



# REBUS CLUB NEWS

May 2026

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## REBUS NZ INC. 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The 10th AGM of Rebus NZ Inc was held in Manly, Whangaparaoa on the 14th of May. Ten clubs were represented at this meeting, and those attending thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

Discussion groups were held prior to the AGM. A full edited AI generated record of the discussion session will be circulated to all clubs in due course.



(Left) A presentation was made to **George Tregidga** by current Chairman Garth Dutton. George has been a member of the Board since its inception and has provided exceptional service including a term as Chairman. George stands down this year.

(below) On the Thursday night following the AGM, a dinner was held at Maison Thai Restaurant.



The Board for 2026/27 is as follows: Chairperson: **Garth Dutton** (Hibiscus Coast), Secretary: **Paul Robinson** (Hibiscus Coast), Treasurer: **John McCall** (Pukenuamu - Wanganui), Board members: **Steve O'Sullivan** (Cambridge), **Paul Wilkinson** (Papanui – Christchurch), **William Irvine** (Taupo), **Ken Daniels** (Gulf Harbour), **Janet Larkman** (Orewa)

*Thanks to Jean and Graeme McIntosh for the photos.*

## OMANU REBUS CLUB

Members of the Omanu Rebus Club donated two big boxes of food items for the Papamoa Food Hub Charitable Trust. Bruce Banks, their founder and manager, gave an entertaining talk on how he found a need for this organisation and how he went about setting it up. He saw a need to provide, not just food for needy families, but a whole meal, and this is their point of difference from being just another food bank. Managed and operated by dedicated volunteers, the hub provides generous, easy to follow meal plans, with tried and tested recipes, along with the relevant grocery items required for a minimum of 4 days

More recently some of our members enjoyed an afternoon at Te Puke's Repertory Theatre for Mark Wright's solo performance of "Voices from Gallipoli". Whilst at times it was sombre, it was also poignant, uplifting and at times laugh out loud funny. The show was written, researched, produced, staged and costumed all by one man – Mark Wright – who also funded the whole production. Designed for small, intimate theatre settings, the characterisation was superb, with the different characters portrayed all based on real people – some of them from Mark Wright's own family. The names of the fallen that he read out (as part of the show) were all real people who had perished during World War One.

*-Rose Coutts, Secretary*

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## REBUS CLUB OREWA

Our Club Speaker was **Beverly Wilson**. She spoke of her experience trying to go on holiday to Australia. She and her husband arrived at Auckland Airport and found that her husband had lost his passport. They had to get their luggage taken off the plane. Cancel the passport. Then they got the bus back to the park and ride and went home. As it was a public holiday, they tried to take a photo themselves, but when they applied online there was always something wrong with the photo and it wasn't accepted. Finally, they got a good photo, and it was accepted. Cost \$800 for a new passport. They went to the airport again, got through okay and got on the plane. They arrived in Brisbane and went to the rental car counter. Got out the travel wallet and low and behold hidden in the back pocket was his original passport.



Guest Speaker in April was **Lisa Trist** from the ASB bank who spoke to us on safety online, fraud and scam awareness. She spoke of income and financial abuse of the elderly by family/ friends, Age Concern can give help and advice on this. *-Maureen Grigg, Bulletin Editor.*

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## RIVERSIDE REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON



The Riverside Rebus Tramping Group had a wonderful day last Thursday on the Aratiatia Rapids Track in mainly fine weather. Our thanks to Angus for leading us. *-Steve O'Sullivan, Bulletin Editor.*

## REBUS WAIHEKE ISLAND



Our mini speaker this month was new member **Ollie Mikosza**. Ollie originally comes from Poland and has worked in many countries throughout his life as an IT specialist. It was while sitting in a traffic jam in Silicon Valley that Ollie had a 'light bulb moment' and Metrino was conceived. Since then, Metrino has become a life-long project. A full-scale prototype was built in Poland, with real testing and validation done. Patents were granted and software developed, but world events at the time meant it didn't go ahead. So, what is Metrino? Ollie explained that it is a personal rapid transit (PRT) – an innovative transport system consisting of small pods (driverless electric cabins) which are suspended about 10 metres above main

city streets by an overhead network of light guideways. Solar powered pods, which are pollution free, fast, door to door, private, safe and available 24/7 for users. A pod can start from any station on the network stopping only at your destination. All this for a fraction of the cost of existing and developing public transport. Ollie's attempts to talk to Auckland and N.Z authorities about Metrino have been met with silence or scepticism and he continues to search for investors to get this sustainable green solution into reality; a "no-brainer" considering current issues of traffic congestion, fuel costs and pollution.



Our main speaker this month was **Professor Robin Kearns**, head of the Environmental school at Auckland University. His research has largely focused on the links between place and wellbeing, and his presentation also followed that theme. His presentation spoke of the idea of "islandness" and what it means. He highlighted the concept of separation (by water) from the mainland which can lead to a perceived notion of isolation, but with that, also the strength of social cohesion. The smaller scale of island life can facilitate a collective will for change. Islandness also embodies a sense of strong identity and place attachment as well as an element of idiosyncrasy. In the case of Waiheke, it has been described as a place of "lunatics and activists" - *Rhonda Paton, Newsletter Editor*.

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## WEST AUCKLAND MEN'S REBUS CLUB



Twenty-six members of the West Auckland Men's Rebus Club fill the café at Pinesong Retirement Village, Green Bay, for their coffee morning on 22 April — a visit that left everyone keen to return.

Our guest speaker, **Guy Slocum** spoke on "My life as cold war fighter pilot". He decided as a boy that he wanted to be a fighter pilot. What he couldn't have known then was that the path to that cockpit would take him through burning aircraft, emergency landings in farmers' fields, catapult launches off aircraft

carriers, and close encounters with Soviet bombers somewhere over the Norwegian Sea — all in service of a peculiar kind of peace that the world managed to maintain for seventy-odd years.

He says, “My route to a fighter cockpit was, shall we say, accelerated. The RAF was desperately short of pilots during my teenage years and had put all manner of incentive schemes in place. I knew I was going to join up regardless, but I had to pretend to be still deciding, just so I could take advantage of them.

From the age of about twelve I spent most weekends gliding at government expense. My chief flying instructor was a man of remarkable courage: he sent me solo before I turned thirteen — years ahead of the permitted age — I flew for seven years on gliders and picked up my licence on my sixteenth birthday.

The RAF also ran a flying scholarship scheme, which involved various tests involving knobs and dials, and if you survived those, you were sent to a private flying club for a full Private Pilot's Licence — entirely at government expense. I finished the course two weeks before my seventeenth birthday, which meant waiting for the paperwork, since the rules didn't allow a licence before seventeen.

It was during that scholarship flying that I had my first real emergency. I was flying over the English countryside in a little wooden-propeller aircraft when the prop shattered. Pieces of it flashed past the cockpit. Without the weight and torque of the propeller, the engine simply over-revved and seized. I was, abruptly, back in the gliding business. I found a field with a few cows in it, judged that I could probably navigate around them, and put the aircraft down. The farmer appeared on his tractor, absolutely incandescent with rage. He said — and I'll paraphrase — that I had nearly killed his cows. I replied — again paraphrasing — that I had nearly killed myself. When he realised it wasn't some teenager larking about, he calmed down, opened the tractor cab, took me back to the farmhouse and gave me a couple of whiskies. I suspect that was technically illegal at my age. The aircraft was tough — they took the wing off, trucked it back, changed the engine, and it was flying again a week later.”

“I went straight from the flying club into the Air Force, and straight onto jets — skipping the propeller-driven phase entirely because I already had my licence. Most of what we did was photography. Occasionally, the intelligence community would ask us to photograph a specific part of a Soviet aircraft — a gun turret, a new piece of equipment. Once I was tasked to get a close image of a rear gun position on a Soviet Tupolev Tu-95 “Bear” bomber (huge Soviet aircraft that could stay airborne for 36 hours with two crews and a political commissar with a gun to stop them defecting). As I eased in, the Soviet gunner was leaning out and waving something at me, beckoning me closer. I was fairly certain it was going to be rude. When I got close enough to make it out, it was the centrefold of Playboy magazine. He was grinning away. I have always thought he was making rather a good point: that we were just professional airmen placed on opposite sides by politicians.” - *Vince Middeldorp, Newsletter Editor.*

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## **PAPANUI REBUS CLUB**

This month 29 members had lunch at Armadillos, Belfast. Everyone seemed to enjoy the tasty and cheap (\$15) meals and the catch-up chatter.



Our Club Speaker was Chris Richards, (right) who shared with us the story of his time hunting in Fiordland when he was a young man. Sounds like a great trip, apart from the rain and a missing persons search when one of them stayed out for a day or so.



Our speakers this month were **Sarah Bennett** and **Rebekah Thomas-Hiddleston** from the Southern Cancer Society. Sarah is a Cancer Navigator and Rebekah is the Community Volunteer Co-ordinator. Sarah shared an insight into her role where she supports people living with cancer, along with their families and carers.



Photos) A record 34 people attended lunch at the Richmond Club this month where the small roast seemed to be the choice of the day.

- Linda Barnes, Newsletter Editor.

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### **REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC.**

The trip last week was a wonderful blue-sky day. Perfect for visiting the olive grove at Noble estate in Peka Peka. A sumptuous morning tea provided by Tricia and Rob, the owners, overlooking a view of Kapiti, was followed by a presentation and tasting of various olive oils with a chance to purchase a bottle or two.



[Left] Keeping the theme in mind, we stopped for lunch at the Olive Grove Cafe in Waikanae. While in the area we drove to Nga Manu nature reserve and wandered in the native surroundings. We had an informative talk about the eels, and who knew they had to go all the way to Tonga to breed every 30 years. An excellent trip enjoyed by all.

[Right] Walking Group: Our first walk of the month was a beautiful mild day, so we had a very pleasant walk around the Waikanae Estuary.

- Susan Hagedorn, Editor and Janis Howarth, Technical Editor



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### **MT. ROSKILL REBUS CLUB**



Club Speaker **John Biggs** spoke on "Brewing-Facts and Fallacies" We were treated to a wonderfully entertaining talk recently, taking us back through John's journey in the brewing world—and what a different world it was! John is a Good Southern Man and unsurprisingly he started his career at Speights brewery in Dunedin. In this traditional New Zealand brewery, things were a lot more relaxed than today. Tasting beer during the day was part of the job, the bar was open long hours, and many of the old methods (including wooden barrels—pitched lined, not raw!) were still in use. It was a real hands-on, learn-from-the-experts environment. The head brewer had been there for 40 years and had never been formally trained in the art of beer making. But the journey didn't stop there. Time spent in Germany showed just how seriously brewing is

taken overseas—beer is considered part of the food culture, with thousands of breweries and festivals to match. John worked in the home of German beer, Bavaria. There is no tax on beer because it is regarded as a food in Germany. - Patrick Alley, Newsletter Editor.

## **REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI**

The day started wet and windy but that didn't stop seventeen of us last month visiting Oroua Downs for a memorable day watching old movies and memorabilia, as well as having a great meal with our hosts Lorrae and Gavin. It was nice to be able to recognise some of Wanganui's old identities from our era in some of the old Wanganui movies Gavin selected for us to watch. – *Kelvin Adam, Newsletter Editor.*



## **CAMBRIDGE MEN'S REBUS CLUB**



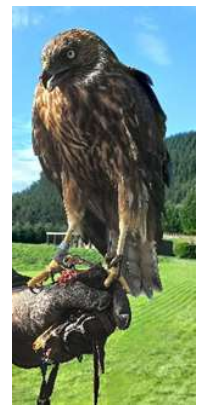
In April, members and guests visited the premises of Tristram Marine and were given a tour of the factory that produces top-end marine craft. Mouth-watering stuff....!!

- *Nigel Salter, Bulletin Editor*

## **TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB**

Taupo Moana Rebus Club's May outing was to Wingspan National Bird of Prey Centre in Rotorua. We were treated to a display highlighting the prowess of the NZ Falcon/kārearea and the Australasian Harrier/Kahu before visiting the birds in the aviaries. A great day and a worthy place to visit and support.

-*Janice Laurenson, Newsletter Editor.*



## WARKWORTH LADIES' REBUS CLUB



(Left) A group of members enjoyed an exciting and fun-filled day travelling by two buses and a train to and from IKEA at Sylvia Park. The weather was perfect, and the enthusiasm within the group made the day even more enjoyable. For most, it was their first visit to IKEA in Auckland, and for some the first time on a train in Auckland.

(Below, right) A wonderful full-on day was had by our Rebus baking group who attended **Michael Van de Elzen's** farm-based cookery school "Good From Scratch". The day was devoted to cooking desserts. In this interactive demonstration class, Mike guided us through a

selection of beautiful desserts while sharing tips, techniques, and plenty of kitchen know-how along the way. We went home with a collection of recipes that will be recreated in our own kitchens.



(Left) Our cameo speaker was **Ros Lusk** who showcased her beautiful patchwork pieces, sharing the story of her quilting journey along the way. It began in 1973 with her very first creation — a hexagonal quilt, with shapes cut from Weet-Bix boxes, covered in fabric scraps, and carefully hand sewn together. Each quilt carried its own story. One very special one was a pictorial quilt of her first grandchild, based on a photograph taken at 18 months old. This intricate process involved converting the image to black and white, then carefully selecting and placing fabrics in varying shades to recreate the photograph in textile form.

*-Maryanne Dransfield, Newsletter Editor.*

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## REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH

Our Club Speaker at the last meeting was **Ken Wilson** who was born in Scotland on a very important day, the opening of the grouse shooting season. The family business was building soot blowers for use in coal-fired ships. Ken was educated in England, became a quantity surveyor, moved to NZ and took up school teaching which he enjoyed. Now in retirement, he is a keen gardener.

The **Reverend George Dempster**, Pastor at Arohanui Hospice, was our guest speaker. He gave an excellent presentation on the work of the Hospice, focusing in detail on how to cope with grief. A very helpful talk, interspersed with photos of various sights and locations on his travels in Japan ("something different").



A group of our members had a very interesting outing in Whanganui. First stop was the Quartz Museum of Studio Ceramics, a treasure of about 1200 items on display out of a total collection of around 4000 pieces.

Concept, colour and form. Fascinating.

After a good lunch at the Mint Café, we had a conducted tour of the Whanganui War Memorial Centre. This wonderful community facility, opened in 1960, is an architecturally significant building that is listed as one of the top modernist buildings in the world.

- Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor.



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### WAIKANAE MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB

The cycling group numbers are growing. 17 members enjoying coffee and muffins at the Te Horo Café.



-David Goggin, Newsletter Editor.

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### REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT

Our Guest Speaker was **Reid Perkins**, Upper Hutt Community Heritage Advisor. He was accompanied by **Lizzie Errington** who is Librarian Heritage and Archives.

-Alex Attewell, Newsletter Editor.



## REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON

(Right) Some of our walkers enjoying one of the many tracks in the city - this one from Hammond Park, Hillcrest.



(Left) A beautiful example of Asymmetric Line from the floral group.

-Karen Devoy, Bulletin Editor.



## HIBISCUS COAST REBUS CLUB

This month Hibiscus Coast hosted the 2026 Rebus National AGM. Notwithstanding modest out of town attendance, it was an excellent event with lively and constructive discussion around various issues prior to the AGM itself. The post AGM dinner was attended by the National Committee members, guests from further afield, local club members and partners. A great evening had by all at Maison Thai where the staff were more than happy to host us, a little later in the evening than they possibly envisaged!

Our guest speaker was **Tim Lofts** from the North Shore branch of NZ Riding For The Disabled ('NZRD'), a charitable organisation with the core purpose of providing therapeutic assistance to physically and mentally disabled children. They achieve this through the provision of horse-riding programs tailored to each individual's needs. Over the past 50 years NZRD has built up an 18-acre facility in Stillwater featuring a 200 m<sup>2</sup> indoor 'barn' and 60m x 40m covered outside arena serving a stable of 10 horses, all of which is managed by 5 full time staff and 60 volunteers.



Our ramblers have continued to cover ground exploring the environs of Orewa and its Beach culminating in a session at Movenpick, a wander around Auckland CBD's Wynyard Quarter sculpture trail before settling into lunch at the Fish Market, a walk around the Orewa Estuary before well-earned sustenance at favourite local café, Dear Coasties. (pictured) -Neville Drower - Bulletin Editor.

## HOKOWHITU REBUS CLUB INC.

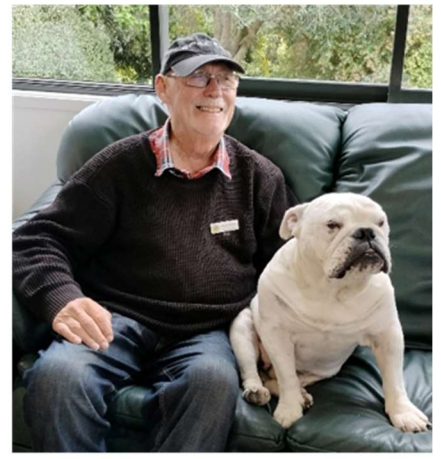


We had an interesting talk by **Pip Chrystall** about the "Egg Project", delivering organic eggs to the local district.

(Photo) Those of us who went on the Whanganui trip to the Sarjeant Gallery, and Sue Cooke and NZ Glassworks, with lunch at the Rutland Hotel. An enjoyable day.

-Shona Jorgensen, Newsletter Editor.

## CAMBRIDGE REBUS CLUB



Last month Cambridge Rebus Club members visited the Top Notch Macadamia Farm at Patetonga. We were given a wonderful morning tea, followed by a most informative tour of the facilities. Gavin told us all about growing macadamias. Afterwards we were shown macadamia brittle being made. – *Steve O’Sullivan, Editor.*

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## REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR



Club Speaker, **Trevor Carpenter** relived a trip he and Susan made to Egypt in 2024, where they stayed with Susan’s son, Emir. Egypt describes its political style as “a benevolent dictatorship”. One Egyptian pound is equivalent to US 2 cents. The population is currently 120 million and increases by 2 million annually. The capital city is New Cairo. Trevor and Susan were taken to a dugout church, situated in a quarry, from which the stones had been cut to build the Pyramids. They joined a tour group to view the Pyramids, the Sphinx, and Tutankhamun’s Tomb. They also visited El Alamein and Alexandria, including the catacombs. Trevor illustrated his talk with numerous photos, and the impressive size and workmanship of the ruined temples and buildings was hard to believe.

Guest Speaker, **Andi Burrell**, is a Remedial Specialist. Andi explained that a remedial specialist acts for the owners of a leaky building in the negotiations between owners and all the other interested parties. In 2021 between 89,000 and 110,000 buildings were impacted. The average cost of repairs is \$300,000 to \$500,000. The first leaky homes were detected in 1991. - *Jean McIntosh, Newsletter Editor.*

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## WARKWORTH MEN’S REBUS CLUB



We were privileged to host TV personality and author **Bill Hohepa** at our May meeting. Bill regaled us with his life story from a rough start to joining the prison service and being involved in writing a fishing column for a local paper, under a pseudonym, so the inmates didn’t know it was him. This exploded into starring in the famed TV fishing series and then producing books, with his photographer wife, on old trucks and construction gear. Bill generously brought some of his books which were exchanged for a gold-coin donation. A remarkable life story from an exceptional man.

(Photo) Bill Hohepa (right) with his wife Laura and our speaker organiser **Terry Horne**. - *Stephen Becket, Newsletter Editor.*

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## WOMEN'S REBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAĒ



**Kevin Sheppard** is a member of the Lions Club in Waikanae, and through this connection he established Predator Free Waikanae which has the goal of making Waikanae eventually predator free. Thereby giving local animals and birds 'a chance to thrive in their own country'. From a small beginning of someone seeing a stoat in Te Moana Road, this group has now got community involved to the point of having four hundred traps being looked after by individuals. Kevin pointed out that if each trap netted ten animals a year that would be four thousand less pests. The goal is to have 1200 traps in use. The Wellington region is now predator free, after beginning in 2017, and their technique has been copied.



May Cameo: **Stella Sharp** agreed to show us some of her wonderful collection of cross-stitch pictures. She has been doing this hobby for many years and won several competitions.

- *Mary Paddock, Newsletter Editor.*

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## SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB

There was drama on the railway line that runs beside Hutt Park, recorded on Super 8 colour film and viewed on-screen at our meeting on 24 April. A gang of youths and girls drove at speed along a deserted road, stopped and dragged a struggling adult male out of the door. They laid him across the railway track, tied him down and left him to a gruesome fate. The victim was their English teacher, Tony Donovan, who fortunately survived for the next 56 years to fascinate us with his story.

Back in 1968, faced with a rather bored-looking English class at Hutt Valley Memorial Technical College, he had suggested, "Why don't we make a movie?" That started an exploration of the practical and philosophical aspects of film-making that soon went nation-wide and spawned a new subject that became known as 'media studies'.

Excited by their new ability, teams of six students made more short films, including a black and white documentary on the somewhat below-standard state of the school grounds and facilities. This was shown to the staff and the school board, much to their horror. Later, however, a similar film in colour and featuring happy and smiling students, gave an alternative view of the school and taught the students about the possibility of skewed messages in the media. A student who wanted to be a disc jockey established a school radio station, an interesting initiative. These developments were covered extensively by the Evening Post, Dominion, Radio NZ and the Post Primary Teachers' Association Journal.

Rebus club members, none of whom were still at school when media studies became part of the curriculum, thoroughly enjoyed Tony's presentation and films.

-*Dave Woodhams, Newsletter Editor*

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**"To write with a broken pencil is pointless " – anonymous.**

## **REBUS OF FOXTON**



More than 20 members from Foxtton Rebus enjoyed a very tasty evening meal on Friday 8th May in the Cossie Club. A great turn out.

*-Dereley Barry, Newsletter Editor.*

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## **THANK YOU**

Thank you to all the Clubs that contributed to the Rebus Club News this month. Please remember, the cutoff date for each month is the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Please send your newsletters to [rebusclubnews@gmail.com](mailto:rebusclubnews@gmail.com)

**Steve,**

Editor, Rebus Club News

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