



# West Auckland Men's Rebus Club

<http://www.rebuswestauckland.nz/>  
Affiliated to Rebus New Zealand Incorporated  
<https://www.rebus.nz/>

## Newsletter

**JANUARY 2021**

**The next meeting will be at 10 am, Friday 8 January at the New Lynn Friendship Hall, 3063 Great North Road, New Lynn**  
Because another group needs it, we must vacate the meeting room no later than 12 noon, so please be prompt and expeditious

**PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR FIRST MEETING IN 2021 IS IN JANUARY, NOT FEBRUARY**

### COMMITTEE

President	Bill Mutch	<a href="mailto:celebrantwedding@gmail.com">celebrantwedding@gmail.com</a>	817 4721
Immediate Past President	Bill Fairs	<a href="mailto:bill.fairs@gmail.com">bill.fairs@gmail.com</a>	627 8297
Secretary	Vince Middeldorp	<a href="mailto:vincemiddeldorp@gmail.com">vincemiddeldorp@gmail.com</a>	828 5250
Treasurer	Justin Griffith	<a href="mailto:justin@griffith.co.nz">justin@griffith.co.nz</a>	282 3104
Almoner	Trayton Wickens	<a href="mailto:wickens@safetynet.co.nz">wickens@safetynet.co.nz</a>	818 5340
	Barry O'Rourke	<a href="mailto:judderbumps@gmail.com">judderbumps@gmail.com</a>	818 7935
Outings	Ian Smith	<a href="mailto:ismith435@gmail.com">ismith435@gmail.com</a>	0274549343
Newsletter	John Mihaljevic	<a href="mailto:johnmihaljevicnz@gmail.com">johnmihaljevicnz@gmail.com</a>	836 1504
Speakers	Noel Rose	<a href="mailto:noelrose1976@gmail.com">noelrose1976@gmail.com</a>	828 1305
Hospitality	Trevor Pollard	<a href="mailto:fayandtrevor@kinect.co.nz">fayandtrevor@kinect.co.nz</a>	817 8822
	Alan Babich	<a href="mailto:ajbabich@xtra.co.nz">ajbabich@xtra.co.nz</a>	833 6169
Membership	Laurie Vincent	<a href="mailto:laurie_mary@outlook.com">laurie_mary@outlook.com</a>	820 2234
Attendance	Stephen David	<a href="mailto:sj david55@gmail.com">sj david55@gmail.com</a>	21641717
Rebus Liaison	Bill Fairs	<a href="mailto:bill.fairs@gmail.com">bill.fairs@gmail.com</a>	627 8297
Webmaster	Vince Middeldorp	<a href="mailto:vincemiddeldorp@gmail.com">vincemiddeldorp@gmail.com</a>	828 5250

### PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

Well, Christmas Day has gone by now and I had a very nice evening meal, but I have to add that our member Stephen David has been in and out of hospital and is currently in rehab ward of the Auckland hospital. I have kept in touch with him and Noel Rose has been to visit him. We wish him all the best for a nice recovery.

Thinking of Christmas, our Christmas Meeting and Lunch at the Hall was not exciting, our caterer let the team down in a big way. Laurie was so disappointed as the menu was nothing like he arranged, I have had some comments from members that they got nothing, or very little, the Prawns were still frozen, I think I got two prawns and a savoury, the dessert was not inspiring. On a positive note at least we all got together.

I have been busy with Weddings and Funerals. Always sad when folk pass away at Christmas time, but on a Happy note a wedding I did was for a 96 year old man and 92 year old lady, so if any members want to know anything about weddings or funerals just ask me...free service. (can save \$\$\$).

As secretary of the Railway Enthusiasts Society, which keeps me busy, you are also welcome to ask me about Glenbrook Vintage Railway or any Railway related stuff, another free service. At our next meeting we will have only 3 members speak, because we need time for a special presentation and cannot say more!!!.

As my Parkinsons has increased a bit, you may notice that I shake more, so I intend to reduce my workload a little in 2021.

A reminder that visitors are always welcome to our meetings. See you all on Friday 8 January 2021.

Cheers Bill Mutch

## CLUB EVENTS

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Vince Middeldorp

Chairman Bill Mutch rapped his gavel on the desk shortly after 10.00 am and welcomed 37 members and guests to the Friday 11 December 2020 meeting. He asked members to make sure the lady visitors took the flowers home. They were provided by Trevor Pollard and had been picked earlier in the morning.

Apologies were recorded for Lyn Parris, Laurie Whetton, Ken Mutch, Val Seagar and Stephen David.

The minutes of the previous meeting (13 November 2020), were provided to Bill Mutch for confirmation and signing. There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

Secretary Vince Middeldorp reported that there were no items of external correspondence during the past month.

Treasurer Justin Griffith said the accounts were in good order and so far this year we are breaking even. He said we have the subs (\$25) about right. Justin complemented members on the amazing gymnastics they had performed when putting on their wrist tags.

Trips organiser Ian Smith reported that four members of West Auckland Men's Rebus and five members of Waitakere Combined Rebus went out to the Warbirds display and watched the display from the Ardmore Cafe. He said 15 members went to the Coffee morning at Esquires next to Kmart.

West Auckland Men's Almoner Trayton Wickens said that Dalton Dean, one of the original founding members, is now 95 and while happy has not been well.

New Lynn Men's Almoner Barry O'Rourke said he will follow up on Euan Carr, Ray Hancock and Stephen David, who were not at the meeting; and also Laurie Whetton. Barry thanked all the members who supported Trayton and himself during the year in their role as almoners.

Noel Rose said that he had been to see Stephen David, who has been in hospital for five weeks now. Bill Mutch said he had been in text conversation with Stephen.

Bill Mutch announced there would only be three speakers next month: Andrew Geddes, Ian Smith, and Barry O'Rourke. That was because he would be making a surprise presentation at the meeting.

The next meeting date was set down for Friday 8 January 2021 at 10.00 am.

Bill Mutch invited the visitors to take part in Tom Miller's quiz.

Caterer Tom Sharplin provided a Christmas Lunch. It did not have the items in the \$15 menu that had been promised. Laurie Vincent had suspected something was amiss at 8.30 am when Tom rang to say he was at the hall waiting for the doors to open. Laurie ended up with the unenviable task of confronting Tom over delivering the \$10 menu and not the \$15 menu. Tom agreed to accept payment for only the number of people at the Christmas lunch (ten less than we had asked him to cater for) and for the amount to be \$10 per person.

Bill Mutch closed the meeting at 11.45 am.

Secretary Vince also provided the following text of Trayton's joke:

A woman was at the local salon having her hair styled for an upcoming trip to Rome with her husband. She mentioned the trip to the hairdresser, who responded: *Rome? Why would anyone want to go there? It's crowded and dirty. You're crazy to go to Rome. So, how are you getting there?*

*We're taking Continental,* was the reply. *We got a great rate!*

*Continental?* exclaimed the hairdresser. *That's a terrible airline. Their planes are old, their flight attendants are ugly, and they're always late. So, where are you staying in Rome?*

*We'll be at this exclusive little place over on Rome's Tiber River called Teste.*

*Don't go any further. I know that place. Everybody thinks it's gonna be something special and exclusive, but it's really a dump, the worst hotel in the city! The rooms are small, the service is surly, and they're overpriced. So, whatcha' doing when you get there?*

*We're going to go to see the Vatican and we hope to see the Pope.*

*That's rich,* laughed the hairdresser. *You and a million other people are trying to see him. He'll look the size of an ant. Boy, good luck on this lousy trip of yours. You're going to need it.*

A month later, the woman returned for another hair cut and the hairdresser asked her about her trip to Rome. *It was wonderful,* explained the woman. *Not only were we on time in one of Continental's brand new planes, but it was overbooked and they bumped us up to first class. The food and wine were wonderful, and I had a handsome 28-year-old steward who waited on me hand and foot. And the hotel was great! They'd just finished a \$5 million remodelling job and now it's a jewel, the finest hotel in the city. They, too, were overbooked, so they apologised and gave us their owner's suite at no extra charge!*

*Well,* muttered the hairdresser, *that's all well and good, but I know you didn't get to see the Pope.*

*Actually, we were quite lucky, because as we toured the Vatican, a Swiss Guard tapped me on the shoulder, and explained that the Pope likes to meet some of the visitors, and if I'd be so kind as to step into his private room and wait, the Pope would personally greet me. Sure enough, five minutes later, the Pope walked through the door and shook my hand, I knelt down, and he spoke a few words to me.*

*Oh, really! What did he say?*

He said: *Where did you get the crappy hairdo?*

An oldie, but a goodie, as we have come to expect from Trayton.

## **CLUB BUSINESS**

### **SPEAKERS**

December being the month for our Christmas Lunch (such as it was this year), there were no Speakers in December. There will be three Club Speakers in January (Andrew Geddes, Ian Smith, and Barry O'Rourke), as well as President Bill's Mystery Presentation.

### **QUIZ**

Tom Miller informed and amused us with another of his World-Famous-In-West-Auckland quizzes  
Questions and answers provided by Tom Miller  
Answers below- no peeking

- 1 What ancient calculator used a frame of beads?
- 2 In what country was the *RMS Titanic* built?
- 3 What name was given to the Protestant revolt against the authority of the Pope?
- 4 What unit of length is used to measure distance in space?
- 5 Which planet is closest to the Sun?
- 6 Which star is closest to the Earth?
- 7 How many planets orbit the Sun?
- 8 Name them.
- 9 What is the capital of Canada?
- 10 How many ribs are there in a human body?
- 11 What do camels store in their humps?

As usual, Tom concluded with another of his obligatory **Bad Jokes**:

Mad keen football fan was sitting, along with 70,000 others, in the stadium for the World Finals. There was an empty seat next to his. A neighbour commented that it was highly unusual for someone to miss out on such an occasion. The man said that it was his, intended for his wife, but that she had recently died. The neighbour commiserated, then said that surely he would have been able to give the seat to someone, friend or family. The man said that he had tried to do so, but that they had all thought that they should be at the funeral.

This reminds me of a news report some time ago, when it was suggested to a famous football manager (whose name escapes me – perhaps someone more knowledgeable in such matters could enlighten us) that football was a life-and-death matter. He retorted that it was far more important than that.

Once again, another informative and entertaining quiz from Tom. Perhaps he could make it even more interesting if, instead of him asking the questions and we giving the answers, he gives us the answers and we then suggest the questions.

## **CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

The December meeting saw our annual Christmas Lunch. Unfortunately, the caterer did not deliver to expectations, as reported above by Vince in his Secretary's Report. Despite that, those present enjoyed a convivial morning in each others' company, which was, after all, the object of the exercise.

Vince provided some photos thereof:



Desley, Barry and Andrew getting stuck in  
Jewel expressing surprise in the background



Roger and Bill in earnest discussion over nibbles

Alan securing his prize



While Tom and Justin take 5 from their official duties

### OUTINGS

#### **WARBIRDS ON PARADE AT ARDMORE**

Vince Middeldorp

The nine of us who went to see the New Zealand Warbirds display on 6 December were treated to the sight of ex- military and classic aircraft flying past at close range; some performing aerobatics and others involved in precision formation flying. Ian Smith's idea of going no further than the Ardmore Café worked out perfectly. The Café was not overcrowded and we were able to sit out on the deck and watch the entire display.

The first aircraft that flew past were the oldest. Given the dangerous nature of flying back in the days when they were built, I was surprised that anyone would now want to take the risk of flying in one.

During the day I ended up talking with a former top-dressing pilot who was knowledgeable about the various aircraft on display. He told me the best Rolls Royce Merlin engines were built in the USA by the Packard Motor Company. I checked out his story and found that Rolls-Royce produced 82,117 (at Derby, Crewe and Glasgow); Packard USA 55,523; Ford of Britain 30,428.

Even though we combined with Waitakere Rebus, we only managed to get enough people interested in going to pay for a mini-bus. Having said that, the mini-bus was very comfortable and had we had turned up with a full busload the facilities at the café would not have coped.

My recommendation to those who didn't go and may now regret having missed it, is to keep an eye on the Warbirds Association website (<https://nzwarbirds.org.nz/>). They run a few of display days every year and Ardmore Airport is not as far away as you might think.



Vince also provided some photos:

Enjoying the cafe facilities



Flying the now friendly skies



A pair of more recent warbirds

But all good things must come to an end





## COFFEE MORNING

There had not been a Coffee Morning in December. The next Coffee Morning will be at 10am Wednesday 27 January 2021 at Sierra, 111 Lincoln Road.



## MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS

President Bill Mutch reported another contribution from granddaughter Claudia:

Harry went to his doctor on Thursday, to get his test results.

The doctor told him that he had some good news for him, and some not so good news:

Doctor: *You have 48 hours to live,*

Harry: *Oh dear. What's the bad news?*

Doctor: *I should have told you on Tuesday.*

Secretary Vince feels that since I have been distracted from the Newsletter by moving to Waitakere Gardens, he should provide more content. I have now successfully completed the move, so normal Newsletter services can now be resumed. But not being one to turn down a member's contribution:

### *Many hands make light work.*



Somehow, on the day of the Warbirds Display, Roger Laloli punctured a tyre in the car park at St John's Hall. His first idea was to call the AA, but then decided to change the wheel himself. I went to give Roger a hand and was soon stumped. I couldn't work out how to remove the hubcap. Roger decided the glossy wheel nuts were the real McCoy and not merely decorative. He put the lug wrench on the nut and in a gung-ho move stood on the lever. The nut turned and didn't disintegrate. At that point I realised there were no hubcaps. I looked under the sill and saw a fold in the metal and decided that it must fit into the slot in the scissor jack head. As I gingerly wound up the car, hoping the sill wouldn't suddenly cave in, a man appeared out of nowhere and offered to help. He knew exactly what to do, including how to assemble the scissor jack handle. I learned a thing or two from helping Roger with his flat tyre: the jack does actually fit under the sill (between the notches); how to assemble the two piece handle (the parts fit together at right-angles); how to loosen stubborn wheel nuts (use brute force, i.e. your foot); not all cars have hubcaps; and the Hyundai car owners manual contains no information whatsoever on how to change a tyre (from Jewel).

Vince, I hope that you have learned from this experience that a manual – any manual, on anything – will tell you everything, in excruciating detail, except what you need to know.

## Active Seniors

One of the touted benefits of being a Probus Club is the *Active Retirees*<sup>TM</sup> magazine ([https://www.probusouthpacific.org/pages/magazines\\_active\\_retirees\\_current\\_issue](https://www.probusouthpacific.org/pages/magazines_active_retirees_current_issue)). This magazine appears to have had a name change and is now called *Active Seniors*. All reference to Probus South Pacific Ltd on the contents page has been removed and replaced with Clubs NZ Incorporated. The publisher remains the same: Colin and Joan Gestro, Box 13257 Tauranga.

I think everyone who lives in a Retirement Village which is a member of the Retirement Villages Association New Zealand, receives a copy of the magazine through the letterbox. That's how I got my copy.

The latest edition of the magazine, Summer 2020-21, has the usual three to four pages of Probus Club news, but this time Silvana Martignago the CEO of Probus South Pacific Ltd has contributed at least one and possibly two pages. That makes me wonder if the publishers have got fed up with chasing local Probus clubs for editorial content?

A couple of items on the Probus pages caught my eye. Probus claims that, *There are over 150 Probus Clubs with more than 14,000 Probus Club members all over New Zealand*. I can't believe the average Probus Club has in excess of 93 members. I would have thought maybe the best clubs would have that many but not the average club?

The other interesting snippet was a very well worded sentence from Silvana. It says: *Probus provides essential friendship based social connections for the older members in our community, which is the key to a happy retirement*. I think that theory might be right on the money.

Clubs New Zealand Inc says on its website (<https://www.clubsnz.org.nz/> and <http://www.clubsnz.com/>) that it represents more than 300 clubs around the country including chartered clubs, community clubs, cosmopolitan clubs, workingmen's clubs, sports clubs and RSAs. It does not appear to represent any Probus, Rebus or Friendship clubs.



Thank you for all your contributions Vince. They are all much appreciated; certainly by me as Editor and also, I am sure, by Members as readers.

## EDITORIAL

On New Years Eve I received an email from Anthony Dennis, in which he described 2020 has having been a year *with no vestiges of happiness*. While I agree with his following sentiment that *we pray and hope that the coming year brings in happier times for all of us*, I do not think that 2020 has been that bad. As a country, we have come through it quite well. Every village has its idiots. Unlike some countries, we have had the good fortune – and good sense – not to let our village idiots call the shots. 2020 was certainly inconvenient for us all, and many did lose jobs and business, so being out-of-pocket, but most of us stayed alive. In fact, the measures we all took to prevent the spread of Coronavirus also limited the spread on ‘ordinary’ flu, so that its death toll in 2020 was only a fraction of what is normally is. In effect, Coronavirus saved the lives of more New Zealanders than it killed.

As a club, we certainly missed out on a few meetings and outings, but both we and our club survived the experience, with our Superannuation payments continuing as normal. I hope my efforts with the Newsletters helped fill in the gaps.

It is gratifying to see so many members coming to the November and December meetings, with their, as usual, interesting speakers, and also the resumption of Coffee Mornings. No doubt Ian and Noel are busy organising a full and varied programme for 2021. I will endeavour the restore the Newsletter to its normal size. Too bad if your Inboxes complain!

On a personal level, I have had an excellent 2020, especially towards the end. As you probably all know by now, I spent the last 3-4 months of 2020 selling my house and moving into a retirement village (Waitakere Gardens). That whole process, especially the actual physical move, was not an experience I would care to repeat. But having done it, I am glad that I did it. I am now settling into a lovely apartment (I am writing this on the morning of Day 16) and am making many new friends, to add to the ones I have already made over the years at Rebus and elsewhere.

I recommend the move from house to retirement village apartment. It is well worth the hassle, and now is an excellent time to sell a house. I did very well out of the sale of mine. There are a number of businesses that will help you (for a consideration) make the move. I did not use one of them: in retrospect, I wish I had.

I must declare an interest here. If anyone does move into Waitakere Gardens because of me, I get \$1000 from Metlifecare. Please form an orderly queue.

I look forward to seeing you all at a full complement of monthly meetings and coffee mornings, not to mention trips, throughout 2021.



## **FEDERATION**

Federation Rep Bill Fairs has no Federation news to report.

## **SERVICES**

### **JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

**Charles Nicholls** is a JP, and has offered fellow members his services as such, as per:

I am available to assist members with any documents that need a JP to sign. Our services are free. I can be contacted on this email [cdnich300@gmail.com](mailto:cdnich300@gmail.com) or on my landline 09 6293816 or as a last resort on my cell phone 02102551937.

If members cannot get to my house, I will visit people in their homes or meet them at one of our meetings.

Services are free. If members want a JP and for some reason I am not available they can access the following website <http://justiceofthepeace.org.nz/>.

While all JPs can act, I recommend that clients go to one that has the word accredited by his/her name as that means she/he has kept up with recent training.

It is unlikely that Charles is the only member with knowledge/skills that might be useful to other members. If you can contribute in any such way, please write a short notice and send it to me, to include in the Newsletter, and to Vince, to put on the website.

### **SENIORNET WEST AUCKLAND**

Members of a digital bent might be interested in the services offered by SeniorNet West Auckland (<http://www.seniornet-west-auckland.org.nz/>): two Help Sessions and a Meeting each month. The Help Sessions are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month, 10-11 am, at its Learning Centre, upstairs in the Henderson RSA (66 Railside Avenue, Henderson). There is a \$5 fee. The Monthly Meeting, with a speaker, is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 10 am – noon, in the Kelston Community Centre (in the same room where West Auckland Rebus used to meet). A \$2 donation will give you morning tea and 3 chances of a small prize.

With COVID-19 once again in abeyance, normal services have been resumed. The next meeting will be on 17 November. The November Help Sessions will be on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The final Help Session of 2020 will be on 8 December. The first of 2021 will be on 26 January.

### **COMPUTER SERVICING**

October's quest speaker, Grant Stevens, is actually a computer serviceman, operating as Eden Computers (<http://www.edencomputers.co.nz/>). I have not needed his services much, but have found him very helpful when I did, as have others I know. Noel Rose already knew him in this capacity, so I am sure that he will agree with me in recommending Grant if your computer needs care and attention. Grant's contact details are on his website, above. If you cannot access him via his website, you can ring him at 09 638 8188 or 0274 939 017.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

You can download the Rebus Federation Constitution at <https://www.rebus.nz/documents>, where it is listed under *Rules of Rebus NZ*. It was originally intended to append it to this Newsletter, but 13 pages is too long – I am not that desperate for content.

### **SUPERSENIORS**

If you are not already in the habit of doing so, you should consult the SuperSeniors site (<http://www.superseniors.msd.govt.nz/>), where you can find much useful and interesting information, as well as sign-up to their eNewsletter.

## **QUIZ ANSWERS**

- 1 Abacus
- 2 (Northern) Ireland, specifically Belfast
- 3 The Reformation
- 4 Light Year (also Parsec and Astronomical Unit)
- 5 Mercury
- 6 The Sun
- 7 8 (depends on how you define *planet*)
- 8 Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune
- 9 Ottawa
- 10 24 (12 pairs)
- 11 Fat (not water)



## *SUPPORTERS*

West Auckland Mens Rebus gratefully acknowledges the support and assistance of:



As often noted by our Federation Liaison Officer, Bill Fairs, the Rebus Federation is always there for us, with help, advice and encouragement.



We are all grateful for their support.

***The next meeting after the one on Friday 8 January 2021, will be on Friday 12 February 2021  
(usual time, usual place)***

***This meeting will be our AGM. There will also be a meeting of New Lynn Mens Probus, which is currently in recess, to decide its future.***

**If anyone has any views, opinions, information, requests or questions they want to share with members, please do not hesitate to send them to me, so that I can include them in the Newsletter. Remember, it is YOUR Newsletter: feel free to contribute to it as you will. I do not want to have to write it all myself – I'm too lazy for that!**

If you have any queries or problems with distribution, please raise them with Secretary Vince Middeldorp ([vincemiddeldorp@gmail.com](mailto:vincemiddeldorp@gmail.com) or 828 5250). Vince is responsible for distribution, I for content. Any contributions are most welcome ([JohnMihaljevicNZ@gmail.com](mailto:JohnMihaljevicNZ@gmail.com)).

John Mihaljevic (Newsletter Editor)