



West Auckland Men's Rebus Club

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

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2020

The next meeting will be at 10 am, Friday 13 November, 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

2020 COMMITTEE

President	Bill Mutch	celebrantwedding@gmail.com	817 4721
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	Barry O'Rourke	judderbumps@gmail.com	818 7935
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Being preoccupied with moving house, I have not been able to give as much care and attention to this Newsletter as I would normally do. I therefore apologise in advance for any any shortcomings. Please bear with me.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Come along to our meeting but masks are an added extra safe guard, and space out the chairs. We have plenty of room, remember we start at 10 am. I will open the doors about 9.30 am. Be prepared to enjoy our 2 hours together.

NEIL FRANCIS LINDSTROM

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



NEIL FRANCIS
Lindstrom

30TH MARCH 1932 - 8TH OCTOBER 2020

From the **NZ Herald**:

LINDSTROM, Neil Francis. Neil Francis Lindstrom of Auckland was welcomed into the arms of his Saviour on 8 October 2020 aged 88 years. Dearly loved husband of Jenny, much loved father of Kristen, Stephen and Margaret, Peter and Jill, and Lisa and Ian. Cherished grandfather of Anneliese, Thomas, Conrad, Sofia and Eleanor. A Service for Neil will be held at the Mountainside Lutheran Church, 1 Harris Road, Mount Wellington on Saturday 17 October at 11am, to be followed by a private cremation. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Auckland City Mission, PO Box 5352, Wellesley Street, Auckland would be appreciated. All communications to the Lindstrom Family, c/- PO Box 56013, Dominion Road, Auckland 1446.

From President Bill Much:

Neil Lindstrom passed away after a time of keeping poor health, Neil was an excellent past President, (2004). Trevor Pollard did attend the funeral service at Mt Wellington. Neil had to step down a couple of years ago because of his health. At our next meeting I will ask that we all stand for 1 minute followed by our traditional reading.

The Little White Gate.

*There's a little White Gate at the end of the lane
The end of the lane called life
A little White Gate we must all pass through*

*When we come to the end of Earth's strife/
A little White Gate at the end of the lane
Not a barrier grim and tall
Just a little White Gate opens for us then
without any trouble at all.*

*For death is the name of the little White Gate
it's not at the end of the lane
But we cast our cloak off.as we pass it by
Then life.without tears is our gain.*

From Secretary Vince Middeldorp:

Neil Lindstrom, a former member of New Lynn Men's Probus Club, passed away on 8 October 2020 aged 88 years. Neil was a proper gentleman and someone everyone looked forward to seeing at the monthly meetings. He attended Rae Hildreth's ninetieth birthday party in July 1999. Sadly, that was the last time we saw him.

Almoner Barry O'Rourke sent a condolence card to the family and received a beautiful handwritten note from his wife Jenny. In her note, she reminds us what is so good about our club.

To the members of New Lynn
Probus Club.

Thank you for your card
sent to us on Neil's passing.

He very much enjoyed his
time with Probus - the
speakers - the outings -
- the friendship

Sincerely
Jenny.



CLUB EVENTS

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chairman Bill Mutch welcomed 30 members to the meeting at 10.00 am on Friday 9 October 2020. There were three apologies: Chas Lowe, Laurie Whetton, Trayton Wickens.

The minutes of the previous meeting (10 July 2020), were provided to Bill Mutch for signing. There was one matter arising from the previous meeting. The handrail is yet to be installed. It has not been done because of other work being carried out on the hall.

An email was received from Laurie Vincent requesting club speakers instead of guest speakers. Emails were received from Ian Smith and John Mihaljevic asking for Trayton Wickens to tell a joke at the meetings.

Treasurer Justin Griffith said we had received a \$1,000 grant which had been spent and there was more than \$1,600 in the club's bank account.

Bill Fairs said he would take orders for the Rebus Calendar.

John Mihaljevic reminded members that the date for the Chelsea trip is 10 November and that the next coffee morning is Friday 23 October at Huckleberry Café.

Laurie Vincent reported that the Christmas Lunch would be at the Friendship Hall on Friday 11 December 2020. Cost of the lunch is \$15. Money should be given to Justin at the next meeting.

Almoner Barry O'Rourke informed members that Laurie Whetton is now living at Peacehaven Rest Home in Kinross Street, Trayton Wickens is hoping to get back as soon as he can and Ian Wheeler has moved to Wellington.

Trevor Pollard invited members to the Avondale Waterview movie/lunch at Ryders on Tuesday 10 November (unfortunately the same day as the Chelsea trip). Cost for Ryders is \$25.

Tom Miller conducted a quiz that proved to be great fun.

The guest speaker was Grant Stevens, who reflected on his own life and talked about Winston Churchill.

Bill Mutch closed the meeting at 11.45 am.

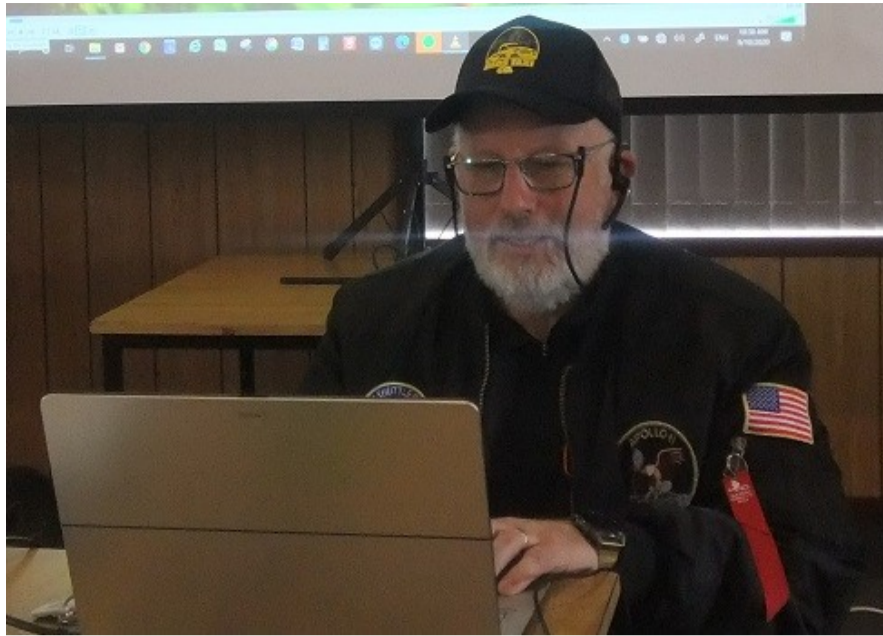
TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer **Justin Griffith** sends a reminder that financial information (more or less up-to-date) is to be found at <http://rebus.mm.st>, using the password "wheel-hall-cable" (ignore the user name box).

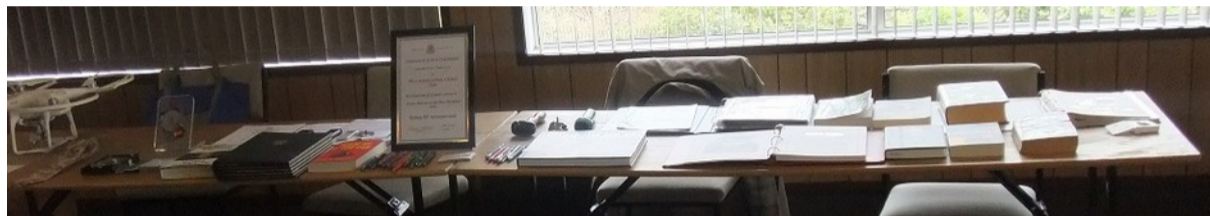
GUEST SPEAKER

October's Guest Speaker was **Grant Stevens** on *Winston Churchill: Why He Matters to Us*.

Over the years, I have heard Grant speak, to SeniorNet, many times; always on computers So I was surprised when Noel said that he would be speaking on Winston Churchill. I had forgotten that in one of his talks to SeniorNet he had also spoken about Churchill, and had even brought some of his collection of Churchilliana.



Grant ▲ and some of his collection of Churchilliana ▼



Grant began with a joke. An American lady was doing 70 in a 50 mph zone. Cop pulls her up and points out her transgression. Asks to see her driver's license. She doesn't have one. Asks for the car registration and papers. She doesn't have them. In fact, she admits that she had stolen the car, having killed the owner and stashed his body in the boot. Cop backs off and calls for back-up. Boss comes, gets her to open the boot. All is as it should be, no body. He asks her if it is her car. Yes. He asks for her license. She produces it. *Strange*, he says, *the officer said you don't have a license, that you stole the car, killed the owner and put his body in the boot.* She replies: *Bet he also told you I was doing 70!*

Grant said that Churchill's relevance today would become apparent by the end of his talk. On the way there, he would tend to meander, so to keep track he would a piece of old analogue technology – an hourglass (on the right, below):

It must be effective; he finished right on time! Note also the two types of computer storage (SSD and HDD), between the hour-glass and the drone. More on that below.

He gave us the 'Reader's Digest Version of his Life'. For the past 12 years he has been making monthly visits to the Edmund Hillary Retirement Village, Remuera (see



<https://www.rymanhealthcare.co.nz/villages/auckland/edmund-hillary> and <https://www.villageguide.co.nz/village/edmund-hillary-retirement-village>). Where he runs a Computer Club. He was inspired to do this by his father's experience. When his father's van became unusable and he was confined to home, he began to show his age. So Grant's younger brother bought their father a car. Mobile again, he became 'younger'. He then had to go into a rest home, where he deteriorated and died.

This brought home to Grant the need to keep active, in order to survive, let alone thrive. Use it or lose it. Grant referred to research that showed that lifespan is based on sociability. He encourages people like us to remain active, and pointed out how that had worked for Churchill.

He then raised the topic of Paisley ties:



He used them as an example of the popular Paisley Design or Pattern (see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paisley_\(design\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paisley_(design))), which were mass produced, from the late nineteenth century, in the eponymous Scottish town, using automatic looms controlled by punched cards. This technology was actually invented at the beginning of the nineteenth century by Joseph Jacquard (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacquard_machine). Punched cards were then used by Herman Hollerith to process data, being the basis of IBM (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacquard_machine), and so of the modern computer.

Grant is keen to change any computer's data storage from mechanical Hard Disk Drives (HDD, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hard_disk_drive) to much faster Solid State Drives (SSD, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solid-state_drive). These are referred to and depicted above.

Grant grew up in Tokoroa. He got School Certificate easily, but UE was more challenging. He left school half way through the sixth form, and became an apprentice motorbike mechanic in Wellington. There, he lived in Cuba Street, then known as 'Muggers Mile'. It was so dangerous that he had to leave. Returning to Tokoroa, his father got him a job in the paper mill. He featured in NZ Forest Products 25th Anniversary Calendar; and also in *A Hundred Million Trees: the story of NZ Forest Products Ltd* (see <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/A-hundred-million-trees-%3A-the-story-of-N.Z.-Forest-Healy/b177470f73ce21651b252fcab74800c3d4ae7b43?p2df>).

Despite being into sex, drugs and rock-and-roll, he became a Christian, and went to Bible College. He left Bible College with a wife (now a doctor in the Massey Medical Centre).

What to do now? He took his cue from the Bible's injunction to *Take care of orphans and widows* (James 1:27). So he decided to help the elderly with their homes. He spent 15 years in house maintenance, becoming a jack-of-all-trades. Then, in 1988, he was told by his brothers that he was the brightest of them all; something he had not realised before. Within four months he had become a computer repairman. As such, he learns most of what he needs to know very recently, within the last 6 months, or even few weeks. He stresses that it is never too late to learn, and that we need to keep learning.

Not that Grant is wedded to modern technology – he recognises the continued value and usefulness of the old. His use of an antique hour glass to time his talk, rather than some digital gadget, is proof of this. He cites an example of this from the early days of the Space Race. Both sides needed something that could write in free fall. The Americans spend millions developing a suitable pen. The Russians used pencils.

About 2000, Grant read an article on Winston Churchill, which roused his interest in the man. He began to research Churchill. He was home alone for two weeks while his wife was in Australia. He spent much of that time on the Internet, spending \$2000 on Churchill memorabilia. This included \$800 on a collection of medallions illustrating various aspects of Churchill's life. He didn't say what his wife thought of this spending.

Churchill was initially a soldier. To pass the time while stationed in India, he asked his mother to send him suitable reading material. This included Macaulay's *History of England* (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Babington_Macaulay), an area in which he was to achieve no little success himself. He decided to supplement his meagre soldier's pay with journalism, travelling widely (Cuba, South Africa) to report on wars. While visiting New York, he was invited to diner. His taxi got lost, so he got out to find his way on foot. Crossing the road, he looked the wrong way and was hit by a car, ending up in hospital. His articles on his experience helped pay his medical bills.

Returning to England, he went into politics. As President of the Board of Trade, he was instrumental in reforms such as limiting the hours that miners could work (the forerunner of the 8-hour day), Labour Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance.

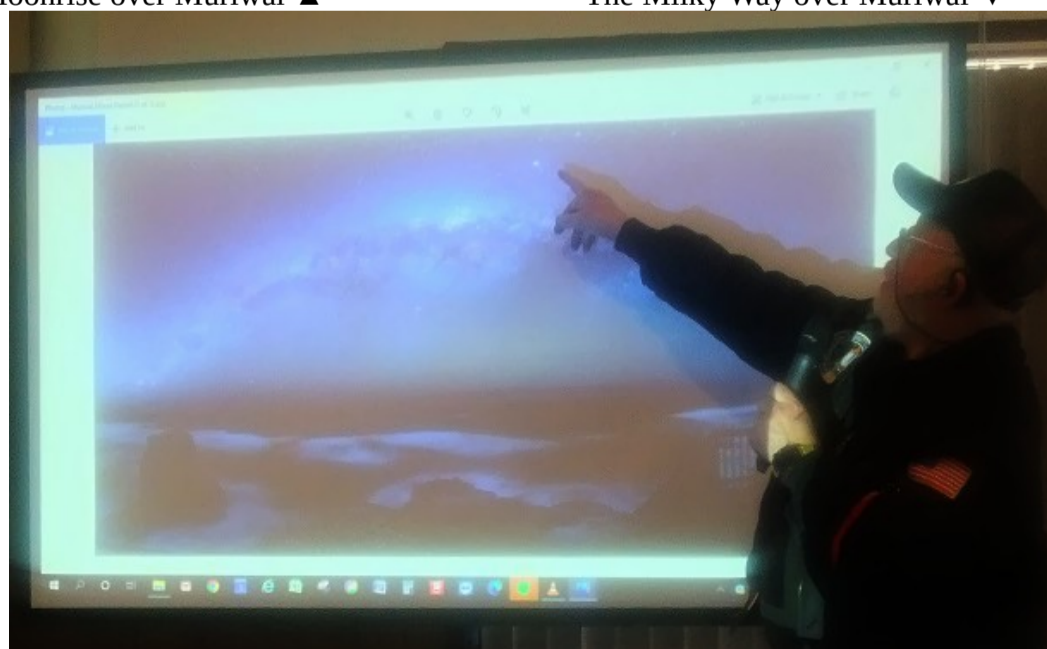
For more on Churchill, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winston_Churchill.

Grant then introduced us to another of his interests, astrophotography:



Moonrise over Muriwai ▲

The Milky Way over Muriwai ▼



Grant emphasised that we should not lose our excitement about doing things. Again, Churchill was his role model. He developed an interest in aircraft; even flying in them – and crashing. As First Lord of the Admiralty he converted the Royal Navy from coal to oil. Even if it did embroil Britain in the Middle East (even more than it already was, as the Gateway to India): something it has not yet managed to extricate itself from, more than a century later. He was also instrumental in the development of the tank (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secret_Intelligence_Service); and of MI6, Britain's foreign intelligence service (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secret_Intelligence_Service).

The ill-fated Gallipoli campaign (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secret_Intelligence_Service) was also Churchill's brainchild. When that failed, he resigned and went to France as a common soldier. At least it taught him that even the most brilliant idea must be properly planned and executed if it is to succeed. He was to take that lesson to heart as leader in another war.

Churchill spent much of the time between the two world wars in the political shadows. An habitual party-hopper, he had managed to alienate just about everyone.

To pass the time during these 'Shadow Years' Churchill did a lot of maintenance and additions to his country estate, Chartwell (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chartwell>). He did a lot of bricklaying, which roused the ire of the professionals. This was resolved by Churchill joining the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers and becoming a certified bricklayer. The Tory Trade Unionist!

Grant drew parallels with his own life.

During the Lockdown Grant realised that he was an essential service, maintaining people's telecommunications. The relevant authorities agreed with him. He modified a UV water sanitizer to sanitize computers. The only bugs they would have would be digital, which Grant could fix.

In doing this, Grant agreed with Churchill: *Never waste a good crisis* (see <https://www.quora.com/When-where-and-why-did-Winston-Churchill-say-“Never-let-a-good-crisis-go-to-waste-”?share=1>).

Churchill was one of the first to recognise the threat presented by Hitler, although his warnings were long ignored. Eventually, his perspicacity was recognised and, at the outbreak of the Second World War, he became First Lord of the Admiralty again: *He's Back!* When Chamberlain resigned, in May 1940, Churchill became Prime Minister, as leader of a National Coalition.

Churchill's familiarity with armaments helped. He was a 'hands-on' sort of person. His rhetorical skills were particularly effective: he took the English language to war (as observed in a scene in *Darkest Hour*, when Churchill was addressing Parliament during Dunkirk (see https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4555426/?ref=fn_al_tt_1)).

Grant noted that Churchill and Hitler were actually similar mentally, except that Churchill cared. He mentioned the time when Churchill was seen to cry at the sight of war damage. This reminded me of a wartime incident involving Hitler that I had read about somewhere. Hitler's train was stopped at a siding while he and his staff dined. A train carrying German wounded happened to stop alongside Hitler's. The occupants of the two trains looked at each other. Hitler's only response was to order the curtains on his carriage windows to be closed.

Grant noted that we all have our 'Winston Moments', when we provide stability to those around us. He recommends Boris Johnson's book *The Churchill Factor* (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Churchill_Factor):



Grant noted that the relationship between him and his father had not always been the best: that they had not told each other that they loved him, even though they did. They were, however, able to resolve this before his father died.

Grant gave us two inspirational quotes:

Sit down with yourself and look at things you've been through, the wisdom you've got, and if you have a young person that needs a little talking to, can I encourage you to do it this way. Instead of going, You should do this, learn to ask them a question and leave that little stone doing its work.

When your moment comes, you will know and you will need to take that opportunity, because you still have quite a few years ahead of you.

According to Grant, wars don't start when we think they do. World War II started when World War I ended. The Treaty of Versailles has been described as a '20-year truce' (see [https://www.answers.com/Q/Why do historians call between 1919 and 1939 the 20 year truce](https://www.answers.com/Q/Why_do_historians_call_between_1919_and_1939_the_20_year_truce)). We are in a war now, one which started when Churchill referred to an 'Iron Curtain' dividing Europe (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Curtain). We are in Data Wars, where propaganda makes us believe whatever the propagandist wants us to believe. Grant referred to the scene in Orwell's *1984* where a character must **believe** that $2 + 2 = 5$, not just say it.

Grant divides computer users into 2 groups: those who say *I can't use them, I'm useless*; and those who say *give me a go*. He mentioned the 80-year-old lady with her first computer. He thought she would need a lot of help. Far from it, she took to it 'like a duck to water'.

He overheard another woman talking to his technician in his shop. She was very stressed by her computer. Grant prayed to God for help. God told him that she grew orchids. Grant told her that because she loved orchids, she kept learning about them, and that she should do the same with computers.

Do something five times. Don't say you can't do it. Be positive and love it.

Grant loves inspiring people. I think he did that with us. He is 'just into living'. This is his response when his wife says he's into too many things.

Grant referred to a study that showed that if people were placed in an environment similar to the one where they were most successful, their health would improve. We should start doing this before we retire, doing the things that we will do in retirement.

Churchill lost the 1945 general election – 'Dropping the Pilot' as Bill Fairs noted:



As https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dropping_the_Pilot shows, this phrase was not unique to Churchill (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dropping_the_Pilot), but no less apposite.

In his summing up of Churchill, Grant noted that when he died, in 1965, many countries issued commemorative stamps featuring him. He noted Churchill's 1953 Nobel Prize for Literature (see <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1953/churchill/biographical/>). As Churchill said *History will be kind to me for I intend to write it* (see <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/4611-history-will-be-kind-to-me-for-i-intend-to>). He did and it is.

As already noted, Churchill was a great orator, taking the English language to war. He also had a sharp wit, as at least 2 women who disapproved of him found to their cost:

At a party, a tipsy Churchill told a woman she was ugly. She retorted that he was drunk. He responded by pointing out that, in the morning, he would be sober.

On another occasion, a woman said that if she were his wife, she would poison his coffee. He replied that if she were his wife, he would drink it.

Grant offers the young some precepts to live by:

- Prepare to change your career several times in your life
- What you put in at the start will determine the course of your life – good or bad
- Honour those who know more and have more experience than you
- Don't lie
- Love what you do

Grant finished by saying that it had been a privilege to speak to us. I think we can all agree that it was equally a privilege for us to hear him.

CLUB BUSINESS

SPEAKERS

There is no Guest Speaker this month, but there will be several Club Speakers – volunteers only, of course, but please don't wait to be asked. When I told Noel how Mt Albert Ladies Rebus, when their Guest Speaker didn't make it to a recent meeting, extemporised by having various members give short talks on *My First Job*, he thought it was a great idea, so brush up your CVs. Just in case.

Actually, four Club Speakers have already volunteered:

Neil Castle. His topic is not currently known, but he has previously spoken about gold prospecting, the flag referendum, English narrow boats, and his misspent youth in Westmere and on Meola Reef, but it seems that his viceregal ride in Sydney may no longer be on the programme. However, we can be sure that, whatever it is, it will be interesting.



Bill Fairs will tell the story of Auschwitz survivor Willie Schneider, who later became known as Benjamin Steiner. Bill will explain why Willie changed his name.



Charles Nicolls JP will talk about his volunteer work with two NGOs in Singapore.



Justin Griffith will talk about his being sent to the War in Iraq while serving in the British Army.



A wide range of interesting topics. Not to be missed. We still need more for future meetings, so don't be shy.

QUIZ

Tom Miller informed and amused us with another of his World-Famous-In-West-Auckland quizzes (answers below):

- 1 Who invented the electric light bulb?
- 2 What planet is nearest the Sun?
- 3 Who wanted the head of John the Baptist?
- 4 What organ is commonly known as the voice box?
- 5 What does a cartographer do?
- 6 The Korean War happened in what decade?
- 7 Which is the most versatile piece on the chess board?
- 8 What war featured the Charge of the Light Brigade?
- 9 What is the home of the legendary Blue Mosque?
- 10 Who was the legendary jazz trumpeter known as Satchmo?
- 11 What body part did Adam not have that all other men have?

1 Thomas Alva Edison 2 Mercury 3 Salome 4 The Larynx 5 Make maps 6 1950s 7 The Queen
8 The Crimean War 9 Istanbul 10 Louis Armstrong 11 A Navel

Members certainly enjoyed the quiz:



Photo courtesy of Vince

OUTINGS

COFFEE MORNING

Friday 23 October saw a return visit to Huckleberry Farm, New Lynn. About 16 people attended, spread over 2 tables, although some familiar faces remained conspicuous by their absence. Hopefully, warmer weather will see them return.

Noel and Trevor putting the world to rights at one end of one table; Roger circulating at the other end:



The long view of both tables:



Photo courtesy of Vince

The long view from the other end:



The sign on the wall does not apply to us (I think).

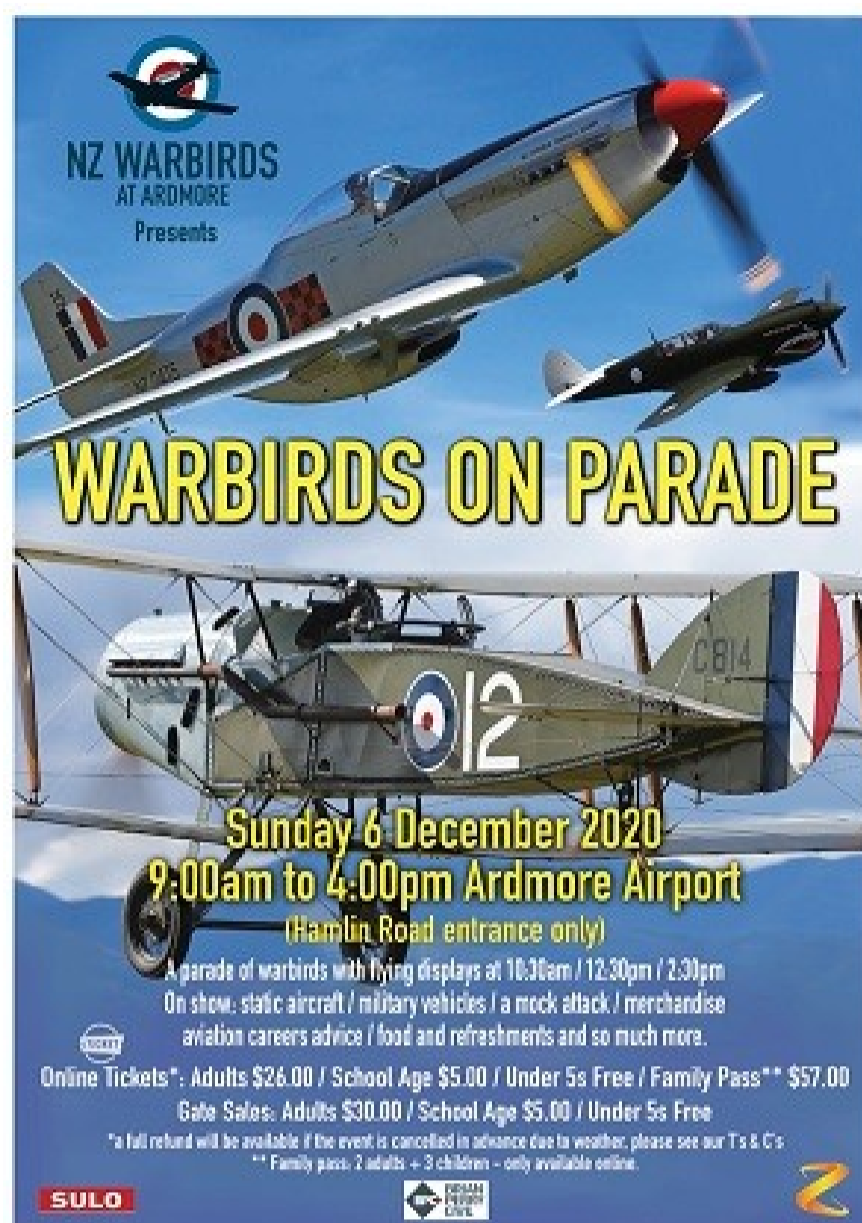
A good time was had by all. A sign of the return to normality. Long may it last.

CHELSEA TRIP

By the time you read this, the Chelsea Trip (Tuesday 8 Nov) may have happened. If you relied on this Newsletter to remind you of it – tough.



ARDMORE TRIP



The Ardmore Airfield Airshow on Sunday 6 December is run by Warbirds NZ (see <https://nzwarbirds.org.nz/>). The bus will leave the St Johns Hall by Countdown Te Atatu South at 9.30 am and return about 3 pm. Please be weather conscious. Hats should be worn as it will be summer (possibly, who knows?). Cost \$30 for Bus fare only.

We can watch the air show from the Cafe area and inside the Cafe without further charge but you have the choice of walking about 200m to the static display area and hangar. The cost of going in there is an additional \$30. Paid separately at the gate to that area.

Money for the bus and name should be paid to The Rebus Combined Bank account 12 3232 0318628 00 prior to the 25 November.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This year's Christmas Lunch will be at the usual December time and place (Friday 11 and Friendship Hall). Richard the Caterer will cater the event. Family and friends are invited. Please let us know, at the November meeting, if you and yours will be attending.

There is a \$15 per person cost, which can be paid at either the November or December meetings. Please have the correct amount, to make things as easy as possible for Justin.

NEXT COFFEE MORNING

The next Coffee Morning will be at Esquires, The Boundary, Henderson (along from KMart), at 10 am Thursday 26 November. This will be our third time there.

PROGRESS REPORT FROM VINCE ON PROJECTOR & SCREEN DATED 1 OCTOBER 2020

As reported in last month's Newsletter, we now have the new projector and screen. They both performed as required at the October meeting.

MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS

Something from Herb Simmons:

An Englishman and an American are standing on the lawn in front of an imposing building.
Englishman: *That's a beautiful building. A very beautiful building.*
American: *We have buildings three hundred times the size of that.*
Englishman: *I'm not surprised to hear you say that. It's a lunatic asylum.*

Appropriate for the times. I wonder which lunatic will get to run the American Asylum this time.

I have recently discovered that my connection with Herb goes back a lot further than I had realised, long before Probus/Rebus. I recently came across an email for a *Basics for Windows XP* (remember that?) class that I tutored for SeniorNet in July 2010. Two of my students were **Rev. Herb Simmonds** and **Margaret Simmonds**. There is an annotation, obviously added by someone not familiar with Herb's stories, by Herb's name: *better watch your p's & q's here*.

Herb is not the only one of our members who has also been in SeniorNet. Bill Fairs was once even my student: I introduced him to the wonders of Windows 10, but he still speaks to me. The late Graeme Tremaine was a member. He was never my student, but we were once both students together in a class. Andrew and Janet Geddes were members. Andrew has since dropped out, but I think Janet still belongs. Former member (and President) Bob McKinstry was not only a member of SeniorNet, but also a tutor. There may well be others who I am not aware of. Please let me know if you are, or ever been, a member of SeniorNet.

Herb has had a more recent connection with SeniorNet. A year or two ago he came to one of SeniorNet's Help Sessions. I was not able to help him (his problem was outside my area of expertise), but he did spend quite some time with one of the other tutors; usefully, I trust.

Now two separate contributions, from Roger Laloli and Laurie Vincent, both entitled:

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

From **Roger**:

What do you like best about me

I asked my wife the other day what she liked best about me: "Is it my firm, trim, athletic, body? Or, rather, is it my astonishing intellect?" She replied: "Your sense of humour, dear."

A note from Mom

John, a well-to-do bachelor, invited his mother over for dinner one night. During the meal, Mom couldn't help notice how attractive and shapely the housekeeper was, and wondered if there was more going on than meets the eye. John sensing what his mother was thinking said to her "I know what you're thinking, Mom, but I assure you my relationship with the housekeeper is purely professional."

A week later, the housekeeper told John that ever since his mother's visit a silver gravy ladle has been missing. John sent his mother a note which said, "Mom, I'm not saying that you did take the gravy ladle, and I'm not saying you didn't, but the fact remains one has been missing since you were here."

A few days later he receives a note from his mother. "John: I'm not saying you sleep with your housekeeper, nor am I saying you're not. But the fact remains that if she were sleeping in her own bed she would have found the gravy ladle by now. Love, Mom."

Getting fit

When I moved out to a new job in Auckland they told me I had to work out.

I was like, I don't wanna do that. But they gave me this trainer, and the dude was like... the most important thing is, you can't eat late at night or you'll get fat, and I'm like, forget that, you supposed to eat late at night. He was like, no you not. I'm like, well, why they put a light in the refrigerator?

Hit a rabbit

A man was driving along the highway, and saw a rabbit hopping across the middle of the road. He swerved to avoid hitting the rabbit, but unfortunately the rabbit jumped in front of the car and was hit. The driver, being a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, pulled over to the side of the road and got out to see what had become of the rabbit. Much to his dismay, the rabbit was dead. The driver felt so awful he began to cry.

A woman driving down the highway saw the man crying on the side of the road and pulled over. She stepped out of her car and asked the man what was wrong.

"I feel terrible," he explained. "I accidentally hit this rabbit and killed it."

The woman told the man not to worry. She knew what to do. She went to the car trunk and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the limp, dead rabbit, and sprayed the contents of the can onto the rabbit. Miraculously, the rabbit came to life, jumped up, waved its paw at the two humans and hopped down the road. 50 feet away the rabbit stopped, turned around, waved at the two again, hopped down the road another 50 feet, turned, waved, and hopped another 50 feet. The man was astonished. He couldn't figure out what substance could be in the woman's spray can! He ran over to the woman and demanded, "What was in your spray can? What did you spray onto that rabbit?" The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label. It said:

"'Hare spray' restores life to dead hare. Adds permanent wave."

Expert advice

A doctor and a lawyer were talking at a party, their conversation was constantly interrupted by people describing their ailments and asking the doctor for free medical advice. After an hour of this, the exasperated doctor asked the lawyer, "What do you do to stop people from asking you for legal advice when you're out of the office?"

"I give it to them," replied the lawyer, "And then I send them a bill."

The doctor was shocked, but agreed to give it a try. The next day, still feeling slightly guilty, the doctor prepared the bills. When he went to place them in his mailbox, he found a bill from the lawyer.

From **Laurie**:

An Australian tour guide was showing a group of American tourists the top end of Aussie.

On their way to Kakadu he was describing the amazing capabilities of the Australian Aborigines to track man or beast over land, through the air and under the sea. The Americans were incredulous. Later in the day, as the group rounded a bend on the highway they discovered, lying in the middle of the road, an Aborigine. He had one ear pressed to the white line, whilst his left leg was held high in the air! The bus stopped and the guide and the tourists gathered around the prostrate Aborigine...*Hey Jacky* said the tour guide. *What are you tracking and what are you listening for?* The Aborigine replied: *Down the road about 25 miles is a Valiant Ute...it's a red one...the left front tyre is bald...the front end is out of whack, and him got bloody dents in every panel...there are nine fellas in the back, all drinking warm sherry. There are three kangaroos on the roof rack and four dogs on the front seat.*

The American tourists moved forward, astounded by this precise and detailed knowledge.

Good Lord man, how do you know all that? asked one.

The aborigine replied: *I fell out of the ***** thing about half an hour ago!*

A Loving Husband

Thinking back a few years, living in Florida, I remember Hurricane Matthew. I was ready for it but my wife was not. When the wind reached a screaming pitch the trees snapping and threshing, the horizontal streaming rain, flying roofing iron and destroyed fences as well as the unnerving sound-levels, my wife was rooted to the spot. She stared and stared through the glass of the window. Immovable, with her nose pressed to the window pane, the stark fear in her eyes will stay with me forever. Fortunately, as the eye of the storm arrived and the winds temporarily lessened, I was able to open the door and let her in.

Scottish Wedding

At the Scottish wedding reception the D.J. yelled: *Would all married men please stand next to the one person who has made your life worth living.* The bartender was almost crushed to death.

Poor Lance Armstrong

I think it is just terrible and disgusting how everyone has treated Lance Armstrong, especially after what he achieved, winning 7 Tour de France races while on drugs. Now, when I was on drugs I COULDN'T EVEN FIND MY DAMN BIKE!

Doctor asks a pregnant prostitute: *Do you know who the father is? For goodness sakes, if you ate a tin of baked beans would you now which one made you fart?*

I was walking home last night and decided to take a short-cut through the cemetery. 3 girls walked up to me and explained that they were scared to walk past the cemetery at night, so I agreed to let them walk along with me. I told them: *I understand. I used to get freaked out too when I was alive.*
Never seen anyone run so fast!

Thanks, guys. Where do you find them? Never mind, just keep them coming.

Something from the *NZ Herald* of 22 May 2020, entitled *Barbie off the menu*, provided by **Neil Castle**:

The campaign doesn't mention Australians are mushy about royalty, as illustrated last weekend when Tasmanian Mary Donaldson married Crown prince Frederik of Denmark. But later in the week, the *Daily Telegraph* showed larrikinism was alive with a photo of the new Crown princess' father, Scotsman John Donaldson, seated in his kilt at the wedding, legs astride.

There was plenty of crown jewels on display when Mary married Freddy in Copenhagen, said the paper, speculating that the groom's mother, Queen Margrethe, may have spotted an extra set while sitting opposite Mr Donaldson.

Not doubt, if Mr Donaldson had been asked *What's worn under the kilt?* he would have replied: *Nothing is worn under the kilt; it's all in perfect working condition.*

Neil also provided this cutting, from **Week End Magazine**, October 2005, captioned *STRETCHING IT: Rayna Wolfromm and Kay Martin show unexpected talent*:



Fifteen years on, one wonders where they are now.

Last, but not least, Quizmaster **Tom Miller** provided:

An old boy went to his GP. Later, the GP called the man's wife and said: *Fred's not in bad shape body-wise, but I'm worried that he seems to have a God Complex. God tells him when to get up in the morning. God tells him what to have for breakfast. God tells him when to cross the street. He doesn't do anything without consulting with God. He tells me that when he gets up in the night to relieve himself, he opens the toilet door and God turns on the light. When he's finished and shuts the toilet door, God turns off the light.* The wife says she can explain the toilet light being turned on and off: *He's been urinating into the refrigerator.*

Alas, Senior Moments can afflict the best of us.

FEDERATION

2021 CALENDAR

Rebus Federation Representative Bill Fairs had hoped that the 2021 Rebus Calendars that members ordered at the last meeting would be available for collection at this meeting, but it looks like we will have to wait until the December meeting.

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 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 2nd and 4th 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 3rd 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 10th and 24th. The final Help Session of 2020 will be on 8 December. The first of 2021 will be on 26 January.

COMPUTER SERVICING

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

OTHER MATTERS

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

SUPERSENIORS

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

EDITORIAL

A timely thought from Mark Twain to finish with:

It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare.

SUPPORTERS

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



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



We are all grateful for their support.

The next meeting will be on Friday 11 December

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 or 828 5250). Vince is responsible for distribution, I for content. Any contributions are most welcome (JohnMihaljevicNZ@gmail.com).

John Mihaljevic (Newsletter Editor)