



# West Auckland Men's Rebus Club

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

## Newsletter

**SEPTEMBER 2020**

***The meeting scheduled for Friday 11 September has been cancelled  
The next meeting will therefore be (COVID-19 permitting) 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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Webmaster	Vince Middeldorp	<a href="mailto:vincemiddeldorp@gmail.com">vincemiddeldorp@gmail.com</a>	828 5250

### **CLUB EVENTS**

Thanks to the return (hopefully temporary) of COVID-19, it's déjà vu all over again. Therefore there not having been any Club events (meetings or outings) in August, there is nothing recent to report. Since the September meeting is also cancelled, the October Newsletter will be similarly afflicted.

To fill this Newsletter, I have gone back to the beginning; or at least to my beginning as Newsletter Editor. My first issue (and our first digital issue) was in October 2017 (how time flies when your are having fun!), reporting on speakers (Club and Guest) from the September 2017 meeting. We were then Fellowship, between Probus and Rebus. We were not Fellowship for long: we decided that we did not like the name – it made us sound like american evangelicals! So Rebus we became, and have been ever since.

When looking at the September 2017 Newsletter, I noticed that I still had my original email address ([jmjm@ihug.co.nz](mailto:jmjm@ihug.co.nz)), this being before my ISP, Vodafone, decided that it could no longer be bothered with email. It may prove to have been an own-goal for Vodafone. Because I now have what might be termed a 'universal' email address ([JohnMihaljevicNZ@gmail.com](mailto:JohnMihaljevicNZ@gmail.com)), I am no longer tied to a specific ISP. I can now ditch Vodafone for another ISP and easily take all my email contacts with me. I have already had to change all my email contacts, but was able to do so at a leisurely pace at my my own convenience, and not have to do it again, no matter how much ISP-hoping I do.

In fact, I now have 2 Gmail addresses (also [jmjm.nz1949@gmail.com](mailto:jmjm.nz1949@gmail.com)). You may wonder why have more than one email address. First, because I can. More importantly, 2 other reasons. When you sign up for (register) for something online, you will often be asked not only for your regular email address, but also for a second, *recovery*. address, which can be used to contact you should there be a problem with your primary address. Also, you may be required to give your email address to something you are not quite sure about. It may be dodgy, so that any email address you give might be compromised. In this situation, you can use another, throw-away, address, which you can, literally, throw away if there is a problem, without endangering your primary address. You can have any number of separate email addresses.

I digress: back to the subject.

First, some additional information about our July Guest Speaker, Jacqui Knight, the Butterfly Lady, supplied by Laurie Vincent. She had been married to cricketer Mark Burgess ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark\\_Burgess\\_\(cricketer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Burgess_(cricketer))), who captained the New Zealand Cricket Team in 1978 to 1980.

Also in the August Newsletter, it was mentioned that the Club had been in existence for 35 years (with a Certificate from the Rebus Federation to mark it). I mentioned that *35 years!* had been a catch phrase of a comedy radio show of my youth, whose name I could not remember. Jean McIntosh (Editor, *Rebus Club News*) informed me, via our Federation Liaison Officer, Bill Fairs, that the programme was *Beyond our Ken*, starring Kenneth Williams, Hugh Paddick, Betty Marsden and Kenneth Horne. One of the characters had the catch phrase *The answer lies in the soil*. They don't make them like that any more.

If you want to relive your misspent youth and listen to *Beyond Our Ken* again, you can find it on <http://www.youtube.com/>: you might have to pay for some of it, but some is free. The easiest way to access it is to type *youtube.com: beyond our ken* into the search box of your web browser.

Here is a large chunk of the October 2017 Newsletter, reporting the September 2017 meeting. If you have joined us since then, and so have not seen it before, enjoy. If you read it first time round, see how much of it you can remember.

There were two speakers: Club Speaker John McKeown and Guest Speaker Chris Orr (and his dog Noble) from the Foundation for the Blind. Chris and Noble were hosted by Roger Laloli.

**John McKeown** began with a discourse on the correct pronunciation of his surname, which people invariably get wrong. I won't try to get phonetic here – you had to be there! With a surname like mine, I sympathise. He was initially attracted to us by the talk on NZ Opera.



He started by noting that, being Irish, he had kissed the Blarney Stone, and proceeded to prove it.

John was born in 1950 in a two-up, two-down in Foundry Street, East Belfast, the 5<sup>th</sup> child of 13 (only 8 of whom survived to adulthood) to a poor working class catholic family. Times were hard: after dressing up for Mass on Sunday, on Monday their mother would take their best clothes to the local pawnbroker (“Uncle Matt”), for enough money to last until their father was paid on Friday, then redeem the clothes on Saturday, for next Sunday’s Mass. His childhood was difficult, but happy.

The big local employer was the Harland and Wolfe Shipyard. Although it employed only Protestants, John’s father, a painter and decorator, did have protestant friends, and was able to get work there. However, he was warned to beware of red-hot rivets falling on his head. The reality of sectarianism. This was the height of “The Troubles”, with protestant Orangemen regarding the Battle of the Boyne (1690) as yesterday. This eventually prompted the whole family to move to New Zealand.

John was the first member of his family, or indeed of his neighbourhood, to pass his 11+ exams. This gave him entry to grammar (secondary) school, and then university. After St Malachy’s College, he went to the University of Ulster. He decided against Trinity, in Dublin, or an English university, because he wanted to stay local.

While at university he was invited to join the IRA. Although in favour of a united Ireland, he declined, because he was not prepared to kill for it. Also, he did not want to risk being interned, which would prevent him from going to New Zealand with the rest of his family. The seriousness of this situation was highlighted several years later, when he was watching on TV the funeral of an IRA man who had been killed in action, and realised that the deceased was his cousin. His mother’s staunchly Republican family, did not approve of his father, because he had served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War.

After his father’s death, John learned that his father had not been the only member of the family to have “fought for the enemy”, as it were. An ancestor, Corporal James Salamander Devlin of the 4<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, had taken part in the Charge of the Light Brigade, during the Crimean War. Severely wounded, he had been evacuated to Scutari Hospital, where he quite likely was nursed by Florence Nightingale, and was subsequently presented to Queen Victoria.

Corporal Devlin’s unusual middle name probably indicated that he had been born on a ship named the “Salamander”; a common practice at the time. This led to speculation that had John been born on the “Titanic” (which was built at the Harland and Wolfe shipyard), he would be John Titanic McKeown.

John’s eldest brother Tommy migrated to New Zealand in 1967, and his father in 1971. The rest of the family joined them in 1972. John was the last of the family to come, in late 1973, once he had finished his studies. He could have come on a £25 assisted passage, but preferred to pay his own way (£500), so that he could go back if he did not like New Zealand. In fact, he fell in love with the place and has been here ever since.

**Chris Orr** began with a brief history of the Blind Foundation (not Institute). It started in 1890. Initially essentially educational, it broadened its scope into light industrial workshops in the 1920s. By the 1940s it had greatly the scope of what blind people could do, emphasizing independence rather than dependence. It became the NZ Foundation for the Blind in 1956.

Chris is originally from Dunedin, a proud alumni of Otago Boys High. He was blinded by an accident in 1974, at the age of 21. He came to the Blind Foundation in Auckland in 1975, “to learn to be a blind man”. Initially totally dependent on others, he learned to use his other senses to cope, and become independent. The first thing he learned was how to make a cup of tea. Then came other life skills, that sighted people take for granted, in particular how to navigate the world.

His first navigational exercise was being sent to find his own way from the Foundation in Manurewa to Boots the Chemist in Queen Street, and back again. By himself. Working it out as he went. Finding the train times was his first hurdle. The man on the phone refused to tell him (they didn’t do that sort of thing), and Chris was in no position to take his advice to read the timetable listed at the station. This worthy suggested that Chris get someone else to read it to him, whereupon Chris pointed out that that was what he was asking for. Common sense, and decency, did eventually prevail, and Chris was able to board a train and commence his journey. Next problem, where to get off: “It’s the last stop”, a fellow passenger helpfully pointed out. Chris successfully made his way to Boots the Chemist, with some help from passers-by, then equally successfully returned to Manurewa.



Chris outlined the changes, for the better, since then. The technology available to him is much improved. Public transport is very much friendlier. The three and a half people available as instructors, in all of New Zealand, when he started have grown to over 200 now. Originally a very much one-size-fits-all

(essentially white middle class) model, it is now much more specific, and also caters better for Pasifika and Maori. It is now more oriented to what blind people actually want, not what others think they should have.

Chris was accompanied by Noble, his current (fifth) guide dog. When Chris started with his first dog (Adam), people did not know what they were, and were not always friendly. Things soon changed, and guide dogs are now very much a normal and accepted part of the scene. In fact, guide dogs now have the legal right, enshrined in law, to go wherever their owners go.

Chris told some stories of his adventures over the years with his various dogs. Irish pubs in Newmarket featured.

Although most guide dogs are yellow Labrador, with some German shepherds and poodles, Chris prefers black male Labradors. Their stray hairs don't show as much, and a poodle wouldn't look right. They can cope with a wide range of environments, from busy to quiet. A Labrador can work for about 8½ years before retiring as a family pet, either staying with its previous human or going to a foster home.

A guide dog such as Noble costs \$2000 per year, for food and veterinary care. Although Government financial support is available for other forms of assistance, such as wheelchairs, nothing is available for guide dogs.

A blind person's needs and expectations constantly change and need to be accommodated. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Blind Foundation meets the needs of the blind person, whatever and wherever they are.

Two things struck me about John and Chris.

John was Club Speaker: a (relatively) new member telling us something about himself. A rite-of-passage into the Club, as it were. Something we have not had for a long time; probably because we have had a dearth on new members. However, given the recent changes in our membership, many of us are now relative strangers to each other, so perhaps we should revive the tradition of Club Speakers so that old new members can get to know each other better.

Chris is a classic example of perseverance in the face of adversity; something we should all aspire to in these challenging times. Life can be a bugger, for Chris and for us, but it beats the alternative.

That meeting closed with some Words of Wisdom from Chairman Bill Fairs:

*Yesterday is the past, tomorrow is the future, today is a gift, and that is why we call it the present.*

Something else we might all ponder on. Bill has provided some more Words of Wisdom from his collection. Although written many years ago they are more relevant today than then. From Martin Luther King, Jr.:

*Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power.  
We have guided missiles and misguided men.*

As Bill noted, many leaders come to mind. Nor naming anyone, of course. No need to, they are all too obvious. The lunatics really are running the asylum.

I had ended the inaugural digital Newsletter with an offering from Mike Latchford, an old friend of mine, and former fellow tutor at SeniorNet West Auckland, which bears repeating. Read it and mourn the passing of Proofreading, although at least it is not Fake News.

And I always thought newspaper editors were intelligent!!!!  
[Would you believe these.....](#)

*This is probably the only reason I still read the newspaper...*





# Girls' schools still offering 'something special' – head

Girls' schools still offering 'something special' – head



# Tiger Woods plays with own balls, Nike says

Tiger Woods plays with own balls, Nike says

## ON TEENAGERS, ADULT:

# Statistics show that teen pregnancy drops off significantly after age 25.

Mary Anne Tiede, Republican state senator from Colorado Springs (contributed by Harry F. Ponce)

MONDAY DECEMBER 1999

Federal Agents Raid Gun Shop, Find Weapons
Store Owner Arrested Previously
By Brian Barber
On July 2, undercover narcotics agents served a warrant at [redacted] home. [redacted] in search of [redacted] drugs. They found a stockpile of lead [redacted], hand grenades, dynamite and other explosives.

# Marijuana issue sent to a joint committee

The Toronto Star 06/14/96

REGION THE KURUMAN TIMES
Homicide victims rarely talk to police



# Worker suffers leg pain after crane drops 800-pound ball on his head

CHARLESTON (AP) — The state Division of Highways granted contracts to a

# Bridges help people cross rivers

By MICHELLE DURAVEN

Have you ever wondered what Rockford would be like without bridges across the Rock River? How would we get from east to west? Farms might be an answer, but not a very practical one.

Bridges have helped mankind traverse waterways, civilizations and the like for hundreds and even thousands of years. And, throughout that time, bridges have evolved from a simple beam log across a narrow creek to highly complex roadways spanning miles of shallow waterways, such as the 24-mile-long Lake Pontchartrain Causeway near New Orleans, La.

## To Do:

The next time your family visits Discovery Center Museum, try to find the two different arch bridges and one suspension bridge in Rock River Discovery Park. If you want to learn how engineers build bridges and buildings, you might want to participate in our upcoming Exploring Architecture Camp, from 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, July 29, through Friday, July 31. Open to children ages 8 to 11, the camp will explore engineering and architecture with blocks,

marshmallows, pipe, and other materials. Call Discovery Center Museum at 904-670-1000 for admission fees and registration information.

To build your own bridge or building at home, you will need:

- Popsicle sticks
- Gum drops

By joining the popsicle sticks in to the gum drops, you can connect them together to create your own structure. How high can you make a tower? How long of a span can you get to a bridge?

# CITY UNSURE WHY THE SEWER SMELLS

By KRISTIN HAY  
H.F. Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — The tests

Stickland said he will discuss the strategy of putting a non-toxic smoke into the sewer to detect the path of the offensive gas emanat-

## The Winchester Star

### BRIEFS

# Study Shows Frequent Sex Enhances Pregnancy Chances

By The Associated Press

BOSTON — A study that researchers say gives the best estimate ever of nature's window of

pleas don't want to use other forms of birth control.

Researchers say there are six days in every menstrual month when a woman can get pregnant.

# Meeting on open meetings is closed

# Man Accused of Killing Lawyer Receives a New Attorney

By Scott Stewards  
RN Staff Writer

Charged in the murder of his former attorney, Miguel Trujillo has been appointed another attorney from the public defender's office.

Judy Reed, from the Public Defender's Department in Albuquerque, had no comment, saying that she had just been given the case with no time to review it.

Trujillo had recently rejected his previous court-appointed attorney of six months, Marc Rubin.

An attorney from out of state was hired because none of the attorneys working for the Public Defender's Department of Santa Fe knew Cuban. Trujillo is accused of murdering in a drive-by shooting.

Vigil was murdered Aug. 13, 1999 a few blocks from his South Street office while walking to District Court for a hearing.

A five-page, early model food pickup was spotted in the area linking Trujillo to the scene.

Assistant District Attorney Richard Schuler said the crew was waiting for an attorney to represent Trujillo to be found to

schedule the next hearing.

All First District Court judges were disqualified from the hearings, with Judge Stephen Pfeiffer excused. The Supreme Court appointed Second District Chief Judge Neil Candelaria from Albuquerque to oversee the hearings.

Trujillo is accused of an open charge of murder, two counts of covering a witness or witness, one charge of tampering with evidence, and one charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Trujillo shot his wife, the laws up to 90 years. (AP/SG)

# Puerto Rican teen named mistress of the universe



Victoria Grigolo and Latin singer Chela provided the most dramatic moments of the pageant.

The top 10 finalists' names were announced early in the show. Then their scores were displayed and competitors began to walk across the stage to meet Grigolo.

After being crowned to the final in the competition, she walked across the stage to meet Grigolo.

The winner travels the world for a year on behalf of charities and good causes. Natalie Gutierrez of Canada crowned Grigolo at the end of the two-hour telecast which aired on

Las Vegas — An 18-year-old Argentine actress from Puerto Rico, who hopes to compete later in U.S. and Latin American films, was crowned Miss Universe 2006.

Dulkyta Emma Mendez of Puerto Rico shared a surprise emotional hug with first runner-up Kazuha Chikusa of Japan yesterday before she was crowned.

She beamed as the crown was placed on her head.

Miss USA Tara Conner was the country's fourth

# Barbershop singers bring joy to school for deaf

By Anne Brennan

A choir of barbershop singers performed through the walls of a school for the deaf in South Haven, Mich. The members of the group, who are all deaf, performed for the first time at the school.

The group performed at the school for the deaf in South Haven, Mich. The members of the group, who are all deaf, performed for the first time at the school.

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# Hospitals resort to hiring doctors

PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE PROMPTING MOVE, ADMINISTRATORS SAY

GRAND STATE JOURNAL      TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009      LOCAL 151

## Man with 8 DUIs blames drinking problem



...with a drinking problem...

## New sick policy requires 2-day notice

By Mark J. Armstrong

Employees of the City of Waukegan will be expected to give 48-hour notice before...

## Parents keep kids home to protest school closure

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Parents kept 200 elementary school students home from school for an entire day in a parent-organized protest of the district's plans to close the school.

up even though most of the students didn't, and that it was largely business as usual for the remaining students who studied in small classes.

"I know I'm the principal," she said. "But I'm not enrolling to...

## Starvation can lead to health hazards

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My weight is totally over the top. I am 5 feet 7 inches tall and weigh close to 300 pounds. I was average weight in high school.



difficult to meet daily protein, vitamin and mineral requirements.

Get to a dietitian for diet advice that provides for essential nutrients while paring down calorie intake sensibly. Your local hospital should be able to put you on the track of one. Combine...

## The bra celebrates a pair of historic milestones this year

After 100 years of innovation, the device still holds up

By SHARON FINK  
St. Petersburg Times

It's time to mark two important milestones in the history of the bra, the Wonderbra, the water bra, bras are constantly evolving.

Although it often may not feel like it, the industry's No. 1 goal is comfort, said Norah Alberto, senior style director at Maidenform.

"You kind of want to forget you're wearing (a bra)," she said.

moment that got the cultural pot stirrer as much attention for her image as her music.

Bras as outerwear were eventually joined by bustiers and corset tops (without bones in them). Then slips started being worn as dresses. Camisoles became a dressier kind of tank top. And under-

## Total lunar eclipse will be broadcast live on Northwoods Public Radio

If you're a stargazer, join KAXE 91.7 FM for a special skywatch on Sunday evening, Nov. 28. A spectacular view of the total lunar eclipse is predicted for northern Minnesota. KAXE and Itasca Community College physics professor Aaron Wenger will

If it's cloudy, call the station first for more information.

KAXE will broadcast the stargazing, and Wenger's comments about the lunar eclipse, live on 91.7 FM, beginning around midnight.

KAXE 91.7 FM is Northwoods Public Radio, a 17-



## Miracle cure kills fifth patient

By The Associated Press

A fifth volunteer died Tuesday from an experimental drug touted as a miracle cure for hepatitis B, beyond medical science's grasp of what went gravely wrong in a clinical trial.

Agonizingly, the first clue was in plain sight a year ago, but researchers at the National Institutes of Health didn't know enough about how the drug worked to recognize what it meant, the study's lead scientist says.

"Something terrible happened and we missed it," Dr. Jay Hoofnagle said in an emotional

interview describing the horror of realizing the drug was killing people months after they stopped taking it.

"The dreadful thing [is] waiting to see what will happen," he said, his voice trembling before learning of the most recent death. "I just hope we're over the worst."

The drug Fialuridine, or FIAU, had shown great promise for fighting the hepatitis B virus, which can cause deadly cirrhosis and liver cancer. When dogs passed toxicity tests unharmed, the Food and Drug Administration approved FIAU for human trials.

Too late, scientists would discover that in humans, FIAU steadily attacks the very building blocks of cells in livers, kidneys and nerves.

Five people treated with FIAU have died of liver and kidney failure, despite liver transplants for three of them. On Tuesday, a 37-year-old woman succumbed after two months in critical condition and two liver transplants at the University of Virginia Medical Center. One volunteer remains in serious condition there, and another is recovering from an Aug. 4 transplant at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

RIP Proofreading.

If you are not a regular reader of the *NZ Herald* you may have missed *Sideswipe* for Tuesday 18 August:

The New Zealand Herald | Tuesday, August 18, 2020

# Sideswipe

Ana Samways | ana.samways@nzherald.co.nz



Menu All Search IMDb

FULL CAST AND CREW | TRIVIA | USER REVIEWS | IMDbPro | MORE | SHARE

## 1pm Daily Update

News | TV Series (2020-...)

9.6  
964

Episode Guide  
3 episodes



Prime Minister [Jacinda Ardern](#) and Director-General of Health [Ashley Bloomfield](#) report on the latest COVID-19 updates and the New Zealand government's response.

Stars: [Alan Wendt](#), [Justin Walls](#), [Ashley Bloomfield](#)  
[See full cast & crew >](#)

### Worth staying home for

Our very own short-form TV series the *1pm Daily Update* has had a fan page created on IMDb – a website with information and trivia about movies and TV shows – and the reviews are in:

"This has to be the best reality show of 2020," declares one fan. "I find myself glued to the TV every day at 1pm to see what new drama has unfolded! Season 1 was great and had a fantastic finale. Season 2 has just been released and I have heard there may be a new character called 'The Mask' so I am looking forward to seeing how that will fit into the narrative!"

There is much praise for the original ensemble cast with Jacinda and Ashley being described as the "best duo since Mulder and Scully" and thumbs up for the casting changes: "Thankfully Clark, occasionally seen in Season 1, has been cut...Rumours of comedic actor Todd Muller joining the show were very short-lived, with the producers taking a completely different route in introducing supervillain Judith 'Crusher' Collins instead."

The hate-watching of the journalists is still a great hook for this season: "In the hiatus between seasons, Tova O'Brien got to flex her comedic muscles as the director of the surprise hit 'Todd and Nikki's First Day'. It's disappointing to see her now, once again, relegated to a role where all she gets to do is ask inane questions".

The added addition of the conspiracy theory narrative has added some dark humour. "Season One got better as it went along. Probably because I started watching on my own, then halfway through I could eat pizza while watching and then at the end I was watching on my phone in a packed pub. However, I feel they've jumped the shark early in Season Two with the introduction of this Gerry Brownlee character... the whole show felt quite real up until he was added."

But our show holds up well compared to other versions. "I think some of the commenters here should definitely check out the American version, which is way darker but does suffer from randomly binning some of its better characters and is starting to drag on a bit."

But not everyone is a fan... "*1pm Daily Update* was the TV series that first introduced sign language experts to provide movement on the screen during the main characters' lengthy wooden monologues. Without this many smart TVs would have turned themselves off to save power."



**The helmet of virus protection.**  
Photo / Supplied

As an aside, if you are looking for information about a movie or TV programme I recommend the site this is from: <http://www.imdb.com/>.





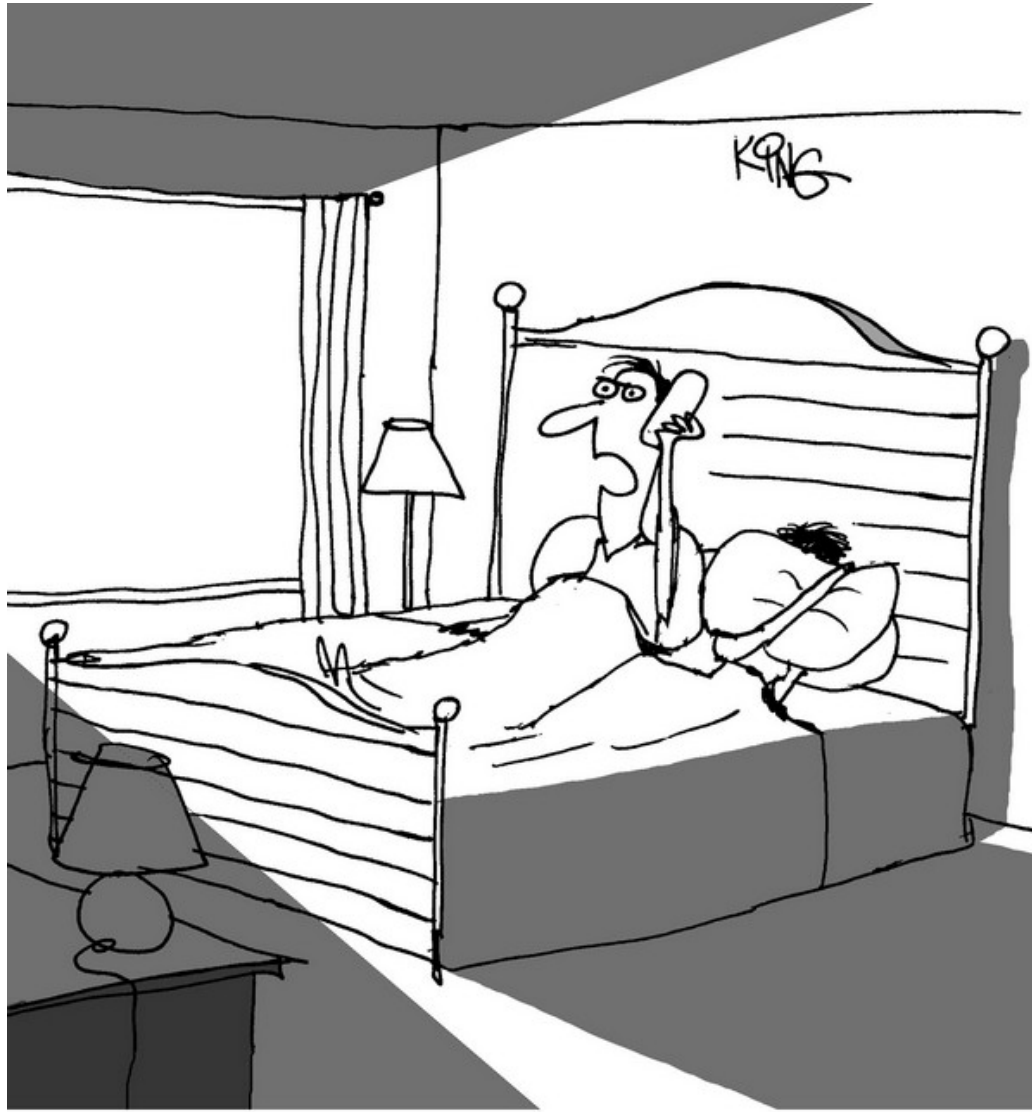
*"I accidentally walked into the wrong cubicle at work, and now I'm stuck in some type of four-dimensional void that distorts space and time."*

Lockdown can have this effect!



You learn something every day!





*“Hi, Bob, this is Jim, your neighbor. Would you mind turning down the brightness on your phone?”*

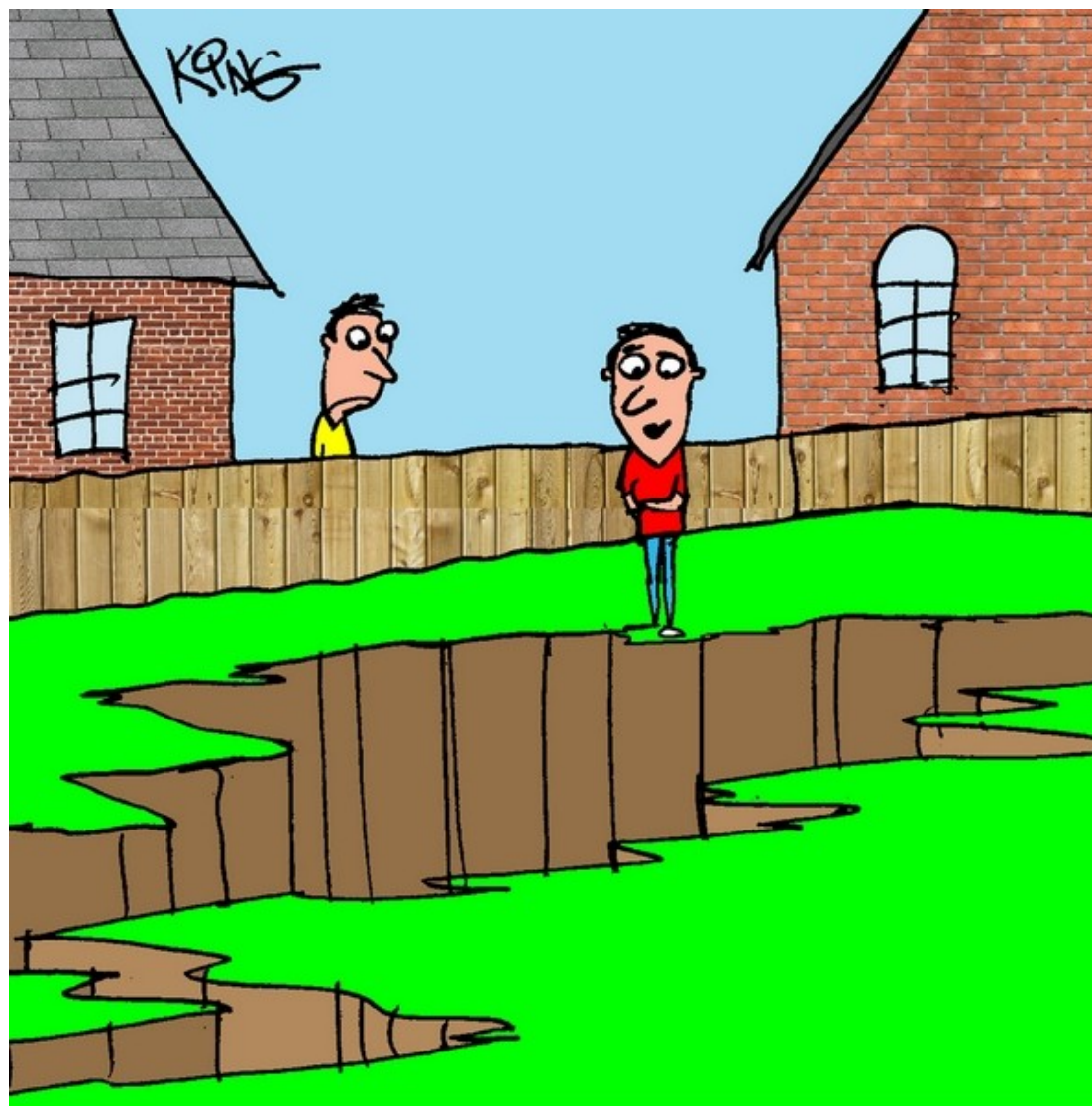
O tempora, O mores!



*“To be honest, I was hoping for something a little more inspiring than just the benefits of shopping online.”*



*“Your expense account isn’t what it used to be.  
There’s not enough money on your card to  
cover the \$5.35.”*



*“At first I was concerned about the Earth  
opening up. But I was going to build a fire pit,  
so it actually saved me a lot of time.”*

A message for our times: turn a negative into a positive



## CLUB BUSINESS

### Quick Response Grant

Vince Middeldorp

Last year I obtained a \$1,000 grant from the Whau Local Board to buy a wireless microphone for New Lynn Men's Probus Club. I remember bragging about it and Andrew Geddes exclaiming: *You treat getting money out of Auckland Council as a sport!*

Andrew is completely correct and will be pleased to hear that I have played the game again, this time for West Auckland Men's Rebus Club. The result was that on Tuesday 1 September 2020, Erin Shin, a Grants Advisor in Group Treasury at Auckland Council, instructed Lima Seve to *Please request PO for this application QR2121-118.*

The abbreviation **PO** must be shorthand for Payment Order. QR2121-118 is my grant application for another \$1,000 this time for an Epson EB-W140 projector from Noel Leeming and a Brateck 100" projector and screen with tripod from PB Technology.



The first step in obtaining a grant involves going online and starting work on a 14 page application form. Some of this paperwork is challenging for example this question from page nine: *Please detail the number of hours in volunteer time, contributed to this project and the value of this contribution. The value of volunteer time can be calculated using the Living wage of \$21.15 per hour.*

A feature I find very useful in the application process is that when you strike troublesome questions, you can click on **save and close** and go back to it another day.

This time the procrastination feature created a problem for me, because having completed most of the application, I did not look at it again until the night before our 10 July 2020 monthly meeting. It was then I saw to my horror that applications closed at 10.00 pm the next day i.e. the day of our meeting.

At that stage, there were two items I had to include in the application that I did not have: a quote for the projector and proof of bank account details.

After our meeting at the Friendship Hall, I went with John Mihaljevic to the Noel Leeming store in LynnMall. I could not believe my luck when salesperson Haydn L, went to the till and produced a quote that looked like a receipt i.e. the long strip of paper that comes out of a till.

That left one last item, the Rebus West Auckland bank account details. At the monthly meeting, I had talked to Treasurer Justin Griffith, and he sent through an email with an attachment at 3.02 pm that afternoon.

I did not open Justin's email until after dinner. He had sent through a copy of the BNZ Bank Statement (we were switching from BNZ to Kiwibank). The problem was the BNZ statement showed enough money in the account to buy what we wanted without having to ask for a grant.

At 9.03 pm, with less than an hour before applications closed, Justin sent through exactly what I needed. It was a screen image capture of our Kiwibank account, including the bank logo and URL. Do not worry if *screen image capture and URL* means nothing to you, Justin being computer savvy knew exactly what it meant. The other good thing was that our Kiwibank account showed an available bank balance of \$330.60.

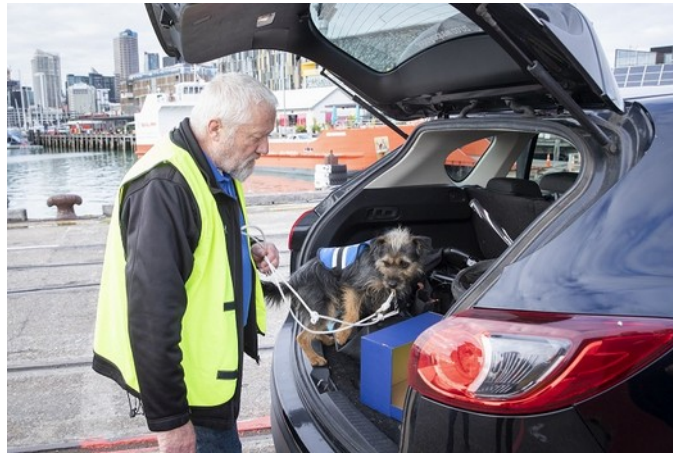
I sent application QR 2121-118 through at 9.33 pm on 10 July 2020 (27 minutes before applications closed) and the Whau Local Board approved the \$1,000 grant at their meeting on 26 August 2020.



After news of the grant came through, I looked up the agenda for Whau Local Board 26 August 2020. It showed they had received 14 applications for grants, requesting a total of \$27,642.42. Council officers identified 13 of those applications as “eligible” and one as “ineligible.” If the Whau Local Board approved all the eligible applications, which is highly likely, then just about every player in this sport ends up a winner.

### **COMING EVENTS**

August’s Guest Speaker was to have been **Brian Shields**, from Auckland City Council, who will 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**.

### **CHELSEA SUGAR REFINERY TRIP**

This has been rescheduled to Tuesday 10 November. Trip details are as before.

### **COFFEE MORNING**

The next Coffee Morning is at **Esquire Coffee** (<https://theboundary.co/stores/esquires-cafe/>), at The Boundary (formerly The Waitakere Mega Centre) , is now at 10 am on Friday 18 September:



The Boundary is located between Newington Road and Vitasovitch Avenue, with main access from the latter. It is not in 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.

Please observe the limit of 10 people per group, i.e. at any one table. Start a new group, at another table, as necessary. I look forward to getting some interesting photos of members eating and drinking while adhering to proper mask protocol. In the circumstances, hats, as at One Sip at our last Coffee Morning, are optional.



## **ARDMORE TRIP**

Our next trip was to have been a visit to Pioneer Aero (<http://www.pioneeraero.co.nz/>), Ardmore, on Thursday 10 September (the day before the September meeting). Like the September meeting, it has fallen victim to the return of COVID-19. Hopefully, like the Chelsea trip, it will prove to be only a temporary glitch. We will keep you posted on developments.

## **MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **Calendar Competition**

Vince Middeldorp

I have been meaning to put an entry in for the Calendar Competition. Closing date is the 15th of September so there is still time for us members to get an entry in.

One of the rules is, "Photo subject to be an eye-catching scene found only in your Club's district." The big problem is what should that subject be?



Like so many people, these days I go out for a daily walk. Over time, my walk has become longer. It now takes in the walkway that goes through the backblocks at Unitec.

Last summer, I met fellow West Auckland Rebus Club member Laurie Vincent and his wife Mary, out for a stroll on this same walkway. They said they walk through to Great North Road and then catch a 195-bus home. I am therefore claiming this walkway, even though it is in Pt Chevalier/Mt Albert, as being in our Club's district.

One time I took my mum, who is in her nineties and pushes a stroller, for a walk through the grounds at Unitec. I just had to show her what was down there. Instead of following the walkway to Great North Road, where Laurie and Mary catch the bus, we walked down a tree-lined road to a quaint empty brick building (number 33) where I had parked the car.



When getting into the car I looked up and saw a white building standing on a hill that I just had to go and have a closer look at. On closer inspection, I saw a majestic building with a bell tower on the roof and a concrete inscription: 1896.





During the Covid-19 level 3 lockdown, I waited for a sunny winter's day with not a cloud in the sky. When the weather was perfect, I drove back and took multiple photographs of the building, intending to select one for the calendar competition. Sadly, not one of my photographs does this building justice.

When I stand back to capture more of the building, I lose detail which results in the picture being nothing like what the eye sees. When I move in closer, the picture is more detailed, but too much of the building is lost.



There is a sign on a pole with arrows pointing to the building. The sign says, Corporate Office, Accounts, Finance, Marketing, Communications and Unitec International. That has to be what Unitec uses the building for, although when I peered through a back window I saw a computer lab classroom (one where there is a computer at every desk).

In recent weeks, stories have made the news about 26.5 hectares of land having been sold by Unitec to the Government for New Zealand's biggest urban housing development. Heritage buildings on the site are being retained and surely, the building I have photographed is one of them.

I have lived in West Auckland for most of my life and until recently had never been through the backblocks at Unitec. If you have the time, go for a drive through the grounds, have a good look around, find a place to park and go for a pleasant walk.





## GETTING OLDER

Roger Laloli

Lying around, pondering the problems of the world, I realized that at my age i don't really give a rat's ass any more.

If walking is good for your health, the postman would be immortal.

A whale swims all day, only eats fish, and drinks water, but is still fat.

A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years, while a tortoise doesn't run and does mostly nothing, yet it lives for 150 years. And they tell us to exercise?

I don't think so.

Now that I'm older, here's what I've discovered:

1 I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.

2 My wild oats are mostly enjoyed with prunes and all-bran.

3 Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

4 Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

5 If all is not lost, then where the heck is it?

6 It was a whole lot easier to get older than it was to get wiser.

7 Some days, you're the top dog, some days you're the hydrant.

8 I wish the buck really did stop here, I sure could use a few of them.

9 Kids in the back seat cause accidents.

10 Accidents in the back seat cause kids.

11 It is hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.

12 The world only beats a path to your door when you're in the bathroom.

13 If god wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.

14 When I'm finally holding all the right cards, everyone wants to play chess.

15 It is not hard to meet expenses: they're everywhere.

16 The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

17 These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter: I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm "here after".

18 Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

19 It is a lot better to be seen than viewed.

20 Have I sent this message to you before? Or did I get it from you?

Thank you, Roger, just what we all need in our dotages. Also from Roger:

## RELATIVE VALUE

A Jaguar mechanic was removing the cylinder head from the engine of an E-Type when he spotted a well-known cardiac surgeon in the garage.

The cardiac surgeon was there waiting for the service manager to come and take a look at his car when the mechanic shouted across the garage: *Hey Doc, want to take a look at this?*

The surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to where the mechanic was working.

The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked: *So Doc, look at this engine. I opened its heart, took the valves out, repaired or replaced anything damaged, and then put everything back in, and, when I finished, it worked just like new. So how is it that I make £30,000 a year and you make £600,000, when you and I are doing basically the same work?"*

The cardiac surgeon paused, leaned over and whispered to the mechanic: *Try doing it with the engine running.*

Now something **for** Roger:



*"I see you're very creative. I like that in an accountant."*

Do either of these apply to you?



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



*"Your expense account isn't what it used to be. There's not enough money on your card to cover the \$5.35."*



## **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](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 Rainside 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.

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

### **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.

Vince's article above shows what can be done. Something to do while on yours daily walks.

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.

Finally, from *Neighbourly*, a sentiment for the times:



A final thought from me. Given that we are supposed to wear a mask whenever we go out and how uncomfortable they can be; forget a vaccine, I'll settle for a face mask with built-in air conditioning.

**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.

As outlined in Vince's article, above, the Whau Local Board has been generous with financial support, to give us a much-improved presentation capability, which will make our meetings even better than in the past.

We are all grateful for their support.

***The next meeting will be on Friday 9 October  
(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](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)