



REBUS CLUB NEWS

January 2024

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Welcome to **2024**, and a Happy New Year to you all. I would like to start this year with a suggested New Year's Resolution: **To do all we can to improve membership numbers.** I know, it is an uphill battle for some, but only rarely do prospective new members front up asking to join. Mostly, new members need to be approached and encouraged to attend a meeting so they can give us the once over. When they arrive, do we make them welcome? Do we present our Club in the best light, so they cannot wait to come to another meeting? And after joining, are they encouraged to participate in the groups and functions our Club has to offer? Many people in our age bracket may not find it easy to make new friends, and need some encouragement. Once they find out what a friendly bunch we are, the hardest part is over. Now we must keep up their interest. Most clubs of our type are struggling to attract new members.

For many, retirement means "been there, done that – time to put my feet up". Some others are heavily involved with grandchildren, and have little spare time to themselves. But there are those folk who are looking for new friends, new interests, and stimulation, and these are our prospective new members. We will all be losing numbers through natural attrition, so replacement is crucial to survival. Our first two contributors this month seem to have got the formula right. Good luck with **your** recruitment drive for 2024!!

WARKWORTH MEN'S REBUS CLUB



The **End-of-Year Lunch**, held at **The Salty Dog Inn at Snell's Beach**, was a challenge to all Members and partners present to identify the Committee. A recent photograph of each was taken at the last Committee Meeting, and on a row below were randomly ordered pictures (all in black and white!) of them taken when very young. Ages varied between 4 months and 10 years old. The test was to match the ravages of time, and identify which "youth" matched the present Committee

Member, who were allowed to enter the competition, but were automatically deducted one point, on the grounds that they might be able to identify themselves! After much confusion and hilarity, the winner was John Clark who correctly identified (or should it be guessed?) half of the correct matches.

New Member **Murray** was inducted at the lunch. **President, Stephen Becket** was suitably attired and looked very much like another visitor due on 25th December. We end the year having increased our Membership numbers, and look forward to adding more in the coming months.

Robert Dye, Secretary.



TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB



December Meeting: The room was bedecked for Christmas as members gathered for our Christmas morning tea, and what a great turn out it was, 74 present, 16 apologies, 15 silent, and 2 visitors. Present Peter welcomed all, and birthdays and anniversaries were acknowledged.

Two new members, **Maureen Bayley and Rosemary Chrisp** were inducted and warmly welcomed. The sound of jingle bells announced the arrival of Santa who came with a sackful of gifts of thanks to those many workers who work behind the scenes month by month to keep the meeting running smoothly. His sack was a bottomless pit of chocolates for members, a fun time was had by all until it was time for Santa to leave and

others to enjoy morning tea of Christmas cake and shortbread.

Christine Bailey, Bulletin Editor.

REBUS WAIHEKE

In December a most enjoyable party was held at the **Palm Beach Hall** with 62 attending, celebrating not only **Christmas**



but **25 years of Probus/Rebus on Waiheke Island**. We welcomed past presidents with apologies from Alison Edwards and Brian Horne. There was a video running showing photos of past presidents, celebrations, and occasions from the last 25 years. **Jill Cameron** who started Probus on the Island and was the first President spoke about those days. Jill had been a member of the Carterton Probus and when she moved to Waiheke Island thought that it would be



good to have a club here. Jill placed a letter in Gulf News and 28 people

attended the first meeting at the Catherine Mitchell Centre. Daphne Merriott, Jill, and Norman Cameron are still members from that first meeting. Soon after starting John Bollard from NASA was a speaker and 80 people turned up to hear him. It became the biggest club on the Island with often 80-100 members attending. Don McKenzie thanked the Presidents and those who had been on committees. During 2011-15 we forged a new way of doing things. The success of voluntary organisations is up to its members.

Tania Sweet, Newsletter Editor.

OMANU REBUS CLUB



Thirty-seven members attended our Christmas Lunch last Sunday 29 November at **Papamoa Beach Village**. A delicious lunch was served, and everyone enjoyed the meal.

Congratulations to Jack and Linda Dunkerley on winning the lovely gift basket raffle.

Adrienne Wilson, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF MT HOBSON



Club Speaker for November – Barry Paterson. Topic: “Reminiscences”

Barry talked about his involvement in cricket since he listened to the 1949 test in England. He described his involvement with Northern Districts as an administrator, starting in 1962. Everything was voluntary in those days; nobody being paid until 1984. In 1963 he was appointed to the Board of NZ Cricket and continued until 1990. He described his involvement as manager of three overseas tours, the first in 1969/70 to Australia and then to Australia in 1973. The third tour was to England in 1978. He was also involved in the calculation used to decide the adjustment to be made after rain delays – in 1992 each country applied different rules. In the World Cup that year at the SCG, South Africa playing England came off for rain wanting 22 off 13 balls. When they resumed play it was announced that South Africa needed 21 off 1 ball. After that the Duckworth/Lewis system was introduced across all countries, with the formula reviewed every year.

Right: Past President Jim modelling the new dress code. *Chris de Boer, Presidential Scribe.*



‘Stand upright, speak thy thoughts, declare the truth thou hast, that all may share.

Be bold, proclaim it everywhere: They only live who dare.’

Voltaire, French philosopher, and writer (1694-1778)

SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB

The 30 members and guests who attended our **Christmas Luncheon** were well-feasted by **Baloos Catering at the SW Working Men's Club** and wonderfully entertained by **Paul Bates, aka Zappo the Magician**. (Zappo was good value - he performed without charge, so we donated our budgeted cost to the food bank, together with the traditional non-perishable food items donated by club members instead of "Santa presents".) Paul is a second-generation magician, growing up in Whanganui with his father, Ken, known as "the grandmaster of magic". A full-time magician, Paul



has been pulling rabbits out of hats and making kids laugh for 3 decades. Right: Linda Gibbs is surprised by her unexpected ability to turn two small tomatoes into one large one.



David Woodhams, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF OTUMOETA

A wonderful day on which 43 Club Members and friends enjoyed a great **Christmas Lunch** and a **Double Celebration** at the **Oak Tree Restaurant**, Gate Pa, Tauranga. The Club had recently received its 40-year **Certificate of Attainment** from Rebus NZ Inc. which has been framed, and was formally received by **Club President, Ian Nicholls**.

Long time Member, Club stalwart and Past President on two separate occasions, **Don Sewell** accepted **Life Membership** in recognition of 27 years with to Club.

Our club, like many others has seen reducing membership, but over recent times we are very pleased to note new members coming forward.

Ian Nicholls, President.

REBUS CLUB OF CAMBRIDGE



Images from last year's **Christmas Luncheon**, on 14th December.

What a wonderful time was had by all!

Steve O'Sullivan.



**Life isn't about dawdling to the grave, arriving safely in an attractive, wrinkle free body.
But rather an adventure that ends skidding in sideways,
champagne in one hand, strawberries in the other, totally worn out,
screaming "Yee-ha, what a ride!"**

WEST AUCKLAND MEN'S REBUS CLUB



We had a splendid time at the **Christmas Lunch at McHugh's of Cheltenham**, a lovely venue right on the edge of Cheltenham Beach. The views of Rangitoto across the water through the large plate glass windows were stunning. Inside, the facilities were perfect for having friendly chats with our fellow club members while enjoying a delicious meal. McHugh's offered a buffet lunch with a variety

of dishes to choose from. We could fill our plates with as much of our favourite food as we wanted, The roast potatoes were especially tempting, and they ran out quickly. I was curious about how they made them so golden and crispy, and I learned that they were deep fried in canola oil and then finished in a fan oven. *Vince Middeldorp, Secretary.*

WAIKANA E MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB INC.



Enjoying the Sunshine and Coffee –
Cyclists at Harrisons Café

David Goggin, Newsletter Editor.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AND DINNER 2023 **The Plateau, Parkwood**



REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR



Christmas Lunch was enjoyed by members at **The Archer, in Stanmore Bay**. There was an interesting selection on the menu, and judging by the laughter and chatter, a jolly good time was had by all.

On 17th January we held our annual **BBQ at Shakespeare Park**, free to members, subsidised by the Sales Table. Two barbecues were kept busy by Garth Dutton and Keith Handley cooking sausages and chicken, and once again Graeme McIntosh provided and cooked the crumbed



snapper, assisted by Peter Brignall. Organiser Neil Wild even had the weather sorted. What more could we want?



Rebus Club of Gulf Harbour BBQ at Shakespear Park.

J. McIntosh.

REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH



Our December meeting was, as in previous years, characterised by the **wearing of hats** of several styles – fashion, frilly, funny, festive, fun and frivolity with some admirable creativity to behold! The photo depicts many of our members who got into the spirit of things. At that meeting we welcomed three new members: **Jenny Brookes, Dawn Ewers and Mark Poulopolous** and presented them with their name badges and a Rebus brooch or pin. Club Speaker

John Thompson

spoke about

what the brotherhood of freemasonry means to him and gave us an interesting account of Lodge meeting procedures and the charitable work done by the masons. Instead of a Guest Speaker, we had an entertaining quiz run by **Keith Eckworth**. (No group scored full marks!)

Christmas Lunch was held again at **Wharerata**, the function centre at Massey University. Excellent food, great facilities, attentive staff, a magnificent garden – the best reasons for choosing this historic place as venue for a delightful occasion. Happy club members in the photo.



Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF UPPER HUTT INC.



Guest Speaker: Barbara Hay from Friends of the Mawaihakona Stream spoke about how the project to clean up the stream and its banks began in 2002. Paths, bridges, and walkways have made the area accessible, and they are now used by many people. Barbara was thanked by Sheryl Homer.

Alex Attewell, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH

November Short Talk – Natasha Nahkies – So what is it like to live in a Zoo?

Natasha’s father Bob Roach moved from the UK to New Zealand just after the war, to work at Ruakura as a veterinary pathologist. There he met Nancy, recently graduated with an MSC in Maths, and working at Ruakura as a biometrician. After their marriage in 1948, Bob was appointed Director of Auckland Zoo. This position came with a house, inside the zoo boundaries on Old Mill Road. With a complete zoo around them, Natasha and her three younger sisters didn’t have their own pets, apart from a small Pekinese dog. Natasha had free range to wander over the zoo, with the blackthroated hyena being a particular favourite. At times animals didn’t stay in their allocated spaces. The area housing the hippos regularly flooded, and at least once the hippos were able to swim away from their enclosure. When the orangutans got out of their cage, Natasha’s father climbed one of the trees by the



bandstand trying to catch one. Natasha's sister Sue – aged about two – fell into the elephant pool. "A zoo visitor pulled her out by the ankle."

When Vivian Fuchs and Sir Edmund Hillary crossed Antarctica in 1958, some huskies used in that crossing had stayed in the zoo. Her father took them for training runs, pulling a sled with haybales on it. Back then it was considered acceptable to have chimpanzee tea parties – and, as director's kids, Natasha and her sisters were often involved. "I have photos of my dad and I holding chimpanzee hands, and sitting with them around a table drinking from mugs. "

Sharon Major, Newsletter Editor.

PUKENAMU REBUS CLUB INC.

December Mystery Outing – 62 members boarded the bus and a van for this much anticipated day out to The Christmas Barn. As we used some of our COGS grant to hire the vehicles, members only had to pay for their own lunch.



Helen Goldfinch, Newsletter Editor.



FITZHERBERT REBUS CLUB INC.

In November **Dr Megan Jolly, a vet from Wildbase at Massey**, gave us an insight into their patients, their operations and how the public can help our bird population.

The **Christmas Function in December** was enjoyed by those who attended. The catering was festive and old friendships were renewed and new friendships were formed. Christmas Raffle winners were Christine Moss, Pat Goodwin, Trish Tohill, Libby Gosse, Lorraine Strong, Margot Andrew-Pomare and Nance Godfrey.

The **January Picnic** was another fellowship success. The huge willow tree in the **Rose Garden at the Esplanade** provided ample shade on a hot day for those present.



Karen Carter, Newsletter Editor.

REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON



In November a group of 21 members and friends visited the **Takapoto Equestrian Centre**. This is a spectacular farm with an interesting history. The current owners have spent a great deal of time and effort clearing gullies to restore native planting and establishing an eco-sanctuary. The property has a 3 km. boundary along the Lake at **Karapiro**, with wonderful views. It was also interesting to learn how they were managing pest control - clever traps which can reset themselves.



Right: **Christmas Luncheon**, held at Hamilton Gardens – December 23.

Kath Kenrick, Bulletin Editor.

Christmas at Wanganui



Paerau Taylor, Newsletter Editor.

We didn't realise we were making memories – we just thought we were having fun.

KOWHAI REBUS CLUB OF BETHLEHEM



In early December our Club held their **Christmas Dinner** upstairs in the **Citz Club Restaurant**.

President Pauline welcomed everyone, and Punch was provided by the Club. Heather McKenzie won the lucky draw food basket.

Members provided Christmas table decorations for the three long tables. Three members each won a bottle of wine and Christmas nuts. Thanks to Colleen Butler for the photos.

Marie Mabey, Newsletter Editor.



Situation Vacant – Editor, Rebus Club News.

After eight years, starting from Day-One, I have been Editor of Rebus Club News. Although they have been eight enjoyable years, the time is now right for me to step down from the role in favour of someone who can provide an improvement on the current product.

Rebus Club News is a very important ingredient in the Rebus organisation. It is the glue that holds everything together, providing information, encouragement and food-for-thought to all our Clubs, in a friendly, helpful manner.

Those considering the position, should have a sound knowledge of English grammar, be conversant with Microsoft Word, possess the ability to insert and resize photos and artwork, and generally have an eye to producing an attractive Newsletter. Attention to detail and a sense of humour are also important – simple really. The email address rebusclubnews@gmail.com is transferable to the successful applicant, and any guidance necessary will be available.

For further information call Jean on 09 424 7115 or email rebusclubnews@gmail.com

AVONDALE LADIES' REBUS CLUB

Our November meeting was attended by 25 members. The raffles were drawn - First: Marguerite Crickmer, Second: Colleen Jongste, Third: Trish Mason. A Morning tea of Christmas treats provided by Members was presented by Linda and Beth.

Barbara Douglas, Newsletter Editor.

**Accept what is,
Let Go of what was,
Have Faith in what will be.**



COMBINED REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC.

Our Speaker at the December meeting was the indomitable **Bob Maysmor**. He spoke about his trip to **Djibouti** and **Somalia**. As usual, Bob goes where many of us fear to tread. He doesn't just visit a country. He absorbs every facet of life he can. It was utterly fascinating. New member **John Boyd** was inducted. Foundation members were presented with their 20-year certificates: Helen McKernan, Paddy McCallum, Ross Majendie, Joy Majendie, Barry Stanway and Lyn Boswell.



Christmas Lunch, as always, was a great spread and enjoyed by all. A different Quiz-Master this year meant lots of concentration.



Steve Hutchison, Bulletin Editor.

And that's all I have for you this month, twenty-two snippets of information from Rebus Clubs around the country.

All too soon it will be May, and the Rebus NZ Inc. Annual General Meeting in Mount Maunganui, hosted by the Omanu Rebus Club. Please give this your serious consideration; it is a marvellous opportunity to meet like-minded folk from other parts of NZ, meet Board Members face-to-face, and air any concerns/ideas you may have, as well as participate in the social activities. We really do have a most enjoyable time.

Here is the AGM on-line Registration Form – just click on this link: <https://form.jotform.com/230416675235859>

If you have read this far, you will have seen my **Situation Vacant** advertisement for an Editor for Rebus Club News. There **must be** some readers who think they can do a better job than I do, so here is your opportunity to put your skills to good use. Why not pick up the phone and have a chat? Ph: 09 424 7115. I look forward to hearing from you.



*Jean,
Editor, Rebus Club News.*