



REBUS NZ INCORPORATED

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NEWSLETTER NO 6

The recent letter from Secretary Taylor to all FNZI affiliated Clubs dated 19 February, entitled the Closing Chapter, sought to establish that Russell Tether had a relationship with Rebus. It said:

Mr Tether's open letter, as sent on 11 February 2016, at last makes it clear what his relationship with FNZI has become, what his relationship with Rebus is, and that he no longer wishes to be part of the Fellowship New Zealand Incorporated Council (FNZI).

Although an invitation has been extended to Russell to join our committee, he has deferred any decision until receiving a clear indication from 9940 Clubs who elected him to Council, as to their wishes. We hope that clarifies the matter. Is it any wonder that Russell feels his position on Council has become so untenable given the incredible proceedings to which he has been subjected?. One Club which has written directly to FNZI in respect to the Russell Tether issue, has said:

"We are also really disappointed by the fact that it has become obvious to us, from the various pieces of correspondence we have received, that we have not necessarily been given the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, regarding this whole sordid affair.

We also consider now that the Council of Fellowship NZ Inc. is a dysfunctional and permanently fractured group. It is also worthwhile to compare what Rebus NZ has organized and achieved, while your Council has been distracted by this infighting. To our club at this time Rebus appears to be a far more functioning and organized group than yours."

The same letter from FNZI in respect to Rebus said:

The Council particularly recommends that Clubs that are considering joining Rebus examine its credentials and carefully examine its Constitution, that it is truly democratic and transparent.

Our response is that we could not be more transparent! Our Rules have been widely distributed and are posted on our website. They make it quite clear as to the manner in which Committee Members are selected. As to our credentials, these are also posted on the website and have previously been widely distributed. We hope you have read the backgrounds to our eight Committee Members.

MMP (The Ministry for Misinformation and Propaganda). FNZI in its 19 February letter said in respect to the Wellington Information Day:

On January 29th, Council had a particularly valuable Information Afternoon with 50 delegates from 25 Clubs in District 9940. Council informed the delegates of its recent activities and the delegates informed Council of their concerns, in some instances, of the relationship between Mr Tether and the Council or its Chairman.

When the meeting concluded it passed two resolutions (Motions?): one, that the Council was heading in the right direction, and the second, that the meeting thank the Chairman for the work he was doing on behalf of FNZI, this being carried with acclamation.

Three Clubs have now protested to FNZI that the account of that meeting dated 5 February bore little resemblance to the one they attended. Here is an extract from a letter yet another Club sent to FNZI:

Thank you for your report on the meeting held in Wellington on 29th January, 2016 As the two members who represented our club at that meeting we take issue with some of the content and believe it to be misleading and in places blatantly inaccurate. It was disappointing that your group, as an incorporated society, chose to hold a public meeting and not keep minutes. As attendees we did make our own detailed notes of proceedings.

***The submitted questions.** The issue of questions asked for and submitted prior to the meeting was raised, and evaded, several times during the meeting before you finally claimed you did not have the questions with you. Attendees were invited to re-submit their questions prior to the discussion groups so your councillors could consider them. We were expecting at least some response after this, however there was no further reference to them at the meeting.*

***Motions:** At the end of your report you record two Motions one 'carried unanimously', and the second 'carried with acclamation'. **There were no such motions, we did not vote on any motions.** Yes someone made a thank you speech and there was some applause. This does not constitute a motion and applause does not signify unanimous acceptance. We came to the meeting with open minds. How can we accept anything we receive in writing from your group when this one meeting which we attended, was reported so inaccurately?*

Meeting between FNZI and Rebus. Back in early January, Rebus was invited by the Waikanae Millennium Club to consider whether it would agree to sit down with FNZI and attempt to find some common ground and so avoid any fragmentation of the Probus movement. We responded positively and held ourselves ready for any such meeting. Nothing has been heard to date although we note that the 29 January Wellington Information day report did list among concerns raised by delegates "**Improve relationships with Rebus and Russell Tether**". Material since forwarded around the country by FNZI seem designed to achieve the exact reverse.

Our website. We are thrilled with the very complimentary comments made by Clubs who have viewed the site and the extensive material it contains. From start to finish, this was all achieved in less than 3 weeks and at a very modest cost. We intend to regularly update it with new material as it comes to hand. Our thanks to John McColl of the Probus Club of Hibiscus Coast who is the Webmaster.

Transparency. Mention is earlier made about transparency. Rebus would like to ask why FNZI insists that questions to be put forward to Information Days must be submitted prior to the event and in writing. Surely, Councillors should be able to answer questions from the floor – unless they feel that answers given without careful preparation, may compromise them? FNZI have called a meeting for District 9910 Clubs in Auckland on the 26 February. Attending Clubs have again been invited to submit written questions. With no provision on the Agenda for the answers, clarification has been sought from the Secretary. Will it be yet another example of what happened in Wellington?

Those who attended FNZI's first AGM will recall the fate of a number of Motions which had been invited from Clubs, accepted and printed on the Agenda and then ruled out of order on the day. This was stated to be on the grounds that they were unnecessary as the matters to which they related, were already being actioned. One of these Motions was to appoint additional Councillors and reduce the size of the 6 Districts. We have seen no evidence that either has been actioned.

Public Liability Insurance. To correct information given to delegates at the Nelson Information Day, please note that the suggestion that ACC makes this cover unnecessary, is quite incorrect. ACC deals only with injuries *to persons* and does not cover a Club's liability to a third party arising from a Club or one of its members committing some negligent act which results in damage to a *third party's property*. Example: A Club's member leaves an electrical appliance on at a meeting venue which is traced as the cause of a fire - or perhaps failed to secure the premises after a meeting allowing a burglary or theft to occur. Rebus will have a \$10m cover in place for affiliated Clubs.

Travel Insurance – Possible loss of access to Fit to Travel cover with Willis/Dual. Throughout the end of 2014 and throughout 2015, both Russell Tether and myself made repeated requests to the then Chairman of PNZI, to include full details of this scheme which had been arranged to duplicate the cover provided by PSPL to members of their affiliated Clubs. It was a sticking point with some Clubs in their decision to affiliate with PNZI, as access to such a scheme for persons with pre-existing medical conditions would otherwise be lost.

Our requests were denied and further approaches to the new PNZI Chairman had a similar result. Accordingly, little use was made of the scheme with the Underwriter not receiving an adequate volume of business to guarantee continuation of the arrangement well into the future. Remember the old saying "use it or lose it".

Rebus undertakes that its arrangements for specialized Travel Insurance for affiliated Clubs will not remain a secret.

Very best regards,

Graeme McIntosh. (Chairman)