



# West Auckland Men's Rebus Club

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

## Newsletter

**JUNE 2022**

**The next meeting will be at 10:00 am Friday 10 June 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:president@rebuswestauckland.nz">president@rebuswestauckland.nz</a>	817 4721
Vice-President	Noel Rose	<a href="mailto:noelrose1976@gmail.com">noelrose1976@gmail.com</a>	828 1305
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:secretary@rebuswestauckland.nz">secretary@rebuswestauckland.nz</a>	828 5250
Treasurer	Charles Nicholls	<a href="mailto:treasurer@rebuswestauckland.nz">treasurer@rebuswestauckland.nz</a>	282 3104
Welfare Officer	Vacant		
Outings	Ian Smith	<a href="mailto:ismith435@gmail.com">ismith435@gmail.com</a>	027 4549343
Newsletter	Vacant		
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	Vacant		
Attendance	Stephen David	<a href="mailto:sj david55@gmail.com">sj david55@gmail.com</a>	21641717
Webmaster	Vince Middeldorp	<a href="mailto:vince@rebuswestauckland.nz">vince@rebuswestauckland.nz</a>	828 5250

### CLUB BUSINESS

#### NEWSLETTER

In the May Newsletter John Mihaljevic wrote. *It is ... time for me to step down as editor and so make way for someone who can produce the Newsletter that the Club and its members need and deserve.* At this stage we have no one for the job. If you are able to take over please let the struggling secretary know you are available.



*John Mihaljevic waits for members to roll in for the May meeting.*

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

It was nice to see you at our last meeting and it was made extra nice with an interesting guest speaker.

I have had a busy time this month some of it isolating (5 days) after a close contact went down with Covid-19 but I escaped free of Covid-19. So I am happy.

I see today (Tuesday 31 May 2022) that we had 8436 Covid-19 cases and 18 deaths, therefore we still need to take care. But our meeting hall is very big and we can spread out easily.

Just remember to enter and leave by the front door which I will unlock at about 9:30 am.

Bring along the subscription (still \$25.00) for membership and a gold coin for morning tea.

I do not know who our speaker is at this stage (Noel to let us know). Noel Rose is now the Vice President so that is a welcome appointment.

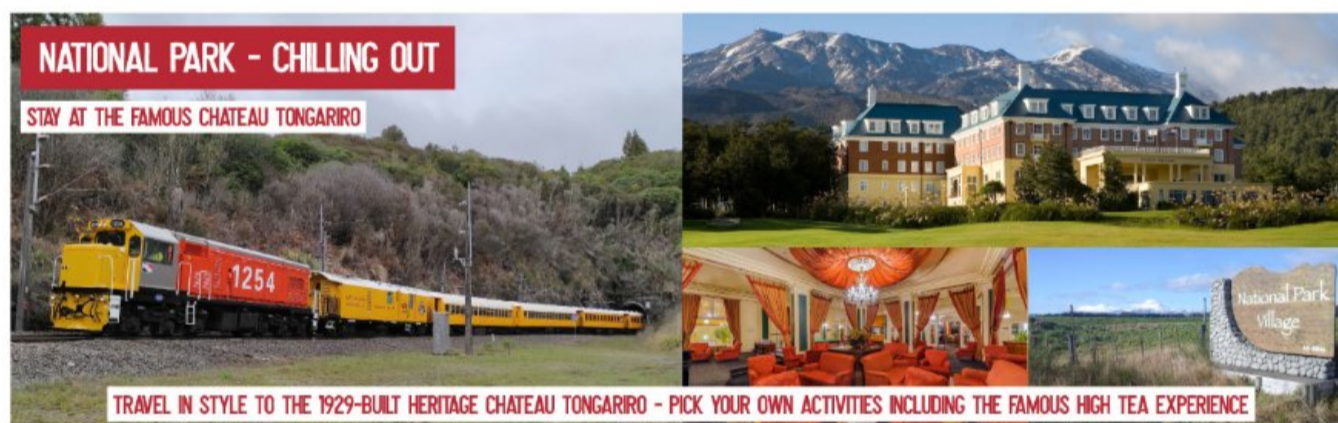
Trevor needs a hand in the kitchen from time to time just check in with him.

If anyone is interested in going to the snow by train, the GVR (Glenbrook Vintage Railway) is operating National Park trains. Look on the website [www.gvr.org.nz](http://www.gvr.org.nz) it will come up. They are very popular.

Queens Birthday (Mon, 6 June 2022) the GVR is operating steam trains but check details on the website. The first-class carriage high tea is fully booked but we have plenty of normal seats.

Hope to see you all on Friday 10 June 2022. Meeting starts 10:00 am.

Cheers Bill Mutch



**MEETING REPORT**  
**(from MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> 2022)**  
**Vince Middeldorp**

Bill Mutch welcomed 17 members to the May meeting and said it was great to be back. He thanked the members for coming out. Andrew Geddes said it was good to be back.

Visitors were nil. Apologies were recorded for Lyndsay Parris, Roger Laloli and Neil Castle.

There were no matters arising from the February meeting.

Correspondence consisted of emails for the Whau Senior Providers Network. The idea is that on 10 July seniors living in the Whau will be invited to the New Lynn Community Centre for a variety of activities. Providers such as Age Concern and Rebus, will be able to hand out brochures and hopefully gain new members.

Trips organiser Ian Smith reminded members about the lunch at McHugh's of Cheltenham details of which were provided in the May newsletter. The cost is \$50 for bus fare and lunch. The next coffee morning is at the Swanson Railway Station on Thursday 26 May at 10:00 am.

Noel Rose said he has arranged for the librarian from Research West (Raewyn Robertson) to be the guest speaker at the June meeting.

John Mihaljevic said James Duncan will be speaking at the Senior Net meeting on Tuesday in the Henderson RSA. He reminded us that we have heard two talks from James and we need to get him back for his third talk.

The next meeting date was set down for Friday 10 June 2022 at 10:00 am.

**AGM REPORT 2022**  
**Vince Middeldorp**

The AGM for 2022 was held immediately following the May General Meeting.

Apologies were recorded for Lyndsay Parris, Roger Laloli and Neil Castle.



Members who had passed away since the last AGM were Lawrie Whetton, Rae Hildreth, Dalton Dean, Chas Lowe and Herb Simmonds. Members stood in respect for those that had passed away.

Bill Mutch read his President's Report. Trevor Pollard moved it be accepted and Stephen David seconded.

The financial report shows a surplus of \$169.96 for the 2021 year. Reserves (Kiwibank Term Deposit \$1220) are equivalent to one year's expenditure.

Officers for 2022 are Bill Mutch President, Vince Middeldorp Secretary and Charles Nicholls Treasurer.

Adoption of the Rebus bylaws was postponed until the next AGM.

Bill Fairs said he had talked to Roger Laloli on the phone. Roger has developed heart trouble and is no longer allowed to drive.



*Roger Laloli in conversation with Bill Mutch at the December 2020 Christmas Lunch.*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **MIDWINTER LUNCH**

Ian Smith has organised a Midwinter Lunch at McHugh's of Cheltenham, at 12 noon on Wednesday 22 June. The bus will leave St John's Hall, Te Atatu South (behind the Ambulance Station) at 10:00 am and will stop at Devonport for a coffee and a wander around. The cost is \$50, payable to the Waitakere Combined Club's bank account 12 3232 0318628 00 Write your name in the particulars/code/reference fields. Numbers close on Saturday 11 June.



*Photo of McHugh's from their Facebook page.*

### **NEXT COFFEE MORNING**

The next coffee morning is at The Falls Bistro 22 Alderman Drive (next to The Falls Park) on Friday 1 July at 10:00 am.



## GUEST SPEAKER

### MAY MEETING

Vince Middeldorp

Murray Parker was the guest speaker at the May meeting. He spoke about the National Parks in USA and showed photographs taken during his seven trips travelling through the parks with his wife Suzanne.

Most people travel to the USA to see the cities, but Murray said visiting the parks has been the best part of his trips.

The first park we heard about was [Death Valley](#) in the Mojave Desert. It is the hottest place on earth because of the arrangement with the mountains, which takes all the moisture out of the air. The highest temperature recorded in Death Valley was 57°C in 1913.

[Zion National Park](#) in Utah has the best rock and canyon features. On one trip, Murray hiked over a steep trail known as [Angel's Landing](#). It has claimed over 20 lives.

A feature of the National Parks is that you have to pay to get in and you are not allowed to drive around in your car. People travel through the Parks in public buses. Murray said this is a great idea because it is much safer than having crazy people driving around in cars.

The [Grand Canyon](#) in Arizona is another hot place. Americans wear jeans everywhere except when jogging. Australians and New Zealanders stand out wearing their shorts in the national parks. Nothing can capture the grandeur of the Grand Canyon. It is an amazing place. A vertical mile straight down to the bottom. Murray walked the [Bright Angel Trail](#) in 1980, which goes down to the bottom of the canyon. It took him six and a half hours.

[Yosemite](#) is a National Park in California. Animals have right of way in the national parks and the double-decker bus Murray was in had to stop and wait for a racoon on the road. Murray showed a photograph of [Bridal Veil Falls](#) which runs all year round. He said it is a very beautiful place.

Some of the National Parks are called Memorials, such as [Mt Rushmore](#) in Nevada. It is famous for the Presidents carved into the rocks: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. The carvings have resulted from thirty years of work. They are still not complete.

[Devils Tower National Park](#) is named after a stump shaped granite formation that resulted from volcanic activity followed by centuries of erosion. It is located in the plains of Wyoming. Woodpeckers drove Murray and Suzanne nuts in the camp ground overnight in Devil's Tower National park.

The most famous National Park in Wyoming is [Yellowstone](#). Murray describes it as being like Rotorua on steroids. It is twenty times as large and has all the same features, including the pink and white terraces that we lost. The most famous feature of Yellowstone is [Old Faithful geyser](#), which erupts every 40 minutes. Wildlife is abundant in Yellowstone, including herds of buffalo and elk.

[Grand Teton National Park](#) has a lake the size of Lake Taupo and is surrounded by mountains, most of which are higher than Mt Cook.



*Grand Teton National Park (Wyoming)*

[Dixie National Forest](#) in Utah is an area most people have never heard of and is a hidden gem.

[Bryce Canyon National Park](#) in Utah is perhaps Murray's favourite because it is just an amazing place. It is known for its hoodoos, which are spire shaped rock formations. It was discovered by a Mormon farmer who searching for some of his lost cattle and found the canyon.

[Arches National Park](#), also in Utah, is named because it has over 2000 natural stone arches. [Balanced Rock](#) is one of the most popular features of Arches National Park. It is a park that Murray had not visited until recently.



*Suzanne in front of Balanced Rock in Utah. She also squeaks into the right hand corner of the room photo.*



[Dead Horse Point State Park](#) is not a National Park. It gets its name from the days when rustlers used to steal horses and keep them there. No one fed or watered the horses after the rustlers were captured and the horses all died. Photographs cannot capture the grandeur of this park. In any other country, it would be world famous.

[Monument Valley](#) vies with Bryce Canyon as Murray's favourite park. It is a Navajo Tribal Park, not a National Park. [Kayenta Township](#) is at the entrance to this park and is where Murray and Suzanne stayed before going into the park. Monument Valley is the location where most Western movies have been filmed.

[Mesa Verde National Park](#) is where the Pueblo Indians lived in cliff dwellings. The earliest inhabitants of Mesa Verde lived there over 2000 years ago. That is before Christ.

The [San Juan National Forest](#) in western Colorado is where the [Durango and Silverton](#) narrow-gauge railway is located. It is one of the top ten scenic railways in the world. Durango is like Queenstown because it is a beautiful place and survives on tourism.



*The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad transports passengers through the San Juan National Forest.*

[Garden of the Gods](#) is a public park in Colorado Springs and is free to enter. It is where the Broadmoor Manitou and Pikes Peak [Cog Railway](#) is located. It is the world's highest cog railway. Pikes Peak is 4,302m. It is higher than Mt Cook (3,742m) and, as well as the cog railway, there is a road going all the way up to the summit. Murray's wife Suzanne developed a headache because of the lack of oxygen at that height.

[Glacier Bay National Park](#) is in Alaska. Cruise ships use the port of Seward. The [City of Seward](#) is named after Secretary of State William Seward, who purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million in 1867. The purchase was initially dubbed "Seward's Folly." That changed when gold was discovered in the Yukon in 1896. The cruise ship Murray travelled on spent the whole day in Glacier Bay. There are no roads into Glacier Bay National Park. Similarly, there are no roads into Juneau, which is the State Capital of Alaska.



*Murray Parker speaking at the May meeting. His wife Suzanne is President of Avondale Ladies Probus.*



## RECENT EVENTS

### COFFEE MORNING

Vince Middeldorp

There was a combined Waitakere/West Auckland Rebus coffee morning at the Swanson Railway Station Cafe on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Eight members travelled to the cafe on the Western Line train, which added to the enjoyment of the occasion.

The coffee morning was attended by sixteen members from the two clubs and one other. The interloper was *Herald Sideswipe* contributor Eric Strickett who resides at Waitakere Gardens.

Eric was a long-time member of West Auckland Rebus Club and is now a member of Henderson Falls Friendship Club. He is an old friend and we are always pleased to see him.

This was the first coffee morning for which an email reminder was not sent out to the West Auckland members. It was an unfortunate oversight and resulted in only two members from West Auckland turning up.



Swanson Cafe coffee morning. Sitting next to John Mihaljevic, in the black hat and wearing sunglasses, is Eric Strickett.

## PROPOSED EVENT

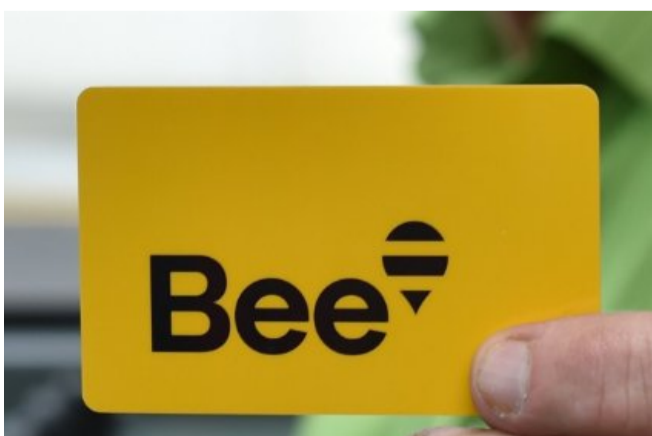
### TE HUIA TRAIN TRIP TO HAMILTON

Vince Middeldorp

Bill Mutch says we can all go to Hamilton on the train free, but we need to get our Bee Cards first.

We would leave The Strand in Auckland at 9:18 am and be back at 4:33 pm. There would be two hours to spend in Hamilton.

The options would be to get off at Rotokauri and have lunch in The Base shopping centre then catch the train back to Auckland; or stay on the train to Frankton, get a bus to the Hamilton Lake Domain for lunch, then get a bus back to the train.



The Bee card is worth getting because you can use it to travel around on buses in Hamilton, Tauranga and various other places.



Charles Nicholls obtained a Bee Card the day before the May meeting and knew exactly how to go about getting one. He wanted to use it in Dunedin.

Charles called the 0800 number (0800 205 305) and was put through to the Hamilton office. He was asked if he wanted to load the seniors card (Gold Card) so that he could get seniors card discounts on the Bee Card. Charles was told it would take about two weeks to activate the account and the card would come in the post.

Because Charles and his wife are seniors, they did not have to pay the \$5 cost for the card.

Charles suggests asking for the Waikato office because the lady was wonderful and to have your Gold Card ready so you can read out the number on it.

Bill Mutch said the 0800 number is definitely the easiest way to get the Bee Card. The other way is to go by train to Papakura Station, pay \$5 and get the Bee Card there. It is what some of our members have already done.



*The Te Huia train stops at four stations: The Strand, Puhinui, Papakura, Huntly, Rotokauri and Frankton.*

### **UPDATE ON FORMER MEMBER**

**RAY HANCOCK**



*Ray Hancock in his red vest at morning tea aged 95.*

Ray Hancock turned 98 on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Ray is now living at Ryman's Retirement Village in Lynfield. He was a member of the club up until March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. A major downturn in Ray's general health resulted in his resignation. Bill Mutch, who has been on the phone with Ray, says he wishes us all the best.

### **NZ HERALD**

**TOM MILLER AND ERIC STRICKETT**

On Tuesday May 31 in the letters to the editor column, there was one from our quiz master, Dr Tom Miller. In his letter, Tom congratulated the New Zealand Police on apprehending *the foul murderer of a young man* who was walking home on the Roy Clements Treeway next to Mt Albert Grammar School.

Two days later, on Thursday, there was a story in the Sideswipe column from our former member and good friend, Eric Strickett. It was about the days when operators at the local telephone exchange connected people to those who they wanted to call on the phone.



alliance with China. Zealand taxpayer-funded welfare benefits for non-Zealand must now be shut. I now have to step into

ita must resign for this er management of the ith our Pacific neighbours. Roger Hawkins, Herne Bay.

**Missile**  
 insurance scheme being with urgency is coming billion plus to employers/ time neither are in a strong d. Ironically this is coming ally full employment and shortage. couple of people who if h are considering a redundancy out of their e purposes of a career nk that was hardly the cheme. It's madness. Elliot Lord, Pt Chevalier.

not to mention the negative impact on air pollution. Ray Gilbert, Pāpāmoa Beach.

**Timely arrest**  
 As a resident of Mt Albert and a regular user of the beautiful walking track where a foul murder of a young man occurred recently, I am moved to write this letter to thank the police units involved most sincerely for their incredibly efficient handling of the attack. Within 24 hours, an individual had been named as a person of interest and a day later an arrest had been made. I am confident that I am expressing the sincere appreciation of the local community for the speedy resolution and the restoration of the reputation of Mt Albert as a safe and caring suburb of Auckland. Dr Tom Miller, Mt Albert.

Submission guidelines

Published in Editorial & Letters NZ Herald Tuesday May 31, 2022

applications – growth in members would represent progress.”

**Party line eavesdropping**  
 Eric Strickett writes: “Our neighbours’ daughter worked at our local Henderson exchange; what she did not know about Henderson was not worth knowing. From the time you contacted the operator till when they connected you to your number they were plugged into you. Once connected they were supposed to log off, you would hear a faint click as they did. If not they were listening in. Often you could hear the other operators in the background, so you would say ‘operator please log off. She said the operators knew which ladies had gone to their doctor because they knew they were expecting and others saying hubby has been to the doctor to have the snip. As well of course emergency callouts. While they knew everyone’s business, they also saved many lives talking to people while emergency services arrive. So those were the days over 60 years ago.”

I was a wee lad  
 age my name to  
 name was lame,  
 r name. And I  
 ly call me by my  
 would cause a  
 etter part of a  
 Wheeljack.”  
 y poetry (bad)  
 Works. Last year  
 rs later) for my  
 ook when she  
 to me. I now  
 dulgence back

he way to enjoy  
 k foods without  
 eakage” was a  
 digestible and  
 e Olestra/Olean  
 ss than a year.

d the Society for  
 vas its sole



**Shooting sheep? Aarti Prasad spotted this sign nestled underneath One Tree Hill, among the sheep. Well, how appropriate is this sign for all of Auckland at the moment?**

Published in Sideswipe by Ana Samways NZ Herald Thursday June 2, 2022

**CARTOONS**



**DOWNTON TABBY**



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Each snip of plastic brought a newfound sense of freedom. No longer would Gloria be milked by the credit card companies. From now on, she would strictly be a cash cow.





### CLAUDIA'S CORNER

Dad can you put my shoes on, please!  
 No says, Dad  
 I don't think they will fit.

Today I got fired from my Bank Tellers job  
 because an old lady customer asked me  
 to check her balance.  
 So I pushed her.

Cheers  
 Claudia

### OTHER

#### ONLINE BANKING

*John Mihaljevic*

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.

#### 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 <https://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.

### **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. It is held in the Red Poppy Room at Henderson RSA. A \$2 donation will give you morning tea and 3 chances of a small prize.

### **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.

### **SUPERSENIORS**

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

### **SUPPORTERS**

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



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



We are all grateful for their support.

***Our meetings are held on the second Friday of the month  
at the New Lynn Friendship Hall 3063 Great North Road***

***The July Meeting date is Friday 8 July 2022***

**If anyone has any views, opinions, information, requests or questions they want to share with members, please do not hesitate to send them to [vince@rebuswestauckland.nz](mailto:vince@rebuswestauckland.nz), 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 have too many other things to do!**

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 and, until we find someone else able and willing to compile the newsletter, for its content. Any contributions are most welcome.