



## REBUS CLUB NEWS

March 2026

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### LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROFILE - Taupo Moana Rebus Club

**Margaret Coulson**, Past President and Life Member of Taupo Moana Rebus Club.



On March 2022 Margaret had the honour of receiving life membership of the Taupo Moana Rebus club.

She was a founding member of the club which started life as a Probus club. It moved under the Rebus banner when the concept was initiated ten years ago. The Club was founded in June 2002 and held its first meeting in July. Some members assumed that if they attended the first meeting, they were founder members but only those at the public meeting in June and signed up at that meeting are classed as founder members.

Forty-five people signed and at the moment Taupo Moana Rebus still have two founder members who are still current.

Margaret was on the first committee and over the years filled in many roles on the committee. During the Covid era she was President for two years. It was a tough time but once restrictions eased the Club was able to induct more members.

She says she enjoyed her membership, had great fun on the committee, met some interesting speakers and had some fabulous trips to places near and far including two trips to Norfolk Island. Discovered how very talented some of our members are and how some have led very interesting lives and fascinating jobs. (This is due to those who give a ten-minute speech at club meetings).

At the time of writing Club membership stands at about 120. Unfortunately, due to age we do lose members who either pass away or leave town to be closer to family, but as Taupo is a growing town membership holds steady, which is quite good for a club that is now in its 24th year. *-Report supplied by Bill Irvine.*



### **REBUS NZ Inc. 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

To be held on the Hibiscus Coast on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th May 2026.

Members and partners are invited to attend. Registration forms and programme details are available on the Rebus website. <https://www.rebus.nz/aggm>

Now here's your news roundup for March 2026.

*-Steve O'Sullivan, Rebus Club News Editor.*

## REBUS WAIHEKE ISLAND

At our AGM, **Tania Sweet** was elected as President, Jim Miller as Treasurer. Other committee members are **Denise Biggs** as Minutes Secretary, **Suzy Miller** as Membership Secretary/Almoner, **Rhonda Paton** newsletter, **Ireni Esler** speakers, **Karen Saynor**, **Jennie Collins** and **Mike Breckon**. **Pauline Sommerville** is tea convenor (ex committee).

Main Speaker: The main speaker was **Raewyn McGrigor** who spoke about her parallel life in Arezzo, Tuscany, Italy. Raewyn also has a home in Malta, but was visiting Arezzo with friends and fell in love with it, subsequently buying a small one-bedroom apartment with courtyard garden. To fly from Malta to Pisa is 19Euro with several flights a day. It is a town full of history, pageantry and ceremony, and full of beautiful statues. There is an incredible piazza surrounded by buildings from the Middle Ages used by artisans and restaurants. Behind the town is a beautiful park with a Medici castle. The history of the town, which is situated between Florence and Sienna, dates back to the Etruscans, scholars travelled north from Rome. There is a bell tower and 16th century clock. It is very cosmopolitan and full of life. The central city has four main gates each associated with nobility with rivalry between the families! There is a vibrant population, a university and many young families. Raewyn decided to buy a bicycle and found out that when travelling by train, bikes had to be in the first carriage, however a kindly citizen helped her move her bike from near the back to the front carriage. At Christmas time there are magnificent street markets, carousels, ferris wheels and families celebrating late into the evening, with music and choirs everywhere. There is a theatre about 50 metres from Raewyn's apartment with professional and amateur productions costing about 10Euro, it is a very arts based city. Bars and coffee shops are combined with music playing and there is always a Saturday local market. Arezzo has a vibrant cultural centre with art and history at every turn, it is like living in another time. Twice a year there is a pageant of the Fighting of the Saracens from the 17th century with 27 decorated horses and a town crier on horseback. The amphitheatre was built in the 2nd century AD by Emperor Hadrian. The Italians know how to have fun! *-Tania Sweet, Newsletter Editor*

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## RED BEACH LADIES' REBUS CLUB



Last month's speakers : Left, **Susanna Burton-Thompson** and **Kathy Oliver**.

Right: Happy club day trippers enjoying the Arataki Visitors Centre Centre in Waitakere. The splendid weather provided spectacular



views across the ranges to the water catchment area and beyond.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of our club. We will be presented with a certificate by **Garth Dutton** who is Chairman of REBUS NZ, followed by morning tea and a slice of our 30th anniversary cake for members to enjoy with their cuppa.

*- Bobbie Wakenell, Newsletter Editor.*

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**“Organised crime in America takes in \$40 billion a year and spends very little on office supplies”**

**Woody Allen**

## REBUS CLUB OF FOXTON

Someone left their Santa gift behind after our Rebus Christmas Lunch in December. I think it was on the men's table. It was a coffee mug with some Roses chocolates in it!!! I'll bring it to March Rebus Meeting. I've already replaced the chocolates twice !!!!!!!!

Foxton Rebus went to THE WOOLSHED, SH 1, SANSON for Lunch on 5th March. A great summer day helped make our lunch a great social event. Tasty lunch and great chat session. -*Dereley Barry, Newsletter Editor.*

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## CAMBRIDGE MEN'S REBUS CLUB

Guest speaker at the last meeting was **Peter McDermott**, former Chair of NZ Cricket. Peter shared some of his experiences in that role, humorously recounting his appointment to the position. Peter is a strong advocate for youth participation sport – in his words “any sport” - recognising the beneficial impact the disciplines and commitment that sport can bring to young people. He also spoke also of his connection with the Warriors.



On 25 February the Club members were hosted by NZ Aero in Hamilton, the sole aircraft manufacturer in Australasia. The company currently manufactures and markets three basic aircraft models as well as producing parts and components to aircraft users internationally. Whilst major components are imported, the company manufactures all other components for its aircraft on site to ensure that future supply is assured over the life (possibly 50+ years) of the aircraft it sells.

Left: Members viewing a power unit.

-*Nigel Salter, Bulletin Editor.*

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## REBUS CLUB OREWA



Left: Our Club Speaker in February was **Carol Watson**. Carol talked about a nightmare bus trip from Christchurch to Nelson. There was a terrible storm, and they were diverted to Kaikoura, where the road was blocked, power and water was cut off. They did have a bed to sleep in, but not much else. The reason they had the bus trip was because the planes were cancelled and the airline laid on buses.



Left: Friday friendly walkers.

Right: Wednesday walkers meet at 9.00am next to Cheek & Chong Restaurant every



Wednesday. We walk the beach and enjoy a coffee and chat afterwards. - *Maureen Grigg, Bulletin Editor.*

## THE REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI

[right] Two new Life Membership certificates were given at our March meeting for long and devoted service to our club.

**Eileen Martin** and **Margaret Roddick** received the awards from our President **Jim Hulbert** and Life Member **Paerau Taylor/Mosen**.

[below] Members at the recent AGM.



*-Kelvin Adam, Newsletter Editor.*

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## REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH

We had a very interesting and well supported car rally that took us over the Manawatu-Tararua Highway between Ashhurst and Woodville. This new road, which replaces the old Manawatu Gorge road, has been open since June last year.



Most of us had already experienced the pleasant drive over this new highway, but the rally gave us the chance to explore the engineering and natural wonders explained at various stopping points. One photo depicts the birdlife (including extinct) found in the area; the other photo is of the winning team, presented with the rally trophy, after a good lunch at the Cravings Café in Palmerston North.

**Marilyn Laing** presided over a good attendance at our AGM on 3 March. In her report, she indicated that the club is in good heart and thanked the many people who contributed to the success of our programme. Before handing the reins to the new President, **Dean Halford**, Marilyn was warmly thanked for her leadership role, which she had clearly enjoyed.

*-Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor.*

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## WAIKANAE MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB

BAR – BE - CUE PICNIC: In February, 30 members enjoyed a lovely day in brilliant sun. There were lots of activities – quoits, find the hole, pétanque and kayaking. The meat patties and sausages cooked by **Bruce Scott** and **Chris Jackson** were very tasty, plus the trimmings added by **Joce Scott** and **Lynda Jackson**. Thanks **Maggie Copland** and **Liz Thevenard** for a great day.



-David Goggin, Newsletter Editor.

## SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB

Following the AGM on 27 February, lifetime resident of Greytown and SW Rebus club member **Linda Gibbs** entertained us with her memories of Greytown in the 1940s and some of its more distant history,. On a previous occasion, Linda had spoken about buildings and businesses on the western side of Main Street. On this occasion she dealt specifically with the buildings that line the eastern side, including the Town Hall.

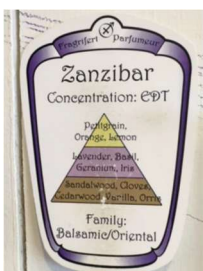
Linda remembered many Saturday afternoons in the 1940s when she would go with her friends to the movies in the Town Hall. It was built in 1907 after fire destroyed two previous halls. She was a fan for all the serials—Buck Rogers, Flash Gordon and the fearsome Fu Manchu. They bought ice-creams at half-time from the Open Door Tearooms or from the Blue Bird across the road. The Town Hall was the site of numerous balls. Linda’s mother would take her to watch the dancing from the mezzanine balcony. Church bazaars were held there, usually with a talent quest for the children in the evening. The Little Theatre also presented plays there.

- David Woodhams, Newsletter Editor.



## REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH

Fourteen of us visited Fragrifert Parfumeur in February in Kelburn, arriving by car or on the Cable Car. The owner and perfumer, Francesco greeted us dressed in Victorian attire (as was his assistant) and introduced us to his wonderful old copper still and other equipment, explaining the process of perfume making (in a word, complicated). Francesco makes a very large range of perfumes, which made choosing our sample to take home very difficult. Reasons for choosing the particular perfume varied, but my favourite was the person who chose the gorse perfume to remind a friend of the gorse flowers she used to collect in the UK for the Christmas table! Francesco advised us to keep our perfumes in the dark, and to spray them on the wrist, not the neck.



Following the visit, nine of us enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Top of the Cable Car restaurant. The entire experience was so interesting and convivial that I completely forgot to take photos! Thanks to **Chris Sissons** for sharing his photo. *Report by Christine McKenna*

[below] At the end of February, Dinner Group 3 had its inaugural meeting. A group of fourteen enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Namaste Indian Restaurant in Khandallah village. The food was wonderful and the camaraderie was lively. We enjoyed meeting new people and sharing stories, laughs and experiences with fellow Rebus members.



It was great to have a good number of fairly new members bringing their own verve into the Rebus community. *Report by Ros Paterson* NOTE: Our three dinner groups have no vacancies.

- Ros Lambrechtsen, Newsletter Editor.

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### CAMBRIDGE REBUS CLUB

Cambridge Rebus Club held their annual BBQ and picnic at Lake Te Koo Utu last month. A very good turnout



-Steve O'Sullivan, Newsletter Editor.

## WEST AUCKLAND MEN'S REBUS CLUB

From mechanical engineer to entomology expert, our speaker, **Chris Thompson** described the world of breeding beneficial insects that replace the need for chemical sprays with biological pest control.

*A Day in the Life of Bug Breeding:* People often have no idea what it's like breeding insects for a living. Let me give you a taste of my typical day. One moment I'm in a room full of aphids where everything is sticky and bouncy. From there, I might head to our whitefly farm, which feels like being inside a snow globe—except instead of snow, it's thousands of whiteflies flying everywhere. We need them to keep laying eggs so we can maintain our predator populations.

But the real fun begins with the predatory mites. Our minimum order is 10,000 mites in a little jar, which means we've got literally billions of them at our facility. And here's the kicker—we have to count them. Not just count them but verify we've got the right species. You see, one of our key mites is distinguished from its closest living relative by a single hair that stands vertically on its back. To confirm you've got the right mite, you have to roll it on its side under a microscope and count the hairs.

So, if you ever meet someone who looks at some mites on a leaf and confidently declares the species, they're either lying or they're one of the few people in New Zealand qualified to make that call. We're absolutely prolific in mite species here. In fact, one particular mite we work with was originally collected from New Zealand, spread around the world, and has been the backbone of thrips biological control for the last thirty to forty years. Nobody really talks about that, but it's something we should be proud of.

*Chris Thompson is managing director of Bioforce, a biological pest control company based in South Auckland that's been producing beneficial insects for 3 decades. -Vince Middeldorp, Newsletter Editor.*

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## REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT

On 5 March 2026 a group of 13 members carpoled to the Wellington Airport Fire Service. We had barely arrived when the crews went on to standby for an approaching aircraft with an under-carriage issue. The issue was resolved and the aircraft landed safely, so the tour was able to go ahead. The purpose-built Fire Station was opened in December 2025 to replace an aging facility and is designed for future airport growth and larger aircraft.



*-Alex Attewell, Newsletter Editor.*

## REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON



[left] The walking group meets each week, and we enjoy coffee afterwards.

[right] A beautiful example from our Floral Art Group.



*-Karen Devoy, Newsletter Editor.*

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## MT HOBSON REBUS CLUB

At age 69 **John Isaacs** was seeking a new challenge. A lifetime interest in aviation prompted him to consider taking up flying, which he did by joining the Auckland Aero Club. He has finished learning to fly a Cessna 172 now after 44 hours and is just short of obtaining a private pilot licence.

Most of John's flying was done from Ardmore airfield just South of Auckland city. It is one of New Zealand's busiest airfields and strict attention to flight rules is necessary there. While acknowledging the importance of the "see and be seen" rule, John then described the layout of a Cessna cockpit instrumentation. Instruments are a very important part of safe flying. Communication with all local air traffic ensures a safe flight for all. The motion of the aircraft was then described and how pitch, roll, yaw and lift depend it on the use of ailerons, elevator (controlled by the use of the joystick) and rudder (controlled by the rudder pedals). These are the primary controls for aircraft movement.



Checklists are important for even the shortest and apparently simple flights. Every 15 minutes enroute, a check is made of the instruments for any signs of trouble.

John then described in detail a circuit of the Ardmore field concluding with a video of what the audience regarded as a perfect landing!

*-Pat Alley, Newsletter Editor.*

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## PAPANUI REBUS CLUB

23 members came to lunch at Lyttelton's Fisherman's Wharf recently, with its Harbour views and 4-minute fast Time ball. The food was delicious and everyone seemed to enjoy their meals.





Our Guest Speakers this month were **Andrew Bell** and **Debbie Richards** from Christchurch Water Crematorium. They started working on this idea in 2019 and it finally came to fruition in 2025 with the first Water Crematorium in NZ opening in Christchurch. Water cremation is carried out by mixing 95% water and 5% Alkaline (potassium hydroxide) under pressure which mimics the natural process a body goes through when buried. You are left with the same products as flame cremation, but it is much gentler on the environment, and no carbon is emitted during the process.

The body is wrapped in a shroud, either wool or silk and placed in the Resomator – the casket, if there is one, is not put in the resomator. It takes about 4-6 hrs for the process to be completed and then the bones are separated from any metal parts (which are recycled) and anything that is not of the body. The bones are then crushed, as in flame cremation, and the white bone ash is what is returned to the family.

People are bringing their loved ones from all over NZ to this facility. -Linda Barnes, Newsletter Editor.

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### RIVERSIDE REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON



[left] We had to get extra seating last month when a large number of Riverside members enjoyed the coffee club at the Garden Grove Café at Woodlands, Gordonton.

[below] In February we met at Hamilton Lake for a BBQ. But because the burners weren't working it become an enjoyable picnic, with a shared lunch. What a wonderful day!

-Steve O'Sullivan, Bulletin Editor.



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**“The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.” - Dolly Parton**

## WOMEN'S REBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAE

Our March Guest Speaker, **Shirley Jarden** shared interesting aspects of her life journey. One of a family of six children born in Carterton, life began on a farm. Sadly, her father died of cancer at 36 years of age, so the family moved to a new State house in Titahi Bay, later exchanged for one in Taita. Leaving school at 15 years old, Shirley worked at a dairy and milk bar before becoming a dental assistant. Married by age 20, she moved to Stokes Valley, then Canon's Creek. Her husband, Alan, worked as a milk carrier, and at the local pub. With three sons, Shirley took in ironing and looked after other children. Selling and distributing Tupperware over 10 years, they built up a thriving business. Advertising salesperson for the Kapi-Mana News followed. Concerned for community welfare, Shirley encouraged business owners to donate 130 bicycle helmets for schoolchildren and became a Justice of the Peace from 1995 onwards. She is a Nominated Adult during Police interviews, and a celebrant at weddings and funerals. Proudly achieving notoriety for a world record, Shirley married six couples simultaneously at North City Plaza at midnight into the year 2000!



Now living in Raumati, having lost her husband after 55 years of a happy marriage and also a son from cancer, Shirley has known sorrow. Her other two sons and families live in Brisbane, Australia. But she belongs to various clubs, is a Recruiting Officer for Community Patrol, demonstrates scarf-tying, has organised fundraising events and continues as a Celebrant. - *Mary Paddock, Newsletter Editor.*

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## PUKENAMU REBUS CLUB INC



[Left] Jenny's special morning tea.



[Right] The Citadel in March: 15 Pukenuamu Rebus Club members tucked into a delicious lunch at the Citadel in lovely Rangiora Street, Castlecliff last Thursday. The Citadel's a quirky café with colourful décor. By the

laughter and animated chatting, it was an enjoyable get-together. If you weren't there, we missed you! Thanks to the family duo – Diane for the text and Lindsay for the photos!



-*Helen Goldfinch, Newsletter Editor.*

## WARKWORTH LADIES' REBUS CLUB



[left] **Betty Smalley** was presented with a bouquet of flowers in acknowledgement of her 18 years on the committee and organising speakers for the monthly meeting.

Our speaker for the month was **Alex Milligan** from Operatunity, a leading provider of daytime concert entertainment and national and international music travel. He spoke about how it got started, what they do and how its grown to now providing 200 concerts annually from Whangarei in the north to Invercargill in the south. He finished his presentation by singing 2 songs – Enchanted Evening from South Pacific and an Aria from The Magic Flute.



[right] **Betty Trewin** who has attended most of their concerts over the past 25 years with **Alex Milligan** from Operatunity.



The baking group recently enjoyed a cheesecake session where each member brought along their favourite cheesecake, together with the recipe. This gave everyone the chance to sample a variety of delicious creations, including a chocolate Kahlúa cheesecake, a baked citrus cheesecake beautifully decorated with lime curd and finger limes, a baked apple cheesecake, a low-fat unbaked Jaffa cheesecake and an unbaked plum cheesecake. -*Maryanne Dransfield, Newsletter Editor.*

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## REBUS CLUB OF FEILDING



[Left] February entertainer was Saem Millward. Saem is 18 years old and graduated from Palmerston North Boys High. He started singing in high school and last year completed his Grade 7 Trinity exams in classical and Musical Theatre earning distinction in both. He sang for us songs by Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley and Dean Martin. His encore was “I did it My Way” which was fabulous. Saem’s singing and presentation was really enjoyed by those present.

[Right] Members enjoyed a bus trip to Whanganui with stops at Viv’s Kitchen in Sanson, the Sargeant Art Gallery and lunch in Whanganui. In the afternoon we visited Paloma Gardens, Fordell, which also had a motorbike museum. A lovely day out. Thanks to Sherryn for organising and John our bus driver.

- *Lyn Jensen, Newsletter Editor.*



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## REBUS CLUB OF MANAWATU

Our March meeting had moments of reminiscence, nostalgia, enjoyment and laughter. Our President, Ruth, spoke about the good times and friendship the club has provided. She repeated her thanks to the membership including her committee, for the loyalty, generosity of spirit and thoughtfulness shown at the special meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February. “This allowed us to contemplate the closure of our 35 years old club with dignity, respect and honesty.”



[Left] Flowers for President Ruth. From left **Grace Print** our Treasurer, Secretary **Paul Gregg** and President **Ruth Hodgson**, all office holders of the last committee.



[Left] Coffee for the Walking Group at Boho Café. That's always a good time for a chat and we will continue to meet and stroll. Not only this month but April and beyond.

*-Margie Comrie, Newsletter Editor.*

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## **THANK YOU**

Thank you to all the Clubs that contributed to the Rebus Club News this month. As I am heading off overseas, the cutoff date for next month will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April.

But I am also hoping to catchup with many of you, in person, at the AGM in May. If you are thinking of going, here is the link: [www.rebus.nz/agm](http://www.rebus.nz/agm)

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

**Steve,**

Editor, Rebus Club News

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