



# REBUS CLUB NEWS

November 2024

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Welcome to the last edition of Rebus Club News for 2024. It doesn't seem like twelve months ago I was saying the same thing, and once this edition has been distributed, I fully intend to get into the Christmas spirit – shopping, cooking, shopping, planning, and more shopping. Every year I promise myself I will start earlier next year, but it never happens.



Against all odds, and the Minah bird bandits, our blackbird family (the BBs) is managing to rear one chick. It seems to know that we are not a threat, as do the BB parents. But raising one chick is a fulltime job, I don't know how they would have managed with a nest full of mouths to feed. I think our garden must be completely devoid of worms now.

I am delighted to advise that the Rebus NZ Inc. Board has welcomed a new Board Member, **Paerau Taylor-Mosen of Wanganui Rebus Club**. Paerau has been a stalwart of her club for a number of years, and has held many responsible positions., including that of President. She is a regular attendee at Rebus NZ AGMs, and I know the Board will benefit from her Rebus and business experience. Welcome Paerau. So, let's get down to business, with a roundup of news from clubs around the country.



## PUKENAMU REBUS CLUB INC.

**26<sup>th</sup> Birthday Lunch in October** – photo by Lindsay Stockbridge.



*Past Presidents - Leon Carter, Kathleen O'Sullivan, Maree Adams, Barbara Young, Colin Clancy, Don Adams, Mike Greggains.*

*President Maree welcomed 64 members and congratulated those members with birthdays in October. She thanked the committee for their help during the year, the businesses who donated vouchers for the raffle and the Members who had the foresight to start the Pukenuamu Rebus Club 26 years ago - seven members still attend meetings. **Vern Hill**, who was the **President of Rotary South** at the time, told us how and why the club was founded. **Founder member June Lints** shared details from those early days. **Helen Goldfinch**, Newsletter Editor.*

## TAUPO MOANA REBUS CLUB

**October Outing:** A lovely outing was had by a group of 20 plus members. We had a nice lunch stop on the way at **Kinloch**. We travelled through beautiful scenery on our way to the Sheep farm, and **Samantha**, our hostess, was full of knowledge and spoke clearly for all to hear. The farm, **Waikino Station**, is on the fertile western shores of Lake Taupo. It is a converted beef and sheep farm, now home to milking ewes, with a state-of-the-art internal rotary shed. They currently milk 950 ewes twice a day.

*Christine Bailey, Bulletin Editor.*



**No amount of regret changes the past,  
No amount of anxiety changes the future,  
But any amount of gratitude changes the present.**

## **REBUS CLUB OREWA**

**Our Guest Speaker was Peter Wilson**, Stakeholder & Comms Advisor at Watercare for the Central Interceptor. The Central Interceptor is needed to clean up our inland creeks and streams. With old pipes, when it rains heavily, wastewater overflows into our waterways. Auckland's population is growing so we need new infrastructure. It started drilling at the **Mangere Waste Water Plant** in 2019 and finishing in **Herne Bay** in 2026. A 5.4 metre boring machine, boring 16km tunnel at 15 metres to 110 metres deep beneath Auckland Central. 35 metres deep in the main Mangere shaft they found a 5-metre layer of 3-million-year-old fossils including one from an unknown whale species, which has been sent to **Auckland Museum**. Watercare engages with environmental groups, businesses, schools and community with regular newsletters and notices. It uses sustainable practices such as tree relocation, and vegetation is donated to **Auckland Zoo**.



*Maureen Grigg, Bulletin Editor.*

## **REBUS WAIHEKE ISLAND**

**Headmaster Cameron Flude of Waiheke High School** gave an engaging talk about his career and the challenges of leading schools in diverse communities. Starting as a maths teacher, his journey has taken him from Avondale College to leadership roles at Mt Aspiring and Okaihau College before joining Waiheke High. Cameron highlighted the strong kinship and family atmosphere at Waiheke High, praising their low bullying rates and high attendance. He addressed the challenges posed by the national teacher shortage, NCEA changes, and the effects of housing costs on the school roll. Cameron also spoke of the school's recent successes, including a new all-weather turf and the positive impact of banning mobile phones in schools, which has fostered more active social interaction among students.

*Tania Sweet, Newsletter Editor.*

## **WEST AUCKLAND MEN'S REBUS CLUB**

**Guest Speaker, Alan Verry – "A Journey through Cuba's past and present."**



Cuba, the largest island in the Caribbean, offers a vibrant mix of history, culture, and adventure. With its 11 million people, Havana remains the heart of this ancient land, claimed by Christopher Columbus for Spain in 1492. Our rail journey through 12 provinces revealed Cuba's deep rail history, dating back to 1837—three years before New Zealand's Treaty of Waitangi!

Travelling historic routes like **Havana to Bejucal**, we experienced vintage steam locomotives, 1950s cars, and the charming Hershey rail line, now running trains donated from Barcelona. From bustling streets to quiet rural tracks, Cuba's contrasts were striking—horse

carts alongside tourist buses, and colonial-era buildings in towns like Trinidad.

Though bureaucracy and "mañana" moments added challenges, they became part of the charm. Cuba's rich heritage, welcoming spirit, and unforgettable landscapes ensured an adventure like no other. *Vince Middeldorp, Secretary.*

## **RED BEACH LADIES' REBUS CLUB**



RSA before making our way back Orewa.

**Mystery Bus Trip.** Delicious hot cheese scones, served for morning tea on the front lawn at **The Pah Homestead Arts House Trust**, were a welcome treat for our day trippers. We also had an unexpected detour to **Crystal Mountain** after receiving last minute notification that the **Arataki Visitor Centre** was off-limits due to unexpected road closures, but we all enjoyed a wonderful luncheon at the **Swanson**. *Bobbie Wakenell, Editor.*

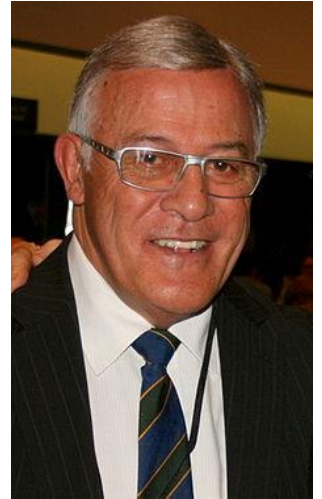


***I'm stressed - I'm lost in the graveyard - and my navigation says  
"You've arrived at your final destination!"***

## WARKWORTH MEN'S REBUS CLUB

At the October Meeting **BeeGee was the Guest Speaker**, one of the greatest rugby players in recent memory. **Sir Bryan George Williams KNZM MBE, All Black Number 689, known as BeeGee**, talked about his upbringing in Auckland with his parents of Samoan heritage, playing rugby league and union at Ponsonby Rugby Club, then for Auckland, and the All Blacks from 1970. As a wing he distinguished himself in the 1970 South African Rugby Tour where he was a sensation, scoring 14 tries in his 13 appearances. This was during apartheid, so with his parentage he was only able to tour after 'honorary white status' was granted. He spoke about many famous players and coaches showing how a team bonds when travelling together.

He played 113 matches (including 38 international Tests) and scored 66 tries in all matches as an All Black (ten tries in Tests), which was a record until beaten by John Kirwan. He has been the national rugby coach for Samoa, and coached at the Ponsonby Rugby Club and the Mt Albert Grammar School Rugby Academy. In the 1983 he was awarded the Order of the British Empire (MBE), for services to rugby, and in 2013 a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM). Promoted to Knight Companion in the 2018 New Year Honours (KNZM), and in August of that year, was inducted into the World Rugby Hall of Fame.



*Robert Dye, Secretary.*

## REBUS CLUB OF MANAWATU



**NOVEMBER MEETING SPEAKER: Ron Walker, 93 years old**, shared his hard beginnings; with poverty and an alcoholic father. There were years in a children's home and a boys' home. Later he established himself as a cabinet maker, swimmer and family man, showing a harsh upbringing need not define you.

Thank you, Nelson, Phyllis and family for hosting us at their beautiful **Colyton garden**.  
*Margie Comrie.*



## REBUS CLUB OF PALMERSTON NORTH



With the ringing of his bell and a stirring "Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!" ("Listen up!"), the **Palmerston North Town Crier** commanded our attention for 45 minutes at our November club meeting. In colourful livery, **Lyll Brenton** engrossed us with the history of town crying and personal tales of his many ceremonial appearances at community events. His beautiful staff of office was made for him by a blind man who carved it by touch. In addition, Lyll is in demand as a Santa at Christmas time.

Town criers had their origin in ancient Greece and Rome. Their duty was to announce official proclamations and bring news to the people. In English tradition, they acted as spokesmen for the monarch, so to harm a town crier was to commit treason - hence the phrase 'don't shoot the messenger'. Every proclamation ends with the cry, "God save the King (or Queen)!" There are only five town criers left in New Zealand.

*Dean Halford, Newsletter Editor.*

## COMBINED REBUS CLUB OF PARAPARAUMU BEACH INC.

Our 10-minute speaker last month was none other than **President Vaughan**. **'Nightmare in Brussels'** was his topic. Vaughan and Janis' experiences in getting from Brussels to Scotland are something few will have experienced. It involved cancelled buses (airport on strike), cancelled flight (airport on strike), a trip on the Eurostar from Brussels to London and another train trip to Scotland. 13 hours travel and some \$1300 unbudgeted dollars. An experience indeed!

Our main speaker was **Jill Mason from Kapiti Foodbank**, and she gave us all food for thought when outlining the work that this unfunded group of people does. Her talk was well received, and she was very appreciative of the donations made by members on the day. Members were very generous in supporting such a worthwhile cause.



*Steve Hutchison, Bulletin Editor.*

## **REBUS CLUB OF GULF HARBOUR**



**Club Speaker: Sarah Bretherton** told us about her childhood and early upbringing on a farm near **Southport** in the northwest of England. She amused us with her stories of being an adventurous toddler, venturing near the railway lines, and the canal!! An early start at school, aged four, laid the foundations for Sarah's education, going to Grammar School and then to University, where she qualified as a physiotherapist. She came to New Zealand in the 1990s.

**Guest Speaker: Sarah Williams, Hibiscus Coast Zero-Waste Co-ordinator.** This is a charity funded by the **Auckland Council**, which also runs

the **"Repair Café"**, manned by volunteers. The Council intends to be waste free by 2024. Rubbish going to landfill creates electricity from methane. Plastic bags take up to 1,000 years to break down. Insinerators are a No No. There are seven types of plastic – only 1, 2 and 5 are recyclable. The organisation helps local businesses with advice about recycling.

*J. McIntosh, Newsletter Editor.*



## **WAIKANA E MILLENNIUM REBUS CLUB INC.**

**The Feilding Trip to the Saleyards, Market, and Coach House Museum** was a great success. We were greeted by my cousin **Eric Linklater** who gave us a brief history, and we were divided into small groups of 6 - 8 with a volunteer. The sale was an eye-opener, with ewes and lambs selling for \$70. 00. The cattle were more popular selling for between \$700 - \$1500. The Saleyards in their heyday must have been an incredible sight. Thanks to the volunteers who did a sterling job. Feilding had a Rural Day with a large market and many country activities and stalls. **The Coach House Museum** was full of farm memorabilia, Maori history, and many reminders of farming development in the Manawatu. A great day out and well worth a visit if you are in Feilding.



*David Goggin, Newsletter Editor.*

## **SOUTH WAIRARAPA REBUS CLUB**



In place of our planned guest speaker, we used the big TV screen at the club to show the documentary **Tararua S-K: 60 years in the making**, starring our own David Capper. In early December 1977, Hilary and David had spent two weeks in Malawi (previously Nyasaland) with their two children, (5 and 9), visiting a nephew. They had taken a year off to work in England and to travel in UK, Europe and overseas. Malawi was fitted in after time in Greece and before their next visit to friends in Nepal's Sherpa country. Malawi land area is about equivalent to NZ's North Island; its population in 1977 was about 5½ million; today it is around 21½ million. At the time they did not realise the brutal reality of Banda's rule and did not know that censorship was routinely carried out on all printed material. Hilary said *"We climbed up a rocky out-crop, following a track marked by arrows painted on the stone underfoot. At the top we stopped to rest and looked around. Beneath us was a large plain of red earth, bush and trees. Scattered around were several villages, apparent because of the thatched roofs that poked out from amongst the scrub. As we sat quietly, we could hear the sound of drum beats and chanting rising from these villages. It was the closest we were to get to the sound of Africa. Even if Banda was a dictator and censorship abounded, I had to admire him for retaining the people on the land and for ensuring that their culture had not been lost."* Photo: Hilary Capper.

*David Woodhams, Newsletter Editor.*

## **AVONDALE LADIES' REBUS CLUB**

Our October Meeting was attended by 24 members who were dressed for the theme of the day **"Welcome to Spring"**. **The Speaker was Wendy Hampton**, a lawyer who gave us lots of helpful hints to ensure that the lawyers who are dealing with our estate have the necessary information so the process can be done in a timely fashion and with the least cost to the family. So much information and given very clearly.

*Barbara Douglas, Newsletter Editor.*

**A wise old owl sat in an oak; The more he saw, the less he spoke.  
The less he spoke, the more he heard; Why can't we all be like that bird?**

## REBUS CLUB OF MT HOBSON



Recent Events : Golf at Omaha was an outstanding success and many thanks to **Doug Wilson and Scottie Yates** for their organisation, and thanks also to **Geoff Whitcher** our man on the ground there. The course was in great shape and the staff did everything to make us welcome. Conditions, although fine overhead, were taxing with the customary strong SW wind penalising any wayward shots. The image below shows some of the contestants hanging on the words of MC Doug as he announced the prize winners. The best individual Stableford went to **Ron Haydon** with a commendable 38 points. The aggregate team Stableford was taken out by **Wilson, Benjamin, Hagen and Alley** with 105 points – a mere 39 points below par! Finally, a big shout out to Brian Skyrme who generously arranged the prizes for our winners. “Also-rans” gained a golf ball, courtesy of Brian’s efforts.

*Pat Alley, Newsletter Editor.*

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## REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST

In 2021 the current owner purchased the **Gulf Harbour Country Club** and started offering land from the Golf Course for sale. This prompted local residents to form the incorporated society **Keep Whangaparaoa’s Green Spaces (KWGS)**, along with other resident initiatives. In 2023 the owner applied for resource consent to change the encumbrance to allow development of the first nine golf holes into housing, but the Council decided to uphold the 999-year encumbrance.

**A member of KWGS, Owen Paterson, was Guest Speaker** at our October meeting and he spoke about the recent history of the area. Needless to say the plans, if carried out by the owner, will have major consequences for the Whangaparaoa Peninsula.

Below: **The Ramblers** at Shepherds Reserve, Beach Haven, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and Long Bay, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024



*Earl Brookbanks, Bulletin Editor.*

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## PAPANUI REBUS CLUB

Member, **David Eddy**, shared some photos of his trip to **New York** with his daughter, including some very interesting facts. Then **Cindy Hey, from Ferrymead Heritage Park** spoke to us about the park’s history with photos of the park back in the day. She also shared with us the park’s operations today with the many school visits and educational services they provide. A great place to take the grandchildren.

Our lunch this month was well attended with 30 people turning up at the **Merrin St Brewery in Avonhead**. Good food, and one of the few places that still serves lambs fry, which some of us took advantage of. *Linda Barnes.*



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**Life throws us many curved balls, but Rebus  
is one of the things that we can look forward to and enjoy.**

## **REBUS CLUB OF MILSON INC.**

**Vaughn Seymour from Just Zilch** spoke about their wonderful free food which they distribute. I was amazed that 350 families need food every day. There are 15 other organisations who also do this work. Vaughn has worked for Just Zilch for three years and has 7 other paid workers. A note to remember is **date best before** is still ok to eat - but **use by date** is not. This business has flourished from starting from a car-boot in 2011.



**Outing to Wanganui:** We travelled in a mini bus. Firstly, we had a beautiful homemade morning tea outside the Glass Blowing studio. Then we watched **Mandy Browns daughter, Katie**, glass blowing. We also visited the gallery and then went to **Katie's Gallery** round the corner. Lunch followed at **Mud Ducks**, and then we visited the **District Council Chambers** where we viewed the Stained-Glass windows – which depict various historical events and places in Wanganui. Thank you to Jo Williamson and Mandy for such a wonderful day out.

*Margaret Broderick, Newsletter Editor.*

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## **CAMBRIDGE MEN'S REBUS CLUB**



The November meeting was attended by 56 members. The **Guest Speaker** was **Janine Mair NZRN, Co-ordinator Dementia Waikato**. Janine's address provided members with worthwhile advice on measures that may assist in countering the effects of dementia.

Club members enjoyed a visit to the **Cambridge Museum**, which is located inside the old **Courthouse** and contains a treasure trove of artefacts, photographs, and taonga, with exhibitions that reveal intriguing insights into the people and passions that have shaped the Cambridge area. The museum features include a newly-installed time-line that traces the history of the town from pre-colonial to modern times.

*Nigel Salter.*



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## **MOTUEKA REBUS CLUB**

The first **Speaker** was **Chrissy from Fresh FM**, the local radio station in **Community House in Decks Reserve**. Chrissy's enthusiasm and knowledge of her job made for an excellent understanding of the need for local radio presenting local issues. It has become the **Peoples Radio**, which connects the community. Chrissy suggested that special interest groups could come to see her, to become part of the People's Radio, and I know that a couple of people are already pursuing this invitation. Tune in at Frequency 10418.

Our **Main Speaker** was **Doug Loader**, who is an expert on all things fishing, NZ fish, stocks, quota, rules and regulations. A remarkably wide understanding of his subject was shared with us for quarter of an hour. The rest of the time was busy answering questions from the floor, of which there were many. The focus for New Zealand is the Management of Fisheries which involves the close relationship between the Fisheries Management Team, the Government, and the Fishermen themselves, so lines of communication are kept open.

*Sue Clark.*

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## **REBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON**

We had a great day at **Top Notch Macadamia Farm**, and I suspect a bit of Christmas shopping was accomplished there too. Having the mini vans was a great help, so special thanks to Alison for arranging these



Morning tea on arrival,



the processing plant,



learning about macadamia nuts.

*Kath Kenrick, Bulletin Editor.*

**"Give every day the chance to be the most beautiful day of your life." Mark Twain.**

## **FITZHERBERT REBUS CLUB INC.**

**Sgt. Andrew Brooke**, head of Search and Rescue, spoke to us of his role and the role of SAR. This agency is run by the police from Police Stations and covers a large area including Antarctica, Chile and the Pacific Islands. The jobs vary in size, and lots of checking has to be done before putting a team to work e.g. information on the whereabouts of a person missing in bush has to be checked as sometimes (and for various reasons) searchers could be looking in the wrong places. Volunteers are essential for SAR work, and all have to be briefed, have the right equipment and be able to attend when called. Many hours are spent on some call-outs over land, sea and air. It is a service we all hope we never need to call on but it's great to know it is there.

Fellowship was enjoyed recently over lunch and a browse at **Carolines Creative Interiors**.



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



### **Kapiti Chocolate Factory Tour:**

Members visited the **Kapiti Chocolate Factory**, hosted by Sarah, the owner, and thoroughly enjoyed it. From free samples, questions and lots of purchasing of Christmas presents it was a wonderful tour. The shop is open to the public from 10am – 4pm Monday to Friday and Saturday till 3pm. Their specialty is delicious chocolates with soft fillings, including mint cream, caramel, raspberry, and a range of NZ flavours such as feijoa, honey and kiwifruit. Speciality boxed chocolates, gift baskets, novelty chocolates and much more are available. For more information visit [www.kapitichocolatefactory.nz](http://www.kapitichocolatefactory.nz)

*Mary Paddock, Newsletter Editor.*

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## **REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH**

**Guest Speaker: Kate Ricketts – Shining a new light on nits.** Kate is in a battle against nits and head lice. Frustrated by how her two boys (aged 10 and 7) were constantly getting head lice, Kate Ricketts developed a non-toxic hair powder that makes nits and nit eggs glow in the dark when viewed under UV light. This was the genesis of **ISPY Nits**, a company that helps parents get rid of nits from their children's hair, while sparking kids' interest in science and removing the stigma of head lice. It highlights the science, fun and glow-in-the-dark aspects of the experience.

From being a veterinary nurse long ago, Kate remembered ringworm on cats – how it showed up under fluorescent light. She entered a **University of Auckland Innovation** competition to win \$1,000.00; entered another University competition with a business plan – won seed funding and gained an intern; managed to get into Chemistry labs to formulate something non-toxic which worked; then gained funding for the next 6 to 12 months. The **ISpy** kits provide a fun and engaging learning experience – as well as nit-free heads.



*Sharon Major, Newsletter Editor.*

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## **KOWHAI REBUS CLUB OF BETHLEHEM**



In November our Club celebrated its **14<sup>th</sup> Birthday**. **Joan Wilson** cut the Kowhai Rebus cake, seen here with President Pauline standing nearby.

In October our Club was fortunate to have Pauline's sister as our **Main Speaker**. **Carole Gordon** showed a presentation and spoke on healthy ageing and longevity wellbeing. A fascinating talk, and things to consider. We all learnt a lot from her about aging.

*Marie Mabey, Newsletter Editor.*

**I love Labour Day.**

**What other day can you get to celebrate work without doing any?**

## REBUS CLUB OF RIVERSIDE HAMILTON

Whenever I receive the monthly report from the **Tramping Club**, I am in awe as to the amount of energy that group seems to possess. My old body can hardly get up out of a chair, let alone traipse around the countryside. They are a wonderful inspiration to us all.

As this is the last newsletter for 2024, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all your support over the year. It has been much appreciated.

*Steve O'Sullivan, Editor.*



## REBUS CLUB CAMBRIDGE



Last week, a group of Cambridge Rebus members visited the Muscle Car Museum at Hautapu. We had an informative talk from the curator, and morning tea. Amazing cars and BIG machinery!

*Steve Osullivan, President.*



And with twenty-five snippets of news for you, that brings Rebus Club News to a close for 2024. I hope you have found something interesting to read, and a big **Thank You** to all the contributors this month., especially the first-timers. Yes, it is a busy time of year for all of us – some clubs have already held their **Christmas/End of Year** function – others are still eagerly looking forward to the annual function. And apart from the fun, camaraderie and the eating, it is also a time for giving. Have you thought what you could give to your Club?



Could you spare a little time next year – either on or off Committee – doing a job for your Club? Please take some time over the holiday period to think about it. Most clubs hold their AGM in March. By far the main reason clubs close down is because of lack of participation to help run the Club. As a member, you are important, can you help your Club? As with most things, the more you put in, the more you will get out of it.

However you spend the Holiday Season, whether with friends or family, Graeme and I wish you all a very happy and healthy time, and I look forward to catching up again in the New Year, when I will have a sack full of news for your enjoyment.

*Jean,  
Editor, Rebus Club News.*

