



REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST



April 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 5TH May 2026 at 9.30 am.

Our guest speaker will be Tim Loft from NZ Riding for the Disabled. He will be introduced by Hal Smith and thanked by Alan Clarke. Our club speaker this month will be Bland Liles. **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 name tag.

President's Message



Dear fellow members,

I am writing this message in the shadow of ANZAC Day, where we can reflect on the young men who, through their service and sacrifice, would never reach the age of retirement. They would never have the opportunity to enjoy their senior years and the conviviality of the likes of a Rebus club.

The Rebus Club of Hibiscus Coast is hosting next month's Rebus NZ AGM. This is to be followed by dinner for registrants on Thursday 14 May, but because it has been so well supported by our Club, we would like to open it up to other members and their partners. The venue is Maison Thai in Manly village, time 6.30pm. You simply pay for what you eat, and Rebus NZ is providing complimentary wine on each table. Please let me know by Friday 8th May at 021 386 981 or timnaiomejones@outlook.com.

At our April meeting you would have walked past (and hopefully noticed!) our newly acquired Club flag. This is part of a Rebus NZ initiative to raise the profile of Rebus and aims to increase awareness of Rebus in the community and at functions, events and social occasions. We will display it proudly at the NZ AGM and outside the dinner venue on May 14.

As you read this month's bulletin, please check for upcoming events, activities and duties.

Take care and see you on Tuesday May 5.

Kind regards

Tim Jones

Zen teaching for April ... Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

Treasurer's Report



At the time of writing, our bank account stands at \$4,475.39. We have paid all our major bills for 2026 including the annual rent for the Bridge Club premises, our annual Rebus NZ affiliation fees, the annual Xero accounting software fee, and our internet hosting fees for the next 3 years [best option!].

Annual subscription – the annual subscription for 2026-27 remains the same as in 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 May 5th. So far about half of our members have paid their annual sub.

Bryan Wentworth

Membership and “Our People”



A very warm welcome to Chris Markham who was inducted by Tim at our April meeting.

Chris was introduced by Garth Dutton. He was born in Wellington and trained as an aircraft engineering technician. He spent a lot of time on helicopters, including being involved in helicopter deer recovery and live capture in the 1970s. Chris finished his career working on the Westpac rescue machines, and other large helicopters. His interests include tramping, cycling, sailing, and opera. He is an outdoors person who has travelled extensively. Chris, we look forward to you enjoying your participation in our club.



Paul Robinson.

Trips and Events

Ti Point Reptile Park Thursday 23rd April

Twenty-one of us shared cars and drove to the well-established Reptile Park near Leigh. The first 15

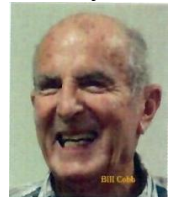
minutes were a little disappointing as we played a game of ‘spot the skink’ in several small



enclosures which were crowded with vegetation. This was not a great start with some of us wondering “will there be anything at all to see” on this otherwise pleasant walk in the hillside bush.

Then we came to an alligator enclosure and a small inside complex of enclosures containing large water dragons and huge iguanas which, for me at least, made the whole trip worthwhile. Further on were lots of tortoises and turtles varying in size from the tiny ones, two or three of which could fit onto the palm of your hand, to large tortoises that must have been 40 cm in diameter. The park is not large, has one or two steep sections and some uneven ground, but is nevertheless well worth a visit if you are in the area.

After seeing all the exhibits, or at least most of them, we drove back to Matakana Market Kitchen, a fine restaurant in a pleasant setting offering really good food and excellent service. This is another great venue which, again, I would recommend you visit if you're in the area. The weather was perfect for us, exploration of the Reptile Park interesting, the lunch excellent and I can confidently report that we all had another good day out.



Next event - Tenpin bowling Wednesday 27th May

All welcome and no experience required. We'll meet at 10am outside the Whangaparaoa Tenpin Bowling complex below The Plaza car park. There's plenty of parking inside and outside the lower level of the car park.

Fee for bowling, \$20 per person for two games. Pay on the day. Following the bowling we'll meet for lunch and a drink at The Beer Spot at around 12pm.

In order to determine numbers please let Steve Waller know you'll be attending, not later than Tuesday 20th May.

A date for your diary - we are once again planning a trip to the Mystery Creek Fieldays in Hamilton on Friday 12th June. The intention is that we hire a minibus and travel down to Hamilton together, which will limit numbers, unless we have

enough bookings to justify hiring a larger coach. At this stage we need to determine who wishes to attend and travel with the group in order that we can arrange appropriate transport. Information about the Mystery Creek Field Days can be found on their website at <https://www.fielddays.co.nz>

The entrance fee for one day's attendance is \$36 per person. The cost of group transport will be shared between those travelling with us. More details to be provided once we have them.

Please let Steve know not later than 5th May if you wish to attend and travel down with the group. Any queries please phone Steve on 021 0864 0236.

If you have any suggestions for future trips, do have a chat with either Bill Cobb or Steve Waller.

To book to attend an event email Steve at stevejwaller49@gmail.com

Steve Waller & Bill Cobb

Welfare



The health 'news' this month is somewhat 'grey and overcast'.

Our Welfare Convenor Peter Fava has been in hospital with pneumonia but is now back home recuperating.

He wasn't able to make it to our Committee meeting earlier this week and has put in his apology for our Club meeting next week.

Peter Farrell had a heart attack about three weeks ago and was taken to North Shore hospital. He was moved to Evelyn Page last Friday. Unfortunately, the long-term prognosis is not great.

Colin Cathro has also moved from North Shore hospital to Evelyn Page and is making good progress with his left leg. He is determined to return home and join us at Club meetings again soon. Visitors are welcome.

Don Baverstock had a stroke in early April and is currently in Ward 15 at North Shore hospital. His wife Faye advises that he has started to improve, but it will be some time before he can hope to move back home. Don hadn't been able to get to a Club

meeting for quite a while, and this certainly hasn't improved his chances of joining us in the near future.

Earl Brookbanks has good days and down days. He has decided that now is an opportune time to move into Gulf Rise in Red Beach.

Paul Robinson for *Peter Fava*.

Reported Aircrew commentary..."In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child travelling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are travelling with more than one small child, pick your favourite."

Speakers Corner



Club Speaker - Mark Burt

Mark was born in Mt Eden but spent his early years growing up in Mt Roskill with two much loved older sisters. During WWII his father served in the Navy and, thanks to DNA, Mark learned he had a half-sister living in Scotland who he contacted and has recently visited.

He recalls being bought up helping his father in the family-owned BP petrol station located in Silverdale opposite Wainui Road. It was a large building known as Green's Garage and boasted a tearoom with a dance floor. It had creeper growing over its façade and was referred to as "The Cave" by Mark's mother. It was a typical garage selling all manner of things including confectionary which increased the clientele. Mark loved the garage lifestyle serving at the petrol pumps with the ever-present smell of petroleum and being able to drive big V8s around when he was just eight years old. It was easy passing his driving license at 15 as he was known by the local policeman, Ron Heathcote, as "the boy who knew all about cars."



Mark was bought up by his parents to be hard working, to keep his word, help others and have an honest outlook on life. When he left school, he

became a bricklayer's labourer and progressed to installing ceramic tiled floors which he did for 15 years.

Losing his father to emphysema when he was 20 and then marrying just a few years later in 1977 meant that Mark had an early start to adult life. An interest in electricity led him to develop expertise in the installation of modern heating systems, particularly underfloor heating, which he was involved in for 22 years.

Mark has survived racing a super boat on Auckland Harbour at 194 kmph and open heart surgery to replace a worn-out aortic valve and delights in today being able to enjoy his four granddaughters and two grandsons. He's travelled to over 30 different countries, but these days is happy living in his own space.

Mark summed up how he's lived his life by imparting a few words of wisdom. He admitted to making lots of mistakes along the way but feels it's simply not worth looking backwards and worrying about the small stuff. He visits the past but recommends not living in it. He believes there is reward for endurance and long life, that peace needs protecting, we shouldn't be bitter, we should be useful to others, he advocated enjoying the simple things and understanding that contentment is calming. He believes in dedicating time to living cleanly, honestly, deeply, letting go of what no longer fits and living for the now. He avoids spending time trying to correct a story about what's already passed. Mark looks forward to maintaining his independence for as long as he can.

Guest Speaker - Spencer Matthews

Spencer introduced himself as a divorce and separation coach, an author, a mediator and an ex-police officer of 18 years experience.

Much of his time in the police was spent in the role of crisis negotiator. The position demanded he learn how to deal with conflict, not something he'd experienced a lot of growing up in New Zealand's comparatively laid-back society. At the heart of the process was the need to firstly calm the individual(s) and secondly get them to think rationally.

His first crisis negotiation, following only half a day of training, involved a middle eastern male threatening to commit suicide by jumping off the Waipuna Bridge. After three hours of negotiation, which largely involved Spencer giving the man an opportunity to talk and listening to him, the negotiation came to a relatively easy and successful conclusion with them both walking off the bridge unharmed.



Spencer explained that all situations are different and need to be dealt with in accordance with the particular circumstances. On one occasion he was confronted by an extremely agitated machete-wielding man who was threatening both himself and others. He was in such a state it was clear that the danger was immediate and in order to protect the safety of all, the better option was to swiftly arrest the individual with the assistance of a stun gun and dogs and then allow him time to calm down whilst in protective custody. This case contrasted with another involving a machete-wielding armed offender who was not as agitated, could be reasoned with and who surrendered peacefully in a relatively short period of time.

Instances of kidnappings for ransom can be similarly quite different. In one instance the kidnapping of a family member for a small ransom was complicated by a language barrier. In this case police helped a family member to successfully negotiate with the kidnapper. Cases where the parties are non-professionals are generally resolved quite quickly, as opposed to those negotiations involving professional kidnappers like, for example, Somali pirates who are willing to hold victims for years and are difficult to deal with. In the latter scenario, the New Zealand approach has been to use backchannels and, for example, talk to local taxi drivers who understood local nuances and what might actually be in the minds of their compatriots.

Drugs are problematic in that they add another behavioural dimension. In one kidnapping situation a man was threatening that if anyone entered the building they would be shot. Negotiation was conducted via a series of phone conversations. During a call it would seem progress was being

made as the kidnapper became increasingly rational, but in the subsequent call he would fall back and be totally without reason. Later it was learned the pills he'd been consuming between calls accounted for his erratic thought processes. Each case is different with each individual having a different window of tolerance and reacting differently to any number of factors that might send them over the top.

Spencer commented that terrorism is a growing issue in New Zealand which on occasion avails itself of the greater experience of colleagues in overseas countries including the USA and Australia.

During his time in Papua New Guinea Spencer learned the value of slowing down and that truly solving disputes necessarily takes time. He stressed that the ability to show compassion for the enemy, to listen, and critically, to remain calm gives crisis negotiators a strategic advantage. Conversely, he's learned violence is not the answer.

Spencer made an interesting observation that reputations are built when individuals think no one is watching, but nevertheless, adopt the latter behaviours...because more often than not individuals are in fact watching and do take note of who has what it takes to be a negotiator.

Crisis negotiation is highly stressful. To manage stress levels police force members are debriefed and take appropriate periods of down-time to decompress; one week on and then two weeks of down time, or two weeks on followed by 3 weeks off.

Peter Brignall thanked our guest speaker for an informative and interesting talk and presented Spencer with a certificate and a bottle of wine.

David Gatland.

A True Kiwi....

It's the final of the rugby world Cup, and a man makes his way to his seat right at the centre of the field. He sits down, noticing that the seat next to him is empty. He leans over and asks his neighbour if someone will be sitting there. "No," says the neighbour. "The seat is empty."

"This is incredible", said the man. "Who in their

right mind would have a seat like this for a final game of the World Cup and not use it?"

The neighbour says "Well, actually, the seat belongs to me. I was supposed to come with my wife, but she passed away. This is the first World Cup we haven't been to together since we got married in 1967."

"Oh ... I'm sorry to hear that. That's terrible. But couldn't you find someone else, a friend or relative, or even a neighbour to take the seat?"

The man shakes his head "No, they're all at the funeral."

Ramblers



We rounded off March with a walk starting from Fisherman's Rock Reserve leading us via Fisherman's Cove through to Pacific Parade and then down onto the cliff top walk. We meandered along Whangaparaoa Road towards Army Bay, through Everard Reserve to above Okoromai Beach and eventually arrived back at our starting point. The group split with Gentleman Jim leading some on a good cliff-edge workout before cutting inland past Wentworth whilst those who followed Chief Guide Garth had a gentler flat !!! walk. Then there were the canny souls who found a short cut directly to the refreshment stop at Cherry Café where one can order (cooked) spring rolls for morning tea.

April commenced with a good group who discovered the new development work at Milldale via a circuit of the subdivision. This was followed by a pleasant refreshment break at Juno Coffee and Eatery.

For Easter, on a fuel saving plan, a magnificent group of 24 met at the Silverdale bus terminal to take advantage of the buses and catch the 9:35 to Warkworth. After the river walk, we finished up at the Emmanuel's coffee shop courtyard overlooking the river. With a total of 26 appearing for coffee Emmanuel's were overwhelmed and unfortunately service didn't meet expectations. But having told them we'd be a group of 14 – 16, it was perhaps understandable that they were a bit flustered.

With Chief Guide Garth down again, Neil led on our last ramble up to the waterfall in Shakespeare; the large eel was absent, but there was a junior to observe...maybe we need to remember our bacon bits treats in future? We then crossed to the picture frame, descended to Okoromai Bay and returned to the carpark via a new track across the flats, before adjourning to the Cherry Cafe.

Again a reminder that 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



Earlier this month 31 attendees had a very enjoyable dinner at the India Village Restaurant in Manly.

As Tim mentioned above, the Rebus NZ AGM is being organised by our club this year and will be held on Thursday 14 May. The AGM event concludes with a dinner which will be held at Maison Thai Restaurant in Manly Village. Those who haven't registered for the AGM but would like to attend the dinner, please let **Tim** know by Friday 8th May.

The next dinner will be held in late June at Due Amici Italian restaurant in Manly. I will have the date for next month's bulletin. Any member who wishes to be part of the combined Hibiscus Coast/Gulf Harbour dinner group please email your details to me at gandc@xtra.co.nz and I'll add you to the contact list.

George Tregidga.



Birthdays for April



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

- Phil Martell
- Neil Douglas
- Bruce Reddell

Many Happy Returns!

A Cardiologist's Funeral

A very prestigious cardiologist died and was given an extremely elaborate funeral by the hospital he'd worked in for most of his life. A huge heart, covered in flowers, stood behind the casket during the service with all attending doctors from the hospital sitting before it, staring in awe.

Following the eulogy, the huge heart opened and the casket rolled inside. The heart then closed, sealing the doctor inside the beautiful heart forever.

At that point, one of the mourners erupted into laughter. With all eyes upon him he said, 'I am so sorry, I was just thinking of my own funeral...I'm a gynecologist.'

The priest suffered palpitations.

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.

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

