



REBUS CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST

January 2026

Post: 37 Beauvoir Ave, Matakatia, Whangaparaoa 0930

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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:	Paul Robinson	027 2222 151
Vice President:	Tim Jones	021 386 981
Secretary :	Trevor Weal	021 032 3373
Treasurer:	Bryan Wentworth	021 210 1791
IPP/Website/Rebus NZ:	Garth Dutton	020 4006 0844
Speakers/Ramblers:	David Gatland	021 285 5734
Trips & events:	Steve Waller	021 0864 0236
Bulletin:	Earl Brookbanks	027 274 8780
Host:	Peter Fava	021 560 925
	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
Door raffle & prizes:	Fergus Small	027 264 1366
Door raffle & prizes:	Alan Menzies	027 444 2094
Photography:	Graeme McIntosh	027 473 9787
Welfare:	Frank Coggan	021 932 811
Membership:	Stephen McKay	021 189 5022
Dinner club:	George Tregidga	027 223 7953
Presentations:	Brian Tracey	021 661 573

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

Our NEXT MEETING will be held on TUESDAY 3rd February 2026 at 9.30 am.

Our guest speaker is Susanna Burton-Thompson speaking on "A life of random chapters". She will be introduced by Paul Robinson and thanked by Trevor Penn. Our club speaker is Rob Aspden with the second part of his story about the development of hydro-electric power in NZ.

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 nametag.



President's Message

Hello friends!

Welcome to the start of another year – one in which we have a significant project planned for May. This is the responsibility of hosting the 2026 Rebus NZ Annual General Meeting here on the Hibiscus Coast. Planning for this event is advanced in all respects apart from a call for volunteers to fill some roles on 13th and 14th May. For the most part these roles are of relatively short duration – jobs such as manning the registration desk at the Meet and Greet and the AGM, setting up and resetting the Bridge Club for the AGM, manning the kitchen for afternoon tea at the AGM, some driving for participants, and [the biggie!] catering for the Meet and Greet. I will speak to this event in greater detail at our club meeting next week.

The other matter that I would like you all to consider is that we will hold our own AGM at the Bridge Club rooms at 9.30am on Tuesday 4th March. The

AGM includes the election of Officers and Committee for 2026. Please give some thought to how you might be able to assist building our club and the Rebus organisation for the future. It would be nice to see some new faces in both Committee and non-Committee roles. There is no shortage of work to go around!

Finally I wish to acknowledge Mike Peake who decided to step away from the club in December due to his health. Mike joined in October 2014 and spent a number of years as one of our kitchen/morning tea volunteers. We wish you all the very best Mike.



I'm looking forward to an interesting year,

Paul Robinson.

Treasurer's Report



At the time of writing, our bank account stands at \$5167.92 which includes \$225 of pre-payments for the summer picnic. Our financial report

for the 2025 fiscal year shows a small surplus of \$368.35.

Bryan Wentworth.

Trips and Events



Most recent event: End of year/Christmas lunch, 4th December, Gulf Harbour Yacht Club.

Everyone I have spoken to have said how much they enjoyed the meal and pre-break get together. We had a great turnout of sixty-two members and guests attend. The yacht club and



their caterers looked after us very well, so I am sure we will be return to this venue in future.

Next event: BBQ and salad picnic. Wednesday 18th February. Shakespear Park, Te Haruhi Bay Reserve.

As usual all are welcome including guests.

Meet at 12 noon and bring your own chair, table if you wish, preferably plastic plate and glass, together with your own drinks and cutlery. The BBQ and salad lunch will be provided, as will be a selection of games on the grass for those who wish to participate.

To find us: drive to Shakespear Park at the end of Whangaparaoa Road. Turn right at Army Bay Beach, then first left along Bruce Harvey Drive, through the predator proof gate and past the picture frame. At the bottom of the hill (just past the old wool shed) take the right fork and park up next to the grass reserve.

Bring your friends but not your pets as they are forbidden in the park.

To book your place pay \$15 per person into the club account 12 3084 0176946 00 reference Picnic AND notify me stevejwaller49@gmail.com

In the case of rain like we have had recently, we will reschedule, notifying you all by email.

Steve Waller.

Presidents and Life Members

At our Christmas lunch in early December, we took advantage of the occasion to take a piccy of our Presidents and Life Members who were present.



From left to right: Phil Martell, Kim Hanna, George Tregidga, Pieter Hopkins, David Gatland, John McColl, Paul Robinson, Graeme McIntosh, Julian Joy, and Garth Dutton. Unfortunately Bill Anderson was not able to join us.

Paul Robinson.

Membership

A very warm welcome to Bland Liles who was introduced by Trevor Weal and inducted at our last meeting in December. Hopefully we will have a couple of new members to induct at our meeting next Tuesday.



Paul Robinson.

Welfare



We've had a bit of a passing parade of club members at North Shore hospital in December and January. Graeme McIntosh, Earl Brookbanks, Paul Robinson, and Bill Anderson have all availed themselves of some medical assistance for varying periods.

Unfortunately Colin Cathro had a stroke a few days before Christmas. He was transferred [together with his partner Madge] to North Shore hospital where he is currently recovering. As it seems that he is likely to be there for a while, Madge has been moved to a care facility.

And finally Don Baverstock remains unwell to the extent that he has been unable to attend our meetings for some time. He advises that he will come along if he feels well enough on the day.

As usual people, please call me (021 932 811) if you need help or just a friendly chat.

Frank Coggan.

Speaker's corner



In December **club member** Rob Aspden started by telling the meeting that this was part 1 of his story on hydroelectric power in New Zealand as he was a civil engineer working in hydroelectric power stations. His story started with 1902 when Richard John Seddon was the Premier and Willian Hall-Jones the Minister of Public Works. Electricity in New Zealand was first used in the Phoenix Goldmine in 1886 and then in Reefton in 1888 where it was used to replace gas lighting. This



early development was haphazard, so the government decided to coordinate the power generation.

The first step was a journey by the PWD Superintending Engineer Peter Seton-Hay and an American consultant L M Hancock through the country with the view of finding suitable hydro power dam sites. In 1903 this was rather difficult and taxing on their fitness, quite a journey. The first part of their travel was a trip from Auckland to Whangarei to look at the Wairua Falls, then back to Auckland. They were then able to take the train to Rotorua and stagecoach to Wairakei to look at the Waikato River: Huka Falls and the Aratiatia, Atiamuri and Ohaaki rapids on horseback. Taupo to Wellington involved a boat across Lake Taupo, stagecoach, and train via Woodville. The North Island involved 390 km by boat, 460 km by train,

665 km by horse-drawn carriage, and 50 km on horseback with a small amount on foot.

The second part of their journey in the South Island started with a ferry ride from Wellington to Lyttelton, then on to Lake Coleridge, Rakaia River and into the MacKenzie Basin. Next was the Upper Waitaki, Lake Tekapo, Lake Pukaki, Lake Ohau - all prime power station sites. Back through Central Otago, Queenstown, Lake Wakatipu, Skippers Canyon, Lake Te Anau, Lake Manapouri and then from Invercargill to Dunedin by train. On to Christchurch, Greymouth over Arthurs Pass, Greymouth and on to Nelson, Picton and back to Wellington. Hancock's preliminary report was finished within days as he had his wife as his travelling companion who probably did the write ups. He caught the train to New Plymouth, boat to Auckland and was sailing back to America by 25th December 1903. The South Island involved 650 km by boat, 1,760 km by train, 1,420 km by horsedrawn carriage, 180 km by horse and 70 km on foot.

What an epic journey, with the result the first hydro power station built on the Waikato River at Horahora, now flooded by Lake Karapiro. This power station was used to provide electricity for use in the Waihi Goldmines.

Our **guest speaker** was Warkworth Men's Club



President Stephen Becket on a trip with his wife to Uzbekistan in June 2025. He started by telling us that Uzbekistan was a very fertile country with two major rivers Syr Darya and Amu Darya or Oxus enabling an ancient civilisation to exist. Today this country has a variety of different cultures, people and languages as its history is full of

invaders: the Persians, Alexander the Great, Turks, Arabs, Ghaznavids, Uzbeks, Mongols, Tamerlane and finally the Russians. The fertile land allows cotton production along with minerals, gas, and oil. It is not a poor country, although their roads are very difficult to travel on. They arrived in Tashkent [the capital of Uzbekistan] which possesses the oldest Koran in the world bought there by Amir Timur in the 7th century and is a huge book written on deer skin, a very sacred artifact. The underground metro is beautifully designed, large chandeliers,

clean and modelled on the Moscow metro. The city is full of monuments (Tamerlane), with markets an important part of the city's life. The markets had different teas, meats and carpets and Stephen



suggested they would be a good export market for New Zealand. Using their own tour guide and driver [both wanting to be paid in \$US] they had to carry a lot of \$US, a bit of a worry although the people were always polite, willing to help, and honest. They ended up feeling safe as they travelled around the country.

Leaving Tashkent, they went to Khiva, an ancient city and home to the 1001 Nights fairy tales. The cathedral in Khiva is over 1000 years old and once again the markets sell silk carpets and wooden book stands made from a single piece of wood using no



glue or fastenings. On to Nukus, a Soviet town, with wonderful ancient Russian art. Here they used to practise the Zoroastrian Chilpyk Dakhama religion whereby it was believed to live well, and the bodies of the dead were left to be eaten by birds and animals and then the bones were buried at a later date.

Next was Toprak-Kala founded in the 3rd century AD which is known for Tandoor ovens [large pots used to make local bread] and beautifully coloured and carved clay bowls. They visited Turkmenistan and Kanye-Urgench where it was cheap living as the government subsidised everything from the revenues gained from their natural gas production. Nearby are the Darvaza gas craters created by the Russians looking for natural gas. They, mistakenly, set fire to the gas field and it has been burning constantly for 50 years. Ashgabat is the most marbled city in the world with statues particularly of horsemen, but everything must be white, even their cars.

On to Mary, a city in Turkmenistan where it was interesting to see an orthodox church in a Muslim country. Apparently, the locals are only worried about the Islamic extremists and not the Americans,

Russians, or the Arabs. Nearby is Gonur Depe founded in 2,400 BC in the Karakum Desert. Back in Uzbekistan and Bukhara, a centre along the silk road, with its Lyabi-Hauz Plaza, a world heritage site. It is a large pool, as the water table is very close to the surface allowing over 1600 maple trees to grow well. This place has been described as a heaven on earth.

Finally, a visit to Samarkand, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Central Asia, the home to Islamic scholars and the early development of astronomy, medicine, and algebra. It now makes oil from locally grown seeds and has developed paper from mulberry bark.

David Gatland.

Ramblers



Our Rambles continued during the Christmas/New Year holiday period with good turnouts and variable cooperation from Huey. For our first December Ramble, we completed the coastal walk from Still Water to Dacre Cottage with only one minor untimely landing. Chief Guide Garth had talked it up that we would do a sausage sizzle at the cottage. His scout (Neil) went and had a look and apparently the BBQ was not available - so no sausage sizzle...

The second week we walked around the Albany area from the carpark opposite Mega Mitre 10 with refreshments at Columbus Coffee, Oteha Valley Road.

The following week we walked 7km around the Gulf Harbour area followed by Christmas "A la carte" lunch at Mainsail Bar and Bistro in the Gulf Harbour village. We started at 10:30AM for lunch at 12 noon. We continued right through the holiday period with shorter rambles to justify the extra food intake. The first holiday week with high tide around 9:00 AM we met at Arundel Reserve (top end of Orewa beach) and enjoyed a shady walk through Alice Eaves Bush Reserve and back to Orewa Sands for coffee and sticky bun. Then, Huey intervened and we went directly to enjoy a social cuppa at Hello Manly, the only exercise being the walk to and from the car.

Our next holiday ramble was a very complex anti-clockwise circuit of Millwater whence we rewarded

ourselves with an alfresco coffee and sticky bun at Millies.

We then made up what we missed out on a couple of weeks previously when the weather intervened; starting from outside the fish and chip shop Manly and completing a circuit including Manly Beach and Tindall's, then heading back to Café Manly for a pleasant social time.



We stayed at the eastern end of the peninsula with a walk around the clifftops of Army Bay and Okoromai Bay, starting at the carpark at Fisherman's Rock Reserve opposite 1279 Whangaparaoa Rd. The numerous short cuts allowed for those Amblers not wanting a full workout. We were lucky to complete that walk including the reserve along Pacific Parade as part of this collapsed in the storm and could be or is closed off.

For our final January Ramble, we are heading for Orewa beach to see what damage was caused because of the storm (low tide 7:30AM). This will be followed by refreshment at Movenpick who have reopened after their fire.

For our off the Coast Rambles, we meet at the Bridge Club, Edith Hopper Park, Ladies Mile, Manly. If you would like to join us on a Monday at 0900, just let me know and I will add you to the mailing list. Partners, friends, visitors and prospects are all most welcome.

David Gatland.

Combined Club Dinner Nights



This group comprises members of both the Hibiscus Coast and Gulf Harbour Clubs.

The next combined club dinner will be held at 6.30pm at Mainsail on Wednesday 4th February, the day after our next club meeting.

Any new members who would like to attend this dinner should contact me at gandc@xtra.co.nz and I will add them to my mailing list. If members have any ideas of restaurants in the area that we can try, please give me a call or email me.

George Tregidga.



Birthdays for December and January

Our congratulations to the following members for having successfully navigated another year –

Bill Anderson, Fred Elley, Graeme McIntosh [in December], and Phil Brooker, Bob Clarke, Peter Farrell, Bob Hagan, Rod Klarwill, Malcom Macaskill, Murray Paterson, and Graeme Wake [in January].

Sponsorship

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Allan Yeo of **Booster Wine Group** for their donation of a selection of New Zealand fine wines for the last five years. These have been given to our guest speakers in appreciation for their presentations.



If you wish to know more about the Booster visit their Site: <https://boosterwinegroup.nz/our-story>

