



REBUS CLUB NEWS

January 2026

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Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Now the Boxing Day sales are a distant memory, it is time to think about Annual General Meetings. Almost all Rebus clubs hold their AGM in March, and that means “re-affiliation” time when clubs send details of their Officers to Rebus NZ Inc. and pay their affiliation fees. There is no increase this year, and the fees are still incredible value for money, and all Board Members give their time for free.

In May, the Rebus NZ Inc. Annual General Meeting is being held in Whangaparaoa, hosted by the Rebus Club of Hibiscus Coast. Please think seriously about attending the AGM and representing your own club. It is a delightful get-together, meeting members from other clubs, comparing ideas etc., and of course it is a great opportunity to have your say – good or bad – we always listen. Why not plan a weekend away?

Click this link for more details: <https://www.rebus.nz/agm>

Now your news, the first roundup for 2026.

-Steve O’Sullivan, Rebus Club News Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST

Our Ramblers meet every Monday (numbers vary) and head out for some destination in the Auckland region followed by coffee and a chat.

[right] *Ramblers, Milldale*

[below] *Early December, we held our Christmas lunch at the Gulf Harbour Yacht Club. We also took advantage of the situation to take a piccy of our Presidents and Life Members who were present.*



From left to right: Phil Martell, Kim Hanna, George Tregidga, Pieter Hopkins, David Gatland, John McColl, Paul Robinson, Graeme McIntosh, Julian Joy, and Garth Dutton. You can tell the Life Members – during the year we decided to differentiate these distinguished members by giving them gold name tags for easy recognition within our membership.

Only one Life Member/President was absent – Bill Anderson.

-Earl Brookbanks, Newsletter Editor

CAMBRIDGE MEN'S REBUS CLUB

In November, members enjoyed an informal pre-Christmas social cocktail session that was held at D'Arcy's Garden Restaurant (Hidden Lake Hotel). This was the final social activity for 2025.



*[left] Organiser **Bryan Handcock***

[right] Smiles all round.

-Nigel Salter, Newsletter Editor



MT. HOBSON REBUS CLUB



Our November speaker, **David Kirk-Jones** has been a member of the Remuera Club since 1969.

Initially the Remuera Club was a gentlemen's club – partnered with the Warehousemen and its first meeting was held in the Auckland Harbour board premises in 1901. The correct title initially was the Auckland Commercial Travellers and Warehousemen's Association, and it was established as an incorporated society still operating under a royal charter which is included in its governance. It was a means whereby commercial travellers or "Knights of the Road" as they were often known, could meet at the end of a busy week and unwind over a drink and conversation.



The Christmas Luncheon was at Cornwall Park Bistro and the food was excellent and the company most enjoyable.

It was pleasing to see how many wives and partners came and they were able to put faces to the names and stories that they have no doubt heard about in the past year.

-Pat Alley, Newsletter Editor.

"I love deadlines. I love the whooshing noise they make as they go by." Douglas Adams

REBUS CLUB OF MANAWATU

DECEMBER XMAS MORNING TEA: We had a busy time with a video presentation by **Mike Hodgson** featuring huge forestry equipment. We indulged at morning tea while club members contributed poems and stories.



Finally, we all enjoyed struggling with passing (or should it have been shuttling) our Christmas parcels round the circle.

[left] **Liz** explains the rules to our hilarious “pass the parcels” game. We shifted gifts left and right constantly – one gift even got broken!

-Margie Comrie, Newsletter Editor.

SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB

The club celebrated the end of the year with a very pleasant lunch on 28 November at the Carterton Club. The following day a small group travelled to Circa Theatre in Wellington to attend a double bill of Bruce Mason’s solo plays: “The End of the Golden Weather” and “Not Christmas, but Guy Fawkes”. They were performed in repertory by well-known actor **Stephen Lovatt** who has played Max Hoyland in Neighbours and Dr Whitman in Shortland Street, among many screen and film roles.

Barbara Lovatt, Stephen’s mother, a retired South Wairarapa Rebus member and my predecessor as the club’s newsletter editor, was there with friends celebrating her 95th birthday. With a very pleasant meal at the Circa restaurant, Chouchou, between the two performances, we had a most satisfying trip.

Having lived for some years in the early 1980s at the southern end of Takapuna Beach and having seen the play before, “The End of the Golden Weather”, brought me many pleasant personal memories. The autobiographical “Not Christmas, but Guy Fawkes” had not been previously performed by anyone other than Bruce Mason himself, lending Stephen’s interpretation particular significance. It deserved the standing ovation it received.

“I am today sitting at my desk with the rain pelting down outside, wondering if the regular Wairarapa summer has deserted us for this season! I tried golfing last Sunday morning—8 am tee off to try to beat the wind that the weather forecast promised—but the wind had already got up. It was blowing so hard that every time we tried to swing our clubs, we were blown off balance. It was just too difficult to hit the ball, so we had to give up after only three holes! (John Reeve, President)”

-David Woodhams, Newsletter Editor.

FOXTON REBUS CLUB

We enjoyed tasting Barry’s home brew cocktails. - Dereley Barry, Newsletter Editor

"Do not touch" must be one of the scariest things to read in braille - Anon

PAPANUI REBUS CLUB



Our Guest Speakers were from Canine Friends Pet Therapy, **Carol** and **Paul Milligan** and **Bev Kennedy** along with the group's favourites Jess and Zoe. They spoke about how they take the dogs to hospitals, resthomes, universities and schools, where everyone responds very well to them. Canine Friends was founded 35 years ago, and they currently have 800 members who take their dogs visiting. The group had a lovely time interacting with the dogs.



34 members attended our Christmas lunch at the Chateau. Another lovely lunch, good food, crackers to pull, hats to wear and jokes to tell. A very nice way to celebrate the Christmas season.



We kicked off the year with a coffee morning at Mitre 10, and the next week 23 members turned up for a roll up at bowls, 15 actually bowling, followed by a light lunch.



-Linda Barnes, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS WAIHEKE



About 54 of us, including 4 non-member dancers, attended a most fantastic Christmas party. We were entertained very energetically by Dance Out Loud led by **Rachel Bell**. The group started on the stage and then danced in the centre of the main hall joined by many Rebus members. We then enjoyed a fabulous lunch followed by the singing of four Christmas carols accompanied on the piano by **Anne Willmann**.



We finished with dessert and **Suzy Miller's** delicious Christmas cake. The two winning Christmas hats were worn by **Christine West** and **Mike Breckon**.
-Tania Sweet, Newsletter Editor.

TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB

Friday 7th November saw 22 members travel in two minibuses plus a couple of cars to The New Zealand Timber Museum on the outskirts of Putaruru.

From the road, one wouldn't imagine the extensive exhibits that were housed in various buildings at the Museum. We viewed vintage cars, trucks, sawmill, mounted wildlife, a small native bush walk, the original buildings of a jailhouse, Puketuama School and a cookhouse.

We lunched at the Redwoods Café where a good selection of food was available, after which, one bus returned to Taupo, while the other journeyed the short distance into town to 'Over the Moon'. We were met by **Sue Arthur**, who talked us through the methods of making artisan cheese, and the importance of the milk being very fresh, the cheese having the correct smell, touch, feel and PH. The milk was all locally sourced.

We were presented with four different cheeses to taste. Goat's cheese, mild, Southern Cross (made with sheep, goat, buffalo and cows' milk) slightly stronger, Black Truffle Brie, and buffalo/cow blue cheese. The texture of the cheeses was divine. So different from the large, processed cheeses. A place well worth visiting!



We had our "nearly" Christmas function in November. with a lovely "Christmas dinner", served at the Cossie Club, lots of laughter and chat, lots of fun, lots of new friends and old friends, and a general good time was had by all.



-Christine Bailey, Newsletter Editor.

"Golf is a good walk spoiled" -Mark Twain

RIVERSIDE REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON

[right] At our last meeting, members donated goods for “Kids In Need” Waikato, and we managed to fill a whole table.



[below] Our Rebus Club members who modelled for us at the op-shop fashion parade. Left to right, **Anne** (Angelic), **Elaine** (Piper), **Rayleen** (Rainbow), **Elizabeth** (Bianca), **Judi** (Flower), **Shirley** (Magic), **Marg** (Delilah), **Liz** (Velvet)



-Steve O'Sullivan, Bulletin Editor.

WEST AUCKLAND MEN'S REBUS CLUB



Trevor Pollard receives his Life Membership certificate from **Sir Bob Harvey**, Patron of the West Auckland Historical Society, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to preserving and sharing the region's history.



TRACING WEST AUCKLAND'S PAST: MILL COTTAGE TO HUIA:
On a bright Wednesday morning, 12 November, a busload of members set off from St John Hall at 9:30 am for what proved to be a packed but thoroughly enjoyable day exploring some of West Auckland's historical gems.

The itinerary was, shall we say, ambitiously optimistic – Swan's Arch, Tui Glen, Mill Cottage, Corban Arts Centre, Waikumete Cemetery, Huia Settlers Museum and the Lower Huia Dam, all to be squeezed into a 9:30 am – 3:00 pm window! **Trevor Pollard** solved the problem by insisting on proper stops at only two places, with drive-by appreciation of the rest.

[right] Ambulance officer **Lindsay Roberts** shared lifesaving CPR skills with club members at the October meeting.



[below] Our October coffee morning was held at Gloria Jean's Café, located at The Boundary in Henderson — a familiar and welcoming spot for many of us. This café, formerly Esquires Café, has long been one of **Ian Smith's** preferred venues. In May 2024, it reopened under the Gloria Jean's name, with the same people at the helm. -*Vince Middeldorp, Newsletter Editor.*



REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT

The speaker was **John Campbell**, who spoke about his visits to the Auckland Islands, some of their history, and the impact of the introduced pests.

- *Alex Attewell, Newsletter Editor.*



CAMBRIDGE REBUS CLUB

On November 25th, Cambridge Rebus Club members went on a tour of the Moondance Gardens, at Tamahere.

Moondance Manor Gardens are extensively planted with abundant flower beds, a wealth of native and exotic trees, a large ornamental pond, and some formal hedging – all set on over a hectare bordering the Waikato River.



This year's Christmas luncheon on 11th December was held at Te Awa Woolshed. The food and the décor were amazing. Members donated food items for the local foodbank run by the Salvation Army.

We had fun prize giveaways and a Christmas quiz.

-Steve O'Sullivan, Newsletter Editor.

WAIKANAE MILLENIUM REBUS CLUB

On Tuesday 2nd December, 67 members of our club enjoyed a Christmas Party with tasty food, much socialising and entertainment. As usual Father Christmas and Elf were in attendance. The wide range and clever designs of The Hats created lots of chat and hilarity.

- David Goggin, Newsletter Editor.



REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH

Wearing something Christmassy at our December club meeting is now a tradition, and we had some interesting and decorative hats and other apparel! Our Club Speaker was **Alison Taylor** who related her experiences on a trip to Mumbai when she was younger. It is the only place where Alison has shared a road with an elephant. An interesting story. A musical quiz presented by **Dean Halford** was a fun event that tested our memories. Our Christmas lunch was held at the Distinction Hotel and was much enjoyed by those attending.



A group of us drove to Kimbolton in November and visited Heritage Park to see the magnificent array of colours of rhododendrons, azaleas and specimen trees in a very well-planned setting. Wonderful!

-Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor.

WARKWORTH LADIES' REBUS CLUB



A festive finish to a successful year: Our club rounded off a very successful year with a Christmas lunch at the Stables, Matakana Country Park. Seventeen members were lucky recipients of raffle prizes, most of which were generously donated by local businesses. We are very grateful for their continued support. The occasion was a delightful blend of good food, great company, and plenty of festive cheer.

All ladies attending the Christmas lunch were presented with the first-ever Warkworth Ladies

Rebus recipe book. Compiled with contributions from our members, the book features a collection of more than 50 favourite, tried-and-true recipes. The baking group oversaw the coordination, typing, and testing of many of the recipes—several of which have already been enjoyed at our monthly Rebus meetings.

Members also recently attended the premiere screening of “John Cleese Packs It In” at the local cinema. The documentary offers a behind-the-scenes look at the now 85-year-old Cleese as he takes his comedy show through 16 European cities across 23 performances. Amusingly, Dunedin, New Zealand, even got a mention—Cleese declaring it the worst audience he’s ever experienced!

We also held December and January coffee get-togethers at local cafés. These are always well attended, with 30–35 members at each gathering. They provide a relaxed opportunity for members to catch up and chat, and they continue to attract visitors who often join us after seeing our local Facebook notices.

-Maryanne Dransfield, Newsletter Editor.



REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI

Photos from our Christmas dinner 2025.

- Paerau T-Mosen, Newsletter Editor.



REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR



beautiful views.

The December Guest Speaker was former fighter pilot, **Guy Slocum**, who enthralled us with his tales from the Cold War era, this time entitled "Ejections and Emergencies". This preceded the Club's Christmas Luncheon at the Red Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, where we enjoyed the delicious food created by Krave Catering. The buffet style meal included seafood salad, hot chicken, ham and slow cooked beef, accompanied by roasted vegetables and salads, followed by pavlova, trifle, and sticky date pudding. The weather was perfect as we sat and took in the

- Jean McIntosh, President.

REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC



[left] We owe a lot to Kenakena School for setting-up and managing morning tea for us. Nancy presents them with a small thank you gift.

[below] The Christmas lunch was a heap of fun as usual, although some of the 'jokes' told left something to be desired.



Before Christmas, we took a trip on the train to Plimmerton, disembarked there and walked along the beach and the coastal path to Mana, where we had our end of year lunch at Ruby's Cafe. We then had another little walk up to the bridge and back to Mana and the station, via the Harbour

beach and caught the train back home. A pleasant day with pleasant weather.

[right] Our first walk for the year in January was through Kaitawa Reserve up to the water tanks on top of the hill and then back down again through the reserve and environs. For those who don't know, there is a little water ford we had to cross to get to the hill path. We managed to cross the water walking on the rocks with only one of us getting damp feet! It was quite the challenge!

-Steve Hutchison, Newsletter Editor.



FITZHERBERT REBUS CLUB INC

Our Vice-President and adventurer, **Rosy Look**, took us on a tour of Sri Lanka during in November. We felt the heat, humidity and tropical rain. We saw brilliant sunrises and lush greenery. We imagined the tastes of a wide array of fruits and teas. We almost felt exhausted with the early starts to beat the heat and wondered at the vibrant colours and mix of cultures. Rosy travelled by bus and train and walked to ruins, temples, and evidence of colonization. She trained before she left home to walk the over 1200 steps to the top of Sigiriya Rock. She rejoiced at the top, but it involved a gruelling effort in high humidity – and an even worse descent. The animals that crossed her path amazed us – a herd of elephants, crocodiles, monkeys, buffalo and even a rarely-sighted Sri Lankan Leopard. Many of us will never go to Sri Lanka but we now have a much better understanding of the country and all that it offers.

Thank you, Rosy.



[left] Some members relax after a visit to Lewis Farms.

-Rosy Look, Communications Secretary

WOMEN'S REBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAE



Our Christmas lunch in December was held at the Plateau Centre, Parkwood. We were delighted with the service, food and ambience of this beautiful venue. We all enjoyed a free glass of wine or fruit juice when we arrived and the company of our friends from Rebus.

The entertainment this year was a very talented group of bell ringers from Wellington. They played a selection of

music ranging from carols to music from other countries. Everyone went home with a raffle prize, and a good time was had by all.

- Mary Paddock, Newsletter Editor.



FROM THE EDITOR:

Another year is already upon us. Next week it is February!

Thank you to all the Clubs that contributed to the Rebus Club News. A reminder that the cutoff date each month is the 25th.

Please send your newsletters to rebusclubnews@gmail.com

Keep warm, enjoy the Summer (coming soon)

Steve

Editor, Rebus Club News