



REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST

May 2025

Post: 37 Beauvoir Ave, Matakatia, Whangaparaoa 0930

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Club bank a/c - 12 3084 0176946 00

Affiliated to Rebus NZ Incorporated.



Where you will find fun, friendship, and conviviality.

Committee

President:	Paul Robinson	027 2222 151
Vice President:	Tim Jones	021 386 981
Secretary :	Trevor Weal	021 032 3373
Treasurer:	Bryan Wentworth	021 210 1791
IPP/Website/Rebus NZ:	Garth Dutton	020 4006 0844
Speakers/Ramblers:	David Gatland	021 285 5734
Trips & events:	Steve Waller	021 0864 0236
Bulletin:	Earl Brookbanks	027 274 8780
Host:	Peter Fava	021 560 925
	Bill Cobb	027 292 5159
Membership:	Stephen McKay	021 189 5022

Non-Committee

Book table:	Dave Betts	021 967 074
Kitchen:	Mike Peake	021 177 4820
Kitchen:	Julian Joy	027 764 0663
Kitchen/Transport:	Murray Paterson	021 0238 9252
Door raffle & prizes:	Fergus Small	027 264 1366
Door raffle & prizes:	Alan Menzies	027 444 2094
Photography:	Graeme McIntosh	027 473 9787
Welfare:	Frank Coggan	021 932 811
Database:	Phil Martell	027 497 0024
Dinner club:	George Tregidga	027 223 7953
Presentations:	Brian Tracey	021 661 573

Meetings are held at the Bridge Club in Edith Hopper Park, Ladies Mile, Manly.

Our NEXT MEETING will be held on TUESDAY 3rd June 2025 at 9.30 am.

Our Guest Speaker is Guy Slocum on the cold war. Guy will be introduced by Kim Hanna and thanked by Phil Martell. Owing to an extended presentation by the Guest Speaker there will be no Club Speaker presentation.

Quick reminder: If you are unable to attend, please send your apology to our email address above, and if you are attending, please remember to wear your nametag.



President's Message

Hello friends!

Last month I advised that a group from our club would be attending the Rebus NZ AGM in Palmerston North. Five members made the trip down – Garth, George, Graeme, Pieter, and me. The local Rebus club coordinated an excellent “back to basics” meeting which was attended by 21 clubs from throughout the country. Graeme and Jean McIntosh both stepped down from the Rebus NZ Board and were warmly thanked by all present for their significant contributions to our organisation. Garth and George have been joined on the Board by another [ex]member of our club Paul Wilkinson who moved to Rangiora earlier this year and joined the Papanui Club.

An offer by Hibiscus Rebus to host the 2026 Rebus NZ AGM in Whangaparaoa was accepted. A small organising committee has been formed to get on with this work.

Our Trips & Events Convenor Steve Waller has once again planned an extraordinary event for himself and Tessa and will spend the next few months “back home in blighty”. The committee is struggling along without his guidance, and held a very enjoyable tenpin bowling morning last Thursday 22nd in conjunction with the Hibiscus Coast Friendship Club. In June some members will attend the Fieldays Exhibition at Mystery Creek in Hamilton – the bus is already booked out for this and unfortunately there are no spare seats.

I hope you have all been busy like Aesop's ant and gathered food and firewood for the off-season. Just because its winter doesn't mean we have to hibernate – we can still get out and about if we wear our fur-lined undies!

Take care out there,

Paul Robinson

Rebus apparel

Rebus NZ has organised a line of Rebus-branded hats for members to wear and hopefully trigger

interest in our group from persons outside of the club. At this stage there are caps, bucket hats, and visors. The promotional apparel available through our website <https://www.rebus.nz/apparel> has now been extended to include polo shirts.



The hats come in several colours – navy blue, black, and white, all of which can be seen at <https://www.apparelmerchco.com/collections/rebus> Rebus NZ has a few remaining items in stock at \$20 for the caps and bucket hats, and \$17 for the visors. If you wish to purchase one [or more] of these, they will be available at our club meeting next Tuesday or you can order through Bill Cobb.

Humour

Foot in mouth from sports commentators at the Athens Olympics...

Dressage commentator: "This is really a lovely horse and I speak from personal experience since I once mounted her mother."

Paul Hamm, Gymnast: "I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mother and father."

Boxing Analyst: "Sure there have been injuries, and even some deaths in boxing, but none of them really that serious."

Basketball analyst: "He dribbles a lot and the opposition doesn't like it. In fact, you can see it all over their faces."

At the rowing ceremony: "Ah! isn't that nice, the wife of the IOC president is hugging the cox of the British crew."

Soccer commentator: "Julian Dicks is everywhere. It's like they've got eleven Dicks on the field."

TRIPS AND FUNCTIONS



Tenpin Bowling - With Steve having a well-earned holiday with family in the UK, the Committee is sharing his role. Twenty of us joined with eight from Hibiscus Friendship Club for a most enjoyable morning of tenpin bowling last Thursday. Although this was intended as a challenge from the Friendship members, the imbalance in participants from each club lead us to simply mix-and-match the two groups into social teams rather than have a competition.

Trevor Weal played a blinder in the first set of games scoring 148. He fell away in the second set where the highest score was 130 by Paul Robinson followed with 114 by Glenis Robinson. The top 3 men over the two games were Paul [243], Trevor [222], and Dave Betts [197] with Glenis top lady [178]. We adjourned to our normal watering hole at The Beer Spot for lunch afterwards.



Dave Betts and Glenis Robinson showing their style.

June 13th Fieldays Exhibition – Garth will be tour leader for this expedition which is already fully subscribed.

July 24th Auckland Zoo – Gill Wild from the Gulf Harbour Club is a volunteer at the zoo and has offered to be our tour guide for this event. We will carpool from Edith Hopper. Parking is \$8 and entry to the zoo is \$20 – pay on the day. Lunch in the zoo at own cost. Please can you confirm with Paul if you wish to join this trip ph: 027 2222 151 or hibiscusrebus@gmail.com

August 6th Mid-year Lunch – Bill has booked tables at the Red Beach Surf Lifesaving Club – details to follow in the June bulletin.

Paul Robinson



Membership and 'Our People'

A very warm welcome to Roger Harvey and Rob Aspden who joined us at our May meeting.



Roger is a life member of the Rotary Club of Newmarket having held leadership roles in the NZ and Pacific Rotary movements.



Rob is a retired civil engineer whose special area of expertise is electricity including nuclear power.

We hope you both enjoy your membership with us.



Good to see the guvnor out recruiting recently????

Steve McKay



Welfare

I returned to North Shore hospital a couple of weeks ago and have subsequently been fitted with a pacemaker to regulate the timing and sequence of my heartbeat. I am back home and will attend our meeting next week.

Graeme McIntosh has also been in North Shore hospital for a couple of weeks with an infection in one leg. They operated on his leg, but the infection is lingering on.

Frank Coggan



Treasurer's Report

Our Treasurer, Bryan Wentworth is currently away and he has asked me to keep a couple of matters 'ticking over' during his absence. The balance in the

Club's Bank account stands at \$5,389.78, with Bryan having settled any accounts falling due before he left. With monies being collected for

outings and functions now in the account, the balance reveals a suitably healthy situation.

Annual subscription – the annual subscription for 2025-26 remains the same as for previous years at \$25 and is now due. We do not send an invoice for this subscription. Please pay online to our ASB account 12 3084 0176946 with the reference "ann sub" or by cash at our meeting on Tuesday 3rd June.

Bank Account No: 12 3084 0176946 with the reference "ann sub".

Phil Mantell

Speaker's corner



Our May Club Speaker Kim Hanna told us about his life as a farmer. He left school in 1950 and, being the third son, worked on the family farm near the Kaipara Harbour. This was not what he wanted as his mates were all off to university. He milked 40 dairy cows along with Hereford cattle and Romney sheep. He did this for 12 years in which time he got married to Jane and had two sons.

Having little capital, they decided to buy a farm with the owner being prepared to leave funds in as a mortgage. This was 234 acres of good land in Titoki near Whangarei with a good house but rundown cowshed and buildings. The deposit was £7,000 with £28,000 left in at 11% pa interest. In 1964 they milked 105 cows and employed a 16-year-old boy who lived with the family. Kim worked hard improving the buildings and fences and planned a new cowshed. Everyone said he would go broke but by 1965 he was milking 125 cows in a new herringbone shed, then 170 cows the next year. The vendor kept annoying him, so Kim bought a hilly dairy farm 240 acres close by for £16,000 with an old house. By 1968 he was milking 272 cows with a married man living in the old house and his family in a new house on the farm.

In 1970 Kim bought another dairy farm at Whatatiri and went into beef stock. In 1975 he bought 2,000 acres divided into 11 paddocks for \$126,000. The house and woolshed were 100 years old. The previous owner left in \$80,000 at

8% pa. Improving the farm with a new house and carrying 3,000 sheep and 300 breeding cows, he sold in 1981 and purchased an 800 acre fully developed farm in Tangitora. Along with his second son Kim, he improved this farm and then went into buying commercial buildings in Whangarei and building a 3-story office block with four partners. After an overseas trip, Kim became a land agent. Missing farming, he next bought a farm in the King Country which his son took over.

In 1992 he purchased new commercial property in Takapuna. In 1993 they bought a beach house in Tindalls Bay, sold this and bought in Arkles Bay and joined Hibiscus Coast Rebus. In 2007 they bought a section in Vipond Road and build a Gardner home.

The 2012 Christchurch earthquake resulted in Government inspecting all commercial multi-story properties which meant selling the Whangarei property in 2019, other partners having died. Kim loved the farming life and was continually looking for new opportunities.

Club Speaker:



Our Guest Speaker, Graeme Rothwell was introduced by Fergus Small. Graeme's talk was on "A Personal Reflection on Soviet and Ukrainian Agriculture."

Graeme started by telling us he was a representative of the World Bank which went into countries with the aim of helping them develop models that would allow overseas private capital investment to fund improvements in their industries.

His talk started by telling us that Ukraine was a very large country, the second biggest in Europe behind Russia, with very rich black soils called chernozems. Ukraine has 32 million hectares under cultivation which is larger than Italy. Currently it is low yielding and badly used.

He continued by giving some early history of Russia. Under the Czar, Russia was an exporter of grain but after the revolution the production fell. Stalin attempted to modernize its agriculture by collectivisation and appointed T D Lysenko who

believed outside influences caused the plants to adapt. In Ukraine, Kulacs managed farms and these were eliminated by Stalin with 10 million deaths. Poor land use, old technology, and central planning created large shortages in grain production. In the 1970s Russia bought the world's surplus at a low price and sold oil to the world at high prices, a period called the great grain robbery, but production started to recover in the 2000s.

The World Bank was involved in the Tula Project in 1995. This involved apple juicing which involved meetings with Russian state farmers, all men. It took two weeks to get all the information after meeting with the women, who had the production numbers. There was no concept of supplier/customer - only sending the production on to the next step in a production line. The Department of Finance set the price at each step; there was no financial information used to make these decisions. State farms would always produce 20-25% below their quota with the shortage being called "spoilage".

Nickel oligarchs moved into the agriculture sector buying up grain silos and chicken plants. Production was based on horizontal structure as their purchases were at the same level of production. The set up of their pig farms was very large, 1000 sows, but badly designed as a circular operating system with the dirty pens on the outside and the clean pens at the centre which was hard to keep clean. It needed entrepreneurial input, which the oligarchs provided but they had no knowledge to start with.

In 2002 in Kakhovka Ukraine, the World Bank got reforms breaking up state farms into small farms owned by peasants. With no idea of the supply chain and a lot of corruption, production was low. Canadian consultants tried to tell the farmers how to grow grain but what was needed was information on pricing and supply chains and using the young Ukrainians, their production recovered. Ukraine is now exporting 35 million tonnes pa despite the war. As a comparison, Australia's yearly grain production is 30 million tonnes in total.

Graeme was thanked by Hans Wouters who presented him with a certificate and a bottle of wine.

David Gatland.

Humour

If you ever testify in court, you might wish you could have been as sharp as this policeman.

He was being cross-examined by a defence attorney during a felony trial. The lawyer was trying to undermine the policeman's credibility...

Q. "Officer, did you see my client fleeing the scene?"

A. "No sir, but I subsequently observed a person matching the description of the offender, running several blocks away."

Q. "Officer, who provided this description?"

A. "The officer who responded to the scene sir."

Q. "A fellow officer provided the description of this so-called offender. Do you trust your fellow officers?"

A. "Yes, sir. With my life."

Q. "With your life? Let me ask you this then officer. Do you have a room where you change your clothes in preparation for your daily duties?"

A. "Yes sir, we do."

Q. "And do you have a locker in the room?"

A. "Yes sir, I do."

Q. "And do you have a lock on your locker?"

A. "Yes sir, of course."

Q. "Now why is it officer, if you trust your fellow officers with your life, you find it necessary to lock your locker in a room you share with these same officers?"

A. "You see sir, we share the building with the court complex, and SOMETIMES LAWYERS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO WALK THROUGH THAT ROOM!"

The court room erupted in laughter and a prompt recess was called.

Ramblers May 2025



Early in May Jim Mitchell led a small group around the Orewa Estuary followed by coffee at Millies. The following week, 12 of us followed him on an interesting 7.5Km walk around the Gulf Harbour area followed by the enjoyable coffee and patisserie at Cherry Café.



Thanks to Jim for stepping up whilst the Great Leader was away on holiday and Rebus NZ business.

The next week we had a shortened walk around Greenhithe due to the closure of the track through to the horse-riding paddocks.



The footbridge over the stream had been severely damaged by storm debris. There was plenty of time to have a look at the beautiful homes around Kingfisher Grove and nearby streets while taking some time out to talk the chooks and pat the – rather demanding- ram guarding the closed-off footbridge. We always enjoy the replenishments at the Collins café.

The following week we stayed on the peninsular and did a walk around the four beaches starting

from the Manly shops outside the fish and chip shop. This was an energised walk dipping our toes into the sand on Manly, Tindalls and Matakatia Beaches.

On our final May walk we headed into the City on the big bus, catching the 9.05am NX1 from Silverdale to Victoria Park.



From there we walked around Westhaven to the Bouy Café and Eatery and after coffee and treats returned to Victoria park via the Shelley Beach walkway over the motorway, then alongside the motorway and back over the creative pedestrian bridge to Westhaven to our bus stop. On this route the Amblers shortened the distance via Uber.

If you would like to join us on a Monday at 0900, just let me know and I will add you to the mailing list. Partners, friends and prospects are all most welcome.

David Gatland

Combined Club Dinner Nights



This group comprises members of both the Hibiscus Coast and Gulf Harbour Clubs. The next combined club dinner is on Tuesday 10 June at Due Amici, Manly Village. Start time of 5:30 pm.

33 people have now booked. I have spoken to the owners about increasing the numbers. We can increase the numbers if you book up to 3rd June Rebus Club meeting day, so if anyone still wishes to go please let me know.

If members have any ideas of restaurants in the area that we can try, please give me a call or email at gandc@xtra.co.nz

George Tregidga



Birthdays for May

Our congratulations to the following members for having successfully navigated another year – Kim Hanna, Brian Mullan, Ray Davis, Terry Burns, Frank Coggan, Andy Martin, Neville Drower, and Mark Burt.

Donation/Sponsorship

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Allan Yeo of **Booster Wine Group** for their ongoing donation of a selection of New Zealand fine wines. These will be given to our guest speakers in appreciation for their presentations.

If you wish to know more about the Booster visit their website

<https://boosterwinegroup.nz/our-story>

