



REBUS CLUB NEWS

August 2024

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Hello again, and welcome to the August edition of your monthly catchup of all things Rebus – Rebus Club News. Yes, there is light at the end of the tunnel, and soon we should be able to say goodbye to those wintry showers, and instead welcome Spring, with its warmer temperatures and promise of a new growing season. While I am talking to you, the resident gardener is outside preparing the vegetable garden for crops later on. Already the birds have got the urge, and there has been fierce competition to claim the Pseudopanax tree by our office window – the blackbirds won, and the newlyweds are avidly renovating last year's nest. It doesn't seem to matter to them that the tree is *ours*, as we are warned to stay away, with much squawking and vigorous wing flapping.

Last week three clubs on the **Hibiscus Coast** combined forces to mount a membership drive at the local Plaza. With a men's club, a ladies' club and a combined club, prospective new members were spoilt for choice. Only time will tell how successful the venture was, but the reaction was encouraging. Our flag, display of photos, and handouts of brochures and visiting cards, was hard to miss outside the supermarket on gold-card day. We must never lose sight of the fact that continually bringing in new members will be our club's saviour. Enough from me, now your news.

WOMEN'S REBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAE



July Meeting: John Dyer, from the NZ Red Cross, was our speaker this month. He had a military background before working in Red Cross and spoke about his work as a coach and adviser in other countries. He pointed out the importance of seeing the difference in other cultures like Sierra Leone, Ukraine and Somalia. John emphasised how we can begin with preconceptions, which are often misconceptions, and also the need for patience, as "fixing things" can take longer than expected.

Just Cruising. Janet and Chris presented a very entertaining travelogue at our June meeting: their recent adventures aboard "Resilient Lady" sailing from Sydney to Athens.

Mary Paddock, Newsletter Editor.



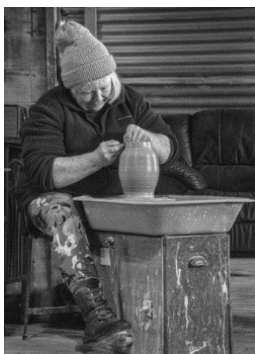
AVONDALE LADIES' REBUS CLUB

Short Talk: Marguerite Crickmer spoke about her nursing career. She spent many years working in plastic surgery at Middlemore Hospital, a demanding area to work in. She mentioned Cecily Pickles, an early woman plastic surgeon, a trailblazer who is well worth a Google.

After morning tea, our **Speaker** was **Historian, Lisa Troutman**, spoke about early times in Auckland. As always, she was entertaining and informative.

Barbara Douglas, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB CAMBRIDGE



Woolshed Pottery Visit: A large group of members drove out to the pottery studio of Janet Smith last month. Janet gave us a talk about the use of the kilns, and how the process was undertaken. As we stood and sat around the open fire—it was a very cold icy day—we ate muffins and drank tea and coffee, while we listened to her and her daughter, Nakita, talk about their pottery. Then Janet threw clay on a wheel and showed us how she makes a pot.

Steve O'Sullivan, Presidential Scribe.

**I find it ironic that the colours red, white and blue stand for freedom,
until they are flashing behind you.**

REBUS WAIHEKE ISLAND

Main Speaker: Garth Dutton who is the chairman of **Rebus NZ Inc.** and also belongs to Hibiscus Coast and Gulf Harbour Rebus clubs. However, he spoke to us about 50 years as a 'cop'. Garth was born in Little River and then moved to South Canterbury. He left school at 15 and moved to Christchurch where he joined the post office before applying to be a police officer. In 1965 he undertook 3 months training at Trentham, whilst there, turning 19. He was taught law, physical training and first aid before being sent to Napier. Later, he did courses in criminal analysis and homicide clerking. He then became a drug detective and was the sole contact for undercover agents. He was the first person to do helicopter cannabis recovery, telling how flying out of Whangamata there were cannabis plantations in the bush everywhere.

Mini Speaker: Gabrielle Young from Terra & Tide, a company promoting regenerative tourism started in 2016. They have a 42 ft. catamaran on which they do eco-sailing. They care for their guests and also care for the environment. Their tourist vans are all electric. Guests learn about predator free Waiheke, and they are in partnership with "Love our Wetlands". They had over 900 guests last year.

Right: Members enjoying Mid-winter Lunch at the Waiheke Resort.



Tania Sweet, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OREWA



Our Guest Speaker was Guy Slocum, ex RAF pilot during the Cold War from 1968 to 1982. He kept us enthralled telling us of his aircraft training, he first flew solo in a light aircraft at 12 years of age. At 16 he got his flying licence and joined the RAF at 17. When he graduated, he joined the fighter pilot school and by the time he was 19 he was flying bomber planes, intercepting Soviet planes over the North Sea near Norway and Finland before they could release missiles. He had some

death-defying accidents bailing out of his bomber planes before they hit the ground. He flew Harrier Jump Jets, Sea Harriers landing on aircraft carriers, Phantoms and Lightnings.

Club Speaker was Carol Seymour who spoke of her life and how she came to meet her husband, Brian. Carole is a 3rd generation New Zealander and has a strong interest in genealogy.

Right: **Midwinter Luncheon at Red Beach Surf Club** - 10 July.



Maureen Grigg, Bulletin Editor.

WEST AUCKLAND MEN'S REBUS CLUB

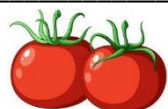
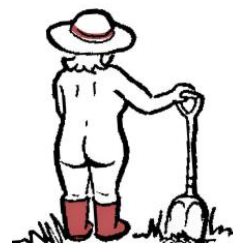


GUEST SPEAKER, JAN BEAUMONT: Jan started her address with "I've had three significant changes in the last few years of my life. The first one was 9-11. It was perhaps more meaningful for me because, just 24 hours before the hijackers flew the planes into the Twin Towers, I was standing at the top of one of the Twin Towers. I came down at 3:30 pm that afternoon, and the next morning I watched the buildings fall. The second change was in 2015 when my kids thought I was getting dementia, but I had a brain tumour the size of an egg. As of now, I am tumour-free. The third change that affected me, and probably you too, was COVID. I was sitting on my couch in 2020 when Jacinda came on TV and announced

a four-week lockdown because of COVID. For some reason, I thought, "I think I'll write a poem." I wrote a poem called "Let's All Drink to Lockdown". After I wrote it the BBC called Pam Ayers, thinking it was one of her poems."

Jan recited some of her poems, "Let's All Drink to Lockdown", "The Best Medicine", "Turning In", "Requiem for Rover", and "Get It Off", a poem about naked-gardening-day. And, as Jan said, we all got our daily obligatory 15 laughs.

Vince Middeldorp, Secretary.



Siberian Tomato update. Our experiment is a little disappointing – the plants are hanging in there, producing flowers, but as predicted, lack of bees means lack of pollination. Roll on Spring!!!!!!

REBUS CLUB OF FOXTON



July's Mid-Winter Kwizzers. L to R: All the way from Toyland, Little **NODDY!** From the Chase, the Governess, and next is the Big Riddlemaster in his (her) diminished state and now known as The Little Joker. Also from the Chase, the Vixen, Wee Colleen—the Menace's girlfriend, (she looks a little tipsy or has rickets). And of course, The Irish Menace himself to be sure, to be sure, to be sure. Thanks to Tony, Leonie, Jill, Dereley, Colleen and John. Thanks also to those committee members who prepared the delicious mid-winter morning tea. Great to see our P.N. Rebus visitors.

Dereley Barry, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF FEILDING

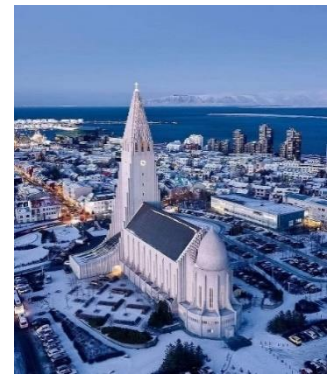


Our **July Speaker** was **Lynne Forrest from the AA (Automobile Assoc).** She has worked in Customer service and as a consultant for 16 years, and is now the Manager at the Feilding branch. Lynne went through the procedures that people need to pass to renew their Driver's Licence. At 75 you need a medical from your Dr. including a memory test. There was much discussion on why there is no standard test as each Dr. has their own evaluation. The oldest person she knows with a driver's licence is 98. Lynne had booklets available for members. AA has 1.8 million

members. Your photo can be added to your Super Gold Card for free.

Our **Mini Speaker** was **Lyn Jensen** who spoke on her recent trip to **Reykjavik, Iceland**, which was very beautiful and fascinating. Lots of waterfalls (we visited Gullfoss) thermal energy, Icelandic horses and old lava by the roadside. Photo is Hallgrims Church in Reykjavik.

Lyn Jensen, Newsletter Editor.



THAMES BONANZA REBUS CLUB



We decided to have a catchup on a couple of our neighbouring towns, firstly **Paeroa**, a drive up Primrose Hill and a nice Morning Tea. Then off to **Waihi Beach** and a beautiful lunch at the RSA, with its fabulous ocean views. Sometimes we take our neighbouring towns for granted, so it's good to find

treasures. Photos: on top of Primrose Hill, Paeroa and their famous Lemon and Paeroa can.

Murray Newby, Newsletter Editor.



REBUS CLUB OF MANAWATU



August Speaker, Clare Randall, CE of Arohanui Hospice began by addressing outdated myths about the hospice. The vast majority of their work is done in the community, with just six beds in the hospice, but each year they help over a thousand patients and their families. Arohanui operates from smaller hubs across the huge region. As well as community nurses, there are social workers, the hospice offers bereavement support and there is a spiritual care coordinator. Clare concluded by describing the funding needs and efforts of this valuable organisation.

Margie Comrie, Newsletter Editor.

Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies. Groucho Marx

REBUS CLUB OF MT HOBSON

Club Speaker, July, Pat Alley “The Great Plague of the 14th Century.” Although the plague has existed in various forms for many millennia his address concentrated on the 14th century **Black Plague**. While it only lasted for 7 years it decimated the population. Some accounts say that at least half of Europe's population died from this pandemic and population numbers were not restored for another 200 years. The disease is caused by a micro-organism transmitted by fleas who have been in contact with infected rats. The commonest is **bubonic plague** which initially infects the lymphatic tissue but rapidly spreads to other organs. There is also a **pneumonic** form which is rapidly fatal. 14th century European society was unstable and depressed. There was famine, abject poverty and climatic conditions were severe with an enduring winter caused by a mini-Ice Age. This episode of the plague started in **Kaffa**, a town on the southern end of the **Crimean Peninsula**. Here, a Genoan outpost was besieged by Russian and Mongolian troops. They carried the plague to this town and by catapulting the victims of their own people over the city walls, infecting the Genoans who rapidly returned to Italy carrying with them the plague, which then spread to the rest of Europe over the next seven years. The immediate effects of the plague were a very high mortality up to 60%. Quarantine, social distancing, mask wearing, lockdowns, strict regulations, government support for victims and strong leadership were all evident during this episode of the plague. Interestingly the lessons of the 14th century were forgotten by some in the recent COVID-19 outbreak. Plague is still with us. Up to 3000 cases annually are reported with a mortality of between 5 and 10%. It is endemic in California and Peru and is now a “normal” part of biological warfare.



Pat Alley, Newsletter Editor.

WAIKANAĒ MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB INC.

OUTING TO PAKAKARIKI STATION MUSEUM. We left the Waikanae Station on the train and were greeted at the Paekākāriki Station Museum by **Station Master David** and two other members, **Graham and Michael**. They gave us a fascinating history of the Māori settlements, the wars, the train station development, and the arrival of the American G I's. We then went to the Paekākāriki town for lunch and a chance to explore the artwork in the **Holtoms Building**. The historical pictures on the main street gave us an insight into how it was in the early 1900's.



The Club continued our **25th Anniversary Celebrations** combining them with our regular Mid-Winter Luncheon on 18th July at Parkwood Social Centre. 53 members partook of a scrumptious meal – plenty of flavoursome food and enough for seconds. On each table were placed several Newsletters from the past and members read excerpts highlighting interesting moments from our past. There was much reminiscing and lots of chat. Our Anniversary has been well celebrated. *David Goggin, Editor.*



SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB

Our **Guest Speaker** on 26 July was **Hon Ron Mark**, Mayor of Carterton, who spoke first about his recent work in Ukraine, showing a video of assisting with aid delivery and illustrating the massive effort needed there to get roads and buildings functional.

Then he regaled us with his life story, being uplifted as a ward of the state at age 3½, living in six different Pākehā foster homes before being put in the custody of the army at 16. There he learned discipline and a real work ethic, later being selected for officer training. Notable in his service record is a 13-month tour of duty in the Sinai as part of the Egypt/Israeli cease fire agreement.

He spent six terms as a list member of parliament for NZ First, including three years as Senior Whip in coalition with National and three years as Minister of Defence and Veterans in coalition with Labour and the Greens. He served as Mayor of Carterton from 2010 to 2014 and again from 2022. He continues to be driven to fix problems that he sees around him and is very proud of the service he has been able to provide both internationally and in his work with troubled youth. He still does not see a time when he may finally retire. *David Woodhams, Newsletter Editor.*

Money talks ... but all mine ever says is good-bye.

Money can't buy happiness, but it keeps the kids in touch.

REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR

Club Speaker, Peter Odendaal, "The History of South Africa": Peter's talk began with the wars between the Boers and the British, and the three main African Tribes. In more recent times the USA, Cuba and Russia have all been involved in wars in South Africa. F. W. de Klerk completely changed the form of government and arranged the release of Nelson Mandela. As a result, the blacks now control the country. It has always been a Pandora's Box .



Guest Speaker: Dr. Don Brash, "NZ The Lucky Country, or is it?"



New Zealand has more natural resources than any country in the world, bar 2. After WWII NZ was 4th in the world of wealth, per capita, but *increasing* productivity is hard to do. Our brightest young people are going overseas. They cannot afford to buy a home – the key is to reduce the price of land. On current policies, government debt will increase four-fold by 2060. AUKUS Pillar Two means NZ has signed up to back the USA against China a geo/political dilemma. Internationally we are seeing

the biggest change in the balance of power – China will be the largest player.

As mentioned in the **Introduction**, on 20th August we mounted a membership drive at Coast Plaza, in conjunction with Hibiscus Men's Club and Red Beach Ladies' Club.

J. McIntosh, Newsletter Editor.



REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI



(Advertorial)? **Take It Easy Tours.** I take many trips with this company whose buses we borrow and use for our club outings. I recently went to Auckland with a friend to see the show "**DISNEY on ICE.**" Magic, even for an oldie like me, our trip was great, met other lovely local people, the accommodation was fantastic and Jason our tour guide (and **Mr Take it Easy** himself) as usual was brilliant, catering for our every need, even some retail therapy. An amazing weekend. Go ahead, don't be afraid to travel alone, you will be looked after. Contact them and go on their mailing or email list. *Paerau Taylor, Newsletter Editor.*



REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST



Tregidga started arranging these dinners about 6 years ago.

A happy afternoon was enjoyed by Club Members and partners at the **Mid-Year Luncheon** at **Hello Manly** (Manly Village) on 15 August. The two venues sit side by side – we are very fortunate to have seven restaurants located in tiny Manly Village.

Earl Brookbanks, Bulletin Editor.

July/August have been great months for socialising despite the cold! Our newsletters usually feature a "Ramblers and Amblers" photo or two. This one features a very successful **Combined Dinner Group** comprising members of both the Hibiscus Coast and Gulf Harbour Clubs. This was held 30 July at **Maison Thai Restaurant** at Manly Village. 41 patrons attended being the largest turnout since George



REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH

What remarkable talks we had from our two speakers at the August club meeting! **Ursula Schneider** spoke about her moving experience at the 2022 **Passion Play in Oberammergau**. This picturesque village in Bavaria vowed in 1633 to hold the play every 10 years if God would deliver them from the Plague. Since then, nobody there has died from the disease. Over 500,000 visitors attend the play which features village actors and animals.

Dr Cynric Temple-Camp, a Palmerston North pathologist, gave a very enlightening answer, with pictures, to the question: **“Was the artist Van Gogh’s death murder or suicide?”** Dr Temple-Camp’s research-based conclusion was “murder”, contrary to popular opinion. This was a very well presented and amusing talk. Members at our meeting eagerly purchased the third book *The Final Diagnosis – Obscure Cases of Death, Disease & Murder* written by Dr Temple-Camp. Proceeds from the sales of his books go to the Grassroots Trust Rescue Helicopter.

A fun morning of **indoor games**, together with a pizza lunch, was held at the home of one of our Committee members, **Jenny Brookes**. A repeat testing of skills is scheduled. *Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor.*

You're not fat, you're just easier to see.

REBUS CLUB OF PETONE

Our **Speaker** for July was **Jason Bei on Acupuncture**. The population is aging and bringing a greater incidence of chronic diseases. Traditional Chinese medicine is more than 2,500 years old and is practised and taught in many health centres. It has a holistic approach and the focus is on the human body instead of diseases. It follows the energy flow and natural healing. It can be highly effective for pain, neuropathy and neuralgia, sleep cycles, imbalance and symptoms of PTSD. It can help with substance abuse and trauma, addiction, mental distress and pain.

Morning Tea at the Boulcott Farm Café

We had a great turnout of members to the morning tea, needing 2 tables to accommodate everyone. *Sharyn Bowen.*



REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH

SHORT TALK – Dr Chris Sissons - A career amongst microbes in the mouth

With over 1000 species of bacteria now recognized, there are probably about 300 in any one mouth. These bacteria support, feed, repel, attack, and specifically attach to each other, and some just swim around. This results in an extraordinarily complex set of communities in an ecosystem, interacting with saliva and meals. It can be compatible with oral health or turn pathogenic, causing caries or gum disease.

GUEST SPEAKER – Robyn Scott, Executive Director of the JR McKenzie Trust

The JR McKenzie Trust is a philanthropic family trust that has been grantmaking in Aotearoa New Zealand since 1940. Known for funding groups and initiatives that often struggle to get grants elsewhere, the JRM Trust distributes allocated funds through a variety of approaches and mechanisms to organisations that align with their vision of a socially just and inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand. Their funding is made possible by dividends received each year from Rangatira Investments, a company established by Sir J R McKenzie in 1937.

Garden Group: We had a very interesting talk and demonstration by **Masako Crawford**, who gave us an insight into the history of **Ikebana**. Masako demonstrated by creating some delightful floral arrangements. *Sharon Maojor, Newsletter Editor.*



CAMBRIDGE MEN’S REBUS CLUB



The August meeting hosted **Jo Davies-Colley, Chair of the Cambridge Community Board** as **Guest Speaker**. Jo provided an update of current developments in the town, as well as providing details of Cambridge’s sister-city relationships with Le Quesnoy (France) and Bihoro (Japan).

Club Member, Keith Grala shared his experiences as a migrant from South Africa in the 1980’s, and his role at NZ Steel.

New member, John Landers, was inducted into the Club by President Alan Wellington. *Nigel Salter.*



TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB



Naughty humans have been fermenting honey and turning it into mead for 8,000 years, give or take. At **Taupo Beehave Meadery** they're using this ancient indulgence as a launching pad for the exploration of flavour. And 25 members from Taupo Moana Rebus Club visited here in August. (Happened to be the 65th Wedding Anniversary of two of our members). We had a lovely time and had a tour of the meadery and then sample-tasting of five of their wonderful flavours. It was noted that many bought a few bottles to take home and enjoy. Well worth a visit next time you are in Taupo!

Christine Bailey, Editor.

PAPANUI REBUS CLUB

Our Speaker at the August meeting was **Greta Bond from Age Concern Canterbury**. She spoke about the services they provided, such as Elder Abuse. Service Providers have been vetted and police checked to can carry out home maintenance for over 65's.



On Tuesday 20th August, 29 members enjoyed each other's company and the Super Gold Card discounts at local (Redwood) venue, **Coasters Tavern**, for a long lunch at two long tables with reasonably priced meals.

Linda Barnes, President.



COMBINED REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC.



(L) At the last meeting Ian gave us a very informative talk about the NZ wars and the part his family played in them.

(R) Dianne Macaskill's address was – 'UNESCO - memory of the world'. A fascinating insight into preserving our history.



The Walking Group's second walk of the month was in the **Kotuku Park** area. We did a bit of exploring around the area and found a lookout and a little historic cemetery, followed by a drink (of the hot variety) at the **Jolly Pub on Mazengarb**. We were very lucky to get our walk in as the weather was decidedly dodgy!

Steve Hutchison, Bulletin Editor.

Research shows that six out of seven dwarves are not happy.

REBUS CLUB HAMILTON

From the **Editor**: *What self-respecting gentleman/guy could possibly resist this invitation for some man-time?*

MAINLY MEN'S GROUP – Bernie Kenrick (0212 *****) The **Men's Group** gather fortnightly to share in the company of unparalleled male intellect, to resolve many worldwide issues and savour our tea or coffee with the best date scones in town. The Space Museum in Kihikihi is on the agenda for the 4th September and will be followed on 18th September with our usual tea, coffee and scones – 10am at Matte Black Café.

Extracted from their Newsletter, thanks to Kath Kenrick, Newsletter Editor. Ed.

If at first you don't succeed, then Skydiving is not for you.

PUKENAMU REBUS CLUB INC.

OUTING: 15 members recently visited the Head Office of **Newtech Bathroomware**, "New Zealand's leader in innovative bathroom products", in the Mill Road industrial area. The orders are programmed in the front office, then passed to the CNC machines that machine and drill the material, then along to the various stations to be assembled and packed for dispatch. Everything is automated, except the assembly. The factory is very clean with many extractors removing the dust. Larger offcuts are barcoded, stored and can be brought back for



another job as required. The staff were all very friendly, the younger ones were out front on the computers

and the older ones in the factory. The two who showed us around had started there straight from school. This complex was well worth the visit, and it is a feather in the cap for Wanganui. We finished the morning with lunch at the **Citadel** in Castlecliff. *Helen Goldfinch, Newsletter Editor.*



RED BEACH LADIES' REBUS CLUB

We were delighted to have the Red Beach Ladies participate in the combined Membership Drive at Coast Plaza on 20th August. A good deal of interest was shown, and hopefully they will have attracted new members – time will tell.



I am forever the optimist, and Spring is definitely on its way. This August edition seems to have bucked the trend of recent months where the number of contributors has been increasing, but it is still packed with interesting reading, and has hopefully given you some ideas for your own club. Here is a little bunch of spring joy as a "thank you" to the regulars for keeping in touch with news of your activities. Without you, there would be no Rebus Club News.

A meeting was recently held in Orewa, attended by representatives from six local clubs, to discuss the sharing of information on trips, speakers, membership etc. Rebus Club News has been described as "***the glue that holds the clubs together***". Your bright ideas can be shared with like-minded folk around the country ***if*** you send your news. to rebusclubnews@gmail.com

Till next month, stay safe, stay warm, and wear a mask if you wish, to protect yourself from Covid and the winter bugs.



Jean,

Editor, Rebus Club News.