REBUS CLUB NEWS

November 2026

* **Email:** rebusclubnews@gmail.com

WELCOME

I'm unsure what to buy my wife for Christmas this year. She loves her horses, so it will probably be the same as almost every other year – more horse stuff. We are lucky, however, to have a 3-year-old grandson. So, most of our Christmas shopping and planning will be around making this a joyous Christmas for him, and for the family.

This month we have another good roundup of news from Rebus Clubs throughout New Zealand.

I hope you enjoy this final 2026 issue. *-Steve O'Sullivan, Rebus Club News Editor.*

REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR



True to the spirit of Rebus, the Rebus Club of Gulf Harbour and Rebus Club Orewa combined forces on a wet Tuesday 10th November, for a fun debate, hosted by the Orewa Club. Our team were **Ken Daniels, Ann Fosberry and Hugh Pattison**. The motion was that "Orewa should be the capital of the Hibiscus Coast", Orewa for the motion, and Gulf Harbour against. Great fun was had by all, including much barracking from the audience. The Gulf Harbour team (Left) did their homework, and came prepared, bearing gifts, dressed for the occasion, with a poetic Leader's rebuttal. Rebus Chairman, **Garth Dutton,** was the moderator, and after much hilarity, declared the result a DRAW!! Rubbish!! Gulf Harbour will be hosting the return match in the New Year.



Our Guest Speaker in November was **Cassandra Tufuga**, Sales Manager of the Peninsula Club Retirement Community in Stanmore Bay. This was not a hard sell presentation, but an informative talk dealing with the process of moving to a retirement village, the legalities, and benefits. She removed many of the myths and misconceptions which abound out in the community, and was thanked for her very well presented, knowledgeable address, and her generous contribution to Morning Tea. Members showed their interest with the many questions which followed at the conclusion. - *Jean McIntosh, Newsletter Editor.*

WEST AUCKLAND MEN'S REBUS CLUB



{Left] A Day out to the St. John Archive and Museum. **Phyllis Greenland** of Waitakere Combined Rebus photographs the vintage grey-and-white Dodge ambulance on display at the St John Archive and Museum in Mt Wellington, while **Mike Turnwald** of West Auckland Men's Rebus looks on.

"Hands up if you can't read your own handwriting." That was how guest speaker **Mike Maran** opened his talk to the club, and a healthy number of hands went up. His second request—hands up if you can't read your doctor's signature on a prescription—produced even more hands and a good deal of laughter. It was a neat way to put a roomful of men at ease, and it set the tone for a talk that turned out to be both entertaining and, in places, quite sobering.

Mike is a graphologist and a forensic handwriting and document examiner. By his own account there are only two or three people in New Zealand doing this kind of work. He has worked on numerous court cases here, including in the District Court and the High Court, has been to Fiji seven or eight times for court cases, and has recently worked on a case in Thailand. I came away with a new respect for the humble signature, and a strong suspicion that I should take more care over my own. - *Vince Middeldorp, Newsletter Editor.*

WAIKANAE MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB






KAPITI SENIORS EXPO 4th November

There were 36 stalls on show plus entertainment and speakers. Our Club participated and shared a stall with the Paraparaumu Combined and Waikanae Women's Rebus Clubs. Judging from comments it was successful and should do it again next year.



PARLIAMENTARY COLLECTIONS TOUR AND WELLINGTON CENTRAL LIBRARY AND CITY GALLERY

A great day was had by 42 members who came on these Tours. The weather behaved, the Tour guides were knowledgeable, and the food was very tasty and reasonably priced. We joined Paraparaumu Rebus for the first outing with them. It was very enjoyable.

- David Goggin, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH

We had two very interesting talks at that meeting. Club speaker **Desma Isles** told us of her life's journeys in the business world. In her first job, she mastered a teleprinter and the "new tech" of one of NZ's first computers that filled a room – one task being to pay over one thousand freezing works staff their wages. After their marriage, Desma and husband Bob started their own building construction company which they developed into a very successful family business. Along the way, Desma co-owned and ran the office of a successful painting company.

The topic of our guest speaker, **Dennis O'Rourke,** was "My life in crime", his career as a uniformed officer and then a detective in the NZ Police Force. He recalled that in his early days the force was "very militaristic" but that changed. As a detective, he spent much of his time in the drug and homicide squads. Some 40 years of his career were based in Palmerston North. He also served in the military police section of the NZ Territorial Army Reserve Force.



A sunny, warm day made for a pleasant trip to Gwavas Homestead and Garden at Tikokino, Central Hawkes Bay. Members of seven Rebus and Probus clubs filled a 50-seater bus and had an excellent lunch after a guided tour of the magnificent 1890 heritage homestead and 20-acre woodland garden.

-Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor

REBUS OF FOXTON

At our Christmas lunch there will be two funny stories before the meal. Everyone to bring Christmas presents to the value of $5, marked for Men or Ladies. *-Susan Galea, Newsletter Editor.*

REBUS CLUB OF CAMBRIDGE

WORD OF THE DAY: "Yutori" meaning leaving a little room in the day to enjoy a cup of tea, notice your surroundings, and rest without guilt.

-Steve O'Sullivan, Newsletter Editor.

CAMBRIDGE MEN'S REBUS CLUB



Members enjoyed a visit to Shaws Wire Ropes during October and were duly impressed by the vast scale of their operations that also included the supply and maintenance of forestry equipment.

Nigel Salter, Bulletin Editor

WARKWORTH LADIES' REBUS CLUB



Our recent guest speaker was **John Gluckman**, an extreme local adventurer who gave a very fast paced presentation on several of his escapades. He shared a recent adventure done in September last year when he crossed the Arctic Ocean in the French icebreaker Le Commandant Charcot from Norway in a 21-day journey. The highlight was reaching the North Pole, a goal he has had for many years. Now 75, his next planned adventure is doing a horse trek in the Andes in January next year.



A group of 16 members visited the Puhoi Museum, the historic catholic church and library last month. **Jenny Schollum**, [left] dressed in typical bohemian style, delivered a very interesting informative presentation on the history of the village right back to the arrival of the German immigrants in 1863.

-Maryanne Dransfield, Newsletter Editor



REBUS WAIHEKE ISLAND



The mini speaker this month was **Colin Beardon** - author, artist and retired computer scientist. "Slow down, switch off and join in." The closing advice of Colin's presentation as he pointed out that there is no proof that Artificial Intelligence will deliver beneficial returns, economically speaking. These comments were made by a man who knows a great deal about A.I., having attended his first A.I. course in 1972 before attaining a PhD in A.I. in 1976.



The main speaker this month was **Frank Lepera,** Stoat Eradications Manager of Te Korowhai o Waiheke. The literal translation of 'Te Korowai o Waiheke' is 'The Cloak of Waiheke'. A name that was gifted to them by Ngāti Paoa. The Korowai is a traditional cloak and was usually given to people of high rank, but in this case, it was given to the island itself. Frank explained that their vision is to create the world's first predator-free urban island, a haven for flourishing native wildlife. Introduced predators kill an estimated 25 million birds a year in NZ. Many islands in the Hauraki Gulf are already predator free, but not Waiheke or Ponui. Frank believes we all have a responsibility to make it happen here on Waiheke.

- Rhonda Paton, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC.



At our last meeting**, Rob Taylor** talked about German (and Wellington) Department Stores. From 1960's synthetic orange cordial to German sausages, he covered a wide range of shopping delights – and warned about bargain shopping on holiday.



Walking Group: We had some beautiful days for our walks in October. Our first walk was in Paekakariki, along the beach in a southerly direction returning by climbing up off the beach up the steep steps to the top of the bluff. Good for the legs!

- Susan Hagedorn, Newsletter Editor.

FITZHERBERT REBUS CLUB INC.

October Meeting: Professor **Isobel Castro** talked to us about her 23 years studying our iconic Kiwi. I learned more about this bird we have all grown up within half an hour listening to Isobel than I knew in a lifetime. Isobel and her team, who are from all parts of the world, are finding out more about this ancient species every year. They are very passionate about their work. We must guard this bird and not destroy its environment so our next generations can appreciate it for years to come. (Robyn Manderson) *- Nicola Copplestone, Secretary.*

REBUS CLUB OF RIVERSIDE HAMILTON



[Photo] Tramping Group: We had wonderful day walking the Tarawera Falls track, with the Wanderers Tramping Club, some of us going as far as the outlet. The falls were magnificent. Thanks, Dianne, for organising a great trip.

-Steve O'Sullivan, Bulletin Editor.

PAPANUI REBUS CLUB



26 Members enjoyed lunch at Bailies Bar and Restaurant this month. An interesting bar, lovely meals and as always, great company.





At our November meeting **Pat Paton** filled in at short notice to be our Club Speaker. She spoke about her cruise around Alaska.

Our guest speaker was **Sarah Jamieson** from Cholmondeley Children's Centre. It provided a safe haven for children through the years, beginning with the polio epidemic, WWII and through to today. *-Linda Barnes, President.*

REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI

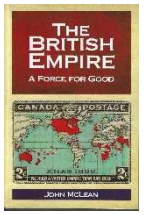


Melbourne Cup Day Fashion Stakes: Congratulations to all the 2026 contestants in our fashion parade held at our November meeting on the actual race day. As the photos show we had a great line-up of fillies and stallions with a close race to the finish line. First across the line was the filly **Liz Frith**, nose to nose with stallion **Jim Hulbert**. A very tight race and very hard to pick from the embankment. Thanks to all the contestants who all looked really great. *-Kelvin Adam, Newsletter Editor.*



WARKWORTH MEN'S REBUS CLUB

In October we inducted seven new members at one time, as the club continues to grow. Indeed, we have only had one month this year where we haven't inducted someone new! A continuing recruitment drive assisted by posters in the local community, word of mouth from members and inclusion on local community Facebook pages means we maintain our profile for those who wish a bit of low-key social interaction.





In October we hosted Emeritus Professor **Ralph Cooney,** (left) a Nobel Prize Winner (Chemistry) who spoke on Climate Change and alternative energies, and in November we had New Zealand Historian and author **John McLean** speaking about his book "The British Empire – a force for good." Both speakers were excellent, entertaining and provided food for thought!



We also had our end-of-year lunch at the Warkworth Hotel which was well attended by 60 people (the dining room's capacity).

On behalf of us all – Have a Merry Christmas and a Wonderful 2027!

-Stephen Becket, Warkworth Men's Rebus Club.

REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON

Our November dining out group enjoyed a relaxing High Tea at Woodlands Historic House and Gardens. The weather was kind to us on the day although didn't extend long enough for a stroll through the gardens after. *-Karen Devoy, Bulletin Editor.*







REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC



Health and Safety Team. Say hello to our Health and Safety team in their snazzy Hi Viz jackets: **Erin Mills, Vaughan Howarth and Elaine Garland**. If an emergency arises, they will guide you to safety.



Trips: Friday 13 November saw a sunny day to visit Government House for a 2hr tour with Kate and Heather guiding us. We travelled in a comfortable bus with a friendly and safe driver, Grant. Afterwards we went for lunch at the Picnic Café in the Botanic Rose Gardens, where there was a good choice of food, excellent service and time to smell the roses.

Joining our club to make up the numbers were members from the Waikanae Women's Rebus Club and the Waikanae Millennium Rebus Club. -*Susan Hagedorn, Newsletter Editor.*

WOMEN'S REBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAE



November Meeting: **Mike Styles**, (left) who is an expert on the subject of dyslexia, has written a book titled, 'Congratulations - you have dyslexia'. This really summarises what our attitude to dyslexia should be; it is a difference, not a disability and is simply a neurological difference in certain people whose brains are wired in a different way with regards to how they interpret texts. One in ten of us has dyslexia, the same percentage who are left handed, and what we need to do is accommodate people who have it, rather than putting them in the ' too hard' basket, or worse, assuming they are backward.



[Right] Seniors Expo 4th November: This year we shared a table at the Expo with two other Rebus Groups. It was good to meet members from other clubs who operate in our area. Several of our committee took turns to 'man' the table. - *Mary Paddock, Newsletter Editor.*

REBUS CLUB OF FEILDING



Tania gave an interesting talk about her father's aviation career. He was flying vintage aircraft (Harvards and Spitfires) as recently seen at Biggin Hill Museum, Ohakea. Her father, WL (Les) Griffin did not talk about the war. Tania contacted the NZ Dept of Defence to start searching for his records and applied for his medals.



(Left) In October we enjoyed a quiz with soup, bun and slice afterwards. Our quizmaster was **Cheryle Clince.**

(Right) In November **Rod Davenport** gave an insight into life on the Chatham islands with a slice show presentation.

- *Lyn Jensen, Newsletter Editor.*



REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST

There was a strong turnout for the club's annual Lawn Bowling event held last week at the Manly Bowling Club. It was enjoyed immensely by our experienced, inexperienced and totally inept players! The weather played ball with a few spots of rain arriving right on cue for us to move inside to enjoy the BBQ put on by the luncheon team. Full kudos to those in the kitchen and on the grill, an excellent spread.



Our Guest Speaker was **Alan Clarke,** retired crop-dusting pilot, US forest fire fighting pilot and helicopter pilot. He spoke not on aviation matters, rather on his and his wife's extraordinary 4 year/4 part trip in their 32-foot launch circumnavigating the US Eastern Seaboard's 'Great Loop'. A remarkable adventure and accomplishment.



As always, our Ramblers and Amblers covered a lot of ground during the month revisiting and updating themselves on the two extensive Milldale developments, wandering Albany's trails, walking up and down lengthy Orewa Beach and finally hiking along Whangaparaoa Peninsula's cliff tops and around much of the now tragically overgrown Country Club Golf Course. Each ramble naturally concluded with a visit to a favoured café in the area.



This month the club held the first meeting of its newly instituted IT Group at the Silverdale Men's Shed. Convened by IT whizzes **Garth Dutton** and **Brian Tracey,** this is a forum aiming to assist club members suffering from irritating IT issues that are otherwise beyond the comprehension of mere mortals. *-Neville Drower, Bulletin Editor.*

TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB



Our November outing was to Ferner Galleries. Thirty-six members were treated to a magical morning being shown the gardens and art gallery at Peter and Helene's property in Acacia Heights, overlooking Lake Taupō. There are over 200 artworks and an extensive native garden with sculptures placed throughout. Over the last 30 or so years Peter transformed a hectare of bare land into a fascinating native garden highlighting water features and sculptures. Originally owners of five art galleries throughout New Zealand, nowadays they have numerous works of art displayed on nearly every wall of their home. Helene's knowledge of art and Peter's love of the gardens is evident throughout their property. We were treated to a lovely morning tea and were very fortunate that the rain held off until after we had returned home.



PUKENAMU REBUS CLUB INC



Club Speaker **Helen Goldfinch** talked about her recent visit to the Keukenhof Tulip Festival in The Netherlands. The 70 acres of parkland is open from mid-March to mid-May and welcomes over 1 million visitors every year.

[Left] 16 members met at Pukeko's Nest for our November lunch. "There was a lovely, friendly atmosphere and the food was tasty," said **Lorraine Guild**, committee member. "A good day out, with lots of chatter and laughter," said **Christine Fincham**, the lunch organiser.

- Helen Goldfinch, Newsletter Editor.

THANK YOU

Season's greetings to all the readers and contributors throughout New Zealand. Wherever you are and however you spend the holidays, thank you for your support.

Steve O'Sullivan,

Editor, REBUS CLUB NEWS