



REBUS CLUB NEWS

October 2025

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How can it be possible that Christmas decorations are already appearing in shops? Didn't that just happen? As we get closer to the end of the year, many Clubs are planning their Christmas luncheons. Looking forward to seeing all the photos from your recent trips and outings.

REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST

The Te Huia train trip to Rotokauri and its return to Auckland took place in **September**. The small group (10) of members and partners departed the Strand [in downtown Auckland City] at 9.30 am for Rotokauri [the old Te Rapa Air Force base just north of Hamilton]. They stopped for lunch at 'The Base' and caught the return train at 2.15 pm. The main purpose of the trip was the now rare experience of riding in a train.

A private tour of Eden Park took place in **October**. About twenty members, partners and friends attended the 90-minute event. The tour was booked for late morning which gave the group time to enjoy a lunch at a local café in Kingsland. Some attendees chose to travel by private vehicles whilst others by train to the Britomart Station and then by bus to Silverdale Station. A good day was enjoyed by all.



We, of course, continue to ramble every Monday. These Ramblers are quite an inventive lot - you just don't know where they will pop up next!

- Earl Brookbanks, Newsletter Editor.

Ramblers at Weiti River, 15 September 2025

REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC

Last month **Jan Wano** was our 10 minutes speaker. Jan spoke about her mid-winter trip for warmth and sunshine in Rarotonga.



Mike Styles spoke about how dyslexia/neurodiversity impacts on all of us. A very misunderstood topic presented by an incredibly well motivated speaker.

Photo: Last month we inducted 3 new members. **Mike Styles**, **Vivienne Cannell** and **Pauleen Norman**. Seen here with President **Nancy McBeth**.

- Steve Hutchison, Bulletin Editor.

PUKENAMU REBUS CLUB INC

Club Speaker, **Kay Watson** returned by popular request to give us the second instalment of her life story. In 1955 she emigrated to NZ under the free passage scheme, going first to Trentham for orientation where she lived in a Public Service hostel. As a new immigrant she was very lonely for a while. Kay had accepted a job with the Labour Department, married a Scotsman, lived in Wellington for 10 years and Napier for 15 years. She was a Manager at the Crippled Children Society and then Deputy Head of Youth Affairs.



Our September lunch was held in the Columbus Café at Mitre 10, where 22 members sat around a long table. And, as usual, there was lots of chatter! I can testify that the seafood chowder was delicious, and I was also informed that the omelettes were chunky with tasty fillings.

- Helen Goldfinch, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH



The Rebus visit to OpenStar. Fusion power is a form of energy generation that needs to replicate the same process powering the sun. In other words, it has to be VERY hot - millions of degrees centigrade. Light atoms are forced to join up into heavier atoms, releasing vast amounts of energy in the process. The promise is to provide virtually limitless, clean energy. It is an immense scientific and engineering challenge.

The device here in Wellington is novel in that it uses a large floating, doughnut shaped magnet inside a large stainless-steel container that looks like a UFO. They create a significant vacuum inside it; the floating magnet is very cold and the plasma 'gas' around it very hot. The machine here is a baby one on which they are testing all the processes. They look forward over the next ten years to bigger machines to actually create energy. Absolutely phenomenal technology.



The **Reverend Lance Lukin** from the Mission to Seafarers spoke of his work as part of the oldest charity in Wellington. He reminded us that New Zealand is an island nation, and we are fairly isolated from the rest of the world, and we survive by being a trading nation. As New Zealand's trade is carried by sea, we rely on ships. And those ships are crewed by people. The seafarers crewing ships that bring NZ imports earn wages far below the wages of NZ seafarers.

Every day human right abuses occur at sea. Some seafarers do not even have basic food or beds provided. The Mission to Seafarers exists to care for the seafarers who crew the ships, and to make life at sea ever so slightly better.

- Ros Lambrechtsen, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF FEILDING

Robyn Lye talked to us about living with hearing loss. She is profoundly deaf from her teenage years which was hereditary. She got her first hearing aids in her 20's and has many, many upgrades since. Hearing aids only last 6-7 years. She encouraged everyone to go and have a hearing check. As you get older and deafer, you miss important conversations. You can begin to feel isolated, and she said you miss so much of what's going on around you. Robyn spoke so well you wouldn't know she was deaf. Her husband Peter also spoke to the men in the room and urged them to go and get checked and communicate with your partner.



Jeffrey Sanders talked to us about Ukraine, its history and culture. He fell in love with the country on his first visit and met his wife there. Ukraine is a founding member of the United Nations and the second biggest country in Europe. It is the Breadbasket of Europe due to their large wheat, barley and maize crops. Ukraine gained independence in 1991 as the Soviet Union dissolved (mostly through corruption) and declared themselves neutral. In war times there were hundreds of drones flying over dropping bombs. The war is also affecting the production of oil and fertilizer. Since the Russian invasion, grain production has slowed, endangering the global food security. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is the formal head of state. He is elected by popular vote for a 5-year term. He hopes for peace for his family there and for all Ukrainians.

-Lyn Jensen, Newsletter Editor/Secretary.

RIVERSIDE REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON



Photo from a wonderful day last month in the beautiful Mokaihaha bush with the Rebus Tramping Group

-Steve O'Sullivan, Bulletin Editor.

"I can't believe I got fired from the calendar factory. All I did was take a day off." -Anon

TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB



Our 10-minute speaker last month was member **Coleen Marshall**. She told us the story of her work life in Civil Engineering. She had experience in many fields but was a qualified “draftswoman”, at the end of many courses and on the job training.

It was a most interesting career, that took her to many cities in New Zealand and a spell in Darwin, but Cyclone Tracy sent them back to NZ! She worked for a time with Taupo District Council. She had a wonderful career and for a good bit of the time was the only woman on the job!!!



Our main Speaker was **Hamish Lockwood**, who was introduced to the meeting by his proud Granny Mary Lockwood. Hamish is a deputy Principal at Rotorua Boys’ High School and shared with us his “Journey in Education”. He grew up in a loving farming family, but he did not want to be “just a farmer” so after Waikato University and then Teacher’s Training School, he was ready to step out on the next part of his journey

Hamish wants to see the “good” in “his boys” and through a special programme with outdoor experiences he tries to make them “good young men”. He has many successes where boys go on to University or other training establishments, but there are some failures too. These boys are encouraged, and hopefully they will be better men for the training this enthusiastic teacher offered them. Every person we meet shapes us.

We watched a video of one of the outdoor experiences, and we learned even more in the question-and-answer session at the completion of Hamish’s talk.

- Christine Bailey, Bulletin Editor.

CAMBRIDGE REBUS CLUB



Last month we celebrated 20 years as a club. Some of the early members were in attendance and memories and photographs were shared.

Cutting the cake: (left to right) **Noel Flower, Marilyn Flower, Mary Cannons and Helen Millward.**



Hotel Visit: Over 60 members visited the new Clements Hotel. We were given a tour of the newly renovated heritage hotel, which included visits to several luxury suites (\$700 per night), the wine bar and the conference rooms. Afterwards we were presented with a gourmet morning tea.

-Steve O’Sullivan, Newsletter Editor.



What do you call a line of men waiting for a haircut? A barber queue

REBUS CLUB OF MANAWATU



October speaker: **Julie Keane** from PNCC is transition manager for the Government's Local Water Done Well revamp of water infrastructure around the country. Nationwide there's a \$147 billion infrastructure deficit in supplying clean water and dealing with storm water and wastewater. We are working with Horowhenua and Rangitikei to set up a new organisation with very tight deadlines, while new standards have yet to be set.



(Left) A good turnout of members enjoyed the outing across the new Tararua highway and, of course, coffee at Woodville.

(Right) Our intrepid strollers braved drenching rain to see the cherry blossoms in the Esplanade.



-Margie Comrie, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS WAIHEKE ISLAND

We were privileged to have **Dame Claudia Orange** as our main speaker, one of New Zealand's most distinguished historians. Dame Claudia completed her PhD in 1984 at the University of Auckland and the title of her doctoral thesis was 'The Treaty of Waitangi: A Study of its making, interpretation and role in



New Zealand history'. After publishing her first book, an award-winning history "The Treaty of Waitangi" in 1987 (which won 'Book of the Year' at the Goodman Fielder Wattie Book Award in 1988) she became general editor of the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. Between 1997 and 2000 Dame Claudia was acting chief historian of the history branch at the Department of Internal Affairs.

Late in 2003 she became director of history and Pacific cultures at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington, and she is now a research associate for them. Dame Claudia has received many awards and honours for her contribution to a wider understanding of New Zealand history. In 2021 she was awarded the Prime Minister's literary award for literary achievement (non-fiction).

Dame Claudia is still on the Waitangi National Trust Board. The Treaty is our national founding document, and it is here to stay. She spoke about the intentions of those involved in 1840, many historians and lawyers have been involved, each stressing different factors, making it difficult to reach a conclusion and a balance. There were slight differences between the Māori and English versions of the Treaty, there were originally 40 signing and eventually 240, 12-16 of them being women with quite a spread throughout the country. What has changed is our understanding, it is difficult to maintain 2 authorities in one country. The early governors did their best to hold the Treaty. Between 2008 and 2017 sixty treaty settlements were accomplished. Over the last fifty years we have come a long way, we are a country of fairness, tolerance and respect

The mini-speaker was **Karen Saynor** who spoke about her and Jennie Collins' Northern Territory adventures in a Toyota Camry!

-Tania Sweet, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OREWA

Our Guest Speakers in September were **Clare Gregory-Jones**, owner of Move by Design and **Natalie** from Beorganised, who spoke to us on preparing to move including decluttering, downsizing and move day. Decluttering now and not leaving it for family to deal with. How to look at your possessions, ask yourself does it bring you joy, if not give it to family or charity shops. Also the 'Just in case' mindset; the guilt and obligation you feel getting rid of something someone has gifted to you but it's yours now to do with as you wish. Does it make you feel warm and sentimental for some reason? If so, keep it. They also spoke on storage solutions and new home organisation.

Our Club Speaker in September was **Graeme Dando** who was born in South Auckland. His mother came from Ireland at the age of 6 by ship and lived to 93. He has an Irish passport. He travelled to Ireland, Canada and USA by ship which took 6 weeks on his OE and got jobs in insurance. He had a career in life insurance and retired in 2023. He worked for Lumley General, NZI. He has read books on retiring and the advice to keep reading and keep social. He came to Orewa 21 years ago with his late wife, who passed away with cancer. She wrote a book called "Peace in the Storm" available on Amazon. It is written as a conversation between 2 friends. Graeme also had bowel cancer picked up from the screening programme but is recovered now. Graeme has since remarried 9 years ago. His children went to Kingsway School. He described himself as a petrol head and showed us photos of the cars he has owned including Mustangs which he entered races around NZ. He's done Route 66. And before he married, he was a glider pilot.

-Maureen Grigg, Bulletin Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF FOXTON

The Club has a swap table: "Bring and Take". Those who went to Barry's home brew tasting recently enjoyed themselves.

-Dereley Barry, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH

President **Marilyn Laing** informed us about the necessity to plan bus trips in conjunction with other clubs – the cost of hiring a bus is now almost prohibitive unless we plan for mutual support. Besides, the company of others makes for a very enjoyable experience, in addition to the opportunity to make new friends.

In place of a guest speaker at our October meeting, **Dean Halford** presented a slideshow of Devon and Cornwall. It's a wonderful region of dramatic coastlines, popular beaches, extensive moorlands, cities and towns with long histories, picturesque villages, beautiful homes and gardens, and great food.



Our recent outing was to the Operatunity show Last Night of the Proms. The very talented cast involved a large audience in singing and flag waving to familiar songs in its version of the renowned British event. Thoroughly enjoyable!

-Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor.

WARKWORTH LADIES' REBUS CLUB

Lots of activity at our club in the past month. 49 members and partners bused down to Devonport to visit the National Museum of the Royal New Zealand Navy. We had a quiz on the bus to entertain the travellers. It was a perfect day in Devonport with the ocean sparkling.



Our September speaker **Tania Nevill** shared an inspiring insight into her life and the journey behind her business, Charlies Gelato, a Matakana institution. Her story began on a farm in Marton called Omaha — a coincidence that came full circle when she and partner Andrew eventually settled in Matakana, not far from Omaha Beach. Locals and tourists flock from all over to enjoy their gelato, sorbetto and other seasonal products grown on the 10-acre site. Charlies most popular flavours are chocolate, strawberry and after dinner mint gelato, and mango sorbet.



Our monthly coffee get together was co-incidentally held at Charlies with 38 members attending.

Members are supporting the Cosy Cinema Club in Matakana which entitles you to a complimentary morning tea included in the ticket price of \$15. In early October a large group attended "Eleanor The Great".

-Maryanne Dransfield, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR



Photo: Presentation of more blankets by the Knitters Group to "Youth in Transition".

Our monthly Club speaker, **Hugh Pattison**, told us about his 10-year association with the Swedish company, Husqvarna. It is 336 years old and started producing rifles in 1689. The factory was built beside a waterfall which was the source of the power. In 1872 they started making sewing machines, and progressed to bicycles, then motorcycles. In 1919 Husqvarna made their first lawn mowers, then chainsaws. The company now makes demolition robots, robot mowers, and since it joined with Gardena in 2016, started producing automatic watering systems.

Guest speaker, **Phillipa Pilcher**, from Macular Degeneration NZ. 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 years. 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 kitset given to all members. "Delayed treatment = loss of vision". Prompt diagnosis is important so that treatment can commence asap.



Photo: CBD Explorers Group visited the Diva Exhibition

- Jean McIntosh, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI



One of the highlights of the month was a visit by three members of Wanganui Rebus (Jim, Bev and Paerau) with John McCall from Pukenuamu, to the Feilding Rebus Club, to present them with a certificate of attainment from Rebus NZ for reaching 35 years as a Probus/Rebus Club.

They were treated to a lovely morning tea, and later to lunch. The members there were so friendly, and they felt very much at home -a very pleasant day.



In September we went on a Tararua/ Woodville Trip to the organ museum.

-Paerau T-Mosen, Newsletter Editor.



REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT



The monthly speaker was **Nicola Birkett** from Premium Preschool in Silverstream. Her approach to preschool education is inclusive and focussed on preparing children for school in a warm and friendly environment.

They support building self-care skills and social-emotional competence with strong community connections.

-Alex Attewell, Newsletter Editor.

WAIKANAE MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB

Luncheon at “The Jolly” Pub and Kitchen in September. 30 Club members enjoyed a wide selection of tasty meals. With lots of laughter and chat.



(Below) Our visit to the Ashton Norwood Garden After Dark Blossom Festival.



The trip to the Blossom Festival went very well. We had 23 members and guests attend, an electric bus with an extremely pleasant driver, and helpful kiosk check in. Sitting under the pink frothy Sakura blossoms for dinner was like a veil over our heads. The lights added to the atmosphere with purple tree trunks, fairy lights on newly planted trees, and mirrored ponds, Very beautiful. -David Goggin, Newsletter Editor.

“I’m at a place in my life when errands are starting to count as going out.” — Anonymous

MT HOBSON REBUS CLUB



September's Club Speaker was **David McLister**, talking about "*Always a Southland Boy at Heart*". David was born in Otautau, Southland. Although his family were far from wealthy his upbringing was enjoyable and fulfilling. The family survived, as many rural families did in the late 40's/early 50's with a coal range, the meat safe on the outside veranda, and an outside toilet. The butcher and milkman came twice a week. David's first job was in banking, joining the Southland Savings Bank in Winton, in its 100th Centenary year. However, there was a problem. School was not yet finished for the year, but David had already started at the Bank. With school certificate he would get £5 a week, without £4.10. The School and the Bank Manager settled on a curious but effective compromise whereby David could see out the school year by attending for a couple of hours a day.

In 1998 David joined the NZ Automobile Association, which had just been awarded the Licence to provide the new photo driver licences for NZ. David's role was to put a NZ network in place, building on the existing AA provincial Centres but adding an Agent Network plus 6 Mobile Homes all duly built and outfitted to provide licensing to rural provincial communities. Approx 250 new staff were employed by the AA to meet the expected demands of the new Licensing regime.

He has been the beneficiary of a number of overseas fellowships. In 1985 he attended a 6-week Advanced Management Programme at the University of Hawaii, and In 1997 he went to a leadership course at Penn State University in Philadelphia. He found that, despite humble origins in Southland, he could hold his own with fellow students from World leading Organizations from the US, Japan, Malaysia and Australia.

In summary David had 32 years with Trust Bank Southland, followed by 23 years with the Automobile Association, and, most satisfyingly, 55 years of marriage! - *Pat Alley, Newsletter Editor.*

SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB

The South Wairarapa Rebus Club welcomed SW Rebus member **Dr Kirsty Findlay** for a return talk on Arthur Ransome—critic, journalist during the Russian Revolution and in post-revolutionary China, and author of the *Swallows and Amazons* novels. After Ransome's death, his cabin trunk was inherited by Leeds University. Tattered steamship labels marked it as the model for Captain Flint's trunk and inside were logs, diaries, and photographs—clues to the stories' real-life geography and children. The fictional Walker children, the four Swallows, were inspired by the children of old school friends who lived in Aleppo, Syria,



who had renewed their friendship with Ransome during a summer visit to the Lake District in 1928. They had bought two boats for the children and had spent much time sailing, fishing and walking together.

Dr Findlay brought Ransome's lost critical study of Robert Louis Stevenson to publication in 2011, over a century after it was commissioned. Sequestered by Ransome's first wife Ivy in 1914, the manuscript surfaced decades later, containing Ransome's insights into Stevenson's literary style—a sure foundation for the *Swallows and Amazons* novels. Findlay was the second editor to attempt reconstructing the nearly indecipherable 387-page handwritten manuscript, succeeding where previous literary executors had failed. She had read all of Stevenson's works to interpret Ransome's analysis and created the first coherent edition

- *David J Woodhams, Newsletter Editor.*

WOMEN'S REBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAЕ

Two speakers representing Momentum Clinical Research spoke to us today; they were the highly qualified nurses who work at the clinic in Waikanae.

Jessica Ongley and **Sonja Dreyer** are two of the staff at the clinic which employs three doctors, four nurses and two administrators. All meds are the result of clinical trials which can take up to ten, or even twenty years of trials before we see them on the shelves.

Momentum tests in phases which begin with 100 to 300 volunteers and gradually increase to up to 20,000 volunteers. Trials are done double blind, which means neither participant nor nurse knows whether they are taking an actual or a placebo drug.



Jessica spoke of the varied trials involved which covered respiratory diseases (e.g. asthma), dermatology (e.g. psoriasis), endocrine (e.g. diabetes), cardiovascular (e.g. coronary, heart failure) and cancer, and of course vaccines.

Jessica said that participation in trials helps develop treatments, teaches about conditions and keeps us informed about medical advances. There were lots to learn in this most informative presentation.

- Mary Paddock, Newsletter Editor.

PAPANUI REBUS CLUB



(Left) In October it was the celebration of 40 years as a Probus/Rebus Club. **Paul Wilkinson**, on behalf of the board of Rebus NZ presented president **Linda Barnes** with a framed certificate to celebrate the event.

(Below) 29 members attended our 40th Anniversary lunch at Protocol, where we celebrated with some history of how the Club came about provided by Nigel, shared some memories, good conversation, laughter and cake.



Our Guest Speaker this month **was Rea Scur**. Rea, along with her sister Taina, operate Sweet Soul Patisseries in the Cashel St mall. The sisters grew up in Brazil learning to bake from an early age. Taina originally came to NZ about 12 yrs ago studying business law. She loved NZ and decided to stay. Rea went to Paris and learnt how to make all the beautiful pastries before following her sister to Christchurch. She was making cakes for her friends and eventually she decided to open a shop with Taina. They managed to survive Covid and moved to a larger premises. Rea brought along some petit fours for us to enjoy.



-Linda Barnes, Newsletter Editor.

TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB

Recently we held a car rally. A lovely drive around town and then out to the countryside, some questions to answer and some challenging ones as well, as we all found out at The Hub, the finishing point. Which is where we had beautiful coffee and afternoon tea treats! A hearty vote of thanks must go to two of our members **Val Veitch** and **Don Hopkins** who were the organisers. Their commitment and hard work to make sure this event was a success was truly appreciated. Everyone enjoyed the outing, all thanks to you two.



-Christine Bailey, Newsletter Editor.

From REBUS NZ:

The Board has developed the Mission Statement and Objective detailed below as a means of advising people and Organisations.

Affiliated Clubs are welcome to use the Mission Statement and Objectives should they decide it is of benefit to them. The approval and encouragement is given on the basis that no changes are made.

REBUS N.Z. Inc (www.rebus.nz) **Mission Statement** is

To be the desired club for people at or approaching retirement for friendship and social activities.

Its **Objectives** are: To provide a National and local focus for the wellbeing of members.

To provide an environment for retirees to meet throughout New Zealand, socialise, and engage in stimulating activities.

To promote friendships within communities.

To be respected within the community and considered as an integral part of society.

To maintain a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political and non-charitable status.