



REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST



March 2026 Bulletin

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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:	Tim Jones	021 386 981
Vice President:	Vacant	
Secretary :	Trevor Weal	021 032 3373
Treasurer:	Brian Wentworth	021 210 1791
IPP/Membership:	Paul Robinson	027 2222 151
Website/Rebus NZ:	Garth Dutton	020 4006 0844
Speakers/Ramblers:	David Gatland	021 285 5734
Trips & Events:	Steve Waller	021 0864 0236
Bulletin:	Neville Drower	021 886 130
Host/Welfare:	Peter Fava	021 560 925
Apparel/Trips & Events	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
Presentations:	Brian Tracey	021 661 573
Door Raffle & Prizes:	Fergus Small	027 264 1366
Door Raffle & Prizes:	Alan Menzies	027 444 2094
Photography:	Graeme McIntosh	027 473 9787
Dinner Club:	George Tregidga	027 223 7953

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

Our NEXT MEETING will be held on TUESDAY 7TH April 2026 at 9.30 am.

Our guest speaker is Spencer Matthews, an ex-Policeman, speaking on "My experiences as a Crisis Negotiator". He will be introduced by Jim Mitchell and thanked by Peter Brignall. Our club speaker this month will be Mark Burt. **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



Dear fellow members,

As I start my year as President, I would like to thank those members who have volunteered to serve in committee and non-committee roles, and to acknowledge the continuing service and commitment of Past President Paul Robinson.

I note that the emblem of Rebus is the steering wheel of a boat, and that the motto of Rebus is about "steering a safe course" It is my intention (wish) to steer a predictable course for the Club, pursuing enjoyment and engagement – and I look forward to continuing the jocular banter and innuendo of our club meetings.

Our first meeting was action-packed – two new members inducted, briefing updates from

spokesmen on a variety of club activities, and a thought-provoking address on the AI Revolution from Paula Browning sparked a spirited audience response!

Neville Drower has kindly agreed to step in as Bulletin Editor, and I know we will enjoy his style and depth of presentation.

On a lighter note, Easter is approaching – it's a time to enjoy the holiday and those Easter treats.

Until our next meeting on April 7, kind regards

Tim Jones

Zen teachings – April ... before you criticise someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticise them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.

Treasurer's Report



At the time of writing, our bank account stands at \$5,955.05. However, we have approximately \$1,400.00 worth of bills for payment.

Annual subscription – the annual subscription for 2026-27 remains the same as 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 00 with the reference “ann sub” or by cash at our meeting on Tuesday April 7th.

Repayment of prepaid fees for Golf Day – as this event was cancelled due to inclement weather, members who prepaid for the Golf Day are kindly asked to forward their bank account information to me at brwenty@gmail.com so I can facilitate repayment of their fees.

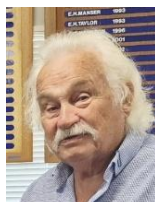
Bryan Wentworth

Membership and “Our People”



A very warm welcome to Alan Clarke and Barry Shearer who were inducted at our March meeting. Alan was introduced by Garth Dutton and Barry by Frank Coggan.

Alan has recently moved to Orewa from up north and was a pilot in both general and commercial aviation for many years. He had amassed nearly 11,000 hours when he gave professional flying away for a career change to be a financial and retirement advisor.



Barry is a long-time resident of the Coast, whose career was in real estate. He was one of the original marketers of Gulf Harbour. We hope they both enjoy their participation in our club.



Unfortunately John Penwell has advised his resignation from our club due to health issues. While you weren't a member for long John, we are sorry to see you go and wish you all the best.

Paul Robinson.

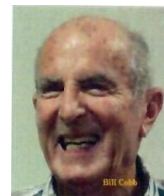
Trips and Events



As mentioned above, we unfortunately had no choice but to cancel the golf and light lunch session that was to take place on Thursday 26th March due to the forecast extreme weather. We will look at possibly re-scheduling this activity at a later date. As noted in the Treasurer's report, we are happy to refund the prepayments.

Next Trip - Ti Point Reptile Park near Leigh on Thursday, 23rd April.

We will use our own cars to travel to Leigh and then back to Matakana for lunch at Matakana Kitchen or one of the other bars or cafes of your choice.



Entry to the reptile park is \$17pp for seniors. There is gentle walking required, at your own pace, to view the exhibits. The park opens at 10am, which is the time we will meet there.

The park is on Ti Point Road, which is off Leigh Road, just before Leigh village. Proceed to Warkworth, then Matakana and continue towards Leigh. The drive is about 59km and will take less than one hour. Don't forget to pay your toll if you use the motorway to Warkworth.

There is no prepayment for this trip as we use our own transport and pay for entry and lunch individually. If you share a lift, I am sure the driver will willingly accept a donation.

Please let me stevejwaller49@gmail.com know by Friday, 17th April if you wish to attend, including how many and if you are willing to use your own car and offer to share with other members, or if you require a lift

Steve Waller & Bill Cobb

Welfare



Happily nothing new to report. Colin Cathro remains in North Shore hospital and reportedly making progress with his left leg. Visitors are welcome.

Peter Fava

Oversharing...?

A bride on her wedding night says to her husband 'I must confess darling; I was a hooker!'. He replies 'That's all right, dear. Your past is your past. But in all honesty I admit I find it quite erotic. Tell me about it'. She replies 'Well, my name was Nigel, and I played for Wigan...!'

Speakers Corner



As our March meeting included our AGM, there was no club speaker. Our guest speaker was Paula Browning who was introduced by Brian Tracey. Paula began by telling us that she has worked in a diverse mix of sectors

holding executive and governance roles in the commercial world, education, sport and the creative industries. Recently resigning as Chief Executive of Copyright Licensing NZ after 12 years, she is now the Chair of WeCreate.

WeCreate works with 138,000 businesses focusing on digital, data, copyright and in particular, the Generative AI world. Combined, these creative industries currently comprise New Zealand's 4th largest export sector. Paula expressed both optimism and pessimism regarding AI. Whilst AI improves activities in terms of productivity, quality, quantity and inventiveness, it can also be harmful in terms of job losses, copyright infringement and the generation of both misinformation and disinformation. She hopes that job losses can be overcome somewhat through job switching as Generative AI creates new, albeit different jobs, for example, around the need to monitor and review answers to search queries to ensure they are true, correct and otherwise the best possible.

Generative AI is the ability of a computer or a machine to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. The development of reasoning machines is only midway in its evolution. Reasoning machines learn from information given to them or collected by them, then use that information to create further information and to inform users.

In the 1990s we had the internet and by 2022 we had ChatGPT and Generative AI. They have now taken over large parts of the the media industry which is currently struggling to maintain jobs for reporters – there are now only 30% of the number of journalists

we once had. “Big Tech’s” Google, Meta, Microsoft, Amazon and Apple had a combined turnover of \$1,695 billion before they were overtaken in terms of turnover by AI industry players Open AI (US\$830 billion), Claude (US\$380 billion), Nvidia (US\$4.3 trillion) all of which are, notably, US based. These organisations provide everyday tools including ChatGPT, Copilot, Open AI, Claude and Google Gemini - some of which charge users a fee for their services whilst others tout themselves as being “for free” but who of course seize user data by way of payment.

ChatGPT is an AI-powered conversational chatbot (developed by Open AI), designed to understand and generate high quality human-like text or conversational responses based on user prompts. To do this it continues to gather and learn from ever vaster amounts of internet text. ChatGPT is being used in agriculture, architecture, engineering, construction, creative industries, education (helping children to read) environmental and health. It is increasing productivity in all these industries and has, for example, become highly skilled at rapidly reading mammograms. The NZ games industry is currently earning \$548 million in New Zealand alone and earning an additional \$1 billion from exports; an employee in this area can earn a salary of \$500,000. Architects have developed their own AI tools to ensure the information they are using is accurate.



However, Paula did reiterate those serious concerns around AI. In addition to the spectre of significant job losses and the worrisome generation of disinformation and misinformation, there are threats to data privacy and security and concerns around information bias including cultural bias which Paula felt might ultimately lead to a loss of NZ's unique culture. AI using data from, for example, unreliable social media platforms can result in AI

hallucinations, the production of realistic and reasonable sounding content which is in fact untrue and as such needing to be checked and corrected.

Paula advised that by 2024 it was clear that the AI revolution had failed to deliver on what was originally promised - transparency, trust and respect. The world had been slow to set standards and implement effective laws; in New Zealand the Privacy Act and the Copyright Act have no teeth. The European Union has attempted to protect its citizens from offshore influences and some countries, like South Korea, are developing sovereign AI for the exclusive use of their citizens only. New Zealand is small and may lack the necessary resources to go it alone but might otherwise take this direction through a joint venture with, for example, Australia and Canada. But, thus far, there continues to be little success forcing AI to deliver on those initial promises.

Roger Harvey thanked our guest speaker for a most interesting talk and presented Paula with a certificate and a bottle of wine. We were privileged to be Paula's last public speaking engagement. The online resources Paula referred to can be found at <https://wecreate.org.nz/>

David Gatland.

When two old friends met in heaven...

Sylvia: Hi! Wanda.

Wanda: Hi! Sylvia. Fancy seeing you here. How'd you die?

Sylvia: I froze to death.

Wanda: How horrible!

Sylvia: It wasn't so bad. After I quit shaking from the cold, I began to get warm and sleepy and finally died a peaceful death. But what about you?

Wanda: I died of a massive heart attack. I suspected that my husband was cheating, so I came home early to catch him in the act. But instead, I found him all by himself in the den watching TV.

Sylvia: So, what happened?

Wanda: I was so sure there was another woman there somewhere that I started running all over the house looking. I ran up into the attic and searched, and down into the basement. Then I went through every closet and checked under all the beds. I kept this up until I had looked everywhere, and finally I became so exhausted that I just keeled over with a heart attack.

Sylvia: Too bad you didn't look in the freezer --- we'd both still be alive.

Ramblers



We closed off February with a pleasant stroll around Wenderholm. Starting from near Couldrey House & Garden we walked along the beach to the estuary and around to Schischka House.

On the return to the carpark, we came upon Rangers feeding very tame cattle beasts from boxes of "past use by date" bananas. Unfortunately, this was followed by a less than satisfactory visit to Orewa Sands for coffee and a sticky bun.

Our next ramble was through Shepherd's Park along Hellyers Creek at Beachhaven, followed by good social time in Cox House Cafe – including personal table service from the chef.



With Chief Guide Garth absent due to flue, Sherpa Neil led us around the Gulf Harbour area via the Island View Drive

panorama and onwards to enjoy the usual standard of good quality refreshments at the Cherry Café.

Undertaking some resilience testing due following his medical leave, Chief Guide Garth encouraged us to join him on the Orewa estuary challenge of 8.5km with 12 of us successfully finishing the circuit. Well done to all those who completed it, and also to the "strollers" who met up with us "toughies" (who had earned our treats) at Millies.

Late in March, an impressive group of 20 started at pace along Stanmore Beach to beat the tide before climbing inland to return via D'Oyly Reserve and

past Stanmore Bay School to Brightside Road. We enjoyed pleasant refreshments at our new venue “At 719” in The Plaza.

For our final FY 25/26 ramble we stayed on the peninsular to avoid unnecessary mileage. We started at Fisherman’s Rock Reserve and strode eastward to take in the beautiful vistas afforded by the Pacific Parade cliff top walk. Gentleman Jim led us through the Everard Reserve, along Everard Avenue and across Shakespeare Road to enter the coastal reserve track from which we cut up to Island View Drive via a vacant plot, to use the GHCC access path. We returned to Fisherman’s Rock Reserve through Regency Park Drive. A great effort truly deserving of the rewards awaiting us at the Cherry café.

For our “off the Coast” rambles, we meet at the Bridge Club in 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



For those who are thinking of coming but have not yet booked, our next combined dinner will be held at 6pm on Wednesday, 8th April (the day after our club meeting) at the India Village Restaurant in Manly Village.

George Tregidga.

Next Rebus Discussion Group

Ken Daniels has advised the next Rebus discussion group will be held at Katie and Piet Theron’s home at 10am on Thursday 9 April. Their address is 1270 Whangaparaoa Rd., Army Bay. “Rising petrol and commodity prices” will be on the agenda along with any other topics anyone wishes to raise. All comers are most welcome.

Trevor Weal

Birthdays for March



...and our congratulations to the following members for having successfully navigated another year –

- Lance Morrow
- Pieter Hopkins
- Allan Clarke
- John Simons
- Trevor Weal
- Brian Tracey
- Riley Bell
- John Gatland
- Peter Brignall
- Steve Waller

Many happy returns!

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>

