



# REBUS CLUB NEWS

June 2025

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Welcome to the June edition of Rebus Club News. As to be expected, the weather has been lousy for many. However, some brave souls have ventured out on trips regardless, as you will learn later. Many have had, or are about to have Mid-Winter Lunches, with warming food appropriate to the season, accompanied as usual by the camaraderie that occurs at such functions. Enjoy this month's contributions.

## REBUS CLUB OF MANAWATU

June meeting speaker, Physiotherapist **Abbie Ionas** talked about her career, the work at TBI Health and the role of physiotherapy in injury recovery and prevention, confidence building, and physical and mental health. Abbie concentrated on physio for seniors and we enjoyed doing some basic exercises from an Otago



University falls prevention program. She had us all on our feet exercising.  
- *Margie Comrie, Newsletter Editor*

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## TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB



On a rather grey morning. President Sylvia welcomed a good number of members to our meeting. And after the usual celebrations were extended to those with birthdays, especially **Tony Beard** who was celebrating his 96th Birthday on the day Gwynneth Burton then introduced **Wayne Butler** to the Club and he was inducted and welcomed by President Sylvia and by acclamation of the meeting,

Our May coffee morning was at "Fine Fettle" and as always plenty of chat and laughter as well as good coffee.

- *Bulletin Editor, Christine Bailey*



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*"One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well" Virginia Woolf*

## KOWHAI REBUS CLUB OF BETHLEHEM



President Pauline presented **Colleen Butler** with a Certificate of Appreciation upon her departure from the Committee. Colleen had organised the monthly movies and assisted Jan with coordinating morning teas and outings. The members also sang "Happy Birthday" to her as today it was her birthday.

*-Marie Mabey, Newsletter Editor.*

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## WEST AUCKLAND MEN'S REBUS CLUB



I've had a few people mention seeing me on TV a few weeks ago, so I wanted to quickly share how that came about. It all started when Sky Open screened the series "World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys". Most of the episodes currently airing were filmed in 2020. For the Northern Explorer episode, the British production company contacted the railway club the year before, looking for contacts. Since I was there at the time, I gave them some contacts for the Tangiwai people and other relevant

information. They then asked if I'd be willing to be involved, noting that I seemed to know a fair bit about the trip. I said I'd be happy to, and they even suggested I bring my wife. She was having medical issues then, so I offered to bring my sister, who used to travel the trunk line often.

That's how it all came together. They flew my sister up from Waikanae to Auckland on a Sunday night and put her up in the Heritage Hotel. Monday morning, we headed to the railway station at the Strand. I had no idea what the format would be. When we arrived, there was Phil Stebbing the cameraman, a young sound recordist, Margaret and I, a Māori gentleman named Professor Tom Roha from the Maniapoto tribe, and a Kiwi Rail marketing woman who had never ridden the Northern Explorer train before. We started off, leaving Auckland, and they said they needed a theme. Margaret suggested that she always used to try and stay awake, which led to the story about her trying to stay awake longer than me. As we travelled, they simply asked us questions, like one about the volcanoes of Auckland. Luckily, I'm keen on Geography, so I was able to answer it. What I didn't know then was that Tom Roha, the Maori Professor, was actually a Professor of Geography at Waikato University. Afterwards, he leaned over and said, I handled it pretty well and seemed to know a bit about it. We continued our journey, and of course, Bruce Morgan, the train manager, was there; I've known Bruce for years.

We got off in Wellington and didn't hear anything more at that stage. This filming took place on a Monday, and the country went into lockdown that Wednesday. The producer had actually flown from the UK over the weekend, arrived in Auckland, and called me from the airport, realizing how bad things were. She said she was on the next flight back to London, so we never even saw her. Then we all went into lockdown.

The next thing I knew, I got an email from friends saying they had just seen me on TV. That's how we found out. We got in touch with Claire, the producer, and she sent us a copy of it. I have a copy, but we haven't been allowed to distribute or present it.

To give you an idea of the impact these TV programs have, I've seen Bruce Morgan, the train manager, many times since. Kiwi Rail has probably gotten the biggest bang for their buck from that TV program than any

other advertiser, with Europeans coming out to New Zealand because of it. It's been screened on TV in all major European countries as well as in the UK. Bruce has even had one Swedish woman visit four times, and they all want him to sign their menus.

Last year, I was on the train with a small group of our passengers from Palmerston to Taumarunui. There was a group of four in the cubicle in front of us. I spoke to them, and they had an accent, so I asked where they were from, and they said Denmark. The woman then said, "I recognize you; you're on the program." It's been amazing how many people have been enticed to come to New Zealand solely because of the Northern Explorer episode. **Alan Verry**  
*Newsletter Editor, Vince Middeldorp*

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### **REBUS CLUB OF FOXTON**



We had a May outing to "Fisherman's Table". Fifteen Foxton Rebus members thoroughly enjoyed this excursion. A good time was had by all. A beautiful sunny day and a spectacular ocean view.

Several stopped at Otaki on the way home and added some bling to their possessions.

*Newsletter Editor: Dereley Barry.*

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### **REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH**

Two excellent talks at our last club meeting. Club Speaker **Mark Pouloupoulos** presented a very interesting slideshow on his origins in Greece, his family's migration to NZ, and his career as a fashion designer. Mark and his wife established their own successful, award-winning business in Palmerston North, managed fashion producers in Denmark and Greece, and also worked for R & WH Symington Co Ltd in Palmerston North until it closed in 2009.



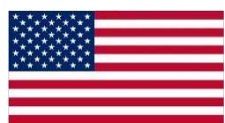
Our Guest Speaker **Tony Groome** from Feilding has had a career in forestry. He has been a volunteer for many years with Land Search and Rescue, for which he travels around NZ training other volunteers. He has assisted with flood control in the Solomon Islands. Tony's expertise as a firefighter is highlighted by his joining a contingent of New Zealanders and Australians who assisted in quelling a huge wildfire in California and Oregon. A very well-presented talk and slideshow.

A group of us visited an ostrich farm at Halcombe to learn about the incubation process, chick rising and management of the mature birds. Another interesting experience! - *Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor.*

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### **REBUS CLUB OF WAHEKE ISLAND**

The mini speaker was **Linda Young** who spoke about the differences between America and New Zealand that she encountered during the 17 years that she spent working there from 1989 – 2006. She worked at the World Bank which was like a mini-United Nations. Washington D.C. was pulsing with politics, diplomacy and international intrigue. Everything was more complex than anything that she had encountered before.



Their first afternoon Linda and Jeff went for a walk but when they tried to retrace their steps they were completely lost as every house looked exactly the same. Their first trip to the supermarket was overwhelming, not only the size but the different names for so many things. Linda spoke about the bureaucratic jungle of administration, and being a resident alien, the difficulty filling in simple forms. The cultural differences were more money, bigger homes, faster cars as well as rampant consumerism. Eating out had not only the state tax added to the bill but also a tip which was expected no matter the service. They travelled a lot around America; each State was like its own country. *Newsletter Editor, Tania Sweet.*

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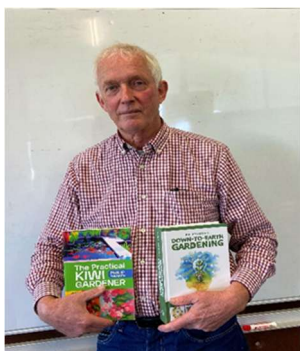
## THAMES BONANZA REBUS CLUB



A recent day out with lunch at The Aviator in Thames and a visit to Twentyman's Funeral Parlour. Present owner **Adrian Catran** gave us a guided tour of all the functions that take place. A very interesting and enlightening experience to say the least. He showed us his 1939 extended hearse, still in absolutely immaculate condition, along with his two modern ones. It was then on to the Crematorium with its state-of-the-art modern equipment. A couple of smaller Cremators for

small and larger animals. Animal cremation is a very busy business these days. A lot of our group were a little uneasy at this stage, but it was a valuable learning experience. -*Murray Newby Newsletter Editor*

## REBUS CLUB OF FIELDING



**Phil Thomsen** was our Guest speaker from Whanganui. He has written "The Practical Kiwi Gardener" and "Down to Earth Gardening". Phil is a member of the Botanical Society and current Secretary of the Orchid Council of NZ. He shared lots of knowledge with our members on practical gardening tips. Phil is actively involved in Heritage Food crops and talked about Heritage Apples and tomatoes. Red Delicious are the most nutritious common apple in NZ but the heritage Monty's Surprise was far superior nutritionally. For tomatoes, the orange-coloured ones are better nutritionally than red ones. "Olga's Round Golden Chicken Egg" tomato is one such heritage variety.

A mini-bus trip to Whanganui and Taranaki visiting Op shops. We shopped at the Cheese shop, in Eltham, and watched the display on the Glockenspiel Clock tower in Stratford. We stayed overnight at The Devon in New Plymouth. Great trip away

*Lyn Jensen, Rebus Feilding Sec/Editor*



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## REBUS CLUB OF OREWA



Our Guest Speaker in May was **Carolyn Reid**. Carolyn is a Trustee and volunteer for Couldrey House, which is an historic Victorian/Edwardian family home set in a beautiful garden in Wenderholm Regional Park. Originally built by Robert Graham. She grew up in this house as her father was Herbert "Tim" Couldrey, who bought it in 1940.

H.W. 'Tim' Couldrey (b.1909–1995) was a self-made businessman, shipping agent and enthusiastic collector, purchasing the house with his wife Phyllis (b.1906-1955) in 1940. After Phyllis' untimely death, he and his second wife Brenda (b.1914-2009, nee Edmonds, of the baking powder family) restored the house from near dereliction (1957-60), adding some of the comforts and conveniences of the time. A highlight in 1953 was the visit of Queen Elizabeth II to the Couldrey's bungalow, halfway along the beach (since burned down). Other VIP's included Vivien Leigh of "Gone with the Wind" fame

and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Wenderholm was sold to Auckland (Regional) Authority in 1965 and became Auckland's first Regional Park, opening to the public on December 18 that same year. The Couldrey's remained in the House until 1973, after which it reverted to the Council.

-*Bulletin Editor, Maureen Grigg*

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## FITZHERBERT REBUS CLUB INC



New member, **Mary Clare Addington**, was welcomed at May Club Day. We are pleased to have you join us, Mary Clare.

Our speaker was **Wayne Gordon** talking about his year in Antarctica in 1996/97. It was obvious from his passionate speech that this was a highlight of his life. From the Army, he went as a Chef to Scott Base in Antarctica where he also served as a fire chief and was part of Search and Rescue. The Summer group arrived in October till February, and the base was noisy and busy. Then after March until September only 10 people wintered over. Temperatures were -45 to -50, and it was always very dark. Many activities are carried out: climate change research, scientific research, environmental studies and many training exercises to keep people safe. We could have listened to Wayne

recount his adventures at Scott Base with the serious and the hijinks they got up to, for a lot longer but time ran out. An extremely interesting talk. -Robyn Manderson

*Pm Fawcett, Newsletter Editor*

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## WAITAKERE COMBINED REBUS CLUB



We recently visited Highwic House situated in the close vicinity of the busy Newmarket shopping area. We started the visit with a talk about the history of Highwic. Then we made our way around the house, some people reminiscing of their family memories. Then we travelled to Pah Homestead at Hillsborough, where we had lunch and looked around the Homestead and garden. This was a very pleasant day. -Phyl Greenland, Secretary.

## CAMBRIDGE REBUS CLUB



There were pickles, grapes, champagne ham, roast beef, two types of bread, lashings of butter and relishes, a selection of cheeses, cherry tomatoes, complimented by a range of mini cakes to finish. The 2025 Cambridge Rebus Ploughman's luncheon was well attended, with almost half the membership present.

The committee did all the catering for the Ploughman's Luncheon.

*-S. O'Sullivan,  
Newsletter Editor*



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## RED BEACH LADIES REBUS CLUB

**Thought for the month:** Ageing is not a slow surrender to time, but a powerful journey into the fullest expression of who we are meant to become. It is not the dimming of the light, but the deepening of its glow. With each passing year, we gain layers of insight, empathy and resilience. The rush of youth gives way to the richness of perspective; the urgency of ambition softens into the quiet confidence of knowing what truly matters. To grow older is not to fade – it is to become more rooted, more radiant, more whole. It is a privilege,

a transformation and a quiet triumph that many are not granted and for that it should be honoured, not feared.

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### RIVERSIDE REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON



Some of our Tramping Group photos from a most enjoyable day on the walkway around the Orakei Basin last month, after travelling on Te Huia train to Puhinui, then the Eastern Line train to Meadowbank.

*Steve O’Sullivan, Bulletin Editor*



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### REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR

Club Speaker **Valerai Geldenhuys** described for us, with the aid of a video, the four-month war between German troops and the British troops of King George which took place in 1913 on land which is now her farm in Namibia. Combat took place only during daytime. Valerai has thousands of artefacts retrieved from the war-site and is restoring a ruined building which will eventually be a museum to display them.



Guest Speakers Glenn Brown and Ruth, “How to prepare for an emergency.” Glenn and Ruth are from Auckland Emergency Management, encompassing Civil Defence, part of Auckland Council. Of the risks mentioned, tsunami is the most likely. We were advised to prepare a Grab-Bag, containing water, toilet paper, radio and batteries, torch, medication, warm clothing and shoes, and emergency food, as well as emergency requirements for pets. -*Jean McIntosh, Newsletter Editor*

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### REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI



Springvale gardens coffee morning last month.

Left: Brian and Rod

Right: Bev and Jim



*Paerau T T-Mosen, Newsletter Editor*

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## REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT



Photos: Recent visit to Government House.



The guest speaker in May was **Heather Newall** who spoke about Artificial Intelligence (AI), the impact on society, and in particular how it might affect the elderly. The following is an explanation from the internet that may be of use.

Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to the ability of computer systems to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. These tasks include learning, reasoning, problem-solving, perception, and decision-making. AI is not a single technology, but rather an umbrella term encompassing various techniques like machine learning and natural language processing.

- Alex Attewell, Newsletter Editor

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## REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC



The recent trip to Upper Hutt to first visit the Whirinaki gallery, grab a coffee, see the 'Bodgies and Widgies' exhibition, Café Blume for lunch and then Golders Cottage was a simple yet very enjoyable outing. It was one of those trips where there was little time pressure. Café Blume food was outstanding for its price and the service great.

Golders cottage took us back in time and reminded us of things as they were not so long ago.

*Steve Hutchison, Newsletter Editor*



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## REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST

The Mystery Creek Fieldays event was visited by 12 of our club members earlier this month and a combined Hibiscus Coast and Gulf Harbour club dinner engagement at restaurant Due Amici, Manly Village was thoroughly enjoyed by 30 club members.



Otherwise, June was not a particularly busy time for organised activities, except, of course, for our Ramblers and Amblers events that occur every Monday come rain (within reason!) or shine.

Photo: Ramblers at Maygrove Lake, 2 June 2025

-Earl Brookbanks, Newsletter Editor

## REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH

**Judy Barker** talked about her decision to do a degree in food technology from Massey University. After university she headed overseas for some OE and on her return to New Zealand needed to get a “proper job”.

She started work as a food technologist in the Department of Health. In those days food legislation was divided between the Department of Health (mainly domestic food) and MAF. On arrival in the Department Judy was involved in a major issue with the composition of wine. At that time much of the wine in New Zealand was made from not just grape juice but also large amounts of water, sugar and a variety of other ingredients. There was a trip to various wineries in Hawkes Bay to see what winemakers were doing and one winery was found to be writing their records on the rafters of the winery.



An early job involved imported food complaints. These mostly related to foreign matter in the food. Dates in particular caused a number of complaints with items such as sticks, stones, wood, cigarette butts and rat droppings being found. This resulted in interest from the media and lots of jokes around the office, including a group of colleagues writing and singing a song “Animal Droppings in your Dates.”

*-Ros Lambrechtsen, Newsletter Editor*

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## HOKOWHITU REBUS CLUB INC

**Alana Blair**, our guest speaker at our June meeting shared her journey to get the Hidden Books project under way. Alana played down the time and effort the project took.

*[According to the internet, the Hidden Books Project encourages a love of reading and adventure by hiding books in public spaces for others to find, read, and potentially re-hide. These projects, which have emerged in various locations like Kāpiti, Whangarei, and Palmerston North, aim to foster a sense of community and make books more accessible.]*

*-Joan Letts, Newsletter Editor*

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## PAPANUI REBUS CLUB



**Rachel McNutt** from Air Rescue was our guest speaker. She gave us an overview of how the Air Rescue works, both in Canterbury and on the West Coast. We learnt about the training that each recruit undergoes, the number of flights carried out each year and the different types of helicopters they have. The Air Rescue supplies a vital service not only in rescue but also in transport of emergency cases between hospitals. She also spoke to us about how the service is funded. The Government allocates some funding, but a lot is sourced through fundraising.



22 Members attended the lunch at the Good Home Wigram. The food was enjoyed by all with lots of good conversations, with a great view of the Port Hills

*- Linda Barnes, Newsletter Editor*

## CAMBRIDGE MEN'S REBUS CLUB



The Club held a mid-year luncheon at the Cambridge Cosmopolitan Club. The event was attended by 59 members and guests, with entertainment provided by members of the amazingly talented Cambridge High School Jazz band. These young Kiwis are all high achievers both musically and scholastically, with impressive results in their academic endeavours. It bodes well for our future as a nation seeing such fine young members of our community. -Nigel Salter, Newsletter Editor

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## REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON



There was a great turnout for our midwinter lunch at Smith & McKenzie restaurant. -Kath Kenrick, Bulletin Editor

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**“My neighbour is having trouble paying his water bill, so I sent him a get well soon card” - Anon**

## From the Editor

This is my second edition of Rebus Club News as editor. To all the Clubs who contributed to this edition and the previous editions, a big thank you. I have been quite unwell lately, so I haven't been able to thank each of you personally, but I appreciate all your messages of encouragement and support.

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