



# REBUS CLUB NEWS

February 2025

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

This week in Orewa, Rebus NZ Inc. hosted the second area-meeting of clubs in the Rodney district, which I attended on behalf of the Rebus Club of Gulf Harbour. Meetings are held about every 3-4 months as a social gathering to compare notes, air problems, share ideas about trips and guest speakers, and generally chew the fat – a bit like Rebus Club News, only you don't have to read it. This idea may be something to think about for your own area, if you are not already doing so.

By the time you read this edition, March will be almost upon us, the month when most clubs hold their Annual General Meeting. After your AGM, please submit your club's re-affiliation form giving your Club Officers' details **at the same time** you make your payment of affiliation fees of \$3.75 per member, to enable both items to be matched up. **Here is the Jotform link:** <https://form.jotform.com/233429062868868>

After this month's edition of Rebus Club News, I will be chatting with you for only two more months, as **Steve O'Sullivan, the new Editor**, will be taking over from me after the Rebus NZ Inc. Annual General Meeting in Palmerston North in May. Every writer has his/her own style, so who knows, RCN may have a very different appearance from May. Like me or hate me, you have probably got used to me by now – eight years – eighty-eight editions, give or take a few – that's a lot of information, celebrations and sharing of ideas. Now here's a thought: Why not make a booking right now, using the jot-form which has been sent to all clubs, to attend the PN AGM, where you will have the opportunity to meet Steve, and the new Board Members. Go on, do it now, even if you attend only the AGM, which is free, but numbers are required please. It is **your** opportunity to air **your own** views, and swap ideas with others. You won't get a better chance than this. **Here is the Jotform link:** <https://form.jotform.com/230416675235859> So, that's enough from me, now for your news.

## REBUS CLUB OF FEILDING



**Lyal Brenton, Palmerston North Town Crier**, was our Speaker in November. Lyal was appointed in 2019 just prior to lockdown. He has been volunteering since he was 18 and loves to visit towns to cry. Traditionally he rings the bell and starts with Oyez, Oyez, Oyez and makes the proclamation (announcement) and always finishes with God Save the King. His livery was specially made from felted wool.

Our **Christmas Dinner** was held at the **Manawatu Marine Boating Club** at Foxton Beach. We car-pooled on the day, enjoying the view, the friendship and social time together. There were 22 lucky raffle prize winners. The Christmas cake was wrapped and placed in a cracker for the table. This was a lovely touch and the cake was delicious.

We held a **car rally** in January with 28 participants and ending up at Foxton for lunch. One car had the perfect kilometre reading and 4 teams had equal top score.

*Lyn Jensen.*

## REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH



Our very cheerful Christmas Lunch was enjoyed by almost 80 members at the **Pines, in Houghton Bay**, on 11 December. As we expected, the **Warblers** entertained us with Christmas carols, and lively conductor Ken Nelson encouraged us to join in. We were also treated to a delightful 'Doctor Doctor' skit performed by President Judy and her doctor husband Edwin.

**"Titanic: Unusual, Unknown, and Unbelievable."** **Graeme Jupp** is a professional cartographer, and is obsessed with the sinking of the Titanic. There was Violet Jessop, the stewardess who survived three shipwrecks – two sinkings and a collision;

and the youngest survivor at nine and a half weeks old, Millvina Dean, who died in 2009 aged 97. Her mother and younger brother survived the sinking, her father drowned. Almost 1,500 people died in the disaster. Clearly Graeme is one of the millions of people worldwide who are fascinated by the disaster. *Sharon Major, Newsletter Editor.*

**If Christmas isn't found in your heart, you won't find it under the tree.**

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### REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST



The Club held its annual summer picnic at the beautiful **Shakespeare Regional Park**. Being a scorcher most members positioned their chairs and tables in the dappled light provided by a grove of Pohutukawa trees. Lawn games followed lunch, which were well attended despite the heat!

At the February Meeting **David Gatland** was awarded **Life Membership** for outstanding service to the Club. The **Ramblers** and **Amblers** continue their activities each Monday.



*Earl Brookbanks, Editor.*

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### REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON



Some of the members celebrating the festive season at Hamilton Gardens.

*Many clubs have many interest groups, but this one below always makes me chuckle. They must be a happy lot. Ed.*

**MAINLY MEN'S GROUP.** We meet every other Wednesday at 10am for Coffee and a chat. We are nomadic and go from café to café seeking the best scones. *Kath Kenrick, Bulletin Editor.*

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### REBUS CLUB OREWA

### **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT RED BEACH SURF LIFESAVING CLUB**



(Photo R.) Donations to Auckland City Mission. **Yvonne Gillham and Maureen Grigg** delivered the toiletries and chocolates you all generously donated at the Christmas Luncheon. They were gratefully received by the staff at the HomeGround drop off facility. Next year we will choose another charity. Thank you everyone! *Maureen Grigg, Editor.*

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### REBUS CLUB OF CAMBRIDGE

*As you know, I have a policy to print only accounts of things that have **taken place** because there are so many reasons why planned items may not happen. At the beginning of the year most clubs are still "planning", so here is an idea from Rebus Club of Cambridge. I am not going to print the very lengthy story, (otherwise I would have to kill you), but believe me, it is hilarious, nostalgic, and an idea I commend to you all. Ed.*

“Thirteen years ago, I received my first pacemaker implant. I had to wait a week in hospital before it could be done, and during that week – perhaps high on medication – I wrote scores of short stories, and I also decided to write about my childhood. This is my story. MY FATHER WAS A SECRET AGENT (Part one).” *Steve O’Sullivan, Newsletter Editor.*

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### OMANU REBUS CLUB

We all enjoyed our summer picnic that was held on Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Many thanks to **Adrienne and Graeme** for opening up their home for the venue, for Adrienne's stalwart work in the kitchen and for Graeme's manoeuvring of the garden furniture. Also to all the Committee, and especially Lynn who did the grocery shopping. We so appreciate it all.

*Sue Rawson, President.*

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### REBUS CLUB OF FOXTON

No ants showed up, just some very relaxed Rebus members. A great day - a little breezy, but shelter was provided by The Thistolls' campervan and of course we had access inside the Holbein Pavillion.

Disc bowls and Petanque were fun. Thanks to Denise for organising our January get-together.

**Whoever said, 'Out of sight, out of mind' never had a spider disappear in the bedroom.**



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### WEST AUCKLAND MEN'S REBUS CLUB

**SNAKE GULLY TO SUCCESS:** Ken Webster, who has been a member since 1988, spoke to us about his early life. “Times were hard after the War, so my parents arranged an apprenticeship for me at the local chemist down in Frankton Junction. Nothing was discussed with me; I was just told. I started there on Monday morning, for what seemed like an interview. The boss, in a very offhand manner, said, "Come on, boy. Your first job is to sweep the shop, sweep the footpath, and clean a few bottles.”

Within six months, I had learned to dispense everything. I could run the shop, cash up at night, do his banking, and take it to the bank as well. One morning, while sweeping the footpath, I looked down and found a tip-up purse with 45 pounds in it. Considering my wages were only 25 shillings, this was an absolute fortune. I went inside, rang the police, and reported it. Three months later, he returned and said nobody had claimed the purse, so it was mine. My boss had the temerity to say, "He was working for me at the time he found it, so it's mine." The policeman responded, "No sir, the person who found it deserves it." A lot of chemists were good at diagnosing and helping out. Today, the role of a chemist has evolved even more. Chemists now offer medical knowledge and advice on treating various conditions. Things have certainly changed an awful lot.



*Vince Middeldorp, Secretary.*

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### REBUS WAIHEKE ISLAND

Our Mini-Speaker this month was **Ireni Esler** who stepped up at short notice when our planned speaker couldn't make it. Ireni gave us a fascinating presentation on her recent cruise to Antarctica. The cruise with less than 400 passengers started from the southern extremes of Argentina and sailed to the Antarctica Peninsula. The notorious Drake Passage in between was very rough on the downward journey but calmer on the return. The trip included excursions and shore landings via the cruise ship's Zodiacs. Highlights included stunning views, seeing three different species of penguins, albatrosses, and whales. The photographs made us all very envious.

*Tania Sweet, Newsletter Editor.*



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**I felt uncomfortable driving into the cemetery.  
The GPS told me, 'You have reached your final destination.'**

## REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH



Good company, good place, good weather – all making for a very enjoyable picnic at the **Victoria Esplanade**, historic and beautiful gardens and native bush on the north bank of the Manawatu River. A great start the year! A train ride added to the fun.

**Dawn Ewers**, our **Club Speaker** at the February meeting, related some of her interesting experiences on trips with friends in the Taranaki – Wellington – Wanganui region. Lots of walking

**Guest Speaker**, retired PN Coroner **Tim Scott**, said that one-third of 30,000 deaths in NZ annually are investigated by coroners, assisted by pathologists to determine the cause of death. The office of coroner was

established in England in 1194. Coroners were originally tax gatherers, but their role developed into holding inquests on sudden, violent or unnatural deaths. In NZ today, there are up to 22 permanent full-time coroners. They are lawyers, appointed by the Government. Tim told us some interesting details in his coroner's court.  
*Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor.*

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## COMBINED REBUS CLUB OF TE MATA



The sausages and patties were sizzling away at our BBQ this year, excellent display of various salads, coleslaw, potato salads, bread, butter, and sauces of course - all created by our Rebus committee ladies. The weather was warm - an enjoyable late afternoon event enjoyed by all present.  
*Frank Shelmerdine, Treasurer.*

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## REBUS CLUB OF MANAWATU

Our **Guest was Massey Emeritus Professor Vince Neall**, who outlined the proposal for a **Manawatū Geopark**. UNESCO geoparks (like NZ's first, Waitaki Whitestone Geopark) simultaneously work to protect geology, natural and cultural treasures and promote sustainable tourism. The 'source to sea' proposal centres around the exceptional geology of the Manawatū Gorge and there are plans for greater access along the gorge and river.



*Margie Comrie, Newsletter Editor.*

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## SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB



Weather on 24 January for the club picnic, held at **Jo and Mike Laing's** home on the outskirts of Martinborough, was a little less than enticing and not suitable for kites. So it devolved into a pleasant social occasion for nine members, mostly inside around Mike and Jo's large table. Web master John MacGibbon's camera caught Mike doing the honours.

*David Woodhams, Newsletter Editor.*

**No person has ever gone blind by looking on the bright side of Life.**

## REBUS CLUB OF RIVERSIDE HAMILTON



**Tramping Group:** A wonderful weekend on Mt Ruapehu late last year, with fresh snow on the mountains.

*Steve O'Sullivan, Presidential Scribe.*

## REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR



The combined **Dine Out Group** with members from Gulf Harbour and Hibiscus Coast Rebus Clubs, took place on 4<sup>th</sup> February at **Mainsail Restaurant**, Gulf Harbour. This is a great opportunity for good food and

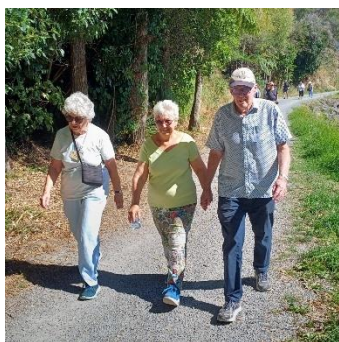
conviviality, organised by **George Tregidga**, thank you George.

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February a group of Committee Members manned a display and membership drive at **Coast Plaza**, to raise awareness of Rebus in the local community. An encouraging 16 of the visitors indicated they would be interested to attend a meeting and provided us with their contact details. We will be following up!

The **Guest Speaker** was **Paddy Sullivan**, **Age Concern** – “**Online Scams**”. Her hilarious delivery of a serious topic really hit home to us. **Club Speaker:** **Gill Wild**, recounted her travels to the Australian Tennis Open. *J. McIntosh, Editor.*



## WAIKANAE MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB



The **Walking Group** chose a very sunny day to walk alongside the Waikanae River.

These paths are quite scenic with the varied bush and sparkling river. Most enjoyable when out strolling.

Striding out in front are **Margaret George, Delwyn and Bill Stormer**.

The rest of the group are trailing behind like Brown's cows.

*David Goggin, Newsletter Editor.*

**Rabbits jump and they live for 8 years. Dogs run and they live for 15 years. Turtles do nothing and live for 150 years. Lesson learned.**

## REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT INC.

**The Guest Speaker was Barry Wards**, the Chairperson of the Upper Hutt branch of the Forest and Bird Society. He gave us an outline of the various projects his group is involved with in the area, as well as the enormous amount of work cultivating native trees and shrubs for planting for the different restoration projects. Upper Hutt F&B What we've done What we do What we want to do Nature's voice and working to defend nature – Upper Hutt ▪ Established 13 August 1975 ▪ ~200 members / 50 active volunteers ▪



*Alex Attewell, Newsletter Editor.*

## REBUS CLUB OF MILSON INC.



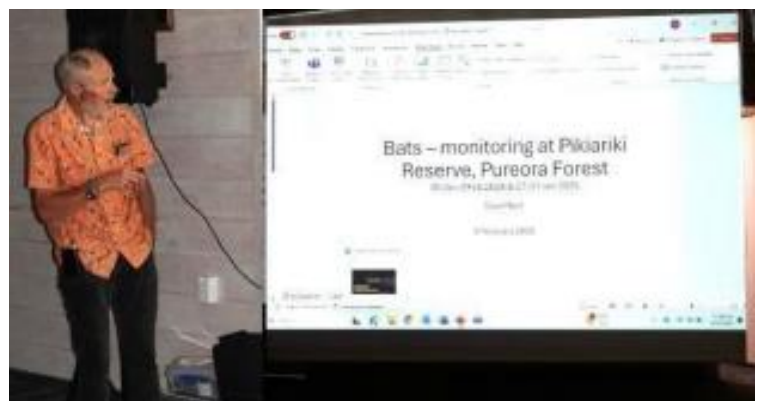
What a great Speaker **Tatriona Behrie** was in November from **Age Concern**. I was lucky enough to pick up one of the magazines “**Driving safely as a senior.**” *Margaret Broderick, Newsletter Editor.*

**Be careful when you follow the masses. Sometimes the M is silent.**

## COMBINED REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC.



**Ken Belt.** His stories of life at sea are always very interesting.



**David Hunt** and his talk about **Bats** was much more interesting than I thought it would be. Fascinating.

*Steve Hutchison, Bulletin Editor.*

## PAPANUI REBUS CLUB

**Jenny Sew Hoy Agnew & Trevor Agnew** spoke about their research into the life of Jenny's Great Great-Grandfather, **Choie Sew Hoy**, who came from China during the Otago Goldrush, where he was one of the first merchants. They have produced a book about his journey.

It was a very good talk with some tips on how to go about researching generations past. They particularly recommend using “**Papers Past**”, newspapers which have been digitalised., which are available online. Or they recommend the **Main Library**, where people have been trained, by the Agnews, to help in this research.

*Linda Barnes, President.*



## AVONDALE LADIES' REBUS CLUB

At the January meeting the Speaker's slot was entitled “**Sharing Treasures**”.

**Valentine McLeay** shared the story behind the two photos of her shaking hands with HRH **Princess Elizabeth**. Valentine's talk was followed by others – Rita, Ona and Lynette – who also shared their treasures with members.

*Jill Burgess, Newsletter Editor.*

### **FITZHERBERT REBUS CLUB INC.**

**OUTING:** For a couple of hours we could have truly believed we were



in a Tuscan garden. The bright sunshine, running water, manicured hedges and abundant flowers took us away from our everyday lives into what could be another country. Sitting in the shade with great company, delicious food and good conversation added to the feeling. Thank



you, Libby for organizing the visit to **Villa Candotti**.

*Rosy Look, Secretary.*

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### **MOUNT ALBERT LADIES REBUS CLUB**

Our **Guest Speaker, Jacky McLaren, founder of Borneo Bags**, has left us with so much to think about. Many years ago, she won a fundraiser at the school she was teaching at in Indonesia. The prize was a trek to the interior of Borneo where she came across the semi-nomadic **Penan Tribe**.

Jacky's video showed the effect of deforestation on this tribe and the rainforest. Once palm oil palms are planted there is no way any of the jungle can regenerate. It was an



absorbing story to hear about this interesting group of self-sufficient people who are using their skilled traditional weaving in order to survive. **Borneo Bags**, set up by Jacky 20 years ago, is a social enterprise where all profits are returned to the Penan weavers. She brought exquisite bags and mats for us to purchase. She also gave us a demonstration of Penan blow darting – quite a feat in our old Ferndale House setting! *Anne McKenzie, President.*

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### **WOMEN'S REBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAE**

**February Meeting:** Some of us may have felt a lump in the throat during Marcia Guest McGrath's thought-provoking presentation. To hear that New Zealand has the worst record for family violence in the OECD is a shocking reality, and this was the catalyst for Marcia and two friends to establish the "Loved 4 Life" organisation in Te Horo in 2007.

Looking after a new-born baby can be a stressful and isolating experience. "Loved 4 Life" aims to welcome every new baby into the community. New mothers receive a gift bag containing a beautiful hand-embroidered "Loved" quilt; hand-knitted baby clothes; contact opportunities to network with other parents, and in some communities, a home-cooked meal, delivered. The message is simple. You Are Not Alone. *Mary Paddock, Newsletter Editor.*



**Age is not a barrier to success; it's a ladder to wisdom.**

**"The Prime of Life is that fleeting time between green and over ripe."** Cullen Hightower.

**PUKENAMU REBUS CLUB INC.**



**Guest Speaker, Jason Glanville, Owner/Operator of “Take it Easy Tours”** was introduced by Barbara Young, who thanked him for coming along at very short notice. His operation organises and operates fully escorted tours, mostly in NZ, but some overseas. He has just come back from a mystery tour to the top of the South Island, where in the Marlborough Sounds, they saw a massive sperm whale and a pod of orca. This year they will go to Norfolk Island and Vietnam, and he hopes to get over to Japan. They also operate bus transport, and the local schools are very supportive. *Helen Goldfinch, Editor.*

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And that’s it for February – a short month – but finished just in time for your weekend reading. Thank you to all the contributors, including the few who missed out for the reason detailed at the foot of Page 2.

After one month, we have not sold our house yet, but Open Homes continue, and I am in a constant state of readiness for when the phone rings with a prospective buyer just 10 minutes up the road. Things get swept into cupboards and drawers in a hurry, which we later hunt for. I am *trying* to be patient, taking things one day at a time, but I am a planner by nature, and don’t take kindly to uncertainty.

So, just to recap, please consider how you can contribute to the running of your Club, even in a small way, “many hands make light work”. Also, I hope to see you at the Rebus NZ Inc. AGM in Palmerston North in May. This will be the last opportunity for us to meet face to face while I am Editor, and I consider so many of you as good friends now. Let’s make the 2025 AGM a special one. See you there!!



*Jean,*  
*Editor, Rebus Club News.*