

an Walker, our Guest Speaker for the February meeting is a survivor, having suffered two serious spinal injuries, the second of which could have been deadly. His address was all about how we handle adversity. He said we all have reserves inside us to overcome adversity. *“Do not let what you cannot do stop you from doing what you can”*. The whole theme of Ian’s address was – accept reality – set goals - apply effort and attitude – and be motivated. He has completed more than six marathons using a hand-cycle. He says, “Life is 10% what happens to you, and 90% how you react to it”. This was a very hard-hitting, genuine account from an incredible man whose fortitude has stunned his medical professionals.



41Club members together with a record 12 visitors, listen to Ian's inspirational address.



The weather Gods smiled upon us for this annual BBQ transferred from storm conditions from the previous week. Some 50 members and guests enjoyed another splendid day at Te Haruhi Bay, in the Shakespear Reserve on the 28 January. Master Chefs Neil, Garth, Alan and Graeme served up mouth watering sausages, beef patties and crumbed chicken tenderloins supplemented with a variety of salads organised by Gill and Neil Wild. Pics from the day - above and below.





December's Guest Speaker was Guy Slocum - ex fighter pilot during the Cold War - Guy made a welcome return visit to entertain us. This time, the topic was "Ejections and Emergencies" During his career, Guy experienced four occasions, the first was caused by the aircraft catching fire mid-flight. The design for the first ejection seats used guns for propulsion, the first gun fired under the ejection seat of the aircraft. The pilot is ejected between 100 ft and 300ft above the aircraft. If it was flying at 10,000 ft, the pilot would need oxygen which was located under the seat. Later models replaced guns with rockets as the gun propulsion injured many backs. Extensive training was necessary, not so much for the ejection, but the rescue and retrieval of the pilot. It was preferable for the landing to be in the sea, but if on enemy territory, escape and evasion was paramount. The training for this was intense, and almost as frightening as the real thing. Imagine landing in snow-covered terrain, or the jungle (Where they learned to eat bugs and beetles which are highly nourishing), or landing in the desert where they were given instruction on how to find water. Above all trainees were taught not to give away any information about their mission by learning to use the phrase "I'm sorry, I cannot answer that question". It became automatic. Yet again, a most interesting and informative address and we look forward to another of Guy's in the months ahead.

President Jean had the pleasure of inducting Catherine Malcon, a resident of Stanmore Bay. Catherine is a retired Computer trainer with wide experience both on NZ and Australia. Welcome to the Club Catherine



Our end of year luncheon was again held at Red Beach Surf Club and was attended by 50 members and partners. (see above and below) The weather was perfect, the venue splendid as ever and the standard of catering the best on the Peninsula. A booking has been made for next year so that we dont miss out on this very popular venue. See pics above and below.



Karen Clout was our Club Speaker for the November Club Day. She gained her nursing qualification in England and is a Registered Nurse and Midwife, holding an advanced Diploma in Nursing and a Masters in Project Management. For two years, she was a nurse on a cruise ship, 14 day sailings from Sydney to Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Fiji. There were two doctors on

board. She then had a nursing position in Part Augusta, Australia, caring mainly for Aboriginal patients. In 2001, Karen came back to NZ as a project managing nurse for the redevelopment of Waitakere Hospital. She is now a core midwife at Auckland Hospital, nursing some of the more difficult cases - drug and diabetes are an increasing problem.



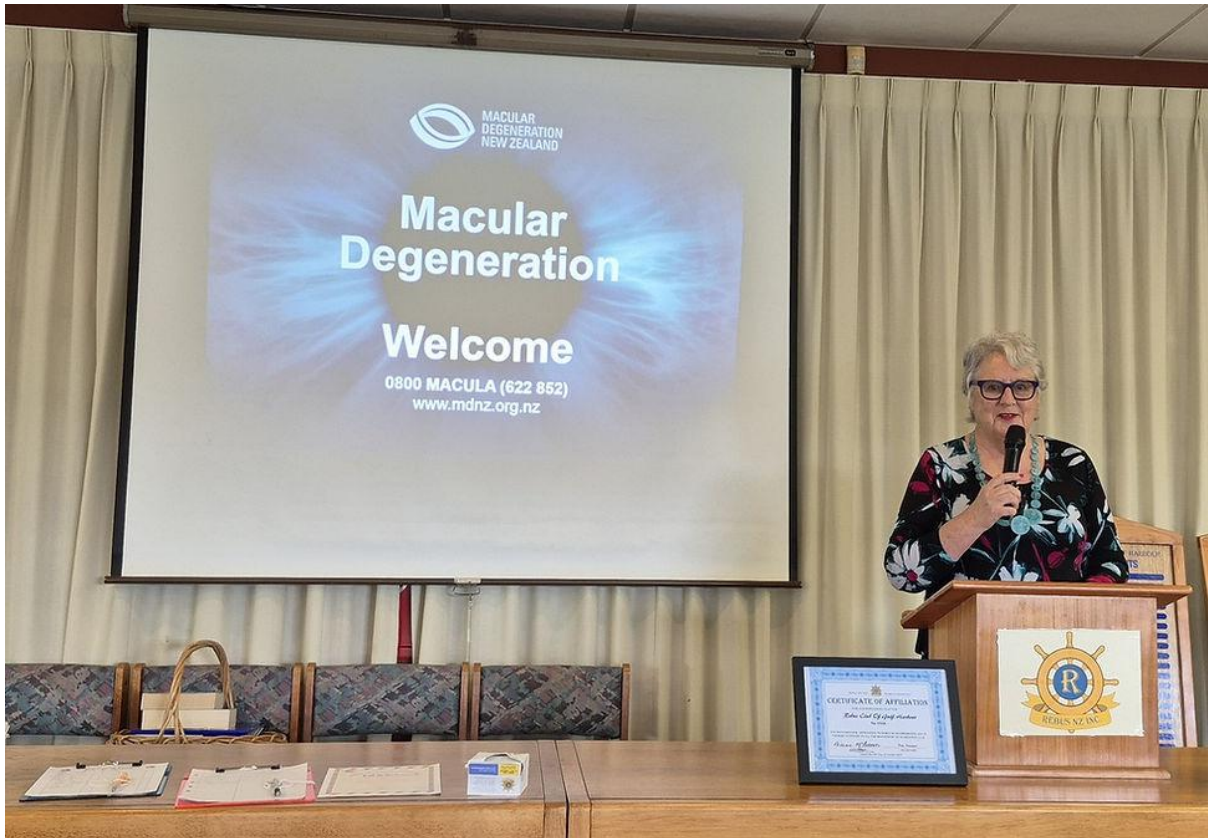
**O Mahurangi Penlink Development update.** Trish and Claire from the alliance between Fulton Hogan and NZTA gave us a PowerPoint update at our November meeting. This project which is a 7km, two-lane highway with six bridges, will be a toll road, \$1 or \$2 depending on the time of day. Of the 1.3 million cu. m. of earthworks, 1.0 million have already been moved. It has been future-proofed for an extra lane which may include the cycle path. A video fly-over showed the new road construction and dirty water ponds etc. The Weiti Bridge is 535 m long, is 45 m above the river, and is New Zealand's first "extradosed" bridge. There are 4 piers, each of which has two piles which are 3 m in diameter, and 45 m deep below the riverbed. Ak Transport/Council are responsible for providing the new Whangaparaoa Bus Station which will be situated in the area opposite New World. Penlink will however, not be open before 2028 with no indication at this stage as to whether it will be early or late in that year. We eagerly await ..... For more detailed information, visit the Penlink website which includes the video fly-over/ <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/penlink>



Our Club Speaker for October was Hugh Pattison who provided PT II of his address to the Club. It consisted of an informative Power Point presentation about the Swedish company, Husqvarna with which Hugh had a 10 year association.

Husqvarna is 336 years old, and started producing rifles in 1689. The factory was built close by a waterfall which was the source of the power. In 1872 they started making sewing machines. Later they built a foundry to make kitchen items, then onto bicycles, and in 1903 started the production of motorcycles.

In 1919, Husqvarna made their first lawn mowers, and 1959 they further expanded their activities to include chainsaws. 1970 saw Sweden's first female board member join the Husqvarna Board. Electrolux purchased the appliance side of the Company, but Husqvarna split from Electrolux in 2006. The company now makes demolition robots, robot mowers, and since it joined with Gardena in 2016, started producing automatic watering systems.



Our October Guest Speaker was Phillipa Pilcher of Macular Degeneration NZ, a registered charity.

MDNZ aims to raise awareness and provide education. It receives no Government funds.

MD is the name given to a group of degenerative retina eye diseases that cause progressive loss of central vision, leaving the peripheral or side vision intact. The Macula is the central area at the back of the eye. It is associated with ageing and usually affects people over 50 years. However, inherited forms of the disease can also affect young people.

Statistically, 1 in 7 over 50 yrs will have MD, and 1 in 4 over 80 yrs. You have a 50% chance if it is in your family history. There are wet and dry types of MD. Symptoms include blurred vision. It is important to use the Amsler Grid to check your sight on a regular basis to detect early signs of this disease. An Amsler Fridge "stick-on" was included in the kitsets Phillipa made available to all of our members. She emphasized that "Delayed treatment = loss of vision". Prompt diagnosis is important so that treatment can commence as soon as possible. Treatment- Wet = injections in the eye, Dry = improved lighting, and medication.



Hugh Pattison was our Club Speaker for the September meeting. With a Powerpoint presentation, he illustrated his life story. Born in Geraldine and educated in Mayfield, he qualified as a motor mechanic. This was the start of an interesting and varied career with companies such as Smith & Smith Glass, Repco, Castrol Oil and Husqvarna. He owned the Mayfield Garage, servicing numerous agricultural equipment, and held many positions in the local community, including the local Fire Brigade, where he was honoured with Life Membership. We look forward to Chapter Two of Hugh's story at our October meeting where he will relate his time with Husqvarna, one of the world's oldest companies founded in 1689.

COLD WAR FIGHTER PILOT

GUY SLOCUM

[guy@healthconcern.co.nz](mailto:guy@healthconcern.co.nz)

027 895 2909



Our external speaker for September was Guy Slocum a former pilot with the RAF during the Cold War. Guy explained that this started towards the end of WWII. It followed a meeting at Yalta between Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin.

Guy started flying gliders at the age of 12, then flew an Auster J5 monoplane which on one occasion, lost its propeller requiring an emergency landing in an angry farmer's paddock among his cows. Guy earned his first pilot's license at 17, and his "wings" a year later.

Concerned that the Russians might use their ballistic missiles to target the West's weapons stockpile, the job of the RAF was to train their pilots in shoot-down tactics. Target practice involved firing at a flag towed by another aircraft. During those years, several different aircraft were used. An example was the Lightning which held fuel for only 50 minutes, so had to refuel mid-air multiple times during a patrol - a very skillful and demanding procedure. Later, Guy transferred to the Royal Navy flying the Phantom off Carriers. It was always a comfort to know that a helicopter was present at all landings and take-offs in case any aircraft had an unscheduled landing in the sea.

The Harrier Jump jet was another aircraft Guy flew off Carriers, noting that around a third of all these aircraft were lost by pilots learning how to fly this aircraft type.

It was clear that our members thoroughly enjoyed Guy's presentation and our appetite has been whetted for a further instalment.



Guy Slocum accepts a gift from Gill Wild in appreciation of his address to the Club. Today's presentation is one of several available covering different aspects of his time in the RAF. Guy is willing to re-visit at some future date to let us have Part 11.



We farewell Pam Naylor who is relocating to Brisbane. Pam, who with husband, the late John, was a foundation member of the Club, a Greeter and more recently, an outstanding Welfare Officer. All the very best Pam!



Our Club speaker for August was Rob Lorden who illustrated his life story with a Powerpoint presentation. 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 - including Takapuna City Council, he became a Consultant. Dragon Boat racing, yachting and skiing are his hobbies.



Vincent Maire, our August external speaker, shared his enriching journey with Harbour Hospice in Red Beach. Initially joining in 2005 to spearhead fundraising efforts, he successfully raised \$2 million for a new hospice building. After a brief hiatus to train as a spiritual carer, he returned to Hospice, where he emphasized the importance of meditation, solitude, and humor in coping with death and dying. Vincent's personal experiences have deeply influenced his compassionate approach. He retired in December 2024, leaving a lasting impact on those he served.





Graeme McIntosh was our Club Speaker for July and entertained us with an account of a recent Trip to the Chathams illustrated with many photos of the numerous scenic attractions on the main Island and nearby Pitt Island. Here he is holding a 2.8kg Crayfish gifted to him by a generous Islander for the home trip. It, together with fillets of mouth-watering Blue Cod caught by the tour group, ensued a warm welcome home! The tour hosted by Pukekohe Travel, enabled members to access many Island treasures not normally open to the sole traveler.

Waitangi Wharf and Hotel at the Chatham Islands.



Our July Guest Speaker was Lisa Trist from ASB keeping us up to date with the latest scams and giving us guidance on how to stay safe online. She pointed out that all NZ Bank's email addresses end with .co.nz - NEVER .com. Cold-calling re investments is illegal in NZ so beware if you receive a phone offer that is sounds too good to be true! Current scams doing the rounds are texts supposedly from NZ Post and NZTA about outstanding fines. Romance/dating/friendship scams are the biggest offenders. Good to know that all banks are working together to avoid the clients being scammed.



Our mid-winter luncheon was again held at "Hello Manly" following our July meeting and where 35 members and partners enjoyed a delicious buffet presentation. We occupied the raised area in the corner of the Restaurant giving us a measure of privacy from other luncheon diners. Our Club flag was in evidence thanks to David and Verneice. We saw a number of other diners expressing interest in the flag.

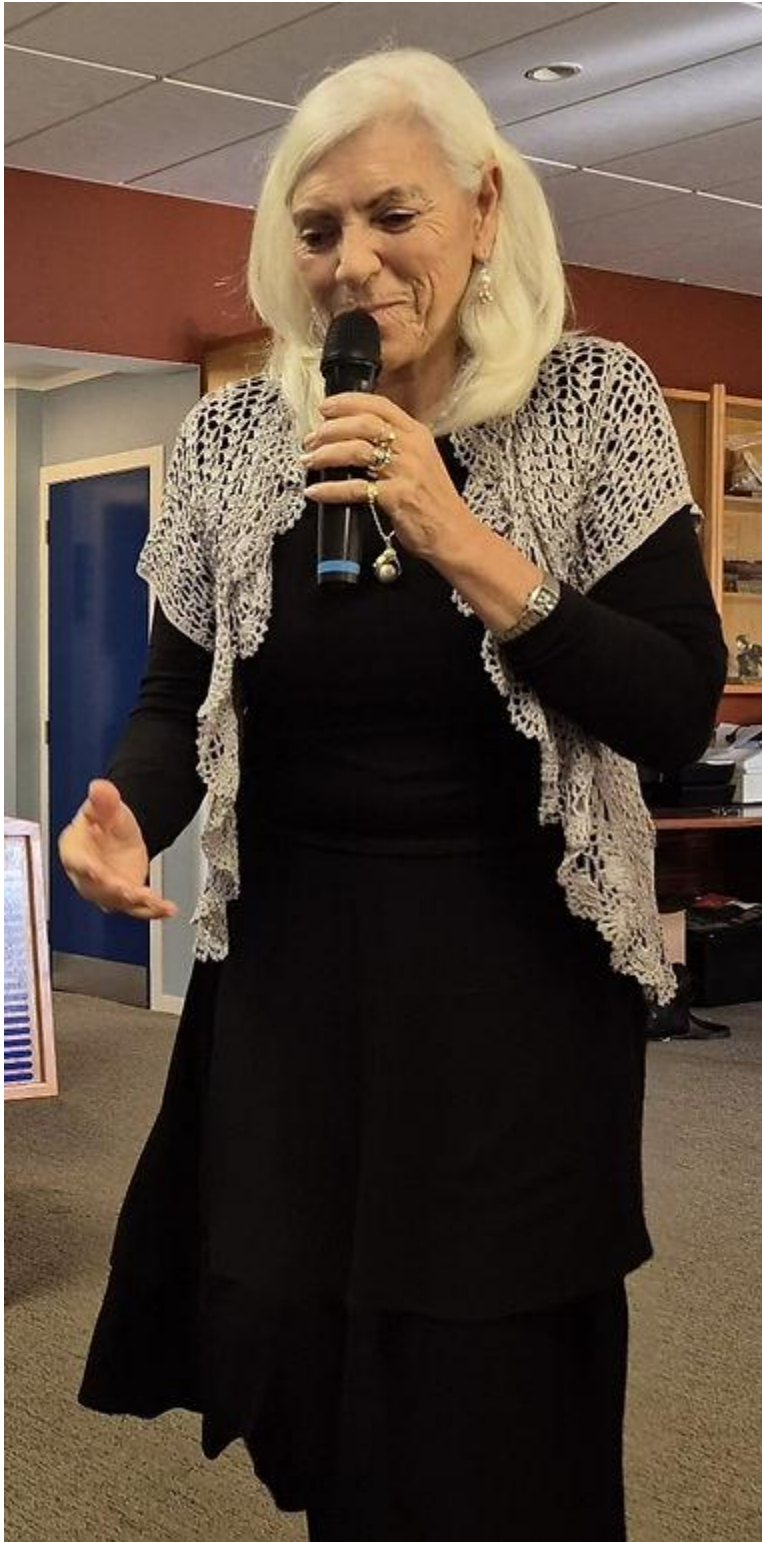


Hugh and Jeanie Pattison became members of our Club when inducted by President Jean on the 11 June 2025. They live in nearby Pinecrest Drive and look forward to the benefits of membership in their retirement years. Welcome to the Club!



Glen Brown from Auckland Emergency Management on his topic "*How to prepare for an emergency*", gave an excellent Powerpoint presentation encompassing Civil Defence. His team is part of Auckland Council and gave us all much to think about our own state of readiness in the event of a major widespread event. Of all the potential risks, Tsunami is considered the "biggie". A map showing local areas which could be inundated was quite worrying. We were advised to prepare a Grab Bag containing water, radio and batteries torch, medication, warm clothing and emergency food including for pets





Jenny Jay (left) presents Glen with a fine bottle of win in appreciation of his address. Our Club Speaker for the day was Valerai Geldenhuys who described for us with the aid of a video, the four month war between German troops and the British troops of King George which took place in 1913 on land in Namibia which is now her farm. Valerai has thousands of artefacts retrieved from the war-site and is restoring a ruined building which will eventually be a Museum to display them.



## Heading 6

At our May Club Day, President Jean was delighted to induct 5 new members into the Club. They are from L-R

Linzi Meyer, Pamela Tucker, Sylvia Davies, Shirley Powell and Jan Albon. Welcome Ladies.



President Jean had the pleasure of inducting Kay Stark at our April meeting. Kay is a retired "Care-worker" having given 30 years service in that field. We hope she will enjoy her membership with us.



Our April meeting welcomed back a previous Guest Speaker, Tina Jones, founder of "Youth in Transition". She was presented with the blankets which had been lovingly knitted by some of our members. Fifteen unique blankets were handed to Tina, to be donated to the young people who attend "the Journey Back to Awesome" program. Knowing their work is so appreciated has led to many knitters now committing to an ongoing promise to keep up the supply.

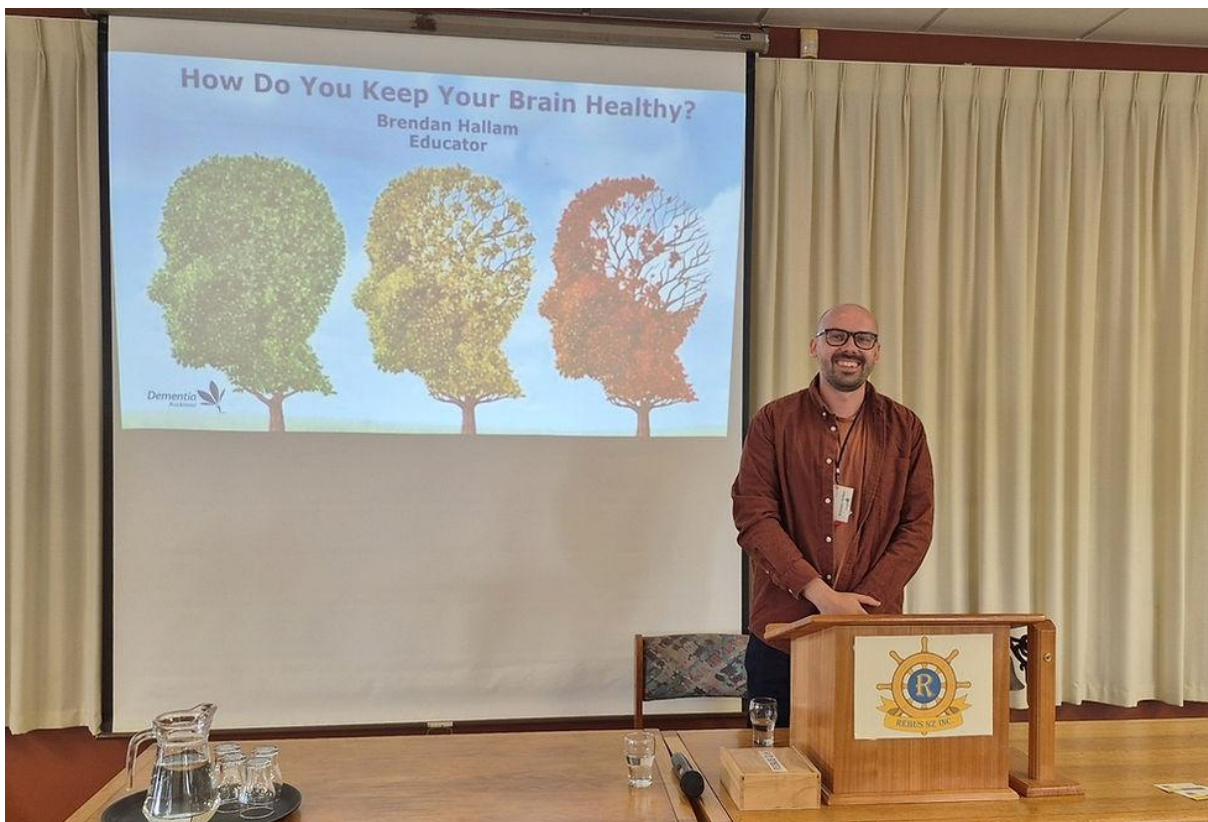


Yet another event for our April Club Day was the judging of the Giant Pumpkin Competition. A poor growing season from November to the day of judgement saw many of our entrants fail in producing a specimen - unlike some monster results a nearby Club had received in earlier competitions.

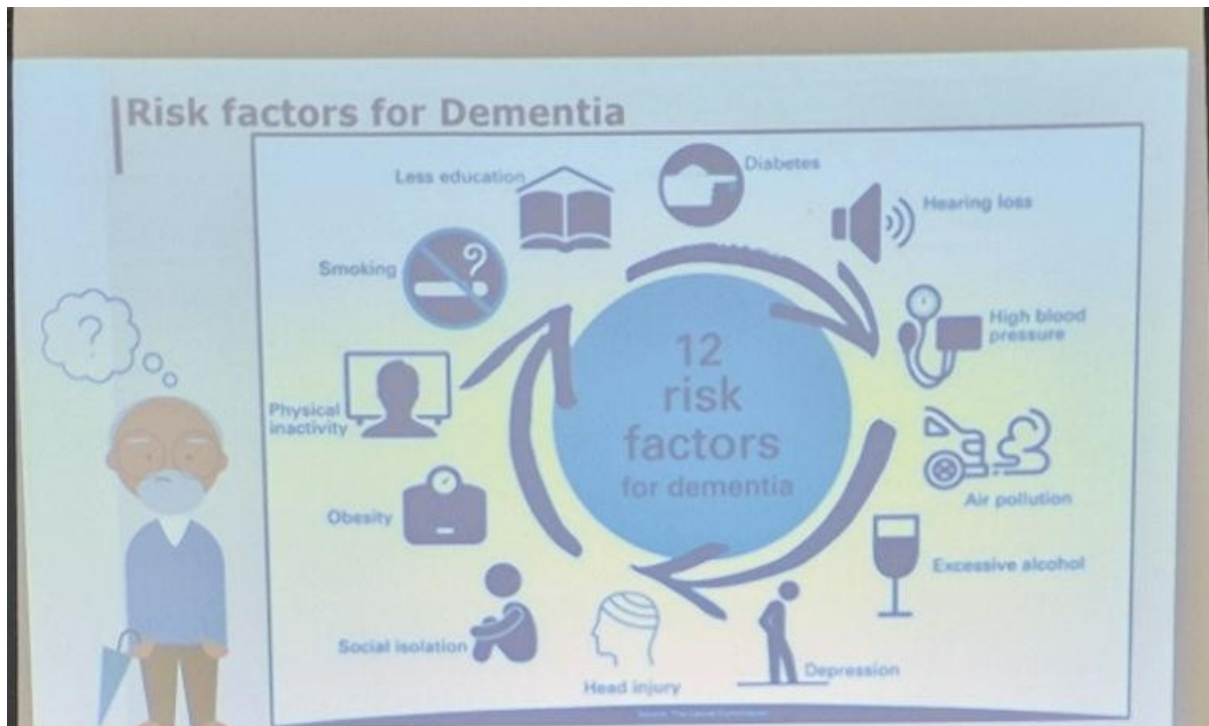
Winners were David & Verneice Kilsby with their entry weighing in at 9.95 kgs and Graeme and Jean McIntosh a close second at 9.15kgs. Gill and Neil Wild took the booby prize at 1.5kgs.



Finally, our April Club Day concluded with a most interesting presentation from Master Mariner Mike Pigneguy. His talk was about "Life Afloat". Born to French parents, Mike has spent almost all of his life at sea and in recent years has been skippering Super Yachts around the world for their wealthy owners. Today's address covered the Seychelle Islands and Mauritius where Mike was born. The vessel for this trip was the "Shandor" with a crew of 12. Victoria is the capital of the Seychelles which came under British rule in 1810. It is known for the tea grown on the island. Mike's presentation included many wonderful photo of wild life and flora on both the Seychelles and Mauritius.



Following our 2025 AGM on the 12 March, at which there was no Club Speaker, we welcomed Brendan Hallam from Dementia Auckland. His subject was "Cognitive Ability". With a series of power point slides, he illustrated how the decline in Cognitive Ability is a natural part of ageing. Dementia is a general term to describe how the brain and short term memory is affected. The main triggers of dementia are diabetes, hearing loss, high blood pressure, air pollution, excessive alcohol consumption, depression, head injuries, social isolation, obesity, inactivity, smoking and less education. Keeping as physically active as possible and exercising the brain with the company of others, learning new skill and hobbies should help to keep the brain active. The chart below illustrates all these points.





Paddy Sullivan from Age Concern was our February 2025 Guest Speaker. One of her many topics this time was SCAMS! She provided us with much valuable advice on scam avoidance, and what to do if you believe you may have become a victim. Beware of any requests for your passwords. Genuine organizations will never do this. Do not give out private information - especially on social media unless you are absolutely sure of the bona fides of the person or organization. About romantic scams, Paddy says "If you cannot touch him or smell him, don't give him any money!) Membership of Age Concern costs only \$20 and the nearest office is at Shop JA2, Westpac Plaza, Tamariki Avenue, Orewa.



Our Club speaker for 12 February 2025 was Gill Wild who confessed to being a Badminton Line Judge for 25 years, but spoke to us about her passion for Tennis. Wimbledon Centre Court was her first experience watching the unforgettable Arthur Ash. Many years later she and husband Neil attended the US Open at Flushing Meadow which she described as "amazing". All branding featured Billy Jean King who was campaigning for equal pay for female players. Now truly hooked, this year they attended the Australian Open in Melbourne. Gill described the tennis as exciting and the Rod Laver Arena as "very hot".



51 members of the combined Gulf Harbour and Hibiscus Mens' Dine-out Group, enjoyed a dinner at Mainsail Restaurant, Gulf Harbour on the 4th February. A great social occasion.



Our 2025 BBQ was held at Te Haruhi Bay, Shakespear Reserve on the 23rd January and was attended by some 40 plus members including guests from Red Beach Ladies Rebus Club.



A collage of additional pics taken at the 23rd January BBQ



The "Combined" Rebus Ramblers from both Gulf Harbour and Hibiscus Coast Rebus Clubs, celebrated the end of year with a luncheon at the Northcote Tavern on the 17th December. It was delayed from the usual Monday by one day to avoid bad weather accurately forecasted for that day.



Inducted at our December Club day by President Ken, were three new members - from L-R, Rob Lorden, Pam Lorden and Karen Clout. A warm welcome to the Club and we look forward to your participation in club activities.



Our Club Speaker for the last meeting in 2024, was Bryan Wentworth. He looked back over his lifetime and recounted for us his early days and scholastic achievements culminating in obtaining an accountancy degree and working for NZ Forest Products. After marrying, moved to

Hong Kong taking up a government position followed by a shift to the private sector. After the change when Hong Kong returned to being part of China, Bryan and family (3 boys) returned to NZ. He still keeps his hand in with figures and is the Treasurer of the Rebus Club of Hibiscus Coast and Reviewer of the financial Accounts for Rebus NZ Inc.



Karen Geater and Ron Morton from Ship 'n Shore Tours were our main speakers for the December meeting. Karen and Bruce Robertson originally formed the company in 1996 doing door to door, fully escorted tours for (mostly) seniors on the Hibiscus Coast. Their Travel Club now has 2000 members. In 1999, they took bookings for charter boats which had come to Auckland seeking business during the Americas Cup. In more recent years, Covid played havoc with their business but it has rebounded and has gone from strength to strength. They now have no need to advertise with most tours filling up within a few days of release of their Newsletter. In 2020, they became aligned with "Dementia Auckland" to which they have donated over \$15,000.



Heading 6



On the 6th December 2024, we joined with the Rebus Club of Hibiscus Coast for a trip on the "Jane Gifford". 60 members in total enjoyed a 2 hours sightseeing cruise on the river. Weather fine - but a little windy. We were able to bring our own lunch and drinks and can warmly recommend this trip to any other Club yet to experience this tourist gem operating from the Warkworth wharf.



Our Christmas luncheon was again held at Red Beach Surf Club on the 4th December. This is an outstanding venue with excellent catering. Much enjoyed by 48 of our members on a superbly fine day.



Three new members were inducted into our Club at the November meeting. From L-R: Gwyneth Manning, Sheila Bocher and Margaret Phillips. Welcome to the Club ladies.



Sarah Williams, the Coordinator from Hibiscus Coast Zero-waste was our November guest speaker. This charity is funded by Auckland Council which also runs the "Repair Cafe" manned by volunteers. The Council intends to be waste free by 2040. Rubbish going to landfill creates electricity from methane. Plastic bags take up to 1000 years to break down. Insinkerators are a No No. Of the 7 types of plastic, only 1,2 and 5 are recyclable. Look for the number on each item.

Sarah's presentation created much interest among members with many questions answered.



Our November Club speaker was recently joined member, Sarah Bretherton. Yes, two 'Sarahs' on the same day! She told us of her childhood and early upbringing on a farm near Southport in the northwest of England. We were amused by her stories of being an adventurous toddler, venturing near the railway lines and the canal. An early start at school, aged four, laid the foundation for Sarah's education, going to Grammar school and then on to University where Sarah qualified as a physiotherapist. She came to New Zealand in the 1990s.



At our October meeting, President Ken inducts two new members, Alan and Lorraine Thornley who reside at Hobbs Bay. Welcome to the Club and we wish you many years of enjoyable membership.



Retired lawyer Wendy Hampton was our October guest speaker. Her subject was "*Essential records for efficient administration of your estate*". She has published a booklet with that title and led as through its various sections. Key points for us all to note is the need to leave behind tidy and discoverable documents to facilitate timely probate procedures. In spite of the advent of computers, sometimes, hard copies of vital document - or information on where they may be found, are critical. Even when executors have all the material they need, the High Court may take anywhere between 3 and 6 months to complete the process. Disputes between beneficiaries can add months if not years to finality. Wendy warns of the added complexity and cost where assets are held off-shore. She suggests that professional advice should be taken in those instances.



Clockwise: We celebrate our Club's 5th Birthday with a special morning tea in which our Guest Speaker, Wendy participates, Graeme and Jean McIntosh, newly elected Life Members, cut the cake and Colin Cathro's skills and generosity as a cabinetmaker are recalled. The Lectern and Honours Boards were crafted and supplied by Colin at the time of the Club's establishment.



Life memberships were awarded to founding members, Graeme and Jean McIntosh at the October meeting which coincided with the Club's 5th anniversary. In thanking the Club for the honour, mention was made of the considerable assistance they had received from the Rebus Club of Hibiscus Coast in particular the late Peter Odendaal, George Tregidga, John Lee (and Judi Lee) who joined them in the formation of a steering committee and subsequently the

formation of a Rebus Club for Gulf Harbour with Peter Odendaal to become the founding President. Financial benefactors who also supported the Club at the time of formation were Piet Theron and Neil Douglas.



Our inaugural President Peter Odendaal passed away on the 14th September. Photographic tributes were presented with further respects paid by George Tregidga, Pieter Hopkins and Frank Townley. Peter played a hugely important role in the formation and running of the Club in its initial years. His cheerful presence and sense of humour were unique.



A great turnout for our September 2024 Club Day where we welcomed a record 11 guests



We support Emirates - Team New Zealand's defense of the America's Cup (in memory of Sir Peter Blake)



Our Club speaker was Valerai Geldenhuys on her subject Namibia - where she lives for part of the year as a farmer and fishing trawler owner. She describes Namibia as the "clean friendly jewel of Africa". In 1485 the Portugese were the first colonists. In 1793, the Dutch authority took control of Walvis Bay and in 1856, the country became a German colony under Bismarck. Namibia is 2000kms long and 1000kms wide with 13 ethnic groups. It has a population of 2.4m

and has 3.4m visitors annually. Although experiencing light rainfall in many parts of the country, it has the world's largest underwater lake.



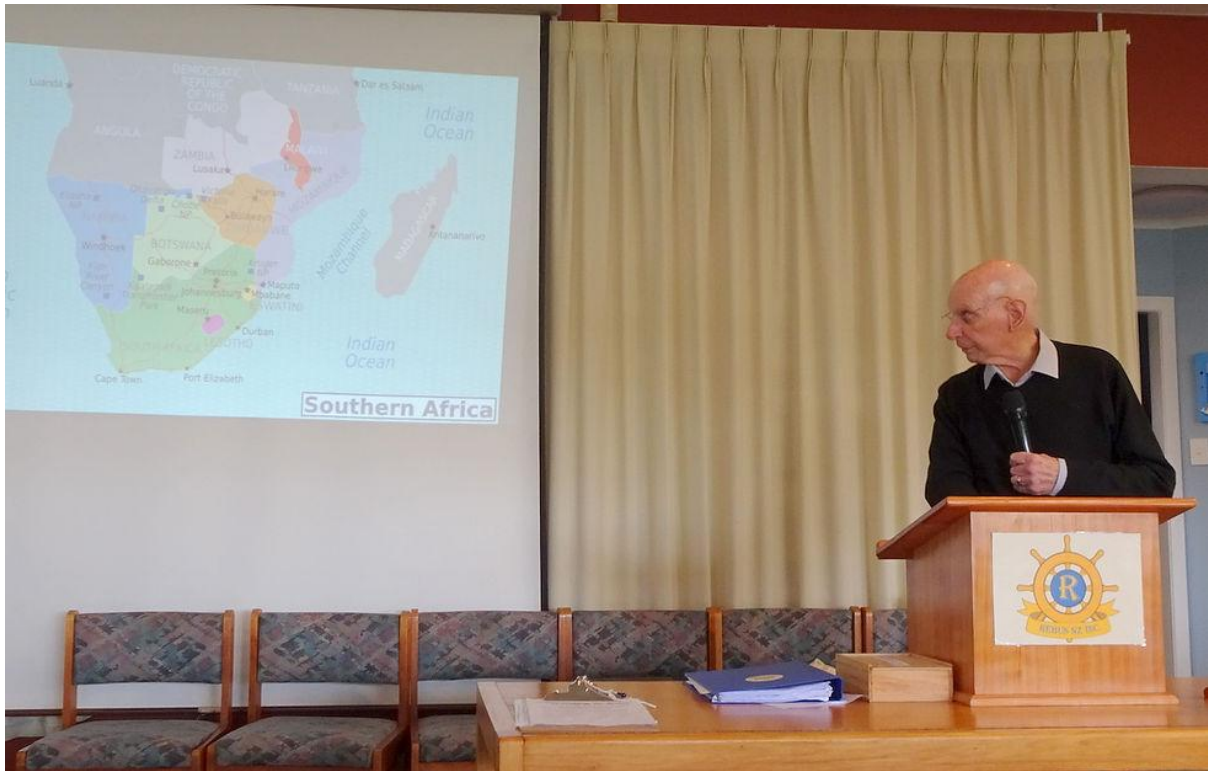
Paul Graham from NZ Land Search and Rescue (NZSAR) was the main speaker for our September meeting. Apart from the Chief Executive and his team, who are the only paid personnel funded by Government, all other operatives are volunteers. In the 12 months to June 2024, 600 volunteers gave 167,962 hours, (4,050 in Auckland), both training and searching. There are a total of 3300 trained volunteers and 64 local groups. They operate in suburban, urban, wilderness areas including parks, shorelines, caves and islands in the Hauraki Gulf. Volunteers use their own vehicles and when an emergency arises, the first line of enquiry is to the Police who will then contact NZSAR. Paul gave us detailed descriptions of 3 typical searches - all of which resulted in the safe rescue of missing persons. Sadly, that is not always the case.



We combine with Hibiscus Mens and Red Beach Ladies for a membership promotion at the Plaza Whangaparaoa on the 20th August 2024 - Senior Citizen's Gold Card day!



Raewyn and Dave Dewe, residents of Gulf Harbour, became our newest members with their induction at our August 2024 meeting. A very warm welcome to you both!



The August Club speaker was Past President and Life member, Peter Odendaal on the subject of the History of South Africa. He outlined the wars between the Boers and the British and the three African Tribes and expanded on the difference between black and whites. In more recent times, countries like the USA, Cuba and Russia have all been involved in wars in South Africa. F.W. de Klerk completely changed the form of government and arranged the release of Nelson Mandela as a result of which, the blacks now have control of what has become a third world country. It has always been a Pandora's Box.



Dr Don Brash was our keynote external speaker for August. He outlined 5 key challenges which he saw as facing the country today.

- 1) Our long history of growing output per person more slowly than other developed countries.
- 2) Our severely unaffordable housing with house prices relative to income being amongst the highest in the world.
- 3) The long-term fiscal outlook as a consequence of the gradual aging of the population - with the cost of National Superannuation (unless the age of eligibility is increased), the cost of healthcare - and what that means for government debt.
- 4) The increasing tendency over the past 40 years to reinterpret the Treaty of Waitangi to imply some kind of constitutional partnership between those with a Maori ancestor and those without. *Note: current seabed and foreshore issues and media bias.*
- 5) The increasingly serious geopolitical contest between our traditional security partner (USA) and our largest export market (China).

Questions from the floor further encouraged Dr Brash to elaborate on some the issues above. He is pictured receiving a gift of appreciation from President Ken who noted that he had driven up from Tauranga that morning to speak to us.

We were privileged to have Dr Brash as our guest and appreciated the non-partisan approach to his address.



Combined dinner 30 July - Gulf Harbour and Hibiscus Men's Clubs with a record attendance of 41 members and partners.



Founding member, John Lee stepped up to our July meeting and provided us with an entertaining Powerpoint presentation illustrating his life experiences. Following an extensive professional career as a veterinarian, John joined the NZ government as a Councillor for market access and was involved in overseeing exports of meat and seafoods and import /export of animals. Father to 4 children, now retired and married to Judi, another founding member of our Club.



Garry Phillips, NZ Society of Genealogists, was our Guest speaker for July. He says that Genealogy is slowly becoming known as Family History. Garry started by searching for a person in a family photo, "Lady Bruff" who turned out to be a pickpocket and was transported to Van Dieman's Land. He said "we find dead people and we re-connect families". It is quite easy to find records from the 16th and 17th centuries. But, he warns, it is very addictive. The most valuable clues are from family items, such as bibles, diaries and certificates etc. For beginners, the best websites to search are records of the Mormon Church (Latter Day Saints) [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), and its free. As for DNA, testing is recommended. Garry suggests you give a test kit to your oldest relative, rather than your grandchildren and collect all the family records possible.



At the conclusion of our July Club Day, 32 members visited "Hello Manly" restaurant for an enjoyable mid-year luncheon. It was the first opportunity to display our new tear drop flag.





Our Guest Speaker for the June Club Day was Tina Jones, Co-Founder of "Youth in Transition". With so little support for suicidal youths, Tina joined the Police in the role of Suicide Prevention and Support. With so many children being born into a 'dying world', to 'P' addict mothers and with foetal alcoholism, they are unable to deal with peer relationships. There are 50 attempted suicides each week. Local resident, the late Nigel Rigg has been a great benefactor and mentor. Manly GP Bruce Henderson, is a great supporter of the program. Briscoes' Rod Duke has bought a \$2.5m retreat Centre, for teaching life skills, gardening and domestic jobs in a tranquil environment. There 242 kids currently in the program.

Club Speaker was Gill Raynor who arrived in NZ as a 12 year old on the Rangototo. When NAC were offering air hostess training, she became a Hostess on Friendship aircraft, Vickers Viscount and later served internationally with Air NZ on 747s. For our enjoyment, Gill related some hilarious experiences.



Michael Sanders, the President of Centrestage Orewa, providing an entertaining and informative May address. Centrestage is owned by a Trust, and the theatre seats 205. This year, it is putting on 6 productions and has 4 full-time staff. It costs \$14,000 per month just to keep the doors open. He pointed to the costs of the rites to produce shows - mentioning that Les Miserables was

\$18,000. Always a gamble that ticket sales will exceed operational overheads.

A description of the audition process ahead of any production was particularly interesting and subsequent rehearsals can take 3-4 months. One show had 20 costume changes per actor and opening nights are nerve-racking. Michael did a millinery course in London in 2019 to assist his costume design ability. Theatre has been his passion for 50 years,

Our May Club speaker was Alister Fookes. He gained his earliest farming experience as a 9 year old raising 7 day old chicks and spent most of his career in the animal feed business including working for NRM Feeds for 18 years. At age 60 he bought a cattle farm at Bombay and subsequently retired to the Hibiscus Coast.



At our April meeting, President Ken had the pleasure of inducting three new members. From left to right they are: Dorte Witoszka, Rita Wilkes and Sarah Bretherton. Welcome , Ladies.



Our guest speaker at the April meeting was Tasman Dowling, a beekeeper/apiarist. He started business in 2008 with 5 hives. He is currently selling 2 tons of live bees to Canada and specializes in raising Queens. Main honey production is from Manuka, Pennyroyal and clover types with some hives on the Whangaparaoa Golf Course. Orchardists rent beehives which are moved at night. There are 80,000 bees per hive which scout the area visiting every flower with mathematical precision working out the distances between pollen sites. Most productive time is November - January when an average of 69 tons of honey is harvested. Varoa bee mite arrived in 2001 from China and costs about \$40,000 to treat and control. Tasman noted that Queens live about 8 years and can lay 2000 eggs per day. Worker bees are also female. Drones are males and used only for breeding.



Judi Lee was the Club speaker and talked about growing up in the King Country, graduating as a Veterinarian in 1976 and then having an existing varied veterinary career over the next 44 years. Highlights included air transport of horses from the UK, and working with deer farmers to establish domestic deer herds. Judi also represented NZ at international meetings associated with the primary industry trade - (animal products).



Our March Guest Speaker was Greg Moyle and his topic, was The NZ War Memorial Museum at Le Quesnoy in France. He outlined the successful reclamation of the village by NZ soldiers, many of whom gave their lives whilst fighting the soon to be defeated Germans. The Museum is a tribute to those Kiwis who fell. Decades later, the locals still revere the sacrifice our country made and many street names reflect their love of our country.

New President - Ken Daniels after receiving the Chain of Office from Verna Harford at the Club's Annual General Meeting, held on 13 March 2024



At our first meeting for 2024, we had the pleasure of inducting Barbara Wyber who has returned to NZ after many years in Australia. She resides in the Gulf Harbour village and enjoys being a kiwi again.

Our Club speaker was Colin Hewertson who gave an entertaining account of the first 25 years of his life. Born in Lancaster, UK, he came to NZ working for Fletcher Building and subsequently met wife Nancy - now a member of our committee.



Our Guest Speaker for the February meeting was Pauline Bascik who had the distinction of being the first female long-haul truck driver in NZ. She and her husband started business in Christchurch in 1971 and now have several depots across the length and breadth of this country. Pauline became a JP when in her 30s and also learnt to fly after receiving an aeroplane for her birthday. Her son is now running the business following the earlier death of her husband. She related many interesting and challenging experiences associated with a woman breaking into what was essentially a male dominated business.



In spite of ominous weather forecasts earlier in the week, Wednesday 17 January 2024 proved to be just perfect for our annual BBQ. This was the 5th since the Club was established in 2019.

Some 40 members rolled up complete with chairs, tables and all the necessary utensils to enjoy a fine menu with food prepared by Chefs, Keith Handley, Garth Dutton, Peter Brignall and Graeme McIntosh. Neil Wild was the BBQ convenor and together with wife Gill, orchestrated the event to every one's entire satisfaction.



Our Club's last activity for 2023 was the Christmas luncheon held at The Archer Restaurant in Stanmore Bay. Fine food, great company and the end of a very active year for the Club.



Seventeen members visited the Auckland Zoo on the 23 November 2023 to complete their tour of this outstanding facility. A trip earlier in the year was rained out halfway through. This time, perfect conditions.





At our September meeting, President Verna awards Past President Peter Odendaal a Life Membership acknowledging his pivotal role in the establishment of the Club in 2019. On the right, Peter cuts the Birthday Cake at a morning tea celebrating the Club's 4th Anniversary.



An historic occasion - President Peter Odendaal inducts 21 Foundation members on the 9th October 2019





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