



## REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH

AFFILIATED WITH REBUS NZ INCORPORATED ([www.rebus.nz](http://www.rebus.nz))

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

July 2023

### Newsletter

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

**SHORT TALK:** Judith Littlejohn

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Len Cook CBE, Statistician, speaking on The NZ Census and how this informs government planning decisions.

**Vote of thanks:** Bill Paterson

**REBUS MEETING: August 25, 2023, at 10 am, at the Khandallah Bowling Club**

**SHORT TALK:** David Hutton

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Sue Barker, director of Sue Barker Charities Law, on "Charities – the tide of change?"

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

It always gives me much pleasure to induct new members because it indicates that your club is in good heart. That is thanks to enthusiastic members who bring their friends along and to the committee that you have elected for the activities they arrange for you. So again, welcome to our new members, Sally Chrystall and Joanne Greenlees. I look forward to hearing more about your backgrounds and thus your likely contributions to the club.

At our July meeting, I hope to induct Christine McKenny and Pradip Manchanda as new members. We also have had several visitors who may become members. All very encouraging signs.

In my previous notes to you, I indicated that I have mentioned to the Khandallah Bowling Club our concern about the acoustics of our meeting space. For those with a hearing aid, and for those with hearing problems, the noise level can be quite high so that it can be hard to have a conversation during the tea/coffee break. This matter has now been discussed at a meeting of the KBC Board. They advise me that:

We discussed the situation re acoustics in both the main hall area and lounge area. As I have previously outlined the costs of this undertaking are eye wateringly expensive and we concluded given the only periodic use of both areas being impacted by excess noise that our limited funds are better used elsewhere on the building.

As you will no doubt be aware we are a non-profit entity and rely heavily members support both financially and with their time and resources with some limited rental income to maintain both our bowling rink and grounds and building. All in all, we consider that we are fair and good managers of our property managing with limited funds.

We have however recognised that this is something we should not lose sight of and have added acoustics to our long-term maintenance plan to reconsider at another time.

The eye-watering costs that the email refers to, were of the order of \$12,000, just for the lounge area where the KBC has its bar. In our main hall area which we use only once a month, it would be vastly more expensive to improve the acoustics.

So it is clear that you will just have to manage your conversations in such a way that you can understand each other. I won't suggest that you learn to lip-read. You can probably think of much better ways to enjoy a conversation with your friends.

You will have received an updated membership list because all members have renewed their subscriptions. Praise be to you all.

Looking forward to seeing you on Friday 28 July.

Best wishes,

Nick

### MEETING REMINDERS

- Please remember to wear your **name-tag**. And could you check – have you written contact details (in case of accident) on the reverse of your name-tag? If not, please do so.
- Masks are optional for our meeting, and yes, morning tea / coffee will be provided.
- Please, stay home if you are unwell.
- If you can, send an apology to **Vice President Judy Whiteside**,  
Phone: 027 607 5114, or 479 5051; or email: [judy.whiteside@xtra.co.nz](mailto:judy.whiteside@xtra.co.nz)  
Judy will also welcome advance notice of any visitors to our meetings.

### VISITS/EVENTS

New members please note: spouses/partners are welcome on most trips, visits and events.

A visit to the **Forensic Fingerprint Office** has been arranged for **Monday 21st August** at 10 am.

Address: 1 Walton-Leigh Ave, Porirua (it is no longer on Thorndon Quay).

We will meet in front of City Fitness.

Followed by coffee - venue TBA.

I'm sure the techniques of taking and identifying fingerprints have moved on from the old ink-pad system, or maybe not! Come along and find out.

Register at the meeting on Friday 28th July or contact

Jenny Cornelius, Ph 479 8669 or 027 272 5659 Email: [corneliusj746@gmail.com](mailto:corneliusj746@gmail.com)

### Theatre visit

**24th August, Circa: Public Service Announcements – Election 2023**

By Thom Adams, Jamie McCaskill and Anya Tate-Manning.

So far eleven people have booked for this visit, and if you wish to join the group a few more names may be taken at the Rebus meeting on 28th July.

If you are not at the meeting but would like to register, please email Peter:

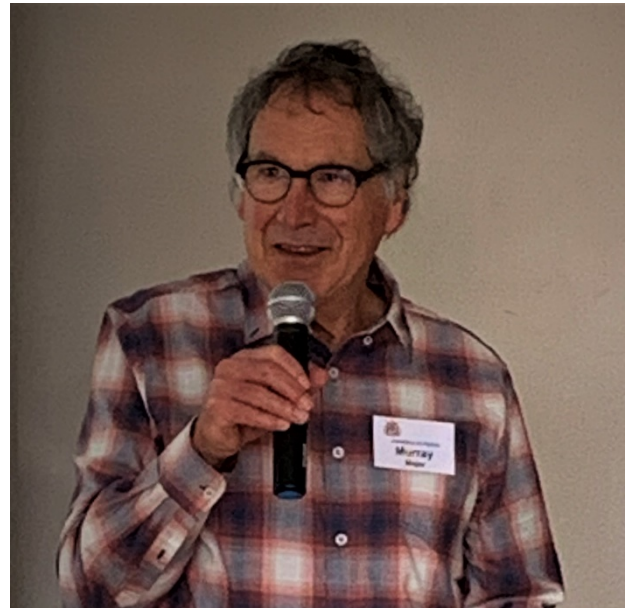
[peter.clemerson1940@gmail.com](mailto:peter.clemerson1940@gmail.com) If you are unable to email, phone 938 5923.

**REPORTS**  
**JUNE 30<sup>th</sup> SHORT TALK**

**Murray Major**

Murray spoke very concisely about his 30 years as a Telecommunications Engineer with the New Zealand Post Office and later Telecom.

In 1968 after completing a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree at the University of Canterbury he joined the Radio Section of the Post Office Engineer in Chief's Office. During five years there he was involved in a wide range of radio planning activities. These included planning the route for many new microwave radio systems, and early site selection work for the satellite earth station, which was subsequently built near Warkworth.



In 1973 Murray moved from Radio to the Telephone Exchange Equipment section, just as exchange equipment technology was changing: first to relay-based crossbar equipment and then some five years later to computer-based SPC equipment. He was mostly involved in the planning for specific new or replacement exchanges using these new technologies. This also included defining the requirements for new telephone exchange buildings and evolving strategies to swap-out equipment within existing buildings to avoid new building work.

Around 1985/86, after a dozen or so years working with telephone exchanges, he moved back to Radio and became involved in the small project team that was investigating the feasibility of introducing a mobile telephone service in New Zealand.

Visits with operators in the UK and Los Angeles, and with Telecom Australia, confirmed that the technology was working and customers wanted these new services. However, it was clear that the usual New Zealand requirement for a highly customized solution would not be possible. A standard system that other markets were using would need to be chosen, together with a supplier with a good reputation.

After calling general tenders Ericsson was selected as supplier, and a small demonstration network was implemented. This evolved to become commercial in August 1987, as the Telecom Cellular part of the new Telecom organization.

Murray continued to be involved in the engineering aspects of the expanding Telecom Cellular network for a further 10 years, until the cellular business was absorbed into the general Telecom organization on April the first 1998.

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

We enjoyed a very interesting and informative presentation by Susan Guthrie, a Senior Advisor in the Money and Cash Directorate at the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, and Susanna Berry, who is a Senior Policy Analyst in that directorate. We requested their approval to publish our report on their talk, but unfortunately that is not yet to hand. If possible, we'll include it in the August newsletter.

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

It was with great pleasure that President Nick Lambrechtsen inducted two new members at our June meeting: Sally Chrystall, sponsored by Vince Keating and Ros Lambrechtsen, and Joanne Greenlees, who was sponsored by Vince Keating and Audrey Thomson.



Sally Chrystall is a retired secondary school teacher of languages who has been living in Wadestown for the last 42 years. Her interests are gardening, reading, travel, cuisine, walking and aqua chatting.

Joanne Greenlees grew up in Blenheim, went to Canterbury University, and then to Tawa College where she taught English for 37 years. She married Bill in 1973, and has two children, three grandchildren and one 21½-year-old cat. She enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, reading, gardening, family history and

travel. Sally and Joanne have been friends since 1973 – when they met at Tawa College.

### Farewell to Sumi

Sumitra Sarkar, who joined Rebus in 2018, is returning to her Indian homeland. Vice President Judy Whiteside read us Sumi's farewell letter. *(And we were lucky to catch Sumi just in time to get her permission to print it here. Ed)*

Hi Judy,

My husband and I will be moving to India at the end of July 2023. Hence, I tender my resignation from the Club with a great deal of regret. Unfortunately a monthly commute between Kolkata and Wellington does not seem feasible!

I have enjoyed being a part of Rebus greatly, and have made many delightful friends, hopefully some for a very long time. I have also enjoyed the outings I have been part of and the book club meetings immensely. I will miss my friends from this group without a doubt.

And so I shall end now. New challenges and experience await me. Though I am going back to my country of birth, it is very sad to leave my country of choice, the Paradise I call New Zealand and the angels that inhabit here.

Good luck to Khandallah Rebus Club moving forward and all the best to you.

Kind regards,  
Sumitra Sarkar

## FOR THE RECORD

Attendance figures for our June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting: we welcomed 69 members, and three visitors. We received apologies from 20 members, and noted 20 members were silent.

## THEATRE REVIEW

### *Prima Facie* at Circa Theatre, July 20

Premiered in 2019, Suzie Miller's *Prime Facie* is a disturbing play and a campaigning one. As a defence lawyer, Australian Miller saw that in sexual assault cases, the barriers to justice, partly psychological but mostly legal, produce exactly what a justice system should prevent: injustice. We learn that one in three Australian women experience some form of sexual assault, but convictions are obtained in only 1% of cases. Figures from other countries are similar.

*Prime Facie* was written not just to expose these facts but to educate an audience as to how this happens. Tessa is a 30ish experienced defence lawyer, artful in undermining prosecution witnesses. We learn that the requirement to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt is unrealistically demanding in such cases. Too easily, previous associations and the privacy of the assault permit equivocal accounts to raise doubt, ensuring a not guilty decision.

When Tessa herself is raped, with no room for doubt in the audience's mind, the same high burden of proof in court is lacking and the perpetrator goes free.

In a 1 hour 40 minutes solo bravura performance, Mel Dodge exploits every opportunity that such a story provides. We see Tessa's self-confidence, aggression, triumph, despair and outrage. Besides Tessa, we see, successively, a slack jawed judge, overdue for retirement, her own mother, a none too bright policeman, and various colleagues, all tellingly conveyed with their own mannerisms. Despite what seemed an occasional gabble to my old ears, and probably those of others in our large party, "Brava".

Kudos too to Lyndee-Jane Rutherford's dynamic direction and to the set design team headed by Ian Harman. Multiple level wood grained platforms evoke a courtroom, while facilitating easy changes of scene, according to the requirements of the script. Behind, stands a 20 square metre window in which the panes crack at significant moments, all to be whole again for the next performance. How do they do it?

The international acclaim already received by this play promised us an engrossing but disconcerting evening and a pensive aftermath. And that's what we had.

*Peter Clemerson*

## GROUP ACTIVITIES:

**Please contact the group co-ordinator if you would like to join one of our groups.** 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:** This month we had a fun day out at the movies.

We began with coffee at the Lighthouse Theatre followed by a viewing of "I, Claude Monet". This was an amazing production showing us Monet's life in his own words and through his paintings. We were guided through his astonishing number of paintings with them morphing into their real landscape, with an especial emphasis on his beloved garden at Giverny. For those of you who missed this documentary, I recommend trying to view it if you get the chance. We were all entranced by the production as well as the content.

We followed up with a fun lunch at Caffiend in Petone, to polish off a great mid-winter meeting for the Garden Group.

*Viv Forrest*

**ROMEOS:** The Old Bailey pub on Lambton Quay was the venue for our July luncheon. The separate room we were allocated adjacent to the main dining room helped create a rather "clubby" atmosphere that invited the thirteen participating Romeos to join in with a lively and free-ranging conversation.

*Gerry Thompson*

**Dinner Group 1:** We had a most interesting dining experience at *Mabel's* Burmese restaurant on Tory Street on 6 July. It's always good to try something different from time to time.

*Judith Littlejohn*



**Dinner Group 3:** Members of our group enjoying dinner at *Cashmere Lounge* on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of June. And in July, ten members of our group enjoyed a set menu dinner at *Soprano* in Petone. A lot of restaurants now require groups of six/eight or more to have a set menu. We started with very generous servings of antipasti, which for some of us could have sufficed as a meal, then moved on to more generous servings of gnocchi, penne pasta with chicken, risotto, salad and chips. Nobody had room for dessert, a first. We had a separate room to ourselves, which made for a very pleasant evening.

*Rosemary Ralston and Jenny Middlemass*

**Warblers Singing Group:** Pat and Peter Isherwood again kindly hosted the Warblers' monthly singing practice at their home on 11 July. Regrettably Ken Nelson, was absent from Wellington. However, without a our usual leader, the very good tally of members nonetheless held a successful practice, thanks in large measure to Merrilyn Lander's skilled accompaniment.

*Gerry Thompson*

**Walking Group:** This past month has been an unadventurous one for the walking group as no Gold Card walk was undertaken. The usual weekly strolls, noting the various water leaks not attended to, were made and some of the group are now taking a shorter route to secure the best table at the newly appointed cafe where our presence is welcomed.

We welcomed Bill back after his period of ill health and he has been able to add to our collective medical knowledge over a flat white.

*Bernie Brown*

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

<b>Book Group 1:</b>	Geraldine George	479 0004
<b>Book Group 2:</b>	Ros Paterson	479 3131
<b>Craft Group:</b>	Penny Harrison	479 9302
<b>Garden Group:</b>	Viv Forrest	021 069 0397
<b>Warblers Singing Group:</b>	Ken Nelson	939 9166
<b>ROMEO Men Lunching:</b>	Ken Nelson	939 9166
<b>Lunch Group:</b>	Raey Butterworth	461 6673
<b>Walking Group:</b>	Bernie Brown (Local)	479-2804
	Bill Goldstone (Gold Card)	478 2288
<b>Dinner Group 1: (NV)</b>	Judith Littlejohn	0273613338
<b>Dinner Group 2:</b>	Beverley Telfar	479 2165
<b>Dinner Group 3:</b>	Rosemary Ralston	479 6500
	Jenny Middlemass	479-2638
<b>Office Holders</b>		
<b>President</b>	Nick Lambrechtsen	938 5911
<b>Vice President</b>	Judy Whiteside	479 5051
<b>Secretary</b>	Stella Thorp	021 299 4052
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Preston	479 2924
<b>Past President</b>	Vish Sarma	973 5527 or 022 1593421
<b>Speakers</b>	Natasha Nahkies	027 240 4402
<b>Visits</b>	Jenny Cornelius	479 8669
<b>Theatre</b>	Peter Clemerson	938 5923
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Emma McCallum	479 4439
	Angela Hill	479 5580
<b>Short Talks</b>	Liz Beresford	022 598 7176
<b>Newsletter</b>	Sharon Major	479 5104 or 021 884 611
<b>Almoner</b>	Gay Williamson (Outside committee)	499 8288
<b>Web &amp; Communication</b>	Heather Nelson (Outside committee)	939 9166
<b>Audio Visual System</b>	Michael Harrison (Outside committee)	479-9302