts followed by the guided bus tour round the Port. We could see up close, the huge machinery that loads the vast quantities of dairy and timber products around the world, operating 24 hours a day.



Dining out at Lily Pad Café.

-Kath Kenrick, Bulletin Editor.

REBUS CLUB OREWA



Club speaker in July: Our President **Lori Hope** gave us a talk on Newcastle-upon-Tyne her hometown, showing us slides of the shipyard and ships being launched so close to residential streets, housing a lot of the ship builders and their families. Ship builders went to work in their cloth caps in the early days, no helmets then. She spoke of Grey's

Monument which can be climbed up inside to a viewing platform and other interesting facts about this proud, hardworking industrial city.



Our Guest Speaker in July was **Michael Sanders** who is the Event Coordinator/Director at Centrestage Theatre and also works at Evelyn Page Village. He told us of his 50 years career in theatre. He showed slides of the many shows he was involved in. He also spoke of what goes on backstage at shows, the mishaps, the quick costume changes. Many young actors have moved on to become actors across the world.

-Maureen Grigg, Bulletin editor.

CAMBRIDGE REBUS CLUB



Last month a large group of us visited the Gin Distillery on Alpha Street. Sonya, our host, spoke to us about the origins of the business, told us how gin was made, and the different varieties of gin they make. Then she gave us a very informative tour of the distillery. She showed us the still imported



from Italy. (photo at right) Afterwards, we had some tastings. Later, we all adjourned to Absolute Café for a coffee and some lunch. *-Steve O'Sullivan, Newsletter Editor.*

REBUS WAIHEKE ISLAND

The mini-speaker was **Anne Willmann**, musical director and conductor of the Waiheke Choral Society, highly accomplished pianist and tour guide/performer at the Waiheke Musical Museum. Anne spoke about amateurs playing music. She had an unusual introduction to music. At age 3, her mother decided to study seriously, and she spent hours on a daily basis listening to her, an amazing immersion. She couldn't read music at first but if she can hum a tune she can play it. Anne also learnt the violin, ukulele, folk and bass guitar, organ and flute but always returns to the piano. In the 1970s Anne and Willi were in Kathmandu and discovered a brilliant amateur music scene. They then moved to a small village in the Rhine valley. There was no music as such, but 3 choirs (2 church and 1 village), which sang unaccompanied. In an adjoining village she heard of a mobile school for choir conductors and in 2 months learnt to conduct. Anne then spoke of international research being done measuring inside one's brain whilst playing music. Music lights

up the whole brain, left and right sides, combining the logical with the creative. There are lots of opportunities on Waiheke to become involved in music.



Midwinter Lunch: 32 of us enjoyed a great meal and convivial surroundings at The Social (Waiheke Bowling Club).
-Tania Sweet, Newsletter Editor.

THAMES BONANZA REBUS CLUB



We had a recent trip to the Model Barn Museum at Orongo on the Hauraki Plains near Thames. The Model Barn is a leading stockist of quality die-cast models of cars, trucks, farm machinery and construction equipment. They sell new and used models of all types and vintage toys that are sourced from New Zealand and overseas. It was quite an overwhelming display.

Followed by a nice lunch at The Cornerstone Cafe on the Hauraki Plains. *-Murray Newby, Newsletter Editor.*

RIVERSIDE REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON



President Dianne introduces new members **Carol and Laurie Russell**, and **Judi Graham**.

-Steve O'Sullivan, Bulletin Editor.



MOTUEKA REBUS CLUB

Coralie Smith of Motueka Historical Association told us about the Heritage Plaques Project and was introduced by **Judy Simpson**. The Plaques project – part of Motueka High Street Beautification Project -is to inform the townspeople about the history of each of the businesses the plaque is placed on. Currently there are 32 at various sites with a further 18 to be ordered bringing the total to 50.

The main speaker, **Sue Campbell** talked about a flood she was involved in 1986 when working with a school trip and camp in Pareora, South Island, when the campsite was surrounded by floodwaters. Everyone was alright but a helicopter was eventually needed to get the children, teachers and helpers to dry land. A bus was waiting at the landing place to get everyone across the bridge and back to Timaru. But by this time much of the road had been washed out. It was all very exciting. Sue's theme of 'water' continued because in the recent heavy rains her back garden was under water due to a blocked drain. Unfortunately, she had to cope with some of her house flooding as well. She still managed to make everyone smile by telling us the story of how the pair of unicorns didn't survive the flood in Noah's Ark – the tigers did it! For punishment they were striped, and that was how the tiger got his stripes and unicorns disappeared forever! - *Gwynfa Bell, Newsletter Editor.*

RED BEACH LADIES' REBUS CLUB



Last month members thoroughly enjoyed 90-year-old **John Clark's** stories and photos of his years in the British Army and the Household Cavalry, including ceremonial duties and military parades he was privileged to be part of in London during that time.

- *Bobbie Wakenell, Newsletter Editor.*

REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH

The Guest Speaker at our August meeting was **Rodney Wong** who gave a very interesting talk on two topics: (a) The Palmerston North Hospital Foundation, and (b) Chinese roast ovens. The Foundation was instrumental in creating and raising funds for a separate Emergency Department for Children at PN Hospital, a facility not provided by government. Chinese ovens were built by migrants wanting a taste of home. Rodney gave an entertaining description with photos of how to roast a whole pig.

Members of the Foxton Rebus Club joined us for the August meeting and lunch. This was an excellent occasion. We highly recommend such joint activities for extending friendships and making new Rebus friends.

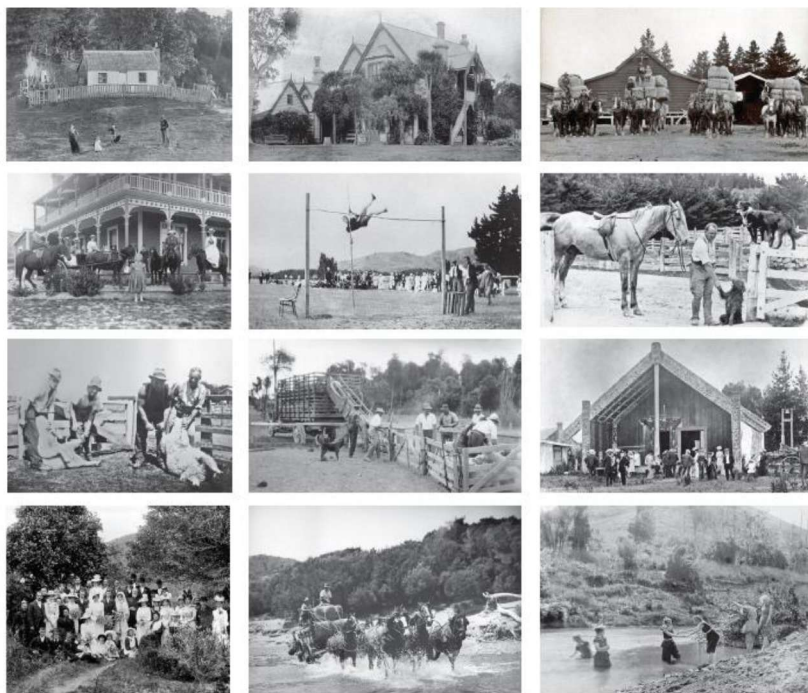


A visit to Feilding Steam Rail's collection of locomotives and rolling stock brought back memories of travel on NZ Railway in our younger days. A very interesting and nostalgic visit was capped by an excellent lunch at Murray's Irish Bar.

-*Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor.*

SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB

In June, Rebus club member **John MacGibbon** gave us a short preview of a video he was working on for The Wool Shed Museum in Masterton. With the video now complete and installed, this month we asked John to show us the finished product. Titled Older Times, the video shows a wide range of Wairarapa rural places and activities between 1845 and 1950.



Essentially a slide show with captions, it stays away from our towns and concentrates on pure country: homesteads from humble to fancy, farm country that is often quite raw, farm operations, social, sporting and cultural occasions, schools, churches etc. There are almost 300 rural images, which John started collecting when he wrote the Look of Martinborough book, published by the Wairarapa Archive in 2017. Older Times is now on continuous loop display at The Wool Shed, in Dixon Street, Masterton.

-David Woodhams, Newsletter Editor

WAIKANAE MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB

The walking group at the Waikanae Park after a beautiful Winter's day walked around Liddle Estate, down Te Moana to Ngagara and back to the park. Lovely



Mid-Winter luncheon on Thursday 17th July at The Plateau, Parkwood (below) - David Goggin, Newsletter.



REBUS CLUB OF FOXTON



Several Foxton Rebus Club members attended the Palmerston North Rebus Club August meeting. We received a very warm welcome and enjoyed a very tasty morning tea put on especially for us. At the conclusion of the meet, we adjourned to the Cooperage for lunch.

We saw some of the new Manawatu Tararua Highway on our Rebus drive to The Tui Brewery Café for lunch in July. The view was somewhat impaired, but the fog was spectacular!



- Dereley Barry, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF MANAWATU

For our 35th birthday, following our special morning tea, we were royally entertained by For Folk's Sake a multi-talented group who had us singing along, clapping and even in some cases dancing.



Our guests played a variety of arcane instruments, including cajun drum, Irish bouzouki, and spoons and ankle bells.

(Right) Claire and Shirley trying The Tennessee Waltz

-Margie Comrie, Newsletter Editor.



REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR

Club Speaker, **Rob Lorden** gave members a 15-minute Life Story. Born in Dunedin, he attended Otago Boys' High School and Otago University, where he studied engineering. His first job was as a structural engineer in Gisborne. After various positions working for local authorities, he became a consultant. Dragonboat racing, yachting and skiing are his hobbies.

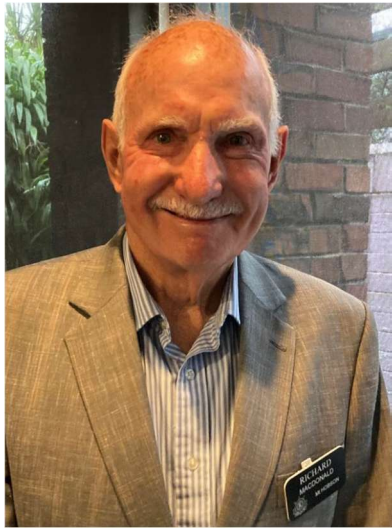
Guest Speaker was **Vincent Maire**, who spoke about his two positions with Harbour Hospice in Red Beach. In 2005, responsible for fundraising, he was tasked with raising \$2m for the new Hospice building. In 2011 he left and started a course to become a spiritual carer, after which he was invited to rejoin Hospice. Vincent said his approach to death and dying is through meditation and solitude. His own family experiences have helped with others' suffering. A sense of humour also helps. He retired in December 2024.



On Tuesday 19th August a group of sweet-toothed members visited the Tip Top Ice Cream Factory at Mount Wellington. A most enjoyable outing, especially the ice-cream – thanks Verna.

-Jean McIntosh, Newsletter Editor.

MT. HOBSON REBUS CLUB



Our July speaker was **Richard MacDonald**. Richard was Police Commissioner for New Zealand from 1994 to 1996 and he was the 26th custodian of that post. He was born in India where his father was serving as a British officer with the famous Gurkha Regiment. He attended boarding school in England and after Indian partition in 1947 the family stayed there for a further 3 years. His parents separated in 1950 and he came to New Zealand with his mother.

He began training for the police at Trentham Police College and graduated in 1956. Over the succeeding years he had roles in the criminal investigation branch, the armed defenders squad, rising to the rank of regional commander in the 70s. From that post he became commissioner. Richard's reflections were mostly about his career in Auckland where he had the rank of Detective Chief Inspector and hence the officer in charge of all homicides in the Auckland district. He described several fascinating cases which challenged the detective skills of even the best, because of the absence of robust scientific evidence that is now available these days. He added some amusing anecdotes. One concerned a robbery of a TAB when two women present at the time were robbed of a substantial sum of money. Early enquiries revealed from one of them that the perpetrator was well known as a customer! It was a relatively simple matter to locate him and arrest him. The newspaper headlines reported "Smart work by police secures early arrest". Richard commented the headline should have been "Criminal stupidity secures early arrest" Another concerned a missing woman. Neighbours were suspicious that she had been the victim of foul play, and a freshly dug portion of the relevant garden raised concern. Sadly, she was found to have been murdered and buried there. The irony was that the perpetrators name was Doug Gardner!

Reflecting on his time with the police, Richard commented that DNA analysis, the digital revolution and artificial intelligence have all generated a different profile of the criminal world. This is manifest as credit card and cryptocurrency fraud, and cybercrime. This allows criminals to reside in one country, perpetrate their criminal activities in another country and bank the proceeds in a third country. The scourge of drugs remains a constant threat. What has not changed is that difficult family backgrounds are a constant common breeding ground for criminal activity.

-- Pat Alley, Newsletter Editor.

WARKWORTH REBUS LADIES' CLUB



It's been a busy time for members over the past month. A group headed off to Auckland to assist at the Chip Project for a morning and joined the volunteers in making a blanket. A labour-intensive job, but fascinating seeing a blanket being made up completely.

(photo) Rebus members **Jenny Burton** and **Malene Hook** busy heating the chip packets together to make a blanket.



Our cameo speaker was Rebus member **Karen Courtis**, who reminisced about her recent trip to two countries most of us have little knowledge of - Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. She was immersed in Silk Road history, and it was easy to imagine all the caravans of old, trekking along with their silks, tea, carpets, spices etc. on camels – and she even got to see a Bactrian 2 humped camel, which she had never seen before.



Our recent speaker was **Ryan Mills**, who took us on a journey from leaving school, through his various jobs to his present day, as captain on the superyacht, Kaos.

He started his presentation with “Welcome to my life as a superyacht captain—a blend of adventure, leadership, and the occasional prayer to Poseidon for calm seas!”

Ryan is the grandson of one of your members.

-Maryanne Dransfield, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI



In July we had our Mid-Winter Xmas Lunch at Laird Park Bowling Club.

Wow, what a fantastic turn out, it was wonderful to see so many there and the food was superb. A great day, enjoyed by all.

In August, six of our members paid a courtesy visit to the **Palmerston North Fitzherbert Rebus Club**. We were made very welcome, joining in on their Club activities for the day, then later going onto lunch with a few of their members. Overall a delightful day. In the near future we will receive a reciprocal visit from them, and we trust our members will welcome them as they did us. *-Paerau T-Mosen, Newsletter Editor.*

REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC



We had a great pair of speakers last month. **Frank Klus** (left) shared some of his experiences in growing up in the East End. From playing football at Old Trafford, to meeting the Kray brothers, Frank kept us all entertained. Our main speaker, **Mark Smith** from Electra was also interesting, as he explained the role of Electra within the wider NZ Electricity Industry, as well as how it contributes to the Kapiti and Horowhenua community. Mark talked briefly about how we can all check on whether we are getting the best power deal. *- Steve Hutchison, Bulletin Editor*

“You know you’re getting old when the candles cost more than the cake.” — Bob Hope

REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST



Our mid-year luncheon was held at the Red Beach Surf Lifesaving Club House on 6th August 2025. An excellent turnout of members and spouses / partners attended. The Red Beach Club House occupies an enviable location beside the sea as one of the photos (left) shows.

A very tasty buffet lunch was on offer; the bar was open and the company very pleasant.

We continue to ramble every Monday. Below, Ramblers at Unsworth Reserve, 11th August, 2025



-Earl Brookbanks, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT



Our guest speaker was **Jennie Dean**, Clinical Nurse Manager, CCU, Atrial Fibrillation and Cardioversion Nurse Specialist who explained the current Hutt cardiology structure, her role, and current heart health trends.

People with AF require regular checks of:

– Symptoms – Medications – Considerations of treatments

Jenny was thanked by President **Alex Davidson**.

-Alex Attewell, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH



Guest speaker, **Brooke Fryer** is the Communications and Marketing Leader for WELLfed, which has been “nourishing communities through food and connections since 2016”. Brooke was supported by **Rachel Dick**, who is the Logistics Co-ordinator for WELLfed – and together they gave a very cheerful and inspiring presentation on the WELLfed charity, which has operated in Cannons Creek since 2016.

It serves families through food skills training, garden programmes, and wraparound support services. WELLfed is a registered charity.

The Garden Group had a great turnout on an extremely cold and miserable day this month in the Khandallah Town Hall. Two members of the group (**Sandi Hurnard** and **Judy Barker**) organised two really interesting women to come and speak to us.

Jane Humble has become a Botanic artist since retirement and she took us through the achievements of world-renowned Botanic artists who paint and draw plants and flowers. This entails hours of detailed and absorbing work and to be officially recognised these paintings need to identify the plants in their true form.

Claire Gleeson is a social historian who spoke about the book she has written called "The Fairer Side of Buxton: Alfred Buxton's Gardens and the Women Who Loved Them." A really enlightening look at Alfred Buxton who was responsible for the establishment of architectural landscaping of New Zealand in the early 20th century. A book well worth reading for its insight and photography of early pioneer days especially in rural properties.

A good number of our **Dinner Group 1** ventured north to Aotea for our get together earlier this month.

We all had a great evening at Sushil's Musclechef and Kitchen. The restaurant was full, with many diners enjoying a Visa Wellington on a Plate special burger offering!! All the food was delicious with lots of Indian influence and, as always, the company very congenial. *- Ros Lambrechtsen, Newsletter Editor.*

PAPANUI REBUS CLUB



Our Guest Speakers this month were the archivists from the Christchurch City Council – **Annabel Armstrong-Clarke** and **Sarah Tester**. What a massive job they have putting together, all the history of the Christchurch City Council back to the days when Christchurch was first settled. They have an incredible amount of information in their storage home in Iron Mountain, George Bellew Rd, near the airport and still a long way to go sorting all the information. They have also created the Ōtuatahi Christchurch City Central Living History Walk. This walk won them 2 awards – quite an achievement. They have developed a written commentary on the walk, which you can access on your phone.



Twenty-two members braved the horrible wind and chilling rain to lunch at “The Dish” this month. Great value meals and a great time.

- Linda Barnes, Newsletter Editor.



“Finally, my Winter fat is gone. Now I have Spring Rolls” -Anon

MT. ALBERT LADIES' REBUS CLUB



It was cold and drizzly as 30 of us headed to our bus for an outing to d:STIL Project in Coatesville, for some serious gin tasting. After a warm welcome from **Sarah** and her team, and two friendly dogs, we were soon relaxing with an exquisite morning tea before a roaring fire. Sarah told us about setting up the distillery. As we sampled three quite different, excellent gins produced there, it was fascinating to hear about the natural botanicals that can be added at various points in the distilling process.



After lots of chat and gin-fuelled laughter, we roamed around the lovely garden, visited the distillery and some of us fed carrots to the llamas. The views of the local countryside were stunning. A short drive to lunch at the Black Cottage Café ended a perfect trip. No-one cared that it began to rain again as we approached Auckland.

-Anne McKenzie, President

FITZHERBERT REBUS CLUB INC.



It was our 28th birthday and we celebrated in style. Six members of the Rebus Club of Wanganui came and celebrated with us, so it was an extra special morning. **Allain Scott** told us about milestones in the Club's history via an interesting PowerPoint presentation and Foundation members **Deidre Deakin, Ian Steffert and Diana Steffert** cut the cake which Libby Gosse made.

Guest speaker: If all our schools had head teachers with a passion for teaching like our speaker, **Warwick Price**, principal of Terrace End School, our children would also have a passion for learning. The school has a roll of 220 pupils and 42 staff. There are 19 different ethnic groups amongst the 220 pupils. Some of them have only known war, so have to learn that peace exists in N.Z. Many more have to be taught living skills and English, before core subjects. It was very interesting to learn how many changes have been

made in education over the years and, hopefully, new changes now will produce more children knowing how to read and write before they hit the workforce. Warwick is very passionate about his career, and I imagine this spills over to his staff, school and pupils. Keep up the good work. – *Robyn Manderson*

-Rosy Look, Communications Secretary.

PUKENAMU REBUS CLUB INC.



July Outing to the Quartz Museum of Ceramics. This trip turned out to be a big surprise for the 19 members who came along. We were greeted by the founder of Quartz, **Rick Rudd**, who is a very talented potter. He told us how the project started and explained the many different displays, which are set over two floors. Apart from the permanent displays, they regularly make changes showing off different artists' work. It was a feast for the senses with

all the funny, quirky and beautiful ceramic art works. It is a great place to take your visitors, and entrance is by donation only. Thank you, Rick. Lunch at the Cobb was super, great food and company and lots of laughs were had by all. Thanks to Mike (text) and Lindsay (photo). - *Helen Goldfinch, Newsletter Editor.*

REBUS CLUB OF FIELDING



Sylvia Brennan was our Guest Speaker and she talked to us about joining the Prison Service in 1987. Her career spanned 29 years with stints at Mt Eden, Manawatu, Hawkes Bay, Manawatu, Mt Eden and back to Manawatu. Most of the corrections officers are ex-servicemen. Sylvia said If you treated them well, they should treat you well. Prisoners live a very regimented regime, with the cells being searched every morning. They have focus groups, Medical, Māori, Pasifika. drug counsellors, psychiatric and psychological help is available. The prisoners like to work in the kitchen to get free food. It's moved with the times with hydroponics and more fresh food. Corrections officers work an 8-hour day. It is very noisy and the youths are increasingly violent. Staff today wear stab proof vests, body cameras and carry handcuffs and alarms. She enjoyed her career. *-Lyn Jensen, Newsletter Editor.*

From the Editor

And with twenty-six snippets of news for you, that brings Rebus Club News to a close for this month. I hope you have found something interesting to read, and a big **Thank You** to all the contributors this month. Until next month, stay safe and keep warm!

-Steve O'Sullivan, Editor, Rebus Club News.

P.S thanks to REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT for this month's joke.

In the locker room of an upscale gym a man answers a cell phone and puts it on speaker while he dresses.

Man: Hello?

Woman: Hi honey, it's me. Are you at the club?

Man: Yes.

Woman: I'm out shopping and found a beautiful leather coat. It's only \$2,000 - OK if I buy it?

Man: Sure, go ahead if you like it that much.

Woman: I also stopped by the Lexus dealership and saw a car I really like and it's only \$90,000.

Man: Wow! OK, but for that price I want it with all the options.

Woman: Great! Oh, and one more thing . I was just talking to Jamie and the house we wanted to buy last year is back on the market. They're asking \$980,000 for it. Remember it was well over a million when we looked at it?

Man: I dunno. Make an offer for \$900,000 and they'll probably take it.

Woman: OK. I'll see you later! I love you so much!

Man: I love you too.

The man hangs up. The other men in the locker room were staring at him in astonishment. The man turns around and says,

"Anyone know whose phone this is?"