



REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH

AFFILIATED WITH REBUS NZ INCORPORATED (www.rebus.nz)

<https://khandallahrebus.wixsite.com/khandallahrebusclub>

Newsletter

March 2023

REBUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: March 31 2023 at 10 am, at the Khandallah Bowling Club

GUEST SPEAKER: Roger Childs, speaking on “What’s wrong with the new history curriculum?” His view is the hope was that the curriculum for Years 1-10 students would be a ‘warts and all’ coverage of New Zealand history incorporating the good, the bad and the ugly in our country’s story. Sadly this hasn’t happened, and the majority of the prescription is devoted to the positives in Maori history, culture and identity, and how badly the ethnic group has been treated by governments since 1840.

Consequently there is a lack of full coverage, balance, accuracy and objectivity.

Vote of thanks: Jillian Carpenter

REBUS MEETING: April 28, 2023, at 10 am, at the Khandallah Bowling Club

GUEST SPEAKER: Alastair Henshaw, talking about Predator Free Wellington.

REBUS MEETING: May 26, 2023, at 10 am, at the Khandallah Bowling Club

GUEST SPEAKER: Nick Lambrechtsen, speaking on “The longest floating Bailey bridge of WWII.”

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you are already aware, this month we start our Club meeting with the Annual General Meeting. As the AGM is a key meeting in our Club calendar, I encourage you to attend.

The AGM will be followed by morning tea, and then the talk by the guest speaker.

New Committee for 2022/23: I am pleased to report that we have received nominations for the following 3 vacancies: **Club Secretary** - Stella Thorp; **Guest Speaker Coordinator** - Natasha Nahkies; **Theatre Coordinator** - Peter Clemerson.

Unfortunately, we have not yet received any nomination for the key role of the Vice-President. For perhaps the first time in recent years, we risk starting a new Club year with an incomplete committee. This is clearly not a good position to be in, as it creates a leadership vacuum in subsequent years. I encourage all of you – male and female – to contact any committee member if you are willing to fill this role. Doing this job is easier than you think, and working with the committee more enjoyable than you could imagine.

Annual Subscriptions: The annual subscriptions for 2023/24 will be agreed to at the AGM next Friday. Once agreed, the subs will be due on April 1st. Our preference is that the subscriptions are paid online, though cash would also be accepted.

This will be my last newsletter report. Despite the shadow of Covid clouding over much of this year, we have managed to hold all our Club meetings in person, albeit with mandated requirements for

attending them, and occasional tweaks to their format. As such, I would firstly like to thank all of you, the members, for your support to me and your committee, as well as the patience and understanding you have shown us.

It has been an absolute pleasure working with my committee members, and others who fulfil key roles outside of the committee. To all of you go my heartfelt thanks.

Best regards,
Vish

MEETING REMINDERS

- Masks are optional for our meeting, and yes we will be serving morning tea.
- We aim to keep the room well ventilated.
- Please remember to wear your **name tag**.
- Please, stay home if you are unwell.
- If you can, send an apology to **Vice President Nick Lambrechtsen**,
Phone: 938 5911, or email: nick@crypt.co.nz

Nick also welcomes advance notice of any visitors to our meetings.

EVENTS

Exhibition at the Onslow Historical Society, 86 Khandallah Road.

While this is not an organised visit, we bring to your attention the collection of paintings and ink drawings dating from the mid-19th century entitled Artists of the North Road. Open Sunday afternoons from 1-4 pm.

Jenny Cornelius

FEBRUARY 24th MEETING

REPORTS

This month too we started our meeting on a sombre note, with a minute's silence to honour the death of Stan George. Stan was a former President of our Rebus club (or Probus as it was then).

We had a surprise when the guest speaker was presented. The speakers we were expecting to meet had to cancel at the very last minute – influenza – so instead club member David Hutton stepped in, and delivered a very interesting talk on Tuvalu.

David has been doing consulting work in the Pacific Islands for the past 20 years. He made many short visits to Tuvalu in 2005 – 2006 and then again over 2011 – 2019, and used some of his photographs taken during that time to illustrate his talk.

GUEST SPEAKER

David Hutton: Tuvalu, one of the smallest nations

Tuvalu is part of Polynesia in the mid-Pacific and one of the smallest nations in the world. It has a population of 11,000 people, half of them living in Funafuti, the nation's capital, on Fongafale atoll. This atoll is an old volcano, with islets which encircle a turquoise lagoon about 20 km across.

Tuvalu means 8 islands – the 8 inhabited islands. Polynesians arrived in Tuvalu about 3,000 years ago, and the first European visit was in 1568.

A British protectorate in 1892, the “Gilbert and Ellice” colony became independent in 1978. Tuvalu is a Commonwealth member, has a Governor General, a parliament of 15 MPs (just one from the smallest island) with elections every 4 years, and island councils for each island. The people are very religious.

In World War II, the US built an airfield on Fongafale by excavating “borrow pits”. Recently New Zealand funded a reclamation project to provide usable land, which involved filling in the borrow pits with sand suctioned from the lagoon. Tuvalu's only port is in this lagoon as it is the only one deep for enough for ships.

In 1972 Cyclone Bebe submerged Fongafale.

Climate change poses many risks for Tuvalu: all the islands are very low, barely two metres or less above sea level. There are no rivers or fresh water lakes; there is little soil, so it is hard to grow crops. Fishing is very important – fewer fish would have a big economic impact.

Every February winds change and waves across the lagoon cause erosion on the shore. With more storms, especially cyclones, storm surges bring inundation, coastal erosion, and salt water killing crops. Wind damage ruins buildings, and wrecks trees. Extended droughts can mean no fresh water.

Tuvalu is preparing for climate change, to allow people to stay in their homes, while at the same time people are migrating to other countries. There are about 5,000 Tuvaluans in NZ.

The government of Tuvalu is developing early warning systems for cyclones; setting new standards for better buildings; working on sea walls and reclamation (very expensive). More water tanks have been provided to collect rainwater; there is desalination of salt water; and solar power is reducing reliance on diesel generators. The Tuvalu Survival Fund and Tuvalu Trust Fund are funds to spend in the future.

Photographs showed some of the challenges of bringing solar power to Nanumea (one of the 8 islands). The outer islands have nowhere for airplanes to land, and no wharves, just lagoons with reefs. So boats have to stay off the land, and transfer cargo from ship to small boats, which then sail through the reef and lagoon to unload on shore.

David identified sources of income for Tuvalu, for government and for families, such as per day fishing licences in their economic zone, the sale of the use of the .tv internet Domain name, and



remittances from families living in NZ as a huge part of the cash flow. Donors such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Australia, NZ, Japan and Taiwan are helping a lot. And if you visit Tuvalu – take cash, as there are no EFT/POS or credit cards except at the one Bank.

Tuvalu is small, remote and vulnerable, especially to climate change. But the people want to stay, and plan to adapt. David's final slide showed a power pole with a small solar panel secured above the street light-

SHORT TALK

Tony Walsh



Speaking without any notes, Tony Walsh revealed his well-travelled life. From Timaru his family moved to Oamaru, to Greymouth, and then to Geraldine.

Tony started work in Christchurch with the Wales Bank. He enjoyed being a teller, but most enjoyed running the currency exchange at Harewood Airport. All the tellers had revolvers. They were old 45s, and after one accidentally went off, they were supplied with newer, automatic weapons.

Then Tony joined Shell as a marketing trainee – the start of his thirty-year career, with job changes about every three years. He gave up rugby, took up parachuting. In his first job he was given a bicycle – to bike round grocers' shops, selling kerosene for heaters. Then off to Ashburton, working with farmers – and this was where he met his wife Therese. Then Christchurch again.

After a few years, off to Auckland, now with three young sons. Tony supervised many staff in the upper-central North Island. Then Shell sent him to Head Office in Wellington. He processed finance assistance for Service Stations around the country – before becoming South Island Manager, based in Christchurch.

From there he was off to London, where it took a while to get used to working with 2,000 people in the office. Tony and Therese's boys settled into London schools.

Then back to Auckland – to 150 staff, some very good people. When the delivery drivers went on strike Management found the way to motivate drivers by funding them into their own vehicles.

Then Wellington again, as Shell NZ Retail Manager, when the new Labour Government cancelled petrol service station licensing and petrol price control, which allowed the Oil Companies to buy out the private service stations. This was followed by a return to London, where they lived close to Wimbledon. By now the boys were all grown up – so they turned up with partners.

Tony found himself running courses in many different places round the world. Budapest, Chiang Mai, Buenos Aires. There were difficulties in South America: for instance in Lima, with The Shining Path. In Guatemala City a young woman was late for a meeting – she was held up in traffic with a gun: "They took my car so I came by taxi." The service station dealer in South Africa was proud he made more profit from fried chicken than selling petrol. Eventually Tony returned to Wellington, for contract work with Shell.

FOR THE RECORD

Attendance figures for our 24 February meeting: we welcomed 54 members and one visitor. We received 28 apologies.

GROUP ACTIVITIES:

Please contact the group co-ordinator if you would like to join one of our groups. They are gradually restarting after the summer break. A timetable of when all the groups meet is on the Website (under Interest Groups). It also shows photos of various group activities.

Garden Group:



On a 'will it won't it' rain day on 13th March 2023, 16 keen members of The Rebus Garden group set off to the City Council Nurseries in Berhampore to view where Wellington City Council grow a lot of the plants which we see on roadsides, hillsides, gullies and public gardens around Wellington.

One of the senior staff spent about 60 minutes explaining about how they propagated the plants in their care – many of which grow from seeds they have collected themselves – and for what specific

areas. Which plants will grow well in certain areas around Wellington. They also collect rare plants which have almost died out and are starting to propagate these plants too.

It was a very interesting talk.

It was followed by afternoon tea at The Blue Belle cafe in Island Bay where we discussed the outing, plus the fact that if we have a drought in Wellington and need rain, just remember there is going to be another garden group outing before long as it has rained on a lot of our outings!

Geraldine George



Warblers Singing Group: The Warblers met for singing on Tuesday 14th March at the Isherwood's lovely home. The weather was kind to us. Judy filled in for our conductor Ken, who was away on holiday. We started with a rousing round warmup of "Rock My Soul" and humorously managed to get around the issue of different words being sung by some! The group sang a range of lively songs including "Hallelujah", "Some Enchanted Evening" and "The Gypsy Rover" accompanied by our wonderful pianist, Merrilyn. Edelweiss was sung beautifully by the group.

We finished with a grand afternoon tea provided by Priscilla.

Judy Whiteside

ROMEO Men's Lunch Group: The Romeos met on 8 June at the Sprig and Fern in Tawa. A number of Romeos were away from Wellington or had other engagements. Nonetheless the select seven who were able to attend enjoyed a good lunch and, as usual, a lively and wide-ranging conversation.

Gerry Thomson

Dining Group 1: This month twelve of us enjoyed an evening at The Backbencher.

Maggie Jenns

Walking Group: On 1st March we repeated our very successful 2022 Gold Card walk. We took buses from Khandallah to the Botanical Gardens. A walk up through the gardens to the duck pond then back up to the herb garden, from where we could look north to the harbour and cruise ships and down to the Rose Gardens. We had a very pleasant lunch at The Picnic Cafe sitting out under the grape vines. Then walked down the City to Sea Walkway through Bolton Cemetery to the Railway Station and back home. A very enjoyable outing helped by a perfect day.



The weekly Wednesday walks starting at Khandallah at 10 am have continued with coffee from Parsons

Cafe out on the back deck. On March 15th some of us couldn't tear ourselves away until midday!
Bill Goldstone and Bernie Brown

Interest and Activity Groups and Co-ordinators (NV = no vacancies)

Book Group 1:	Geraldine George	479-0004
Book Group 2:	Ros Paterson	479-3131
Craft Group:	Penny Harrison	479 9302
Garden Group:	Viv Forrest	021 069 0397
Warblers Singing Group:	Ken Nelson	939 9166
ROMEO Men Lunching:	Ken Nelson	939 9166
Lunch Group:	Raey Butterworth	461 6673
Walking Group:	Bernie Brown (Local)	479-2804
	Bill Goldstone (Gold Card)	478 2288
Dinner Group 1: (NV)	Maggie Jenns	477 0099
Dinner Group 2:	June Woods	560 3767
	Beverley Telfar	479 2165
Dinner Group 3:	Rosemary Ralston	479 6500
	Jenny Middlemass	479-2638

Office Holders

President	Vish Sarma	973 5527 or 022 1593421
Vice President	Nick Lambrechtsen	938 5911
Secretary	Dave Forrest	021 135 1705
Treasurer	John Preston	479 2924
Past President	Laurel Ferguson	973 1955
Speakers	Heather Hutton	479 1864
Visits	Jenny Cornelius	479 8669
Theatre	Jan Watchman	479 3619
Morning Tea	Emma McCallum	479 4439
	Angela Hill	479 5580
Short Talks	Liz Beresford	022 598 7176
Newsletter	Sharon Major	479 5104
Almoner	Gay Williamson (Outside committee)	499 8288
Web & Communication	Heather Nelson (Outside committee)	939 9166