



REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST

November 2025

Post: 37 Beauvoir Ave, Matakatia, Whangaparaoa 0930
Website: <http://www.rebus-hibiscuscoast.co.nz>
Email: hibiscusrebus@gmail.com
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

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
Membership: Stephen McKay 021 189 5022
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 2nd December 2025 at 9.30 am.

Our guest speaker is Stephen Becket [Warkworth Men's Rebus Club] speaking on Uzbekistan Today. He will be introduced by Garth Dutton and thanked by Pieter Hopkins. Our club speaker is Rob Aspden. **Quick reminder:** If you are unable to attend, please send your apology to our email address above, and if you are attending, please wear your nametag.



President's Message

Hello friends!

The end of the year is just around the corner, and this will be our last bulletin for 2025. I'm looking forward to summer and swimming down at the beach – one of the many things that makes this part of the country so special.

As noted by Steve below, we had a good turnout for the lawn bowls at Manly Bowling Club. I hope that many of you will also enjoy our Christmas lunch at the Gulf Harbour Yacht Club on 4th December - please advise Steve when you have made your booking stevejwaller49@gmail.com. Following that we will have a break until our annual summer picnic in mid-February at Shakespeare Regional Park.

My sincere thanks to our Committee for their excellent work this year, together with our non-Committee volunteers, all of whom jointly do their best to make the club the easy-going and interesting society that you enjoy. I also wish to thank our Rebus NZ AGM Organising Committee for their

work around hosting this event next May.

I wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas with your families and friends and a very safe New Year.



Paul Robinson.

Trips and Events



Bowling and BBQ lunch at Manly Bowling Club.

On Thursday 20th November, thirty-four of us enjoyed a fun morning of bowling, followed by a BBQ lunch of beef patties and sausages accompanied by fresh bread rolls and salads. With ten additional lunch guests, a total of forty-four people attended—our largest turnout yet for this annual event.

The weather was perfect, as were the facilities and staff at Manly Bowling Club, who we thank for making the event an immense success. I would

like to especially thank Andy Dorrance (General Manager MBC) for his support and for staffing the bar. As regards our own club volunteers, I thank Garth for sourcing the meat and Ruth for hand-making the patties, Tessa, Jan, and Judy for making and preparing the salads, and all those who helped wash dishes after lunch. Thanks also to Bill for driving the BBQ and our experienced bowlers who almost put us on the right track, especially Glenys Ferguson and our President Paul. I am sure there are others who contributed to making the event such an enormous success.



End of year/Christmas lunch.

Venue: Gulf Harbour Yacht Club, Laurie Southwick Parade, Gulf Harbour. (Turn right at the roundabout on Gulf Harbour Dr, if travelling from say Manly, as though you are heading to the ferry. The Yacht Club is on the left on the bend just before the ferry car park).

Date and time: Thursday 4th December at 12 noon.

Cost: \$48 per person, drinks not included. This charge is subsidised with club funds.

Who can attend: All welcome, including guests.

How to book: Pay \$48 into our club bank account 12 3084 0176946 00 AND email Steve stating who is attending no later than Monday 1st December, **which is this Monday folks.**

stevejwaller49@gmail.com

A number of people have notified me that they are attending but have NOT paid into the club's account. If you plan to attend, please pay now as the numbers we give to the caterers are those that we have received payment from.

This is a popular function, and the Yacht Club is a comfortable venue with a bar. It is a few years since we had lunch there. They have always made us welcome and catered for us very well. See menu.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

Glazed ham with condiments

Turkey with stuffing and gravy

Roast potatoes

Roast root vegetables

Cauliflower and broccoli in cheese sauce

Bulgur wheat salad with cranberries, haloumi, and lemon zest

Green salad with tomatoes

Christmas pudding with sauce and ice cream

Seasonal fruit salad

DRINK PRICES

Drinks are reasonably priced, for example:

Beer, standard (Lion Red, Speights Gold) \$7.50

Premium beer (all the rest) \$9.00

Craft beers \$12.00

Standard wine glass \$11.00

Bubbles \$13.00

Spirits, single from \$8.00

Juices \$5.00, soft drinks \$4.00

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 18th February 2026. BBQ and salad picnic. Shakespear Park, Te Haruhi Bay Reserve.

As usual all are welcome, including guests.

Meet at 12 noon and bring your own chair and table if you wish, preferably plastic plate and glass, together with your own drinks and cutlery.

The BBQ and salad lunch will be provided, as will be a selection of games on the grass for those that wish to participate.

To find us: drive to Shakespear Park at the end of Whangaparaoa Road. Turn right at Army Bay Beach, then first left along Bruce Harvey Drive, through the predator-proof gate and past the picture frame. At the bottom of the hill (just past the old wool shed) take the right fork and park up next to the grass reserve.

Bring your friends but not your pets as they are forbidden in the park.

To book your place pay \$15 per person into the club account ref' picnic AND notify Steve, details as above.

Steve Waller.

Welfare



All is quiet with no reports of any members requiring assistance, which can only be good news.

As usual people, please call me (021 932 811) if you need help or just a friendly chat.

Frank Coggan.

Treasurer's Report



As Bryan will be absent from our next Club meeting, Paul Robinson will provide an update on our financial position.

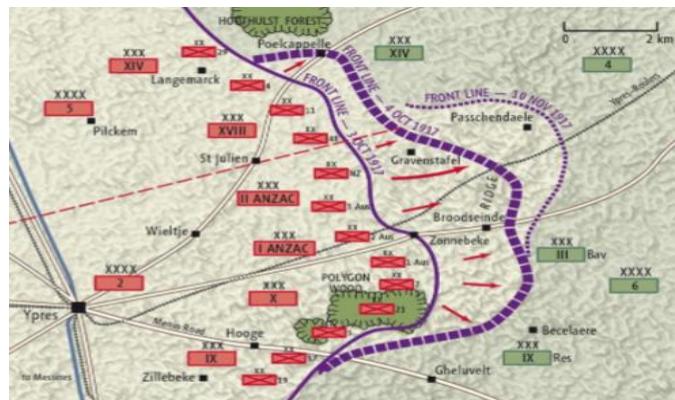
Bryan Wentworth.

Speaker's corner



Our guest speaker was Riley Bell who spoke on the NZ Forces in France during World War 1. Being the 11th month of the year, Riley's talk started with some facts - over 100,000 New Zealanders served out of a population of 1.15 million, 5% of all military-aged men were lost which was the highest per capita of all Allied forces. Gallipoli had 2,300 New Zealanders killed and 7,500 wounded, whereas the Western Front had 16,697 killed and 41,000 wounded plus another 5,000 that died within one year after the war. Riley didn't understand why Belgium and France are barely mentioned in our ANZAC Day services.

There were 83,000 soldiers plus 3,600 horses plus equipment evacuated from Gallipoli without loss. The New Zealanders were among these and they went to Cairo before arriving in France early in 1916 joining the Five Battles of Ypres. The German army was attempting to get to the sea ports and then on to Paris, but their advance was halted at Ypres.



The First Battle of Ypres 19th October 1914 to 22nd October 1914 involved trench warfare, with 550 km of trenches dug right to the Swiss border. The Germans held the higher ground, 15 – 20 meters, which although not high definitely gave them a strategic advantage.

The New Zealanders were still in Gallipoli for the 2nd Battle of Ypres 2nd April 1915 to 25th May 1915. This involved gas and flame throwers, the success of the gas depended on which way the wind blew.

With no major movement in area gained, on the 20th September 1916 the Battle of Arras took place. The New Zealand Tunnelling Company, comprising troops from Waihi and the West Coast, dug tunnels under Arras linking into existing caves. They managed 100 meters in a day, the record, and the tunnels were big enough to hold 25,000 soldiers with equipment, running water, electric lighting, toilets, kitchens, a hospital, and a light rail system. These tunnels were named after New Zealand cities. 21 tunnels were constructed and when detonated [the shock from which was reportedly felt in England] killed over 1,000 Germans. But only 19 charges went off, the 20th exploding in 2011 thought to be activated by a lightning strike.

The 3rd Battle of Ypres, Passchendaele, 31st July 1917 to 10th November 1917 started with the Battle of Polygon Wood. The area had changed hands a number of times over the three years of the war and was finally taken by the 1st ANZAC Division in September 1917, this being regarded as a victory. Churchill made his famous quote "from the uttermost ends of the earth".

The Battle of Broodseinde 4th October 1917 followed with the 2nd ANZAC Division where they made 1,500 meters and took 1,100 prisoners with 350 killed and 1,700 wounded. This used the creeping barrage technique where the artillery

pounded the enemy and then just take a small area and hold, called bite and hold.



Finally, the Battle of Passchendaele 12th October 1917 and the 2nd ANZAC Division again, where 840 men were killed in one day along with 3,300 casualties. The rain didn't stop, there was mud everywhere and the trenches were waterlogged leading to huge loss of life. 100 years later, shells and bodies are still coming out of the ground. The bodies are buried in Caterpillar Valley with full military honours. Around Ypres there are over 100 cemeteries with 7 cemeteries for New Zealanders but a lot of soldiers were buried where they fell. Menin Gate has a list of 54,395 unknown soldiers and every evening at dusk the last post is played along with the ode to the fallen soldier. It is very emotional.

In 1922 the New Zealand Government decided to leave the missing soldiers where their mates had fallen. At Tyre Cot and the Battle of De Wallencourt there are Commonwealth graves for 12,000 names including 520 Kiwis, 320 unidentified marked with "known to God" and 1,106 missing. The original tomb of the unknown soldier is here.

A week before the end of the war, in November 1918, the New Zealanders were involved in the capture of Le Quesnoy. Use of artillery was not appropriate as there were too many civilians in the town so a smoke screen along with small and large ladders were used to gain entry. This was one week before Armistice and the last action of the war - 18 New Zealanders were killed. Four years ago, the town gave their old Mayor's Office to the New Zealand Government to be used as a New Zealand memorial and WETA Workshop has constructed a display here.

Tim Jones thanked Riley for a very informative and moving presentation, and presented Riley with a certificate and bottle of wine.

Club speaker



Rod Klarwill started his talk telling us he was born in the Lower Hutt in 1944 and went to the Hutt Primary, Intermediate and High School along with Hal Smith. He went on to night school to do a Business Diploma.

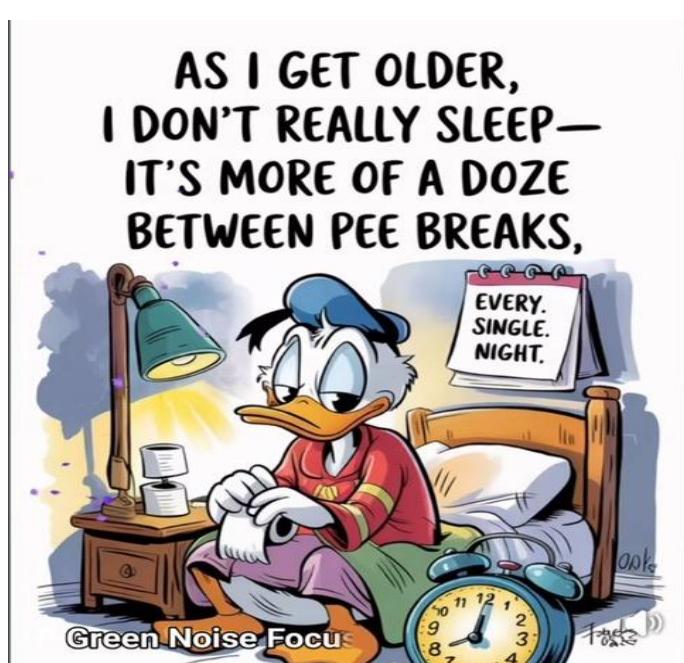
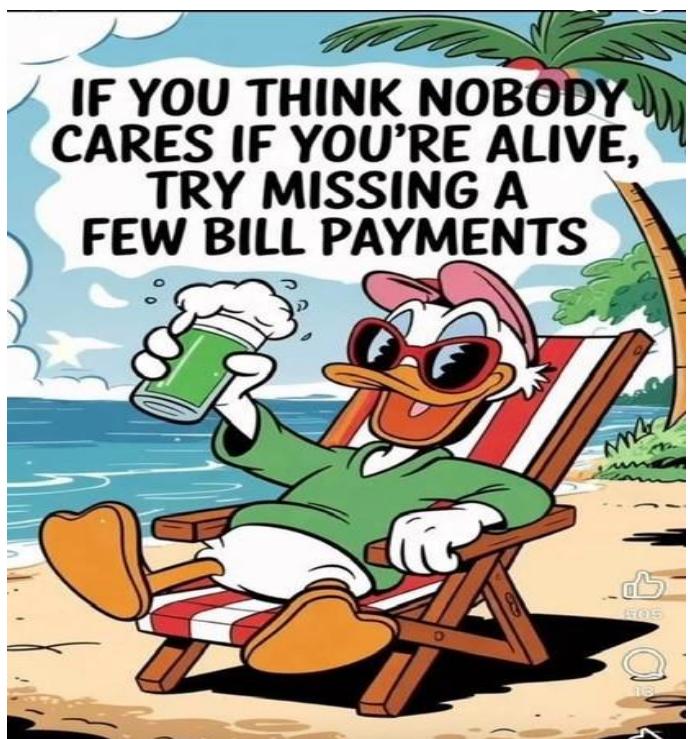
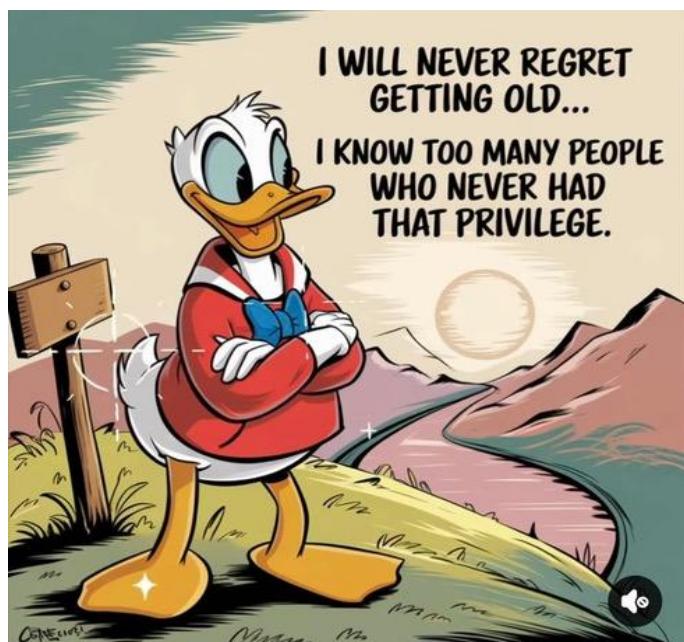
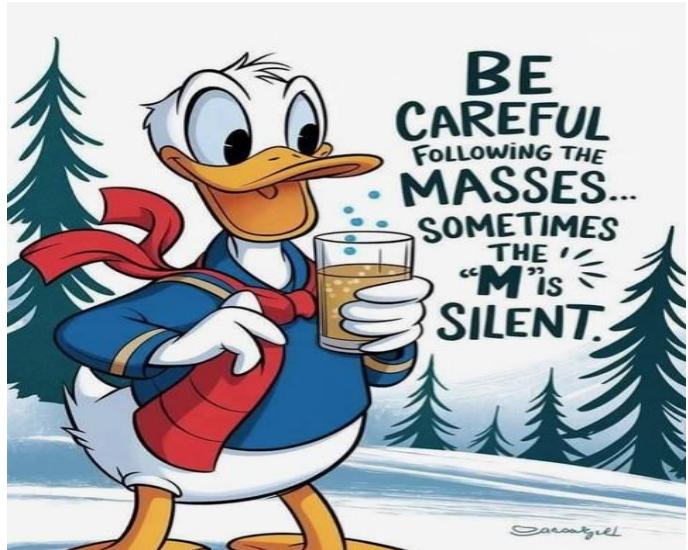
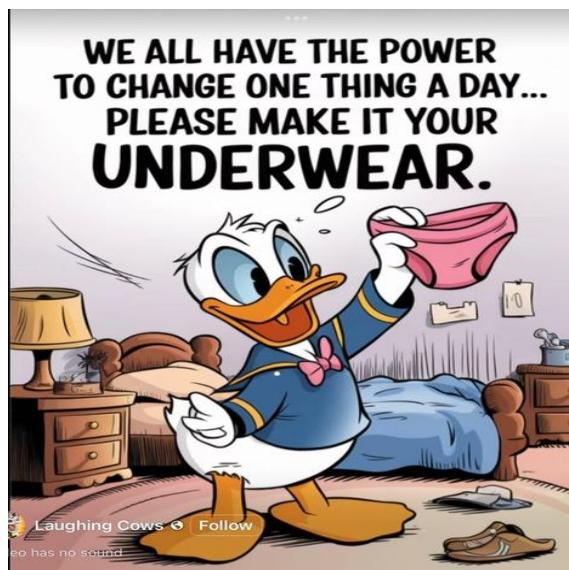
While doing this he started a car cleaning business at 14 and joined the Territorial Army from which he received a gratuity of £50 after three years. The careers officer thought Rod was good at persuasion, so he joined the Hutt Valley Bank. After a short time, he was transferred to Head Office where he got to wear a revolver while collecting money from clients. Noting that bank staff were transferred a lot, he decided to ask a client from his car cleaning business, a traveller with a nice car, for a job. Gaining this employment, Rod ended up travelling to every electrical supplier in downtown Wellington selling electrical equipment. Transferring to Auckland, he was the travelling salesman for hardware shops throughout greater Auckland which was then expanded to Taupo and all the area north of Taupo.

In 1968 Rod decided to join IBM selling ribbons and golf balls for electric typewriters. Doing rather well, he was transferred to Wellington where he managed to gain his pilots licence. After 8 years with IBM, he left and went to Xerox. This firm had a completely different culture and was an amazing experience. Developing mini computers that sold for \$US20,000. Rod met Steve Jobs on a trip to Hawaii. Steve had left Xerox and was setting up Apple MacIntosh selling small computers for \$US1,000.

Together with his wife, Rod sailed his 43 ft yacht to Tonga and back. During this time, they decided to sell the yacht and buy a business. They ended up buying a small business in Waiuku called Rural Research in June 1987 and kept the yacht. The business developed a garden fertilizer [Nitrosol] which took off, requiring them to expand the factory by shifting to Onehunga and then to East Tamaki. The key to their success was the listening to customers.

He finally sold this business in 2011 and retired.

Humour



Ramblers



For our initial November ramble, Neil took a social group around three beaches from the Manly Shops while Garth was sipping wine in the McLaren Vale.

The following week we returned to Milldale and started from the newly discovered Juno Eatery for a stroll around the Milldale/Millwater area.

For our third week, we met at the Stanmore Bay boat ramp carpark and rambled around Brightside Road and Foley Reserve, across to Stanmore Bay past the restored corner store, returning along the beach. We sampled a new refreshments venue “At 719” – in Whangaparaoa Plaza. Everyone enjoyed both the exercise and the refreshments.



Ramblers at Long Bay, 24 November 25

For our final November ramble, we travelled to Long Bay with an optional route up around the cliff-top walk to Pohutukawa Bay Beach – where “yes”, they are still there; whilst the more sedentary participants strolled along the beach. We met at the Bridge Club in Manly to share-drive to the car park at the Northern end of Long Bay. Refreshments were a long-awaited return to the Scout Café on the corner in Torbay.

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, visitors 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 combined club dinner was held at Maison Thai, on Tuesday 11th November. Thirty-seven patrons attended this enjoyable last dinner for this year. The ordering was slow, but payments worked well.

Our first dinner next year will be at The Next Bar and Eatery, 132 Pinecrest Drive Gulf Harbour. Date is to be confirmed later but it will be a Wednesday night as they are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays – either the last week in January or the first week in February.

Any new members who would like to attend this dinner should contact me at gandc@xtra.co.nz and I will add them to my mailing list. If members have any ideas of restaurants in the area that we can try, please give me a call or email me.

George Tregidga.



Birthdays for October

Our congratulations to the following members for having successfully navigated another year – Bill Cobb, Roger Harvey, and Robert Mann.

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

