



# West Auckland Men's Rebus Club

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

## Newsletter

**JULY 2021**

**The next meeting will be at 10 am Friday 9 July 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**

### 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
Welfare Officer	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>	027 4549343
Newsletter	John Mihaljevic	<a href="mailto:johnmihaljevicnz@gmail.com">johnmihaljevicnz@gmail.com</a>	09 836 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
Webmaster	Vince Middeldorp	<a href="mailto:vincemiddeldorp@gmail.com">vincemiddeldorp@gmail.com</a>	828 5250

Please note that my landline phone number listed above is now prefixed with the Auckland Area Code (09). This is now necessary, for both incoming and outgoing calls, because Vodafone gave me a new, wireless, modem, which requires it. Others lucky enough to have Vodafone as their ISP may be in the same situation. Sometimes it works without the Area Code, sometimes not.

### CLUB BUSINESS

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** **(aka PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE)** **Bill Mutch**

Big Hello and a smile as its past the shortest day now, but we have had some cooler evenings - chatting to some friends in Taumarunui who said it was minus 3!!!

I have forgotten all those nights I worked as a young guy on the railways standing on the top of a steam engine tender, say at 2 am, taking water with the wind/rain/snow. Just simply doing my job. I think we should always be grateful for those folk that work all hours while we sleep: we need them to keep NZ going.

Remember, as NZ seniors we set the guidelines for younger folk to follow. So with Covid still on our door step, we need to follow the rules: stay home if unwell and act with caution at all times; remember to use masks on public transport.

If you would like 3 days away, put GVR in the google search and you will see some amazing trips at very reasonable prices; all taken by Vintage trains (with heaters) but all trips must be booked online. You can become a member for \$30, which will give you all the newsletters and updates.

Another day out is Tuesday 3 August 2021. A Movie and a winters Roast lunch at Ryders of Avondale, for \$27 pp. We are helping out the Waterview/Avondale Historic club as they have helped us out before. I am a member of this club and numbers are low. We had their President Lisa Truttman give us a talk at the last meeting (see below).

Vince and I met John Mihaljevic for lunch at Waitakere Gardens. We ventured out to have a chat with Tom Lowndes, who was our Secretary at PROBUS for over 25 years. Tom lives at Waitakere Gardens; in fact he and wife Peggy have been there for 18 years. It was so nice to catch up again. The meals in the restaurant are very nice and special thanks to John for shouting Vince and I. This restaurant is open to the public, so pop in.

I have been in touch with some members who have been on the sick list but are now picking up. I value all members and our mid Winters lunch saw 28 attend at Goode Brothers in the mall at New Lynn. Laurie did a great job of arranging this place, as it is easy to get to, the service was very good and the staff friendly. However the food was a let down and I was charged extra for the use of a visa credit card. Recently this has been in the news and it is hard to believe a business like this would charge a fee. Some had Seafood Chowder which was watery and Janet and I shared a pizza which Janet rated 3 out of 10. Trevor Pollard returned his meal: that would be rare for Trevor. But all that aside it was a nice gathering; after all that's what it's all about.

I have been really busy doing funerals the odd wedding and also helping with Doctors' exams on the North Shore, so have had very little social time. But I did get an invite to an evening meal from a nice couple who 5 years ago I did a funeral service for their 18-year-old daughter and they have kept in touch since. So be there to help others when needed. Rewards do follow.

In our club we have Anthony Dennis who is always willing to help and I have been working with him on a presentation for later. It's secret stuff he won't tell you!

A friend told me her grandfather would get gout and he would eat 10 cherries twice a day and the gout would clear up, but on the down side he had to stop all alcohol.

Something to ponder over:

*You may have noticed, little friends  
that cats do not wash their faces before they eat as children do  
in all good christen places.  
Well, years ago a famous cat had chanced to catch a fine young little mouse,  
who said, as he ceased squealing:  
All genteel folk their faces wash before they think of eating. And washing to be thought well bred  
Puss heeded his entreating  
Bet when she raised her paw to wash, Chance for escape affording,  
The shy young little mouse said his goodbyes  
without respect to wording  
A feline council met the next day,  
And passed, in solemn meeting,  
A law, forbidding any cat,  
To wash till after eating.*

( I just told this story to my Black and white Noni who was not impressed).

See you all at the next meeting.

Cheers  
Bill Mutch

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT** **Vince Middeldorp**

Bill Mutch welcomed 33 members to the meeting.

Apologies were recorded for Tony Allan, Charles Nicholls, Ken Webster, Ray Hancock, Bob Lee, and Maurice Vickers.

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 14 May, were provided to Bill Mutch for confirmation and signing.

There were no matters arising. There were two items of correspondence. Kerrie Subritzky, editor of *Beacon Magazine*, emailed to say West Auckland Men's Rebus would have a regular listing starting July 2021:

**West Auckland Men's Rebus Club Meets 2nd**  
Friday every month, 10am, New Lynn Friendship  
Hall, 3063 Gt Nth Rd. Guest speaker. Morning tea  
provided. Visitors welcome. Ph Laurie 820 2234.

Rebus NZ Inc sent through information on their AGM at Taupo.

Justin Griffith said we had money in the cash box, BNZ account and Kiwibank accounts, with some on deposit. The total was \$1,300. He said we relied on money from morning teas to keep the subscription price down.

Trips organiser Ian Smith said the Gold Card trip to Orakei Village on 30 July will double as a coffee morning. He said those who did not want to use public transport should come in their cars and aim to arrive at 11:00 am. He asked those using the train to catch the correct service (the one that leaves Henderson at 9:48 am).

Barry O'Rourke reported that Maurice Vickers is out of hospital and back home at Hillsborough Heights, Andrew Geddes is at today's meeting, Ray Hancock is not too good, having pacemaker issues, Euan Carr is back and looking relaxed after missing last month's meeting.

Laurie Vincent asked for a show of hands from those going to the mid-winter lunch on 23 June at Goode Bros in Lynmall. The number going was now 20 people, which Laurie thought was disappointing.

The only item under General Business was Alison Turner organising a roast meal and movie at Ryders on Tuesday 3 August. The cost now is \$27, which is the amount charged by Ryders.

The next meeting date was set down for Friday 9 July 2021 at 10.00 am. The guest speaker will be Don Graham JP\*, managing director of food importer William Aitken and Co. He was to have been today's guest speaker, but had to cancel because of illness overnight.

Noel Rose, who arranges the guest speaker, invited members to the Waitakere men's choir group which meets at the Te Atatu Union Church on Monday nights at 7:00 pm. He said they sing great songs, and director Brian O'Connor is very good.

Dr Tom Miller conducted his quiz, which was again good fun and enjoyed by all the members.

Lisa Trutman spoke on Avondale's Dr Carew, whose son established Denis Carew's Menswear.

The meeting closed at 11.45 am.

\* This month's Guest Speaker will be Bruce Haywood, on Auckland Volcanoes. Done Graham is now scheduled for the August meeting.

### **CLUB EVENTS**

#### **SPEAKERS**

#### **CLUB SPEAKER**

There was no Club Speaker at the June meeting

#### **GUEST SPEAKER**

As announced in last month's Newsletter, June's Guest Speaker was to have been Don Graham JP, managing director of food importer William Aitken and Co but best known as an onstage friend of Mad Butcher Peter Leitch. Unfortunately, he was unavailable for health reasons. Noel hopes to have him speak to us in August.

Fortunately, Noel was able to organise a (literally) last-minute substitute: **Lisa Truttman**, from the Avondale-Waterview Historical Society (<https://sites.google.com/site/avondalehistory/Home>), who spoke on *The Life and Mysterious Death of Walter Granville Carew*.



Lisa is an authority on the history of West Auckland, with many publications to her name: searching for her in the Auckland Public Library catalogue (<https://discover.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/iii/encore/?lang=eng>) gives no less than 38 hits.

Lisa first became aware of Dr Carew while having lunch with Tony Goodman, who mentioned him as the father of Denis Carew, of Denis Carew Menswear (<https://www.yelp.com/biz/dennis-carew-menswear-auckland>).

Intrigued, she investigated, discovering the following entry (on page 83) in *Historia Nunc Vivat Medical Practitioners in New Zealand 1840 to 1930*, published in 2003 by Rex Earl Wright-St Clair (<https://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/external/WrightSt-Clair-HistoriaNuncVivat.pdf>):

*CAREW Walter Granville, LRCPEd LRCSEd LRFPS 1921. Regd 1 Dec 1926: Auckland / Papakura / Avondale, Akld. Born in Dunedin, lawyer's son. Fined by Med Council and licence to prescribe narcotics cancelled 1946. Died in Titirangi 8 Dec 1952 aged 61 from overdose of drugs, probably morphine (coroner).*

He is only one of 25 drug addicted doctors listed there.

The report she gave us is based on work in progress: there is much on the matter she has not yet been able to find – and may never. But she has already discovered enough to reveal the bare bones of an intriguing story.

Walter was born in Dunedin in 1896, the son of Edgar Hall Carew. Edgar had come to New Zealand in 1864, where, starting as a court clerk in the South Island, he had become a resident magistrate in Dunedin by the 1880s. By the time he died, in 1904, he was a well known and highly thought of, respected member of the community.

Walter was the second, and youngest, child of Edgar's second marriage: his first wife and their four children having all died young.

Edgar's father, George Carew (or Carrew, as it was sometimes spelt) was a mariner. He was captain of the *Munster Lass* ([https://books.google.co.nz/books?id=X9oNAQAAMAAJ&pg=PP331&lpg=PP331&dq=%2Bmunster+lass"+%2Bcarew+OR+carew&source=bl&ots=KuME5ry-Mn&sig=ACfU3U06PkoMxdW4LHnyWxGmrP0ZbvIDHQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi4oZLd2LjxAhXYyzgGHe3zD2QQ6AEwD3oECBQQA#v=onepage&q=%2Bmunster+lass+%2Bcarew+OR+carew&f=false](https://books.google.co.nz/books?id=X9oNAQAAMAAJ&pg=PP331&lpg=PP331&dq=%2Bmunster+lass)), which was based at St Helena, in the South Atlantic, from where, in the 1830s and 1840s, it carried out a lucrative trade between St Helena and London and India. The *Munster Lass* ran aground and was lost in South Africa on 19 April 1863 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_shipwrecks\\_in\\_April\\_1863](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_shipwrecks_in_April_1863)). Or in 1860 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_shipwrecks\\_in\\_December\\_1860](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_shipwrecks_in_December_1860)). Same ship name wrecked in same area, but at different dates, so take your pick: underlining the difficulties of Lisa's researches.

However, whenever his ship was lost, George died two or three years later, but not before he had sent Edgar to London to be educated. Edgar then went to New Zealand.

Walter subsequently went to Scotland, for a medical education. He attended The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (<http://www.rcpe.ac.uk/>), The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (<https://www.rcsed.ac.uk/>) and The Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (<https://rcpsg.ac.uk/>).

He also married Aida Dagmar Brown, in 1915. They had four children: three born in Edinburgh; one in Dorset.

He returned to New Zealand, with his family, in 1925. In 1926 he established a practice in Aratonga Avenue, off Great South Road, in Greenlane. He then briefly (for only about a year) moved to a private hospital in Papakura, which offered both maternity and general services.

In 1933 he moved to Avondale, where he remained until 1946 or 1947. This was near the railway line and the St Jude Street roundabout, where there were many accidents, which he attended.

In 1939 his wife became ill. The nature of her illness is not known, but may have been due to a Vitamin B deficiency. Walter hired a nurse, Jessie Faith Sutherland, to care for his wife. He may not have known that Nurse Sutherland, who was about the same age as he, had, in 1935, been in court on 6 charges of prescription forgery; even being named in Police Gazettes (despite having been granted name suppression). However, she was not convicted, although she was told to spend some time in Auckland Mental Hospital.

Another nurse, Millicent Marcey Carrom, began visiting the Carew home. Unwell, she was a nuisance. She moved back-and-forth between court and prison and the Carew home. She may have known Sutherland. It is not known how she fits into what happened.

Matters became serious when, in 1944, Walter Carew was charged with and convicted of writing blank prescription forms for morphia tablets. Lisa describes the situation as 'bizarre' for a doctor of long standing. Perhaps he was too trusting of Sullivan. Or was up to something. In 1946, on the recommendation of the Medical Council, he lost his right to prescribe dangerous drugs. His medical file is restricted, on grounds of patient confidentiality, so the details are unknown.

Lisa has decided not to try to gain access to the files, but to rely on publicly available information.

Walter regained his license in 1948, but lost it again in 1951. Lisa does not know why, but it must have been serious.. Walter never lost his practice license, so he remained a GP until his death. But he was no longer allowed to prescribe dangerous drugs.

Walter's wife died in 1946. Sutherland remained in his household, even though she was not his practice nurse. That position was filled by someone else, who lived elsewhere (in Mt Albert).

In 1946 or 1947 he moved to 5 Koromiko Street, his last home. The house itself is long gone.

Matters, whatever they precisely were, came to a head on Monday 8 December 1952. He woke in perfect health: the Coroner found no medical problems and all agreed that he was in good condition. At 9 am he drove to a patient in Konini Road, returning home sometime between then and 12 noon.

According to Sullivan, some time probably just before noon he suddenly had convulsions and fell down. She picked him up and took him to his bed. He was therefore subsequently found, fully clothed with just a blanket over him, on his bed.

He died about 12 o'clock. Doctor Lusk was called at 10 past 12, arriving about 10 minutes later. He found Sutherland in a highly emotional state, extremely upset. At about 1:30 pm PC Sydney Brown came. And Walter's son Denis at about 1:45 pm.

According to Sutherland, Walter apparently had two convulsions. That was all the information that was got from her. She was not questioned further then because of her highly agitated state. Unfortunately, she had congestive heart failure, on the left side, her lungs filled up and she died in the early hours of the following morning.

She took the truth with her.

The Medical Examiner found evidence of a stroke (which was glossed over), which would have caused the convulsions. Drugs were likely involved. The upper parts of both arms bore evidence of many years of injections. Many were in places difficult to self-administer, so that someone else must have been involved. Just who that someone else was is unknown. Some of the injection sites were fresh enough to have been done in the last 24 hours.

Police enquiries showed that the neighbours knew him as a drug user. The Coroner therefore concluded that Walter's death was due to a drug overdose, probably of morphine. Walter Carew was one of 25 New Zealand doctors who died in this manner.

Since Walter Carew was not diabetic, the injections could not have been for insulin.

In 1958 Walter's son Denis took over Len Jackson Limited, which then became Carew Menswear (<https://www.yelp.com/biz/dennis-carew-menswear-auckland>). Denis died in 2003.

In his will Walter left £500 to Nurse Sutherland, who by that time was also his housekeeper. The Public Trust, the executor of his estate, gave her brother (the executor of her estate) only £175. The reason for this is not known.

In question time, Vince Middeldorp asked how it was that, if Walter was not allowed to prescribe drugs like morphine, he was able to get it. Lisa reminded him of Walter's past habit of writing-out blank prescription forms for morphine and that perhaps someone else was also doing it.

Lisa told of how *New Zealand Truth* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Zealand\\_Truth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand_Truth)) displayed unusual restraint and confined itself to the facts. This in contrast to the *Sydney Truth* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truth\\_\(Sydney\\_newspaper\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truth_(Sydney_newspaper))), which reported rumours suggesting murder-suicide, implying that Sutherland was an abortionist and Walter a witness to it.

There are rumours, but nothing definite and much uncertainty. All that we can be certain of is that the truth died with Nurse Sutherland.

Lisa would like to hear from anyone who has any information on the matter. If you do, you can contact her at [historian@avondale.org.nz](mailto:historian@avondale.org.nz) or 8288494.

A topic that at first sight seemed dull and uninteresting proved anything but. It showed that even minor events, involving people who are, on the face of it, of no particular importance in the overall scheme of things, can have fascinating stories to tell. And we all love a mystery, which Doctor Walter Granville Carew's story certainly is. Having tried to delve a bit deeper into it myself while writing this article, I can understand Lisa's interest in it. This is exactly the sort of thing that fuels interest in local history and the many historical societies that thrive on it.

I am sure that we all wish Lisa well in her ongoing research into this and other topics of local history. We look forward to hearing more fascinating talks.

So thank you Lisa for a most interesting and fascinating talk. And thank you Noel, for arranging it. Once again, you have served us well, so making membership of our Club worth while.

This month's Guest Speaker is **Dr Bruce Hayward**, on *Auckland Volcanoes*.

### **QUIZZ QUESTIONS** *Tom Miller*

- What country is Mount Everest in?
- What is the only star in our solar system?
- Which play by George Bernard Shaw inspired the movie *My Fair Lady*?
- Which scandal caused US President Richard Nixon to resign?
- How many US presidents have been assassinated?
- Nuclear war threatened in 1962 over Soviet missiles in which country?
- What were the 'flying bombs' used against Britain in WWII popularly known as?
- A magnifying glass has what type of lens?
- Earth is located in which galaxy?

### **OUTINGS**

#### **MID-WINTER LUNCH** **GOODE BROTHERS, LYNNMALL**

Wednesday 23 June (not quite the Winter Solstice) saw 26 members and spouses enjoy a convivial Mid-Winter Lunch, at Goode Brothers, LynnMall.

Early arrivals deciding what to eat:



While late arrivals find a seat :



I must admit that I was not entirely happy with the food. I had lamb shank:



While it was OK in itself, previous experience showed me that Cleaver & Co., adjacent to Goode Brothers, does it better and cheaper. A previous lunch at Goode Brothers, of steak and chips, showed that while the quality and quantity of that dish were both fine, I did think it over expensive.

Perhaps Vince enjoyed his burger:



However, whatever the limitations of the food, the company was most convivial. And that is what it is all about. Good company.

### ***FUTURE OUTINGS***

Ian has organized a Gold Card Trip to the **Orakei Shopping Centre** (or **Orakei Bay Village**, as it prefers to be called (<https://www.obv.co.nz/>))



for Friday 30 July.

Travel will be by train: Western Line to Britomart, then Eastern Line to Orakei.

Catch the Western Line train at the station most convenient to you; Ranui at 0943, Sturges Road at 0946, Henderson at 0948, Glen Eden at 0954, New Lynn at 0959 or Avondale at 1003. Go into the **last** carriage of the train at these times: as Ian says *half the fun is had riding in the same carriage there and back*.

This Western Line train arrives at Britomart at 1036, giving plenty of time to catch the Eastern Line train there at 1046, to arrive at Orakei at 1052. You might even have time for a pit stop at Britomart.

Departure towards home will be at about 1.15pm

From the train station there is a walk of about 300 steps across the overhead bridge to a lift outside Plant Barn for access to the shopping centre. There are 3 separate coffee bars. And a milk and cookie bar. Two restaurants and a Brothers beer bar serving food. The only expense will be what you decide to treat yourself to when you get there. We can split into reasonable sized groups to enjoy the coffee.

Members who are allergic to train travel and adventure can drive there and meet us there at about 11 am.

Those who haven't used their AT HOP card for a while should check if it needs an update before the travel day: either online (<https://at.govt.nz/bus-train-ferry/at-hop-card/>) or by phone (09 366 4467).

### **MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTION**

#### **ON STAND BY Bill Mutch**

About 5 pm one Friday I was in the Supermarket with another Funeral Director and just had a few things in the trolley when we got an urgent call for us to help the police at a park by the water at Glendowie, and the contract states we must attend within 30 minutes.

However, we explained that we are in west Auckland and Glendowie is in East Auckland and we will be in rush hour traffic: they said to use the White and Blue warning lights on your vehicle, but get here as soon as you can, so we left our supermarket trolley and rushed home, threw on our suits as the other guy lived downstairs at our house, as we were on call our suits, ties, shirts clean shoes and socks are always ready, so within minutes we started our battle with the 5 pm traffic, but with the lights flashing in the grille and use of the horn, traffic was co-operative.

Arriving at the park we were greeted with TV cameras, reporters and many locals and a number of police. We arrived just as they carried a body of a man from the water to the Park. A female Police Officer was in charge and she getting really cross with one reporter, who kept saying *give us the story, how did he die*. With that the female officer said: *Oh he had "F i t h Syndrome*. The reporter pest said: *What is F I T H Syndrome?* and he got a quick reply: *Oh he is Fried in the head*.

That night I was on TV 10.30 pm news.

The man had filled all his pockets with rocks and jumped into the tide: suicide is a terrible way to end a life.

We took this man to the morgue with a Police escort: all in an evenings work. That is something I do not do now-a-days as it can be heavy lifting and demanding. However suicide is real; and the best treatment if you know someone who is a bit down is to be a good listener and get help to them.

Age and Gender is anyone any age.

Bill has clearly led a varied and interesting life. I can see at least one talk in it. Take note, Noel.

#### **A GHOST STORY Laurie Vincent**

During the early sixties I lived in a large old house in Sandringham which was divided into four separate bedsitters. I was one of four guys living independently, but we shared other facilities. One guy, whose name escapes me, lived in the front room, and he always seemed to have a young lady in his room. He was generally too tired to talk whilst in the kitchen, and I wondered why! Bill Roberts was a truck driver from Australia and he spoke of his

drumming and of being such a good compere in musical shows. The other guy kept to himself but I think he was some kind of student. The ceilings in the home were high and the hallway was dimly lit. Our landlord lived elsewhere but visited us often. He was a bit of a drinker and often staggered his way around the place trying to find something that needed fixing. At Christmas time he secretly left a bottle of Dominion Bitter outside our rooms. So he was generous and I thanked him next time I saw him.

Saturday nights we all went our separate ways and I was usually the first one home. On a particular Saturday night, I came home, opened the front door and proceeded down the hallway towards my room. I unlocked the door and as it opened - maybe 1 foot ajar - I suddenly froze feeling I was interrupting somebody, so at that precise time I thought I had opened the wrong door. I reached inside the door, I knew it was my room, and I reached for the light-switch and turned on the light. I felt really cold and could sense something or someone was in the room. I searched every nook and cranny with peering eye; I looked under the bed, pulled out every drawer, opened and scrutinised inside the closet just to convince myself that I was alone. Gradually, after about five minutes, the feeling of a presence inside the room ceased.

Nearly 60 years later I still think of that experience. That night was the only time it happened while I lived there. The other guys sniggered and laughed when I told them about my 'ghostly' experience. What caused that event? Is there a scientific explanation?

Have any of our club members had a similar experience?

Mary & I have often gone on guided walks through Waikumete Cemetery and have been told of many ghostly stories within the cemetery.

### OTHER STORIES

Other members also contributed material.

Bill Mutch made the sage observation that *sharks only attack wet people*.  
So swimmers need only to wear dry suits to be safe?

Bill also told of the man with a faulty computer. He good the 5-year-old next door to look at it. That worthy soon had the errant device working again. The man asked him what had been wrong with it and was told it had an IDIOT Error. It sounds better than it looks.

Trayton Wickens also contributed.

A police officer pulls over a speeding car.

Officer: *I checked you at over 80 mph.*

Driver: *I had it on cruise control at 60: your device needs calibrating.*

Wife (not looking up from her knitting): *You don't have cruise control, dear.*

Officer writes ticket.

Driver to Wife: *Can't you please keep your mouth shut.*

Wife: *You should be thankful for the radar detector, or your speed would have been even higher.*

Officer writes second ticket, for illegal radar detector.

Driver to Wife (through gritted teeth): *Woman, can't you keep your mouth shut!*

Officer: *I also notice you're not wearing a seat belt. That's another \$75.*

Driver: *I had it on, but took it off to get my license out of my back pocket.*

Wife: *But you never wear your seat belt.*

Officer writes third ticket.

Driver to Wife: *Why don't you please shut up!*

Officer asks the Wife: *Does your husband always talk to you like that?*

Wife: *Only when he's been drinking.*

Herb Simmons made a contribution to lovers of good music:

*Hug Me Tight and They Ain't Goner Swing No More* by Jock Strap and his Elastic Band.

Although a quick search of the Internet did not find any mention of Jock Strap and his Elastic Band, despite no less than 12,800,000 hits, it did reveal Syd Slacks and his Elastic Waist Band (<http://www.sydslacks.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/Syd-Slacks-and-his-Elastic-Waistband-154779426965/>).

As Editor, I thought it best not to take these matters any further. Those of you with internet access and too much time on your hands may care to look into it and share your findings with your fellow members through these pages.

### QUIZ BAD STORIES

Tom excelled himself by finishing with two stories:

Man walks into doctor's waiting room, struggling to make progress. He goes into the doctor's surgery: when he emerges half an hour later he is walking normally and effortlessly.

Another waiting patient says: *That doctor's incredible. What did you do to you?*

The 'miracle cure' replies: *He gave me a longer walking stick and a bit of physio.*

An old boy was wandering along when he fell down on the footpath.

I gave him a hand up and said: *That was a nasty fall. Do you have vertigo?*

No, he replied, *I live just around the corner.*

In the spirit of the moment, Bill Mutch and Trevor Pollard could not resist adding their twopennies' worth. I leave you to decide who contributed which story.

An old man gets on a bus, where he is the only one standing. When the bus goes over a bump, he drops his walking stick.

A young man (seated) says: *Sir, if you'd put a rubber on the end of your stick. It wouldn't have fallen over.*

The old man retorts: *If your father had put on a rubber, I'd have had a seat!*



Q: What would you do, who would you let in first, if your wife was howling at the back door and the dog was barking at the front door?

A: The dog – he'd shut-up once he was in!

Finally, some extracts from *The Contemporary Joke Book* by Red Williams.

#### IDIOTIC INSURANCE CLAIMS:

- 1 Coming home I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have.
- 2 The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intention.
- 3 I thought my window was down but I found out it was up when I put my head through it.
- 4 I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.
- 5 A truck backed through my windshield into my wife's face.
- 6 A pedestrian hit me and went under my car.
- 7 The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.
- 8 I pulled away from the side of the road, I glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment.
- 9 In my attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole.
- 10 I had been shopping for plants all day and was on my way home. As I reached an intersection, a hedge sprang up, obscuring my vision and I did not see the other carriage.
- 11 I had been driving for 40 years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident.
- 12 I was on my way to the doctor with rear end trouble when my universal joint gave way causing me to have an accident.
- 13 As I approached the intersection, a sign suddenly appeared in a place where no stop sign had ever appeared before. I was unable to stop in time to avoid the accident.
- 14 To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front, I struck the pedestrian.
- 15 My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle.
- 16 An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished.
- 17 I told the police that I was not injured but on removing my hat, I found that I had a fractured skull.
- 18 I was sure the old fellow would never make it to the other side of the road when I struck him.
- 19 The pedestrian had no idea which direction to run so I ran over him.
- 20 I saw a slow-moving, sad-faced old gentleman as he bounced off the hood of my car.
- 21 The indirect cause of the accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth.
- 22 I was thrown from my car as it left the road. I was later found in a ditch by some stray cows.
- 23 The telephone pole was approaching. I was attempting to swerve out of its way when it struck my front end.

#### A COLLECTION OF BUMPER STICKERS

- 1 If At First Y Don't Succeed, Then Avoid Skydiving.
- 2 If At First You Don't Succeed, Then Call It "Version 2.0".
- 3 Sorry, But My Karma Just Ran Over Your Dogma.
- 4 Madness takes Its Toll: Please Have Exact Change.
- 5 Save Plankton, Kill A Whale.
- 6 The Golden Rule Is That There Is No Golden Rule.
- 7 Always Carry A Corkscrew: The Wine Will Provide Itself.
- 8 He Who Laughs Last Thinks Slowest.
- 9 Remember: You're Unique – Just Like Everybody Else.
- 10 Blessed Are The Cracked For They Let In The Light.
- 11 Life In Uncertain: Eat The Desert First.
- 12 What's Past Is Prologue.
- 13 When Nothing Is Certain, Everything Is Possible.
- 14 You Don't Get A Second Chance To Make A First Impression.
- 15 Combat Global Warming: Bury A Tree.
- 16 The Map Is Not The Territory: The Slogan Is Not The Solution.
- 17 Eat, Drink And Be Merry, For Tomorrow We Diet.
- 18 Writing About Music Is Like Dancing About Architecture.
- 19 Every Dogma Has Its Day.
- 20 If You Will The End Then You Must Will The Means.
- 21 We Are In The Gutter, But Some Of Us Are Looking At The Stars.
- 22 "Smart One Scotty, Now Beam Up My Clothes".
- 23 It Makes No Difference What Side Bread IS Buttered On: Eat Both Sides.

#### FREQUENT FLYERS 10 GOLDEN RULES

- 1 No flight ever leaves on time unless you are running late and need the delay to make the flight.
- 2 If you are running late for a flight, it will depart from the farthest gate within the terminal.
- 3 If you arrive very early for a flight, it inevitably will be delayed.
- 4 Flights never leave from Gate #1 at any terminal in the world.
- 5 If you must work on your flight, you will experience turbulence as soon as you touch pen to paper. Or start to drink your coffee.
- 6 If you are assigned a middle seat, you can determine who has the seats on the aisle and the window while you are still in the boarding area. Just look for the two largest passengers.
- 7 Only passengers seated in the window seats ever have to get up to go to the lavatory.
- 8 The crying baby on board is always seated next to you.
- 9 The best-looking woman/man on your flight is never seated next to you.
- 10 The less carry-on luggage space available on an aircraft, the more carry-on luggage passengers will bring aboard.

#### OTHER

#### ONLINE BANKING

With cheques now a thing of the past, and bank branches, and even ATMs, being few and far between, Internet Banking has become, if not welcome, certainly unavoidable. Specifically, you can now pay your Rebus subscription directly into our bank account: 38 9022 0402722 00. The precise details of how to make a payment will depend on just how your bank's web page is configured.

You will also have to set your account up with your bank first. Just go to the relevant page on your bank's web site and follow the instructions there. This process, and making payments, is not difficult, but can be daunting at first. When I signed-up for online banking, and also when I made my first online payment, I did it while on the phone to my bank's Help Line. The nice lady on the Help Line talked me through each process. With her help, it was all a lot easier than I had feared. I now regularly make online payments without any problem, and I also check my account on line whenever I want, both from the comfort and safety of my home.

An alternative to Internet Banking that you might prefer is Telephone Banking. I have never used it myself, so cannot comment on it from personal experience, although my sister has been using it for years, quite happily and successfully. Again, ring your bank's Help Line and take it from there. I do know (from my sister) that ASB has a separate phone number for Seniors, which is much better (less waiting) than that for younger customers.

## 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

Grant Stevens, operating as Eden Computers ([www.edencomputers.co.nz](http://www.edencomputers.co.nz)). I have not needed his services much, but I have found him very helpful when I did, as have others I know, Noel Rose for one. So Grant is the man to go to 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. Nepal (at 8800 metres or 29000 feet)
2. The Sun
3. *Pygmalion*
4. Watergate
5. 4 (Lincoln, Garfield, McKinlay, Kennedy)
6. Cuba
7. 'Doddlebugs'
8. Convex
9. The Milky Way

## SUPPORTERS

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



The Federation is always there for us, with help, advice and encouragement.



We are all grateful for their support.

***The next meeting will be on Friday 13 AUGUST 2021***  
*(usual time, usual place)*

**Perhaps we should all bring our most efficacious lucky charm!**

**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)