



West Auckland Men's Rebus Club

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

Newsletter

MARCH 2021

The next meeting will be at 10 am Friday 12 March 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

COMMITTEE

President	Bill Mutch	celebrantwedding@gmail.com	817 4721
Immediate Past President	Bill Fairs	bill.fairs@gmail.com	627 8297
Secretary	Vince Middeldorp	vincemiddeldorp@gmail.com	828 5250
Treasurer	Justin Griffith	justin@griffith.co.nz	282 3104
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	Barry O'Rourke	judderbumps@gmail.com	818 7935
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Hospitality	Trevor Pollard	fayandtrevor@kinect.co.nz	817 8822
	Alan Babich	ajbabich@xtra.co.nz	833 6169
Membership	Laurie Vincent	laurie_mary@outlook.com	820 2234
Attendance	Stephen David	sj david55@gmail.com	21641717
Webmaster	Vince Middeldorp	vincemiddeldorp@gmail.com	828 5250

This is the same committee as last year, re-elected at the AGM, as reported below. The only change is that the *Almoners* are now *Welfare Officers*. This change, made to bring us into line with modern usage, was passed with only one dissenting voice: Vince Middeldorp said he liked the term *Almoner* and would prefer to keep it. I must admit to having some sympathy with him, but I suppose we must change with the times.

CLUB BUSINESS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bill Mutch

Last year was no ordinary year, with Covid19 causing so much hardship for people all over the world and reducing the number of meetings we held for Rebus. I am happy to report that none of our members got struck by Covid19. I am happy the way our two clubs have joined forces, both sides have been friendly and made everyone feel welcome and important.

Only 3 members of Probus failed to join up with Rebus, but all others voted to join up. The benefits have been wonderful: with larger numbers we can have trips and coffee mornings, along with with lower fees of Rebus.

I have introduced the 10 minute Members Talk. We have a wealth of knowledge to share. I see other Rebus groups also have 10 minute members' presentations. This helps others to have the confidence to do a presentation. I believe in making the best use of our members.

I was President for two years at our past Probus group and have just completed a year with Rebus and prepared to continue for 2021. However, as a reminder of some of the tasks needed to get this great club active, I have been Trips Organizer for 2 years, Vice President, Christmas Lunch Organizer for 2 years, and President, so I enjoyed it all, but you too can enjoy one of the roles.

I was sad to have to miss the January meeting; after all it was me who pushed to have a January meeting, but my work load as a celebrant for funerals and weddings has been high, and also as Secretary of the Railways Enthusiasts Society, which has 600 members, I have not been given enough hours each day. However I have given notice as Secretary. This will give me so much more time for other roles.

I was really happy that Bill Fairs stepped in for me at the January meeting. That's what Rebus is all about, looking after each other.

With the very latest Covid report. We are now at Level 3 for a minimum of a week ,starting 28 February, and it's a shame that some folk break the rules and ruin it for all of us, Stay home if not well.

At our last meeting we said farewell to Rae Hildreth, who has moved out of the area, Rae will be missed. He did his fair share of jobs for us and was always very friendly.

It was so nice to see Stephen David at the last meeting. He is looking good.

Glen Kane has put in his resignation. We wish Glen all the best for the future.

At our March meeting, which depends on us being back in Covid Level I, Maurice Vickers will be doing a 10 minute presentation and Laurie Vincent will be doing an extra quiz session, I also have a surprise presentation!!!

A friendly reminder: we are always looking for new members. Our hall is big enough to take an extra 100 members!!

Bring guests. They get free morning tea.

Bill Mutch

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Vince Middeldorp

Bill Mutch returned to the Chairman's role after being an apology at the last meeting. Bill welcomed 30 members and visitor Joe Doogan to the meeting.

Apologies were recorded for life member Herb Simmonds, and members John McKeown, Alan Babich, Trayton Wickens and Chas Lowe.

The minutes of the previous meeting (8 January 2021), were provided to Bill Fairs for confirmation and signing.



Trevor Pollard reported that he had talked to Kath Wicks about the long-standing matter of the hand-rail. Kath said the installation of the hand-rail had been arranged and in the interim to use the front door if necessary.

Secretary Vince Middeldorp reported that there were no items of external correspondence during the past month.

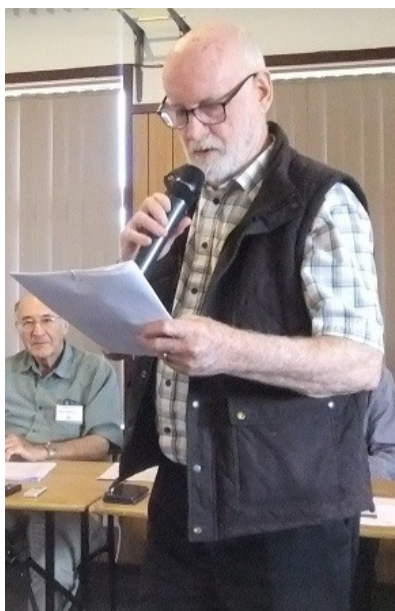
Justin Griffith said he had paid \$100 for the hire of the hall and that he would gladly take the \$25 annual subscription from members who could pay him today.



Justin at his solitary post

Trips organiser Ian Smith said the next coffee morning would be at Swanson Railway Cafe Wednesday 24 February at 10:00 a.m.

Ian said that with the elephants leaving Auckland Zoo, the next trip would be to Auckland Zoo on Wednesday 3 March. Gold card admission is \$19. Arrive at 10.30 a.m. Meet up at the elephant enclosure at 11.15 a.m.



Barry O'Rourke reported that he had been in contact with Glen Kane at Crestwood Retirement Village and that Glen's situation is such that he has had to resign.

Rae Hildreth said he was moving with his daughter to Kaukapakapa to be nearer his grandchildren and great grandchildren. There is a fuller account of Rae below.

The next meeting date was set down for Friday 12 March 2021 at 10.00 am. It would be another meeting with club speakers in place of a guest speaker.

Members paid close attention (as we should!):



Tom Miller conducted a quiz (see below) ▼



after which the meeting adjourned for morning tea ▲

The West Auckland Men's Rebus AGM was held after the tea break. The previous committee was re-elected. The New Lynn Men's Probus AGM was deferred to a date to be advised. It will be held at the New Lynn Library.

Bill Mutch showed how anyone could strike up a conversation with anyone else. He had Anthony Dennis and Tom Miller demonstrate how this could be done:



Andrew Geddes and Roger Laloli talked about the hats they had brought along to the meeting (see below).

The meeting closed in time for the room to be cleared at 12:00 p.m.

CLUB EVENTS

SPEAKERS

HATS

Two members, Andrew Geddes and Roger Laloli gave a 'show and tell' of hats with significance to them:



◀ Andrew



Roger ▶

Andrew told us about his Sumatran hat. It is made of bark, which the locals used for everything. I'm not sure if the label is genuinely ethnic, but Andrew was certainly very enthusiastic about Sumatra (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumatra>).

Roger told of his family's origins in the Italian-speaking part of (southern) Switzerland (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_of_Switzerland#Italian). He itemized the various parts of his clothing and how they were sourced from different parts of the world, with the hat being Swiss. The original kiwi Laloli was Roger's great grandfather, who tried his luck in the Otago goldfields (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otago_Gold_Rush) in the 1850s: all he found was Fool's Gold. Perhaps Roger's Swiss ancestry explains why he became an accountant: the 'Gnome of Henderson'? Actually, that would have required him to have been a banker, like Barry O'Rourke.

We once had a speaker whose hobby was visiting out-of-the-way places and collecting the local costumes. She had members modelling her collection. Very fetching. It appears that we have now brought that sort of thing in house.

FUTURE SPEAKER

Members will no doubt remember the recent talk given by Grant Stevens. On that occasion Grant spoke about his interest in Winston Churchill. However, Grant's day job is as a computer serviceman. Some of us already know him in that capacity. He has therefore asked Noel Rose to ascertain from us what specifically we would like him to speak to us about on a return visit. If you do have anything specific you would like to hear about from Grant, please let Noel know. His contact details are listed at the beginning of this Newsletter.

QUIZ

Tom Miller informed and amused us with another of his World-Famous-In-West-Auckland quizzes
Questions and answers provided by Tom Miller
Answers at end of Newsletter - no peeking

QUESTIONS

- 1 Who is the Vice President of the United States?
- 2 What do you associate with the word *hypotenuse*?
- 3 In which country did the Flat White originate?
- 4 The tomb of which Egyptian pharaoh was discovered in 1922?
- 5 In which country is the Blarney Stone?
- 6 Which is the slowest swimming stroke, free style/back stroke/breast stroke/butterfly?
- 7 Who invented the electric light bulb?
- 8 What does a cartographer concern himself with?
- 9 What does *SCUBA* stand for?
- 10 Who won 4 track events at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, so annoying Hitler?

TOM'S BAD STORY

Couple lying in bed on Valentine's.

She: *Remember when we first met all those years ago and you used to give me a great big hug? I really enjoyed that. I'd like another one.*
He: *No trouble*, and complied.

She: *When we left, you always gave me a beautiful big kiss on the cheek. I'd like one of those, too.*
He: *No trouble*, and complied.

She: *When we were seriously courting, you used to nibble my earlobe. That was very sexy and really turned me on. I'd like one of those, too.*
 He: *No trouble, and got out of bed and put his slippers on.*
 She: *What are you up to? You're supposed to be giving my earlobe a nibble.*
 He: *I'm just going to the bathroom to get my teeth.*

OUTINGS

COFFEE MORNING

Twenty-plus members, wives and friends spent an enjoyable hour or more at the Swanson Station Cafe, on Wednesday 24 February. This was our third or fourth time there, but no less enjoyable for it:



Not everyone arrived at the same time.



Early arrivals



Others strolled in later

We all obeyed the rules and refrained from skateboarding on the wooden deck (or anywhere else)

Hats were much in evidence:



Not just the Usual Suspect

These two hats scored well and were admired by Linda



Two more hats



Another excellent choice of venue by Ian, although I thought the idea was to have these events at a different place each time. We shouldn't get into a rut.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

Two outside events that members might be interested in, both concert series:

AUCKLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

<https://www.aucklandsymphony.co.nz/>

Happy Birthday Mr Beethoven!

Sunday 2nd May, 2.30pm at Bruce Mason Centre

Sunday 9th May, 2.30pm at Auckland Town Hall

Enigma

Sunday 5th September, 2.30pm at Auckland Town Hall

Sunday 12th September, 2.30pm at Bruce Mason Centre

Brave New World

Sunday 10th October, 2.30pm at Auckland Town Hall

Sunday 17th October, 2.30pm at Bruce Mason Centre

Christmas Celebration

Saturday 11th December, 7.30pm at Auckland Town Hall

Entry is free, but tickets have to be obtained (from the site above) in the two weeks before each concert. More information is also available on the site

MORNING MELODIES

BRUCE MASON CENTRE, TAKAPUNA

<https://www.aucklandlive.co.nz/venue/bruce-mason-centre>

12 April	The Royal New Zealand Navy Band
10 May	Gitbox Rebellion
14 June	The Royal New Zealand Navy Band
12 July	Society Jazzmen
9 August	Auckland Principal Brass Quintet
6 September	Caitlin Smith Trio
11 October	Base Auckland Brass
8 November	The Band of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery
6 December	The Royal New Zealand Navy Band

All concerts are on Mondays, 11am – 12pm. Tickets are \$7 (Season Pass \$54), and can be purchased at the site above or at the Bruce Mason Centre.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY ORCHESTRA

MT ALBERT WAR MEMORIAL HALL

<http://philharmonic.org.nz/>

The PSO gives three free (by donation) concerts per year, in April, September and December. I do not currently have any information on their 2021 programme.

These are just three, as it happens, musical events, which I happen to be aware of and interested in. I know that at least one other member is also interested. If you know of any event that you think members might be interested in, please send me the details and I will include them in future Newsletters.

DEPARTURES

We have recently lost two long-time members, Rae Hildreth and Chas Lowe. Fortunately, neither has died, but has merely moved away from Auckland for family reasons. Vince Middeldorp has provided these brief accounts of them.

RAE HILDRETH

If you have read the meeting report in this newsletter, you will have seen that Raé Hildreth is moving with his daughter to Kaukapakapa to be nearer his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Raé has been a member of the club for 21 years.

Rae among some of his friends at the Club:



We know a bit about Raé from a talk he gave as club speaker in October 2017. He grew up in Mt Eden during the depression when you could buy a box of broken Weetbix from the Sanitarium factory in Exmouth Street for a shilling. The first paid employment Raé had was in a grocer's shop. It was in the days before pre-packaging when everything had to be weighed, including the butter.

Raé worked at the Farmers for 29 years in various departments and positions and described it as a marvelous place to work.

Being asked to officiate at a funeral service in an emergency led to Raé becoming a Celebrant and then going on to officiate at many funerals. His wife, also a Celebrant, officiated at marriages as well, and Raé said they were a great team.

For more than ten years, Raé made morning tea at the monthly meetings of the club. He purchased the blue plastic cups, still in use today, when he first went on the tea roster.

In July 2019, Raé celebrated his ninetieth birthday. His daughter Bronwynne organized a secret birthday party, which took Raé completely by surprise. Trevor Pollard, the late Neil Lindstrom, and some of the other club members attended the event.



Rae and Bronwynne

CHAS LOWE

Late in January we received an email from Chas Lowe, one of the most familiar faces at our monthly meetings, to say his wife's health had taken a turn for the worst and asking us to record him as an apology until we see him again.

Late in February Chas updated his situation, writing in an email to us: *This note is to tender my resignation. My wife and I are being moved to Wellington to be looked after. Please give my best wishes to the members. Kind regards, Chas.*

Both welfare officer Barry O'Rourke and President Bill Mutch have been in touch with Chas in recent days. Chas told Bill on the phone, how much he had enjoyed being a member of the club. Chas has been a member for twenty-seven years (1994-2021).

Chas with some of his fellow club members and friends



Bill felt that this tremendous upheaval is not something Chas wanted to be put through. Stress is not good for someone 89 years old.

We have a photograph of Chas which only came about because we needed a photograph of the wireless microphone. The resulting photo captured Laurie Whetton with Chas Lowe on his right:



MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS

CLAUDIA'S CORNER

Once again, Bill Mutch's granddaughter Claudia has amused us.

Teacher: *Give me a sentence which includes the words **Defence, Defeat, Detail.***

Charlie: *When a horse jumps over defence, defeat go first and then detail.*

As well as forwarding Claudia's contribution, Bill Mutch could not resist adding a joke of his own:

He was having a quiet drink in a bar when, suddenly, the waitress cries out: *Does anyone know CPR?*

Our hero responds: *I know the whole alphabet!*

Everyone laughed.

Except for one man.

OTHER

TEXTING FOR SENIORS

Bill Mutch

Youngsters of today have their texting codes (**LOL, OMG, TTYL** etc). We Oldies have decided not to be outdone by these kids and have now developed our own texting codes:

ATD	At the Doctors's
BFF	Best Friend's Funeral
BTW	Bring the Wheelchair
BYOT	Bring Your Own Teeth
FWIW	Forgot Where I Was
GGPBL	Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
GHA	Got Heartburn Again
TFT	Texting From Toilet

Thanks Bill. We must not be left behind in the digital race.

Please submit any others for future listing.

Feel free to use them if appropriate. Or even if not appropriate. Especially if not appropriate – if challenged, blame a Senior Moment. Do not hesitate to take full advantage of any reputation for being 'gaga'. Lull the young brats into a false sense of security, then counterattack when they are least expecting it. For tips on this, see *The Senior Citizens' Survival Guide Beyond the New Millennium*, by Bob Feigel and Malcolm Walker. Copies are available in the Auckland Public Library system. Use it before Council cost cuts it into oblivion.

FROM WAITAKERE GREY POWER

The following from the Waitakere Grey Power Newsletter that might appeal.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Winston Churchill: The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty.

Walt Disney: The best way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.

Will Rogers: Don't let yesterday take up too much of today.

SOME SENIOR HUMOUR

Don't let aging get you down, it's too hard to get back up.
How are stars like dentures? They both come out at night.
I called the Continenence hotline. They asked if I could Hold!
I've decided. Whatever age I am is the new 30.
Now that I've become a senior, everything is beginning to click for me! My knees, my back, my neck
Old people are just young people who have been alive for a long time.
Old age isn't so bad, considering the alternative.
One benefit of old age is that your secrets are safe with friends – they can't remember them either.
With old age comes wisdom ... and discounts!
Young at heart, old everywhere else.
Youth is wasted on the young!
Mark Twain stated that wrinkles should indicate where smiles have been.

Something for our times.

SMILING IS INFECTIOUS

Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious,
you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realized
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile,
then I realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected!

Unfortunately, I have lost track of who sent me this sage advice. Whoever you are, thank you very much. And please keep them coming – from **all** of you.

I am in the habit of frequenting op shops and book fairs in search of books that appeal to me. I occasionally come across books containing material that I can use in the Newsletter. A recent such acquisition was *My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen*, The best and funniest after-dinner stories from the famous, collected by Phyllis Shindler. In light of recent events in a country which will remain nameless, but I am sure you will all recognize, I offer the following story, by the author P.D. James.

A Frenchman, an Englishman and an American were in deep trouble in some remote country and were all sentenced to be guillotined. The Frenchman was asked if he would like to face upwards to the blade, or down to the earth. He said he would prefer to gaze at the good soil of France. The knife descended, but an inch from his neck it quivered and stuck. The officer in charge congratulated him and said that under the law of the country he was entitled to be reprieved.

The next candidate for execution was the Englishman. He said that he wasn't afraid to see what was coming to him and would look upward to the blade, but again it stuck just above his throat and he too was reprieved.

Lastly came the American. He said that he was just as prepared as any Limey to face what was coming to him, and that he would look upward. Just as the executioner was about to release the blade he put up his finger and said: *Hi! Hold on a minute. I think I can see what the trouble is here.*

He certainly earned his Darwin Award (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darwin_Awards)!

On a similar (?) theme, the same tome offers, from Oliver Sunderland, Master of The Worshipful Company of Carmen:

On the wall of a Maternity Hospital a large warning notice was posted by a rather stern Matron for the guidance of Nurses reading:

REMEMBER THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF A HUMAN BEING'S LIFE ARE THE MOST DANGEROUS

Some wag had added in equally bold print:

THE LAST FIVE MINUTES ARE PRETTY DODGY TOO!

ONLINE BANKING

With cheques now a thing of the past, and bank branches, and even ATMs, being few and far between, Internet Banking has become, if not welcome, certainly unavoidable. Specifically, you can now pay your Rebus subscription directly into our bank account: 38 9022 0402722 00. The precise details of how to make a payment will depend on just how your bank's web page is configured.

You will also have to set your account up with your bank first. Just go to the relevant page on your bank's web site and follow the instructions there. This process, and making payments, is not difficult, but can be daunting at first. When I signed-up for online banking, and also when I made my first online payment, I did it while on the phone to my bank's Help Line. The nice lady on the Help Line talked me through each process. With her help, it was all a lot easier than I had feared. I now regularly make online payments without any problem, and I also check my account on line whenever I want, both from the comfort and safety of my home.

An alternative to Internet Banking that you might prefer is Telephone Banking. I have never used it myself, so cannot comment on it from personal experience, although my sister has been using it for years, quite happily and successfully. Again, ring your bank's Help Line and take it from there. I do know (from my sister) that ASB has a separate phone number for Seniors, which is much better (less waiting) than that for younger customers.

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

October's quest speaker, Grant Stevens, is actually a computer serviceman, operating as Eden Computers (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.ms.govt.nz/>), where you can find much useful and interesting information, as well as sign-up to their eNewsletter.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1 Kamala Harris
- 2 Pythagoras' Theorem: the square on the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares on the other two side in a right-angles triangle
- 3 Australia
- 4 Tutankhamun
- 5 Ireland
- 6 Breast stroke
- 7 Thomas Alva Edison
- 8 Maps
- 9 Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus
- 10 Jesse Owens

SUPPORTERS

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



The 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 9 April 2021
(usual time, usual place)

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)