



# REBUS CLUB NEWS

November 2023

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

Welcome to the last edition of Rebus Club News for 2023. Can you believe it? One month from today will be Christmas Day with all the tinsel, ham, and strawberries you can imagine. Some of the diehards amongst us still opt for the traditional turkey and Christmas pudding – old habits. To date only the Christmas cake and pudding have been crossed off my To-do list. For most clubs, this is a time to celebrate the festive season with a wine-and-dine-commando-course, and enjoy good friends and fellowship. It seems many restaurants will be glad of our custom this year.



Looking back over 2023, the majority of clubs are ticking over nicely, a few are positively thriving, and sadly one will be closing. Wanganui hosted the AGM in May, and pushed the boat out with their kindness and hospitality. And now we have a new government. Life is always changing, hopefully for the better in most cases. So, for the last time this year, pour yourself something delicious, and settle in for a catchup of all things Rebus, sent in by our contributors.

## REBUS CLUB CAMBRIDGE

Last week, a group of members visited the **Tree Church in Ohaupo**. It is the only one of its kind in NZ (and at one time the only one in the world, we were told). We had an informative talk from the owner, followed by a “bring a plate” morning tea. *Steve O’Sullivan, Newsletter Editor.*



## REBUS CLUB OF RIVERSIDE HAMILTON



Bowentown and Shelly Bay last month.

New members profile: **Bruce Jackson and Sou Ea**. Bruce and Sou were formally inducted into the club last month. Welcome, Bruce and Sou.



Left: A large group of happy trampers enjoyed the day at *Steve O’Sullivan, Presidential Scribe.*

## AVONDALE LADIES’ REBUS CLUB

**Morning tea:** An epicurean feast as befitting our 32nd birthday was provided by members and organised by Linda and Carroll. Entertainment was provided by Soozie who presented a medley of favourite songs, she is also a mean yodeller, who knew? Thankyou Soozie. The party theme was *comfort wear* and members showed off their finest slippers.

*Barbara Douglas, Newsletter Editor.*

“People who wonder if the glass is half empty or full miss the point.  
The glass is refillable.”



## WAIRERE REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI



The Council's Stained-Glass Windows visit was not only interesting but also very beautiful, detailed, quite exquisite, and certainly informative. It was led by a young, but extremely knowledgeable lass who kept us all enthralled. Ten members attended.

*Margaret.*

**“Beautiful young people are accidents of nature,  
but beautiful old people are works of art”.**

*Eleanor Roosevelt.*

## THAMES BONANZA REBUS CLUB

Neil John and Betty Holmes gave us a fascinating talk about **Kiwi Care in the Coromandel**. They do a wonderful job in trapping predators and tagging the male birds with transmitters so they can monitor the numbers. Kiwis have a life span of approx. 70 years. Photo: some of our members mesmerised by this wonderful talk.

*Celia Newby.*



## WAITAKERE COMBINED REBUS CLUB



October was our Birthday Month, so we celebrated it with cake cutting by two founder members. The theme was **Spring**, and some members came dressed in lovely, decorated hats. Morning tea was a shared one with a variety of sweets and savouries. Following this we had a singer from another club

who entertained us with a variety of songs.



*Phyllis Greenland.*

*Hi Jean,*

*Just read the current Rebus News, once again a brilliant effort on your part!! It's a great way for seniors to get a "feel" of what's happening out there!!! Raymond, (West Auckland Men's Rebus).*

## REBUS CLUB OREWA



Our **Guest Speaker** in October was **Botanical Artist and Tutor, Lesley Alexander** who has an Honours Degree in Graphic Design. Botanical Art started in ancient times when medical interest in the human body began. Pen and ink botanical illustrations are held by learning institutions as a record of species no longer grown or under threat of extinction, or for botanists to learn from existing species.

Right: At our November meeting President Janet Larkman inducted **Eileen and Bob Clarke** to our Club. Welcome to you both and we hope you enjoy the friendship and activities our Club has to offer.



*Maureen Grigg, Bulletin Editor.*

## REBUS CLUB OF FOXTON

**Maureen Jensen.** Maureen, an Arts Access Advocate, water colour artist, passionate photographer, and founder of the **Seated Photographers**, spoke inspirationally about her life in a wheelchair mid-life. Maureen and fellow photographers view the world from a different perspective, lower to the ground and often awkward. The good thing is she 'can see the world through the eyes of a child, and that's pretty neat' she said.

**Sheryl Leiser** showing us how it's done at **Feilding Mini Golf** at the Foxton Rebus Day out at their excellent Course in October. We later enjoyed lunch at **Beyond Coffee Café** on Manchester Square.

*Dereley Barry.*



---

## REBUS WAIHEKE ISLAND

**The Mini Speaker was Tania Sweet** who spoke about her recent trip to **Bhutan**, a country of 700,000 people nestled in the eastern region of the Himalayas. It has remained a country where age old customs and traditions are still part of the everyday lives of the people, even while modernisation, development and the strains of global influence are felt more and more. Before 1968 there were no roads, no currency (people used barter) and no international airport. It was closed to the outside world. As it is so mountainous one has to go over high mountain passes from one valley to the next, there are 23 different languages, they do now have a national language, but all schooling is in English, and their education is excellent. They are compassionate, respectful, and spontaneous. They have a close affinity with and respect for nature. It is the first carbon negative country in the world. If you are interested there is a lovely film on YouTube, "**Lunana – A Yak in the Classroom**".

*Tania Sweet, Newsletter Editor.*

---

## WEST AUCKLAND MEN'S REBUS CLUB

On Friday 3rd November, **Vincent Marshall who is a Grants Advisor in Auckland Council**, sent me and Bill Mutch an email which said, "Congratulations on your successful grant application QR2421-115, to 2023/2024 **Whau Quick Response Round One.**" We had applied for \$1,000 which is the maximum amount an organisation that is not an Incorporated Society can obtain from a Local Board by way of a grant. We now have the money needed to purchase a lapel wireless microphone system. The items we are buying are professional quality and would have been out of our reach without the grant. The quote from Magness Sound Systems submitted with the grant application showed a cost of \$1,243.11 ex GST. Above right: Sennheiser Digital Wireless Microphone System with Omni Lapel Microphone and Bodypack Transmitter.



*Vince Middeldorp, Secretary.*

---

## REBUS CLUB OF WHANGAMATA

Our **October Speaker** this month was one of our members, **Jan Collins**. In 2021 Jan published a book entitled the **Hidden Scars of Polio**. Jan contracted polio at the age of 11 in the New Zealand epidemic of 1952. In her talk Jan reflected on what it was like to have polio and her life-long journey to recover and grow from it. This was an inspiring talk and there were lots of questions and discussion following it.

Our **November Speaker** was **Richard Twoomey**, who told us about his experiences working for the **New Zealand Urban Search and Rescue (NZUSAR)** organisation. NZUSAR is part of the New Zealand Fire and Emergency organisation, established in 2000. It is a specialised search and rescue team trained to respond to natural or man-made disasters such as earthquakes, floods and building collapses. NZUSAR faced its first major emergency when it responded to the disastrous Christchurch earthquake on 22 February 2011. Richard and the 150 NZUSAR staff worked tirelessly to cut through rubble, rescue people and recover the bodies. The New Zealand teams were assisted by urban rescue teams from seven countries, who brought their own rescue equipment. Among these teams were 66 personnel from Japan. A New Zealand USAR team was able to repay them after a huge earthquake and tsunami hit north-east Japan just three weeks later.

*Leyden Baker, Bulletin Editor.*

## REBUS CLUB OF MANAWATU



**NOVEMBER SPEAKER:** Colin Fink visited the Antarctic as a surveyor over four summers from 1978 to 1982. We shared his experiences of extreme cold, amazing, and beautiful scenery, camping, hiking, and climbing in the course of his work. The most moving were his descriptions

of working on surveying the scene and assisting helpers in the aftermath of the DC-10 crash on Mt Erebus in 1979.

**OCTOBER OUTING:** An absorbing visit to the activity centre in the PNCC library where locals use laser printers, sophisticated carpentry and sewing machines and much more. Rt: some of the items made with laser cutters. *Margie Comrie.*



## RED BEACH LADIES' REBUS CLUB LAST MONTH'S OUTING TO RYDERS



What a great time was had by all that day starting with a pleasant bus ride to Avondale for a cup of tea, before the start of the movie, "Fishermen's Friends" featuring those sea



shanty fisherfolk in Port Isaac, Cornwall. This was followed by a scrumptious roast meal prepared by our host, with an ice-cream for dessert. These photos say it all.

*Bobbie Wakenell, Newsletter Editor.*

## REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH

### Trip to Raupara Springs Garden, Marlborough Festival.



Following a very delayed start to the trip, due to the Bluebridge Ferry hitting the wharf as it was leaving Wellington, 19 of our members had a wonderful three days at the **Garden Marlborough Festival**. We enjoyed two full-day garden tours, visiting nine extensive and beautiful country gardens, including three gardens of National Significance. The gardens were varied

in age and design, some formal, most with 'garden rooms' and one a native garden planted in a formal style. On the other day, members chose to do a half-day garden tour, a workshop, a Wine Tour, or to investigate the attractions of Blenheim. We enjoyed some lovely dinners, one at the **Scotch Wine Bar** where the Chef owner shouted the happy diners a vodka shot.



*Jenny Cornelius.*

**Anyone who believes that men are the equal of women,  
has never seen a man trying to wrap a Christmas present.** Anon.

**I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him  
in a department store and he asked for my autograph.** Shirley Temple.

## REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH

On 7 November, **Marilyn Laing** was elected to **Life Membership** of our Club for outstanding service as President, Committee member and for support to the Club in many ways. She was presented with a framed certificate and a **Rebus NZ Life Member brooch**.

**Club Speaker, Carolyn Wirth**, was raised in Montreal and recalled the 1970 FLQ Crisis when the Quebec independence movement attempted to overthrow the government. With her parents and fiancé, Carolyn moved to the Canadian West before coming to NZ to accept an appointment at Massey University. She obtained a PhD and lectured in finance.



**The Guest Speaker was Dennis O'Rourke**, a retired NZ Police officer who had previously served in the Royal NZ Navy as a communications officer.

Some of our members experienced a wonderful three-day tour of 13 gardens in the **Taranaki Garden Festival**. We admired a variety of designs and plantings and had a great social time. Despite changing weather, we were also favoured to get some glorious views of Mt Egmont. *Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor*

---

## REBUS CLUB OF PETONE



Left: Members enjoying lunch at **Flighty's Café** at the Judgeford Golf Club. Good food in a lovely setting.

Right: Coffee at **Revive** in Petone. Always a good turnout.

*Sharyn Bowen.*



---

## SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB



Martinborough's **Bill Dolan** was head of the NZ Embassy in Iran until the arrival of ambassador Chris Beebe in March 1978, as the initial riots broke out. Unlike US and UK diplomats, who lived in gated compounds, Kiwis lived in the Tehran community. Bill, with his wife and two children (9 & 7) rented a house that had a mosque over the back fence. He was aware that services at the mosque became longer and there was much loud rhetoric after students at the seminaries started to protest, first about the death of Khomeini's son and then, 40 days later, the deaths of the students killed during the first protest. Riots and strikes were endemic through 1978 and the Shah stepped down in January 1979. In all this confusion, Bill was responsible for organising evacuation for up

to 150 Kiwis, arranging a C130 plane on standby in Bahrein, and then running the NZ Embassy to Iran from NZ House in London. He returned to New Zealand to organise the visit of three mullahs to inspect halal killing in NZ freezing works.

*David Woodhams, Newsletter Editor.*

---

## WAIKANAE MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB INC.



At the November meeting President Bruce Scott inducted and welcomed **Robert Johnson** to our Club. Cathy Mitchell was his sponsor.

**My ability to remember song lyrics from the 60s, 70s and 80s far exceeds my ability to remember why I walked into the kitchen.**

*David Goggin, Newsletter Editor.*

## REBUS CLUB OF MT. HOBSON

New members inducted on 7th November were **Ron Carter, John Farrell, and Maurice Mehlhopt**, all introduced by Fraser Boddy.

**Golf at Omaha:** 20 sprightly gentlemen enjoyed warm calm conditions at the well-presented **Omaha Golf Club** on Tuesday 14th November and although some found the competition rules difficult, the team of Berrill, Alley, Johnston, and R. Brown won the teams event, and **John Berrill** was adjudged the individual Stapleford winner with 43 points. A rerun of this event has been requested for next year. Thanks to the sponsors for the day - Marisco/Ned Wines and Delmaine Foods.

*Chris de Boer, Newsletter Editor.*

---

## REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI

**Visit to Ed Boyd's Car & Wanganui Memorabilia Museum, Wednesday 25th October 2023.**



Left: **Ian Chamberlain**, long-time friend of the late Ed Boyd. and the clever man who built the musical vehicle, right.

*Paerau Taylor, Ed.*



---

## REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST



Our November meeting was a "bonus" month in terms of membership. President Garth inducted three new members, **Andy Martin, Graeme Barlow, and Malcolm Macaskill**. And we welcomed back Graeme Newton. **Our Guest Speaker was Keith Gordon** who addressed us on the tragic wreck of the **SS Ventnor** which sank off the Hokianga Heads in 1902 while heading for Hong Kong.

Although most of the crew survived, the ship was carrying 499 coffins with the remains of Chinese miners from the Otago goldfields to be returned to China for burial. Unfortunately, all were lost. The wreck was discovered in 2012 in 150 metres of water.

On Thursday 16th, we visited the **Manly Bowling Club** for a session of lawn bowls followed by a BBQ lunch. 27 members and spouses enjoyed the delightful weather with 20 playing bowls for a couple of hours, the extras joining in for the steak, sausages, salad, and rolls for lunch. The bar was open and the company pleasant. *Paul Robinson, Bulletin Editor.*



---

## WOMEN'S REBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAE



**Guest Speaker was Tricia Noble-Beasley** spoke to us about the olive oil growing and marketing on Noble Estate which she and husband Robert have had since 2000. **Noble** is their name, and olives are known as the '**noble fruit**'. The rocky clay type soil and the climate in Kapiti are both key factors in olive growing – there are 30,000 olive trees between here and Levin.

By 2007 they were selling their oil at Park Avenue market, which had five stalls, but now has up to one hundred. They grow Mission and Frantorio varieties. The olives change from green (bitterness) to red (fruitiness) to black (pungency). Judges look for a balance of these three qualities in oil.

After picking, the olives are sent to a Press in the Wairarapa, and an oil sample is sent to Australia to be analysed. New Zealand oils enjoy a high standard of quality.

*Mary Paddock, Newsletter Editor.*

**'You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.'** Victor Hugo, "Les Misérables".

## WARKWORTH MEN'S REBUS CLUB

A different location for our Committee Meeting?

The Committee normally meets in the TV room at the nearby **Summerset Falls Retirement Village**, as several of the Committee are Residents there. BUT this month we met **outside**, in the fresh air and early summer sunshine, thanks the hospitality of our **President Stephen**. His **QEII Pavilion** was built over the water tank with a view across the garden to the covenanted bush. The meeting went as normal, with volunteers agreeing to do certain jobs, and the usual good humour. Scones with cream and jam, along with tea or coffee certainly improved everyone's disposition. We have not decided whether to 'committee al-fresco' again! Have we generated a competition for "**The Most Unusual Place for a Meeting**"?

*Robert Dye, Secretary.*



---

## KOWHAI REBUS CLUB OF BETHLEHEM



**President Pauline Hetherington and Past President Tony Hopkinson** cutting the Clubs 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake.

In August & October, President Pauline welcomed our newest two members, **Noeline Hamill, and Diane Howell**.

**Last month's Main Speaker:** was **Eli Hopkinson, the grandson of former President, Hoppy**. Eli and the group of 24 pupils and adults from Aquinas College spent a 15-day exchange in Hitachi, a sister city to Tauranga, that is an hour's train trip from Tokyo. For the first part of the trip, they were home hosted in Hitachi, a small city. They then went to Tokyo, a city of almost 14 million people and were overwhelmed by the hustle and bustle as the city operated. All pupils and parents want to return. *Marie Mabey, Newsletter Editor.*

---

## REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR

At our November meeting, the **Guest Speaker was Tania Adams, Pharmacist, from Manly Pharmacy**, who gave a very informative address about arthritis, and the many products available to treat the condition. She stressed the importance of our being able to talk to the pharmacy staff, who do not wish to be seen merely as dispensers of pills, but have a wealth of knowledge of the products they sell, and which are most suitable for you.



On 23<sup>rd</sup> November a party of 16 members visited **Auckland Zoo**, hoping not to be drowned-out as happened on our previous visit. But glorious weather prevailed this time, and our own member, Gill Wild who is a Zoo Volunteer, gave us a personal conducted tour. It's not *what* you know . . . . Thank you, Gill, it was a great day out. *J. McIntosh, Editor.*

---

## TAURANGA CENTRAL LADIES' REBUS CLUB

In recent months our club has seen a membership revival. The committee has planned ahead with entertaining speakers and, next year a day trip will be high on the agenda. This month saw 3 new members inducted at our November meeting. This takes our new roll up to 66 with two prospective members. The committee is delighted with this ongoing interest. In the photo below - left are our new members.

Our November meeting was well attended, with extra visitors. **Colour Consultant, Katie Maber**, spoke to us about her work and how it changed her life. Two of our members were volunteers to have their colours done with plenty of interaction from the main group. A wonderfully entertaining day was had by all. *Lyn Hartley, President.*



**New Members** L to R: Maureen Stevens, Robyn McGowan, Elaine McMillan, Jill King, and Lyn Hartley (Pres).

L to R: Sue Knightly, Katie Maber (Consultant,) Barbara Fincham, and Wynn Love.

**COMBINED REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC.**

**20-year Celebration.** A **Certificate of Attainment** has been received from Rebus NZ Inc. and will be on display at the meeting on 5 December. There are ten foundation members still involved with the club and they will be presented with a Certificate of Attainment. Foundation Members are to be advised of the 20-year celebration.



**Melbourne Cup Day.** Winner of the lady's hat competition was **Wyn Taylor** with **Roger Pitchforth** taking out the prize for the best tie.

We learned a lot about our local **Age Concern** organisation from **Susan Church and Julie Hodson.** *Steve Hutchison, Bulletin Editor.*



**PUKENAMU REBUS CLUB INC.**



**Club Speaker Mike Naylor** explained why he became an entertainer. Born in England to Cockney/Eastend parents, he was a fat, sickly child who had a lot of time off school. Then the family decided to emigrate to NZ, hoping to ease his bronchitis. Mike struggled to read but he was very good at maths and because of his reading difficulties he was a great storyteller. And it was after meeting his wife Sue that they decided to specialize as entertainers.

*Helen Goldfinch, Newsletter Editor.*

And that's a wrap for 2023. My sincere thanks to those club officers who have sent me their contribution to Rebus Club News, all 28 of you this month. I appreciate your time is precious, and the nearer we get to Christmas, the more pressed for time we become. I know some clubs wait with bated breath for Club News to arrive each month, not only to see their own contribution in print, but also to read what other clubs are doing. Conversely there are others who prefer to keep their activities a secret, but who benefit from the input of others. I would love to hear from the silent clubs, even if only to tell me why you do not wish to participate. I realise I cannot please everyone, but look forward to hearing from you. Perhaps a New Year's resolution?



Best wishes to you all for the festive season. However you celebrate, may you spend it with friends or family. Till 2024,



*Jean, Editor, Rebus Club News.*