



West Auckland Men's Rebus Club

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

Newsletter

JANUARY 2023

The next meeting will be at 10:00 am Friday 13 January at the New Lynn Friendship Hall, 3063 Great North Road, New Lynn

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CLUB BUSINESS



The main room at the New Lynn Friendship Hall just before the start of the December meeting

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

President's Report

Bill Mutch



President Bill Mutch gives the thumbs up before the December 2022 meeting starts

Welcome to 2023, so Happy New Year.

The year 2022 has been a challenging one for clubs with Covid ruling our way of life.

We will miss Anthony Dennis, who is leaving New Zealand with his family to live in Australia. He has always been a great help to the club. Also, Anthony has made a generous donation as a farewell gift to us. We will miss him.

Trevor Pollard was pleased to see Peter Cox attend the Carols by Candlelight evening.

Trevor has had some tough times over the holidays with his wife Fay ending up in the hospital. We ask for a speedy recovery.

Our next meeting is Friday 13 January 2023. We will have our own members talk; and we have a guest speaker for February.

We are having a January meeting as it's otherwise a long time between meetings. Guests are welcome and we will have a nice morning tea.

We are holding our fees the same as last year. We hope the hall hire will remain the same.

My role at the Railway Enthusiast's office was a busy one, with people wanting to see the steam train with its Christmas lights ringing, and wanting to buy tickets. Really popular is the Parlour Carriage that serves High Tea. Record numbers were recorded.

With no trains operating around Auckland, the buses are busy and with the shortage of drivers, many services are being cancelled, so allow plenty of time to go places.

See you all on the 13th.

Cheers, Bill Mutch.

CLAUDIA'S CORNER

Claudia wishes us all a Happy New Year.

Our dinner tonight.

Tonight we are having
Himalayan Rabbit for dinner.
We found Himalayan on the road.

Nutters Club.

Sometimes I talk to myself,
and we both get a laugh.!!!.



MEETING REPORT

December 2022

Vince Middeldorp



Vince taking notes and Bill speaking into the microphone

Bill Mutch wished everyone good morning and a big welcome. There was one visitor: Vince's brother Tony. Neil Castle put in an apology for Lyndsay Parris who was having 40 stitches taken out of his calf muscle. Trevor Pollard put in an apology for Andrew Geddes who had a doctor's appointment. Bill Mutch said that Charles Nicholls, our treasurer, was away today. There were 18 members and one visitor on the attendance register.

There were no matters arising from the November meeting. Bill Mutch reported on the function at Ryders. He said it was a successful function and was well done. Trevor Pollard said he went back for seconds because Fay said, "Eat up – you're not going to get any dinner."

The only correspondence was from Rebus NZ. They are holding capitation fees at \$2.75 and their AGM is on 6th May 2023 at Wanganui.

Ian Smith the trips organiser said there was nothing really to say. The trip to Pine Harbour was covered very well in the newsletter. It was supposedly a rough day but actually it was calm and he had a nice meal. Ian suggested a coffee morning the Friday before Christmas at the usual place (Esquires at The Boundary).

Bill Mutch gave Anthony Dennis the microphone and said, "Your ten minutes starts now." Anthony spoke about his upcoming move to Melbourne in Australia. Anthony's comments are recorded as a separate item on page 9 in this newsletter.

A generous donation from Anthony is acknowledged in the President's Report. As a result of this donation the deficit for the year will be much reduced.

The microphone was then passed to Trevor Pollard so that he could talk about the carols by candlelight evening on Sunday at 7:00 pm at The Chapel of Faith in the Oaks. Trevor has been running this event for four or five years.

In answer to a question, Trevor talked about the restoration of the Chapel which he had a lot to do with. Rebuilding the Chapel was a massive job. The floor was taken up and a digger was brought to provide more aeration under the floor. The whole roof was lifted off the brickwork and a flashing was put in to stop water from the gutter overflowing into the building.

Bill Mutch said that this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm the Christmas lights at the Glenbrook Vintage Railway would be on. Tickets are \$10.



Christmas lights at Glenbrook

Bill Mutch mentioned the passing of Harold Farnsworth at age 98. He said he kept in touch with Harold who moved to Thames in 2016. Harold always asked about the Club and was in favour of the changes being made. Bill described him as quite a bright guy.

With Noel Rose being away there was nothing to report about upcoming speakers. The next meeting was set down for Friday January 13th 2023.

FIRST CLUB SPEAKER

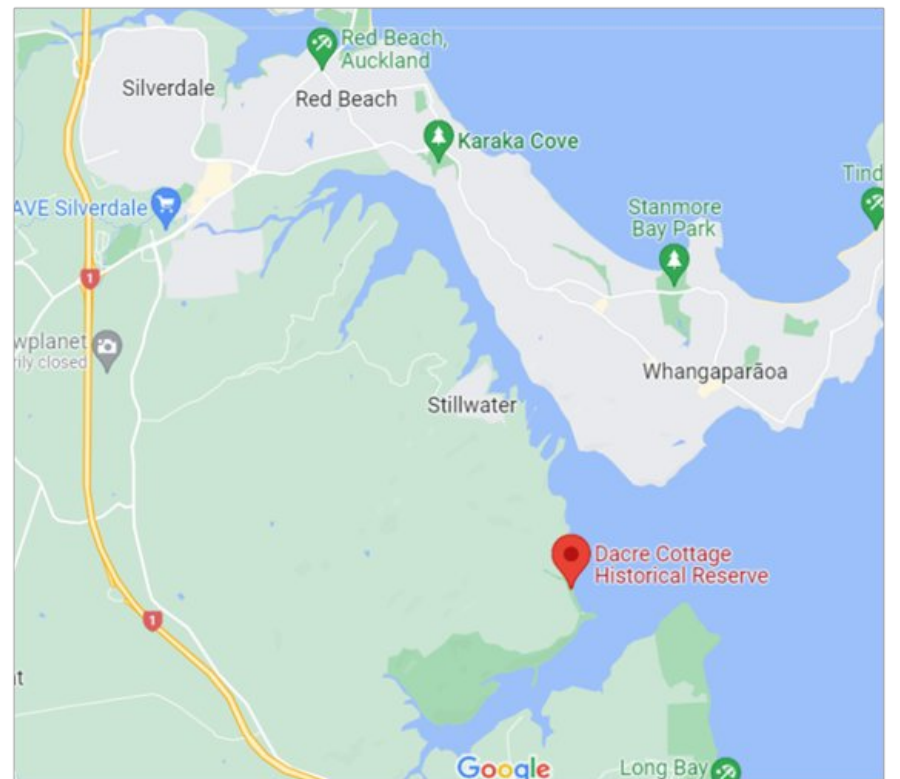
NEIL CASTLE

December 2022

Vince Middeldorp



Neil Castle talking about the rebuilding of Dacre Cottage and mistakes in newspapers and books about the work



Dacre Cottage can only be accessed by boat or by a three hour return trip via the Okura Bush Walkway on foot

When Neil Castle went up to give his talk, Trevor Pollard called out, “Remember, no bullshit,” to which John Mihaljevic fired back, “Leave that to Trevor, he’s an expert.” It was a moment of mirth that set the scene for a talk about restoring the brickwork of a derelict and vandalized building into something which now belies how badly damaged it once was.

How did Neil get involved in Dacre Cottage? Well what happened was that Rodney County Council contacted Amalgamated Brick in New Lynn and said, “We want a couple of bricklayer to come up and try to put this building back together again.”

So Neil Castle and his partner Ernie Mullaney went up to have a look and couldn’t believe their eyes when they saw the mess the place was in. Some of the locals had come round in their boats and pulled bricks out to take home to build barbecues and brick paving which was quite in vogue in those days.

Despite the enormity of the task they decided to take it on.



Dacre Cottage before the 1984 rebuild



Dacre Cottage as it now looks

The Rodney County Council promised them a generator for their concrete mixer, some people to help them out and a big container of water.

The Cottage was down a very long private road on the Weiti Station property. Former owner Ian Gibbs, who was a close friend of Sir Keith Holyoake, had established the road. Neil had keys that enabled him to get through a series of three locked gates on the property. He was able to drive from East Coast Bays Rd, through the pine forests on Weiti Station, to the water’s edge at Karepiro Bay and to where Dacre Cottage is located.

After Neil had been working at Dacre Cottage for about a day and a half, two blokes and a girl turned up in a van. They were to be their helping hands. Each day shortly after arriving they would all hop back in the van and leave to go buy morning tea in Silverdale. Neil said they could have bought morning tea on their way through to the job but that was the type of people that they were.

The promised generator never arrived and they were not supplied with sufficient water. Neil and his partner had what was called a banker board, which was a large sheet of plywood on which they could mix their mortar and found that about 50 metres away there was a little fresh water creek from which they could draw buckets of water. Unfortunately the tide used to come in and that meant they could only get water when the tide was out.



Photograph taken from the website <http://www.dacre.org.nz/>

The roof on the cottage was propped up with pieces of timber and the whole construction, including the rafters, was held together with wooden pegs. It was quite cunning the way it had been done. When all the bricks were pulled away the roof remained in place, held up by the timber.

The old bricks were removed but only down to ground level and the new bricks were laid on top of the ground level course of bricks.

During the rebuild, there were archaeologists looking at old Maori camp sites in the area. When a kauri door frame was pulled down and the words “Dacre Weiti” could be clearly seen written in pencil on the timber, they came over and took photographs. Later the door frame was put back up as it was.

The existing bricks could not be used because so many had been taken that there were not enough left to do the job. The chimney was built out of the original bricks. All the other bricks used were tunnel kiln bricks. These were eight inches long and four inches wide and supplied by Amalgamated Brick. They could not be sold because they had odd colours and were supplied free of charge. If Neil remembers correctly they just charged their time and Amalgamated paid the bill.

Rebuilding Dacre Cottage was quite an interesting job. Inside the cottage were floor tiles from Australia called quarry tiles. They were glad when their helping hands were gone because they were no help.

On Friday December 22, 2006 an article was printed in the North Harbour News which said, “It is thanks to a team of keen historians and caring residents who took it upon themselves to replace brick after crumbling brick that the cottage survives to this day.” Neil said that statement is all bullshit. The cottage was rebuilt by bricklayers Mullaney and Castle Ltd, in 1984.

Another story about Dacre Cottage, this one in a book, had a photograph of the cottage before the rebuild and said, “Building known as Dacre Cottage near Auckland, built of hand-made bricks (since reconstructed in modern metric books).” Neil said it was not built with metric bricks. They are nine inches long and the bricks used were eight inches long.

Neil finished his talk by saying they enjoyed themselves up there. One time his eldest son came along and caught eels in the creek. After the job was finished he still had the keys to the gates and would go back there. His last visit was at least ten years ago. He went to Silverdale and walked on the Okura Bush Walkway to the Cottage.

Some interesting questions and answers followed this talk. John Mihaljevic asked about the original bricks and Neil said he is pretty sure they came from a brickworks in Grafton Gully where the Blandford Park used to be and would have been transported to Karepiro Bay by scow.

Another question, this time from Trevor Pollard, was, “Who was Dacre?” Neil knew some of the history and replied that Dacre was a sea captain and trader selling timber to Australia. Neil also said that Dacre’s sons had lived on the property.



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Contact Details

Mobile 021 856 412

craig.castle@mikepero.com

Neil’s son Craig is working for Mike Pero in Blockhouse Bay. Neil put in a good word for him before commencing his talk.

SECOND CLUB SPEAKER

VINCE MIDDELDORP

December 2022

Vince Middeldorp

Lahar Meets Locomotive: New Zealand's Tangiwai Railway Disaster of Christmas Eve 1953

by André Brett | Arcadia, Autumn 2018, no. 31 - Arcadia Collection: [Disaster Histories](#)

On Christmas morning 1953, an express train from Wellington, New Zealand, was meant to arrive in Auckland. It never did. At 11:21 p.m. the previous evening, it plunged into the Whangaehu River at Tangiwai in the central North Island. Of the 285 passengers on board, 151 died, eclipsing the 21 fatalities at Hyde in 1943 to make it New Zealand's worst railway disaster—and one of the world's worst.



Historical account of Tangiwai Railway disaster found with a Google search

When Bill Mutch said we could speak on anything we like, I thought how about taking about things that have happen that have been incredibly lucky? I am sure all of us have experienced events in our lives that have left us thinking, “How could I ever have been so lucky; what an absolute fluke.”

The first story I have is about a taxi that never arrived. My dad had rung for a taxi to take us to the Wellington train station. We were catching the express train to spend Christmas with my uncle and his family in Tokoroa. When we finally managed to get to the station all the second class seats were gone and dad had to pay extra for first class seats.

The train we were on was the 1953 Christmas Eve Wellington to Auckland express train that plunged into the river at Tangiwai killing 151 passengers. The final three carriages were first class ones and they remained on the track. I was eight months old at the time. If the taxi had turned up, dad, mum and myself would all have been killed.

When I left school I wanted to go to the Auckland Technical Institute and study for a New Zealand Certificate in Engineering (NZCE). To be able to do that I needed a full-time job. I rang companies listed in the phone book asking if they were taking on school leavers and when that didn't get me anywhere, I rang the New Zealand Post Office. They said they could give me a job as a telephone exchange technician but I would have to do their courses first; after that I could do NZCE.

Five years later I was working as a [PABX](#) technician and based at Airedale Street in the city. I was working one hour overtime every day, and having to travel into and out of the city by bus. I was in my last year of NZCE and had found out that if I passed NZCE with outstanding merit, I could get into the Engineering School at Auckland University.

I realised that I was never going to get the good grades I needed because of the amount of work and travelling that I was doing, so I went to see the person who decided where the telephone technicians in Auckland were working. That person was Eddie Bowerman. I asked to be posted to a telephone exchange such as the one in Avondale and he replied that it was not possible for him to do so.

As I turned to leave with my hopes and dreams dashed, Eddie Bowerman's boss Doug Skellern walked down the corridor and put his head into Bowerman's office. He asked what I was doing there and after Eddie Bowerman explained what I had asked for, Doug Skellern said, “Well you organise it then.”

It was a miracle that Doug Skellern happened to come past at the just right time, and that something possessed him to tell Eddie Bowerman to do what I was asking him. Shortly afterwards I was transferred to the Glen Eden Telephone Exchange and ended up with lots of time, including during work hours, to study for my NZCE exams.

I then went to Engineering School and after two years of study gained a Bachelor of Engineering degree (BE). From the time I left school, to the time I finished at University had taken seven years. I wanted nothing more to do with studying for exams and to spend time outdoors. To do that I decided to buy a racehorse.

One day I received a phone call from Michael Otto who worked at Wrightson Bloodstock. He said that he had purchased a yearling filly in Australia, and brought her back to New Zealand, and now the people didn't want her. He asked if I would be interested in buying her. I sent Charlie Roberts the vet to have a look at the horse. Many years later I heard that Charlie Roberts said when he saw her, “I've looked at a lot of horses for this bloke and this is the nicest one that I've seen.” I bought the filly for \$4,500.

In the Northern Engineer's Office, where I was now working, there was a thing called glide-time. It meant I could start work as late as 9:30 in the morning. Early in the mornings I would be down at the Avondale racecourse helping Barney Meyer who was training my horse. He was a good trainer and once trained a horse for Sir William Stevenson. When he went to Australia with his best horse, I had enough knowledge to be able to train the filly myself. She did well in my care and won a trial at Avondale.

When Barney Meyer came back from Australia he did no good with my horse. She would not eat, lost weight and ran badly. I decided to train her myself.

There was a real estate agent in Avondale called Miles Cassidy. I went to see him about a property on St Georges Road. When I told him I wanted the property because I needed somewhere to keep a horse, he said, “You don’t want that place, go and have a look at 19 Riversdale Road.” It was a 1950’s weatherboard house on 4,731 m² of flat land down a right-of-way and 10 minutes walk from the racecourse. It was perfect for what I wanted and I couldn’t believe my luck. I rang Miles Cassidy and told him to offer the vendor \$45,000. Beazley Homes on 600m² sections across the back fence were selling for \$40,000 at that time. The vendor accepted my offer.

In those days Auckland City Council had town planners who worked in the Civic Administration building. I went to see them and asked about building stables in Avondale. I was told that you can’t build stables in a residential area, but because it was just for one horse, they would put it through as an accessory building to a dwelling. When I went back to the town planners I had sketch plans for three stables. I reminded them what they had said and my plans were stamped, “Town Planning Approval in Principle.”



New stables built in a residential area

I was right about making the decision to train the horse myself. She won a race at Avondale and ran fourth in a race at Ellerslie. She then suffered an injury and the vet Phil Robinson suggested breeding some nice foals from her.

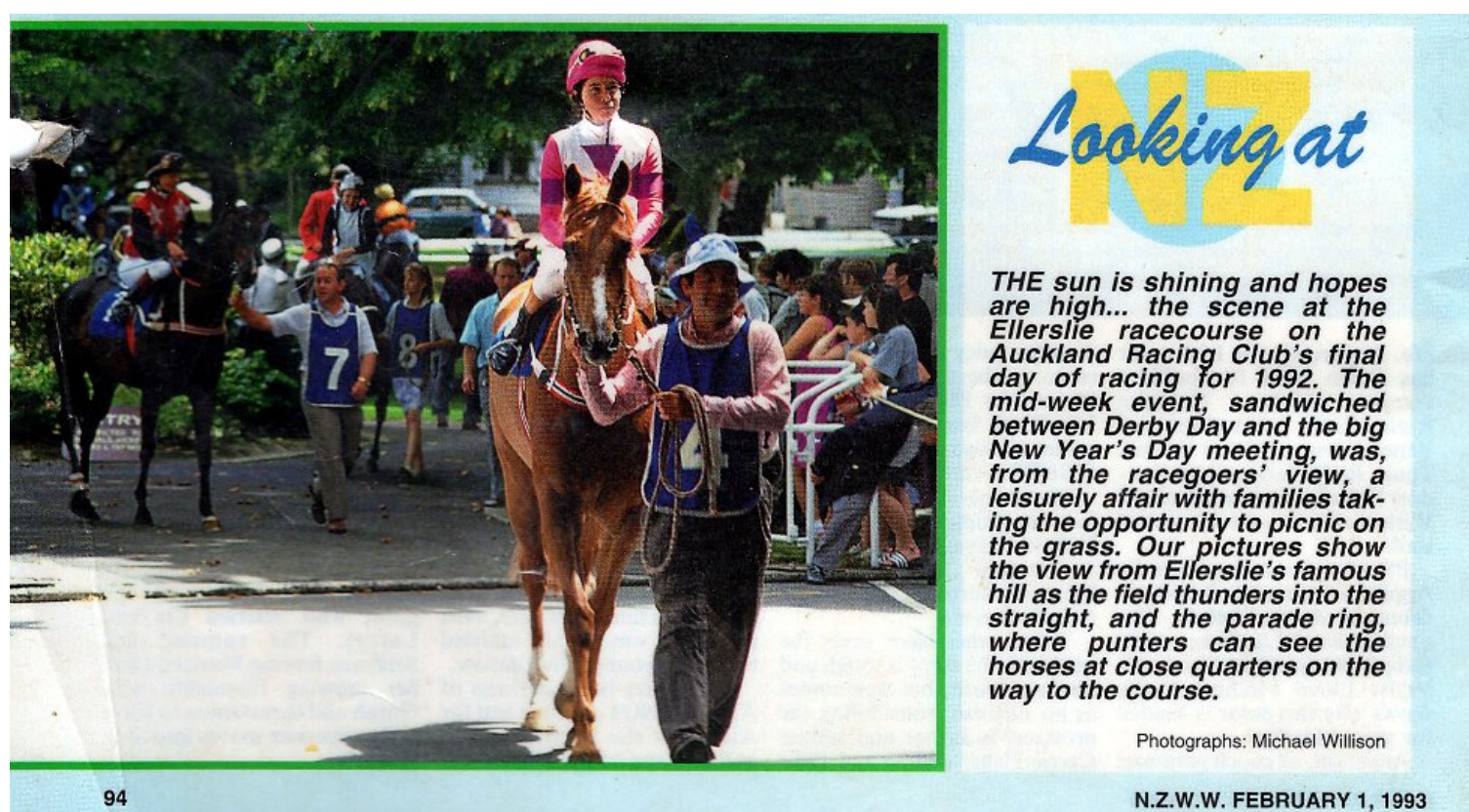
There was a stallion standing at stud called Desperate Dee and I rang the stud master to book my mare in. The stud master, an old Yorkshireman called Len Walling, told me that Desperate Dee’s book was full. He said he was sending his own mares to a new stallion called Courthouse and suggested I go and look at him.

I went with my dad down to Ohaupo to see Courthouse. The stud master said that the stud fee was \$1,500 and that shares were available at \$5,000. A share entitled you to send one mare every year to the stallion. My dad said that he liked the idea of buying a share and not needing to pay a stud fee every year.

When we got home I said to mum, “Dad wants to buy a share in a stallion.” My mum replied, “For God’s sake don’t stop him; he was born lucky.” We ended up buying a share in the stallion.

The first colt we got from the mare was foaled at Flat Bush Farm in Papatoetoe and reared on the North Shore at Albany. The man who looked after him and his mother was called Jack Sample. He suggested I call the foal Captain Court and I registered the name when he was six months old.

When Captain Court was four years old, I took him to Ellerslie to run in a race at the Christmas Carnival. A photographer from the New Zealand Woman’s Weekly was there, and a photograph of Captain Court with me leading him appeared in the Looking at New Zealand page. There would have been five hundred horses racing over the four days of the Carnival and out of all of those horses, it was my one that ended up in the Woman’s Weekly.



Picture which appeared in New Zealand Woman’s Weekly

Captain Court became a very good racehorse and won ten races including a Group 1 2000m WFA race at Ellerslie. Group races are the very top echelon of races and Group 1 are the very best races.

Back in those days, the Australian Associated Press was printing a book each year called “Class Racehorses Australia and New Zealand.” Volume 12 (1994-95) has a five page chapter on Captain Court.



Leading Captain Court in after winning a Group 1 race at Ellerslie

When I look back at things that have happened which have left me thinking, “How could I ever have been so lucky; what an absolute fluke,” the breeding, owning and training of such a good horse is one of those things.

RECENT EVENTS

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION AT RYDERS

Vince Middeldorp



JC Ryders is a boutique dining venue and private cinema for groups of 25 to 60 people

JC Ryders is a great little 60 seat movie house and dining room hidden away in the back streets of Avondale. It allows you to choose a movie and serves a roast meal cooked on a wood fired range. We went there for our Christmas function this year and have been there on previous occasions. Not only is it a unique venue with an environment that makes people really comfortable, it is a family business we feel good about supporting with our patronage.

Trevor Pollard was the instigator of us going to Ryders for our Christmas function. He got on the phone to Alison Turner from the Historic Society and told her it was time for her to organize another function at Ryders. Alison goes to great lengths to make our visits to Ryders with the Historic Society a success, making sure we are happy with the meat selection and choice of movie. This time she also baked a Christmas cake, soaked it in brandy, and made custard which Clint Ryder was happy to serve to everyone.

We ended up with 42 people at the function which is well over the 25 minimum number required to make a booking. Linda Narayan helped Alison put wristbands on those who had paid. Clint Ryder counts plates and says that plates don't lie, so it is important that we get money from everyone in the dining room.

Thankfully, no one asked for eft-pos, because neither Ryders nor our club has an eft-pos terminal.



The dining room at J C Ryders makes people comfortable chatting to one another

The movie we saw was *The Castle* which has been acclaimed as the most widely adored and quoted Australian comedy ever made. It might not be the best comedy movie ever made but it is so well known in Australia and New Zealand that everyone who lives in those two countries needs to see it at least once.

If you want to know more about Ryders, read the excellent article written in August 2020 edition of *The Beacon*, titled [The Remarkable Ryders](#). It tells the story about how the Ryder family sold their property on Rosebank Road to the government for a US Naval Mobile Hospital and how that land later became Avondale College.

At the end of the function I ended up talking with Alison Turner, Clint and Peter Ryder. When I asked Clint about his bookings he said he had two for this week and one for next week. Peter told me that his Probus Club in Pt Chevalier had closed and that he and his mate were looking at joining the Probus Club at New Lynn RSA.

The two Clubs Peter was talking about are [Friendship Clubs](#). They would have started out as Probus Clubs and have been caught up in the debacle which followed the High Court's order for clubs not affiliated to Probus South Pacific, to stop calling themselves Probus.

I invited Peter to attend one of our club meetings but didn't push the issue when he seemed disinterested.

The demise of the Pt Chevalier Friendship Club and the poor patronage that JC Ryders is experiencing shows the damage done by the Covid-19 pandemic to social clubs and businesses, is still not over.

ANTHONY DENNIS MOVING TO MELBOURNE

Vince Middeldorp



Anthony Dennis at his last meeting with West Auckland Men's Rebus Club

At the monthly meeting on 9 December 2022, Anthony Dennis asked for some time to say a few words to the members. Anthony said he joined New Lynn Men's Probus Club in 2013. He has been a member since that time because he appreciates what we are doing as a club. It hurts him to look at the figures showing how many members we have because they keep going down and down.

When Anthony joined the Club it had around 70 members. He hopes that in the years to come, more people realise how much good the club does and want to become members.

Anthony made these remarks because he is moving to Bentleigh, which is a suburb of Melbourne. He is not moving because he wants to go. He is well-settled here and has many friends at U3A, the RSA and other organizations. Anthony said no one likes isolation; people enjoy the company of others.

Anthony’s son is moving to Melbourne because it will benefit the education of his children. These are Anthony’s grandchildren, which means he has to go with them. Anthony said it was with a certain tinge of sadness that he was attending what would be his last meeting. He said it was fun being here with the Club and he wished us good luck.

DECEMBER COFFEE MORNING AT ESQUIRES

Vince Middeldorp



Eric Davidson seated at the end of the table in his wheelchair

The coffee morning was for Waitakere Combined Rebus and West Auckland Men’s Rebus. Seven of those who attended were from the Men’s group and two were from the Combined group.

Eric and Janelle Davidson were seated at my end of the table. That was bound to result in some interesting conversation.

I remember from my younger days, a service station at the top of Newton Road called Checker Motors. It was where the Coop Taxis would go to fill up with CNG and petrol. Eric told me he was the Service Manager at Checker Motors for 30 years.

Also, I remember that when I started work the retirement age was 60 years of age. Eric retired at age 60, which was not early but normal, and said he has enjoyed his retirement.

What amazed me from talking to Eric is his telling me he is now 93 years old.

Eric is still driving his car despite having lost his left leg. He can drive because the accelerator and brake pedals are operated with the right leg.

What really surprises me about Eric is how mentally good he is. Eric told me that one of his favourite pastimes was dancing and that might explain a lot.

The benefits of dancing have been the subject of considerable research. Findings show dancing improves cognitive flexibility. It declines as we age, even in high-functioning older adults.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Charles Nicholls



Treasurer Charles Nicholls speaking to members

We have had a great time in Taranaki but today is going to be wet so I settled down to doing our accounts.

I will present annual accounts up to 31 December and a brief look at our possible situation next year at the February meeting and also the accounts for January at the same time.

Our current account stands at 497.52 and the savings account 1221.07

I will today be paying my \$25 subscription fee for 2023 by internet banking. Members can pay by internet banking in either January or February or in person at the February meeting.

Account number 38 9022 0402722 00

Include name and 2023 sub in our details

SPEAKER FOR FEBRUARY

Jude Walter



The title of my talk will be "Why Brain Fitness Matters" and I plan to cover how the brain works, why your memory sometimes lets you down and provide some tips/tricks to help make a difference to the way your brain remembers.

Have a great summer and I will look forward to meeting you in Feb.

WORKING LIFE AND RETIREMENT

Paul Catmur

Burnt out at work

Towards the end of my career I found I wasn't enjoying it any more. It had become a bit of a drudge.

Instead of being an exciting roller coaster of triumphs and (more frequently) disasters, advertising had turned into a stream of tedious, unsolvable tasks that I felt like hiding under the desk to avoid. Of course, the only thing that had really changed was me.

After decades of trying (with mixed degrees of success) to turn every obstacle into an opportunity, I couldn't seem to find the energy and enthusiasm to keep doing it any more.

I believe this is what they call being "burnt out". So I stopped going to work and instead spent my days doing pretty much whatever I liked. I believe this is called being retired.

I was fortunate to be in a financial position to do this, largely because I'd been reasonably rewarded for my efforts over the years, but also helped by two important factors:

- I hadn't had any children. I had missed out on the joy of bringing new life into the world while simultaneously having large parts of my salary and time siphoned into their well being. I'm told that for most people this is a sacrifice worth making but I'll just have to take their word for it.
- Property investment. I sold my house in the UK and brought the proceeds down to New Zealand. At the time, London house prices had been shooting up, New Zealand house prices were stagnant and the pound got me around three and a half dollars. Of all the decisions I've made in my life, this was by far the most financially advantageous yet was entirely down to luck.

Take this stapler from my cold, dead hands

There are those who love work and keep going well past their sell-by-date: Rupert Murdoch, Logan Roy, and certain New Zealand politicians, for example. I'm afraid I don't understand this attitude. What's wrong with lie ins, watching obscure sports, and doing lots of whatever it is you always wanted to do but never had time.

This reticence to leave the workplace doesn't seem to be about the money, I suspect it's more the terror of the unknown that lurks beyond work. I dare say people stay in marriages for a similar reason.

Ye olde days

Half a century ago it was common for people to think about retirement before they even started work. When jobs were for life it made sense to choose one that came with a good exit plan. Yes, you might end up spending decades in total and abject misery, but if you were still alive at pension time you could afford a potato a day and maybe a small cabbage on Sundays.

Jobs for life fell out of fashion and were replaced by the random opportunity of being fired at any time of day or night, at which point choosing a job based on its pension became pointless.

Don't leave your bucket list too late.

LV, the UK pensions company, found that the average worker now has nine jobs in their lifetime, as well as one distinct career change, so don't fret too much if you think you may have landed in the wrong job. Just do something about it.

When to start thinking about retirement

Talk to an investment advisor and they'll probably recommend that you start investing for retirement (generally with them) before you leave school. I'm wisely forbidden from giving anyone financial advice, but hopefully I'm allowed to make a suggestion for investing in your life and not just your pension.

While putting money towards a house is almost always a good idea, I really don't think it's smart to squirrel all your spare cash away under the bed until you're too old to spend it. Instead, you should think about splurging on a bit of fun while you still have the energy. By fun I don't mean drinking yourself into oblivion seven nights a week rather than you partake in those slightly unnerving experiences that you'll remember forever.

Die with Zero

In my life, I have had many jobs spread across four different countries with all manner of slightly scary situations in between, generally self-inflicted. The best memories often come from the worst times, but I'm glad I got them out of the way as I'm currently at an age where jumping out of a plane, being tear-gassed in Bolivia, climbing the mast of a square rigger, or wandering innocently down the wrong street in Montevideo has lost much of its appeal.

Therefore, I would suggest extending the idea of fiscal responsibility to include spending your money on creating memories while you still have the energy to do it. Get the most out of all of your years, not just the extra ones tacked on at the end of your career. Don't leave your bucket list too late. You may find it's rusted through.

This final article was printed in the NZ Sunday Herald on April 17, 2022. The columnist who wrote it was one I always looked for when I opened the paper. It is included because I want to run the newsletter out to 12 pages.

OTHER

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Charles Nicholls is a JP, and has offered fellow members his services.

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 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.

WEST CITY MALL

Vince Middeldorp



West City Mall ground floor shops

The discount and variety stores on the ground floor of the West City Mall in Henderson are where I go to buy things cheap. If you are not familiar with these shops you need to check them out.

My favourite store is [2\\$ Things](#) where everything in the shop costs \$2. If they haven't got what I'm looking for, then I walk across to A2Z. Two doors along from 2\$ Things is the Lotsa Goodies store. Between 2\$ Things and A2Z is Japan Mart. Contrary to its name, it sells goods from China.

Here are a few examples of recent purchases I have made from these stores.

A few days ago the battery in my wrist watch needed replacing. The Warehouse sells the AG4 watch battery for \$6. I bought four AG4 batteries at A2Z for \$5. I've ended up with a new battery in my watch and three spares on the shelf for less money than buying one battery from The Warehouse.

Some time back I wanted braces to hold up my track pants which have a drawstring and no belt loops. Farmers had braces on sale at \$22.49 (normally \$29.99). I bought braces from Lotsa Goodies for \$3.

Every so often, I have been searching for my shoe horn. On one of my visits to 2\$ Things I saw three plastic shoe horns on a card (one short, one medium and one long). They were brightly coloured and made from tough flexible plastic. I bought them and can now always find a shoe horn somewhere. It was \$2 well spent.

SUPPORTERS

West Auckland Men's Rebus acknowledges the support and assistance of:



We are 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 February meeting date is Friday 10 February 2023

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, so that they can be included in the Newsletter. Remember, it is YOUR Newsletter: feel free to contribute to it as you will.