



# West Auckland Men's Rebus Club

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

## Newsletter

**AUGUST 2020**

**Meeting starts at 10 am Friday 14 August, 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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### CLUB EVENTS

#### ANNIVERSARY

I vaguely remember from my youth a radio programme (I can't remember its title; perhaps someone could enlighten me) in which the punch line was *Thirty-five years!* It applies to us, having now completed 35 years as a club, either Probus, Fellowship or Rebus. And we have the certificate from Rebus Federation to prove it:



Federation Liaison Officer Bill Fairs has provided the following on the subject:

The presentation of the certificate of 35 years in the Probus /Rebus clubs is certainly a real honour. I think that the changing times and circumstances have proved hard on our groups but is something we must face. The monthly meetings of face to face care and conversation is something that is hard to beat. The friendship and company we enjoy is so important. It is due to the wonderful leadership we have as we run and organise our individual clubs. So thank you guys, sometimes it is hard but it is much appreciated by all. I look forward to future presentations. Consider this a tribute to foundation member Dalton Dean and 1988s Ken Webster and Ron Maskill.

Thanks Bill.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Vince Middeldorp



*Secretary and Chairman on the job*



*Expectant members*

Chairman Bill Mutch welcomed 32 members to the meeting. There were six apologies: Bob Lee, Tony Allen (said he would make it if he could), Leo Nobilo (has flu), Charles Nicholls (in Stratford) Ken Mutch, Rex Billington.

The minutes of the previous meeting (12 June 2020), were provided to Chairman Bill Mutch for signing. There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

A resignation letter was received from Eric Strickett. He is joining Henderson Falls Combined Friendship Club, which meets across the road from where he lives.

Auckland Council have emailed through a Smarty Grant number for the projector and screen funding request (QR 1921-301).

A presentation was made to Ray Hancock who turned 96 on 1 June 2020. Ray has retired as membership co-ordinator for the Railway Enthusiasts Society. Bill Mutch said he should have left it until he was 100.

Treasurer Justin Griffith said he had opened a Kiwibank account in New Lynn and the BNZ account at Henderson would be closed. The club's balance was \$1,700.

Trips organiser Ian Smith informed members the trip after the Chelsea Factory Tour on August 13 would be to Pioneer Air at Ardmore who are rebuilding some old American planes; cost for the bus \$30 and date is 10 September. The next coffee morning would be 22 July at Whoa Studios Henderson.

Barry O'Rourke, the Probus welfare officer, reported that Ian Wheeler is moving to Wellington and wishes our members all the best for the future.

Trayton Wickens, the Rebus almoner, said that the Friendship Hall needed a handrail for the steps just before the door. He said he was involved with a trust who would install a hand-rail at no cost to the Friendship Hall. Trayton reported Dalton Dean, a foundation member of the Club, was living at Sunset Home and that his wife Marjorie had recently passed away.

Bill Fairs received an item of correspondence from Rebus NZ Incorporated which contained a Certificate of Attainment to mark the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club. Bill intends to get it framed.

Membership lists were made available to those members who wanted them. More lists would be provided next time.

Noel Rose reported Brian Shields would be guest speaker for the August meeting. He works for Auckland Council and will talk about pest control and eradication. Noel raised the possibility of giving old Rebus records (e.g. minutes and correspondence) to Henderson library.

Tom Miller conducted an excellent quiz that was very well received.



*Club officers reporting on their respective portfolios  
What's the collective term for almoners (we have 2)?*



Morning tea



Guest Speaker Jacquie with Organiser Noel ▲ and Chairman Bill ►



The guest speaker was Jackie Knight. She talked about lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) and in particular the monarch butterfly.

Thank you Vince

### GUEST SPEAKER

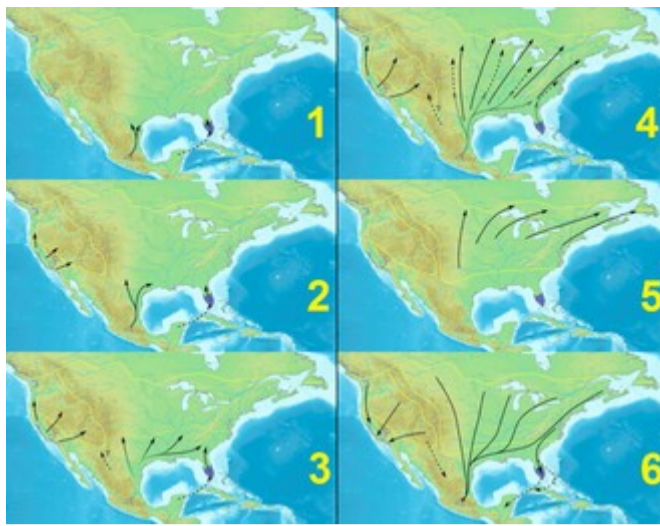


July's Guest Speaker was **Jacqui Knight**, aka *The Butterfly Lady*, founder of and driving force behind the **Monarch Butterfly New Zealand Trust** (<https://www.monarch.org.nz/>). She has featured on the cover of *New Zealand Woman's Weekly* (<https://www.nowtolove.co.nz/news/latest-news/why-im-saving-new-zealands-monarch-butterflies-33381>) and is one of TVNZ's *Good Sorts* (watch it at <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/good-sorts-theyve-taken-over-my-life-auckland-woman-sharing-joy-butterflies>). Unsurprisingly, she spoke with great enthusiasm and knowledge about her great passion: monarch butterflies (see <https://www.monarch-butterfly.com/> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch\\_butterfly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch_butterfly)). And not just monarch butterflies; Jacqui is equally passionate about all butterflies (and moths), especially those native to New Zealand.

Not a topic you would expect a bunch of old men to take an interest in. Quite the contrary. It was obvious from the audience's comments and questions that members shared, if not Jacqui's great enthusiasm, then certainly her interest in the subject. Good thing, too, since she had taken the trouble to come all the way from Blockhouse Bay to talk to us!

Jacqui began by telling us how she came to be so interested in butterflies: a question she is often asked. She grew up in Western Springs in the 1950s and 60s, living in Western Springs Road, backing onto Chamberlain Park. Her parents instilled in her an appreciation of nature, which she, in turn, passed onto her two sons.

She planted Swan Plants ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gomphocarpus\\_physocarpus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gomphocarpus_physocarpus)), which Monarch Butterflies eat and which they can smell from 2 kilometres away. The males swarm around the plants, because that is where the females are. She taught her sons, especially Chris (now 45) what was known about Monarch butterflies; which was not much at the time. They came across a 1976 *National Geographic* article on the newly-discovered Monarch migration between Canada and Mexico. It might 2 or 3 generations to cover the 3000 kilometre distance. They spent the winter in Mexico, then returned north in spring ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch\\_butterfly\\_migration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch_butterfly_migration)):



Chris, who was about 8 at the time, wondered where New Zealand Monarchs wintered. Jacqui got him to write to the *New Zealand Herald* (<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/>) and the now defunct *Auckland Star* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auckland\\_Star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auckland_Star)) newspapers asking for information. Both papers not only published his letter, but also wrote articles on it. Chris was also interviewed on the radio (by Jim Henderson ([https://www.nzherald.co.nz/lifestyle/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=6&objectid=10336035](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/lifestyle/news/article.cfm?c_id=6&objectid=10336035)) and Geoff Sinclair (<http://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/5361056/Veteran-broadcaster-farewelled>)), and also on TV: he was famous.

(Jacqui's laptop and our projector would not talk to each other, so Jacqui had been speaking without visual aids – and she did it very well. At this point, Noel Rose returned with a new projector, which would talk to Jacqui's computer. Jacqui could now show us her many slides. Normally, I photograph such slides, so that I can use them in the Newsletter. Unfortunately, Jacqui's slides did not photograph at all well. Even the program I have to enhance photos made no difference, so this article will have to do without Jacqui's slides. I have tried to find suitable replacements online.)

To get back to the story, Chris's 15 minutes of media fame ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15\\_minutes\\_of\\_fame](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15_minutes_of_fame)) had elicited many responses (as example of Citizen Science ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizen\\_science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizen_science), perhaps), showing that Monarch butterflies overwintered in many parts of New Zealand: Blockhouse Bay Recreational Reserve, Jellicoe Park in Onehunga, Oamaru, Timaru and various Christchurch parks, for instance.

Jim Henderson suggested that Chris start a club. Chris agreed. Mum's Memory Typewriter (<https://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-memory-typewriter.htm>) was used to snail mail personalized letters to club members. Seeds of the Giant Swanplant (<https://www.juliesbutterflies.com/swan-plant.html>) were taped to the letters. Try doing that with an email - the old technology does have its advantages!

Chris soon tired of running the club – it was probably too much like homework, which he disliked. However, letters continued to arrive. And more: post cards, pictures and even slides (plus projector). So Jacqui took over, so becoming **The Butterfly Lady** (<https://www.daltons.co.nz/garden-heroes-jacqui-knight>), eventually founding **The Monarch Butterfly New Zealand Trust** (<https://www.monarch.org.nz/>).

When asked questions, Jacqui tried to find answers. She began speaking on the subject, to schools and clubs. We were obviously not the first – she has it down to a fine art.

About 15 years ago, while living in Russell, Jacqui learned of a local overwintering site: Butterfly Bay, near Tauranga Bay (<https://www.monarch.org.nz/species/monarchs/butterfly-bay/butterfly-bay/>). The area was to be developed. Jacqui could not stop that, but she set out to show just how important the site was for Monarch Butterflies. To that end, she set up a Trust, which raised \$2000, to hire an entomologist to study the site. He found that at that time (2005) only 3 Monarch overwintered there, against a great many reported to have done so in earlier times. This had been caused by the local council removing all the Lantana plants (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantana>), whose nectar had fed the Monarchs during the winter. This highlighted the problem of environmental change making it impossible for Monarchs to survive, let alone thrive.

By this stage, Vince had got the projector working and Jacqui was able to show her slides.

She noted that there are about 20,000 butterfly species world-wide (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterfly>, which puts it at 18,500 – near enough), but not many in New Zealand. For a list of New Zealand butterflies, see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterflies\\_of\\_New\\_Zealand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterflies_of_New_Zealand). One of the latter is the New Zealand Red Admiral ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Zealand\\_red\\_admiral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand_red_admiral)),



the local variant of a widespread family of Red Admiral butterflies ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vanessa\\_atalanta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vanessa_atalanta)).

The New Zealand Red Admiral's host plant is the Tree Nettle ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urtica\\_ferox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urtica_ferox)), which Jacqui called *the most dangerous tree in the world*: getting stung by enough of its nettles can kill you. And we thought that Australia had cornered the local market in biological nasties!

Another New Zealand butterfly is the Honshu White Butterfly, a native of Japan that was introduced to eradicate Japanese honeysuckle, a threat to native plants ([https://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=16&objectid=11991180](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c_id=16&objectid=11991180)).

New Zealand is also home to 3 species of Copper Butterfly (<https://teara.govt.nz/en/photograph/10071/copper-butterfly>):



As well as several species of Blue Butterfly, especially the Southern Blue:

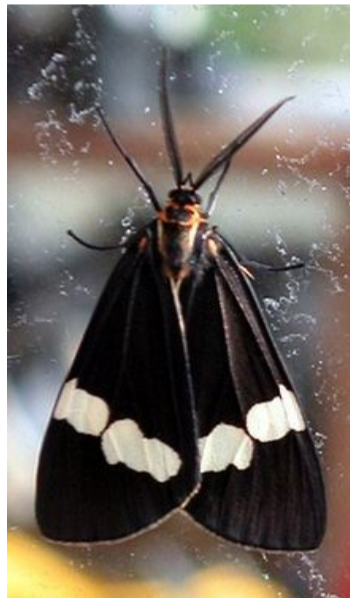
Jacqui blames the decline in butterflies to our national fetish for short lawns. Butterflies prosper in longer lawns, so we should let our lawns grow long to save the butterflies. A good excuse to avoid lawn mowing.



Another butterfly common in, but by no means limited to, New Zealand is the Cabbage White ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pieris\\_rapae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pieris_rapae)), so unpopular with gardeners.

Jacqui notes that gardeners can live with the Cabbage White, by being seasonal. The brassicas (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brassica>) are actually winter plants, while the Cabbage White lays its eggs in spring. Brassicas can also be protected by surrounding them with other plants, whose sight and smell distract Cabbage Whites.

Another endemic New Zealand species is the Magpie Moth ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nyctemera\\_annulata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nyctemera_annulata)):

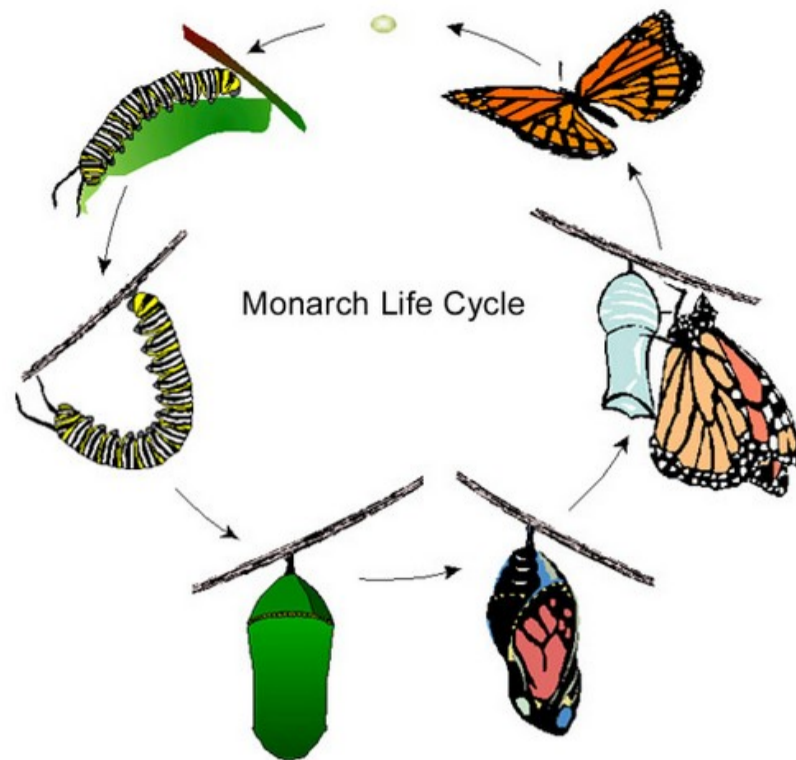


Another introduced species is the Cinnabar Moth ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinnabar\\_moth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinnabar_moth)), brought in to control Ragwort (<https://teara.govt.nz/en/photograph/10537/cinnabar-moth>):



After this introduction to moths and butterflies, Jacqui concentrated on the Monarch Butterfly for the rest of her talk.

Monarchs have a global range, except Antarctica. They have a four-stage lifecycle: egg, larva, pupa and adult or caterpillar (see <https://askabiologist.asu.edu/monarch-life-cycle> for details):

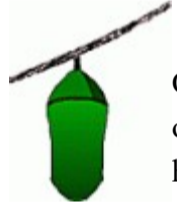


### The Monarch Butterfly Life Cycle

It begins as an egg laid on the underside of a leaf of a swanplant (a species of milkweed (see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gomphocarpus\\_physocarpus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gomphocarpus_physocarpus)). When it is ready, the larva chews its way out of its egg, then eats the egg. It then proceeds to eat swanplant leaves, growing ever larger in the process. It must periodically shed its skin (moult) 5 times to accommodate its growth – instars (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instar>).

The swanplant is the Monarch's only food. Its latex is poisonous, so be careful not to get it on you, especially in your eyes.

When big enough, the larva seeks out a suitable place to pupate. It will walk up to 50 metres to do so. The last moult is much different than the others. The larva crawls away from its milkweed plant, searching for a suitable place. Some larvae will travel longer distances than others. When the larva has found a suitable place, it weaves a silk mat with a "button" in the centre. Once the mat and button are ready, the larva grabs the silk with its legs and hangs upside down. The front part of its body will curve to make a "J-shape."



Once in the "J", the larva molts for the last time. The skin splits behind the head, and the larva wiggles while it hangs upside down to remove the old skin. This final molt is the trickiest, because the larva must shed its old skin and still hang onto the silk button. Once the larva embeds a hook-like structure at its rear end into the button, the rest of the skin can slip off.

#### Pupa



When the skin fall off, the larva becomes a pupa. The monarch has no eyes and no antennae. It has no legs, and it cannot move. All of the major changes in body shape, size, and arrangement happen. In monarchs, this stage can last as long as a week. At the end of this stage, an adult butterfly will emerge from the chrysalis.

#### Adult



A newly emerged butterfly will wait two or more hours before it can fly. New wings are small and shrivelled, so the butterfly pumps body fluid through its wing veins in order to make them get bigger. Then, the monarch has to wait for air to replace some of the fluid. Until this happens, the monarch cannot fly, and its wings are easily damaged. If this process is not completed correctly, the butterfly will be malformed.



After the wings have hardened, the butterfly flies away to find its first meal. From this point on, the monarch drinks all of its food. The butterfly will visit several different kinds of flowers to get its nectar dinner.

The gender of a Monarch can be determined from its appearance (<https://monarchbutterflylifecycle.com/blogs/raise/male-or-female-monarch-butterfly-pictures>):



If they are not cooperative enough to spread their wings:

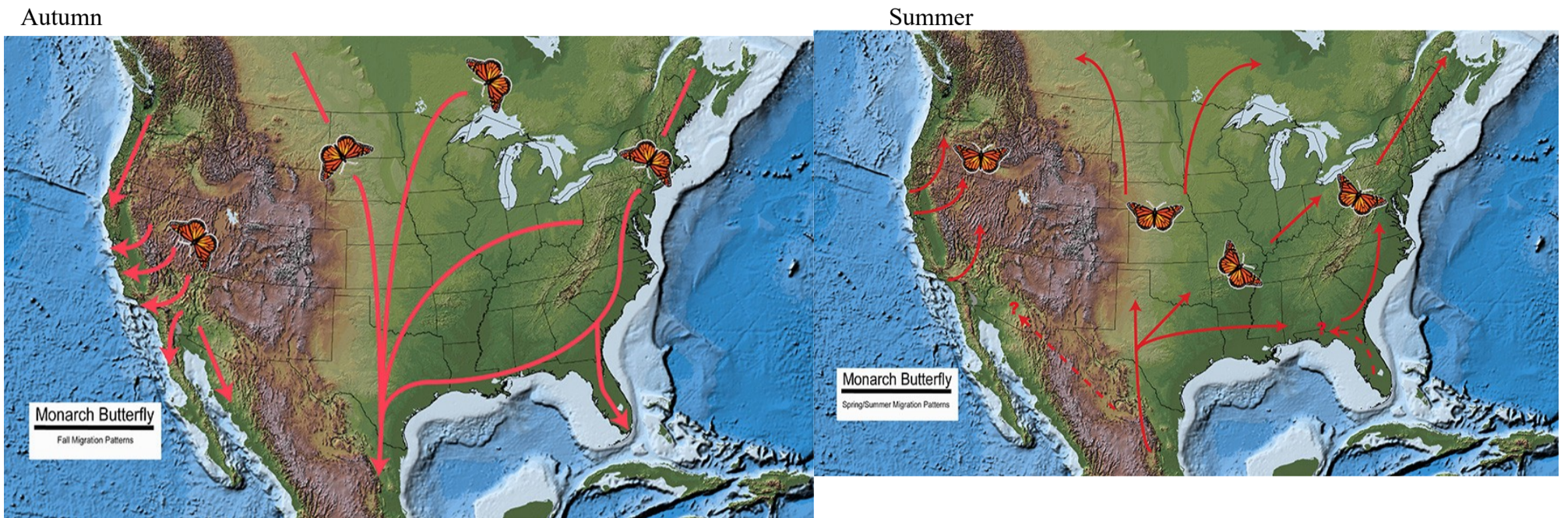


The male monarch butterfly has a **black spot** on each hind wing that is made up of specialized scales. In other butterflies, similar spots emit pheromones to attract females, but scientists are not sure what function these spots serve for monarch males. Jacqui says they are scent pouches. You can usually see part of the monarch male's black dot bleeding through to the outside wing. These black dots are an excellent 'male marker' for sexing purposes.

The monarch female has noticeably **thicker wing veins**, which give her a darker appearance. The females hind wings are **spotless**.

(If you are wondering why I refer to *gender*, rather than its *sex*: gender is an attribute – what you *are*; sex is an activity – what you *do*. Everyone has gender; not everyone has sex.)

Monarch butterflies are famous for their migrations, especially in North America ([https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/Monarch\\_Butterfly/migration/index.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/Monarch_Butterfly/migration/index.shtml)).



In the West Coast, the migration is a shorter distance between the Rockies (summer) and the coast (winter). In southern Florida, it is warm enough for the

Because of the distances (several thousand kilometres) involved in the eastern migration, it can take several generations to complete.

The Mexican end of the migration is the most spectacular. It is the basis of a thriving tourist industry (<https://www.journeywonders.com/monarch-butterfly-migration-mexico/>). The Mexican wintering site is high in the mountains, at about the same altitude as Mount Cook, but, being tropical, is quite warm. However, air pressure (and so oxygen) is low, so physical exertion is not advised. The dense clusters of butterflies on the trees can easily be mistaken for leaves.



Access is by horse. Jacqui, who has been there, tells of riding up the trail while the Monarchs fly down the trail. Being in the middle of a swarm of Monarch Butterflies is quite an experience!

Jacqui's organization is the *Moths and Butterflies Trust of New Zealand* (<https://www.facebook.com/mbnzt>). It is concerned not just with butterflies, let alone just Monarch Butterflies, but with the related moths.

I mentioned earlier that swanplants are the Monarchs only food, Strictly speaking, that applies only to the larva: the adult butterflies feed to nectar. They therefore need suitable plants, whose flowers can supply that nectar. Colourful plants of the daisy family are especially desirable, since they provide a convenient 'landing pad' for the Monarchs. They need concentrated masses of such plants, rather than scattered individuals, because their eyesight is not the best, and they will miss isolated flowers. They need such plants flowering all-year-round, such as *Hebe* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebe\\_\(plant\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebe_(plant))). if they are to survive, let alone thrive,

To allow such useful plants to thrive, we should not use pesticides, even on weeds, but must find alternatives. For example, the invasive Japanese Honeysuckle can be controlled its introduced native predator, the Honshu White Admiral butterfly. Aphids are another common pest, which can be controlled with a minute parasitic wasp (not all wasps are a problem) which lays its eggs in aphids (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aphid#Control>).

In particular, Monarch butterflies need unsprayed swanplants which they can safely use as nurseries.

Jacqui encouraged us to join the Butterfly Trust (<https://www.monarch.org.nz/join/>) and so receive its magazine and support its work with our subs. It offers an online gardening course – butterfly gardening (<https://www.monarch.org.nz/projects/certified-butterfly-gardenhabitats/butterfly-gardening/>).

The Trust will also have a calendar for sale, probably in October. Justin was kind enough to model it for us:



Jacqui rewarded Noel and Vince for their sterling efforts linking computer and projector so that she could show her slides: Noel got George Gibbs' *The Monarch Butterfly in New Zealand*; Vince a *Chart of New Zealand Butterflies*.

Jacqui put us to test with some questions based on her talk. What does a male Monarch Butterfly look like? Does a Monarch Butterfly come out of a cocoon? What is a new Zealand butterfly other than the Monarch?

Jacqui then answered questions from the audience.

Andrew Geddes asked why there were never any monarch butterflies on his swan plant. Probably because of *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*, better known as OE (<https://monarchbutterflylifecycle.com/blogs/raise/monarch-diseases-parasites-prevention>). The problem is compounded by people saving weak or crippled butterflies. Such individuals should be humanely euthanised by freezing them, so breaking the transmission of OE. It may also be necessary to sterilize swan plants, by spraying them with a bleach solution at the end of winter. Wasps can also be a major problem, for all butterflies.

Neil Castle asked when Monarch Butterflies first came to New Zealand. Jacqui said that they were certainly here in the 1840s, and possibly earlier.

Monarch Butterflies live for 6-8 weeks after laying their last eggs, although they can overwinter. They can be traced by tagging them (<https://www.monarch.org.nz/introduction-to-research/taggingtransects/>): put the tag on the end of a toothpick, hold all 4 wings together than, then apply. The tags last for about 9 months. A tag's unique ID Number can be photographed.

The eggs are attached to a leaf with a glue.

As I noted earlier, not a topic you would expect a bunch of old men to be interested in. However, Jacqui is clearly both enthusiastic for and knowledgeable about her topic, and so held our interest and attention throughout. She has obviously done it before, and has it down to a fine art. Yet another excellent speaker on an interesting topic. Once again, our Speaker Organiser (Noel Rose) has justified his remuneration.

Thank you, Jacqui. And thank you, Noel, for giving us yet another interesting and informative speaker.

### **COFFEE MORNING**

August's Coffee Morning was to have been at Woha Studios in Henderson Valley Road, but that was found to be unsuitable for our needs (a sit-down restaurant without a food cabinet to choose from), so Ian changed the venue to One Sip Cafe, Te Atatu South. We have already had a Coffee Morning there, last December. Ten members and five spouses had a convivial time:





Hats seem to have become a feature, no longer being just something that Andrew Geddes indulges in. Vince Middeldorp and Peter Cox have now also entered into the spirit of things hat:



Andrew was once admonished for wearing a hat in the RSA. He was lucky he was not in 15<sup>th</sup> century Wallachia, when Dracula was in charge. This was a time when the Ottoman Turks ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman\\_Turks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Turks)) were taking over the area. Dracula (properly Vlad Dracula (aka Vlad the Impaler ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vlad\\_the\\_Impaler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vlad_the_Impaler)) son of Vlad Dracul, 'The Dragon') had an ambivalent relationship with the Turks: sometimes friendly; sometimes hostile. In one of the friendly periods, a group of Turks visited Vlad. All went well until the Turks refused to take off their turbans in Vlad's presence. Vlad expressed his displeasure at this discourtesy by having the Turks' turbans nailed to their heads. If Andrew ever has a headache, perhaps he is just feeling the effects of Vlad's Nails. Also Pete and Vince?

Hats may become something of a fad in Rebus. As reported in the July 2020 *Rebus Club News* from the Hokowhitu Rebus Club:

**Every Hat Has a Story.** With most members having presented a profile speech (or not confident to do one) our club needed to be innovative to fill this popular spot in our monthly programme. This year's convenor, Mary Bennett, has a new idea, inviting groups of people to give a shared presentation. This month the chosen group were asked to bring, model and tell the story of a special hat.

So here they are with their hats: Rex sports his Australian model with its own separate tube for fly protection; Margaret's beauty was chosen to wear to the

Melbourne Cup and can be rolled up and slipped in a handbag when the celebrations are over; Sue's sailing cap rouses memories of some wonderful cruising holidays; Mary's glamorous wedding piece was fashioned from a cheap sunhat and some well-placed ribbon; and Ezra was proud to wear his hat bought to wear to the Melbourne Cup even though it didn't bring him much luck. We are all wondering what Mary has in store for next month, and whose shoulder she is going to tap.

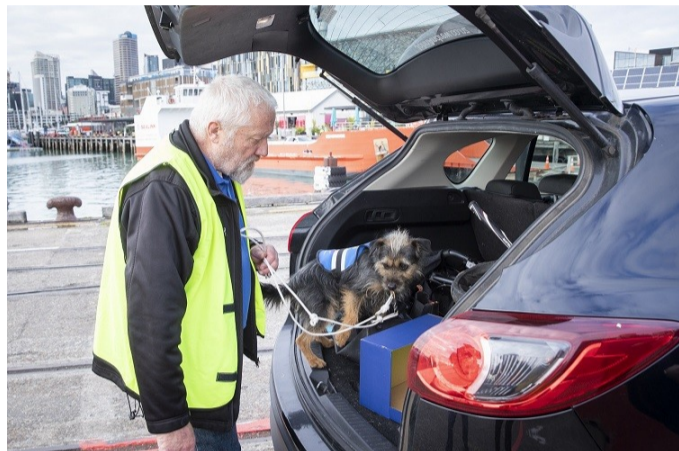
As our own Vince Middeldorp noted in his covering letter when distributing the *Rebus Club News*:

*Have a look at what some of these other Rebus clubs are doing. Hokowhitu Rebus Club. members were asked to bring along and tell the story of a special hat. That is such a great idea.*

The West Auckland Mens Rebus ClubHat Group already has 3 members. Should we call them **The West Hatters**? Anyone else interested please bring your hat to the next (and every?) meeting.

### COMING EVENTS

August's Guest Speaker will be **Brian Shields**, from Auckland City Council, who will be talking about pest control/eradication. See <https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/articles/news/2019/08/biosecurity-and-bark-control-behind-the-scenes-at-auckland-council/>.



Seen here with Pipi.

Don't forget the visit to the **Chelsea Sugar Refinery** on Thursday 13 August (the day before the August meeting).

### COFFEE MORNING

The August Coffee Morning is at **Esquire Coffee** (<https://theboundary.co/stores/esquires-cafe/>), at The Boundary (formerly The Waitakere Mega Centre), at 10 am on Thursday 20 August.:



The Boundary is located between Newington Road and Vitasovitch Avenue, with main access from the latter. It is not West City Waitakere, which is to the north of Edsel Street in the view above. There is plenty of parking at The Boundary and it is not far from public transport (bus and train) – the Henderson Transport Centre is at the far left of the view above.

### ARDMORE TRIP

Our next trip is a visit to Pioneer Aero (<http://www.pioneeraero.co.nz/>), Ardmore, on Thursday 10 September (the day before the September meeting). The bus will leave from the St Johns Hall, Edmonton Road, Te Atatu South (as per the Chelsea trip), at 9:15 am. We will tiki tour to Ardmore via Maraetai and Beachland, arriving at Pioneer Aero about 11 am. Up to about 30 of the keenest aero watchers can tour there for about an hour. then adjourn to the local cafe for lunch. We are also allowed half an hour at the Aviation Specialities hanger. Lunch at the cafe can commence about 12, with the rest joining them at 12.30. Return to Te Atatu South about 2:30 pm. Please reserve your place on the trip by paying \$25 (for the bus) into the usual account 12 3232 0318628 00 with your name and phone number. Direct payments can also be made to Ian Smith at the August meeting.

## **MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS**

Members may recall our Guest Speaker in August 2019, Ross Dallow. You may also have noticed that he has recently died. His friend and neighbour, our very own Roger Laloli, has provided the following tribute to Ross.

A few words on a well-known identity of West Auckland – by Club member P.P. Roger Laloli

### **ROSS DALLOW, MNZM, QPM, NZSSM (EREBUS) JP**

Ross spent his childhood in Auckland and was educated at St Peter's College. He was a prominent sports person and our paths crossed many times from the early 1950's. (He was in athletics and I was in cycling).

In 1956 Dallow won the NZ under 19 men's discus throw title, representing Auckland with a throw of 134ft.8". (41.05m). At the same time I won the Auckland Province Junior 8,000 metre hard track cycling championship. Big for me but small compared to Ross. He was an athletics coach for over 30 years with his athletics winning 31 national titles and setting eight NZ records. He also managed Auckland teams to NZ track and field championships on many occasions. Serving on the committee of the Waitakere City Athletic Club, Dallow was instrumental and a prime mover in the fund-raising effort to build The Trusts Arena and Douglas Track and Field in Henderson. It was his drive and leadership that was in great part for building of the venue in 2004. He then sat on the Board of Trustees all the way up until being named Founding Patron in 2017. His contributions were recognized with the West Auckland Legacy Award the 2015 Sport Waitakere Excellence Awards.

Dallow was a significant personality in the management of race relations in the Auckland Police District in the 1970s. As inspector, he was originally in charge of the task force the his brother Graeme Dallow had set up as a temporary expedient to deal with the street disorder among the large Maori and Pacific communities that had migrated to South Auckland.

After he became a superintendent, Dallow in the face of the reluctance of many of his colleagues, spent much of his time addressing opinion-formers and cultivating a positive relationship with the media in relation to race relations and other police issues in Auckland. Dallow as District Commander in West Auckland and the length of his police career was 36 years. In 1979 he was one of the police team who served at the mortuary at Auckland University School of Medicine where bodies recovered in the aftermath of Air New Zealand Flight 901 crash on Mt Erebus

In 2010 Dallow was a member of the Waitakere City Council and was elected as an independent councillor of the Henderson-Massey Local board at the time of the formation of the Super City. I (Roger) was the Chairperson of the previous Massey Community Board. We spent many an hour together at council meetings and outings.

He was also a long standing board member (1992-2016) of the Waitakere Licensing Trust and wads chair of that board for eight years.

Dallow was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the 1980 Queen's Birthday Honours, and in the 2013 Queens Birthday Honours he was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the community. (This was at the same time that I was presented with my Queens Community Service honour. Our two photographs appeared together in the Western Leader, and I spent many hours with Ross soon after he arrived in Summerset where he spent his last days in full care.

His funeral was held at his beloved Trusts Stadium with at least 500-600 people attending. He was given a Police Guard of Honour of at least 100 current and past police officers, as family lead by son Simon exited the stadium.

RIP Ross – Simon Dallow (TV News Presenter) said “there was one word that **wasn't** in Ross's vocabulary and that was **CAN'T** ‘

Prepared by Roger following the funeral of Ross on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July (lasting 2 ½ hours) at the Trusts Stadium (also attended by our Club member John McKeown).

Thank you, Roger.

## **QUIZ**

New Lynn Probus had a long tradition of monthly quizzes, set by Tom Miller. This tradition has been continued. For those of you who missed the July meeting, or who want to refresh your memories, here are the questions:

- 1 The Nobel Prize for Medicine, Physics and Literature is presented in which Scandinavian city?
- 2 What two countries share the longest international land border (9000 km)?
- 3 What organ is commonly referred to as the 'voice box'?
- 4 What does the abbreviation SCUBA stand for?
- 5 In which country would you visit the Chunuk Bair Memorial?
- 6 Which of the following numbers is not a prime number: 5, 9, 13?
- 7 The world's longest fence, in Australia, stretching 5000 km, is designed to keep out what animal?
- 8 What do the 5 rings on the Olympic flag represent?
- 9 What triangular piece of glass can create the colours of the rainbow by bending light?
- 10 What does a cartographer do?
- 11 What colour do you get when you mix red and green?

The answers are at the end of this Newsletter (no peeking).

## **SERVICES**

## JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Charles Nicholls is a JP, and has offered members his services as such, as per:

I am available to assist members with any documents that need a JP to sign. Our services are free. I can be contacted on this email [cdnich300@gmail.com](mailto:cdnich300@gmail.com) or on my landline 09 6293816 or as a last resort on my cell phone 02102551937.

If members cannot get to my house, I will visit people in their homes or meet them at one of our meetings.

Services are free. If members want a JP and for some reason I am not available they can access the following website

<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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month, 10-11 am, at its Learning Centre, upstairs in the Henderson RSA (66 Railside Avenue, Henderson). There is a \$5 fee. The Monthly Meeting, with a speaker, is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 10 am – noon, 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.

The August 2020 dates are the 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> for the Help Sessions, and the 18<sup>th</sup> for the Meeting, where the speaker will be librarian Hilary Arrowsmith, on Libby (e-books), RB digital (e-magazines) and newspapers.

## OTHER MATTERS

The Rebus Federation is looking for photos for its 2021 Calendar. This information about that from the Khandallah Rebus website (forwarded by Vince):

REBUS NZ INC - Photographic Competition 2021 - for Rebus Pictorial Calendar.

We hope that some of you shutterbugs have already put aside your entry to this year's competition. As we like to have seasonal shots related to the months on which they appear, don't let the summer, autumn or winter go by without getting that special shot.

A copy of the 2021 Rules follow:

- Photos to be submitted in jpeg format to [admin@rebus.nz](mailto:admin@rebus.nz)
- Aspect Ratio 16:9 (not 4:3 as cropping to achieve 16:9 can eliminate photo from selection). Check your Camera/phone settings.
- Format to be Landscape NOT Portrait. (Horizontal width greater than height)
- They need to be reasonably high resolution for good reproduction – not less than 3 MB.
- Photo subject to be an eye-catching scene found only in your Club's district.
- The photographer to be either a member - or member's spouse.
- Date photo taken to be between 15th Sept 2019 and 15th Sept 2020.
- Entries closing date is 15th Sept 2020 – but feel free to send them in earlier please.
- Judging will be by the Rebus Board with any member who may have entered a photo, not participating in the selection.
- In addition to the 12 photos selected, 12 highly commended miniatures with attribution to the photographer, will be published on the rear page.
- Members' Photos may be submitted directly to Rebus, but if a competition is being run by a Club internally, a maximum of 5 entries will be accepted from the Club after local judging.

It is anticipated that the price per Calendar will remain at \$10 with orders being sought later in the year.

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. Here are a couple of items from the latest eNewsletter (August 2020) which might be of particular interest to members.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

If you are over 70, University of Auckland researchers would like you to write to them about your life during COVID-19.

The "Have Our Say" project aims to help make sure that older people aren't just talked about, but that they are listened to and heard.

"Since COVID-19 struck, we have heard a lot about older people - but we haven't heard much from older people," says lead researcher Professor Merryn Gott. "The over-70s tended to be lumped together and collectively characterised as passive and vulnerable."

"We would like to change that and use the lockdown experiences of older people to inform research about government and media responses in the event of future pandemics or similar crises."

If you are interested in participating you can write whatever you want, in whatever language you want. There is also the option to send in digital photographs and videos. You can also decide if you want your letter included in an Auckland War Memorial Museum archive.

The team have received over 160 letters already, with fascinating insights being shared about what people enjoyed, the challenges they faced, and what other times in their life lockdown reminded them of.

The project is being conducted by the Te Arai Research Group based at the School of Nursing, University of Auckland and funded by the Auckland Medical Research Foundation. Further information is available at [www.haveoursay.org](http://www.haveoursay.org)

You can post your letter to:

Have Our Say  
c / o School of Nursing  
University of Auckland  
Private Bag 92019, Auckland Mail Centre,  
Auckland 1142

### MEN'S SHED

If you are handy with tools or if you are just interested in learning a thing or two, joining your local Men's Shed might be right for you.

Men's Sheds have been popping up all over New Zealand. Under the umbrella of the registered charity MENZSHED New Zealand Inc, there are currently 119 Men's Sheds across the country, with another 21 in development.

At the Men's Shed Auckland East things have rapidly returned to normal since we moved to Alert Level 1.

Auckland East's shed was formed in 2015 and after a long search moved into its current premises in May 2018. The challenge was then to transform the building into a great space for men to come together.

The men put their heads together and with careful planning, and a bundle of enthusiasm over the next few months, they completed part one of the makeover. They drew on experience from the past professional lives of members Mal and Alan for the design and electrical aspects and a core team of four, Wayne, Peter, Hank and Phil, handled the hands-on aspects.

These men, like many others, prefer to be doing stuff rather than talking about it and the shed has certainly met that need. Along the way they have not only contributed hugely to the shed and the community through the shed's projects, but they have also made a bunch of new friends. The members of Auckland East's Men's Shed all stayed connected during the COVID-19 lockdown through Zoom meetings three times a week.

Peter attested to the social aspects of the shed, "I have found the Shed to be a friendly place where I can meet others from different backgrounds and learn about their life experiences."

Although the sheds aren't exclusively for seniors, they have become very popular with retirees. Phil said the shed gave him a purpose, "The pending question for seniors who are about to retire is they ask of themselves, "what am I going to do?""

Men's Sheds provide a huge amount of value to their members and their community. To find your local shed and find out about joining go to [www.menzshed.org.nz](http://www.menzshed.org.nz)



Left to right, Peter Merrie, Wayne Grainger and Phil O'Flaherty

There used to be a Men's Shed based in the basement of the Kelston Community Centre, but it's not listed in the above site, so may now be defunct.

In a similar vein:

A poster for "Open maker night" at TAP lab. The poster features a central illustration of a 3D printer with the word "make" printed in red on the print bed. The text on the poster includes: "Open maker night", "Tuesdays\* 7-9pm", "Come in and check out Te Atatu Peninsula's makerspace", "TAP lab", "Upstairs in the Te Atatu Peninsula Community Centre", and a list of activities: "3D printing (Design your own, Download and print, Fix things)", "Vinyl cutting (T-shirt designs, Wall decals)", "2D and 3D design", "Art and crafts", "Wearable electronics", and "Laser cutter (coming soon)". At the bottom, there are logos for TAP lab, Creative Lab, and Henderson-Massey Local Board, along with contact information for TAP lab.

www.taplab.nz  
facebook.com/TAPlab.NZ  
info@taplab.nz  
022 532 8297

TAP lab  
Te Atatu Peninsula Digital Lab

CREATIVE LAB  
TE ATATU PENINSULA

Henderson-Massey  
Local Board

T

If you are interested in 3D printing, a basic 3D printer, like the one Grant Sidaway demonstrated when he spoke to us in April 2019, are becoming relatively cheap (hundreds rather than thousands of dollars). Some public libraries also have them for public use: especially the Central Library (turn left at the entrance).

To end, something anyone of us might identify with:



*"I think I need to get in shape. When that jogger ran by, I actually got tired."*

Or perhaps you will just say: *Speak for yourself!*

Or this, **The Most British Gag Ever** (from <https://www.quora.com/>): A retired Coldstream Guards major had lost his wife many years back. So he took up a few hobbies. One of which was to treat himself to a week end in Paris once a month. He made a very regular stop at a certain bordello on each trip. And each time he arrived he asked for one lady and one particular lady only. Genevieve was her name. After a few years curiosity got the better of the resident madam. Genevieve was nothing out of the ordinary to her so her curiosity was piqued. So one day she offered the major a few drinks on the house and towards the end asked him what Genevieve had that the others did not. "Madam let me tell you this " said the major and then he paused. Madam rose higher in her chair to catch whatever it was that the major was going to say. "Genevieve has got " . The tension was getting unbearable for the Madam so she leaned closer. Again the major said " Genevieve has got" and then paused. Finally he blurted out the words in full in one breath. "Genevieve has got patience"

#### Quiz answers:

- 1 Stockholm
- 2 Canada and USA
- 3 Larynx
- 4 Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus
- 5 Turkey
- 6 9
- 7 Dingo
- 8 Continents
- 9 Prism
- 10 Maps
- 11 Brown

***The next meeting will be on Friday 11 September.***

**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](mailto:vincemiddeldorp@gmail.com) or 828 5250). Vince is responsible for distribution, I for content. Any contributions are most welcome ([JohnMihaljevicNZ@gmail.com](mailto:JohnMihaljevicNZ@gmail.com)).

John Mihaljevic (Newsletter Editor)