



# REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST



## February 2026

Post: 37 Beauvoir Ave, Matakatia, Whangaparaoa 0930

Website: <http://www.rebus-hibiscuscoast.co.nz>

Email: [hibiscusrebus@gmail.com](mailto: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:	Murray Paterson	021 0238 9252
Kitchen:	Julian Joy	027 764 0663
Kitchen:	Riley Bell	021 684 085
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 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 at 9.30 am.**

Our guest speaker is Paula Browning speaking on "AI and the Older Generation". She will be introduced by Brian Tracey and thanked by Roger Harvey. As we are holding the AGM before the club meeting commences, there will not be a club speaker this month. **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!

As the summer rolls on, we come to our Annual General Meeting where the Committee presents the "how goes it" [or more accurately "how went it"] for the year. I think it is fair to say that Hibiscus Rebus has had a good year with a variety of speakers and trips and events. Our finances are satisfactory and our membership figures are slightly up on last year. The relevant papers were sent to each of you by email earlier this month.

Our committee has worked diligently to bring you an interesting program and I wish to thank them, and our other helpers, very much for their efforts. Our last event was the annual BBQ picnic down on the beach in Shakespear Reserve. There was a good turnout for this - it was a lovely day, a local venue and splendid food, and if you weren't there, you missed a great social event. I encourage you to support future events as a lot of effort goes into making them happen.



The club has a nomination for President for 2026 - 2027, but we also have room for some fresh faces to manage our group – ideally we would like a Vice President. This role is very relaxed during the first year, and then takes over as President for the second year. Please give some thought to stepping forward and providing your energy and input into making the club a continuing success.

I have really enjoyed my time as your President, and I will continue to be involved as Past President.

My sincere thanks to you all for your support over the past two years.

*Paul Robinson.*

### Treasurer's Report



At the time of writing, our bank account stands at \$5851.96. However we have approximately \$450.00 worth of bills for payment.

*Bryan Wentworth.*

### Membership

A very warm welcome to John Pudney who was introduced by Garth Dutton and inducted at our meeting last month. John hails from the UK, and he and Celia split their time between NZ and old blighty. He advises that they have thoroughly enjoyed our kiwi welcome to the Hibiscus Coast.



Hearteningly we have two new members to induct at our meeting next Tuesday.

*Paul Robinson.*

### Trips and Events



Most recent event: BBQ at Shakespear Park.

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February we held the first outing of 2026 - our annual BBQ and picnic at Shakespear regional park. The weather played its part, and the venue was perfect for the 54 members, partners and friends who attended. The lunch was up to its usual high standard – a selection of salads, sausages, chicken [thanks to Graeme and Jean] and Garth's famous meat patties.



After lunch we played a game which is a cross between pétanque and croquet devised by Garth for last year's picnic. Once again it was fiercely contested with various styles of throwing the boule. The outright winner of the day was Marilyn Reddell.

Thanks to all our helpers, to Tessa and Glenis for the great salads, and to Garth and David for manning the BBQs. Once again, a very enjoyable and fun day for this popular event.

Next event: Golf at Northridge Country Lodge.

On March 26<sup>th</sup> we have planned a round of golf and lunch at Northridge Country Lodge. It's a small 9-hole course and no experience is expected. Our club golfers will help novices and supply spare clubs. Bring clubs if you have access to any. Tee off will be at 9.30am and players will be in teams for an ambrose [best ball] format.

Following the golf will be a buffet-style light lunch at the Eagle Café on the premises. The cost of the golf and lunch is \$30.

Those wishing to partake please pay \$30 per person into the club account 12 3084 0176946 00 reference Golf by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March and notify Bill Cobb at [wilrob@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wilrob@xtra.co.nz) that you will be attending.

*Steve Waller.*

### Welfare



As reported last month, Colin Cathro had a stroke a few days before Christmas. He was transferred [together with his partner Madge] to North Shore hospital where he is currently recovering. Madge was moved to a care facility, but unfortunately only survived a short time before passing way earlier this month. Our condolences were passed to Colin.

Earl Brookbanks has had a very up-and-down six months with his health, and has decided to take a break from his role as Editor of the bulletin until he regains a more comfortable level of fitness.

I have also decided to step down from the role of Welfare Convenor, which will be taken over by Peter Fava. His mobile phone number is 021 560 925 if you need help or just a friendly chat.

*Frank Coggan.*

## Speaker's corner



In February club member **Rob Aspden** presented the second part of his talk on hydroelectric power generation. He started by reminding us that the Hancock Report in 1903 identified 12 potential hydropower sites in the North Island and 35 in the South Island, and the Hay Report in 1904 with a little more time identified 25+ North Island sites and 40+ South Island sites. The Government at the time in the form of the Honourable Hall-Jones was very enthusiastic, but Hay was a lot more cautious. He only looked for sites with rapids or waterfalls - with the exception of Lake Manapouri being high above Doubtful Sound - but of course didn't know how to use this advantage.

With the loss of key people in Seddon in 1906, Hay in 1907, and Hall-Jones ill, work concentrated on the main trunk rail line delaying hydropower. Then the war, depression and another world war saw only Lake Coleridge hydropower station come online in 1914. With the demand for electricity growing rapidly, modern technology of hydro dams allowed the Waikato River to provide sites at Huka Falls, Aratiatia, Ohakuri, Atiamuri, Maraetai 1 and 2, Waipapa, Arapuni and Karapiro. The later dam flooding the much smaller Hora Hora power station.



Rob told us of an occasion when he was doing maintenance work on the Atiamuri dam - he saved several lives by stopping a large machine from crushing a worker's tearoom.

Later in the century hydropower generation was improved with the water from Lake Tekapo being diverted to Lake Pukaki, down to Ohau and then Benmore. Lakes Te Anau and Lake Manapouri were raised, but there was a need to protect the environment. A tunnel built to Doubtful Sound allowed electricity generation using Lake Manapouri. Rob had to determine how to fully use the generators in this dam and crawled into the surge

chamber to investigate. The water noise was horrific and with much danger he concluded a second tunnel was required. Once this was built, the power generation was improved from 530 to 830 megawatts.

Hydroelectric power was provided by the Government resulting from the Hancock and Hay Reports, then moved to a State-Owned Enterprise, and finally privatised in 1987 with no improvements as far as he could see. Rob concluded by stating his view that nuclear power generation would be the way of the future.

Our February guest speaker was author **Susanna Burton-Thompson** who spoke on "a life of random chapters". Susanna started by telling us that although she had no work experience, her first job was working as a photographer for a paper called "The Truth". She learned working alongside Peter Bush, who concentrated on rugby.

Three years later she decided to leave after she switched to photographing weddings due to a car accident while driving her mum's car in pouring rain in Wellington and ramming into a black jaguar. On visiting the owner's office to sort out details the following week, she found out he was looking for a wedding photographer. Susanna did this for the next 22 years, but wedding photography is rather stressful so she developed a career in family photography.

Then it was onto world trips as she liked people. Working for World Vision throughout Africa where she used a polaroid camera to give an instant copy to families who were amazed at what they saw. She then joined Operation Mobilisation Christian Missionary Service working in India and then onto ships Logos and Doulos delivering medical services and acting as a library delivering Christian books. People in Africa and South America would queue to get into the ship's library. Susanna felt that people were more spiritual in poorer countries and had to trust in God to survive.

Susanna's book includes a story on delivering books to a Zambian prison where they met Frances, a man sentenced to death and who had found Christianity. He pleaded with them to save his life and get him released so that he could look after his family. Coming into contact with the Zambian President Chiluba, Susanna managed to get this man freed.



Another story involved buying a house because it was situated in Abraham Place [when she took as a sign] and then marrying Owen, her first husband, when she was 69 as they met when she moved into this new house.

Buying a car at Turners Auction involved three visits to Turners and several car tests. Finally, Susanna bought a lime green Skoda untested because it had a “Jesus is Lord” bumper sticker. Later she sold this for a profit so thought that was a good deal.

Another story called “Minutes to Midnight” from her book was about the Logos being shipwrecked in the Beagle Channel between Chile and Argentina. In the middle of the night the Pilot wanted to get off, so the ship was slowed down but lost steering and then hit rocks. The call came out “wake up, grab your life jacket, assemble in the dining room and pray”. The Chilean navy came to the rescue with lifeboats launched on both sides of the ship (a feat as the ship was on quite a lean) and all following the drills practiced. Everyone safely off, no injuries.

She finished her talk by telling us that God loves us all as individuals, and she had copies of her book to sell, “A Life of Surprises”. Susanna was introduced by Paul, and thanked by Trevor Penn for sharing some of her interesting life with us.

*David Gatland.*

**Ramblers**



For our final January ramble, 21 of us stretched our legs on Orewa beach, and due to numbers not all made it to Movenpick for a cuppa and sticky bun.

On our first February ramble, a small group of 8 did an interesting cross-country from Okoromai through the paddocks and stock on Shakespear Regional Park.

The following week we opted for a change of style and had a very pleasant stroll around Unsworth Heights and Rosedale followed by a social coffee and sticky bun at Palmers Plant Centre. We then

stayed local, managing a good 6 km walk around the Orewa Estuary and Maygrove lily ponds despite the weather being a little intimidating for a start, finishing up with a stroll along the beach side walkway. We were well looked after at Movenpick for our coffee and sticky bun.

To close off February, we will be at Wenderholm, starting from the parking area next to Couldrey House & Garden, and then along the beach to the estuary and around to Schischka House.

For our off-the-Coast rambles, we meet at the Bridge Club, Edith Hopper Park, Ladies Mile, Manly, 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.

Our most recent dinner was at Mainsail Bar and Bistro on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, and we had 30 people from the combined clubs. Our next evening will be at the India Village Restaurant in Manly Village at 6.00pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

Any new members who would like to attend this dinner should contact me at [gandc@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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 February**

Our congratulations to the following members for having successfully navigated another year –

Earl Brookbanks, Colin Cathro, Marty Davis, Des Fox, Jim Mitchell, and Wayne Pointon.

## Sponsorship

We wish to express our sincere thanks to **Booster Wine Group** for their donation of a selection of New Zealand fine wines for the last five years. These were 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>*

