



REBUS CLUB NEWS

November 2025

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With only four weeks to go until Christmas, I am reflecting on what a big year 2025 has been and wondering where this incredible year has gone! Thank you to all the Clubs that have supported REBUS CLUB NEWS this year, through your contributions and ideas, and your encouragement.

-Steve O'Sullivan, Rebus Club News Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC

The walking group managed, weather wise, to have two walks for the month of October. The first one, pictured, was at Waikanae Beach where we went exploring, getting only a little lost. Here we are trying to find our way through the long grass looking for a path that didn't exist! After about an hour and 5 kms later we made it back to Long Beach for our much-needed refreshment.



The Club had a recent trip to the Historical Houses in Sanson. Lots of us visited memory lane as we toured the houses, and then had ice creams.



(left) Last meeting was Melbourne Cup Day. The sartorial elegance of Ruth and Bill Ward. Bill won the men's prize for best everything

-Steve Hutchison, Newsletter Editor.

FITZHERBERT REBUS CLUB INC.

On Thursday 16th October 8 members visited the Christmas Barn at Kairanga. After an enjoyable afternoon tea, we explored the beautiful array of Christmas decorations. On what was previously a paddock, the owner Mel Bissell has created a purpose- built barn loaded with a treasure trove of trees and decorations in an array of festive colours, giving a fully immersed Christmas experience.

— **Libby Gosse**



— *Rosy Look, Communications Secretary*

REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON



(Above) A group of our members visiting the Hamilton Gardens. -*Kath Kenrick, Newsletter Editor.*

REBUS CLUB OF MILSON INC.



On the 23rd of September a group of us went to Otaki to Te Wananga O Raukawa, the Māori University to see the campus buildings which Mandy's son had designed. He had come up from Wellington to explain the way everything worked to be sustainable, which we really appreciated. We were made very welcome and were given a sumptuous morning tea.

—*Margaret Broderick, Secretary.*

“The shortest distance between two people is a story.” - Patti Digh

TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB



11 members of the Live Shows Group went to Operatunity's Fabulous 50s in Rotorua. Great show! Had everyone singing and toe tapping. Then we had a beautiful lunch at Eastwood Cafe. We didn't mind the rain. Not so pleasant for our driver **Tina**.

-Christine Bailey, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OREWA

Our Guest Speaker in November was **Shaun Higgins**, pictorial curator at Auckland War Memorial Museum. He spoke about the early photography in New Zealand. Starting with the Daguerre scope, of which only a few survive, as people sent them back to England and other countries for their family to see. The oldest surviving one in NZ dates back to 1852. Early photos always came out in reverse as they didn't know how to correct this. There was no smiling, they almost look like they are grimacing as they had to keep still for 45 seconds. They would say in those days that they had their 'portrait done on a machine'. Daguerre got a full pension from the French Govt for his technology. People often carried their pictures in an ornate carry case as they were very expensive to get done. 1857 came the invention of the Collodion 15 sec exposure ferrotype and invention of negative on glass plate. 1863 newspapers had to engrave/etch photos in order to print. 1890s came the gelatine process which required a fraction of a second shutter speed. Kodak invented the glass plate, and camera to buy with a film already installed, you would then send the whole camera back to Kodak to develop. They would then return camera with new film installed. 1890s they would paint the back of the glass to make colour photos. There are 100,000 photos of 19th century NZ at the Museum.

. -Maureen Grigg, Bulletin Editor.



WEST AUCKLAND MEN'S REBUS CLUB



On Wednesday, the 1st of October, four of our members joined the Henderson Falls Combined Friendship Club for an outing to the Auckland Domain Wintergardens, followed by lunch at the New Lynn RSA.

Peter Verryt from Day Trip and Touring Co. drove us in his coach, expertly navigating off the motorway at Newton Road, down Khyber Pass, and into Park Road before winding through to Domain Drive. He parked perfectly on Kiosk Drive, right between the Wintergarden Café and the Wintergardens entrance.

Now, if you've never been to the Domain Wintergardens, you're missing out on one of Auckland Council's true jewels. This treasure of historic interest features two magnificent barrel-vaulted Victorian-style glasshouses facing onto an extensive courtyard with a beautiful sunken pool. Inside, you'll find rare and spectacular plants, and at this time of year, a stunning collection of chrysanthemums in an ever-changing display.

Our group wandered through both glasshouses, and most ventured into the fernery – built on the site of a former quarry, it's the coolest spot where ferns flourish in the shade.



Vince Middeldorp writes: On Monday, September 1st, members of our club were invited to join the Hibiscus Coast Rebus Club's "Amblers and Ramblers" for a walk around the Te Atatu Coastal Walkway. Two of our members—**Alan Verry** and I—accepted the invitation to go on the walk.

As I drove to the Te Atatu Peninsula, the weather looked ominous with dark clouds gathered over the Waitakere Ranges, and a light rain falling on the windscreen. Fortunately, it remained dry throughout our walk. I later heard that New Lynn was hit by a heavy hailstorm—so that's where all our rain ended up!

The walkway itself offered a diverse experience, weaving together concrete footpaths, narrow wooden boardwalks, and gravel trails that traced the peninsula's scenic coastline. Alan proved to be an invaluable local guide, having completed the route many times before. His foresight in bringing a hiking pole was a subtle hint that the coastal walkway was not going to be anything like a smooth concrete cycleway.



(Above) On Tuesday, September 2nd, 39 members and friends enjoyed a movie and lunch outing at Ryders Theatre in Riversdale Road, organised by **Alan Verry** from the Railway Enthusiasts Society. True to form, Alan extended the invitation to West Auckland Rebus Club members and other friends.

The event was sparked by Trevor Pollard's suggestion that we should return to Ryders. While Alan initially stated in his flyer that the event would only proceed if more than 25 people booked, he was quietly confident from the start that we'd exceed that threshold. The enthusiastic response proved him right, with people travelling from as far as Hamilton to attend.

-Vince Middeldorp, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF CAMBRIDGE



Last month, a group of Cambridge Rebus Club members visited the "Tree Church" at Ohaupo. Bev, one of the owners, gave us an informative talk about how the church and the gardens came about. Following that we had a shared morning tea. Then many of us went for a wander around the extensive (and beautiful) gardens.

-Steve O'Sullivan, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS WAIHEKE ISLAND



The mini-speaker was **Kim Wesney** of Dark Sky Waiheke. Kim has lived on Waiheke since 1983 and noticed the increase in light pollution since then. We are so lucky compared with the Northern Hemisphere. Light pollution is human made and affects wildlife and the ecosystem. Waiheke has 27 different species of sea bird which will fly towards light. It affects the circadian rhythms of birds and disorients migratory birds. Studies indicate that artificial light at night negatively affects human health. Our ancestors experienced a night sky that inspired science, religion, philosophy, art and literature. Matariki is an important public holiday, a precious taonga. There is no scientific evidence that outdoor lighting deters crime. Wasting energy has huge economic and environmental consequences, and this is increasing rather than decreasing. Light at night should only be used when needed, as it is a form of pollution that can easily be reversed. Naseby is the first accredited Dark Sky community in NZ and Wairarapa a Dark Sky reserve, a tourist attraction. Waiheke is hoping to achieve this at the eastern end of the island.

In the Wairarapa, one can see the Milky Way at night. Millions of children across the globe will never know the wonder of seeing the Milky Way.

-Tania Sweet, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF FOXTON



'Arrgh me hearties'. Peter Pantaloons (Jill Ellis) and Stinkybell (Dereley), decide to go after the Pirates Booty. An excerpt from a panto written many years ago by club member Stinkybell.

-Dereley Barry, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH



God, Guns and Gardening. Missionary Gardens in Early New Zealand. Guest speaker, **Bee Dawson** gave a most interesting talk about the difficulty establishing gardens in early New Zealand. Samuel Marsden arrived in the Bay of Islands on 23 December 1814. On Christmas Day he held the first Christian service in New Zealand. In February 1815 he purchased the plot of land at Rangihoua on which New Zealand's first missionary settlement was established. The land was steep and infertile. When Rangihoua was abandoned by 1822 there had not been a single Christian conversion.

Fifteen mission stations were established in New Zealand. When Samuel Marsden established the second mission station in Kerikeri in 1819, he chose the land and superintendent carefully. The superintendent was Rev John Butler who had worked as a gardener. Kerikeri began well and in 1821

Samuel Marsden reported to the Christian Missionary Society in London that there was a wide variety of vegetables, fruits and flowers growing in the gardens.

In 1823 the Rev Henry Williams and his wife Marianne established a Church Missionary Society at nearby Pahia. The house had a large garden, with numerous rows of beans. The local Māori wanted to trade food for muskets, powder and shot, and regularly offered to trade pork, potatoes, wild cabbage and watermelon. However, Henry Williams refused.

The missionaries made significant plant introductions - sweet briar, China roses, and Norfolk pines. The early settlers were disappointed by poor pollination and crops. New Zealand native bees were not large enough to pollinate introduced European plants. European bees were essential for honey and also for wax for candles. Mary Bumby, (the sister of a Northland missionary) is reported to have brought the first two skeps (woven basket beehives), ashore at Mangungu Mission Station in Hokianga Harbour.

William Charles Cotton (Bishop Selwyn's chaplain at the Waimate Station) was known as 'Bee' Cotton. William Cotton disliked the traditional bee-keeping techniques; honey could only be harvested from the commonly used straw skep if the bees were killed first. He suggested ways to render bees semiconscious to obtain the honey rather than by killing them. He worked hard in his workshop building different designs of hive including the Octagon hive. - *Ros Lambrechtsen, Newsletter Editor.*

"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt." — Charles M. Schulz

REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH

At the November club meeting, **Tony Nicholls** presented the second part of his life journey. We learned of his employment in NZ and his pilgrimage to Italy and France. A bicycle ride from Amsterdam through Germany and France, ending in Rome, was unforgettable!

Our guest speaker, **Franco Vaccarino**, told us about the Palmerston North City Mission which supports people with many needs. The Friendship Centre includes groups for seniors. There is a parenting programme for new parents, and a wide variety of other activities.



A bus trip to Woburn Homestead, Waipukurau, was enjoyed by our members who were joined by members from Hokowhitu Rebus Club, Terrace End Probus Club and Mid-City Probus Club. A tour of the 1893 homestead and gardens was followed by an excellent al fresco lunch in the warm Central Hawkes Bay sunshine. A stop on the way home in the historic Norsewood village rounded off a very interesting day. Increasingly expensive bus trips become possible by gathering together members from other clubs.

(above) A group of people sitting at tables outside.

-Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor.

RIVERSIDE REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON



A large group of us visited the Ross Brothers' Museum last month. Lots of classic cars, heavy machinery (which the ladies were keen to explore) and nostalgia. Followed by lunch at The Bale Café.

-Steve O'Sullivan, Bulletin Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF MT. HOBSON

Fifteen golfing enthusiasts turned up on a fine, if windy day, for the annual golfing event at Omaha. Unfortunately, most facilities at the club were down because of a power cut but, aside from temporary caffeine deficiency, that did not diminish the day. The course was in great condition with tidy fairways and true greens. When all was finished, we repaired to Bryan Skyrme's abode for reflections, celebrations and commiserations. Our esteemed comptroller **Doug Wilson** was the best individual with 36 points. The teams prize of three golf balls each went to **Michael Benjamin** (consistent) **Chris de Boer** (steady) and **Pat Alley**



(erratic) with a combined score of 123 a mere 19 over handicap. Grateful thanks to Doug Wilson for organising this again, Bryan Skyrme for his hospitality and Alistair Stormont for providing but not making (thanks Carolyn) a sumptuous carrot cake.

- Pat Alley, Newsletter Editor.

WAIKANAE MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB



Members of the club joined with the Garden Group to visit the Nga Manu Nature Reserve. Here they are viewing a 400 year old Kahikatea tree

(Right) Liz Thevenard and Barrie Truman

displaying the old and new skiing gear during their 10-minute talk on their adventures on the snow in New Zealand and overseas.

- David Goggin, Newsletter Editor.



REBUS CLUB OF MANAWATU



NOVEMBER MEETING SPEAKER: Pathologist and author **Cynric Temple-Camp** asked our club 'When does criminal negligence become murder?' He offered insights on historical cases: from the Ansett 703 in the Ruahines, to the Oscar Pretorius case in South Africa, and more recently, the deaths of residents in Wellington Loafer's Lodge, in a very interesting presentation.

- Margie Comrie, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI



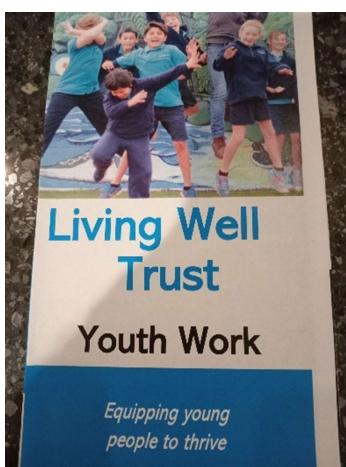
(left) For the Melbourne Cup, members made an effort and dressed up and supported the Fashion Stakes and Sweepstakes.

(right) Visit to the Old History Museum, Hawera in October. Liz, Jim, Vi and Jacky.

-Paerau T-Mosen,
Newsletter Editor.



THAMES BONANZA REBUS CLUB



Michael Wilkes a young man who organised the Thrive Trust to mentor and support the young people of Thames gave us a very interesting talk. Thrive Trust is all about the people. We want to see the next generation and their families in the Thames Valley absolutely THRIVING. We are committed to our children and youth growing and charging forward in life. The Trust provides a threefold approach that aims for us to walk alongside the youth and children of the Thames Valley from primary school through to the end of high school. We help equip parents and teachers with knowledge and tools to build consistent support.

The Trust relies entirely on donations from the Community, and it is wonderful a young man puts such a huge effort into it, as there are many young people and families searching for direction. -Murray Newby, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR

Club Speaker: Member **Karen Clout** gained her nursing qualifications in England. She is a registered Nurse and Midwife, holds an Advanced Diploma in Nursing, and a Masters in Project Management. For two years (1999/2000) she was a nurse on a cruise ship, with 14-day sailings from Sydney to Vanuatu, New Caledonia, and Fiji. There were two doctors and five nurses on board. She then had a nursing position in Port Augusta, Australia, caring for mostly Aboriginal patients. In 2001 she came back to NZ as project managing nurse for the redevelopment of Waitakere Hospital. Karen is now a core midwife at Auckland Hospital, nursing some of the more difficult cases – drug use and diabetes are an increasing problem.



Guest Speakers Trish and Claire, gave an O Mahurangi-Penlink Development update. The project is a 7km, two-lane highway with six bridges. It will be a toll road, \$1 or \$2 depending on the time of day. Of the 1.3 million cu. m. of earthworks, 1.0 million have already been moved. Fulton Hogan and NZTA work together

as part of an alliance. A flyover showed the new road construction and dirty water ponds. The Weiti Bridge is 535 m long, is 45 m above the river, and is New Zealand's first "extradosed" bridge. An extradosed bridge is a hybrid between a box girder and cable-stayed bridge design. There are 4 piers, each of which has two piles which are 3 m in diameter, and 45 m deep. Auckland Transport/Council are responsible for providing the Whangaparaoa Bus Station. The opening is scheduled for 2028



The Combined Group Dine-Out was held at Maison Thai, Manly, on 11th November. 37 members and partners from Gulf Harbour and Hibiscus Coast Clubs spent an enjoyable evening of good company, great Thai food, and lots of chatter.

Thanks to George Tregidga who organises these gastronomical events. *-Jean McIntosh, Newsletter Editor.*

WOMEN'S CLUB OF WAIKANAE

November Meeting: November Speaker: "Girls can do anything!" was an apt comment after **Hilary Cunningham-Orr's** presentation on Women in Aviation. We were wowed as Hilary highlighted some historical 'firsts' achieved by women who dared to fly high. Edith Berg (Mrs Hart) was the first woman passenger to fly with Wilbur Wright in Paris in 1908. Elsie de Laroche is regarded as the first woman pilot in the world in 1919. Amelia Earhart is accredited as the first woman to fly non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean, in 1932, while Amy Johnson had flown solo from England to Australia in 1930.

Not so recognised, after driving ambulances in WW1 battlefields, Gladys Sandford was the first woman to gain a NZ pilot licence (No 18) in 1925. Better known and celebrated, Jean Batten flew solo from England to New Zealand in 1936, using only a hand-held map and a compass. Amazingly, it took 44 years to break her 11 day 45-minute record.

Another first for NZ women pilots which Hilary mentioned, was Trevor Colway, flying a tiger moth solo in 1931 when aged 16. Decades later, in 1997, Angela Swann-Cronin became the first Wahine Maori to graduate as a NZRAF pilot. In 2016, the first all-women crew flew a jet aircraft from Auckland to London and return. So, from record-breakers to test pilots, from single seat to military bombers it's truly an awesome story! Added to this, NZ women glider pilots have also achieved world records for height gains and currently there are women pilots achieving success in aerobatics.

Hilary herself, a competition winner, has achieved her childhood dreams in meeting challenges and honing her skills in sport and recreational flying. With husband John, as navigator, Hilary participated in a nine-day air race around New Zealand. In their small aircraft, she recorded 44 hours of flying over that trip. Along with others, she was very involved in a successful NZ Women in Aviation Day held in Kapiti in 2004. Today's young people have opportunities, such as summer camps or RNZAF School to Skies training, to help further their dreams. Now for Hilary and John it is motor bike tours on land rather than machines in the skies, although the sound of a strange aircraft has them running for a view! - *Mary Paddock, Newsletter Editor.*



REBUS CLUB OF FIELDING



35th Birthday Celebrations **Paerau Taylor-Mosen**, on behalf of Rebus NZ, presented our Certificate of Achievement to President **Mary Wealleans**. Paerau congratulated the club on its achievement of service to Feilding and Districts. **John McCall**, also representing Rebus NZ, talked to us about our aim to include more 60+ age group members and added his congratulations. We also had visitors from the Whanganui Rebus club. We enjoyed a Quiz then soup, roll and slice lunch.



Betty Rasmussen told members about the history of our Club. 35 years is a long time. The Club held their meeting at the Rangitikei club (since demolished). The club then moved to The Oroua Women's Club, St Paul's Church Hall and now at Bowls Feilding. Our rebranding occurred with the name Rebus NZ. The RE is for retired and BUS as in business and includes those seeking friendship. Over the years the club activities have included watching videos, scrabble, quizzes, craft and walking groups, dining out, garden visits and trip outings, all providing stimulation and friendship. When she reads the Rebus Club News she feels a sense of togetherness; we are now a big family which we can be proud of. Thanks Betty.



In November the Rebus Club of Fielding had a visit from **Andrew Wilson** – Magician, who was very entertaining and magical. He asked for audience participation, and we were left spellbound and asking, “how did he do that?”

-Lyn Jensen, Rebus Feilding Sec/Editor.

PAPANUI REBUS CLUB

Our Guest Speaker this month was **Gary Holden**, who spoke to us about his policing days in Edmonton, Canada. He left the warmth of the Northern Territory to go to Edmonton, which has days of -30 to -40deg, which was a bit of a shock. He mostly worked with Victim Services but found it quite difficult as the systems were very regimented in Edmonton and the authorities didn't really like a brash Kiwi offering change. Another surprise was that, in addition to the famous RCMP, “The Mounties”, in Canada, like in America, they have many small local police forces, and they are often not great at working together. Some facts about Edmonton – they have a fascination with UFO's and also have a high rate of fentanyl abuse. Their indigenous peoples live on reserves and run Casinos there. I am sure Gary had many more stories to share but he was a little restricted due to the content.



24 members attended the lunch at Coaster's Tavern, where they shared good food, good conversation, although you had to be in quick to get the hotpot!

-Linda Barnes, Newsletter Editor.

CAMBRIDGE MEN'S REBUS CLUB



(left) The November meeting was attended by 65 members and saw the induction of three new members - Bill Wilson, Chris Minnee and Trevor Hickmott by President **Warwick Roberts**. Club membership now totals 115.

(right) Our guest speaker was **Janine Frolich-Monk**, Community and Sustainability Executive with the New Zealand National Fieldays Society. Janine gave members an insight into her various responsibilities within the organisation, including environmental activities and developing and presenting programs to local schools.



- Nigel Salter, Newsletter Editor.

WARKWORTH LADIES' REBUS CLUB

At a recent meeting we received a very informative presentation from **Sarah Houltham** of iDigital, who spoke about staying safe online and avoiding scams. Sarah encouraged us to feel more confident about using technology and to embrace its benefits, even though scams are unfortunately all too common these days

Our cameo speaker was Rebus member who reflected on her journey of establishing a new life as a retiree having moved to Snells Beach last year. In adjusting to retirement, she said, there were a lot of parallels to the outcome of some research she did many years ago about job satisfaction.



(left) We had our coffee get together at the Warkworth Golf Club. A lovely venue, helpful staff and lots of chatter as our 34 ladies and visitors gathered to enjoy each other's company.



Baking Gurus, met in November and each made a Bakewell Tart utilising some fabulous homemade raspberry jam. The hostess for this meeting was **Karen Courtis** who gave us the background on this traditional British dessert which originated in the town of Bakewell in Derbyshire.

- *Maryanne Dransfield, Newsletter Editor.*

REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT

The guest speaker was **Alex Attewell** who provided a refresher on the importance of signalling, the give way rules at intersections and roundabouts, as well as some general advice for senior drivers.

(right) Intersections: No blocking rule at intersections, railway and pedestrian crossings

(below) The Rebus Club of Upper Hutt recently has their Christmas Function.



- *Alex Attewell, Newsletter Editor*

SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB

Jill Fraser, our guest speaker in October, has been creating miniatures for over 30 years. She got started after a stroke when she was 51 years old. To get her eyes and hands working again she did repetitive exercises including rolling thousands of little green peas! Miniature food. Jill said it was excellent therapy. During her recovery, her niece dropped off a half-finished doll's house and she was hooked! Today she has a substantial website, her own YouTube channel and a glossy magazine with a global readership. The magazine title, "Miniature Time Traveller" reflects the search for nostalgia that miniatures often evoke. Jill brought several of her 1/12-scale miniatures to the meeting, including an exquisite embroidery worktable, complete with needle, scissors and embroidery to scale.



Before tea, Club member **Jackie Herring** shared the story of the Wise Men of Gotham. Gotham was her hometown in Nottinghamshire. It was rumoured that King John (1199-1216) was planning a hunting lodge nearby. Apprehensive of additional taxes and other inconveniences arising from having a nearby royal residence, the villagers devised a plan to appear mad when the King's messengers arrived. Seeing the villagers with rakes fishing in the pond for the moon's reflection and engaging in other nonsensical activities convinced them. Madness being thought contagious, the King kept well away and the Wise Men of Gotham entered folklore. - *David J Woodhams, Newsletter Editor*

KOWHAI REBUS CLUB OF BETHLEHEM

Laurel Nixon sliced the cake for Kowhai Rebus Club's 15th birthday celebrations.

- *Marie Mabey, Newsletter Editor.*



Christmas Greetings from
REBUS CLUB NEWS