



REBUS CLUB NEWS

September 2021

*[Email:rebusclubnews@gmail.com](mailto:rebusclubnews@gmail.com)

On this beautiful sunny day, welcome to the September edition of Rebus Club News. It is only three months to Christmas, and it is official, Spring is here – glorious sunny days interspersed with heavy showers and winds from every direction imaginable. By the time you read this, the clocks will have sprung forward. I really should be planning the summer garden, but so far, the plans are still in my head, and not yet put into action. I need a few more warm days for that. Here in Auckland, we are still in lockdown level three – sometimes it feels as though we have been doing this for so long it is the new norm – other times we eagerly look forward to our freedom, and the opportunities to once again congregate with our family, friends, neighbours, and fellow club members. But in the meantime, please stay safe, we have come too far for all our efforts to be squandered now. (There are some funnies on the last page).



“In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.” — Margaret Atwood

REBUS CLUB OREWA



At the August meeting our President, Robert Letcher, welcomed four new members. Left to right:

Janet Larkman, Maureen Lally, Trisha McLean, Colin Langford.

Welcome to you all. We hope you enjoy the fellowship and the activities our club has to offer.
Maureen Grigg, Bulletin Editor.

THAMES BONANZA CLUB

If any of us have been feeling a little disheartened with the current lockdown and related uncertainty, one only had to watch some of the amazing athletes competing in the Paralympics.

I feel humbled by their achievements, and by their wonderful outlook on life. On behalf of our President and Committee, stay safe and take care of yourselves.

Gary Meek, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF RIVERSIDE HAMILTON.

The club has purchased a new BANNER which was on display at the last meeting. Pictured is President Carol with the new banner.



“When I was a young adult growing up in Epsom, our neighbour across the road was Max Cryer. In his book, *Curious Questions*, Max talks about the song “**Happy Birthday**” which we sing to our Rebus Club members who are celebrating birthdays. According to Max the song was written by two sisters in Kentucky, Patty Hill, and Mildred Smith. They intended it to be a song for starting the school day in the schoolroom, and it was called ‘**Good Morning to All**’. That was copyrighted by the sisters, including the tune, in 1893. But in 1924 a pirate publisher printed it without permission, and altered the words, without permission, from ‘Good Morning’ to ‘Happy Birthday’. This was a huge success, and the

song was sung all over the world and republished several times, until one of the Hill sisters got sick of it and sued. She won the case, and the court declared in 1935 that the tune of 'Happy Birthday' was owned by the Hill sisters, and every time it is used commercially, a royalty payment must be made to the Hill family." Warwick Bowden.

**The Pessimist complains about the wind; the Optimist expects it to change;
the Realist adjusts the sails.**

WEST AUCKLAND MEN'S REBUS CLUB



At the August meeting, the speaker was our very own Bill Fairs, on "My Life in Music".

In his second year at Mt Roskill Grammar School, Bill met Glen Hanford, who became his life-long friend. A teacher, Mr Howarth, wanted to start a military band, which led to Bill and the saxophone making a life-long connection.

The boys were into Dixieland which was very happy music and easy to listen to. Bill got in deeper and deeper, eventually discovering jazz, his musical love. Bill's friend and fellow musician, Jim Foley, opened a business in Vulcan Lane, The Loft. It featured a new marketing concept: shelves of record covers to browse. One day Bill saw an American pressing of Paris Concert, an album by Jerry Mulligan. Ever the dutiful son, Bill asked his parents if he could buy it, using the money he had earned with his paper round. They said of course; it was his money. But when he went back the following Friday, it was not there, but the purchaser was still there, Bob Paris, and it was the start of a very long friendship. They decided to form a band, Bob playing the steel guitar. They formed a quartet, performing on Friday and Saturday nights, at various venues, such as weddings and birthdays.



Arriving in London, Bill met with Charlie Gray, the drummer on the Howard Morrison tour, who was already in London. The band, the **Martin J 5**, was having a photo shoot, having just made an album. With Bill, the band now had 6 members, but they did not want to change the name. The band performed locally, at dances and in pubs and the like. The band entered a national competition and won the Surrey section. In the finals, in the Hammersmith Odeon they won £1,000. On the strength of this win, they played in the first-ever Rockn-n-Roll concert in the Albert Hall alongside the likes of Helen Shapiro, The Hollies and Kenny Ball and the Jazzmen. John Mihaljevic, Newsletter Editor.

Hi Jean, really enjoyed the Club News and every time I learn many things, enjoyed the "Funnies" especially "the Scottish Variant." I drew it on the back of an envelope to my brother in UK---The postman got a laugh! Keep up the good work and stay healthy! Regards, Peter.

RED BEACH LADIES' REBUS CLUB



We welcomed Gael Heard to our Club as a new member in August.

Covid has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house looking for food, we're told 'No' if we get too close to strangers, and we get really excited about car rides and walks.



Bobbie Wakenell, Newsletter Editor.

WAIKANAE MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB

On a brighter note, haven't our Paralympians been outstanding? Not only do they have to cope with what life in general, sends their way but do so with the added burden of their disability. They just get on with it . . . and with a smile. Wonderful to see.

Covid Home Test



Fill a glass with wine.

Smell it (and you can).

To double check, taste, then drink it (and you can taste it).

Then you do not have Covid.

So, remember, the more tests you do the better.

David Goggin, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH

During the COVID lockdowns, our Management Committee has kept things ticking over and communications made with our members via e-mails, telephone calls and a newsletter. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Rebus clubs in the Auckland area which, at the time of writing this, are still under tight restrictions.

Level 2 has enabled us to recommence club activities. Some of our members recently enjoyed dinner at a local restaurant. A group visited the Coach House Museum in Feilding to see the outstanding collection of rural New Zealand heritage – over 140 years of history “**from pioneering to prosperity**” in the Manawatu with a focus on horse drawn vehicles, vintage tractors, and farm machinery. Amongst the displays was a bath (pictured) made entirely of kauri – pure NZ luxury! Lunch at an Irish pub in Feilding finished off the outing nicely.



Dean Halford, President.

‘Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I’m not sure about the former.’ Albert Einstein.

REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT INC.

The Committee is pleased to announce that Diane Pritchard has been co-opted on to the committee to assist David Keenan with our finances.



Diane is a long-term resident of Upper Hutt, has worked for several not-for-profit organisations including Heretaunga College, HIBS, and Te Omanga Hospice. Her interests include Lead lighting, Mosaics, Gardening, and Music.

Alex Attewell, Newsletter Editor.

***Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strengths.**

***Why do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?**

***Courage is knowing it might hurt and doing it anyway.**

Stupidity is the same. That is why life is hard. Jeremy Goldberg

REBUS CLUB OF PETONE

COVID CORNER: These lockdowns are getting annoying and quite frankly I've had enough. I've discussed the matter over a cup of tea with the kitchen sink, and we both agree that the experience is draining. I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts the wrong spin on everything. Same with the fridge. He only gives cold shoulder. I asked the lamp, but she couldn't shed any new light on the situation. The vacuum cleaner was rather rude and told me to suck it up Princess. The threshold was no better, it suggested I get over it. The carpet advised me to sweep my feelings under the rug. But the fan was more upbeat and thought that the crisis would soon blow over. The toilet looked a bit flushed and didn't offer an opinion. The wall didn't say a word either, just gave me a blank stare. The doorknob was more forthcoming - told me to get a firm grip on the situation and move on. The front door declared I was unhinged and so the curtains told me to - you guessed it - pull myself together. Then the chair told me to table it, and the table remarked, I didn't have a leg to stand on. When I told the table to break a leg, the mirror said that my comments reflected poorly on my thinking. However, in the end, the iron set things straight. She said everything will be fine. No situation is too pressing for long anyway.

Valerie Wenk, Bulletin Editor.

REBUS CLUB CAMBRIDGE

Walking Group: Due to Covid, the last few walks had to be cancelled. But now that Level #2 will allow gatherings we are hoping to get back up and running (walking!) later this month.



August Birthday Meeting: Photos from L to R: The beautiful birthday cake: Steve O'Sullivan and Pam Hay cutting the cake: Brenda Rameka and Linda Roil being presented with knitted garments by Ann Maclure on behalf of the knitting group. Brenda gave us a short talk on "Grandparents raising grandchildren." *Steve O'Sullivan, Newsletter Editor.*

REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR



Lockdown in Auckland has severely affected our Club activities this month again! However, you can't keep a great Club down. We have established a telephone tree where each Club member receives a phone call from a different Committee Member each week to preserve the Club's collegiality through this unsocial time.

But wait! There's more! Our Committee Members continue to meet virtually using this modern technology, although at times, it seems little different from our Victorian predecessors!

Peter Odendaal, Secretary.

WOMEN'S REBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAE

Memories – by Mary Paddock

I was cutting up dates to make a slice when I said to my husband “Dates were a luxury, only seen at Christmas when I was a girl.” This led me on to remember that dates came in an oblong box that had a wooden top and base. When the dates had been eaten and the box empty, I used to take the wooden pieces, strap them to my feet and clatter around the lino-covered floor (no one had carpets in those days) and pretend I was a tap dancer!

Love it, Mary. Such memories are priceless. Ed.

My wife was standing nude, looking in the bedroom mirror. She was not happy with what she saw and said to me, “I feel horrible; I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment.” I replied, “Your eyesight’s damn near perfect.” And then the fight started.

PUKENAMU REBUS CLUB INC. WANGANUI

The committee has decided that due to the uncertainty of what the Covid levels will be and any new restrictions, we will postpone the Birthday Lunch in October and combine our Christmas Function with a late Birthday Lunch.

SCAM ALERT: Two members have had their credit cards fraudulently scammed recently. You can lose a lot of money very quickly. If you suspect an email, the sender’s address will often contain words or letters (e.g. ending in .jp when you don’t know anyone in Japan) that should make you suspicious. Scam emails often contain poor grammar/incorrect spelling. If anything goes wrong, check your credit card transaction online and contact your bank IMMEDIATELY.



Two little boys were at a wedding, when one leaned over to the other and asked, “How many wives can a man have?”

His friend replied, “Sixteen – four better, four worse, four richer and four poorer.”

Lyn van Gemerden.

Helen Goldfinch, Newsletter Editor.

COMBINED REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC.

Some of our activity groups are still able to function, and I’m pleased that such groups keep the club in good heart. The world is different now and clubs like ours will play an important part going forward. Whilst we won’t see each other in the coming weeks, keep smiling and keep in touch with one another. *Steve Hutchison, Presidential Scribe.*

Those readers who attended the Rebus NZ Inc. AGM will recall the MC, Board Member Nigel Dougan, and his hilarious way with words. Here is another contribution from Nigel, recalling incidents involving one of his pet Labradors, prompted by a club member who has just acquired a Labrador pup - who steals food (as they all do). Ed.

“This little story takes me back to the early 1970s when we took delivery of our first lab, one **Kenstaff Jude** (known to us as “Sweep”). He too liked his food. One day when still little more than a puppy, we took him for a walk in a field that had previously contained a group of pigs. We knew they were pigs because of what they had left behind – most of which “Sweep” managed to cram into his stomach before we finally caught him. Shortly after arriving home, he used our patio as a depository. Clearing it took a while, but goodness me, our roses did splendidly that year!!

When Mary and I emigrated to New Zealand, “Sweep” followed us by sea. We travelled up to Auckland to meet him off the ship, we went on board and waited on an upper deck. The bosun brought him up from a lower deck and we both leant forward to receive his unbridled display of joy at seeing us again. As we reached out to him, he did a nifty side-step, ran past us and out of sight. We went off in pursuit and quickly found him – in the galley! His demeanour towards us and physical appearance suggested he had spent a lot of time in that galley!”

Nigel Dougan.

The Ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands at moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. Martin Luther King Jr.

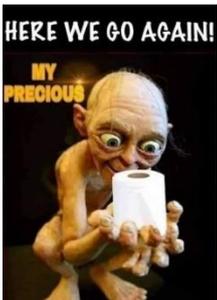
REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI

August Guest Speaker: (Pilot Academy Wanganui). Oliver was a substitute speaker for the CEO of the Academy, Phil Bedford. Oliver is an instructor at the Academy and gave us an insight as to what is involved in the training of the pilots through the Academy, including the costs involved for the international students and domestic students. He also mentioned the planes and accommodation that is available to the students and gave us a rundown of the courses they must pass to achieve the different grades of licence. Oliver was barraged with a flurry of questions which he answered very well to the satisfaction of most members.

***At my age** I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant and I don't have acne. Life is great. I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now. Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers. I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row. I decided to stop calling the bathroom "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning. Linden McLean.*

Paerau Taylor, Newsletter Editor.

TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB



What Covid Cannot Do.

It cannot cripple LOVE. It cannot shatter HOPE. It cannot corrode FAITH. It cannot eat away PEACE. It cannot destroy FRIENDSHIP. It cannot suppress MEMORIES. It cannot silence COURAGE. It cannot invade the SOUL. It cannot steal eternal LIFE. It cannot conquer the SPIRIT.

Don't let your age control your life, let your life control your age.

Christine Bailey, Bulletin Editor.

HOKOWHITU REBUS CLUB



Thanks Joan and Bernard for organising the games for our birthday celebration and also to Marie and her team for the lovely morning tea.

Left: Fast, but was that fast enough to catch the rat?

Right: Anyone for hockey?

"Everything you need to be amazing is already inside you."

Bernard and Joan Letts.



REBUS CLUB OF FEILDING

Speaker at our August meeting was Maryanne Pratt-Hewson – "Volunteering in Vanuatu." Maryanne was an early childhood teacher who moved to Malakula Island, Vanuatu as a volunteer with VSA for 2 years. They had a house with cold running water and enough electricity to boil the jug or plug in the toaster but not at the same time. They lived and worked right beside the sea. Maryanne had a Peace Corps volunteer working with her. They explored other islands, visited Kindies in the province and always took pencils & books, which don't last long because of the high humidity. Every village has a local language and they learnt pidgin English with a bit of French thrown in. The locals are quite religious and were very hospitable and cooked the meals. Maryanne wore her colourful cotton dress and showed us her photo album.



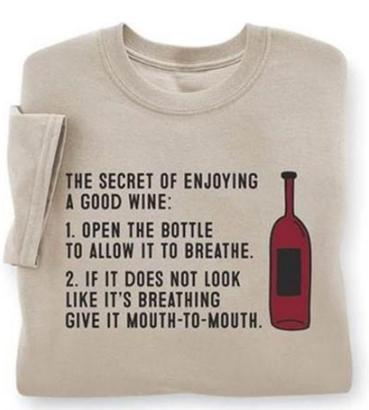
Lyn Jensen.

Phew!! I thought this month's edition was going to be a bit skinny, but upon re-reading it, I think there is a little something for everyone, and a few chuckles to lift the spirit. It's great to learn how our Clubs are coping with the various levels of lockdown to keep in contact with members and thank you for your news.

But please, please, please may I once more request you send your contributions directly to me at rebusclubnews@gmail.com as at the head of every edition. Some are still being sent to Admin where they could be overlooked amongst the large amount of mail Admin receives. I do not want to miss one single item. So, until next month, stay safe.



Jean (Editor, Rebus Club News)



I miss the good old days...
When you could actually
have an opinion without
Offending somebody.



Palmerston North Bookshop



Working from home, but missing the train trips.