



REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST

August 2026 Bulletin

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Affiliated to Rebus NZ Incorporated



Where you will find fun, friendship, and conviviality.

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Presentations:	Brian Tracey	021 661 573
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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, 1st September 2026 at 9.30 am.

Our **Guest** speaker this month will be **Duncan Miller** from the **Gulf Harbour Community Trust**. Duncan will be introduced by **Rod Klarwill** and thanked by **Bob Hagan**. Our **Club** speaker will be **Edwin Davies**.

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,

The winter feast of sport continues with another outstanding win for The All Blacks, this time in South Africa.

There is something uplifting about major sports events, and something comforting about snuggling on the couch in the early hours of the morning, hot cup of tea in hand and crumpets dripping with honey. A step away from the bitter southerlies, ice on the car windscreen, and those of us whose winter diet has been overtaken by chicken soup and Codral!

It was a beautiful winter's day for our annual mid-year luncheon on August 10. Faridas restaurant on the Orewa waterfront was the idyllic location, where

a large number of members and wives gathered to enjoy a very relaxed get-together, a substantial meal and hospitality. Our thanks to Steve Waller and Bill Cobb who work so tirelessly to create a full and varied social programme for the Club.

Recognition is due also to David Gatland, who organises and coordinates our guest speaker programme. It is particularly challenging to not only attract and secure guest speakers, but also who will hold the interest of our diverse membership. This month's guest (now Club) speaker of John Morley really hit the mark, especially with his sniffer bed-bug beagle Polly obediently at his feet! David welcomes suggestions for future guest speakers from Club members.

Our next club meeting is on Tuesday 1 September – the first day of spring. In the meantime, stay healthy and see you all then.

Regards

Tim

Zen teaching for August...

Good judgment comes from bad experience ... and most of that comes from bad judgment.

The Dunga Run – TimeOut Charitable Trust

Since 2004 Doug Hanna, Kim Hanna's son, has made his family's holiday home available for free to 65 families of terminally ill folk who have had limited time within which to enjoy and create lasting memories with their loved ones. More recently Doug became aware of the TimeOut Charitable Trust which, since its establishment in 2017, has essentially been doing the same thing as Doug and his wife Jan have been doing over the past 20 plus years. Doug approached TimeOut's founder and has subsequently joined the TimeOut team as both a contributing homeowner and a board Director. Currently over 180 holiday homeowners are making their properties available to TimeOut families. The wonderful opportunity this provides to families going through truly harrowing times can't be overstated, it's absolutely magic stuff.

Doug is currently leading the charge on a TimeOut fundraiser aptly named 'The Dunga Run'. It essentially involves 20 teams driving their \$2,000 or under 'dunga' vehicles (there does seem to be some latitude on the value side...) 2,600 scenic and at times challenging kilometres around the North Island. Over a seven-day period, commencing on Saturday 21 November, they'll pass through iconic spots including Hauhora, Cape Reinga, 90 Mile Beach, Ahipara, Tanemahuta, Whangaruru, Mimiwhangata, Raglan, Whangamomona and Lake Waikaremoana. Each team will pay a \$950 registration fee and be tasked with raising \$5,000 or more in donations to TimeOut.

Involvement and/or donations from Rebus members would be welcomed and very much appreciated. There are two ways in which you might do this:

- Registering your dunga and participating directly in this very well-organised event. If you

feel you may be interested in doing so, please don't hesitate to contact Doug Hanna directly and he'll be delighted to provide you with full details including arrangements made on the food and accommodation side of things.

- The second way you could contribute would be to make a donation to TimeOut by sponsoring Doug Hanna's 'Still Running' Team.

Doug's email address is doug@timeoutnz.org and his mobile no. 021 766 516.

Neville Drower

Treasurer's Report



After payment of our usual monthly bills plus refunds for those who had to withdraw from the mid-year lunch due to ill health, our bank a/c holds a healthy total of just over \$6K.

Bryan Wentworth

Membership and "Our People"



A very warm welcome to three more new members who were inducted by Tim at our August meeting – Ross Easton, Keith Williams, and Graeme Elsby.

Born in Oamaru, Ross Easton initially worked for Andrews and Beaven at several locations in NZ before moving to Australia to work for Clark Equipment in 1986. Not long after, they opened a NZ entity of which he was CEO for 30 years, holding several directorships. From an equipment perspective, Clark Equipment was number one in the port equipment business with key port accounts throughout New Zealand and Australia. Ross has been married to Sue for 54 years, and has 2 children and 5 grandchildren. He enjoys sport and travel, and relishes being away in their motorhome.



Trevor Penn introduced Keith Williams who was born and educated in Liverpool. He served his



apprenticeship as a fitter and turner working in the shipyards before being selected by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd to carry our research and development work into uranium enrichment, eventually becoming Head of the Projects and Design Department. Although he enjoyed the work, Keith and his wife Anne decided to leave the UK and follow their children who had moved to NZ. Arriving in Manly in 2010, Keith found work at Hawkins Construction on the Auckland Rail Electrification Project. He is now retired but kills a wee bit of time by helping out at Bunnings one day per week

Graeme Elsby grew up on the North Shore, attending Northcote College. On leaving school, Graeme worked in a nursery before moving into employment with a landscape gardener. He started his own landscaping business in the 1960's which he continued until his retirement in 2007.



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

Paul Robinson.

Fathoming our legalistic brethren...

A lawyer was sitting in his office late one night when Satan suddenly appeared before him.

The Devil told the lawyer, 'I have a proposition for you. You can win every case you try, for the rest of your life. Your clients will adore you, your colleagues will stand in awe of you, and you will make embarrassing sums of money. All I want in exchange is your soul, your wife's soul, your children's souls, the souls of your parents, grandparents, and parents-in-law, and the souls of all your friends and law partners.'

The lawyer thought about this for a moment, then asked, 'So, what's the catch?'

Trips and Events

Recent Events



On Monday 10th August, fifty-three of us enjoyed our mid-year lunch at



Farida's Restaurant at Orewa. We were looked after very well by the manager, chef and the two young ladies who served us at the bar and at our table. I spoke to most people, and everyone praised the staff and the excellent food and suggested we return for a future function, which has been duly noted by your committee.

Upcoming Trips and Events

Thursday 17th September, The Range activities venue, followed by a lunch in Warkworth.

Bill Cobb and I recently visited The Range near Warkworth and were very impressed with the facilities and experiences on offer (see leaflet adjacent).

We recommend that most of us do a combo deal consisting of:

- Air rifles, 72 shots at moving targets
- Golf driving range, 50 balls, which automatically pop up, so no need to keep bending down.
- Mini golf, 9 holes.

GOLF 50 Balls - \$13 100 Balls - \$20 Club Hire - \$6 Max \$8 Per Bay	MINI GOLF 9 Holes 1 Round - \$7 p/p 2 Rounds - \$10 p/p
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL Auto Pitcher Includes Bat & Helmet 18 Balls - \$7	AIR RIFLE Moving Targets 72 shots - \$15 96 shots - \$20 144 shots - \$25 240 shots - \$35
COMBO DEAL includes all gear hire ALL ROUNDER Baseball/Softball - 18 Balls Air Rifles - 48 Shots Golf - 40 Balls Mini Golf - 9 Holes \$30 PER PERSON	COMBO DEAL includes all gear hire HOTSHOT Baseball/Softball - 18 Balls Air Rifles - 72 Shots Golf - 10 Balls \$30 PER PERSON

ALL EQUIPMENT HIRE AVAILABLE
09 425 8393

Although this combo is not set out on the leaflet, our group was offered these activities at the combo price of \$30, which we believe is good value for a morning's entertainment and fun. Those who wish to do individual activities instead of the combo can

choose on the day from those in the leaflet at the stated individual prices. There is no cafe at The Range venue, but they do serve coffee. We think the facilities are very good, with 5 stations for air rifle shooting, 16 places at the golf driving range and a well-designed and groomed short mini-golf course.

No experience is necessary nor expected. Consider it an opportunity to have a go and have a lot of fun.

All are welcome including partners and friends.

Travel arrangements: We will car share, meeting at Edith Hopper Park at 9.15am in order that we can all meet at The Range by 10am. The Range is on Twin Coast Highway/Pohuehue Rd (the original road to Warkworth) and is on the right just before entering Warkworth town. Those members who will be happy to drive and take passengers please let me (Steve) know.

Can those who wish to make their own travel arrangements and won't be meeting at Edith Hopper park similarly let me know so that we don't think we're missing anyone on the day.

Golfers: It would be great if golfing members who intend to use the driving range could bring along a few extra clubs that could be loaned to non – golfers, under the owner's expert guidance of course.

If there aren't enough 'loaner clubs' to go around it won't be a problem, clubs can be hired at the venue.

Lunch: We are planning to have lunch at The Warkworth Hotel, which is the impressive building in the centre of town. See warkworthhotel.co.nz for more information.

The Hotel has offered our group their historic private dining room which is very comfortable. We may possibly have some special menu choices needing to be made, if so we will contact you by email.

There are of course plenty of alternative cafes if you would prefer another option.

Booking: Please advise Steve if you, your partners and/or friends will be participating by email to Steve at stevejwaller49@gmail.com

Payment: We will pay individually at The Range on the day and similarly pay for our own lunches, so no need to pay to the club in advance.

Other events and dates for your diary, more details to follow:

Tuesday 13th October - Auckland
Planetarium/Stardome (no charge for participants as this will be paid for by the club).

Thursday 19th November – **Bowling and BBQ lunch**, Manly Bowling Club.

Thursday December 10th – **End of year/Christmas lunch** (to be confirmed).

Details of each of these events will be notified shortly but if you already know that you'd like to attend any of them, please let Steve know, again by email to his above address.

Steve Waller and Bill Cobb

Welfare



It has been one of those months where the flu is doing its rounds and our hospitals, especially North Shore, can barely cope with the outbreak. Look after yourselves and try to stay away from confined spaces where people tend to congregate.

I haven't heard from people how members are doing. I rang some people and emailed others to see how they are progressing. I may be able to tell you more at the meeting.

As far as I know Earl Brookbanks is at the Sands Care Centre and Village in Browns Bay. He had indicated earlier that he would like to continue attending our meetings once transport is organised.

I have no further news from Colin Cathro. No news is usually good news, and I assume he continues to make good progress. We hope to see him at our meetings at some stage.

Ray Watkins has appreciated me getting in touch with him, but it is going to take him some time to make it back.

Peter Farrell and Graeme Wake who are also staying at Evelyn Page, may not be back at Rebus.

Don Baverstock is at home, but similarly unlikely to return.

If you know of any member who is unwell, please do not hesitate to let me know and I will try to follow it up.

Peter Fava

Reported aircrew commentary...

After a real crusher of a landing in Palmerston North, the attendant came on the horn, 'Ladies and Gentlemen, please remain in your seats until Capt. Crash and the Crew have brought the aircraft to a screeching halt against the gate. And, once the tire smoke has cleared and the warning bells are silenced, we'll open the door and you can pick your way through the wreckage to the terminal.'

Speakers Corner

Club Speaker – Roger Harvey

Roger's career presentation commenced at the point he was selected by the Hawkes Bay Farmers Meat Company to undertake a four-year degree in Food Technology. During this period he had the opportunity to work in all departments of the organisation. At the time, the company was the largest of its kind in New Zealand processing up to 22,000 lambs per day. Roger was tasked with development of an optimal process for the chilling of lamb in support of lamb exports to the USA. He went on to work alongside PA Consulting in the development of operating standards across a number of the company's departments.

New Zealand Industrial Gas (NZIG) employed Roger to increase demand for their gases through the development of new ways in which those gases could be used in the food industry. He was involved in the development of a 'gas blanket', system by which air in wine barrels, tanks and bottles could be displaced by non-reactive gases to better preserve the wine. Another example of his work was the development of a cryogenic chilling system to more accurately control the temperature of and better preserve hamburger beef patties.

At one point a dispute arose between New Zealand Rail and wine makers who were arguing that the shunting motion of carriages was causing a deterioration of their wines. To test this assertion Roger and his colleagues loaded wine onto the Queen's 'royal carriage' which was used to simulate shunting motions. The wine was then subjected to a 'triple T test' which definitively showed it had not been negatively affected by the shunting. Roger found it amusing that when taste-testing the wines a number of the growers were unable to tell their products apart from those of their competitors!

NZIG had been sourcing its carbon dioxide (used in many food formulations) as a by-product of the burning of oil. The oil shocks of the 1970s meant oil was difficult to obtain for this purpose and it fell to Roger to find an alternative source of carbon dioxide. He approached Kapuni Gas with a proposal that the required carbon dioxide be extracted from Kapuni's waste natural gas. This approach proved extremely successful and liquified carbon dioxide (extracted from natural gas) is still used extensively in food applications throughout the country.

Roger was seconded to the UK for three years where



he was initially responsible for the distribution of hydrogen gas across the UK. He was then appointed Distribution Manager and relocated to an office in Wembley. In his new role, amongst other things, Roger represented the company in union negotiations and arbitration. At his first meeting with the union he was confronted by 19 union stewards, all furiously smoking the cigarettes it was incumbent upon the company to provide at such meetings! During this period the unions were very strong and quite militant. In support of their demands, they adopted aggressive measures including the incapacitation of hoists to slow down deliveries, going home early to avoid second deliveries on the same day or simply refusing to

make scheduled deliveries. On one occasion this led to a hospital running out of oxygen which resulted directly in the death of a patient. Roger was forced to find a driver willing to deliver gas to hospitals in contravention of the union's dictates. This raised tensions considerably. After substantial negotiation (involving much drinking...), Roger pointed out that if this behaviour continued the required gases would simply have to be sourced from and delivered by another company which would result in job losses. Common sense prevailed and agreement was reached.

At the end of the 3rd year of his secondment Roger returned to New Zealand via a short period spent in Malaysia where Malaysian Oxygen Berhad were having problems with deliveries not arriving at final destinations. Following investigation, it was found the gas was being stolen (an 'inside job') and sold illegally. Necessary steps were taken to resolve the issue. Following his return to NZ Roger was asked to run the South Island gas distribution operations from Christchurch. This included supply of cryogenic liquids for cooling purposes to the Clyde Dam and Bluff Aluminium Smelter.

Wanting a change, Roger accepted the position of General Manager of the Production Division of Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd. The division had 13 production facilities spread throughout New Zealand, all of which were using old technologies and practices. The need for modernisation led to the creation of a new entity called Print Pack and involved adoption of new technologies and the relocation of both factories and staff. During this process an English company, Norton Opax, purchased the business Roger was responsible for and asked if he would manage both their newly acquired NZ operations and their existing Australian operations. Norton Opax was in turn purchased by Rexam PLC who similarly wanted Roger to manage their Australasian operations which necessitated his relocation to Australia. Rexam became concerned that the international marketplace was finding it difficult to understand the wide range of businesses they were in and decided to rationalise the Group. This involved the sale of businesses in Australia, New Zealand and the UK. Roger was tasked with the sale of the Australasian businesses which he found to be a stressful chapter in his career.

He decided to return to a quieter life in New Zealand where he purchased and ran a small labelling

business in Auckland. He joined the Newmarket Rotary Club in 2004, became their President in 2009 and acted as a District Governor from 2016 – 2017. Roger became very much involved in the charitable work Rotary was doing in the Pacific, particularly in Fiji. Water quality was a serious problem, and substantial resources were spent on improving water storage facilities. Another serious problem was the number of people in remoter areas suffering from cataracts. Rotary spent \$100,000 per annum on engaging specialists able to travel to and treat cataract sufferers. The Club arranged for the construction of schools and also accommodation for the poor. There were problems with the management of gas supplies in hospitals with administrators 'forgetting' to replace oxygen cylinders when empty; Roger oversaw installation of 'oxygen reliability systems' to ensure constant supply. The club also expended resources on cyclone management and support, installing large containers full of supplies needed for post cyclone relief.

The Proposed 'New English Language' of the EU (...which perhaps fueled Brexit?)

In the year leading up to Britain's Brexit decision, and after long and bitter debate, the European Commission announced that agreement had finally been reached in Brussels whereby English would become the official language of the EU rather than **German**, which was the single other possibility. As part of the negotiations, Her Majesty's Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and had accepted a 5-year phase-in plan that would be known as 'Euro-English'. To follow the announcement...

"...In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of the "k". This will klear up konfusion and keyboards can have 1 less letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f". This will make words like "fotograf" 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling will be ekspekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes can be possible.

Governments kan enkorage the removal of double letters, which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speleng. Also, al will agre that the horrible mes of the silent "e"s in the language is disgrasful, and they kan go away.

By the fourth year, peopl will be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v". During ze fifz year, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters.

After zis fifz yer, ve vil hav a reli sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi to understand ech ozer. Ze drem vil finali kum tru!..."

Guest Speaker – John Morley: Pro-Tek Systems and the Eradication of Bed Bugs

John introduced his firm Pro-Tek Systems and his companion, a bed bug detecting beagle called Polly. Pro-Tek was established in 2007 to provide a novel solution to bed bug (and other insect) infestations. The company is operated by John and his son who, between them, have a total of 25 years-experience in the business.

John explained that bed bugs are very good travellers able to be transported in clothing, luggage and just about anything else they can hitch a ride on. In NZ they first appeared in the late 1990s in Tongariro DoC huts from where they migrated to hostels, motels, hotels, schools and private dwellings. These resilient insects find homes in headboards, bedframes, sofas, furniture, power points and carpet edges and anywhere else they can find a gap to hide in (John recommended never allowing clothes to lie around on a motel or hotel carpet, rather leave all in your suitcase!). As a rule they're nocturnal being most active during the small hours when they feed on the blood of animals or humans. People have different reactions to bed bug bites; some have none, others a delayed reaction and some an immediate reaction, on rare occasions severe enough to require hospitalisation. Whilst beg bugs do carry diseases, happily they don't pass them on.

Bed bugs have been around for as long as cockroaches with their presence being recorded as far back as Roman times. Their eggs are 1mm in size with the adult growing to 6.5mm in length.

Within two weeks of hatching, they start to multiply laying up to 500 eggs during their life span. Hardy beasts, they can live for up to a year without food.



Establishing the Pro-Tek business has been difficult for a number of reasons. Firstly bed bugs are not a topic people want to talk about...an infestation in a home let alone an accommodation business isn't something an owner would want to broadcast!

The second reason is the difficulty around detection. As noted, beg bugs are extremely small, they are mobile and can be well hidden in nooks and crannies. In the past there was only one way to find them, a methodical, time-consuming physical search. This takes approximately 30 minutes in a typical hotel room and is not always totally successful. John's answer to the problem has been the enlistment of beagles to sniff bed bugs out. Beagles have noses 10,000 times more sensitive than human noses, can inspect a room in just 5 minutes and have a 96% detection success rate, far higher than any other detection method.

To obtain a bed bug detecting beagle John had to travel to Australia where he purchased his first dog for \$20,000 (including importation fees), learned how to work and care for the dog and how to train future dogs. Initially, getting hotels and motels to accept his beagle-led approach to detection was not easy given that they already had existing contracts with large eradication companies using traditional methods. Ultimately however savings in time and superior detection rates won potential customers over. Pro-Tek is currently the only pest eradication company in New Zealand using beagle-detection.

A further difficulty has been convincing motels, hotels et al to undertake periodic (ideally 6 monthly) inspections and, if needed, eradication programs. If a business is not aware of ever having had a problem it is hard to convince them of the need to undertake periodic checks. And once that hurdle's been

overcome, there is often a question around who should foot the bill. Hotels are often owned by overseas investors and managed by local parties; it's not uncommon for each to be of the view the other should pay. Body corporates can similarly be reluctant to spend on sensible preventative measures.

Once found, eradication becomes the next big problem. Traditionally chemicals have been used which have had a number of disadvantages. Firstly, the types of chemicals permitted for this use is decreasing, for example, the use of DDT has been banned for some time now. And following chemical treatment a room needs to be left unoccupied for as long as it takes for chemical residues (including smell) to dissipate which is obviously a big disadvantage in the accommodation industry. Bed bugs are quite difficult to kill with chemicals which need to penetrate the bugs' exoskeletons. Whilst some chemicals might kill bed bugs at one stage of their development, they may not be effective during another. Lastly but just as significantly, bed bugs have developed a natural resistance to a number of chemicals.

Pro-Tek does not use chemicals, rather, they achieve superior eradication results using 100°C+ steam, generated by a machine roughly the size of a vacuum cleaner. Steam at this temperature kills all bed bugs, regardless of stage of life cycle and leaves no toxic residues or unpleasant smells meaning rooms can be used immediately following treatment. Detecting the presence of bed bugs and then steam treating an infected room takes about 3 hours and costs approximately \$450.

Covid was one of the biggest challenges Pro-Tek has faced. Prior to Covid the company was inspecting and/or treating 10,000 rooms per annum, but all was brought to a standstill by the virus and resulting lockdowns. Since then, John and his son have been rebuilding Pro-Tek which has slowly recovered. They currently undertake work for hostels, motels, hotels, campervan companies, private homes and recently, a boarding school. Often John finds they are a last resort for people or institutions that have discovered they have a problem, initially tried to resolve the issue themselves, then engaged one of the outfits using traditional methods, and when these haven't worked, they've contacted Pro-Tec. Infestations can be extremely traumatic for people who on occasion are driven from their homes or

premises. John advises them not to go online to research the issue which will only unnecessarily raise their stress levels further!

Throughout the presentation John returned to Pro-Teks three beagles which are integral to the operation. He currently sources his dogs from a South Island breeder and trains them from the age of 5 months. Beagles are highly motivated by food and easier to train for it. The pups are teamed up with adult dogs and quickly learn how to handle stairs, where to pee and that a treat awaits them every time they sniff out an infestation and sit to indicate its location. They are highly intelligent 'little sponges' that are fully trained by around 11 months. John uses beagles not only because they have a great nose and are more easily trained, but also because they are a smaller breed able to get into tighter spaces, have a gentle disposition, are non-threatening and are loved by the public. The only negatives are that it's a little difficult to find 'clean' (bug free!) motels and hotels that will accommodate dogs and equally difficult to find grassy areas for the dogs' toilet-needs in cities. Otherwise, John feels his beagles have been his best employees!

John concluded his presentation with an aside that he'd love to read in the newspaper of a five-star hotel having a serious bed bug problem, which would help business no end. He can be contacted at www.pro-tek.co.nz

John was thanked by Edwin Davies for a 'fascinating albeit slightly morbid' presentation, awarded him with a certificate and a bottle of wine and then commented that he was no longer so keen on travel involving the use of motel or hotel rooms...

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

Neville Drower

Comprehending accountants...

An architect, an artist, and an accountant were discussing whether it was better to spend time with the wife or a mistress.

The architect said he enjoyed time with his wife, building a solid foundation for an enduring relationship.

The artist said he enjoyed time with his mistress, because of the passion and mystery he found there.

The accountant said, 'I like both.' 'Both?' asked the architect and artist.

The accountant replied, 'Yeah, if you have a wife and a mistress, they will each assume you are spending time with the other woman, and you can go to the office and get some work done.'

Ramblers



For our first August ramble a well wrapped-up group of 12 did the Arkles Bay to Weiti Boat Club walk and enjoyed the brilliant calm waters of the Weiti River. The newly rebuilt public jetty is amazing with stainless steel rod holders and composite bait stations. It's nice to see our rates are being well spent. We had an interesting perspective on the new pylons for Penlink from the Boat Club veranda.

We followed this with a revisit of Hobsonville Point which is a reasonably flat and interesting walk mainly around the foreshore, re-grouping at Catalina Café and Bar on the corner of Buckley Ave and Hastings Street at about 9:40am. The subdivision has certainly matured since we first visited it 8 years ago. A very pleasant walk concluded at Catalina Café where we really were well looked after.

The next week Guide Neil took a small group around Gulf Harbour while Chief Guide Garth socialised in Tauranga. Once again staying local, we then did the estuary challenge from Millies for the fully fit, and a shorter alternative for the rest of us. A total of 16 took on the various walks in and around the Orewa Estuary. 11 brave fit ones completed the full circuit, but all finished up at Millies for a cuppa and some social time.

For the final ramble of the month all ventured forth, grabbed their AT Hop cards and headed for the City, catching the 09:05 NX1 from the Hibiscus Coast Station (Silverdale) and alighting at Victoria Park. Once again there were various shorter walks, but the main group did the circuit to the Bridge, up over Point Erin, down a fascinating scaffold public

stairway around a construction site and returned on the landward side of the motorway (from where all could view the numerous cyclone slips), and then onto the pedestrian bridge over SH1. Swashbucklers are not open on Mondays, but Chief Guide Garth arranged a very pleasant alternative in Beaumont Street before we returned home on the NX1.

David Gatland

In the nature of engineers...

A vicar, doctor, and engineer were playing a round of golf. They got to the third tee and were delayed by people still playing the hole. The engineer lost his patience, 'What's going on? We've been here at least 20 minutes!' The doctor nodded in agreement.

The vicar saw the green keeper walking by and shouted to him, 'How come that group ahead of us are so slow?' The green keeper replied, "Oh, they're all blind firemen. They all lost their sight pulling school children out of a burning building, so they can play anytime for free.'

Everyone was silent for a few seconds. The vicar finally said, 'Oh dear. I'll be sure to pray for them. Well done on such charitable work good fellow.' The doctor added, 'Yes, well done to you. I'll make sure they get the best treatment at the eye unit in the hospital too.'

The engineer, arms folded, tapping his feet said, "Ok, but if they're blind then why can't they play at night?"

Combined Club Dinner Nights

Our last dinner was at Archers and attended by 16, a slightly lower number than usual. Unfortunately, the restaurant was having a very busy night, so service was a tad slow.



I have pencilled the next dinner in for the evening of Tuesday 13th October at Maison Thai restaurant in the Manly village. More details to follow a little closer to the event.

George Tregidga

Monthly Discussion Group

As mentioned in last month's Bulletin, Ken Daniels' Gulf Harbour Club discussion group meets monthly to discuss (and resolve) the full gamut of today's more vexing (if not vexatious!) issues. If you would like to attend please do 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 August



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

Bob Finn
Graeme Barlow
John Bell
Bala Balasundram
Dave Betts
John Adams
Peter Fava
Don Baverstock

Many Happy Returns!

This month's Info Ad comes from Greyfriars Hotel and Blue Sphere Tours in South Wairarapa

Greytown and South Wairarapa – A Lovely Spot to Visit



South Wairarapa is a fantastic place to visit for anyone looking to experience the best of New Zealand's countryside. Located just an hour's drive from Wellington, this region

offers stunning landscapes, charming towns, and a relaxed atmosphere.

You can explore beautiful vineyards and taste some of the country's finest wines in Martinborough. If you love nature, the Tararua Forest Park has great hiking trails with breathtaking views. The Wairarapa coast is perfect for spotting seals and enjoying the rugged beauty of the shoreline.

The local towns, like Greytown, Featherston, Martinborough, Carterton and Masterton, are full of character with their historic buildings, boutique shops, and cozy cafes.



Wairarapa was officially recognized as an International Dark Sky Reserve in January 2023. The Wairarapa Dark Sky Reserve covers a vast area of 3,665 square kilometres, including the Aorangi Forest Park and the South Wairarapa and Carterton districts.

With so much to visit and see around the whole region, Blue Sphere Tours have it covered for you, from Pukaha National Wildlife Centre in the north, to Castlepoint and Riversdale Beaches in the East and the south coast including, historic Lake Ferry, fishing village Ngawi and the Cape Palliser seal colony, Blue Sphere Tours can cater for all ages.



With various options from just a one-day tour to four or five night stays at the wonderful Greyfriars Motel, hosts Ian McDonald and Michelle Dawson will ensure you see all the sights and experience the wonderful food and winery options the region has to offer. All you need to do is get yourself and your group to Greytown (or Wellington) and leave the rest to us.



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