



REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST

July 2026 Bulletin

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Affiliated to Rebus NZ Incorporated



Where you will find fun, friendship, and conviviality.

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

Our NEXT MEETING will be held on TUESDAY 4th August 2026 at 9.30 am.

Our guest speaker will be John Morley accompanied by one of his bedbug-busting beagles; his topic, **Bedbugs**. John will be introduced by Malcolm Macaskill, and thanked by Ed Davies. 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,

What a July, a feast of sport – with late nights and early mornings, relaxing on the couch, glued to the TV, as we celebrate the “perks” of retirement living:

- The All Black triumphs under new coach Dave Rennie
- The Warriors, and the State of Origin decider
- Wimbledon and another Jannik Sinner victory
- The FIFA football world cup and the mercurial Spanish
- The British Open and Ryan Fox's historic win

- And, as I write this message, the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow are about to begin.

The only break from this festival of sport, and July's fickle weather, has been for those of us who are on grandpa duties – it's the school holidays!

While on duty one day, my cheeky teenage grandson asked, “What do you old guys get up to down in Manly (i.e. at the Bridge Club)?”

Thankfully, no innuendo was implied, but rather a youthful naivete that he doesn't yet comprehend that socialising is a need (wish) for all age groups, and not just for those with modern mullet haircuts, plastic crocs, and cell phone addiction!

I think we old guys (as he describes us) can be very proud of an active month Rebus-wise.

The spontaneous fellowship at our Club meeting, the induction of three new members, a thought-provoking and balanced address from ex-football referee Gary Fleet, a busy month for Ramblers, and a very informative visit to the Foodstuffs distribution centre.

In August we look forward to our annual mid-year luncheon. Please diarise Monday August 10 – an opportunity to relax and enjoy with our wives and partners. Details have already been circulated and are reprinted in our bulletin.

Take care, and look forward to catching up at our next meeting on Tuesday 4 August.

Regards

Tim

Zen teaching for July... Don't worry; it only seems kinky the first time.

Treasurer's Report



Our bank balance is very HEALTHY. It's been boosted by the sale of our projector for \$700+ and receipt of \$1,400 plus of luncheon prepayments. It currently stands at \$7,750!

Bryan Wentworth

Membership and "Our People"



A very warm welcome to three new members who were inducted by Tim at our July meeting – Gilbert Peterson, John Duncan, and John Morley.

Gilbert was introduced by Paul Robinson – he was born in Martinborough and went to university in Wellington. He has spent most of his life in journalism and communications working for several government organisations before moving into similar roles in the private sector. Gilbert ventured into business ownership when he bought Dive Pacific magazine, which unfortunately came to an end during Covid. He lives in Little Manly with his wife and they enjoy travelling, sailing, and fishing.



Trevor Weal introduced John Duncan who went to school at Saint Kentigern College. He has lived on the Coast for thirty years, but has been visiting for many years – weekends and school holidays were always spent here. He spent his entire working life in the aircraft and airline industry, starting as an engineering apprentice and finishing as a jet engine lifecycle manager. He lived in Vancouver on the west coast of Canada for twelve years.



John Morley was introduced by Paul Robinson – he was born in Palmerston North in 1950. His first job was a 5 year apprenticeship as a motor mechanic for a Holden Jaguar Chevrolet dealer. The rest of the years he started and owned several businesses in Tauranga, Taupo, and Auckland, and also did 3 years in the mid-to-late 80s as Chief Executive of Air Defence Electronics. He has spent the last 18 years in his current business Pro-Tek Systems Ltd with his son.



We hope all three of you enjoy your participation in our club.

Paul Robinson

Fathoming our legalistic brethren...

What's the difference between a good lawyer and a bad lawyer? A bad lawyer can let a case drag out for several years. A good lawyer can make it last far, far longer.

Trips and Events



Recent events

It was an active month in terms of events. All enjoyed a combined



Rebus/Friendship Club 10 pin bowling competition followed by a few fortifying beverages over lunch. A strong contingent braved the traffic to attend this year's, as always, fascinating Mystery Creek Field Day. Most recently, 15 members undertook a revealing guided tour of Foodstuff's impressive 7.7-hectare Auckland Distribution Centre which boasts the largest warehouse ever built in New Zealand. It

was an excellent event, and special thanks go out to Hans Wouters for his efforts in arranging this.

Upcoming Trips and Events

On August 10th we have our mid-winter luncheon at Faridas restaurant, Orewa (full details were provided in June's Bulletin). To date we have bookings and payment from 46 members.

In September we are planning a visit to The Range located on the southern outskirts of Warkworth which boasts an air rifle range, a mini golf course and a golf driving range. The event will conclude with lunch in Warkworth.

In October we are planning a visit to the Stardome Observatory and Planetarium at One Tree Hill. It will be a one-hour private viewing of a 'film show' followed by lunch at a near-by venue.

We'll advise dates and times once they've hardened up.

Steve Waller and Bill Cobb

Welfare



Thanks to Paul Robinson for covering for me these last two months. I have been out of action like an old car needing spare parts at every service. I have recovered, am 'mostly' well and happy to be back.

Some of our members are similarly recovering, while others are still unwell.

It was good to see Bill Anderson and Frank Coggan attending our last meeting.

Earl Brookbanks has moved into the Sands Care Centre and Village in Browns Bay. He is working on attending our meetings once transport can be organised.

Colin Cathro is at Ryman Evelyn Page Retirement Village, improving and able to walk with a frame. He hopes to be back home and perhaps attending Rebus meetings at some point.

Peter Farrell and Graeme Wake are also staying at Evelyn Page and are not sure if they will be able to return to Rebus.

Don Baverstock is at home, and his illness has prevented his attendance at Rebus for some time. Thanks to Graeme McIntosh for his visit to Don.

Several of our unwell members are happy to receive visitors. You may wish to check with them when they are available.

Peter Fava

Reported aircrew commentary...

A plane took off from Auckland Airport. After it reached a comfortable cruising altitude, the Captain made an announcement over the intercom, 'Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. Welcome to Flight 316, nonstop from Auckland to Los Angeles. The weather ahead is good and it looks like we'll be having a smooth and uneventful flight. Now sit back and relax...OH, MY GOD!!' An ominous silence followed.

After a few minutes, the captain came back on the intercom and said, 'Ladies and Gentlemen, I am so sorry if I scared you earlier. While I was talking to you, the flight attendant accidentally spilled a cup of hot coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!' A passenger in coach yelled, 'That's nothing. You should see the back of ours!'

Speakers Corner

Club Speaker - Jim Towler

Jim commenced his presentation by sharing with us his granddaughter's 'Jim Towler biography' prepared in the course of a school project. She'd decided to tell 'Poppa's' story because 'he'd been in the Navy and had such an interesting life'.



Jim was born in Roxburgh in Central Otago and grew up in a large family with 7 siblings, having lost an eighth who'd sadly only lived to 1 month. Their house was rather full, and Jim shared a yellow shed equipped with bunks from which he and one brother

delighted in being able to eject the third from the top bunk. They all got on well and Jim remembered a fun-filled childhood. A self-confessed 'one eyed South Islander' he recounted an occasion on which he'd tried to argue he should only have to pay \$20 of the \$40 entrance fee to watch a Canterbury game...his rationale being he was only there to support Canterbury, not the other lot!

Jim attended Roxburgh's primary and then secondary school until 1969 when he left and joined the Navy where he specialised on the supply and storage side of things. During this time, he forged strong bonds and relationships, particularly whilst serving aboard the frigate HMNZS Otago. Jim's kept many of these friendships alive and looks forward to attending an upcoming Otago reunion to be held in the Cook Islands.

Whilst on the Otago, Jim participated in numerous naval exercises with New Zealand's allies and travelled extensively visiting Singapore, Hong Kong, Mururoa, Hawaii, Australia, Canada and the US. In 1973 New Zealand's Prime Minister, Norman Kirk sent the Otago to Mururoa to protest the testing of French nuclear weapons. The ship heeded French advice and kept its distance from the single test they witnessed. The crew were far enough away to avoid radiation poisoning but close enough to not only view the mushroom cloud but also witness dead fish and the consequences of nuclear pollution in the surrounding ocean. After 3 weeks the Otago was relieved by HMNZS Canterbury which sailed far closer to the atoll, witnessed a number of nuclear tests and exposed its crew to higher levels of radiation.

When he was 16 Jim met his future wife Margaret at a local dance hall. They married when Jim was nineteen and had two children, Karen and Gareth. Jim's very much a family man who believes family time is at the centre of things. During his naval career being away from home was a big 'obstacle' and when he wasn't at sea his top priority was spending quality time bonding with his children. This worked for the family with Jim believing that 'if something wasn't broken, no need to fix it'.

Jim and Margaret have a passion for travel, have visited 65 countries to date and are still exploring. On one family trip they took their children camping in Europe. The trip was largely unplanned and in the end they were able to visit 11 countries in 18 days

including France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Italy. The camping parks they stayed at were very well equipped, tents and all, with the family only needing to provide their bedding and dinner. In later years Jim's kids did their OEs and both landed up living in London. Jim and Margaret visited them, and from their London base the family were once again able to visit and explore surrounding countries.

More recently Jim and Margaret have travelled to south-east Asian countries including Vietnam and Cambodia. Accompanied by local tour guides like 'Shorty' and 'Long' (their nicknames a reflection of their stature...) they've crawled through Vietcong tunnels and visited Cambodian war museums where Jim found the horrendous impact Pol Pot had on his people both frightening and sobering.

Jim commented on just how small the world could be. When his daughter Karen visited Gallipoli she was surprised to find one of her old schoolteachers driving their tour bus. On one of his travels, Jim's son Gareth met a kiwi from Dunedin who turned out to be the daughter of one of Jim's South Island cousins.

After all Jim's seen he's concluded New Zealand's scenery really is some of the best. These days when he and Margaret travel domestically they catch a flight, pick up a car, and just 'head off', no further planning needed. On one trip they drove from Christchurch to Tekapo and kept heading south through Oamaru and on to Danseys Pass where they stopped at 150 year old Danseys Pass Hotel. The general manager was a Russian, the bar manager an Indian, the wine flowed and in the end they had no choice but to stay a night! Their next stop was the Vulcan Hotel in St Bathans - a similarly old hotel, it boasts its own ghost, Rosie. A working girl murdered in the 1860s, she now lends her name to a local beer.

All seniors are not senile...

An elderly, white haired man, walked into a jewellery store one Friday evening with a beautiful young girl at his side. He told the jeweller he was looking for a special ring for his girlfriend.

The jeweller presented a \$5,000 ring from his stock. The old man said, 'No. I'd like to see something more special.' With that the jeweller went to his

high-value stock and brought another ring over. 'Here is a stunning ring and it is only \$40,000.' The young lady's eyes sparkled, she trembled with excitement and seeing this the old man said, 'We'll take it.'

The jeweller asked how payment would be made and the old man stated, 'By cheque. I know you need to make sure my cheque is good so I'll write it now and you can call the bank on Monday to verify that the funds are there. I'll pick the ring up on Monday afternoon.'

Monday morning the jeweller phoned the old man. 'There's no money in that account'. 'I know', said the old man. 'But let me tell you about my weekend...'

Guest Speaker – Gary Fleet, retired FIFA referee

Gary was welcomed and introduced to the club by Frank Coggan.

Gary described himself as being the Hutt steam train engineer turned FIFA referee.



He refereed New Zealand domestic and FIFA international football games during a career spanning 28 years. Described as a 'players referee', Gary wasn't entirely sure what that meant but assumed it had something to do with the way in which he was willing to tolerate players venting on the pitch, which he felt was preferable to them taking frustrations out on other players. He was always aware that he had to earn the players respect, just as they had to earn his. If they went beyond his warnings he would card them, and if they went further beyond that Gary wasn't afraid to change the colour of a card. But, during his entire career, Gary only issued 12 red cards. Intriguingly, 6 of these were awarded to a single player, Grant Turner who, like Gary, had grown up in Naenae.

During a trip to Scotland Gary learned that between 1920 – 1924 his grandfather had played as a semi-professional for Partick Thistle FC in Glasgow. He visited the club's grounds, Firhill Stadium, which recorded his grandfather being paid £2.9p per game which enhanced his full-time earnings as a 'gold leaf' painter in the local shipyards. In 1924 Gary's grandfather immigrated to New Zealand. During the voyage out he met a fellow semi-pro footballer,

Andy Leslie, who'd played for Hibernian FC in Edinburgh. In the 1970s Andy's son, also named Andy, was to become one of the All Black's most revered captains. Gary's grandparents never went back to Scotland and when asked 'why not?', replied 'family and friends never came out to visit us, why should we visit them?'.

During WWII Gary's father fought in Europe and was captured by the Germans. He repeatedly tried to escape, successfully on his third attempt. He was taken in by a sympathetic family who helped him avoid recapture by convincing the Germans he was a deaf and dumb local. In 1946 he returned home to New Zealand where he settled in Petone in Lower Hutt.

Gary had fond memories of growing up in Naenae. There were no issues around race or where you came from, it was just a straight-forward neighbourhood made up of kids and parents getting on with life. Kids did what kids do to have fun and Gary remembered well being caught pinching fruit and eggs by their one-legged neighbourhood cop, Hoppy, who kicked Gary's backside and returned him to his parents for a second boot up the rear. When his father asked him what he'd learned from the exercise it was Hoppy the cop who replied, 'to not get caught again'! Gary felt this was all fair enough, that 'if you lived by the sword you died by the sword'.

In 1966 Gary left school and moved to Dunedin to commence a fitter and turner apprenticeship working on the last steam engines built in New Zealand. All parts had to be hand-made which meant working on steam engines was a far more complex and interesting job than working on the diesel locomotives that ultimately replaced steam. As an apprentice, Gary was required to give up 4 hours of his Saturdays to work on various 'projects'. This led to him being a member of the team that restored the famed Kingston Flyer, remembered for having had the largest hand-fed firebox in New Zealand.

As an aside, Gary recalled that during the years he worked for NZ Railways there was constant criticism from train passengers at the way in which railway workers were always leaning on their shovels and seemingly doing nothing as trains passed by. This always struck Gary as ridiculous given that railwaymen had no choice but to cease work and get off the line when trains passed

through...the consequences of not doing so being fairly obvious when you think about it!

Gary began his football career playing for Naenae as a 5-year-old and continued playing, ultimately for a Dunedin club when he moved south to take up his NZ Railways apprenticeship. Unfortunately, he suffered a serious leg injury when aged 17 which put his playing days on hold. Loving the game, he joined the Wellington Referees Association which supported the training of football referees. He found the Association's technical exams challenging and failed several times. He was then advised that, in fact, there were just 4 main rules that were critical. He learned these, passed his exams, earned his 'badge' in 1970 and began to work his way up through the grades.

Gary recounted games he refereed involving the Wellington Hungaria AFC side made up of Hungarian immigrants including a player called Lotsy Polyanszky. Lotsy was a very talented but badly behaved and at times violent player. During a game Gary was reffing Lotsy hit another player. Gary asked him if he'd 'like to join the ladies across the fence?' and when Lotsy asked what he was talking about was told 'you're playing like a girl!'. Ultimately Polyanszky thanked Gary for putting him right and went on to become one of New Zealand's best domestic players.

Gary's career progressed and he became a qualified engineer working on the Silver Star service with his refereeing career similarly progressing. In 1974 he reffed his first national league game which was formally assessed by a legend of NZ football, Ken Armstrong who'd played 400 games for Chelsea. When Gary introduced himself, Armstrong responded by telling him he'd not heard of him and entered his name in his notebook. After the game he asked Gary how he rated his refereeing. Gary replied he that he thought it had gone well, but he'd run out of steam at the 70 minute mark and felt knackered. Armstrong agreed with Gary's self-appraisal that he was unfit and told him that if he wanted to get to the top he'd need to train harder and cut out the smoking and drinking.

Gary took Armstrong's advice, was added to the NZ (international games) Referees List in 1975 and having reffed the requisite 3 internationals in a single year, was added to the FIFA Referees List in 1979.

Gary reffed a FIFA tournament game between Indonesia v. Brazil which he remembered as being extremely wet and for it, more of an 'aerial' game. He then went on to ref the quarter final, semi final and final game of the tournament, the only FIFA ref to have done so in a FIFA tournament.

Gary told us he's only made headlines on two occasions. The first was when he red-carded one of the best and most loved local players. The newspaper reported that when asked about the incident, the penalised player explained 'the ref warned me he'd send me off if I did it again. I did it again and he sent me off. I have no problem with the referee'. On the second occasion, Gary was umpiring a game in Iraq in which players were constantly exaggerating injuries and the team doctor repeatedly running onto the pitch and disrupting play. Ultimately red helmeted security guards removed the doctor from the field. A player went down feigning serious injury and was stretchered off. Upon reaching the side lines he made a miraculous recovery and jumped off the stretcher...at which point Gary yellow-carded him!

The last FIFA international game Gary reffed was the 1989 FIFA Under 16 Championship group game between Ghana v. Cuba in Scotland. He remembers the standard of play being exceptional notwithstanding that some of the players were very young and the most amazing goal of the game being scored by a 13-year-old! Commentators commended Gary on the manner in which he kept the game alive and flowing which may have partly explained the 2-2 result. The next day Gary and a few other referees went on a trip to a brewery. Subsequently they learned a 'political decision' had been made to not appoint either Gary or a Danish referee to ref any of the semi-final or final matches and both of them headed home before the tournament had ended.

Gary recalled one of the highest points in his own playing career being his participation in a 'friendly' at the end of a FIFA tournament. The two teams comprised of FIFA staff and ex-players, and Gary found himself on the same side as Pele. Three times he was able to get the ball to Pele and three times Pele scored. After the game Pele commended Gary on his ability to read the game and to be in the right place at the right time. Gary felt he'd had a great game with the greatest player ever.

Over the years Gary has refereed many youth games in different parts of the world including Oceania where he presided over matches in the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tahiti, and of course New Zealand and Australia. Increasingly he assisted in the training of local referees and helped them along the road to becoming FIFA refs. At half time in one game the ref felt things weren't going as well as they should and asked Gary what he was doing wrong. Gary replied that given the players were all behaving themselves, it didn't appear as though the ref was doing anything wrong. His only suggestion was that in the second half the ref blow his whistle as little as possible and simply let the game flow. The ref. took Gary's advice and was voted 'player of the match', by both teams!

Ultimately Gary discussed with FIFA what was needed for him to become an official trainer of FIFA referees and was told he would need to study refereeing for a further 6 years to qualify. Gary concluded that if, after 28 years of refereeing, FIFA 'desk jockeys' didn't think he'd done enough to qualify as a referee trainer, it was time to retire. He now concentrates his efforts on training his 2 football-playing grandsons.

In a brief but lively Q&A session Gary shared some interesting insights. When asked whether Donald Trump had in fact influenced the recent withdrawal of a red card at the FIFA World Cup, he was unequivocal in his response that the withdrawal had had nothing to do with Trump, that all such decisions are based solely on post-match review of the VAR. Asked whether there were any conflicting differences between the refereeing of school and club football in New Zealand, Gary expressed the view there were none. As an aside he commented that ongoing efforts had been made to introduce football into Hutt Valley schools for 29 years, and notwithstanding there was none to begin with and uptake had been slow, today football is taking over in those schools. He feels schools and clubs need to progress the game 'side by side'. In response to a question around referee pay, Gary told us referees receive nothing like what professional footballers are paid; at the beginning of his refereeing career he received \$2 a game and for each of the 106 FIFA internationals he refereed, he received \$100 per day (about \$600 in today's money).

Riley Bell thanked Gary for his excellent presentation, making the point that success at the

highest levels of football refereeing required similarly high-level man-management skills, which Gary clearly had.

Any inaccuracies, exaggerations, errors or omissions in respect of the above presentations are down to your editor...do let me know...

Neville Drouwer

Comprehending accountants...

A businessman was interviewing applicants for the position of Divisional Manager. He devised a simple test to select the most suitable person for the job; he asked each applicant the question 'What is two and two'?

The first interviewee was an ex-RNZ journalist. His answer was 'twenty-two'.

The second applicant was an engineer. He pulled out a calculator and showed the answer to be between 3.999999 and 4.000001.

The next person was a lawyer. He stated that in the case of *Jenkins v IRD*, judicial notice was taken that two and two would be four.

The last applicant was an accountant. The businessman asked him, 'How much is two and two'? The accountant got up from his chair, went over to the door and closed it, pulled the blinds, bent down to the businessman and quietly asked 'How much do you want it to be?' He got the job.

Upcoming Speakers

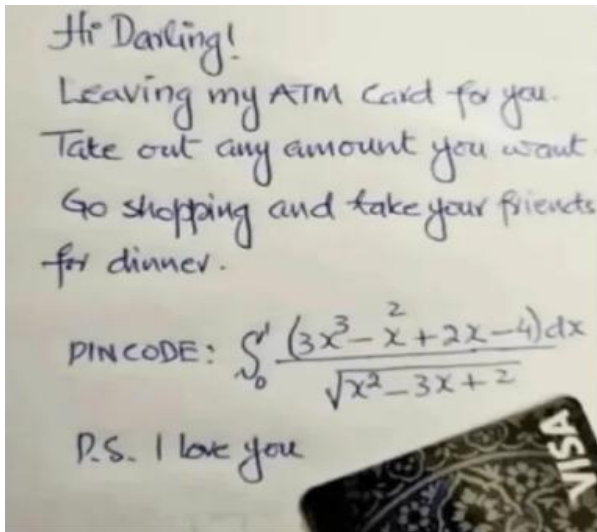


Our August Club Speaker will be Roger Harvey – many thanks to Jim Towler for stepping forward a month early to cover when Roger was ill last month.

Our Guest Speaker this month is – now a member - John Morley who - with his Pro-Tek Systems Beagle(s) - will introduce us to his Bedbug Detection service...which I trust none of us has needed to engage lately.

David Gatland

In the nature of engineers...



Ramblers

July was a month of 'getting out and about' for the Ramblers. We commenced by returning to the Wenderholm highlands with the track re-opened after a long break. A great effort by all those who completed what is a challenging and rewarding trek. Great photos of the scenery on the website. We returned to Orewa for our treats at Dear Coasties.



We followed this up with another hill-climbing test circuit of Shakespear Reserve from the giant picture frame to the lookout and around past Pink Beach to Te Haruhi Bay and back to the frame. The group broke up into three, but all got some good exercise. Refreshments were taken at the pleasant Cherry Café in Gulf Harbour.

Mid-month - as Chief Guide Garth had promised several of the gang - 12 of us did the Te Atatu Peninsula walk - with a twist. We bit off the confusing part of the walk first and then did the coastal track and by doing so minimised the loss of walkers.... Vincent minded the Delicious Bistro coffee spot for us.

Keeping local, the following week we walked the Alice Eaves Reserve trail from Arundel Reserve (northern end of Orewa Beach) and then returned via the new northern Orewa beach boardwalk. This was a walk where those adverse to hills could take a



reasonably flat course while the more energetic tackled the hills to earn their refreshments at Dear Coasties in Orewa.

David Gatland

Combined Club Dinner Nights



The combined dinner this month is on Wednesday 19th August at The Archer Bar and Bistro restaurant in the New World shops Stanmore Bay, 6.30pm start.

For the new members of the club, this is a combined interest group made up of members from our club and the club of Gulf Harbour. I organise a dinner once every two months at a local Restaurant. We usually get around 30 attending each time. If you wish to be on the mailing list, please email me at gandc@xtra.co.nz with your details and I will add you to my list.

George Tregidga

Monthly Discussion Group

As many of you are already aware, Ken Daniels from the Gulf Harbour club has been convening a monthly discussion group for some time now. Ken has kindly extended the invitation to Hibiscus Coast club members and last month several of us joined the group at Ken's home for a very lively and interesting discussion, nothing like a good vent! Terrific fun and as someone noted, two hours seemed to go by in flash. Following resolution of many of the worlds more complex issues, Ken treated all to an excellent morning tea.

The group meets at 10am on the second Thursday of each month. If you'd like to join this group please let Ken know and he'll add you to the distribution list. Ken's contact details are:

Email: kendaniels007@gmail.com
Mob: 021 621 411

Neville Drower

Birthdays for July



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

Fergus Small
Tom Hipkiss
John Morley
Ed Davies
Hal Smith
Hans Wouters
Vincent Reidy
Alan Menzies

Many Happy Returns!