



REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST

June 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:	Bryan Wentworth	021 210 1791
IPP/Membership:	Paul Robinson	027 2222 151
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Speakers/Ramblers:	David Gatland	021 285 5734
Trips & Events:	Steve Waller	021 0864 0236
Bulletin Editor:	Neville Drower	021 886 130
Host/Welfare:	Peter Fava	021 560 925
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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 JULY 2026 at 9.30 am.

Our guest speaker will be **Gary Fleet**, soccer player and referee. He will be introduced by Frank Coggan and thanked by Riley Bell. Our **club speaker** this month will be **Roger Harvey**.

Quick reminder: If you are unable to attend, please send your apology to our email address above, and if you are attending, please do wear your name tag.

President's Message



Dear fellow members,

A happy, engaged and growing membership is what our Club is all about.

It was therefore a real delight to be part of our membership drive on Tuesday 30 June.

Our table, complete with Rebus flag and information board, was set up outside Woolworths, the popular shopping area within the Whangaparaoa Plaza.

It was pension day, so the mall was busy with seniors shopping, and expressing interest at our information site.

"Be our guest at our next meeting on 7 July" was the 'marketing invite', with guest speaker being football player and referee Gary Fleet – (hopefully) a popular drawcard as we are in the middle of the FIFA World Cup competition.

With more information on our Membership Day, and club news and updates, enjoy this month's bulletin. As always, please check for duties, upcoming activities and deadlines.

See you at our next Club meeting on Tuesday 7 July

Regards

Tim

Zen teaching for June... Sex is like air. It's not that important unless you aren't getting any.

Treasurer's Report



At the time of writing, our bank account stands at \$ 5,566.39 with no outstandings due.

Bryan Wentworth

Membership and "Our People"



A very warm welcome to Jim Towler who was inducted by Tim at our June meeting. Jim was introduced by Tom



Hipkiss.

We hope you enjoy your participation in our club Jim.

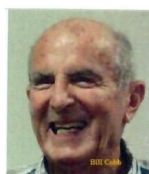
Paul Robinson

Trips and Events



Recent events

On 4th June 25 players enjoyed two games of **tenpin bowling**.



Players mixing from Hibiscus Coast Friendship Club and our club split into groups of four players per lane which gave everyone about forty bowls in the two games over two hours of playing time.

I would like to report that we all improved with each bowl, but in my case and at least several others, I seemed to get worse throughout the morning. Maybe I need more practice and possibly a few beers, or would that be too dangerous? At any rate I believe we all had a great time and had the glass of beer at the Beer Spot after the game.

Thanks to PP Paul for booking the event and arranging the players into teams.

On Friday 12th June we had our annual trip to the **Fieldays at Mystery Creek**, Hamilton.

All sixteen of us met at the vehicle rental depot at Silverdale at 8am and set off in the hired twelve seater van and with Trevor Penn, who kindly agreed to drive the other four members in his car. We had a great run down to Hamilton with free-flowing traffic all the way until we got within about two kilometres of the event's northern car park, where we stopped and crawled for about an hour. I guess everyone decided to attend the show as it was extremely well promoted and the weather was perfect for the largely outdoor event.

We had a reasonable drive back apart from, as we all expected, being held up by traffic through Auckland. If you have not been to the event previously, as in my case, it's a great experience, being the largest agricultural show in the Southern Hemisphere. However, it is not all farming, interesting though that is, so everyone should have been able to find exhibitors of interest to them, whether its tools, knives and kitchen tools, solar power, vehicles, clothing and just about anything else you might think of, including lots of food choices for lunch.

The event was extremely well organised and although it was very busy, the crowds didn't cause any disruption or prevent us from seeing whatever we chose to see. It was a great iconic Kiwi experience.

Thanks to Garth for booking the van and to Paul for taking over the booking on the day.

UPCOMING TRIPS AND EVENTS

Next Trip: Tuesday 21st July car-sharing trip to Foodstuffs Distribution Centre, Airport Oaks.

This trip is limited in numbers as a total of only 15 attendees are permitted to tour the distribution centre. We are therefore initially accepting bookings from members only on a first come, first serve basis. At the time of writing this we have 12 members who have booked, so if you want to be included email Steve ASAP at the address below (remember, you will need a hi-vis vest and enclosed shoes). Full details were circulated by email on June 25th.

To book email Steve at stevejwaller49@gmail.com if you haven't already done so.

This trip has only been made possible thanks to Hans Wouters who used his contacts at Foodstuffs to arrange a unique visit for our club.

Next Function: August 10th, mid-year lunch at Faridas, Hibiscus Coast Orewa.

All welcome including friends.

Date: 10th August 2026. This is a Monday for a change and the only day we are able to have the restaurant to ourselves, as they are normally closed on Monday.

Parking: Behind the Restaurant, on the main road opposite or at the Surf Club.

Time: 12noon, lunch to be served around 12.30pm.

Bar: At normal bar prices, or tea and coffee as preferred.

Menu:

Choice of main

- Slow-cooked beef cheeks in red wine with vegetables, or
- Tarragon chicken breast served with potato gratin dauphinoise.

Choice of two desserts

- Sticky date pudding, or
- Creme brulee.

Cost: \$45 per person, which is subsidised by the club.

Type of service: waitress food service, buy your own drinks from the bar.

No need to notify your choice of menu in advance but the restaurant does need to know numbers well in advance.

To book: Notify Steve at the email address above AND pay \$45 pp into the club bank account: 12 3084 0176946 00. Your booking and payment are required by **no later than Tuesday, 28 July.** Much appreciated.

Steve Waller and Bill Cobb

Welfare



Our Welfare Convenor Peter Fava has recovered sufficiently from his pneumonia to undergo further surgery next week to have stents inserted for his heart. We wish you all the best for your op Peter.

We have three members in the care facility at Evelyn Page. Peter Farrell is slowly recovering from his heart attack, but is unlikely to join us at Rebus for some months. Colin Cathro is making good progress with his left leg, managing to climb a set of stairs a few weeks ago. Our third member is Graeme Wake who was admitted with dementia. His wife Lil spends time with him every day. All three have asked to be reminded to their friends at Hibiscus Rebus.

Earl Brookbanks is back in North Shore hospital again. He has received an offer for his home, but hasn't yet decided which care facility he will move to.

Paul Robinson for *Peter Fava*

Reported aircrew commentary...

An airline pilot reported that on his last flight he'd 'hammered' his ship onto the runway very hard.

The airline had a policy which required that the first officer stand at the door while the passengers exited, smile, and give them a 'Thanks for flying our airline.' In light of his bad landing, he'd had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye knowing someone would have a smart comment.

Finally, everyone had gotten off except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She looked him squarely in the eye and said, 'Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?' 'Why, no, Ma'am,' said the pilot. 'What is it?' The little old earnestly asked him, 'Did we land, or were we shot down?'

Speakers Corner

Club Speaker-Hal Smith



Hal commenced his talk at the point he left his Lower Hutt High School to begin his studies at Auckland



University's School of Architecture which paved the way for his impressive off-shore career designing large and innovative buildings in fascinating places.

Following graduation Hal and his wife purchased one-way tickets to London where Hal spent his first year abroad working for a firm of Italian architects. At the end of that year he was offered a job in Abu Dhabi. Off he and his wife went, travelling across Europe and middle – eastern sands in a VW Combi to meet John Harris in Dubai, with whom Hal and 2 others ultimately established their architectural firm. During WWII John had been in the British Army and whilst based in Hong Kong was taken prisoner and interned in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp for 3 ½ years. Following the war John had designed hospitals in Doha, Nigeria, France and also undertaken heritage work back in the UK. He was looking for an architect to help build a 400-bed hospital in Dubai.

Dubai's architecture at the time was all low-level and the new hospital was to be its first multi-story building. No building consents were needed, the project was financed by a London Bank and the project budget limited. All materials had to be sourced from overseas, were very expensive for it and consequently available funds were quickly depleted. Notwithstanding, the hospital was successfully completed, served its purpose well and was expanded twelve years later. Despite long and demanding work hours Hal and his wife loved the highly social nature of British expat life which they felt worked well for them.

In 1980 Hal designed a new, 40 storey Trade Centre which featured an exhibition hall and fully serviced apartments. The project was approved and signed off in a single day with work beginning the very next day. The Sheik of Dubai required that the new, bright white Trade Centre could be seen, night and day, from neighbouring states which meant its initial design had to be revised to achieve even greater height, not something easily done. Similarly difficult was designing a system of shading to keep direct sunlight off windows and internal building temperatures as low as possible. In absence of any local rules or regulations Hal decided to adopt American fire safety standards, the gold standard at the time. However, official sign-off on this aspect of the design was made even more demanding by virtue of Dubai's Fire Chief having just watched *Towering Inferno*! Hal managed to satisfy the Fire Chief's fire safety expectations by way of a system of ladders that could be attached to the outside of the building...an idea Hal efficaciously(!) credited to the Fire Chief. In 1979 Queen Elizabeth and the

Duke of Edinburgh visited Dubai. Hal provided them with a guided tour of the project and was subsequently invited to a cocktail party aboard the royal yacht *Brittania*. He enjoyed the Queen's sense of humour and found the Duke to be a clever, well-prepared man with a genuine interest in how the Trade Centre had been built.

Hal's next successful tender (won from a field of 200 competing submissions) was for a 14 story, 650-bed hospital complete with a helipad; the Sheik's son owned a helicopter at the time... This was followed by the design of a new residence for the US Ambassador to Abu Dhabi and then, in 1977, a commission to design new operating theatres for the existing Bahawalpur Hospital in Pakistan.

In 1982 the firm won a tender to design a 1,700 bed, fully air-conditioned general hospital in the Tuen Mun District of Hong Kong. The building was to be constructed by a Japanese company which was difficult for Hal's partner, John Harris, given his WWII experiences as a POW. This project led to Hal relocating to Hong Kong where, with the assistance of his wife, he established a new branch for the firm. When John Harris made his first visit to the new Hong Kong office the first thing he did was lay a wreath on the graves of POWs who hadn't survived their incarceration under the Japanese. Hal and his wife, who helped Hal establish and worked in the new office, very much enjoyed their time in Hong Kong which they found to be a happy and interesting place, wooden scaffolding and all.

Hal's been a keen sailor since early days in Wellington. He sailed 470s with the Dubai Sailing Club and whilst in Hong Kong was involved in the establishment of a sailing club for kiwis. Following repatriation back to New Zealand Hal involved himself in farming, built a number of houses during the 90s and continued his architectural work on a part-time basis.

Billy Connolly on Retirement...

Working people frequently ask retired people what they do to make their days interesting. Well, for example, the other day I went into town and went into a shop. I was only in there for about 5 minutes and when I came out there was a cop writing out a parking ticket.

I went up to him and said, 'Come on man, how

about giving a senior citizen a f***** break?’
He ignored me and continued writing the ticket.

I called him a Nazi turd. He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn tyres.

So I called him a s---head. He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first. Then he started writing a third ticket. This went on for about 20 minutes. The more I abused him, the more tickets he wrote.

Personally, I don't care. I came into town by bus.

I try to have a little fun each day now that I'm retired. It's important at my age!

Guest Speaker – the Minstrel, Lynn John

Julian Joy introduced Lynn to the club.

Lynn was born in Wales, has since covered a truly impressive amount of ground, and now resides in Orewa.



Being a good keen Welshman he has always had an intense passion for music and song. Before moving to New Zealand he was a soloist in a well-known Welsh choir and for over 20 years was a member of and principal soloist in New Zealand Opera. During his career Lynn has established, coached and/or managed a number of successful men's choirs including the award winning and televised Nga Tapuwae Male Voice Choir.

Unfortunately Lynn suffered from heart problems which ultimately led to a heart bypass operation that he attributes to changes in the way his brain functions; ever since the operation he has had a compulsion to write and over the decades has written, produced and directed television programs, written numerous books (including several novels, a cook book and a drama education handbook), operas and over 20 plays.

Lynn asked if any of the audience knew the story behind the song ‘Danny Boy’? No-one did. He explained that Danny Boy was a ballad about a young man heading off to war and in doing so having to part from his terminally ill father who'd likely not be alive when he returned. In the song the

father asks his son, Danny Boy, that when he does return he finds his father's grave, says a prayer and tells him he loves him which will then allow the father to rest in peace.

Lynn ‘the Minstrel’ then gave us a beautiful rendition of the song.

In February 1986 Lynn received a rather large and grand envelope containing an invitation to a have lunch with the Queen aboard the royal yacht Britannia berthed in Auckland. When he arrived at Queens Wharf at the appointed time the wharf was deserted. He was met by a lone naval officer who welcomed him aboard and passed him off to a rating who guided him to an empty drawing room.

He helped himself to a drink and was soon joined by 10 other ‘worthies’ including Sir Tom Skinner (the ‘voice of unionism in New Zealand’), Dame Kath Tizard (a Mayor of Auckland who went on to become New Zealand's first female Governor General), Sir Patrick Hogan (a legendary New Zealand horse breeder) and finally, the Queen.

On meeting HRH it became apparent that she knew all about Lynn's work with men's choirs and the awards they had won which explained how he'd come to earn his invitation. The Queen's humour was evident in her telling of the last meeting she'd had before leaving London, with the Russian Ambassador. The weather at the time was bitterly cold, wet and foul and the Queen had quipped that she hoped it didn't presage ‘the start of a second cold war’. The Ambassador was not amused, but the Queen was.

During the two-hour lunch when the Queen spoke to the person on her left, all others at the table spoke to those on their left. When the Queen turned to her right to speak with Sir Patrick, all followed suit and turned to speak to those on their right. The occasion was brought to a conclusion when the Queen delved into her ever present handbag, retrieved her lipstick and proceeded to apply it. When leaving Britannia Lynn found himself walking along the deck with well-known children's presenter, Olly Ohlson. They gazed down at the wharf-side and were amazed to see a 5,000 strong crowd gathered to view Britannia and possibly get a glimpse of the royals. Lynn and Olly offered a royal wave and were rewarded with returned waves and cheers. They descended the

gangplank and walked into the huge crowd which parted for them like the Red Sea.

Lynn concluded this story with a soulful 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot'.

During the 1990's Lynn worked with TV2 to produce 20 kid's programs designed to support children being schooled at home. When Christmas arrived the producer simply closed the set down and told all to go home for three weeks. At a loose end, Lynn decided to travel to Rome to listen to Pavarotti live. Unable to find a ticket whilst in New Zealand he nevertheless decided to travel to Italy in the expectation that a ticket must surely, at some point, become available. He flew to London, travelled for two days on a bus across Europe to Northern Italy and booked into a pension run by a couple constantly at war with each other. For 5 days he endured the ongoing conflict and did all he could to secure a ticket, but to no avail. Ultimately, he decided to at least visit the Vatican and the Sistine Chapel where, to his amazement, he came upon the Pope, greeted him with a respectful 'giddyay' and shook his hand.

At this point Lynn sang a song immortalised by Paul Robson, 'Old Man River'.

Lynn's next story was about a recent encounter whilst parked at Orewa in his Nissan Leaf EV. A woman tapped on his window and indicated that he should lower it. This he did, only to receive a diatribe about the ills of EV's and the manner in which they necessitate the burning of coal to generate electricity to enable the charging of EV batteries...all of which was, in the woman's view, shamefully damaging to the environment. Lynn got out of his car to discuss the matter further. The woman, fearing an altercation, got into her diesel vehicle and hastily closed her door...on the tail of her coat which hung to the ground. Lynn tapped on her car window indicating that she should lower it in order that he could advise her firstly, that over 80% of New Zealand's power is renewable and secondly, that her coat was hanging out of her door and into a puddle. She'd have none of it, yelled 'anti - vaxer' and hastily drove off leaving Lynn to savour the image of her coat tail flapping in the wind. A man in a car on the other side of Lynn's called out, 'I enjoyed that!'

Lynn then encouraged all to join him in singing 'Pokarekare Ana'.

In response to member's questions Lynn shared more of his earliest days growing up in Wales and his early years in New Zealand. He was one of five children. When each child arrived Lynn's father insisted he alone select the new-born's first name allowing his wife to only select their second names. As each child arrived Lynn's mother took all in her stride, bestowed a second name on them...and thereafter only addressed them by their second name!

As a child Lynn was a boy soprano and toured Wales with his opera-singing mother performing in shows as they went. One fateful day his voice broke mid-performance and Lynn vividly recalls his mother screaming 'it's all over!'. Which it was, at least until Lynn's voice developed into the excellent bass that it is today.

When Lynn was 24 he met an attractive kiwi girl who was visiting Wales. She returned to New Zealand and shortly thereafter Lynn followed her and found himself living in Tokoroa, teaching music at a local high school (...which was locally considered a natural role for him, given he was Welsh!). The kiwi girl went on to win the Miss Auckland beauty pageant and toured the country as a contestant in the Miss New Zealand competition. One of Lynn's aunts loaned him £600 with which he purchased a bright red Austin Healey sports car and followed the girl from town to town. He ultimately won her over and they were married in 1964...upon Lynn's conditions that they return to Wales for a visit, and importantly, set about having a family.

Ray Davis thanked Lynn for a most enjoyable and engaging session. Lynn is available to sing and tell true stories at birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, funerals and other events and functions. He can be contacted at lynn@orcon.net.nz



David Gatland

A highly instructive golfing story from Bill Cobb...

A bloke goes up to the bar in a pub and in a croaky voice asks for a brandy. The barman says 'That sounds like bad throat, how did you get that?'. The bloke replied 'I got it playing golf'.



The barman looked a bit puzzled, so the bloke said 'I sliced my tee shot off the 6th and the ball went into some long grass. There was a lady already there when I went to look for it and I poked around for 5 minutes or so before giving it a miss. As I walked away, I saw a cow grazing, and it had what looked like a ball wedged in its tail.

'I walked up to it and sure enough it was a golf ball but not mine so I lifted up the cow's tail and said to the lady "Does this look like yours?" and she hit me in the throat with a 9 iron'.

Ramblers



We commenced June with a visit to Millwater, starting from the normal car park on the right past the shops, and celebrating King's Birthday with the colours of choice being red/white

or blue. A small group of weatherproof walkers had a pleasant stroll around the back of Millwater and joined the faithful coffee contingent for some social time at Jillies on the corner (yes - not Millies, as they were overcrowded and didn't have our reserved spot ready).

The following week we were truly local, starting from the Bridge Club, Edith Hopper Park, Ladies Mile and strolling Manly Beach and then the upper streets of Manly, finishing at our Friday habitué, the Manly Café – where Dave and his crew made us very welcome.

The next week a motivated group did the Orewa Beach walk with leader Garth confined to a stroll around his house. We enjoyed refreshments at Dear

Coasties – where there was ample room for our team.

Next up we tackled our regular Northcote Point ramble however, due to the Clarence Street coffee spot having developed into a café and no longer being open on Mondays, we needed to change our route. Using a coffee spot as the starting point we went on an adventure from the Kawana Coffee House (corner Lake Road and Kawana St Northcote), that took us along Kawana St and then Woodside Ave to the Kauri Glen entrance and then through the Kauri Glen walkway including the famous tree top walk, returning back down through the bush to Kawana St. Great navigation skills were demonstrated. We stocked up on tasty refreshments in a separate room at Kawana Coffee House.

Garth led the Ramblers on a final June wander around the precincts of Wenderholm...the photo says it all, what a magnificent park!



David Gatland

The following add appeared in the Classifieds section of a US newspaper...

SINGLE BLACK FEMALE seeks male companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I'm a very good girl who LOVES to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your pickup truck, hunting, camping and fishing trips, cozy winter nights lying by the fire. Candlelight dinners will have me eating out of your hand. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me.... Call (404) 875-6420 and ask for Annie, I'll be waiting.

Scroll down and all will become clear...

Combined Club Dinner Nights

We had 26 keen attendees at our 26 June Due Amici dinner. All enjoyed



the usual high standard of fare and by all accounts had an excellent evening.

For the next dinner I have booked 30 places at The Archer Bar and Bistro in the Stanmore Bay shopping centre for Wednesday 19th August with a 6.30pm start. I will be taking numbers from the end of July.

George Tregidga



...one gorgeous single, black and irresistable female!

Birthdays for May



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

Tim Jones
Stephen McKay
Paul Robinson
George Tregidga
Barry Shearer

Many Happy Returns!

Sponsorship

