



REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH

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

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

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2025

REBUS MEETING: Friday 31st October 2025, at 10 am, Khandallah Bowling Club

Speaker: Kate Torrens from Triton Hearing

Short Talk: David Barnes

Vote of Thanks: Raey Butterworth

REBUS MEETING: Friday 28th November 2025, at 10 am, Khandallah Bowling Club

Speaker: Lawrence Meredith, Ambassador from EU to NZ

Short Talk: Roger Gyles

Vote of Thanks: Margaret Robertson

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Many of our members will have known Vince Keating, a long time Rebus member of 25years, and president in 2003, who has died. Our condolences go to Sybil and his family.

Now, Spring is here, so they say. The weeds in our garden are loving it; a weed, by the way, is just a wild plant (some with attractive flowers) growing where it is not wanted. In my view we never seem to get settled weather until after New Year. Apologies for the moan about the weather ... I do have an English background!

During last month's talk about gardens by Bee Dawson, bees became part of the story. I suddenly remembered my experience of anaesthetising bees... if you want to read about the project here is a link, [Drugged Honeybees Do the Time Warp | Science | AAAS](#) .

Also, at the last meeting we put out feelers for a new secretary and speaker organiser; without these key personnel our club will fade. To paraphrase Kitchener, we need you.

See you all at the meeting on the 31st.

Michael

FOR THE RECORD

Attendance figures for the 26 September 2025 meeting:

We welcomed 68 members to our meeting, and were very pleased to meet three visitors. 21 members sent in apologies, and 17 members were silent.

Please remember for the upcoming meeting:

- **Nametag** – please wear it.
- **Apologies** – to Vice President Sharon Major, Phone 479-5104
Or email: sharonmajor.nz@gmail.com
- Sharon welcomes advance notice of any visitors to our meetings.
- If you have not already done so, could you please write on the back of your nametag a **contact name, address, and phone number**, to be used in any emergency. New nametags come with a slip with lines on the back, but older cards are without this.

VISIT

A visit is being arranged to **Christ Church, Taita**, one of the oldest surviving churches in New Zealand and the oldest church still standing in the Wellington area. The church was built without using any nails and the first service was held on 1 January 1854. It is particularly fitting that we visit in November, as the heritage roses will be in full bloom. John Stevens will give a talk about the church, the graveyard and historical highlights. There will be time to visit the graveyard and afternoon tea will be provided. As we will be making a donation towards the maintenance of the church, we are asking for a donation of \$10 per person.



The church is located at **73 Eastern Hutt Road, Taita**, and the visit will be on **Tuesday 18th November at 2 pm and will finish round 4 pm.**

Those that have registered please pay \$10 into the Bank Account: **“Rebus Club of Khandallah” 03 0525 0220364 000, with your name, and code “Church.”** You can still register and pay at the next REBUS meeting. If you would like to come, you can reply to heathernelson303@gmail.com. Car pooling is suggested, so if you would like a ride, or can take someone, please let me know.

Heather Nelson

UP COMING EVENT

Rebus Christmas Lunch



Date: Wednesday, 10th of December

Venue: The Pines, [50 The Esplanade, Houghton Bay](#)

Time: Arrive from 11:30 am, seated for lunch at 12:00.

Cost: \$45 per person (Partners of members are welcome).

A glass of wine or orange juice is included in the price; you collect it at the bar on arrival.

Payment: The preferred method of payment is by Direct Credit to **“Rebus Club of Khandallah”** bank account: **03 0525 0220364 000.**

David Hutton, the Treasurer, will take cash payment at the meeting for those who are unable to use Internet Banking.

Last day for booking and paying: Friday, 28th November by 12 noon.

Last day for cancellations: Tuesday, 9th December at 12 noon. Please be aware that there will be no refunds after this time.

To book (other than at the Club meetings), please contact Jenny: phone 027 272 5659 or email corneliusj746@gmail.com

NOTICES

Knitting Beanies for Seafarers

Our September speaker at REBUS spoke about the plight of many Seafarers who visit New Zealand. One of the ways that we can help the seafarers is by knitting beanies.

Some people may not be able to knit, but may have Double Knit (8ply) yarn at home that someone else could use. If so, please email Heather Nelson. **Christine McKenna is bringing some yarn to the next REBUS meeting if anyone would like some.** There is also a pattern available from heathernelson303@gmail.com. Natasha Nahkies will collect the beanies at REBUS and take them to the Mission to Seafarers.



REPORTS

Welcome to Linda Sissons

Michael welcomed Linda Sissons into our Rebus Club at the September meeting. Linda was born in a very unsettled Belfast, Northern Ireland. Her family moved to New Zealand when she was 8 years old. Her career has been mainly in the field of post-secondary vocational education and industry training. Linda's most recent job was CEO of Education New Zealand. Her husband Chris encouraged her to apply for membership of Rebus.



Guest Speaker

God, Guns and Gardening

Missionary Gardens in Early New Zealand



Bee Dawson gave a most interesting talk about the difficulty establishing gardens in early New Zealand. Samuel Marsden arrived in the Bay of Islands on 23 December 1814. On Christmas Day he held the first Christian service in New Zealand. In February 1815 he purchased the plot of land at Rangihoua on which New Zealand's first missionary settlement was established. The land was steep and infertile. When Rangihoua was abandoned by 1822 there had not been a single Christian conversion.

Fifteen mission stations were established in New Zealand. When Samuel Marsden established the second mission station in Kerikeri in 1819, he chose the land and superintendent carefully. The superintendent was Rev John Butler who had worked as a gardener. Kerikeri began well and in 1821 Samuel Marsden reported to the Christian Missionary Society in London that there

was a wide variety of vegetables, fruits and flowers growing in the gardens.

In 1823 the Rev Henry Williams and his wife Marianne established a Church Missionary Society at nearby Pahia. The house had a large garden, with numerous rows of beans. In February 1824 Marianne wrote "Our garden has turned out badly. The seeds all came up, but being a light sandy soil, most of them failed for want of depth and good earth." Later on, the sandy soil was improved with seaweed and manure from the missionaries' animals.

The local Māori wanted to trade food for muskets, powder and shot, and regularly offered to trade pork, potatoes, wild cabbage and watermelon. However, Henry Williams refused.

In 1844 Mary Ann Martin (wife of the first Chief Justice of New Zealand) visited Paihia. She wrote "The gardens were all ablaze with flowers - honeysuckle, passion flowers and cluster roses hung in masses over the verandah."

The missionaries made significant plant introductions - sweet briar, China roses, and Norfolk pines. The early settlers were disappointed by poor pollination and crops. New Zealand native bees were not large enough to pollinate introduced European plants. European bees were essential for honey and also for wax for candles. Mary Bumby, (the sister of a Northland missionary) is reported to have brought the first two skeps (woven basket beehives), ashore at Mangungu Mission Station in Hokianga Harbour.

William Charles Cotton (Bishop Selwyn's chaplain at the Waimate Station) was known as 'Bee' Cotton. William Cotton disliked the traditional bee-keeping techniques; honey could only be harvested from the commonly used straw skep if the bees were killed first. He suggested ways to render bees semiconscious to obtain the honey rather than by killing them. He worked hard in his workshop building different designs of hive including the Octagon hive.

Bea illustrated her talk with 35 historical illustrations to show the people and places she was describing.

Short Talk

Sharon Major – Early Years

Sharon and Murray Major with six-month-old baby Sarah, moved to Wellington on the *Wahine* on April 10, 1968. As the *Wahine* was sinking in Wellington harbour and passengers abandoned ship, Sharon yelled “Here catch!” threw her baby to a man in an orange life-raft, jumped onto the raft and grabbed the baby back: Murray jumped into the sea, and gripped a rope circling the raft.

They drifted across the harbour to Eastbourne: a tugboat intervened between life-raft and rocks. Again Sharon yelled “Here, catch!” and threw the baby UP, scrambled up a rope ladder, fell over the side onto the deck – and a sailor handed back baby Sarah. Later she found Murray crowded into the engine room.



Born in Lincoln, Sharon started school at St Albans in Christchurch. She was seven when her family moved to her father's family farm in Mid Canterbury, where they bred Romney sheep. Aged eight she started learning to drive: trusted to steer the truck, which in low gear kept slowly moving forward as her father fed out hay from the back – and leapt down to turn the wheel when needed. She learnt how to throw a ball by playing basketball.

Mayfield was a two-teacher school, 60 pupils. Murray and Sharon met at Ashburton High School among about 350 pupils: head boy and head girl in 1963. Canterbury University was a revelation – so many students. Sharon completed her BA and the following year Sarah was born while Murray finished his engineering degree.

In Wellington, Sharon joined the Federation of University Women where she met a group of young VUW graduates, many with babies. They formed a general interest group and Sharon became study group convenor for FUW Wellington.

Louise was born in 1970. Two years later Sharon became advertising manager for the Independent Herald, tasked with selling enough advertising to make the new fortnightly paper viable. The printer's bill had to be paid first: the part-time staff were paid if Sharon had sold enough advertising. The paper survived.

And so did the family.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Please contact the group co-ordinator if you would like to join one of our groups. Photos of group activities and a timetable of when each group meets are on our website (under Interest Groups).

Planes, Trains and Automobile Group

The October meeting was a look at transport in South America, based on a recent trip by one of the group's members.

The group will have a visit to **Southward Car Museum** on the December meeting date of **Thursday 11th December** and a visit to a cafe after. If anyone is interested in this visit let me know at hdfriedlander@gmail.com

Harry Friedlander

Walking Group

On Wednesday 1st October a small number of our walking group set out for our monthly “Gold Card” outing. The weather on the day was overcast and rainy so our numbers were down, but the seven that braved the day travelled to Upper Hutt on the train. There we visited the Expressions Gallery where there was a number of interesting exhibitions including the “Dinosaurs: Surviving Extinction” and “Bodgies to Bogans.” Then lunch was at the very popular on site Dough Cafe. Thankfully we managed to avoid the day's showers and travelled back home on the train arriving Wellington about 2.00pm.

Raey Butterworth

Lunch Group

The next lunch group outing will be to 1841 in Johnsonville on **Wednesday 29 October 2025**. The group have not previously been to this local popular lunch and dinner destination.

Raey Butterworth

The Woodmancote Warblers Singing Group

Sixteen WARBLERS gathered for their monthly sing on Tuesday 14th October. We started to learn a couple of new songs and polished up some of our jazzy numbers, followed by our usual delicious afternoon tea and chat. At the next meeting we will focus on our Christmas repertoire.

Ken Nelson

ROMEOS (REBUS Old Men Eating Out) Lunch Group

Ten ROMEOS met for their monthly luncheon at "The Old Bailey" in the city, on Wednesday, 8th October. As usual, many topics were discussed.

Ken Nelson

THEATRE REVIEW

Review of 2:22 A Ghost Story by Danny Robins

Director Peter Feeney

A friend was once underwhelmed by a theatre performance and when asked what she thought of the play, replied "The costumes were good." And so I must start my review of *2:22 A Ghost Story* by granting that the set was superb. My congratulations to Chris Reddington, set and props designer.

In an up-and-coming parcel of London, Sam, (Regan Taylor) and his wife Jenny (Pamela Sidhu) are doing up their recently acquired house, partly by their own efforts and partly with the help of local builders. Jenny's friend Lauren (Serena Cotton), an American emigree, has completed her improvements, but has nevertheless found a local builder Ben (Jack Sergeant-Shadbolt) with whom to have an affair.

The local builders find themselves gentrifying the houses where their low-income parents had been unable either to afford the necessary maintenance or pay the rocketing rents. From Ben, the "bonking builder", we had a powerful expression of the understandable resentment. But unbelievably, Ben is the most credulous of men, quick to reinforce the anxieties of Jenny who has invited the paramours to dinner. With Sam away on a research field trip, Jenny soon convinces her dinner guests that she is not imagining the footsteps she hears each morning at 2:22 a.m. Clever sound effects from a baby monitor relaying Lauren's baby daughter's every breath, strange dishwasher noises and squeaky sounds from Alexa, the computer digital assistant, successfully raise the edginess quotient. Thank you, Dan Elliott.

Sam returns home but despite his well-informed but shouty rationality over dinner he fails to move the threesome away from their delusions.

Two policemen arrive to report on the accidental death of Sam that took place at 2:22 am some days ago. Lauren ridicules them and turns to point out Sam's presence. But he has vanished.

This one trick brightened an otherwise prosaic script. With the performances of the married protagonists diminished by poor diction, the accolades go to the supporting designers rather than the cast.

Peter Clemerson

Review of Jekyll and Hyde, by Neil Bartlett,

Director Tanya Piejus

KAT 9-11 October, Cochran Hall, Khandallah

On arrival at Cochran Hall, we were surprised to find it unrecognisable, with a set in the round - itself a work of art, deftly representing 19th century London at nightfall, the drab, oppressive greyness of huddled houses relieved by tiny lights twinkling in the windows. The set was sparse and sufficient, with good use made of a steel trolley/gurney.

A similar creativity was evident in the costumes, black and white with touches of red, the young Cockney prostitute notably all in white, the female doctor in black, the bright colours of Dr. Jekyll's chemicals providing a satisfying visual counterpoint as they fizzed and frothed. The acting was excellent.

This was a most energetic production: six men, Dr. J's clever and wealthy friends, acted out Hyde's bouts of madness, vigorously swarming over the stage as they writhed and howled, retreating to the sidelines only to maintain a menacing hum. The three women – the doctor, the housekeeper and the prostitute - provided a telling, steady counterbalance in this powerful critique of the patriarchy.

The play itself is fresh, clever and well-written, and Tanya Piejus' interpretation entertaining and satisfying - a great success! I shall make sure to see whatever she chooses to direct next.

Navina Clemerson

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

Book Group 1: NV	Geraldine George	479 0004
Book Group 2: NV	Ros Paterson	479 3131 or 021 214 7046
Craft Group	Penny Harrison	479 9302
Dinner Group 1: NV	Judith Littlejohn	027 361 3338
Dinner Group 2: NV	Jenny Middlemass	479 2638 or 021 0267 9916
French Speaking	Dawn Ferguson	dawncferguson@gmail.com
Garden Group	Viv Forrest	021 069 0397
Lunch Group	Raey Butterworth	027 342 1121
Planes, Trains & Automobiles	Harry Friedlander	021 153 2867
ROMEO Men's Lunch Group	Ken Nelson	939 9166 or 021 128 3323
Walking Group	Bernie Brown	479 2804
Woodmancote Warblers Singing	Ken Nelson	939 9166 or 021 128 3323

Office Holders

President	Michael Harrison	021 640 618
Vice President	Sharon Major	479 5104 or 021 884 611
Secretary	Stella Thorp	021 299 4052
Treasurer	David Hutton	479 1864 or 027 446 2656
Past President	Judy Whiteside	479 5051 or 027 607 5114
Speakers	Natasha Nahkies	027 240 4402
Theatre Visits	Peter Clemerson	938 5923
Organising Visits	Committee Member needed – please contact the President	
Short Talks/Votes of Thanks	Christine McKenna	021 107 1675
Newsletter	Ros Lambrechtsen	938-5911
Almoner	Ngaio Taylor	479 3183 or 021 0242 2150

Outside Committee:

Web & Communication	Heather Nelson	939 9166 or 021 205 4276
Audio Visual System	Murray Major	479 5104 or 021 881 961
Morning Tea Roster	Viv Forrest	021 069 0397