



REBUS CLUB NEWS

September 2026

* Email: rebusclubnews@gmail.com

WELCOME

We managed to get four spring lambs this year, and it is delightful to see them playfully frolicking in the paddock. The lawn is growing at a brisk rate also, and the ride-on mower is earning its keep at this time of year.

This month we have another good roundup of news from Rebus Clubs throughout New Zealand.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

-Steve O'Sullivan, Rebus Club News Editor.

CAMBRIDGE MEN'S REBUS CLUB



[Left] The Club outing for August was a visit to the Kowhai Gorge Forge, where members and guests watched traditional blacksmiths in action before enjoying a substantial morning tea.

Guest Speaker was **Ken Millwood**, long-serving member of the staff at Hamilton Zoo. Ken provided an interesting history of the Zoo, illustrated with before and after pictures to show the development of the grounds and facilities.

- Nigel Salter, Bulletin Editor.

REBUS OF WAIHEKE

The mini speaker this month was **Penny Ericson**. Last year she embarked on a 7-day trek across the Simpson Desert (Munga Thirri) in central Australia. The trek was led by an experienced desert guide, with the backpacks and supplies being carried by two camel trains (about 20 camels). The camps were basic, no tents, toilets or showers, with very few creature comforts. Penny also described amazing sunsets and sunrises, terracotta and red sand and everchanging textures which she photographed and on her return to Waiheke, she interpreted those images into clay.



Our wine group had a very enjoyable wine tasting at Stonyridge last month. Stonyridge is world-famous for producing top-tier, Bordeaux-style red wines and its iconic flagship wine, Stonyridge Larose. Throughout the tasting we were entertained by the lovely Chiara, who delighted us with stories about the history of the vineyard and of the wines we were sampling.

- Rhonda Paton, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS OREWA

Our Guest Speaker in August was **Peter Pederson**, dog handler with NZ Police. He brought his dog Enzo. (Photo Right) He told us that it costs \$40,000 to train a Police dog, this is soon paid back with their detection of villains. The dogs are taught to sniff cash, explosives, drugs and firearms.

Our Club Speaker in August was **Norman Biss** who spoke of his career in the NZ Fire Service. He served for 25 years at the East Coast Bays Volunteer Fire Brigade and received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

- Maureen Grigg, Bulletin Editor.



CAMBRIDGE REBUS CLUB



Cambridge Rebus Club celebrated its 21st birthday last month. At the meeting **Mary Cannons** and President **Jean Elborn** cut the cake. It was enjoyed by all for morning tea.

-Steve O'Sullivan, Newsletter Editor.



WAIKANAE MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB

[below] Visit to the Te Horo kilns and Clifton Motors historic farm machinery, 20th August.



[Left] Walking group withstands the cold at Harrison's Café.

-David Goggin, Newsletter Editor.

WEST AUCKLAND MEN'S REBUS CLUB



[Left] A moment of mutual curiosity at Sea Life Kelly Tarlton's on Wednesday, 2nd September during the visit by Waitakere Combined Rebus and West Auckland Men's Rebus Club.

[Right] President **Bill Mutch** with the Certificate of Attainment marking the club's 40 years' service as both a Probus and a Rebus Club

-Vince Middeldorp, Newsletter editor.



FITZHERBERT REBUS CLUB INC



[Left] Our Club's 29th birthday was celebrated in August by President Rosy cutting a delicious chocolate cake made by Libby.

In August, **Tangi Utikere**, our Palmerston North Member of Parliament, spoke to us - not on politics but on his life leading up to his election and his life in the Parliament.

[Right] Lunch was enjoyed at Mooma in Marton.

- Nicola Copplestone, Secretary.



RIVERSIDE REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON



[Left] Tramping group: After a comfortable trip on Te Huia to Puhinui, then after taking the train to Britomart, Auckland, we boarded the Devonport ferry. We enjoyed a pleasantly warm afternoon as we climbed North Head to explore the network of tunnels, guns, searchlight emplacements and other fortifications

[Right] Walking group enjoying coffee recently at Verandah Café after a walk around the Hamilton Lake.

-Steve O'Sullivan, Bulletin Editor.



WARKWORTH REBUS LADIES' CLUB

A morning of words, laughter and life lessons – is how best to sum up our guest speaker's presentation to us. **Jan Beaumont**, an author and speaker, has an obvious love of words and we laughed our way through her fascinating life story and the many experiences that have inspired her writing. Her passion for words began at an early age – she even used to take the dictionary to bed with her! [Right] Jan Beaumont signing her books for members



Our cameo speaker was **Jocelyn McAlpine**, who regaled us with many of her and her families' sporting adventures. Sporting moments and physical activities she said bring together families, communities, nations and even the world sometimes.

[Left] Jocelyn McAlpine holding one of the three gold medals won by Dame Lisa Carrington at the 2024 Paris Olympics. -Maryanne Dransfield, Newsletter Editor.



REBUS OF FOXTON

Last week we had our lunch meeting at The Woolshed at Sanson, attended by 12 members.

-Susan Galea, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT

The Guest Speaker was **Mandy Welch** who recounted her experiences on an Over 60's Outward Bound course. Her enthusiasm and passion clearly evident as a life changing experience. -Alex Attewell, Newsletter Editor.



REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH

Another excellent club meeting this month when we welcomed two new members, Joy Kemp and Ross Batchelar. We had two enlightening talks: Club Speaker **Alan Parkes** reminisced on his national service in the NZ Army – laced with Alan's wit, it was an interesting talk. Guest Speaker **Charles Foulds**, Park Operations Officer from the PN City Council, gave us insight to the development of 240 parks and reserves, running a plant nursery, maintenance of 1200 roadside gardens and berms, and many other tasks that we take for granted in this pleasant city.



A group of us visited Serena Mercer's glass art studio at Aokautere (photo). What a splendid display of her work! Some of us had a hands-on creative experience, others purchased items of Serena's fine artwork.

-Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR

Club Speaker, **Gwyneth Manning**, related her experiences of a holiday to Cuba, famous for its beautiful white beaches, cigars, horse-drawn carriages, exciting nightlife, and a visit to "La Floridita", the favourite bar of writer Ernest Hemingway.

Guest Speakers were **Karen Little** and **Tracey Smith** from Harbour Hospice who explained the wonderful work done by volunteers, such as drivers, in-patient volunteers, Life-Story writers, and helpers in Hospice Shops. Hospice relies heavily on volunteers, as Government funds only 49% of Hospice costs.



The Ramblers Monday walking group is led by Garth Dutton, and to honour his 80th birthday, the ramblers celebrated the event with lunch at the Northcote Tavern. Happy Birthday, Garth, (in the white shirt, on the left).

[Right] On Thursday 17th September, ten members had a lot of fun with Ten Pin Bowling at Coast Plaza. We still need more practice, but

a great time was had by all. Thanks to VP Gwyneth, 2nd left, for organising this, and many other events. *-Jean McIntosh, Newsletter Editor.*



REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST

At our last meeting on September 1st, we welcomed **Jack Hansen** [pictured right]. Jack found us through our website and explained that he joined our club because "he appreciated the opportunity to join a club where one can discuss, debate, and explore the more important aspects of life rather than being captive to the relentless live and reality TV that can dominate the landscape after retirement".



On Thursday 17th September, a group of 16 visited The Range on the main road just south of Warkworth. There we were able to hit 50 golf balls on their driving range, shoot 72 shots at moving targets in their air rifle gallery, and play a game of mini golf all for the princely sum of \$30 per person. Both the weather and their facilities were excellent.

We followed this activity with a relaxing lunch at The Warkworth Hotel, where we were joined by 4 "ladies who shop" in the hotel's tastefully decorated dining room before heading back home to the Hibiscus Coast.

- Paul Robinson, For Neville Drower [on leave in Italy].



PAPANUI REBUS CLUB

Our Club Speaker was **Norm Slater** who spoke to us about his & Steph's journey from Helsinki to St Petersburg at a time after the Soviet Union collapse but before the current Russian/Nato tensions. Quite a journey with some scary moments and Norm entertained us with his wonderful narrative as usual.

Our guest speakers this month were **Janet Tregurtha** and **Sharon Norton** from Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children. Their primary goal is to keep children safe.

24 members enjoyed a relaxed lunch at the sunny, new for us, venue of Misceo Cafe. Great, friendly chatter and a nice lunch.

-Linda Barnes, Newsletter Editor.



REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI

Many thanks to our very competent driver and President Jim for a wonderful outing to Raetihi via the Paraparas and return through Pipiriki and down the Wanganui River Road, a journey of 210ks. So nice to sit back and relax to take in the beautiful scenery, Wattle in full bloom, native bush, farm scenes. A stop at Raukawa falls in full flow after winter rain. Jim provided a hot drink on arrival at Raetihi, along with tasty snacks. Onto the Dinosaurs exhibition, followed by a tasty lunch. (Maurice Costello)



[Left] The committee made a presentation to **Georgina Leslie** for her dedication and service to Probus/Rebus for many years, with an afternoon tea at Mitre 10 on Monday 14th September, where she was presented with an Honorary Membership certificate, and flowers.

-Kelvin Adam, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON

Clare Bayly [right] and her companion Bowie who sat very attentively during her presentation (spoiler alert - she did have some treats in her hand) although she did explain that when he is wearing his red bandanna, he is always on his best behaviour.

Mainly Men's Group: We continue to get together at St. Andrew's Golf Club and share informed or uninformed views on anything and/or everything. The scones, coffee and company are all first class.

-Karen Devoy, Bulletin Editor.



"You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water". - Rabindranath Tagore

REBUS CLUB OF FEILDING

Lyn Jensen told of her travels via Doha, Qatar to Istanbul, Turkey. Hagia Sofia, The Grand Bazaar and two cruises on the *Bosphorus*. She finished the cruise near Venice and then flew to Vienna, Austria, visiting Schonbrunn Palace, Spanish Riding School

Mary Wealleans told members about their Motorhome trip to Northland. Quite an adventure with 14 Motorhomes, 2 Caravans and 2,475 kms total distance (from Manawatu)



[Left] Club members visited “Blast from the Past” near Himatangi and enjoyed a delicious morning tea followed by two screenings of cinematic shorts interspersed with Jaffas and ice-creams at half time. It was a well set up event and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

- Lyn Jensen, Newsletter Editor.

PUKENAMU REBUS CLUB INC

Club Speaker, **Eleanor Kendrick**, told us about her tandem parachute jump to celebrate her 80th birthday. She saw a NZ Herald article “Cancer Society’s Jump For Cancer campaign partners with skydiving companies to book free jumps for anyone who reaches a \$1,000 fundraising goal...” and she signed up, as she had always wanted to do this. She chose to jump from 13,000ft and as she loved snow she jumped in the South Island. “Afterwards, all I wanted to do was lie down,” said Eleanor, “It was a wonderful experience.” She raised \$1,200.



[Left] Guest Speaker **Terry Arbuckle** talked to us about falls prevention. We often think it is old age, but Terry says “no”, it is what we allow ourselves to get into. We need to open our heart and lungs, and the aim is back strength training. He demonstrated different exercises and we enthusiastically followed his movements.

[Right] 30 members descended on The Rutland for lunch on 17th September. “We sat in the conservatory in what is always a nice venue, and everyone seemed happy with their meals,” said Christine, the monthly lunch organiser. - Helen Goldfinch, Newsletter Editor.



SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB

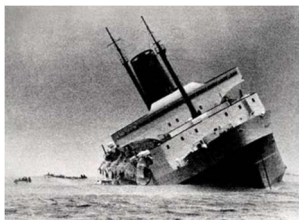
Our speaker in August was retired government food safety toxicologist and SW Rebus President, **John Reeve**. John described the extremely long hours — seven days a week, 7am to 6pm, even through the Christmas/New Year period — and the hard work involved in dealing with the blackmail threat to poison infant formula with the vertebrate pest poison. Blackmail letters were received by Fonterra and Federated Farmers. Both contained white powder which was infant formula with a lethal dose of 1080.

To counter the threat, a secret group working within the Food Safety branch of the Ministry for Primary Industry (MPI), was set up. It involved food safety and analytical science experts along with the Police.

About 3000 batches of dairy product are produced in New Zealand every week, MPI-contracted laboratories needed to greatly increase their analytical capacity. It took five months to bring the plan into being and to neutralise the 6-month threat deadline, which was then made public by the Government. While no 1080 positives were found in the analyses, it was costing about \$450,000 per week until police caught the blackmailer and the threat was over.

His prison sentence was 8 ½ years. -David Woodhams, Newsletter Editor.

TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB



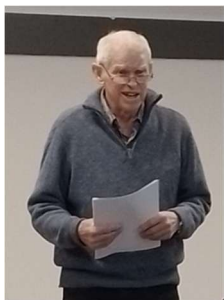
Ashley Frael was our September guest speaker. Ashley was an Ambulance Officer, and he recounted his memories from the day the storm hit Wellington that ultimately caused the Wahine to ground on Barrett's Reef. He told us about the damage and injuries that the cyclone caused prior to the grounding, and the rescue efforts as the Wahine floundered on Barretts Reef. A very insightful talk. Many of those present were living in Wellington at the time and were able to add their personal stories as well.

Our September event was Housie. What a fun afternoon. Our thanks to **Ian Triscott** and for running this event. It was well organised and everyone enjoyed the afternoon with lots of chat and laughter. At the end of the day there were 10 very happy members who won the money and the rest of us contributed to the atmosphere. *-Janice Laurenson, Newsletter Editor.*



WOMEN'S REBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAE

Fran Kennedy was our cameo speaker. Fran loves travel, beginning with her big OE with three friends in her teens, arriving back eventually in NZ with the equivalent of \$10 in her pocket. Fran has worked in travel; owned her own business 'Kapiti Olive Shop' in the Lindale Complex; and has worked at Smallfry Boutique in Raumati. Over the years she has belonged to many groups, including a Marching Team for 17 years.



[Left] **Dr Ken Geenty** gave a very informative and enlightening presentation on changes in farming practices. Over the years Ken has seen and participated in incredible changes in science and technology. His presentation took us from the use of draught horses in the 1940s / 1950s to the present day with the use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) and also the use of drones for farm surveillance and maintenance in the High Country.

[Photo right] Outing: On a very damp September morning a group of our Rebus ladies went to Otaki to visit the Rotunda. We had a very interesting talk by **Di Buchan** and a slide show with photos of the Rotunda as it was being lovingly restored. *- Mary Paddock, Newsletter Editor.*



REBUS MT. HOBSON

Club Speaker: **Martin Spencer** designed and built his own data centre, beginning the project in 2006 and eventually selling the business in 2020. His presentation used his own facility to explain how data centres operate and the many engineering challenges involved. A data centre is essentially a highly engineered building containing rows of computer racks. A fully populated rack can weigh around 1.3 tonnes, making structural design, power supply and cooling critical considerations. A major theme was airflow and cooling.



Guest Speaker **Sarah Freiberg** is the Community Strength and Balance Lead with Harbour Sport and is involved with the national ACC-supported community strength and balance programs. The programs focus on reducing falls and injuries among older adults. *-Patrick Alley, Newsletter Editor.*

THANK YOU

Thanks to all the Club who contributed to this month's Rebus Club News.

A reminder that contributions should be sent prior to the 25th of each month.

Have a safe and warm week. **Steve O'Sullivan**, Editor, REBUS CLUB NEWS
