



REBUS CLUB NEWS

January 2025

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Hello again, and a Happy New Year to you all.

Now the Christmas tree is dismantled and the decorations put away for another year, it is time to think about Annual General Meetings – never a dull moment. Almost all Rebus clubs hold their AGM in March, and that means “re-affiliation” time when clubs send details of their Officers to Rebus NZ Inc. and pay their affiliation fees. Yes, there is a small increase this year, but the fees are still incredible value for money, and all Board Members give their time for free.

Then in May, the Rebus NZ Inc. Annual General Meeting is being held in Palmerston North, hosted by the Rebus Club of Palmerston North. Please think seriously about attending the AGM, and representing your own club. It is a delightful get-together, meeting members from other clubs, comparing ideas etc., and of course it is a great opportunity to have **your say** – good or bad – we always listen. Why not plan a weekend away?

I am starting work on the first edition for 2025 on Auckland Anniversary Weekend, where the weather is not the best, and we are using the time wisely – having recently put our home on the market after 20 years., in readiness to move to a retirement village. This is a spacious house, and if there is space, you fill it! How did we accumulate so much stuff? I have found things I have not seen since the day we moved in. Memories are being rekindled, Trade Me is working overtime, and the charity shops are doing very well. Now your news, the first roundup for 2025.



AVONDALE LADIES' REBUS CLUB

At our Christmas Meeting presented us with a quiz. There were some interesting tricky questions designed to wake up the old cerebral synapses. Thanks Soozie, I think we all really enjoyed the exercise. A most elegant morning tea was set out by the “kitchen girls” that was enjoyed by all. Suitably refreshed we headed home, looking forward to 2025 and the whole new year ahead.

Barbara Douglas, Newsletter Editor.

I've always wanted to go to Switzerland to see what the army does with those wee red knives. Billy Connolly.

THAMES BONANZA REBUS CLUB

Recently we visited the **Visitor Centre in the Kauaeranga Valley**, Thames. An interesting movie in their small cinema showed the logging days of the giant kauris. Large dams were built to flush the logs down the river to the booms at **Parawai**. Hundreds of these logs were shipped to San Francisco to rebuild the City after the catastrophic 1906 fires. Life was unbelievably tough in those days. We don't realise how lucky we are to have lived in our generation.



Photo: of some of our group standing on the model dam, a short distance from the Centre.

Murray Newby, Editor.

Sometimes someone unexpected and special comes into your life out of nowhere. They make your heart race and can change your life in many ways. They are called Traffic Cops.

Never trust a man who, when left alone in a room with a tea cosy, doesn't try it on. Billy Connolly

PAPANUI REBUS CLUB



January is usually a quiet month for the group but this year we changed that. We had a **Coffee & Chat** morning, which was enjoyed by many.

We also had a **Bowls Day** on Jan 21st. This was enjoyed by all, followed by a light lunch.

Linda Barnes, President.



REBUS CLUB OF WANGANUI



VINTAGE WEEKEND WANGANUI 2025

Many of us got out to see the goings on. The cars, fashions, trains, planes, music, dancing, loads of fun for all.

What an amazing weekend, absolutely loved the positive vibes of our lovely city.

Paerau Taylor Mosen, Newsletter Editor.



REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST



On Thursday 28 November 2024 fifty-three members, partners and friends enjoyed the Club's end-of-year **Christmas Lunch at The Archer, Stanmore Bay**. The club sponsored the first drink, and the fixed price starter and main menu allowed guests plenty of choice. A free raffle of two beautifully prepared Christmas hampers, plus a bottle of wine donated by Danny (the manager of The Archer) were gratefully received by the winners. It was a great opportunity for newer members of the club to meet and to catch up with club friends and acquaintances. A most enjoyable, special occasion.



Right: **The Ramblers** at Waitoki, 13th January 2025.

Earl Brookbanks, Editor.

CAMBRIDGE MEN'S REBUS CLUB

Happy New year to all members of Rebus nationwide - we are all hoping for a great year in 2025!



Members enjoyed "Mix & Mingle" Christmas drinks and nibbles at **D'Arcy's Garden Restaurant** on 27 November.

The Club conducted an excellent start to the Rebus year with a **bacon and egg Brunch** gathering

at Max Norvill's home in Addison Road. Some 40 members arrived for a



social catch up for a couple of hours on Wednesday 15th January and enjoyed a cook up ably managed by the committee.

Nigel Salter, Editor.

SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB

After a couple of postponements, it was a pleasure to welcome our **Guest Speaker, Mike Butterick MP**, to the November. Meeting. Since his election in 2023 he says he has become used to being treated like a goldfish, constantly on view, having to consider that every word he said might be recorded or monitored and brought up at a later date to embarrass him or the party.

Having grown up on a mid-Canterbury finishing farm, on leaving school he went mustering for a year. Then he was employed as a horse and dogs shepherd at **Wairere Station**, a major Romney stud breeder in Wairarapa, where he met his wife, Rachel. They bought their first farm in 1995 and, in 2015, a “town block” near Masterton.

Mike initially became involved in politics in 2020 as spokesman for a rural lobby group, **Fifty Shades of Green**, concerned with the planting of trees for carbon credits on high quality sheep and beef country. After winning the electorate at his second attempt in 2023 Mike is a member of the Environment (deputy chair) and the Education & Workforce select committees.

Rachel sees precious little of him. He drives himself in his own car about 3000 km/month. “I’m fortunate to have lived my dream, lived my passion — not everyone can say that. I’ve got an opportunity to give back to the community I’ve spent my life in. I’m a product of it. I’ve been shaped by those that are in it.” Members were delighted to have the opportunity to meet their MP face-to-face.

David Woodhams, Editor.

WAIKANAE MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB

The Christmas Party on the 3rd December at **Social Centre, Parkwood** was a huge success. According to those who attended the party was excellent and the food exceptional. Thanks to the organisers and Parkwood for hosting us. Planning is well under way for our **BBQ in February** and an Outing to the **Kimbolton Rural Sculpture Festival in April**, where the community comes together for the day and creates many wonderful sculptures from farm machinery and memorabilia.

David Goggin, Editor.

When I was a kid, my parents would always say “excuse my French” after a swear word. I’ll never forget my first day at school when my teacher asked if anyone knew any French.

REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT INC.

The **Guest Speaker was Reg Ponniah**, a 75-year-old journalist from Malaysia. He had a very interesting career, working for Reuters for a short time in Malaysia, and after boredom crept in, went into print media in various capacities: Reporter, sub-editor, foreign news editor, feature writer and editor in Malaysia, Singapore, Florida (USA), New Zealand, and finally as technical editor for The United Nations in Geneva at the International Trade Centre (but based in Wellington). During semi-retirement, he has been involved in editing theses for PhD candidates. In Wellington, Reg was with the NZ Press Association (similar to Reuters) for about 25 years before its closure.



Alex Attewell, Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH



We joined with the **Rebus Club of Foxton** for a most enjoyable Christmas Lunch at the **Manawatu Marine Boating Club at Foxton Beach** – a splendid feast and party fun in pleasant premises! The photo shows some of us tucking in to the festive food accompanied by background music. Thanks, Foxton, for hosting us.

At our December club meeting, **Bernard Watson** told us of his lifelong interest in steam. From an early age he was fascinated with railway locomotives. A job at **High Wycombe Hospital** in the UK gave

him experience with large boilers. Returning to NZ, he worked at the **Tokomaru Steam Museum** at which time he bought an 8 hp Clayton & Shuttleworth traction engine – bringing it from Invercargill involved transporting it, classified as a car on the Cook Strait ferry.

Dean Halford, Editor.

WEST AUCKLAND MEN'S REBUS CLUB

Guest Speaker, Vince Middeldorp. "Racing Dreams; A Journey with Captain Court".

In 1987, I owned a mare stabled next to the Albany Pony Club, and cared for by a retired farmer named Jack Sample. Determined to breed her, I embarked on a journey to Taranaki with my dad and Jack. The following year, a call from Julie Duff at Flat Bush Farm in Papatōetoe brought the news that my mare had foaled. Dad and I rushed to see the beautiful chestnut colt with two white feet and a distinct snip on his nose, a stark contrast to his bay mare mother.



Training this young horse became my new mission. Before he could race, I had to run Captain Court in a barrier trial. At Ellerslie, I searched the jockey's room for an experienced rider. Senior jockey Jim Collett declining to accept the ride him, resulted in me asking Joanne Pocock. She became Captain Court's regular rider and won six races on him. When Captain Court was five, he faced a formidable competitor, Blue Train, at Ellerslie. Despite my own doubts, Captain Court triumphed. Captain Court's pedigree included a notable name in Sir Tristram. Captain Court winner of the New Zealand Stakes (Group 1) at Ellerslie. Captain Court's career

concluded with ten wins and \$140,000 in earnings.

Vince Middeldorp, Secretary.

TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB



The December meeting was a special meeting where we acknowledged those members who joined Taupo Moana Rebus in 2002, some of them foundation members. Each was presented with a gift presented to them by Santa.

L to R – Ann Bleakley, Margaret Coulson, Noel Frecklington, Pat Davis-Pirie, Santa AKA Ian Triscott, Roy Coulson, Jocelyn Pointon, Bob Tinworth, Jo Tinworth, Betty Rosanoski and Rob Bleakley, all joined Rebus as it was back then in 2002. Members absent: Mary Lockwood, Julie O'Sullivan and Robbie Shearer.

January Outing: Our 2-van convoy with 24 Rebus members left Taupo on Tuesday 21st January 2025. **Lauren's Lavender Farm** - what a beautiful sight as we approached the Lavender Farm, a sea of purple lavenders swaying in the wind, backed by a variety of hydrangeas, stunning red flowers and various trees and shrubs in hues of yellow and green. Three varieties of lavender are grown - French, Spanish and English. (The French produce the most oil).

Christine Bailey, Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR



stops with table decorations and beautiful fine weather, ensuring we all had a wonderful time.

On Thursday 23rd January our annual **Barbecue** was held at **Te Haruhi Bay, Shakespear Park**, where we were joined by a group from Red Beach Ladies' Rebus Club. Gill and Neil Wild organised the food, assisted by Graeme McIntosh, and Garth Dutton who organised the games.

Christmas Lunch was celebrated at **Red Beach Surf Lifesaving Club**, with Krave Caterers. Fabulous venue and food, and club organiser Nancy Hewertson pulled out all the



J. McIntosh, Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF MT. HOBSON



70 + members, guests and partners enjoyed a sumptuous lunch in the pleasant surroundings of the **Remuera Golf Club**. It was a fitting end to what has been a very successful year for Rebus and much of the conversation reflected on the activities that have occurred, the speakers we have enjoyed and there were many comments about our good fortune in having such an agreeable group of colleagues with whom to share our monthly Tuesdays.

Guest Speaker for November – Michele Mill, Sponsorship Advisor Auckland Zoo. Michele Mill has had a varied and interesting career. Presently she is the Sponsorship Advisor to the Auckland Zoo and under that mantle she is part of the Business Experience and Business Development Team that is responsible for the Zoo's marketing, media communications, retail activity, fundraising and grants. In her past life she has a B. Comm from Canterbury University. She then trained as a funeral director and also has a qualification in trauma along with being a marriage celebrant!



Pat Alley, Editor.

THE LADIES REBUS CLUB OF WARKWORTH



Guest Speaker, Julia Withers, Manager of Life Homes, an organisation that creates a boutique flatting lifestyle and home for adults with an intellectual disability, explained that by providing a tailored programme for each individual, the result leads to each being able to lead an amazing life. The organisation has seven homes in our area.

Members attended our first cinema outing to watch the documentary **"New Look Away"** about the least known famous New Zealander, **Margaret Moth**. You could not help being inspired by Moth, the message being *'no matter how much you lose physically and mentally, you can pick yourself up and live life to the fullest'*.

The annual **Christmas Lunch** held at the **Warkworth RSA** for our members, partners and friends was a great success! Beautifully decorated by some of the club members, it was a delightful blend of good food, great company, and plenty of festive cheer. Entertainment included a light-hearted performance by 4 of the 7 dwarves.

Maryanne Dransfield, Editor.



REBUS CLUB OF MANAWATU

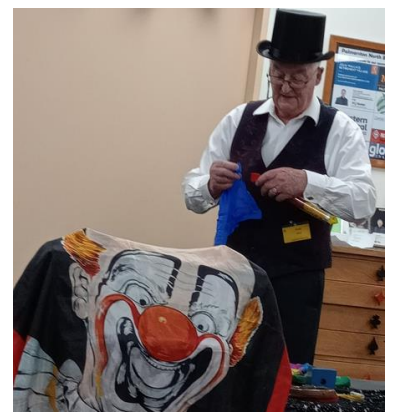
DECEMBER MEETING: Fred and the committee members came up with a delicious morning tea and Fred took charge with quizzes, charades and his conjuring tricks.

Margie Comrie, Editor.

My definition of an intellectual is someone who can listen to the William Tell Overture without thinking of the Lone Ranger. Billy Connolly.

'What we do now echoes in eternity'

Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, Philosopher and Emperor of Rome 161-180 AD.



A Committee is a collection of the unfit, chosen by the incompetent, from among the unwilling, to do the unnecessary. Anon.

REBUS CLUB OF CAMBRIDGE



Christmas Luncheon, on 12th December.

Winner of "Best Dressed" was Janet Davies (right).

Thelma Hubbard turned 100. Thelma was one of the Founding Members of the Cambridge Probus/ Rebus Club. The Club sent her flowers, and she received a letter from the Prime Minister.



Steve O'Sullivan, Presidential Scribe.

OMANU REBUS CLUB



Thirty-three of our members attended our **Christmas Lunch** on Sunday 24 November at **Papamoa Beach Village**. A delicious lunch was served, and everyone enjoyed the occasion.

There were 2 prizes up for grabs and they were won by **Fran Gee and Donelda Hacking**. Congratulations.

Adrienne Wilson, Editor.



COMBINED REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC.



At our December meeting, **Helen Goodman** was welcomed into Rebus. Introduced by Jolene Price and inducted by President Vaughan.

Our **Christmas Lunch** at the **Paraparaumu Bowling Club** went rather well. The food was good, and the quiz was



somewhat different – we really had to think about the questions. And it meant no one could google the answers.

Steve Hutchison, Editor.

WOMEN'S REBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAE

Our **Christmas Lunch** in December was held at the **Plateau Centre, Parkwood**. We were delighted with the service, food and ambience of this beautiful venue. We all enjoyed a free glass of wine or fruit juice when we entered, a beautifully decorated room and our friends to chat with. Everyone went home with a raffle prize or if they weren't lucky enough for their number to be drawn, they received a box of praline chocolates. We all enjoyed a very good time.



Mary Paddock, Editor.

FITZHERBERT REBUS CLUB INC.

NOVEMBER CLUB DAY:

The skill and patience applied to the work of our **Speaker, Artist Julie Oliver**, is incredible. She paints life stories of farms, families etc on to old cross-saws. These are painted from photographs, stories and the memories people have of these events. Prior to painting she meets with her clients to gather information and look at photo albums. Generational history can be included on one saw. The finest of brushes are used and the detail is amazing. Julie has painted since she was a child in Australia. She loves what she does, and we would love to have her back to see some of her other works. A great morning.

Rosy Look, Secretary.

PUKENAMU REBUS CLUB INC.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

On 19 December a crowd of 62 people met at **Frank Café** in Ridgeway Street for our Rebus Christmas Dinner. The atmosphere was great as was the food. It was a fun time, and everyone appreciated the occasion, especially when Santa made an appearance. Thanks Maree, for organising this, and also to those lovely ladies who baked and packed the yummy goodie bags. It was a great way to finish our Rebus year.

Helen Goldfinch, Editor.

And that is all I have for you for January. Most clubs will be back to normal in February. In the meantime, please think about how you can help your own club, put your name forward at your club's AGM. Remember "*One volunteer is worth a dozen conscripts*".

Also, a gentle reminder to attend the Rebus NZ Inc. AGM in May. It's fun being involved, and can assist your club.

Now, back to the de-cluttering, until next month,



Jean,

Editor, Rebus Club News.