



## REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST

### May 2026 Bulletin

Post: 37 Beauvoir Ave, Matakata, 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:	Tim Jones	021 386 981
Vice President:	Vacant	
Secretary :	Trevor Weal	021 032 3373
Treasurer:	Bryan 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 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 at 9.30 am.**

**Our guest speaker will be Lynn John, a minstrel. He will be introduced by Julian Joy and thanked by Ray Davis. Our club speaker this month will be Hal Smith. 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,

A huge thank you to the many of you who assisted with our hosting of the Rebus NZ AGM on Thursday 14 May.

The AGM itself ran smoothly, and the inclusion of an hour of open discussion prior was well received and welcome. It was a beautiful day to showcase the Hibiscus Coast with a number of visitors enjoying the beaches before our afternoon meeting.

The post-AGM dinner at Maison Thai was very relaxed and well attended by our Club. No doubt the level of conviviality was assisted by the very generous supply of wine from Rebus NZ!

The welcoming atmosphere of our Club has led to members introducing guests to our meetings, who in turn have become members themselves. We have inducted new members at every meeting this year.

You will have noticed that we now have the use of a large TV screen at our meetings. This has been kindly supplied by the Bridge Club and has improved the quality of our audio-visual presentations. Our projector has now become redundant. The Committee is now looking to sell this and put the proceeds into Club funds.

Our next Club meeting is on Tuesday 2 June. As always, please check this bulletin for duties and activities.

Enjoy the long weekend ....

Regards

*Tim Jones*

**Zen teaching for May...** If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably well worth it.

## Treasurer's Report



At the time of writing, our bank account stands at \$5,203.69 with no outstanding bills.

**Annual subscription** – as you know our annual subscription for 2026-27 remains the same as in previous years at **\$25 and fell due last month**. The majority of members have now paid with 24 members yet to do so. We'd be grateful if they could please pay online to our ASB account 12 3084 0176946 00 with the reference "ann sub" or by cash at our meeting on Tuesday 2nd June ... questions will be asked in Parliament if there are any outstanding subs at 30 June!

*Bryan Wentworth*

## Rebus NZ AGM



Despite a modest turnout from affiliated Rebus clubs around the country, our club hosted a successful Rebus NZ AGM at the Hibiscus Bridge Club two weeks ago on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

The programme kicked off with an hour-long informal discussion session which traversed: future AGMs – format and attendance; social media and digital promotion (of Rebus); grants and funding; the role and value of Rebus NZ; and representation at AGMs. Following afternoon tea, the AGM commenced at 3pm with all the business being completed by 4.45 pm. Garth was re-elected as Chairman, Paul was elected as Secretary, and George was thanked for his extensive service standing down from the Board after several terms.

As Tim mentioned above, the day concluded with a most enjoyable meal at Maison Thai attended by more than 40 participants.

*Paul Robinson*

## Membership and "Our People"

A very warm welcome to Ed Davies who was inducted by Tim at our April meeting. Ed was introduced by Frank Coggan.



He is a retired teacher and administrator who likes jazz, blues, and country music and has an interest in history. We hope you enjoy your participation in our club Ed.

At our April meeting, the club recognised the long membership [20 years!] of Brian Stevens and Frank Coggan. It was Tim's privilege to award them both with silver name tags. Our congratulations to Brian and Frank on their entry to this exclusive club which has only two other members - Kim Hanna and Graeme McIntosh.

*Paul Robinson*

## Trips and Events



Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June – tenpin bowling at Whangaparaoa Tenpin Bowling by the Plaza in Manly with the



Hibiscus Friendship Club. We have 17 members/partners for this event plus 9 from the Friendship Club. We will meet at 10am on site – 2 games for \$20/person [please pay into our club bank a/c ] followed by a bite to eat somewhere local around midday. Please contact Paul at [paulrob@pl.net](mailto:paulrob@pl.net) or 027 2222 151 if you would like to join us, so we can ensure we have booked the right number of lanes.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Mystery Creek Fielddays departing from Hireace in Flexman Drive, Silverdale at 8am. We have 17 members in 2 vehicles for a cost of \$35/person transport + \$36 entry into the exhibition. Please contact Garth at [garth269@gmail.com](mailto:garth269@gmail.com) or 020 4006 0844 if you would like to join this trip.

July – we are considering our options, watch this space!

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August – mid-year lunch at Faridas, 226 Hibiscus Coast Highway opposite the Orewa Surf Club. Subsidised lunch \$45/person with a choice of two main courses [slow-cooked beef cheeks in red wine with vegetables, or tarragon chicken breast served with potato gratin dauphinoise] and two choices of dessert [sticky date pudding or crème brulee]. More information next month.

If you have any suggestions for future trips, do have a chat with either Bill Cobb or Steve Waller. To book to attend future events please email Steve at [stevejwaller49@gmail.com](mailto:stevejwaller49@gmail.com)

*Steve Waller and Bill Cobb*

## Welfare



The health “news” this month is still disappointing.

Our Welfare Convenor Peter Fava is at home recovering from his pneumonia. At present he is not able to participate in gatherings with a crowd, and missed our Committee meeting earlier this week. He has submitted his apology for our Club meeting on Tuesday.

Peter Farrell is one of three members in Evelyn Page care facility. He is slowly recovering from his heart attack, but is unlikely to join us at the Bridge Club for some months.

Colin Cathro is also in Evelyn Page and is making good progress with his left leg.

Visitors are welcome for Peter and Colin.

Graeme Wake is our third member in Evelyn Page having been admitted with dementia. Lil spends time with him every day.

Earl Brookbanks is awaiting the sale of his home, but hasn't yet decided which care facility he will move to.

Paul Robinson for *Peter Fava*

**Reported aircrew commentary...** "As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."

## Speakers Corner



### Club speaker – Bland Liles

Bland began by telling us he was born in Auckland almost 81 years ago. He was



known as Bland from his earliest days and was the result of a love affair between Mary Eliza Munro Whiu, a nurse, and an American soldier, Bland James Liles. After recovering from the bout of malaria that had hospitalised him, Bland's dad returned to his unit in the Solomon Islands. The plan had been for Mary and Bland to join Bland's dad in the US once the war ended, however this never happened and Bland was told that his father had died in the war.

During his early years Bland's mother needed to care for her father in Northland and Bland was raised by his extended family in Kaikohe. By the time he was seven he had lived with and been looked after by six families. He attended five different country schools and after each school day simply got off the school bus wherever he wanted to stay next. Bland fondly recalls these families as being kind and wonderful people willing to help whenever needed. During those days all children were expected to assist with the chores; Bland's daily routine included milking cows, gathering wild food and firewood, and spearing eels. The local marae was the hub for gatherings and celebrations which, along with its communal maintenance, bonded whanau.

Bland recalled vehicles being as scarce as refrigerators, crank up telephones, party lines and staticky radio as part of the the way of life in Kaikohe. He remembers on one occasion his aunt deciding that he needed a haircut. An opportunity presented itself when an uncle was passing through who possessed a pair of 'squeeze' clippers. As Bland saw it there were three problems...the clippers had teeth missing, his uncle was running late for another appointment, and his uncle was a 'learner' sheep shearer...not often in demand! Halfway through the process involving snags, yanks, jumps and yelps uncle developed a bad cramp in his hand. At one point the clippers jammed in Bland's hair and when he violently ducked, he fell off the stool and was told off for making his uncle even more late for his appointment. At the completion of the job his uncle

mumbled something about a new 'patchwork quilt style' and expressed the hope that Bland would one day find another girlfriend.

Shortly after another uncle showed up who was a butcher at the Moerewa Freezing Works. He had three fingers missing and Bland recalled how much he enjoyed having to steer this uncle's car while he tried to roll a cigarette with his remaining seven fingers.

For nine years Bland circulated through these various families but, notwithstanding that she lived some distance away, his mother visited regularly to ensure he was being well looked after. While it wasn't the best of situations and it was challenging having to restart at multiple schools, by the time Bland attended Northland College he had accumulated many good friends who are still his mates to this day. At Northland College Bland developed a real love for sport despite being diagnosed as having a heart murmur which impacted on his fitness.

When Bland was 15 his mum married, moved to Manurewa and it was decided that Bland would join her there to finish his schooling at Manurewa High. He represented the school in the first XV, tennis, athletics and swimming. Upon leaving school Bland secured a job with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and decided to join the Manurewa Rugby Club where he learnt teamwork and loyalty. He made it into the senior team coached by Pat Walsh and ultimately the Counties Colts side. At one of the first games Pat told a nervous Bland to 'just go out and enjoy yourself'. He did so, enjoying himself right up to the point he was stretchered off the field, for the first time. Bland recalls how it felt during these times when he met his sporting heroes, the joyful camaraderie of the team and, not least, meeting his gorgeous wife.

Two serious knee reconstructions sidelined Bland for two years during which he married and moved into the city to rehabilitate his knee. At this point he encountered the Marist Rugby League Club, asked if he could tag along and two months later was invited to a trial. Upon telling the coach he'd never played the game, the coach told him not to worry, to 'just go and enjoy yourself'. Again, he did so and was enjoying himself up to the point he was stretchered off the field for the second time.

Their mediocre team somehow made the Fox Memorial Grand Final which it lost to Mount Albert. But, next thing he knew, Bland found himself selected for an Auckland team put together to play the Kiwis at Carlaw Park as part of their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The Kiwis were on a high having just beaten Australia. In front of a large crowd and after he had stopped vomiting, the coach told Bland to 'just go out and enjoy the experience', which once again he did until once again he found himself being stretchered off, this time with the stretcher bearer offering the sage advice that he 'just had to learn to duck quicker'. By the end of the after-match celebrations Bland had been approached by three different rugby league scouts and at that point 'very exciting stuff started to happen'. Bland was amazed to learn for the first time that there were people out there actually silly enough to pay you to play sport!

After a short visit to check out Parramatta with his wife and believing the club's assurance that they'd manage his exposure due to his inexperience and heart problems, the couple enthusiastically moved to Australia. Bland had amazing experiences playing for the senior Parramatta side 16 times and meeting wonderful people. He was struck by the enormous wealth of the league clubs, Parramatta itself financed through its poker machines and fifteen thousand frenetic fans. And yes, he once again woke up being stretchered off the field, on this occasion during a game against the Balmain Tigers, having again forgotten to duck.

Diagnosed with a faulty heart valve Bland and his wife decided to move back to Auckland with their now seven months old Aussie daughter. Bland started work with the Meat Inspection Service training new appointees, a job he enjoyed. On the sporting side he became a coach for the Pakuranga Rugby League Club and also did a two-year stint at the Ellerslie Rugby League Club working with Ken Stirling, one of the game's legends. Bland returned to rugby at one point coaching Pakuranga College's First XV.

Over a 50 year period Bland has been involved with a number of charities amongst other things acting as a mentor for at-risk students with the Graeme Dingle Foundation. After moving to Orewa in order that he could be closer to his three beautiful daughters, while his son resided in Australia, he became

involved with Aged Care Services helping out wherever he could.

In 2012 Bland's daughter, Nicole, decided to find out where Bland's father may have been buried during the war. After over four months of research and without Bland's knowledge, Nicole found a Liles grave site which listed surviving brothers and sisters. One was James Bland Liles whose phone number she managed to track down. On returning home from work one day Bland was told to ring this number which he did. A Texan voice answered and after an introductory chat asked Bland if he 'minded being called son'. Notwithstanding four marriages, Bland was his father's only son. It was on this particular occasion that Bland felt he really was in need of a stretcher!

### **Guest Speakers – Tim Lofts and Ana Costello**

Hal Smith introduced our guest speakers, Tim Lofts and Ana Costello whose presentation was on the North Shore branch of the charitable organisation, Riding for the Disabled (RFD). Tim told us he had been involved with the organisation for 15 years on the treasury, marketing and fund-raising side of things and had enjoyed watching the facility grow substantially over that period. He explained there are three main elements to RFD's enterprise: 'horses', 'helpers' (their paid staff and volunteers) and 'heroes', physically or mentally disabled, in the main, children that the program aims to assist.

One of the reasons RFD concentrates mainly on children is that they apply a 60kg rider weight limit to ensure the horses wellbeing. Initially the horses can be quite intimidating but as the children gain riding experience they gain confidence and develop strong bonds with their mounts. Many kids attend as part of a programme offered by their respective schools including Glenfield Disability School and Wilson Home. In current times a large number of riders suffer from autism and/or ADHD. Each rider has their own individual programme, which is designed to achieve specific goals and is closely monitored and reported on as they progress. The benefits of RFD's riding programs extend beyond building physical and mental strength and spill over into many aspects of the riders' lives. In recognition of all it has achieved for programme participants, RFD was awarded the Community Impact Award at the 2025 Harbour Sport Excellence Awards.

The centre has grown into a substantial operation. Over the past 50 years the North Shore branch of RFD has built up an 18 acre facility in Stillwater featuring a 200 m<sup>2</sup> indoor 'barn', a 60m x 40m covered outside riding arena (which allows for riding on rainy days and features an invaluable mounting platform) and a riding trail through bush complete with riding obstacles. They currently have 9 horses which RFD's horse manager has purchased, leased or procured by way of donation. Older horses are more expensive to use and ultimately retire, usually by way of return to their original owner, on occasion by way of sale to an RFD student. Riding sessions are an hour in duration, 40 minutes of which is spent in the saddle. Each horse has three sessions per day riding in small groups of up to 4 students to allow maximum interaction with instructors.

All of this is managed by four (soon to be five) full time staff; a coach, a coach in training, an administration manager and the horse manager. In addition there are the all-important 60 volunteer helpers who come from a wide range of backgrounds and assist with riding programmes. RFD is always on the lookout for additional volunteers in the hope that they might be able to expand the programme from four to five days a week.



The centre needs to find \$185,000 per annum to cover its running costs. These are funded by both charities and also corporate donors such as Kamar Construction. Kamar initially provided funding to build the covered arena's mounting ramp along with volunteers for an associated working bee. On the back of that successful chapter, they have now committed to ongoing funding to assist with maintenance costs.

Recently Kristin School sent their Year 10's to spend a day helping with ongoing maintenance tasks and also with the development of digital presentations. We were shown a video they had helped to produce on the construction of the covered arena which was narrated by Tom Webster of Grand Designs fame

who has gotten behind and dedicated much of his time to RFD.

In closing Tim invited our members to visit and take a tour of the facility. Allan Clarke thanked Tim and Ana for a most informative and interesting talk and presented them with a certificate and a bottle of wine.

*David Gatland*

## 92 years today...

An old fellow was celebrating 92 years on this earth. He spoke to his toes. "Hello toes", he said. "How are you? You know, you are 92 today. Oh, the times we've had! Remember how we walked in the park in the summer every Sunday afternoon. The times we waltzed on the dance floor. Happy Birthday toes!" "Hello knees", he continued. "How are you? You know you're 92 today! Oh, the times we've had! Remember when we marched in the parade? Oh, the hurdles we've jumped together. Happy Birthday, knees." Then, he looked down at his crotch. "Hello Willie! You little bugger. Just think - if you were alive today, you'd be 92!"

## Ramblers



We commenced May with a group of 12 strutting their stuff along Orewa Beach before gathering at Movenpick to brave the socialising crowds. With changes in the ownership and style of many of the

Orewa cafes, we are sampling those that can comfortably accommodate our group with an eye to identifying a 'home' base.

The following week 22 of us enjoyed a trip into the city and a stroll around the sculpture trail in the Wynyard Quarter, followed by lunch at the Fish Market. We sailed to town on the replacement, well-worn and slightly delayed 10:30am ferry from Gulf Harbour and then returned at our leisure having viewed and eaten our preferences. Most returned on the 2:45pm sailing departing from Terminal 8. A pleasant day in which we ran up a few kms.

For mid-May we accommodated Chief Guide Garth's other time-pressing duties with an amble from the Estuary Car Park around past the lily ponds on Maygrove Lake and then a return to the cars via

the inner streets of Orewa. Those with less time pressure rambled the full distance back along the beach to the cars. We tried out a new watering hole at Dear Coasties, which was very well received.

For a Peninsula ramble, a smaller group met at the Four-Square in Gulf Harbour, walked up to the now non-existent Country Club clubhouse and around the 1<sup>st</sup> nine holes of the golf course encountering a few other walkers along the way. Breakaway points were availed by those amblers intent on taking short cuts. 12 gathered for refreshments at the cheery Cherry Café.

Our final May ramble was the oldie-but-goodie at Albany which took us around the riverside and university. It was a "Rebus Hat" day – with a range on display. Having parked in the main carpark opposite Mitre 10, we were able to observe both the variety of 'travellers' in their 'carpark' – and the contrasting serenity of the stream on our right. After crossing the Old Albany Highway at the 'managed' intersection – and recalling poor Kim's fall whilst crossing the road on the old Albany Bridge with its high kerbs - we descended to Lucas Creek, Hoppy via the slide, to be greeted by brilliantly white 'Peking Ducks'. Crossing the Creek bridge, we meandered south to the Albany highway and attempted briefly to follow the new subdivision's 'potential' road/pathway to the university. Unfortunately, it does not (yet?) connect, so we had to about=turn and proceed around the campus on our usual route. We then headed past the stadium and on to Columbus to meet up with the amblers for well-earned refreshments.

A reminder that for our off-the-Coast rambles, we meet to carpool 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. Routes generally have a shorter option for the "amblers".

*David Gatland*

## Combined Club Dinner Nights

George has made the necessary booking for our next combined dinner which will be held at 5:30pm on Wednesday,



24<sup>th</sup> June at Due Amici Italian Restaurant in Manly Village.

We have booked for 30 – 35 diners and are required to be in the evening first sitting because of our numbers.

George needs to finalise those numbers no later than Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June; if you would like to attend and not yet advised George, please do so no later than that date.

Neville Drower for *George Tregidga*

## Birthdays for May



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

Brian Mullan  
Terry Burns  
John Pudney  
Andy Martin  
Bland Liles  
Neville Drower  
Kim Hanna  
Ray Davis  
Frank Coggan  
Rob Aspden  
Mark Burt

Many Happy Returns!

## Comprehending accountants ...

Two accounting students were walking across campus when one asked, 'Where did you get such a great bike?' The second accounting student replied 'Well, I was walking along yesterday minding my own business when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike. She threw the bike to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, 'Take what you want'.

The first accounting student nodded approvingly, 'Good choice, the clothes probably wouldn't have fit'.

## 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>

