



# West Auckland Men's Rebus Club

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

## Newsletter

**NOVEMBER 2022**

*The next meeting will be at 10:00 am Friday 11 November at the New Lynn Friendship Hall, 3063 Great North Road, New Lynn*

### 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> | 6293816     |
| Welfare Officer          | Vacant           |  |             |
| Outings                  | Ian Smith        | <a href="mailto:ismith435@gmail.com">ismith435@gmail.com</a>                       | 027 4549343 |
| Newsletter               | Vince Middeldorp | <a href="mailto:vince@rebuswestauckland.nz">vince@rebuswestauckland.nz</a>         | 828 5250    |
| 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           |  |             |
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| Webmaster                | Vince Middeldorp | <a href="mailto:vince@rebuswestauckland.nz">vince@rebuswestauckland.nz</a>         | 828 5250    |
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### CLUB BUSINESS



*Noel Rose about to introduce Dr Chris Benton*



## ***PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

***(aka PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE)***

***Bill Mutch***



*Bill Mutch at the October meeting*

Welcome to our nice spring weather.

It was nice to hear a good report about the bus trip to the Howick Historic Village.

We have a lunch coming up on Tuesday 6 December 2022 at Ryders 177 Riversdale Road Avondale. It is \$34 for a Movie, Roast Meal, and an Ice Cream; very reasonable and supports a local business that is unique and has had a hard time with the Covid-19 shutdown.

Need to bring cash on the day. I will bring two guests. This outing is possible with the help of Alison Turner who is with the Pt Chevalier Historic Society and was very well attended last time.

We should have a guest Speaker on railways for our next meeting. He is Alan Verry, a past long serving President of the Railway Enthusiasts Society who has a broad knowledge of world railways. I was his Secretary on a committee so I know him well.

I hope our December meeting will have no guest speakers so our own members can provide 10-minute (or less) talks.

Noel Rose, who arranges our guest speakers, has lost his hearing, so we have limited information. Noel will see a hearing specialist on Tuesday, and then more will be known.

With Trevor away at our last meeting, Alan Babich, with the help of Anthony Dennis, got our morning tea out on time... many thanks.

We do still need a Welfare Officer???

Cheers Bill Mutch



*Alison Turner at Ryders August 2021*

## ***CLAUDIA'S CORNER***

Why don't pirates wash before they walk the plank?  
Because they wash up on shore anyway.

Did you hear they arrested the devil?  
Yeah, they got him on possession.

A pair of cows were talking in a field. One cow says: "Did you hear that mad cow disease is going around?"  
"Yeah," the other cow says, "Makes me glad I am a Penguin."



## MEETING REPORT OCTOBER 2022

Vince Middeldorp



*Members and visitors at the October meeting*

Bill Mutch began the meeting by welcoming members and asking them to take their seats. The attendance of visitors resulted in another good sized attendance. There were 18 members and 6 visitors. The visitors were all invited to the meeting by members. Advertising the meeting did not produce any visitors.

Apologies were recorded for Charles Nichols and Trevor Pollard. There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

Charles Nicholls emailed the secretary a treasurer's report for the meeting. It showed total income for the year \$763.20 and total expenditure \$846.43. Expenditure, for the year to date, was \$83.23 more than income. There is \$1,220.53 on term deposit, which means the Club's finances are in a healthy state.

After the serious business of the financial report, Bill Mutch told the following joke. A blonde lady had a very long password. It was Huey Dewey Louie Mickey Minnie Pluto Donald Goofy and Sacramento. When asked why she had such a long password, the blonde said it was because passwords needed to consist of eight characters plus a capital.

At that point in the meeting, Noel Rose's mobile phone started ringing. It was his son-in-law asking where to park at the hall. It was a fair enough question because an automatic sliding gate was being installed in the car park and there were red cones blocking off most of the car park spaces.

Before getting the meeting back on track, Bill Mutch told another joke; one which his granddaughter Claudia said the members would find funny. A captain noticed a light on a collision course. He turns on his signal lamp and sends, "Change your course, 10 degrees west." The light signals back, "Change yours, 10 degrees east." The captain gets a little annoyed. He signals, "I'm a US Navy captain. You must change your course, sir." The light signals back, "I'm a Seaman First Class. You must change your course, sir." Now the captain is furious. He signals, "I'm not changing my course at all." The light signals back a final message: "I'm a lighthouse. I can't."

Ian Smith reported on upcoming trips and coffee mornings. The next coffee morning is at Esquires Cafe, The Boundary, Henderson, on Friday 28 October 10:00 am. There is a trip to the Botanical Garden and Karaka Lavender Farm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November: bus fare \$25 and entry to the Lavender Farm \$12 with the bus leaving St John Hall at 9:45 am. Three people expressed interest in going on the trip.

Bill Mutch moved to the subject of the Christmas Lunch at Ryders, 177 Riversdale Road. The date is Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Bill passed out a clipboard and asked members who were going to add their name to the list. The lunch with an ice cream and movie is \$34. The Christmas Lunch is being organised with the Pt Chevalier Historic Society. Twenty-five people are required for Ryders, hence the two groups are combining to make up the number required.

The speaker for next month is Alan Verry. He will be speaking on railways. Alan has travelled overseas, particularly to the Asian countries to travel on their railways. Bill said Alan could answer questions on railways both in New Zealand and overseas. Bill then talked about the latest problem on the Western Line. The track has collapsed by the bridge in New Lynn and trains are running on a very restricted time-table.



*Dump trucks replacing ballast on the Western Line outside Mt Albert Pak'nSave on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October*

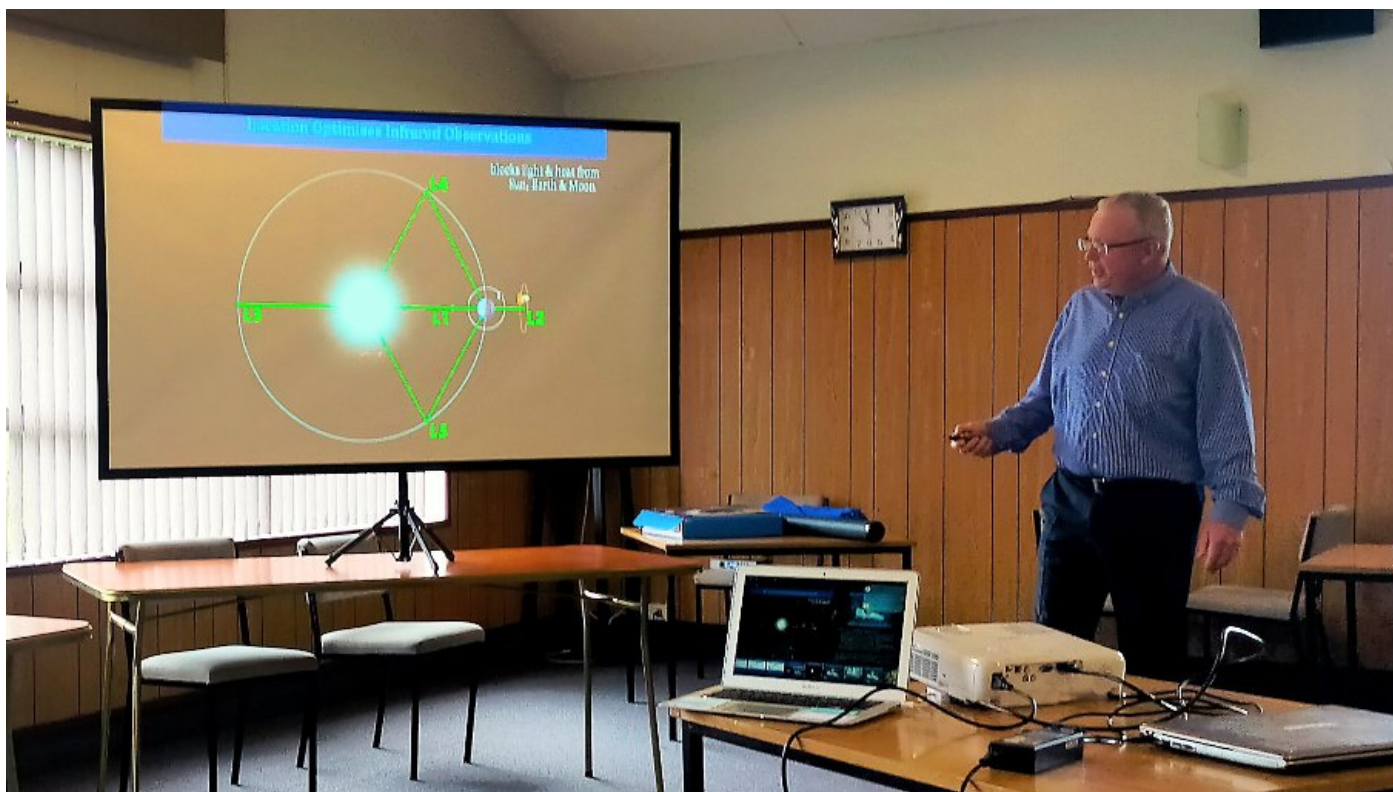
Bill Mutch concluded the business part of the meeting by setting Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November as the next meeting date. Getting through the business part of the meeting took 18 minutes. That shortened time allowed for an early morning tea and provided the speaker Dr Chris Benton, with a full hour for his presentation.



## GUEST SPEAKER DR CHRIS BENTON

### OCTOBER MEETING

Vince Middeldorp



*Dr Chris Benton showing the location of the James Webb Space Telescope*

*When Noel Rose rang and said Dr Chris Benton, a retired GP from Whangaporoa, would be speaking at the October meeting about the James Webb Space Telescope, I was blown-away. Noel had once again secured a first-rate speaker with a subject that was going to interest everyone.*

On his LinkedIn page, Dr Benton modestly describes himself as an astronomy enthusiast. In 2014, he semi-retired from his GP practice to study at Melbourne's Swinburne University for an MSc (Astronomy). He is currently in charge of membership at the Auckland Astronomical Society.

Dr Benton's talk centered on the construction of the telescope, the instrumentation on the telescope and the first five images received from the telescope. He also covered some basics, such as the advantages of viewing space by going beyond the visible light spectrum; into near and mid-infrared wavelengths.

The James Webb Space Telescope was launched from French Guiana on Christmas Day in 2021, during the next month travelled to its position in space and then unfolded itself. It is a huge structure with a five layer sunshade the size of a tennis court (20 m x 14 m) and a primary mirror made of 18 gold covered beryllium segments. The size of the primary mirror is 6.5m in diameter.



*Early full-scale model on display at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (2005)*

The position in space where the James West Space Telescope is located is called the Sun Earth-Moon L2 Lagrange point. It is 1.5 million kms away from Earth and is one of five gravitationally stable points in the Sun and Earth-Moon system. A minimal amount of fuel is required to keep objects at the gravitationally stable points. The fuel in the James West Space Telescope thrusters is hydrazine.

The sunshade is made from a thermoplastic material called Kapton. It was chosen because it tolerates the extreme temperatures of space. The sunshade protects the space telescope from heat and light that comes from the sun and the earth.

The 18 mirror segments are made from Beryllium because of its lightness and because it remains rigid in the cold of space. The segments are covered with gold because it reflects mid-infrared wavelengths and is stable against corrosion.



Solar power is used to produce electricity for the spacecraft.

Most of the equipment on the James Webb Space Telescope provides computing, communications, electric power, propulsion, and cooling, etc. This equipment is referred to as the spacecraft bus. The equipment which produces the photographic images and scientific data are the measuring instruments. They are the near infrared camera (NIRCam); the near infrared spectrograph (NIRSpec); the near infrared imager and slitless spectrograph (NIRISS); and the mid-infrared instrument (MIRI). The NIRSpec is the only instrument without a camera.



*Four scientific instruments are packed together in the instrument frame behind the primary mirror*

Three of the instruments on the James Webb Space Telescope work ideally at 37 Kelvin. Getting temperatures down to this level can be done passively, i.e. using the sunshield and the intense cold of space. The fourth scientific instrument which views mid-infrared light has to be kept at a temperature less than 7 Kelvin. A cryocooler is used to produce this temperature. It is a sophisticated refrigerator using helium as the refrigerant.

These instruments are state-of-the-art imaging cameras and spectroscopes. The spectroscopes use prisms or diffraction grating optical element to split the light from distant stars or galaxies into different wavelengths. The results are used to determine the chemical composition of materials, temperatures and how fast something is moving towards us or travelling away.

The four instruments view red light and infrared light above the visible light spectrum. Infrared wavelengths extend from 0.7 to 1000 microns. The instruments on the James Webb Space Telescope are sensitive up to 25 microns.

The reason the instruments view infrared wavelengths and not visible light is that infrared light can see through dust. If the dust is warm, it glows in the far-infrared range and beyond what the instruments can see.

The first five images from the James West Space Telescope were released on 13 July 2022. They are photos of the Southern Ring planetary nebula; the Carina Nebula; Stephans Quintet galaxy group; WASP 96-b exoplanet; and the SMACS 0723 galaxy cluster. Three are in our home galaxy, the Milky Way, and two are outside the Milky Way.



*The Southern Ring is a planetary nebula enshrouded in dust*

A planetary nebula is the death of a star. Stars spend 90% of their time burning hydrogen into helium at their core. In the later stages of their life, they become unstable and pulsate. When stars pulsate, they push layers of material out into the surrounding space, eventually exposing their hot core.



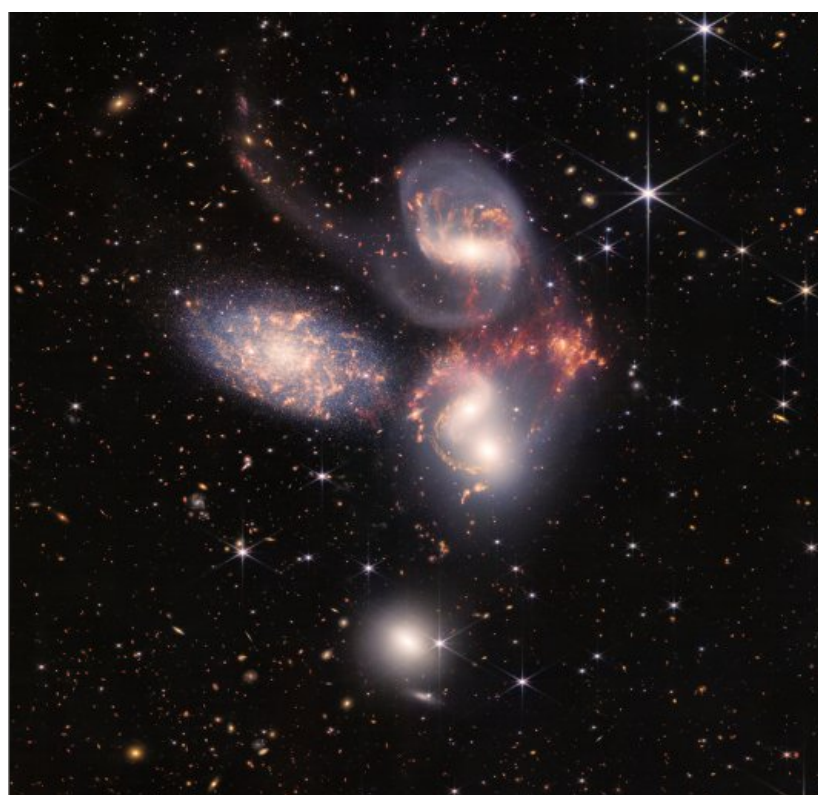
Astronomers call the exposed hot core a white dwarf. A white dwarf has a life span of 10,000 years. It emits high-energy UV light, which energises and illuminates the previously expelled material. The expelled material disperses into space and is incorporated into the next generation of stars. The Southern Ring image results from the James Webb near infrared camera (NIRCam) cutting through the dust and showing obscured light and gas plus the structure in detail.



*Cosmic Cliffs in the NG 3324 part of the Carina Nebula*

The Carina Nebula is not a planetary nebula. It is a large region in the Milky Way undergoing active star formation. Star birth is triggered by the expansion of an eroding cavity. The Carina Nebula image shows a small star forming region called NGC 3324. This region is located 7,600 light-years away. The picture looks like craggy mountains on a moonlit evening. In reality, it is the edge of the giant gaseous cavity within NGC 3324. The cavernous area has been carved from the nebula by the intense ultraviolet radiation and stellar winds from extremely massive, hot, young stars in the center of the bubble; above the area shown in this image.

The Carina Nebula image was produced by Webb's Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam) and Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI).



*The Stephan's Quintet galaxy cluster*

Stephan's Quintet is a visual grouping of five galaxies. There is one at the top, one on the left, two close together on the right, and one at the bottom of the image. Four of these five galaxies form a galaxy cluster and are 300 million light years away. The one on the left is not part of the galaxy cluster. It is 40 million light years away.

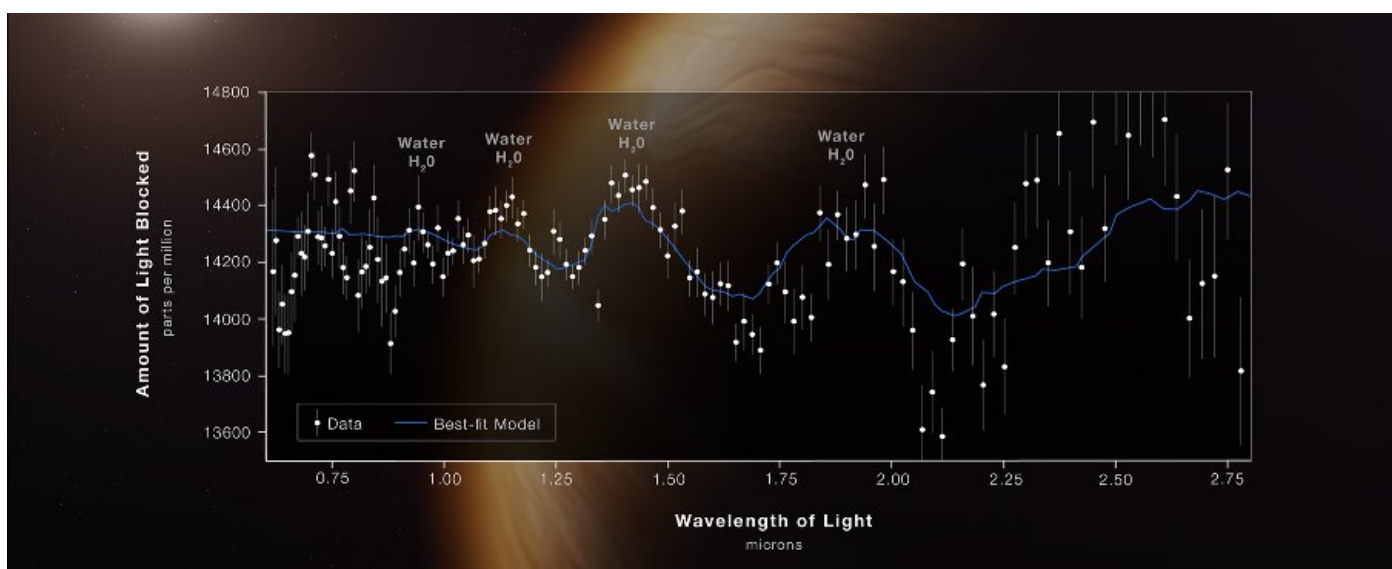
This proximity provides astronomers a ringside seat for witnessing the merging and interactions between galaxies as they travel around one another. When they come together, there is a compression of dust and gas which triggers star formation.

The topmost galaxy in Stephan's Quintet, NGC 7319, harbours an active galactic nucleus, a supermassive black hole 24 million times the mass of the Sun. It is actively pulling in material and puts out light energy equivalent to 40 billion Suns.

WASP-96 b is one of over 5,000 confirmed exoplanets in the Milky Way. Located roughly 1,150 light-years away, it represents a type of gas giant that has no direct analog in our solar system. With a mass less than half that of Jupiter and a diameter 1.2 times greater, WASP-96 b is much puffier than any planet orbiting our Sun. And with a surface temperature of around 5,540 Kelvin, it is significantly hotter.

WASP-96 b orbits extremely close to its Sun-like star, just one-ninth of the distance between Mercury and the Sun, completing one circuit every 3½ Earth-days.





*Atmosphere composition of hot gas giant exoplanet WASP-96 b*

The spectrum of light filtering through the atmosphere of WASP 96b reveals the distinct signature of water, indications of haze, and evidence of clouds that were thought not to exist based on prior observations.



*The image of SMACS 0723 shows thousand of distant galaxies*

The image of the SMACS 0723 galaxy cluster from the James Webb Space Telescope is the deepest and sharpest infrared image of the distant universe so far. The combined mass of this galaxy cluster acts as a gravitational lens magnifying more distant galaxies.

The SMACS 0723 image shows a part of the distant universe teeming with thousands of galaxies. White galaxies are part of the foreground cluster and red galaxies are distant, either lensed or just background.

This image shows the galaxy cluster SMACS 0723 as it appeared 4.6 billion years ago, i.e. it is 4.6 billion light years away. Data from the Near-Infrared Spectrograph's (NIRSpec's) revealed light from one distant galaxy, travelled for 13.1 billion light years before Webb's mirrors captured it.

## **RECENT EVENTS**

### **AUCKLAND ZOO TRIP**

*Vince Middeldorp*

These days, Auckland Zoo has become a very popular place to visit. The car park was nearly full when we arrived and three school groups came through while we were milling around at the entrance.

Ian Smith, who is a member of West Auckland Men's Rebus and Waitakere Combined Rebus invited both Clubs to the outing. Once again, the outing was more popular with the Combined Club. If you don't count Ian Smith, there were eight people from the Combined Club and four from the Men's Club.



*Auckland Zoo's Asian elephant Burma*



There are some places at the zoo where you can get a good view of the larger animals, such as the giraffes and elephant. Trying to see many of the smaller creatures is a challenge. For example, the zoo has tiny monkeys called cotton-top tamarins. They are in an enclosure with trees that have a profuse amount of foliage. You can see the foliage move as they jump around in the trees without getting a glimpse of the tamarins.



*Somewhere in those trees are the cotton-top tamarins*

I took some photographs at the Zoo and when looking through them saw one that told a story about young and old. The youngster was a toddler being held up by her father at an enclosure. Her mother was pushing the toddler's pram. The old person was a Rebus member in his nineties, being pushed around in a wheelchair by another Rebus member. The photo shows that when the weather is fine, both young and old alike can enjoy a wonderful day out at the Zoo.



*Rebus member in wheelchair and toddler in pram*

Te Puna café is the newest dining venue at the zoo. It is a spacious and inviting, light-filled space, with a curving veranda that looks out over the lake towards the South East Asia Jungle Track. Members from Waitakere Combined Rebus found a sheltered spot on the Te Puna veranda and relaxed there after walking around the Zoo.



*Waitakere Combined Rebus Club members at Te Puna café*





*The new boardwalk at Auckland Zoo*

Besides the many asphalt and concrete walking paths, the Zoo has a boardwalk that opened to visitors in December 2021. It snakes across the Zoo's lake and goes under the orangutan and siamang aerial pathways. It is a structure the Zoo is justifiably proud of and is not to be missed when visiting the Zoo.

### ***COFFEE MORNING AT ESQUIRES CAFE***

*Vince Middeldorp*

Esquires Café in Henderson is a venue we have often been to for coffee mornings. In the days before Covid-19, we would fill up two tables. These days we only get enough members to fill one table.

John Mihaljevic was the first member to arrive. He lives not far away at Metlifecare Waitakere Gardens and walked over to Esquires Café.



*Early birds John Mihaljevic (in black) Peter Cox, and Andrew Narayan at Esquires Cafe*

Andrew Narayan, Peter Cox and I, did the sensible thing, and car pooled. We took Ian Smith's advice and parked in the parking area off Newington Road. We were the next to arrive.

Eric and Janelle Davidson, from Waitakere Combined Rebus, walked into Esquires a few minutes after us. The final head count was ten for the coffee morning in total: six from West Auckland Men's Rebus, three from Waitakere Combined Rebus, plus Ian Smith, who is a member of both clubs.

No one goes along to the coffee mornings just to drink coffee. It is an opportunity to get into conversations with other members. Some members are more interesting to talk to than others.

At this coffee morning, I was fortunate enough to sit across from Eric Davidson. I first met Eric when we went to McHugh's of Cheltenham for the mid-winter lunch in June 2022.

I knew from having talked to Eric he was a retired motor mechanic. This time we talked a bit more, and he told me that in his younger days he worked in the pits at Western Springs Speedway. We ended up talking about speedway in years gone by and the driver, Ted Tracey who won the NZ Championship seven times between 1977 and 1993. These days Ted Tracey is an LMVD and I walk past his car yard on my way to Lynn Mall. He has two checkered flags on his footpath sign.





*The full complement of those who attended the coffee morning minus photographer John Mihaljevic*

We also talked about Stirling Moss. Eric had become involved with Grand Prix racing after working on midget racing cars at Speedway. Stirling Moss raced at Ardmore Aerodrome in the days before there was car racing at Pukekohe.



*Bruce McLaren in number 47; Stirling Moss in number 7, Jack Brabham and Lorenzo Bandini at Invercargill's Teretonga Park in 1962*

After talking to Eric, I ended up searching "Stirling Moss" with Google. Stirling Moss won the New Zealand Grand Prix in 1956 driving a Maseratti 250F, won it in 1959 driving a Cooper T45 and won it for a third time in 1962 driving a Lotus 18. I also came across this quote from Stirling Moss: "To achieve anything, you must be prepared to dabble on the boundary of disaster."

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **CHRISTMAS FUNCTION**

*Vince Middeldorp*

We now have seventeen people on our list for a roast dinner and movie at Ryders Cinema on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Alison Turner will have other people on her list and that means we will easily get to the twenty-five required for the function to go ahead.

Bill Mutch expects the start time to be 10:00 am as per usual (we have been there twice before during my time with the club).

Last time I invited my neighbours to come along with us and they had never been to Ryders. Fortunately they ended up on a table with Merilyne Rose and Janet Geddes. My neighbour Louise is a school teacher so there were three school teachers at the same table.

If you know people who might like to go to Ryders, and maybe have never been there before, invite them along. The cost is \$30 plus \$4 for an ice cream, payable on the day.

To see who is currently on the list click on this link <https://rebuswestauckland.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Ryders-List-7Nov.pdf> (copy the URL into your browser if clicking the link doesn't work). Password is ryders (all small letters).



**TRIP TO PINE HARBOUR**  
*Ian Smith*



Pine harbour. Lets do this on Wednesday the 23rd of November. Gold Card payments for Ferry.

Catch train to town to get the 10:50 am ferry to pine harbour pier 3.... . time to get lunch there and catch the 1pm back to city.

Alternative to the restaurant is take your own lunch. Plenty of places to sit and eat and buy coffee.



**COFFEE MORNING**  
*Ian Smith*



Next coffee morning Friday 2nd December at Esquires, The Boundary, Henderson. 10:00 am.



**OTHER**  
**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.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE RESEARCH**  
**Thalia Babbage**



Dear Vince,

My name is Thalia Babbage and I am a doctoral student at the University of Auckland in the Department of Physiology.

I'm getting in touch as my colleague, Mickey, and I are looking for volunteers to participate in our research looking at high blood pressure. We are interested in new ideas about what causes high blood pressure and potential new treatments.

We were wondering whether you may be able to share a short item regarding our research with your West Auckland Rebus members or in a monthly newsletter if possible? A suggested text is below:

*Have you ever wondered why some people have high blood pressure and others don't? To help us gain an understanding of this, we are looking for volunteers with normal to high blood pressure to take part in our study. For your contribution we will give you Westfield shopping vouchers as koha. Follow the link to find out more.*

I have included a link to our study website below which includes further information about the study requirements. We would be eager to chat further with you about sharing this with your Rebus networks or whether you may have other suggestions for distributing this message to your members.

<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/fmhs/research/research-study-recruitment/research-study-recruitment--m---p-/peripheral-chemoreflex-veins-in-hypertension.html>

Kind regards,  
Thalia

**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 Next Meeting date is Friday 9 December 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 they can be included in the Newsletter. Remember, it is YOUR Newsletter: feel free to contribute to it as you will.