



# REBUS CLUB NEWS

July 2025

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The internet tells me that on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, we were closer to 2050 than to the year 2000. Which also means that Spring will be just around the corner. Days are supposed to be getting lighter, but with this recent weather it still feels like a long way off.

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## **KOWHAI REBUS CLUB OF BETHLEHEM**

How to get regular visitors. A couple of ladies were sitting on a patio and speaking to each other about their grandchildren. "I send gifts, greeting cards and cheques to my grandchildren," complains one, "and still they barely visit me!" The second lady said, "Oh I too send cheques to my grandchildren, and they visit me all the time!" "You are so fortunate to have more grateful grandchildren than my own." Said the first one sadly. The second lady smiled: "No my grandchildren are about as grateful as yours." "So, what do YOU do different? Are your cheques bigger than mine?" Asked the first one, surprised. "No" chuckled the other lady "I just don't sign mine".

*-Marie Mabey, Newsletter Editor.*

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## **REBUS CLUB OREWA**



Our Club Speaker at our June meeting was **Peter Aitken**. He spoke of his wife of 18 years Gail, they both have a daughter and son each and 7 grandchildren. Peter is the eldest of 5 and belongs to a very large extended Canterbury family. 3 sisters and 1 brother all still living in Canterbury. He has a large family on his mother's side and has 66 first cousins. Christmases are grand affairs. His lineage is a combination of Māori (Awarua Iwi—Nga Tahu), Scottish and Dutch lineage. His birth town is Leeston 45km from Christchurch. He found that he shares early links with Clive Croy, our member Mary Croy's husband. It is surprising when you get talking to people what a small world it is. He started

school in 1950 at Leeston Consolidated Primary School. He spent 1952-1962 on a 100-acre family farm bordering Lake Ellesmere. He then started Southbridge District High in 1959. Then moved on to Christchurch Boys' High School which has a fantastic tradition and culture, and he enjoyed playing rugby for the school. From 1965-68 he attended Victoria University and gained a BCA degree majoring in Economics. He played rugby there too in the Williment/Kember/Sayer era. He finished rugby aged 25 and took up harriers road racing. Doing Marathons, Duathlons and Triathlons. Now he enjoys walking and golf. He spent 37 years with Ford and then Mazda on the distribution and manufacturing side. Then later Director of a retail dealership. During the 37 years he worked at Ford Australia 1969-71, Ford NZ 1971-76, Ford Thailand for Ford Asia Pacific, 30 years with Mazda NZ 1976-2006 also travelling to Mazda Japan. Pre-retirement he set up a Digital Marketing Company, took groups to digital management conferences in USA. He was a member of The Rotary Club of Eilerslie Sunrise District 9920 for 31 years, he was involved with fundraising for DaDream, Artworks and the Xmas Puddings. Also, projects such as support for Pacific Islands and local charities/schools. Now he says it's time to enjoy time with Gail, play golf, explore Orewa and enjoy Rebus. Thank you, Peter, a very interested talk.

*-Maureen Grigg, Bulletin Editor*

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## CAMBRIDGE REBUS CLUB



Last month we heard an interesting talk by **Murray Brown** about his sewing machine art and his "Murray's Relics" collection.

Murray has eight sheds – the council won't let him have any more – filled with memorabilia.

Murray spoke about how he turns sewing machines into miniature tractors.



*-Steve O'Sullivan, Newsletter Editor.*

## PUKENAMU REBUS CLUB INC



Club speaker **Vern Hill** spoke about his involvement in the early days of the export kiwifruit industry in Wanganui. In 1904 Whanganui Girls' College headmistress, Mary Isabel Fraser, returned from a visit to her missionary sister in China, with some seeds of an exotic fruit - the Chinese gooseberry - and gave them to Alexander Allison who farmed near Wanganui.

In 1959 New Zealand adopted the name "kiwifruit". In the early days of NZ exporters, Turner and Growers asked Vern to travel to Europe as there were problems with their importers. It was a busy trip, and with some amusing interactions. e.g. When he wanted a receipt for their cafe lunch, he was asked, "How much do you want it for?" Thanks Lindsay, for the photos.



In June, 25 members enjoyed lunch at the Thai Twist - it was a good turnout during such cold miserable weather.

*-Helen Goldfinch, Newsletter Editor*

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## WARKWORTH REBUS LADIES CLUB

Our membership continues to grow with seven new members being inducted recently. The speakers at a recent meeting were Matakana cinema owner **Dan Paine** and manager **Mathew Turner** who had us captivated with an enthralling presentation about the behind-the-scenes workings of their boutique movie business. Dan took us right back to the beginning when Matakana was considered something of a backwater. An important part of the business is being part of the community and a social hub for fundraising, conferences, and celebrations such as birthday parties and work functions.

**Betty Trewin** gave a brief history of Probus starting in Warkworth and morphing into Rebus. In those days the club had a waiting list, and each new member was scrutinised before being admitted. In 2015 she said the club had 86 members.



A group of Rebus members attended the Pink Ribbon Fundraiser lunch in support of Breast Cancer with most of them winning raffle prizes.



The club celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a lunch at the Sandspit Yacht Club. The room was beautifully decked out with balloons and table decorations. Each of the 47 guests received a lovely goodie bag consisting of a Matakana Botanicals hand cream, chocolates and a pen.

Posies were presented to founding members - **Val Aston, Betty Trewin and Evelyn Brown.**

*-Maryanne Dransfield, Newsletter Editor*

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### RIVERSIDE REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON



We had a wonderful time at the mid-Winter luncheon last month at the Hamilton Gardens Café. Steve ran another quiz (with some discussion over the scores) and Carol gave away the raffle prize.

The walking group enjoyed a wonderful walk through Parana Park last month.

*-Steve O'Sullivan, Bulletin Editor.*



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### REBUS WAIHEKE ISLAND

Last month's mini-speaker was **Liz Greenslade** whose love of NZ history has been revealed to us in many of her past television documentary and publishing projects spanning 30 years. In the late 1990s Liz left her media world to farm sheep in Wairoa and whilst there introduced Touch-table technology – an innovative, interactive way of recovering, preserving and telling Wairoa's history, particularly their "lost" World War 1 stories. When visiting the Los Angeles Holocaust Museum, Liz saw 10 people standing around a touch-table where they could read the stories of 50,000 people. A touch-table is like a giant iPad.

In the NZ archives, one can now access the military records of all the soldiers, sailors and airmen from World War 1. Liz interviewed 130 WW1 veterans in 1983 for a memorial. The touch-table is now at Wairoa's war memorial, and it is the first of its type; the second one was ordered by the Smithsonian.

930 volunteers, 220 of them being Māori, as well as 10 nurses and 5 doctors went from Wairoa. 132 locals were killed or died in action.

The main speaker was **Rob Johnson**. Rob has been a teacher, an Air NZ pilot and is a cyclist, actor and enthusiastic super groover! He flies model aircraft and gliders. A drone is a UAS (unmanned aerial system) or RPV (remotely piloted vehicle). The first 'drone' was in July 1849 used by the Austrian forces besieging Venice. 200 hot air balloons were launched but due to a wind change returned! WW1 saw the early days of radio-controlled aircraft controlled by a mother aircraft. Between the wars the Tiger Moth on floats was launched and called a Queen Bee which is where the word drone comes from. In the 1930s radio controls were put into a B52 bomber packed with explosives (aerial torpedoes) flying from a mother ship.



With WW11 technology got faster. Reconnaissance drones were 3.5 times the speed of sound so not easily shot down. During the 1980s and 1990s the US military used predator drones which carried cameras and other sensors. These were used on the US/Mexican border and in Iraq. They are now smaller with amazing cameras. Rob showed us a map of Ukraine taken one night last week with a picture of drones sent from Russia, 477 coming from multiple sites, some with devious flight paths, travelling at 180kph. Also, that night there were 46 cruise missiles, 11 ballistic missiles and 3 hypersonic. They were all unmanned and out of the 537 in one night, 475 were shot down. The Ukrainians have cellphones on towers which hear them coming. Ukraine is now the biggest producer of multi-rotor drones, producing 10,000 per day. -*Tania Sweet, Newsletter Editor.*

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### THAMES BONANZA REBUS CLUB



A Mid-Winter luncheon at Richmond Villas Lounge in Thames was thoroughly enjoyed by all, as you see by the happy faces in the photograph.

We invited some guests from the local Probus Club who were impressed by the beautiful roast lunch and desserts and tea and cakes. Together with the excitement of

drawing a number of spot prizes. -*Celia Newby, Newsletter Editor*

### REBUS CLUB OF FOXTON

"Yesterday I wore something from 10 years ago and it actually fits! So proud of myself!

Well, it was a scarf but still, let's be positive here". - *Dereley Barry, Newsletter Editor.*

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**"I made a huge "to do" list for today, I just can't figure out who's going to do it" – Anon**

## REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH



At our 1 July meeting President **Marilyn Laing** inducted **Sheryl McGrath** and **Pauline Bell** to our membership. (See photo.) A warm welcome, ladies.

Club speaker **Jeff Baty** claimed that he was uncomfortable with speaking in public but then gave an excellent recitation of The Ballad of Old Doc Brown. Well done, Jeff. What a memory!

Two Guest Speakers from Neighbourhood Support Palmerston North, Board Chairman Professor **David Parry** and Chief Constable **Phil Robinson**, provided us with much useful and interesting information about community support in the areas of safety and natural disasters as well as crime reduction. Becoming an active member of this not-for-profit charity helps make our homes, streets, neighbourhoods and communities safer and more caring places in which to live.

A visit to the Whanganui Regional Museum was enjoyed by a group of our members recently.

*-Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor.*

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## REBUS CLUB OF MANAWATU



JULY MEETING LUNCH: We had a great turnout for our mid-winter lunch at the Manawatu Golf Club Café.



Happy members in the aftermath of the mid-winter lunch.  
*Photos Shirley Kendall*

*Margie Comrie, Newsletter Editor.*

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## WAIKANAE MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB



The Cycling Group enjoyed their coffee break in comfortable surroundings at Devine Café, Summerset, Paraparaumu.  
*- David Goggin, Newsletter Editor.*

## MOTUEKA REBUS CLUB

The mini speakers for July were from “Keep Motueka Beautiful”, **David Ogilvie** and **Isobel Mosley**.

Each took it in turns to talk about the early history of the wharves [ David] then the present day ‘Heritage Wharf [Isobel] – 1842 saw the first immigrants and Motueka had four separate wharves at various times in its history. The main one has come to be known as the ‘Heritage Wharf’ at the front by the Jannie Seddon. Here was quite a thriving industry of packing sheds, a jam factory and hotel together with some light rail used to transport from the factory to the ships. In 1914 the wharf was used to embark soldiers in WW1.

Over the years [Isobel told us] storms have effectively damaged the wharf and in 2009 it was granted the status of heritage listed site. Keep Motueka Beautiful together with the Historic Association [Tom Rowling] and Claire Hutt of Our Town Motueka formed the Wharf Restoration Group with the aim to restore the wharf, ensure safety and enhance the history of the area.



Our main speaker was **Glyn Jones** of Castle Investments who has been a financial advisor for 50 years and is well-known in the area. The points he drew our attention to were: -

- How to live on retirement capital & how many holidays can you afford?
- Coping with uncertainty & defensive investments

Why you must plan what you can afford to spend. The only beneficiary of your money is the banks if you haven’t planned. Then Glyn talked in general terms about various case histories.

To benefit family now, Glyn said, you could think about paying off a student loan for a grandchild or alternatively investing/opening a KiwiSaver account for them.

He talked very briefly about reverse mortgages, but the main thrust of his argument is to change us from being savers to spenders!!

*-Gwynfa Bell, Newsletter Editor.*

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## REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR

At our July meeting the Club Speaker was member **Graeme McIntosh** who gave us an insight into life on the Chatham Islands, with an excellent PowerPoint presentation. The islands are 1,000 km from mainland New Zealand and almost all supplies are delivered by ship. Island life is hard, especially when the ship is out of service for any length of time. The locals are either industrious, some having three jobs, or dependent on welfare. Fishing and farming are the main industries, so local produce abounds, such as blue cod, crayfish, lamb and beef.



A group of members visited the Chelsea Sugar Works at Birkenhead. The lunch was great and the train trip around the factory was very interesting. The Chelsea train guide took a photo of us all dressed in pink jackets and pink hard hats.

Guest Speaker was **Lisa Trist** from ASB, keeping us up to date with the latest scams, and giving us guidance how to stay safe online. All NZ banks’ email addresses end with.co.nz, and NEVER .com. *-Jean McIntosh, Newsletter Editor.*

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## HOKOWHITU REBUS CLUB INC.



Our guest speaker, **Trevor Kitson** had us all really curious as he recounted anecdotes from the four quizzes he took part in when he was younger. I think we all know there are quirky happenings during quizzes so it was interesting to learn of just some of the unexpected things that can happen.

*-Joan Letts, Newsletter Editor.*

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## THE REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI



June outing trip to Woodville via “New Manawatu Tararua Highway” on Wednesday 23rd June. 2025. A Great day out, and we were fortunate to strike a beautiful day.

[below] ART GALLERY coffee morning, Wednesday 16 July



*-Paerau T T-Mosen, Newsletter Editor.*

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## SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB



"Journalism is printing what someone else does not want printed; everything else is public relations." While this quote is commonly attributed to George Orwell, some sources suggest it might not be a direct quote. It was, nevertheless, the starting point for **Erin Kavanagh-Hall**, journalist and ‘skipper’ of the team producing Wairarapa Times-Age Midweek, who was the guest speaker at South Wairarapa Rebus Club’s May meeting. She knows print journalism is also a medium that hosts good stories that uplift and inspire both readers and journalists.

After media studies at Canterbury University, Erin joined the Ministry of Health, writing letters for ministers, before joining the Wairarapa Times-Age. Erin illustrated her talk with a number of stories she had covered in areas she is most passionate about, including arts and culture, social and bicultural issues, youth, animal welfare, food and travel.

The club speaker at the meeting, **John MacGibbon**, gave us a taste of a video project he is working on for display in the Wool Shed Museum in Masterton. He has collected and restored 300 photos of rural Wairarapa between 1845 and 1950 – dwellings and farm buildings, farm scenery, farmwork, recreation, churches, weddings and sports events.



The South Wairarapa Rebus Club also celebrated Matariki with a luncheon and quiz at the Carterton Club. The food and the service were outstanding, as members expected from our experience of previous functions there. Alwyn and Tricia were unable to attend at the last moment, but the president organised and delivered doggy bags for them. - *David Woodhams, Newsletter Editor.*

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#### **REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT**

Guest speaker, **Ian James** retired in 2005 after 35 years in law enforcement and joined Citizen's Advice Bureau in Upper Hutt where he has served for 18 years. He has served on the Boards of CAB both locally and nationally. Examples of queries received at the CAB include:

- How to start a business
- How to claim Australian tax refunds that may be owing
- How to transfer Australian superannuation
- What are my legal obligations when I sell my house privately?
- Application forms –birth certificate, driver licence, Kiwi Access card
- Insolvency, debts, credit ratings
- Child support • Unpaid fines • Counselling –drugs, violence
- Job opportunities/training • Recovery of property seized by Police
- Lyrics of songs

-*Alex Attewell, Newsletter Editor*

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#### **REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH**

French wine tasting, 24 June 2025. This was something rather different from our usual walking, garden or singing groups, lunch or dinner outings. Last month a lucky group of Rebus members enjoyed a French Wine Tasting, hosted in a private home. The sommelier, **Michael Hutton**, is the son of our hosts.

We were limited to 15 participants: the number of 'tasting' pours per bottle of wine. Michael gave a very entertaining talk to accompany the tastings, taking us on a circuit around France, through both well-known and lesser-known wine regions. He illustrated his talk with informative and picturesque slides, with maps and images of beautiful scenery and vineyards. Some showed surprisingly narrowly spaced low-growing rows of vines, for hand picking of grapes by single pickers.

Nine different wines were sampled, ranging from a Premier Cru Champagne - Serge Gallois Blanc de Blanc, through Sauvignon Blanc, Gewurztraminer, Rosé, Cotes du Rhone, both Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from Burgundy, a Medoc Cru Bourgeois, and ending with a delicate dessert wine. At its simplest: bubbles, whites, rosé, reds and a sticky – a delicious tasting from vineyards most of us had not previously encountered. We were of course supplied with spittoons, to emulate professional wine tasters – but I’m fairly sure they were almost untouched.

*-Ros Lambrechtsen,  
Newsletter Editor.*



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### **REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST**

**John Simons** welcomed Glen, Amanda, and Natalie from O Mahurangi – Penlink (the OM-P team).

Glen and Amanda spoke to a drone fly-over video of the project to date. There are 4 bridges underway, with 113 machines on site including 27 earthmoving machines, and 120 staff. From the motorway the route follows the Ara Weiti Road. The Weiti bridge will have 2 piers for which the piles are 47m deep making them both large and logistically challenging. It will be NZ’s first extra-dosed bridge using balanced cantilever hybrid box girder plus cable stays during the build process. This video link provides a more complete picture: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4eOkFsLn\\_Jg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4eOkFsLn_Jg) **Murray Patterson** thanked the OM-P team and presented Amanda with a bottle of wine.



Our ramblers and amblers at Te Atatu Peninsula on 8 July 2024 We continue to ramble every Monday.

*-Earl Brookbanks, Newsletter Editor.*

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### **WOMEN’S REBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAE**



It was a beautiful day in May when our group visited the Mirek Smisek Kilns at Te Horo. We had a very enjoyable and informative visit. Susan and Frederick spoke of Mirek’s life and the formation of the kilns.

We were fortunate to see ‘the Potter in Residence’ Jane working on her wheel and turning clay to make a bowl.



July Speaker – **Alison Lash**: From what she described as “a pretty zig-zag career, covering teaching, public service, building, managing Wellington Zoo and working on early climate change”, Alison Lash chose to tell us about furniture making in her retirement. Alison enthused and intrigued as she shared her journey into woodworking, which began with a 4-year building apprenticeship in her late thirties, and 10 years with her own building business. Passion, skill and creativity were evident in the beautifully hand-crafted examples of her work made at various courses. We admired her coffee table, planes and other tools, hoop stool, and curved chair, all honed to perfection from hardwoods, such as beech, elm and jarrah. Her descriptions of the processes and techniques involved in making complex joints, steam bending and pressure clamping, gave us some insight into the strength, dedication, patience, know-how, artistry, time and effort needed to fashion a fine-finished article from a thick plank! Alison also showed some hand whittled ornaments made from softer woods.



Unfortunately, her power point display could not be viewed where we may have seen her studio and large, self-made work bench and refectory table. She concluded her talk with some comments on design thinking, book matching, mirror patterning and cultural influences. Alison has also given time to passing on her expertise and as Chair of the NZ Centre for Fine Woodworking Trust. - *Mary Paddock, Newsletter Editor.*

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### **TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB**



**Tony Beard**, one of our oldest members was our 10-minute speaker, and what a memory. Who would have thought the controlling of river flow would be so interesting?... well it was !!

Tony recalled his 30 years as controller of the gates at the mouth of the lake. to keep the flow of the mighty Waikato River steady for the power stations further downstream.

It was a job he had for over 30 years from the 50' s through to the 80's

He told of many accidents and near misses on the narrow bridge, which was part of State Highway 1. With great clarity and recall he shared many happenings on that bridge and the control gates beneath it. - *Christine Bailey, Newsletter Editor.*

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### **PAPANUI REBUS CLUB**

**Lily Purdon**, from Sports Canterbury, was our guest speaker this month. Lily assesses programs in various gyms to see if they measure up to what ACC requires for prevention of falls in Older Adults.

She introduced us to ways to check you balance – all 10secs – first feet together, 2nd – one foot halfway up the other, 3rd – one foot in front of the other, 4th – stand on one foot. There are many programs available to increase strength and balance. To see the Sport Canterbury approved ones visit [www.livestronger.org.nz](http://www.livestronger.org.nz)

**Margaret Davidson**, a member, also recommended a Facebook group to follow – “Grow Young Fitness” – to do at home.



27 Members attended the lunch at the Bealey. Lovely big meals for \$15 and lots of lively conversation.



*Linda Barnes, Newsletter Editor.*

### WARKWORTH MEN'S REBUS CLUB



Warkworth Men's Rebus Club celebrated 40 years of service to the local community retirees.

The club held its 40th Anniversary at Brick Bay Winery Glasshouse Restaurant, Snell's Beach on Thursday 17th July. There were about 60 people in attendance and our Guest of Honour was Rebus NZ Inc Chairman **Garth Dutton**.

**Bob Dye** gave a short, but interesting talk on the history of our club and of Rebus/Probus. Garth Dutton's speech complimented Bob's in that Garth spoke about some of

the ideas that the Rebus NZ Inc Board has for the future growth of Rebus across the country. At the end of his talk Garth presented the club with a Certificate of Attainment for 40 years' service. -*Stephen Becket, Newsletter Editor*

### REBUS CLUB OF MILSON INC.



Our speakers at our June meeting (**Nickie** and **Matt**) were from Steven's Shoe factory in Marton. What a wonderful and entertaining presentation they gave us.

We were all intrigued by the large boot which the Stevens brought to show us. Imagine having a pair of those at your door!

-*Margaret Broderick, Secretary/Newsletter*

### COMBINED REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC



At our July meeting, guest speaker **Tim Costley**, local National MP, shared highlights from his pre-political career, including serving as an Air Force pilot and working as Equerry to Prince William. He recounted experiences from international peacekeeping missions and kept the audience engaged for nearly an hour. Thanks to Nancy for inviting him; the presentation was well received.

Our 10-minute speaker, or should I say, our 15-minute speaker was **Steve Hutchison** whose topic was 'A boyhood dream'. Steve told us all about building and racing cars in his younger days. Steve you must have had a ball, and good on you for following your dream!



Mid-year Christmas lunch followed the meeting.

“Anzil” once again came up trumps with the food and Gill’s quiz had the grey matter working overtime.

-Steve Hutchison, Bulletin Editor.

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## **FITZHERBERT REBUS CLUB INC**



New members, **Kaye Castell** and **Carol Smith** were welcomed as Club members. We look forward to sharing many activities together.

Our speaker, **Keegan Aplin-Thane**, Palmerston North City Council planner and facilitator told us about the 30-year plan for our city and surrounds. There are 3 growth areas: 1) River- connection to people and water quality 2) City centre- malls and shopping, cultural centres, green areas 3) Sustainable growth- housing, traffic movement. More medium density housing is needed but storm water run-off needs to be addressed first. Industrial development is also needed and the rail and freight centre at Bunnythorpe will service the industries. Building housing on the outskirts of the city needs a lot of groundwork done between Council, government and NZTA before decisions are made. Keegan gave us all a lot to think about. Most of us won’t see the 30-year plan finish but our descendants will reap the benefits of this planning.

-Rosy Look, Communications Secretary

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## **From the Editor**



Thank you for all your contributions to this month’s Rebus Club News, it is your input that makes it “read worthy”. Following on from what Jean had written previously, we have learned that with all the best intentions in the world, planned speakers/outings/and other events can, and often are, cancelled for a multitude of reasons, and therefore my policy, as editor, is not to include future speakers/events etc., but details of what has already occurred.

For those who have asked, an update on Millie, our new kitten. She has been spayed and did not enjoy being shut inside for days while the stitches healed. But it hasn’t slowed her down at all. We live on a small lifestyle block, and she is out at the stables one minute, and through the fence to the neighbours the next. Until next month, stay safe and keep warm!

-Steve O’Sullivan, Editor, Rebus Club News.