



West Auckland Men's Rebus Club

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

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2020

The next meeting will be at 10 am, Friday 9 October, 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

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I write this on the day I received my first *Listener* since Before You-Know-What. How better to mark this return to normality than by quoting President Theodore Roosevelt (**Quips&Quotes** 3 October):

Old age is like everything else. To make a success of it, you've got to start young.

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 10am. I will open the doors about 9.30am be prepared to enjoy our 2 hours together.

CLUB EVENTS

GUEST SPEAKER

This month's Guest Speaker is **Grant Stevens**, on Winston Churchill. I have heard Grant speak several times at SeniorNet on computing and computers (that's his line of business) and was expecting more the same when I suggested him to Noel. I had not known that he is a great fan of Winston Churchill's and has read everything that Churchill has written. Churchill is something of a controversial figure now, so it will be interesting to hear Grant's take on him. From past experience, he will be both entertaining and informative.

Please be aware that time will be of the essence at this meeting. Grant will come at 10:30 to set up and then speak from 10:45 for at least an hour. Because another group has the hall from 12 noon, we need to vacate by then. This means a prompt 10 am start to a quick Club Business session and morning tea, so no mucking around, please, gentlemen.

NOSTALGIA

There not having been a meeting in September, and therefore no Guest Speaker to report, I must therefore once again recycle an earlier speaker. At least half of you will not have heard or read this before, and the rest my need reminding. The talk is from the October 2017 meeting; reported in the November

2017 issue of the Newsletter, when we were still Fellowship, between Probus and Rebus. That was my second issue of the Newsletter. I have now been editor for 3 years (since October 2017). I like to think that I still have the job because I do it so well, but perhaps it's just that no one else wants it!

At the last moment Jack Morley (who was then Secretary and my immediate predecessor as Editor) discovered that he could not attend the October meeting. More to the point, neither could his recorder and camera. At that time I had not yet acquired a recorder or got into the habit of bringing my own camera, so was dependant of Jack for both. Therefore, the following account of the guest speaker is based solely on the hand-written notes I could take at the time, and lacks photos. It took me back to my student days.

The Guest Speaker then was **Jim Morrow** (hosted by Ken Webster), speaking on his experiences climbing in the Himalayas, in particular climbing Cho Oyu, The Turquoise Goddess, at 8200 metres the sixth highest mountain.

Jim has climbed in the Himalayas seven times so far, every second year since 2005. He began in the Tramping Club at Mt Roskill High. This included climbing, not just tramping.

His first attempt to climb in the Himalayas was in 2007 (2005 was a reconnaissance). It was unsuccessful, because of bad weather (a storm). His first successful ascent was of Mt Himlong, in 2009. He climbed this Nepalese mountain from the north side.

2011 saw him attempt Everest, again from the north side. He got to within 200 metres of the summit, before being forced to abort by bad weather. Disappointing, but at least he survived to try again.

In 2014 he climbed Cho Oyu. At this point in his talk he described and explained the various items in a display of mountaineering equipment: gloves, mittens, socks, balaclava, pants, jackets, ice axe, figure-8/descender, juma/ascender, boots (inner felt, outer plastic), crampons and, last but not least, overalls stuffed with goose down. The last worn when above 7000 metres.

Someone just had to ask how he went to the toilet in all this gear. The pants have a back flap for this purpose. Any such deposits have to be taken off the mountain, along with any other waste. You really do have to be keen to climb in the Himalayas!

Jim's successful 2014 ascent of Cho Oyu was as part of an American expedition. The mountain is on the Tibet-Nepal border, and was climbed from the northern, Chinese side, which is easier than the southern route. However, the expedition began in Kathmandu, Nepal, before crossing into China.

Before describing the trip to, and ascent of, Cho Oyu, Jim gave a brief photo tour of Kathmandu. Monkeys featured prominently. As did the municipal electrical system. And we think we have infrastructure problems in Auckland!

They travelled by bus, at one stage having to change buses because the road was blocked by a landslide. At the border, the Nepalese customs were easy-going. The Chinese were stricter. Care had to be taken not to mention the Dalai Lama, about whom the Chinese are particularly sensitive. Crossing the Tibetan plateau – at 4000 metres – they had to stop for a while to acclimatize.

The end of the bus ride was at "base camp" - at 5300 metres. They walked the rest of the way. They were well supported by Sherpa guides, who had plenty of yaks to do the heavy lifting. Each yak could carry 80-90 kilograms. This was fortunate, since their load included a gas stove, so that the Americans could have pizza. Reminds me of an occasion many years ago when a visiting American warship could not leave Wellington until one of its three ice cream machines was repaired.

They were there in September, the local autumn, when the days were warm (30°C), but the nights cold (-40°C). It was easy to tell who was the Kiwi amongst all the Yanks – he was the one in shorts.

The Sherpas performed a ceremony to ask the goddess of the mountain for her permission and to bless the climb.

There were several other groups attempting the climb at the same time. There were about 100 climbers in all. About half of them reached the summit. The route up to the summit was quite congested. At one point, a Sherpa had to take Jim off the established track to get around a traffic jam.

They had to use oxygen from 7600 metres. They reached the summit in time to watch sunrise over Everest, about 20 kilometres away. It took them 5 hours to climb from Camp 3 to the summit, and 2 to get back down. They needed to get back down from the summit as much as possible - to Camp 1 – on the same day. This included abseiling.

Everything that went up had to be brought back down, as part of each climber's individual load. The ascent was very much DIY – the camp staff did not go above base camp.

Back in Kathmandu, they stopped at the Rum Doodle Restaurant – the traditional place to celebrate, ever since Edmund Hillary started the tradition in 1953. Its toilet was mentioned.

The expedition cost Jim \$25000. The attempt on Everest in 2011 cost \$50000. Jim pays for it all out of his own pocket.

Reading the November 2017 Newsletter, I realised that it had more worth repeating. Back in 2017, we were still able to go on trips (remember them?)

MOTAT TRIP

Thursday 26 October [2017] saw several members of the Club, some with their wives, visit MOTAT. Jewel Laloli was kind enough to provide some photos:

A general view of MOTAT suggestive of what it has to offer.



MOTAT is large and widespread – very large and widespread – so a lot of walking was involved. This required rest and refuelling:



Somebody's number was up!

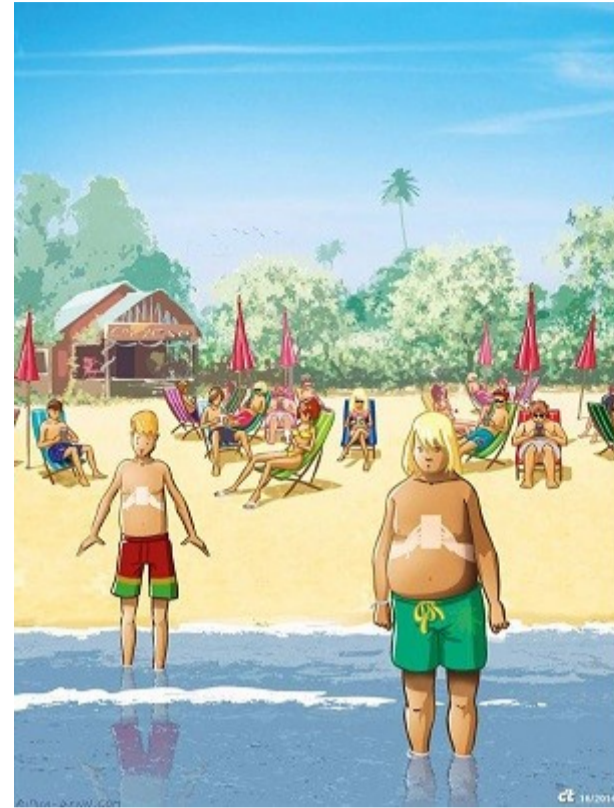
We all had a good time. MOTAT is well worth a visit, if you have not already done so. Entry (including the tram) is free for Superannuants, though a donation is appreciated. A variety of souvenirs is on sale, for children of all ages. If all else fails, you can enjoy a wide variety of well-presented and informative displays, in both the aircraft section off Meola Road and the main part on Great North Road.

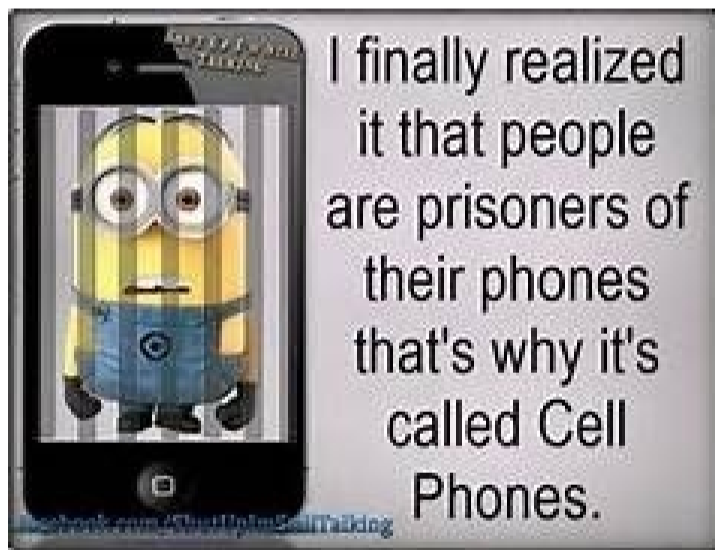
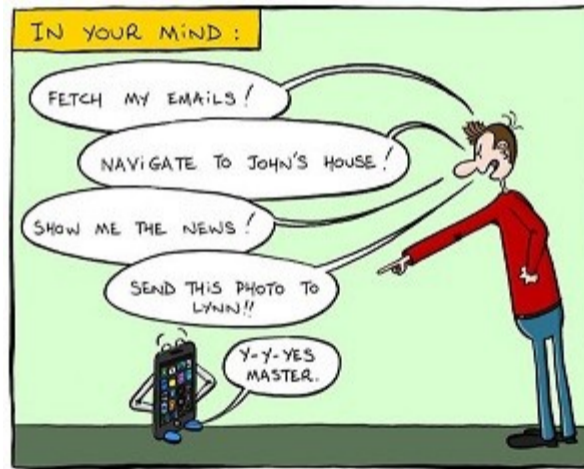
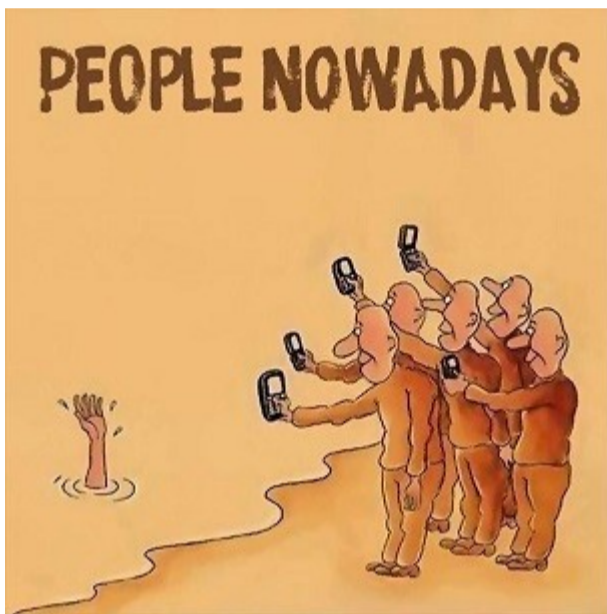
I especially enjoyed the Antarctic display, documenting Ed Hillary's tractor race to the South Pole. Informative and inspiring. I also enjoyed the Rocket Labs display: Kiwis are obviously not done with innovating!

Secretary Jack was disappointed with the paucity of vintage cars on display, but I think he enjoyed the vintage motorbikes.

Still being nostalgic, another offering, dated, perhaps, but no less timely, from Mike Latchford:

This would be almost funny if it wasn't so true.





Sad Truth

Signs of the times?

As usual, then Chairman Bill (Fairs) had a closing thought:

Only one thing is more painful than learning from experience, that's not learning from experience.

Some things just never change.

ESQUIRES COFFEE MORNING

With things starting to return to normal, even in Auckland, we were able to resume our Coffee Mornings, with a most enjoyable session at Esquires, at the Boundary, Henderson, on Friday 18 September:

As you can see in the background, we were not alone. Others were also doing their bit for the economy.

Despite the inclement weather (at one point it looked as though we would have to stay there for lunch as well), there was a good turnout: 12 members and 5 wives, for a total of 17. It augured well for the future.



As per lockdown requirements, we had no more than 10 people per table:

The empty white chair on the far left is mine – even I can't be on both sides of the camera at the same time!

Masks were common, although by no means universal:



No prizes for guessing who – the hat is a give-away.



Jewel Laloli had just had a birthday, so we sang Happy Birthday. We were not told which one, but I assume it was some low, but not necessarily integer, multiple of the number on the sign.



Here exchanging sweet nothings with her Beloved:



And with some well wishers:



Jewel entered into the spirit of things:

And Roger regaled a rapt audience:



Who needs Guest Speakers when we have Roger Laloli.

All in all, a very successful morning, enjoyed by all and hopefully marking the beginning of a sustained return to normality (or what passes for normality in these unusual times).

Keep up the good work, Ian.

CLUB BUSINESS

OUTINGS

For obvious reasons, Club Outings are uncertain. As of now, the situation is as follows:

COFFEE MORNING

There will be a Coffee Morning at Huckleberry Farm, 34D Portage Road, New Lynn, at 10am on Friday 23 October. This will be a return visit: we were first there in June, when 21 members and spouses attended. Let's see if we can beat that. We will be doing our bit for the economy.

CHELSEA TRIP

As of this writing, the Chelsea Sugar Refinery trip is still on for Tuesday 10 November. The bus will leave from outside the St John's Hall, Te Atatu South (by the Te Atatu South Countdown) at 9:15 am.

ARDMORE TRIP

The visit to Pioneer Aero (<http://www.pioneeraero.co.nz/>), Ardmore, originally scheduled for Thursday 10 September, has fallen victim to the return of COVID-19. Hopefully, like the Chelsea trip, this will prove to be only a temporary glitch. We will keep you posted on developments.

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.

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

The Projector – it's all Good News

This morning an email that I've been worried about arrived and it was good news. It was from the Harvey Norman store in Pukekohe. My worries stemmed from the Harvey Norman store showing "limited stock" when searching last night for Epson EB-W140 projector. From my experience, when "limited stock" is shown it means the computer system believes there is one item left when there actually is none. I always think shop lifting in that situation, but sometimes a shop assistant has found the "limited stock" item on a wrong shelf or out the back in a storeroom.

You are probably asking why I am buying the projector from a store located 58km from West Auckland? When I applied for the Smarty Grant back in July, Epson projectors were listed at Noel Leeming, PB Technology and Harvey Norman. The quote I supplied for the grant came from the till at Noel Leeming in Lynmall and was for an Epson EB-W140. Last night when I went to buy the projector, no store except for Harvey Norman was showing this projector and Epson NZ were showing none in stock. When I applied for the Smarty Grant all the stores had them. The nearest Harvey Norman store where I could now get one was Harvey Norman, Manukau Road, Pukekohe Mega Centre.

My specifically wanting the Epson EB-140 had nothing to do with its features or technical reviews. It resulted from a combination of brand, price and grant money. When it comes to brand, Seiko Epson Corporation has a reputation for producing Japanese quality products that have a solid market share. If the lamp in the projector blows, I want to be able to get another one and therefore I want a well known brand. The price of the projector was mid range (low priced portable Epson one's sell for \$599 and high priced ones for \$2,999). I wanted good quality and not the best that money could buy. The Epson EB-140 recommended retail price is \$899, sufficiently above their basic \$599 model to make me think it must be a reasonably good projector. The grant angle is always applying for \$1,000 or less because by doing so, you are unlikely to get knocked back.

There is also some more good news to report in connection with the purchase. My aim is to start out with a quote which is high and then buy for a lower price. The money left over goes into club funds. Last night I bought the Epson EB-W140 projector on special for \$798. The quote from Noel Leeming used in the grant application was for \$899. The way I get round not having to pay left over money back is by including hall hire in the grant application. Whau Local Board provided the grant for hall hire, a projector, and a screen (in that order).

The Screen – Bigger is not Better

When I filled out the Smarty Grant application, time was running out and I couldn't find the projector screen that I was looking for. One of the screens available from PB Technology had an octagonal metal case. That looked like a good feature, given that it would have to be packed up and brought to the meeting each month. But I couldn't find that screen again among all the various makes and models that PB Technology stocked, so I picked one priced at \$156 and submitted that in the grant application.

Now that the grant has come through, I have again been looking at the screens and trying to work out which one would be the best to buy. All projector screens have a size measured in inches, e.g. the Bateck 96" screen, the Epson 80" screen. Both these screens are also tripod projector screens which means no more climbing on the furniture to wire the screen to the curtain rail as we have been doing.

Back in June of this year, Noel Rose sent me an email to say the screen we have been using is 1260mm wide and 1200mm long. I have always thought the size was good and therefore maybe something just slightly bigger would be ideal. When I looked at the prices, the Bateck 96" was priced at \$160 and the Epson 80" was priced at \$136.85. The 96" and 80" figures are diagonal measurements. My initial reaction was that for another \$23.15 you ended up with a much larger screen and therefore the Bateck had to be the better buy.

I then worked out how these two screens compared with the one Noel has been bringing along. The Bateck 96" screen is 1720 mm x 1720 mm and the Epson 80" screen is 1770 mm x 1000 mm. The Epson is slightly wider and very much shorter. It is obviously designed for standard 16:9 wide angle images. A 16:9 image which is zoomed up to 1770mm wide (the full width of the screen) will have a depth of 996 mm. It will fit perfectly onto the Epson Screen.

The Bateck 96" image could be zoomed up to 1720mm (50 mm narrower than the Epson) and the image depth would then be 968 mm. The result would be 752 mm of white screen above and below the image. So you end up with a slightly smaller image on the larger screen and a lot of white screen which is of no use.

The Bateck 96" was the projector screen I was searching for when filling in the Smarty Grant application because it was the one with the, "durable budget octagonal metal case." It appears the screen retracts into the case with a spring mechanism. I fear it is something manufactured in China that could one day jam up. I also imagine that over time, dirt and dust will find its way into the case through the slot.

On their website, Epson describes their screen as follows, "80" widescreen, portable floor standing tripod screen. Unique mechanism making it more compact and highly portable. Approx 1m long when packed in bag with convenient shoulder bag included. Epson brand screen so you know the quality is fantastic!"

I've bought the Epson 80" screen with the shoulder bag instead of the Bateck 96" in the octagonal metal case, and in the process learned that a smaller screen, which is rectangular, can result in a larger image than a bigger screen which is square.

In case you're interested, the amount paid for the projector (\$798) and screen (\$136.85) leaves \$65.15 from the \$1,000 grant for hall hire i.e. the Club cheque account.

Vince has clearly put a lot of time and effort into this project – well done, that man!

MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS

From **Herb Simmons**

When visiting the fleet at anchor Queen Victoria was chatting to the admiral about an old frigate which had foundered during a storm. There was a lull in the conversation. The queen, knowing that the admiral's ageing mother, a close friend, had been in bed ill, enquired after her. "How is the old girl?" she asked? The admiral, believing the subject still to be the frigate replied, "She's fine your majesty. We raised her up, rolled her over and scraped her bottom. She's as good as new."

If only it were that easy.

FEDERATION

Something to keep in mind while listening to politicians, from the September Rebus Club News:

Light travels faster than sound that's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

2021 CALENDAR

Bill Fairs (Rebus Liaison) will be taking orders for the **2021 Rebus Calendar** at the October meeting. \$10 will not only give you an attractive calendar, but also help minimise Rebus costs (both Federation and Club). A chance to dispose of any physical cash that you may still have, now that we are all paying everything digitally.

If you order and pay **now**, Bill will be able to have them for you to take delivery at the November meeting, in time for overseas post.

**PHOTOS SELECTED FOR 2021 CALENDAR, CAPTIONS AND ATTRIBUTION
(from Rebus Federation)**



| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| January | Mt Maunganui Inner Harbour, Tauranga | James Henry (Omanu Rebus Club) |
| February | Summer Fun, Pohangina River, Manawatu | Pam Fawcett (Fitzherbert Rebus Club Inc) |
| March | Papamoa Beach, Bay of Plenty | Susan Rawson (Omanu Rebus Club) |
| April | Dawn – Anzac Day, Whangaparaoa | Garth Dutton (Rebus Club of Hibiscus Coast) |
| May | Harcourt Park, Upper Hutt | Alex Attewell (Rebus Club of Upper Hutt) |
| June | Historic Alberton House, Mt Albert, Auckland | Anne McKenzie (Mt Albert Ladies Rebus Club) |
| July | Taupo Boat Harbour, Taupo | Ivan Green (Taupo Moana Rebus Club) |
| August | Mt Ngauruhoe, Central Plateau | Jacqui Triscott (Taupo Moana Rebus Club) |
| September | Lake – International University, Palmerston Nth | Dean Halford (Rebus Club of Palmerston Nth) |
| October | Wharf – Petone foreshore, Wellington | Valerie Wenk (Rebus Club of Petone) |
| November | Rapaura Watergardens, Thames Coast | Cathy D’Ath (Thames Bonanza Rebus Club) |
| December | Gulf Harbour Village Basin, Whangaparaoa | Bill Anderson (Rebus Club of Gulf Harbour) |

Can we expect an entry from West Auckland Men’s Rebus for 2022? Get those shutters clicking, guys.

Along with this information, Bill also provided some more Words of Wisdom, from Barrack Obama:

We did not come to fear the future, We came here to shape it.

When will we be able to quote some Words of Wisdom from his successor?

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 3 chances of a small prize.

Unfortunately, the resurgence of COVID-19 has put this on hold. You can check what’s on (or not) at its website, above.

COMPUTER SERVICING

This 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. He can be contacted through his website.

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.

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

Some personal thoughts for the run-up to the election.

Every village can have its idiot, but no village should make its idiot mayor. Nor should we let the lunatics run the asylum. And certainly not bring on the clowns. Other countries have done so: look where it has got them!



*“Our boat is fine, and we’re not stranded.
We just don’t want to go back to that
crazy world.”*

In a sense, the election is a choice between Command and Leadership. Command is being able to give orders; Leadership is not needing to. The personality of one of the two leading contenders for Prime Minister tends more to Command than Leadership; that of the other the reverse. Obey me or follow me; that is our choice. Keep that in mind when deciding how to vote.

Some months ago I found two election leaflets in my letterbox (who from is irrelevant). This prompted me to Write to the Editor (of the *Herald*) that I would keep a count of what I received and give my votes to the party and candidate who inflicted the least such material on me. For a long time it worked, but I am now getting election material in my letterbox again. Also material on the two referendums (referenda?). It was good while it lasted.

You will probably have seen the editor's comments in the latest (September 2020) *Rebus Club News* regarding the resumption of club activities:

The general consensus amongst members seemed to be “the speakers were both great, it was good to catch up with the club news, but the most enjoyable part was getting back together with our Rebus friends,” and that tells us just how much our club is valued. However, some members will still be very nervous and we should make a special effort to keep in touch with them so they do not become isolated, and lost to the club for ever. So whatever time of day you are reading this, why not make a cuppa or pour a glass of your favourite tippie to sip as you catch up with the news from Clubs in the Rebus family around the country.

I see our Newsletter in this light; as enabling those of us who, for whatever reason, are not able to physically attend Club activities (meetings and outings) to still be able to feel – and actually be – part of our social community. Physical distancing to avoid COVID-19 should not have to mean social isolation.

This Newsletter is rather shorter than some I have produced. I am currently in the throes of selling my house and moving into a retirement village (Waitakere Gardens), so Rebus and the Newsletter are having to take a back seat for now. Hopefully, this will soon all be over and normal service will be resumed – in the New Year, if not before. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to send me material for the Newsletter. Every little bit counts.

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 13 November
(COVID-19 permitting)***

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)