



REBUS CLUB NEWS

February 2026

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REBUS PROMOTIONAL FLAGS

Rebus NZ have located a supplier who will provide us with a double-sided tear-drop flag 2.3m high with a stand and weight bag, that can be filled with water to hold down the base in windy weather.

The flag and base costs \$200 +GST + **free delivery**. Clubs will be required to **pay the supplier directly** and on receipt of a copy of the invoice Rebus NZ Inc will reimburse the club with \$100. The flag and stand come in a bag that is about 1.5m long. The poles are pull-apart and the flag is taken off the pole and folded into a small bundle and is stored in a pocket. The whole item is quite compact when folded away.



The flag will have the Rebus Logo at the top and Clubs may choose to have their name and contact details on the flag.

An example of two flags currently in use are shown to illustrate what they look like.



Please work through me, except for payment, and I shall work with the supplier to get the artwork finalised and will send it to your club for final sign off. Once we place an order it takes 7 to 10 days to complete the order. Please send me your requirements and I shall endeavour to return the artwork to you for approval asap. **Stephen Becket**, Deputy Chair, Rebus NZ Inc. Stephen.becket@gmail.com

Now here's your news roundup for February 2026.

-Steve O'Sullivan, Rebus Club News Editor.

TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB

We had a great start to the year with six new members at our January Meeting (a record?).



Morning tea was special this month, as we celebrated the 100th birthday of one of our members **Robbie Shearer**, who joined very early in 2002 and was a regular member at meetings. She was presented with a bouquet of beautiful flowers, a cake with “100” in candles which she blew out at first blow!!! She celebrated her exact birthday day in Noosa, with 27 family members.



The following article was published recently about Robbie Shearer in the Taupo News:

Wartime widow's second chance at life in NZ

Robbie Shearer celebrates 100 years with tales of wartime loss, love and even a childhood friendship with Sir David Attenborough. *By Dan Hutchinson (reprinted with permission)*

Robbie – or Beatrice Mary Shearer celebrated her birthday at Liston Heights retirement village last week. It marked not just a milestone, but an extraordinary life that began in Leicester, England, and wound through wartime tragedy, architectural adventures, and decades of community building in New Zealand.



Her story reads like a novel, beginning with her marriage at 18 to Royal New Zealand Air Force pilot **Edward Greg Robinson**, 20, during World War II.

Their marriage lasted just three months before Robinson was killed on a daylight mission over France, transporting medical supplies and ammunition to resistance fighters.

Following her husband's death, the New Zealand Air Force offered Robbie passage to meet his family. Arriving in Wellington at 20, Robbie landed on her feet, making important connections and building a new life. Using money left by her late husband, she purchased two sections and built houses, selling one to pay for the other.

“ I applied for an architect to do a plan. And that's how I met my second husband”, she says of **Stan Shearer**, the architect who she would be married to for more than 70 years. Stan Shearer's architectural career took the couple to Blenheim, where he designed and built the iconic Seymour Square fountain that remains a central feature of the town today.

Among Robbie's most treasured connections is her childhood friendship with naturalist Sir David Attenborough, who recently sent her a congratulatory letter for her 100th birthday. The pair grew up in the same Leicester neighbourhood, where Attenborough's father was a headmaster. *-Christine Bailey, Bulletin Editor.*

OMANU REBUS CLUB

Were the weather gods smiling on Sunday 18th January for Omanu's first function of the year? A planned Pizza and Pavlova Picnic was due to start at 4 pm, but at 3 pm we were still debating whether we should be inside or out. Then the weather gods smiled and the decision made. Outside! Up with a big cantilever umbrella. But then the weather gods sneezed and a big gust of wind blew the umbrella backwards. It was too dangerous to put up again! So much for putting the chairs under its shade!

But it didn't stop our 20 or so members from enjoying the warmth of the sun and the assembled company. Every now and then the weather gods frowned and sent over a fluff of cloud, giving a little shade to counter the heat. And after enjoying our pizzas and accompaniments it was time for dessert – our scrumptious pavlovas! But now the weather gods decided it was time to weep, and the threatened shower at 7 pm was enough for us to decide it was time to pack up!

After the event it was so nice to receive a couple of complimentary emails thanking the committee for the picnic and the delicious food! It was a great success! *-Rose Coutts, Newsletter Editor.*

REBUS CLUB OREWA



[left] Our Christmas Luncheon was at Snow Planet. We had a lovely meal, and the room was set up beautifully for Christmas. Plus, the extra thrill of seeing the snow through the window and the skiers. The management looked after us very well.

[right] Members donated toiletries and toys for the women and children at the Women's Refuge at our Christmas Luncheon. Yvonne Gillham and Maureen Grigg delivered them to the



Kowhai Tree Charity Shop in Silverdale. There were 5 boxes and a sack with toys.



[left] Friday friendly walkers meet each week.

[right] Wednesday walkers meet every Wednesday. We walk the beach if possible and enjoy a coffee and chat afterwards.

-Maureen Grigg, Bulletin Editor.



REBUS WAHEKE ISLAND

Mini Speaker: The mini speaker was **Pauline Frances**, who 40 years ago was part of a new team developing health education resources for the Education Department. Resources were funded by outside agencies, Pauline's resources funded by the Alcohol Liquor Advisory Council. Pauline spoke about how slow it was to get anything done in the Education Department. She realised a resource was needed on decision making for teenagers. Gaylene Preston came on board to direct a film on decision making with Simon O'Connor as script writer and this was made into video tapes available for secondary schools.

Main Speaker: The main speaker was **Roger Knight**. When young, his dream was to play sport and get to the top. For 14 years he played 1st class cricket in 3 English counties, Surrey, Gloucestershire and Sussex. He would teach for 2 terms and play cricket for the third. He taught French, German and medieval French. Roger then returned to Surrey as captain whilst teaching at Dulwich College. His high point was winning the Natwest trophy, and low point when the Surrey team was bowled out for 14! He was a school housemaster and headmaster and then got his dream job as secretary of the MCC. The membership is 18,000 and is based at Lords cricket ground, he was also responsible for the laws of the game. He was able to travel the world, and Roger spoke amusingly about a wonderful trip to Papua New Guinea to inspect the cricket pitches, many with knee high grass. In 1998 MCC eventually moved forward and women were able to be elected to membership although still only 2% of the membership are women. In 1999 Roger became Chief Executive as well as secretary. -Tania Sweet, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH

Roger Gyles spoke about **Helena Marion Barnard**, remembered as The Gingernut Lady. Helena was born in 1865 and grew up in Nelson. In 1884 she married Henry James Barnard. After some time in America, they returned to New Zealand and settled in Eltham. They had one daughter and eight sons. Six of their sons served in World War One. Helena helped the war effort by baking gingernuts which were small hard biscuits about the size of a \$2 coin, baked longer than usual so they would last. These biscuits were sent to her sons, as well as hundreds of pounds of biscuits sent to New Zealand troops in Gallipoli and the Western Front.

Helena and Eltham women knitted scarves, socks and balaclavas, and sent boxes overseas with goods and knitting. Eltham raised £700 to buy an ambulance for New Zealand forces in France and to cover six months running costs.

In World War II when two sons and a grandson went to war, Helena resumed baking and care efforts. As supplies were hard to get during rationing, she went to the government supply office and was given all the supplies she needed.

During the two wars, it is estimated Helena baked over four and half tonnes of her gingernuts. She was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1946. She has been praised as a symbol of compassion, endurance and quiet heroism. Roger met this remarkable lady, "The Gingernut Lady" when she turned 100 and he is very proud to say she was his great Aunt Nellie.

[right] Christmas Luncheon at "The Pines": Eighty members and partners enjoyed the Christmas lunch, held once more in the festively decorated venue of the Pines, Houghton Bay, Wellington.

Great food and companionship, along with carol singing by the Club's choir, made for a very pleasant time, which finished with everyone joining the choir for a few more carols. (Jenny Cornelius)

-Ros Lambrechtsen, Newsletter Editor.

THAMES BONANZA REBUS CLUB

We recently visited the Top-Notch Macadamia orchard of 1500 trees, elevated in the hills of Kaihere North of Tahuna. Lots of sun provides a micro-climate in Central Waikato. Greeted with hot scones, jam and cream, tea/coffee provided a refreshing morning tea after our drive.

After a very interesting and informative talk on the edge of the orchard and a tour of the Factory we had



samples of freshly made macadamia brittle. What a delicious delicacy and most of us were back for seconds. Much premium macadamia products were purchased, the credit cards getting a lot of use. A wonderful trip.

-Celia Newby, Newsletter Editor.



REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON

18 Club members had an enjoyable trip to the Alphas Lavender Farm recently. This was 35mins from Hamilton and though awful weather, we were lucky that the rain had stopped when we arrived, so were able to have a short walk amongst the Lavender bushes. We learnt a lot. Our hosts had a good supply of Lavender products and had cheap Lavender Plants for sale. Our lunch at Red Kitchen Café in Te Awamutu was a highlight.



[below] Christmas Lunch held at The Barn.



- Kath Kenrick, Bulletin Editor.

PUKENAMU REBUS CLUB INC

Past Presidents at the Christmas lunch/ Club meeting where 70 members celebrated our last meeting of 2025 - at the Laird Park Events Centre.



L to R: Kathleen O'Sullivan, Barbara Young, Colin Clancy, Don Adams, Mary Harrison, Alan Raisin, Leon Carter, Maree Adams



Before Christmas. 36 folks went on an adventure to Foxton. The weather couldn't have been better to see the beauty of this glorious land we live in. At Bulls snacks were handed out to help fortify us for what was to come. On arrival, we were split into two groups, to help housing us all for lunch. There was time for everyone to choose where they wanted to go; The Dutch Windmill was one stop. A great selection of edible goodies were on sale and the more adventurous and dare I say more mobile, went up inside the mill to see how a flour mill works.

Back on the bus for the Audio and Film Museum, where we were met by a band of happy volunteers who led us into the 100-year-old picture theatre. Once comfortably seated we were shown old news clips of New Zealand.... after "God Save The

Queen" to which some of our folks stood up, proud! All the old clips in black and white were shown on old film projectors. Then we were split into groups to be shown around the wonderful selection of old cameras, radios, TV's, wind up record players etc, bringing a real sense of nostalgia to many as we recognised things from our past, our parents, grandparents.



FEBRUARY LUNCH: Last week 12 Rebus members gathered for lunch at the Japanese Kitchen. The meals on offer were many and varied and all looked delicious! Even though chopsticks seemed to be the only eating implements available the waitress soon provided us with a knife and fork.



. - Helen Goldfinch, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF FOXTON

Rebus picnic at the Loop. We brave, enthusiastic Rebusians gathered with our picnics at the River Loop in Foxton on January 20, 2026. Well, it was a tad breezy, so thanks to our social organiser **Denise**, we eventually adjourned to her beautiful spacious lounge at the beach. A good catch up, laugh, gossip, quiz/prizes and yummy munch up was had by all. - Dereley Barry, Newsletter Editor.

RED BEACH LADIES' REBUS CLUB

SCENES FROM OUR 2025 CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT RED BEACH SURF CLUB: A lovely lunch and a great time was had by all, with a special visit from Santa Claus who entertained everyone, playing Christmas carols on his ukelele.



New Year events: Our thanks to Rebus Club of Gulf Harbour for their kind invitation to join them at their Shakespeare Park barbecue last month. A dozen Red Beach Rebus ladies thoroughly enjoyed a relaxed, sunny afternoon with them and a fine barbecue under the spreading Pohutukawa trees. It was just a

shame that Red Beach's unofficial photographer was so enjoying herself she forgot to take photos to include in this month's newsletter!! Another group met last week to see the movie Song Sung Blue followed by a pizza lunch at Artie's café – great movie but be sure to take tissues!

- *Bobbie Wakenell, Newsletter Editor.*

REBUS CLUB OF MANAWATU



FEBRUARY MEETING SPEAKER: Club member **Stuart Schwartz**, backed by **Phyllis** staffing the PowerPoint, gave a North to far South talk on their recent trip to the Eastern USA. They see this as probably their last chance to visit family and old friends. Despite a rocky start (Air NZ plane delayed by 4 hours) and running into hassles at Border Control as US citizens using NZ passports, they had a full and fulfilling six weeks. Among the highlights was spending time with Stuart's marrow recipient. Joey was 6 then, he's now married with 3 children. Also, North Carolina State Fair with its OTT food offerings (always a feature of Phyllis's childhood) and visiting historic sites (familiar to Stuart in his former career as an archaeologist).

[Photo] Stuart Schwartz warming up before taking us on a tour from New York southwards to Florida and Puerto Rico.

- *Margie Comrie, Newsletter Editor.*

SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB

On January's fifth Friday, 15 members enjoyed a very pleasant, sociable lunch at Gladstone Inn, our first function for the new year. -*David Woodhams, Newsletter Editor.*



KOWHAI REBUS CLUB OF BETHLEHEM

Members enjoying the Christmas dinner held downstairs at the Citizens Club.

- *Marie Mabey, Newsletter Editor.*

WAIKANAE MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB

Cycling Group start of year morning tea at the Novella Café. - *David Goggin, Newsletter Editor.*



CAMBRIDGE MEN'S REBUS CLUB



The Club held its first meeting of 2026 at **Peter Britton's** home overlooking the beautiful Lake Karapiro.

As in previous years, the members-only meeting took the form of a self-catered brunch. The team of "chefs" was capably led by President **Warwick Roberts** and provided a splendid repast for the 42 members in attendance in Peter's magnificent gardens.

Informality was the order of the day, with Club business kept to a minimum. - *Nigel Salter, Bulletin Editor*

"As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." — Audrey Hepburn

REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH



January weather in Palmerston North was not great, but our club picnic was still very enjoyable. **Bob and Desma Isles** hosted us at their lovely home which was sheltered from the fierce wind – we had a relaxed and pleasant time, as the photo shows.

At our February club meeting, members from the Rebus Club of Manawatu were our guests and we had a good social time over morning tea. Our Guest Speaker was **John Neil**, a retired Anglican minister, who presented an excellent talk and

slideshow about his years in Labrador and later in the Mission Aviation Fellowship in NZ. John is a pilot. He flew to his congregations and tended to the needs of widely separated small communities from a base in Harrington on a rocky island off the coast of Labrador. The territory is noted for its vast wilderness, dramatic landscapes, Inuit and First Nation cultures and abundant wildlife. Flying was difficult because of unpredictable foggy conditions. -*Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor*

CAMBRIDGE REBUS CLUB

Photo from last year's Christmas luncheon, on 11th December. Held at Te Awa Woolshed, the food and the



décor was amazing. Members donated food items for the local foodbank run by the Salvation Army. We had lucky draw prizes and a Christmas quiz. The pavlova dessert was delicious! What fun!

Over 5 boxes of food items were donated to the foodbank.

-*Steve O'Sullivan, Newsletter Editor.*

WOMEN'S REBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAE



February Meeting: Unfortunately, our speaker was unable to come to the meeting, so with just a day's notice, we managed to fill the time with other activities. **Janet**, our chairman, got people talking about where they were when the Wahine went down in April 1968. Memories ranged from **Wendy Mansbridge** who was only a teenager, to **Bev Chappell**, who was nursing and involved with treatment of some of the survivors. We then had a quiz, which **Dot** ran. Unfortunately, most found the questions very difficult and there was a draw by three teams, who each got 8 out of 15 correct.

Allison, ever innovative, managed to find some more questions so that one team finally won and each member was presented with a chocolate bar.

In our smaller venue the meeting had a cheerful atmosphere and there was much of that wonderful sound that a gathering of women makes when mixing and mingling. - *Mary Paddock, Newsletter Editor.*

WARKWORTH LADIES' REBUS CLUB

Our new year has started off with a real buzz. Our membership has increased by an impressive 41% compared to this time last year bringing us to a total of 76 members.

Our story in the most recent national Rebus newsletter about the cookbook we published was also picked up by the Office for Seniors and featured in their Seniors Newsletter. [right] This provided excellent publicity for Rebus, as the newsletter is distributed monthly to superannuitants and Gold Card holders.

The article generated many requests for copies of the cookbook which features 50 favourite, tried-and-true recipes. Everyone's time, creativity, and enthusiasm contributed to making this cookbook such a wonderful success.

The speaker at our February meeting was **Jon Waters** whose company, Memories on Film, specialises in preserving personal histories, life stories, and memories through professional video interviews

-Maryanne Dransfield, Newsletter Editor



Rebus: Warkworth bakers stir up memories

Every recipe tells a story, and the keen bakers of Warkworth made a cookbook to capture culinary favourites and the fond memories that go with them.

Last year, Warkworth Ladies ReBus Club's baking gurus, Alison Richardson, Karen Curtis and Maryanne Dransfield (pictured left to right) decided it would be fun to collate recipes and publish the collection.

REBUS CLUB OF FEILDING



Members donated goods over a couple of months and photo shows delivery to The Salvation Army. Our Christmas Party was held at the Coach House Museum in Feilding. 58 Attendees enjoyed the ambience, delicious food, lots of raffle prizes and Christmas cake.

[right] In February our speaker was **Kane Parsons**. Kane is a composer, multi-talented musician, actor and teacher. He invited us to sing "You are My Sunshine" and a Waiata. Some members are going to visit a local Marae later in the year. Kane co-founded a children's music group and the songs are shared throughout schools nationwide. Kane had a role in Feilding Market Fiasco which was at Centrepoint Theatre Palmerston North. He is excited about an upcoming "Victor Borge style" comedy and music show. - *Lyn Jensen, Newsletter Editor*.



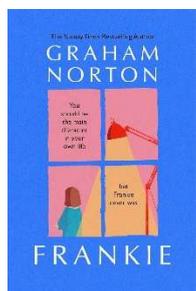
REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC

The 2026 season for the Snooker Group began in earnest in February, with **Vaughan** taking charge once again while the convenor was away on holiday. (Thanks Vaughan!). **John Calman** maintained his dominance and took away the match kitty, while **Frank Klus** swung by for a one match cameo appearance.

Walking Group: The walking group managed one walk this month. We had a lovely walk on the first Monday of the month down the Waikanae River from the old highway to the footbridge at Cooke's Park and back up the other side of the river. Followed by a coffee at The Olive Grove Cafe in Waikanae. But the second Monday walk was cancelled due to the very bad storm we were experiencing. No one wanted to venture out that day!

Men's Book Group: Our current book is a memoir entitled, "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls. This is a powerful memoir of resilience, family complexity and survival. It's often raw edged yet an inspiring look at Jeannette Walls' unconventional childhood which lacked parental responsibility, guidance and family structure.

Women's Book Group: We have just read 'Frankie' by Graham Norton.



This is a story about Frankie Howe who had a tragic start in life in Ireland. After her parents died, she lived with her very conservative aunt and uncle who married her off to an elderly Church of Ireland canon who badly mistreated her. After being disowned when the canon told her to leave the marriage, Frankie escaped to London and reunited with her childhood friend, Norah.

The story begins with Damien, a young Irishman who works as a carer and is hired by Norah to look after Frankie each night as she has had a fall. The two develop a friendship and Damien gradually learns Frankie's life story which was anything but ordinary.

- Steve Hutchison, Newsletter Editor.

PAPANUI REBUS CLUB

Our Club speaker was **Siân Bliss** who shared with us her experiences of her cruise to the Sub Antarctica. It was a French ship with only 190 on board. Beautiful food and wine, great entertainers and a very busy 14 days. They had trips to islands on the Zodiacs which was an experience in itself, along with lectures on the wildlife and care of the islands.

Our Guest Speaker this month was Adele Tikao from Canterbury Community Law. Adele is an educator with them. She spoke about the importance of having a Will. How to go about putting one together and the various roles of the people named in the will. Everyone can make a will as long as they are of sound mind and are over 18, which I am sure covers all of the group. You can put whatever you like in a will such as funeral arrangements, donation of bodily parts and anything you wish to leave to specific beneficiaries. The most important thing if you are doing your own will is to make sure you have two witnesses.



[below] 22 members braved the rain and road works to attend the lunch at Elmwood Trading Company.



- Linda Barnes,
Newsletter Editor.

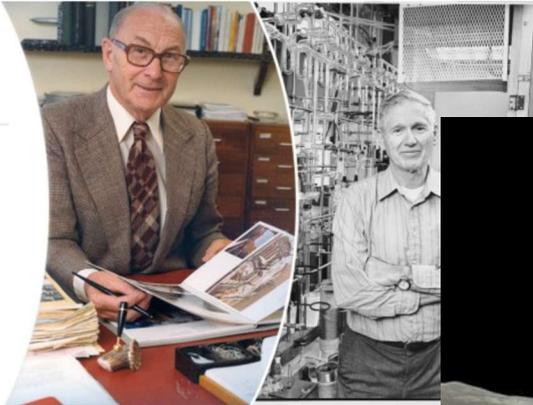


REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT

The guest speaker was **David Lowe**. He is Adjunct Professor Antarctic Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington, NIWA Emeritus Researcher Atmospheric Chemistry, Visiting Scholar, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and Director of LOWENZ focussed on science education. Member of group that was jointly awarded Nobel Peace prize in 2007.

The role of serendipity

- In 1969, 23 year old Dave Lowe hired by Athol Rafter, and Dave Keeling, California to make the first continuous atmospheric CO₂ measurements in the Southern Hemisphere
- My life changes forever!



- As a child I was fortunate to 'feel' the environment in rural Taranaki.
- Increasing carbon emissions not a valid option for life on a finite planet!!
- My message – all of us should do what we can to 'tread lightly on the Earth.'
- We can do this

- Alex Attewell, Newsletter Editor

REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR

Our annual January BBQ was rained out, and postponed to a later date, but how lucky were we with the beautiful weather, second time round. Thanks to Garth, Neil Alan and Graeme, the BBQ chefs, and to Gill and Neil for arranging the catering. It is amazing what a spread can be provided when charging only \$10 per head. We feasted on sausages, home-made burger patties and chicken tenders, together with bread rolls and a multitude of salads, all enjoyed under the spreading Pohutukawa trees. Heaven! A jolly good time was had by all.



[left] On 24th February we held a Membership Drive at Coast Plaza. Being Gold Card Day, we anticipated many would-be members lining up to hear about our vibrant club, and we made some very promising contacts. We had 12 visitors to the February meeting, and the future is looking very positive for our Club.

-Jean McIntosh, Newsletter Editor.

RIVERSIDE REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON

In December President **Dianne** delivered all the donated goods to “Kids In Need” Waikato, who were most grateful. Thank you for the generosity shown by our Club members at the Christmas Luncheon.

-Steve O’Sullivan, Bulletin Editor.



REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI



Rebus Wanganui annual Picnic. Great company, delicious food, amazing weather, fantastic location. Wednesday 10th February 2026 Bason Gardens, Westmere. - Paerau T/ Mosen, Newsletter Editor.

WEST AUCKLAND MEN’S REBUS CLUB

Our first coffee morning of the year took place on Wednesday, 28 January 2026, at Sierra Café on Lincoln Road, and what a wonderful way it was to kick off the new year!



Coffee morning at Sierra Café with **Mike Turnwald** on the left; **Annette Gough** (Waitakere Rebus) and **Maurice Forbes** at the counter; **Ian Smith** (blue shirt), **John Mihaljevic** and **Trevor Pollard** seated; and a very resplendent-looking **Noel Rose** standing. - Vince Middeldorp, Newsletter Editor.

FITZHERBERT REBUS CLUB INC

February Club Day: **Alan Martin** is a retired chartered accountant with a great passion for New Zealand history. He talked about NZ shipwrecks and told us that there have been over 2500 around NZ. Many, many sailing ships were wrecked on our rocky unmapped - or not reliably mapped - coastline. Probably the most notable wrecks in our lifetime were the Wanganella in Wellington Harbour, the Wahine in Wellington, and the Mikhail Lermontov in Marlborough. Alan has researched these and many more a good way back in history. Memories were stirred up over the Wahine and the storm in Wellington - lots of members had been affected by this event. Many thanks to Alan for a very interesting talk. *(Robyn Manderson)*



[photos] Enjoying the visit to the Salt and Pepper Café and then RJ Liquorice Factory.

*-Rosy Look,
Communications
Secretary*



FROM THE EDITOR:

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

I am hoping to catchup with many of you, in person, at the AGM in May. If you are thinking of going, here is the link: www.rebus.nz/agm

Please send your newsletters to rebusclubnews@gmail.com

Steve

Editor, Rebus Club News