



REBUS CLUB NEWS

April 2026

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WELCOME

A special welcome to all the brand-new newsletter editors who have contributed this month. It is great reading what each club is up to. Some clubs have very full programs indeed!

By the time you read this I will be Australia, visiting my brother. The last time I went to Adelaide I spent a night in Melbourne on the way home as the plane was late leaving, and then the pilots did not have enough hours left to complete the direct flight to New Zealand. Hopefully it will be plain (get it?) sailing this time.

If you are still thinking about it, don't delay. Now is the time to book for the Rebus AGM on the beautiful Hibiscus Coast. Details below.

Now here's your news roundup for April 2026.

- Steve O'Sullivan, Rebus Club News Editor



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/agm>

FOXTON REBUS CLUB

Visit to Villa Candotti: Our Rebus visit began with coffee and cake, (delicious homemade) in the Villa garden. A stunning, privately owned Italian Renaissance-inspired garden and statues in Reids Line Colyton. Splendido , eccellente! Meraviglioso gairdino !!



Dereley Barry, Newsletter Editor.



REBUS WAIHEKE ISLAND

Our mini speaker this month was **Jill Cameron**. Jill became a cardiac theatre nurse at Greenlane Hospital in April 1966 some 60 years ago, but the memories are still fresh. Not having done cardiac theatre nursing before, Jill did an intensive training course, finding the work hard and often stressful, but interesting and exciting.

Open heart surgery was very new, and Sir Brian Barrett-Boyes was a pioneer in the field. Another pioneer at Greenlane was Sid Yarrow, who redesigned and improved the first heart-lung machine and built the first pacemaker to be used in N.Z. Many doctors came from all over the world to work in Greenlane's cardiac unit and some of them found N.Z. slang quite challenging.

In July 1969, the first baby heart transplant was conducted at Greenlane, coinciding with the first man to walk on the moon. Jill not only worked at Greenlane, but was seconded to work abroad in Samoa, Thailand and other countries as a cardiac theatre nurse. She also co-authored a book called "Hearts Hands Minds – The Cardio-Thoracic Nurses of Greenlane Hospital" about her time there. The key memory Jill has of working at Greenlane is "The Greenlane Family". Teamwork was the central element to success along with good training, mutual respect and camaraderie; something not always seen in today's hospitals. - Rhonda Paton, Newsletter Editor.



CAMBRIDGE MEN'S REBUS CLUB



The March meeting endorsed the appointment of long-serving committee member **Grant Middlemiss** as a life member of the Club. Grant has been responsible for membership for many years.

Members and guests enjoyed an exceptional cruise on the Raglan Harbour in March. The stunningly beautiful scenery was enhanced by the brilliant commentary from the skipper, a man who had been raised in the area and who has been skipper of the *Wahine Moe* for the past 16 years. His knowledge of the history and natural attributes of the harbour and surrounds, laced with his delightful sense of humour, were a highlight.

Lunch was a delicious serving of fish and chips. Some members even enjoyed a tasty red from the on-board bar....



- Nigel Salter, Bulletin Editor.



25th ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION



John McColl and **Paerau Taylor/Mosen** from Rebus NZ attended the meeting of the Hokowhitu Rebus Club in Palmerston North last month to present them with their 25th Anniversary Certificate.

RED BEACH LADIES' REBUS CLUB

Last month out-going President Lorraine was delighted to receive from **Garth Dutton**, Chairman of Rebus NZ Incorporated, a Certificate of Attainment awarded to our Club in recognition of 30 years' service to active retirees in the Red Beach District. - *Bobbie Wakenell, Newsletter Editor.*



CAMBRIDGE REBUS CLUB



At the AGM last month, a new committee was elected. **Jean Elborn** remains the President. A special welcome to **Anne Newbold** who joins the committee.

(L to R) Heather Hardman, Anne Newbold, Steve O'Sullivan, Davide Pini, Truus Tinsel, Phil Wilson, Jean Elborn. Absent: Jenny Bond

-Steve O'Sullivan, Newsletter Editor.

TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB



Instead of our normal 'Tuesday Coffee Group' we branched out and enjoyed a 'St Patrick's Day' lunch at the Cossie Club which was enjoyed by everyone. Of course, the theme had to be green. The prizes went to Gwynneth Burton in 3rd, Shona Harwood in 2nd with Colleen Hall taking out the top prize. Well done everyone. This event highlighted our themes of friendship, fun and fellowship.



Eight Rebus members had a wonderful trip to Mine Bay to view the Māori Rock Carvings on Wednesday. The weather was perfect, the crew were top notch and they gave us a very interesting commentary on our local area.
- Janice Laurenson, Bulletin Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU EACH INC.



[Right] There were a few highlights at the AGM – the surprise on **Steve Hutchison's** face, as we awarded him that well deserved life membership.



[Left] Wine Tasting Group: Our February tasting was a joint effort between **John Calman** and **Vaughan Howarth** showcasing New Zealand wines. John has decided to call it a day after a decade of running the Wine Group. John, on behalf of all the regular wine tasters, we thank you for your 10 years of organising wineries, helping cut up cheese and French sticks, making sure attendance numbers were up and telling those eagerly anticipated jokes.

-Susan Hagedorn, Editor and Janis Howarth Technical Editor.

REBUS CLUB OREWA

Introducing your committee for 2026/2027 - L-R back: John Rasmussen (Vice President), Yvonne Gillham (Club Programmer), Brendan Fitzgerald (President), Lori Hope (Past President), Paul Gulley (Membership Officer), Murray Jones (Secretary), Diane Tatton-Brown (Treasurer). Front: Elizabeth Lind-Mitchell (Hospitality), Maureen Grigg (Bulletin), Robert Letcher (Health & Safety/Stage Manager)



Our Guest Speaker was **Spencer Matthews** ex Police. He joined in 1995 posted to Manukau District. He was a Crisis Negotiator for 18 yrs. Coming face to face with murderers and kidnappers. He spoke about how he learned to negotiate face to face, by text, and email. How it was good to have a quickly resolved situation otherwise the paperwork and hearings could drag on for years. He was in the Armed Offenders Squad for 3 years. He ended his career in charge of Auckland Airport Policing. Since retirement he has done a 5 week pilgrimage walk in Japan with his wife, visiting temples and also did Spain/Portugal visiting churches. He is a Commercial Skipper and works for the Harbour Master's Office. He is Vice Commodore of Gulf Harbour Yacht Club. -Maureen Grigg, Bulletin Editor.

WEST AUCKLAND MEN'S REBUS CLUB

A BUS TRIP TO GULF HARBOUR — AND BEYOND: The boats berthed at Gulf Harbour told their own tale of affluence. They must cost a small fortune to buy and maintain. It was no surprise that not everyone took part in feeding the fish. Still, all of us were mildly fascinated by the sheer number of fish swimming beneath the pier. Some spent most of their time chatting with fellow passengers.

From Gulf Harbour we headed to Browns Bay for lunch. It's a charming little seaside village on Auckland's North Shore. I had plenty of time to wander around the shops and noticed an abundance of places to eat and drink—quite a contrast to the licensing trust areas of West Auckland—and plenty of cafés too.

There was also a large discount variety store in the township, boldly and rather aptly named "Cheap Crap." It was the only shop I've seen stocking those stick-figure family decals for the back windows of cars—you know the ones: mum, dad, two kids, and a dog.

We continued to the Siam Thai restaurant. It's a small venue, and the owners must have been delighted by the sudden influx of diners.



Our group included members from the West Auckland Men's Rebus Club, the Waitakere Combined Rebus Club, and the Henderson Falls Friendship Club. - *Vince Middeldorp, Newsletter Editor.*

WAITAKERE COMBINES REBUS CLUB



We have had some very enjoyable trips so far this year. Our first trip was to the Wintergarden at the Domain in Auckland. There were some very amazing plants and some of us were privileged to have a very informative tour by one of the gardeners. Following this we made our way to the Museum for lunch and a look around before heading home.

Gulf Harbour was another of our outings, and while there we observed some large snapper and trevally. No fishing was allowed here but the sight of the school of fish was amazing. We then travelled onto Browns Bay for a very enjoyable Thai lunch. - *Phyl Greenland Secretary.*

RIVERSIDE REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON

Last month we had a fun car rally. We all gathered at the Dinsdale Supermarket, and Dorothy handed out the question sheet. Then we were off! We went down a couple of no-exit roads, looked for giant spiders and found out what "Woody" does for a living. At the end we all met at the Wharf Café in Raglan for fish and chips. Great discussion followed.

-*Steve O'Sullivan, Bulletin Editor.*



REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH

At our April meeting, long-standing member **Adrian Turner** talked about how he earned his first pocket money at a plant nursery in Palmerston North. Adrian had a passion for bonsai trees and described them fondly. Gentle care was required for bonsai seedlings which he packaged for sale at the nursery.

Our guest speaker was **Barry Madgwick**, Acting Commercial Operations Manager at Fire and Emergency NZ (formerly NZ Fire Service). He gave a very interesting talk on Home Fire Safety. After 20 years as a fire fighter on the fire trucks and several years in managerial positions, Barry is now doing community risk management for the Manawatu/Whanganui district. He supervises two teams: Education and Risk Reduction. The golden rules of fire safety in the home are: Working smoke alarms (in every bedroom, hallway and living area); an escape plan and a safe meeting place. A very informative talk.



A large group of members visited the Villa Candotti Tuscan Garden near Colyton in March and were impressed with the layout, conceptually based on the Renaissance style which the owners had explored in Italy. The formal gardens, arches, cypress and olive trees, sculptures, flower gardens and the tranquil scene made for a relaxing time out. We also enjoyed a splendid al fresco lunch provided by the family.

-Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor.

WAIKANAE MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB



NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED: **David Funnell** (IPP) congratulates **Ann Harkness** on her election as President for the year 2026-2027 and presents her with the chain of office.

- David Goggin, Newsletter Editor.

“Life is what happens when you are busy making plans for other things” John Lennon

REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT



Certificates of appreciation were given to **Alex Davidson** for services as President and as Men's welfare representative (left) and **Shirley Webb** (right) for services as Women's Welfare representative



The Guest Speakers last month were **Ron Edmonds** and **Chris Carson** from the Upper Hutt Housing Charitable Trust. The trust has a small number of staff to provide a high-quality and professional tenancy and property maintenance service, along with the coordination of support services available to tenants.

They are responsible for 43 properties rented, 67 people supported in transitional housing and 27 people moved into longer term housing. 73 households (123 people) were housed at year end.

-Alex Attewell, Newsletter Editor.

WARKWORTH LADIES' REBUS CLUB



This month's coffee get-together was held at the Columbus Café inside Mitre 10 in Warkworth—a lovely and convenient venue with both indoor and outdoor seating. A total of 34 members and visitors attended. We promote these gatherings on local Facebook pages, which continues to attract new faces each month—many of whom go on to join our group.

The Warkworth Ladies' Rebus Club had a presence at the recent Warkworth A & P show sharing a stand with the Men's Rebus Club. A display board depicting our activities was on display. *[right]* **Pam Chapman** with **Stephen Becket**, President of the Warkworth Rebus Men's Club at the A & P show.



In liaison with Age Concern, this month we are promoting a free refresher driving course for older drivers. The course is designed to build confidence and update driving knowledge, and importantly, it does not involve any exams or practical driving tests. As soon as we reach the minimum required number of 20 participants, the course will go ahead.



[left] **Pam Chapman**, outgoing President (centre) with six new members who were welcomed to the club in March

-Maryanne Dransfield, Newsletter Editor.

PUKENAMU REBUS CLUB INC.



Club speaker **Mike Naylor** told us about his honeymoon, when he and Sue drove their Morris Traveller to the Isle of Cumbrae, a tiny island that is a 10-minute ferry ride off Largs on the west coast of Scotland. It's just 4kms long x 2kms wide and the resident population is 1300, but this increases by many thousands at weekends. Millport, the island's only town, is spread around a bay which makes up the entire south coast of the island. There is the smallest cathedral in the isles, B & B's, hotels and tourist shops. Staying in The Garrison, they amused themselves by drawing up plans for a tearooms. Mike had many funny tales to tell! He was brought up in London while Sue's family came from the counties - when they first met, he commented, "You got grass – only nobs have grass!"

OUTING TO BURGESS MATTING - Folks who came along on this trip were not disappointed. Most of us didn't have a clue what to expect!! Russell Burgess, the owner and his wife, welcomed us into their building on our journey of discovery. We were told the history of the factory then shown the machine that graded the rubber to make the many different types of products (not just mats). We then rode in the factory's big old service lift up to the 2nd floor and into a hub of activity.

Piles of rubber matting of different sizes/textures lay all around and machines operated in different areas. There were piles of square foam blocks, used to under-cushion the rubber topping in school playgrounds and park areas for extra safety. They also make sports equipment, e.g. Russell demonstrated a backing board for hockey players to practise their shots. And a male worker struggled, as he manhandled the heavy mould to get the finished product out. There was activity everywhere in this massive sparse work area. Many of the men I spoke to had worked there for years and Burgess matting has truly evolved since its early years. Now they are importing lines to complement their production, like artificial grass that is laid over the safety rubber so that it all looks and feels good for the children and others who use these areas. Their products are made for contracts both at home and export. To think all this is going on in little old Whanganui by a local generationally owned firm. Before we left, we were each given a gift set of rubber coasters. - *Helen Goldfinch, newsletter Editor.*

SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB

Our guest speaker in March was **Susanna Burton-Thompson**, author of *A Life of Surprises: random stories of a photojournalist*. Her stories were interesting and sometimes verging on the miraculous – from rescuing Vietnamese boat people and freeing an inmate from death row in a Zambian prison, to surviving a shipwreck.

Susanna served some years as a volunteer aboard MV Logos, a ship owned by the Christian missionary organisation, Operation Mobilisation. It carried 41 crew and 98 missionaries – plus 100 tons of religious and educational literature. During 1987, they visited 15 nations in the Caribbean and off South America, before running aground in the Beagle Channel, a 240 km long waterway through the Tierra del Fuego archipelago between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. On the night of 4 January 1988, in "severe weather conditions", the two local pilots left the ship about 35 km short of their normal spot at the end of the channel. The ship, with its engines idling during a prolonged disembarkation, was swept by wind and current onto the rocks of a tiny island.

Susanna showed photographs of the prayer meeting in the dining room, as they waited in the dark, hoping to float off the rocks at 5 am. However, the ship developed a 20-degree list and serious flooding, so they abandoned ship with life jackets and only the clothes they were wearing. All were accommodated in the lifeboats and Chilean Navy torpedo boats escorted them ashore. Serendipity, in the form of the insurance settlement, enabled the purchase of another ship, Logos II – bigger and better than its predecessor.

- *David J Woodhams, Newsletter Editor.*

THE REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI

On March 25th we had a visit to Hunterville. We visited Hunterville's newly renovated Argyle Hotel where we had lunch and then browsed the shops. Then on to Utiku wool shop. Our journey took us over the back country roads, and a most enjoyable day was had by all.



- Kelvin Adam, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR



On Thursday 16th April, 20 members of the CBD Explorers Group used our Gold Cards on the Gulf Harbour Ferry to the city where we had lunch at the Maritime Museum before boarding the scow "Ted Ashby" for a one-hour trip on the harbour. It was an invigorating outing with the volunteer crew (average age 80+) demonstrating the sailing capabilities of this great "Dame of the Sea". Built in 1916, she is just one of the many scows which were the workhorses of the coastal trade. The wind was brisk for sailing (20 kmph gusting 30), and passengers were encouraged to help raise, and then later lower, the three sails. A great day, thanks to Judi Lee.



The Ramblers – and Amblers – Group get their weekly exercise each Monday. The April 20th ramble was at Shakespear Regional Park, posing here for the obligatory photo at the waterfall.

Our Club also has a Mah Jong Group, 500 Cards, Discussion Group, Dine Out Group, What's On, and Quiz Group.

-Jean McIntosh, Newsletter Editor

"The job of feet is walking, but their hobby is dancing." — Amit Kalantri

WARKWORTH MEN'S REBUS CLUB



This month's guest speakers consisted of four young woman all under the age of 50 who have faced major life threatening mental and physical challenges ranging from brain surgery, open heart surgery, breast cancer, mastectomy, ongoing chemotherapy, stomach and bowl surgery and then on top of that they have all experienced different types of major debilitating strokes. All these warriors and survivors include a grandmother, a midwife, a transport company director and operator, and a clinical psychologist.

They have treated their challenges with great resilience and an overriding and shared sense of humour. All this while they had professional careers and raised families!

That they are survivors and highly inspirational is indisputable! The message on the back of their T shirts: Stroke is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning how to dance in the rain.

-Stephen Becket

WOMEN'S REBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAE

For our April Meeting we had our fashion parade with clothes modelled from Ballentynes. Our five lovely models paraded in four different outfits showing them off to best effect, stopping and letting us have a close-up look at the trousers, tops and dresses they were wearing. Thank you so much to our models who looked lovely, **Christine, Barbara, Jenny, Anne and Wendy**. We couldn't do it without you ladies.



-Mary Paddock, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST

Our club speaker was **Mark Burt**, whose career commenced in the automotive industry as a young lad and progressed through several specialised areas within the construction area. Mark concluded his presentation with some very wise observations on what constitutes a life well lived. Our guest speaker of the month was **Spencer Mathews**. Following his university studies, Spencer travelled extensively before joining the NZ Police where he held a number of people 'focused' roles along the road to becoming a crisis negotiator. In that position, amongst other things, he dealt with instances of kidnapping, armed offending and attempted suicide. Today Spencer is a divorce and separation coach, published author and mediator.



Club membership continues to hold strong with new member; **Chris Markham** being welcomed into the fold. Our Monday Ramblers continued to cover ground completing a Warkworth river walk, a wander through Gulf Harbour, another along the Orewa estuary and exploration of Shepherds Park in Beachhaven.

[left] New President **Tim Jones** welcoming new member, Chris Markham

Our joint Hibiscus Coast/Gulf Harbour dining group sampled the fragrant dishes of India Village Restaurant in Manly Village. And last but not least, our 2026 National Rebus AGM organising committee have finalised arrangements and look forward to hosting the event on Thursday, 14 May.

-Neville Drower, Bulletin Editor

REBUS CLUB OF FEILDING

Our speaker in March was **David Bennett** from Pacific helmets. He had a vast array of helmets to show us. The Fire Brigade ones are extremely heavy and can be in two parts which was very interesting. He showed us old and new style motorbike helmets, pushbike and Fire Service. He promoted NZ made helmets with NZ standards and certified. Overseas brands may not be that safe. David was proud of the fact that no Fire Service personnel have died as a result of helmet failure.



- Lyn Jensen, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON



We enjoyed our trip to the Camera Museum set up in memory of Graham Boswell whose family set up the Snapshot photography business known to most Hamilton residents. His massive collection of photography equipment included cameras and dark room equipment dating back to the 1920s however his take on the collection was that he was not a hoarder but a collector. It was interesting to hear many in our group recognise cameras they had owned from the simple box brownies to more complex pieces of equipment.



Our Committee for 2026

L to R - Karen Devoy, Kay Murray, Carol Davies, Karen Rowan, Kath Kenrick (President), Donna Malcolm, Vicki Middlemiss, Glenda McLean, Lew Jowsey. (Absent: Alison Finnigan, Jane Humphrey)

-Karen Devoy, Bulletin Editor.

“A farmer is a magician who produces money from the mud.” — Amit Kalantri

THANK YOU

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

Please send your newsletters to rebusclubnews@gmail.com

Steve,

Editor, Rebus Club News
