



## REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH

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

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

May 2023

### Newsletter

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

**SHORT TALK: David Littlejohn**

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

Why did Nick fly to the Netherlands in May 2022? What is his link to a 102 year old Captain from the British Royal Engineers? Why was the bridge built? What did it achieve? Come and find out.

**Vote of thanks: Beth Pethig**

**REBUS MEETING: June 30, 2023, at 10 am, at the Khandallah Bowling Club**

**SHORT TALK: Murray Major**

**GUEST SPEAKERS: Susan Guthrie and Susanna Berry**, from the Reserve Bank, on The Future of Money, including NZ’s cash system.

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

First the good news! I’m delighted to inform you that Judy Whiteside has accepted nomination as our Vice President, and she was given a very warm welcome at our committee meeting this month.

Now the sad news: foundation member Audrey Reid died on 16 May at Te Hopai, from an infection. Her funeral will be at Khandallah Presbyterian Church on Tuesday 23 May at 1.00 pm. Many members will remember Audrey as a warm, very friendly and hospitable person. Her death is a great loss to our club and our community. My condolences go to her next of kin.

Picture: Audrey and then President Sheila Williams cutting the 25th Anniversary cake in 2017



Earlier this month Ros and I attended the Rebus NZ AGM in Whanganui. Longstanding chairman Graeme McIntosh stood down after seven years, and William (Bill) Irvine was elected as the new chairman. Most board members were re-elected. Graeme was awarded life membership of Rebus NZ, and given a special award at the dinner that evening, in recognition of his outstanding service. Graeme emphasised the need for Rebus affiliates to be conversant with all the information on the Rebus NZ website, including travel insurance and public liability insurance. There was much discussion on retaining and gaining membership, as many clubs are quite small. We even discussed informally whether the Rebus emblem should be changed to make it look less Rotary like...! The inscription reads: “Steering a safe course through our retirement years.” The 2024 AGM of Rebus NZ will be held in Tauranga and in 2025 at Palmerston North.

I was pleased to have attended the AGM, which gave me a lot of ideas to discuss at our committee meetings. But it all comes down to you, the people: “he tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata.”

Nick Lambrechtsen

## MEETING REMINDERS

- Please remember to wear your **name tag**.
- Masks are optional for our meeting, and yes, morning tea / coffee will be provided.
- We aim to keep the room well ventilated.
- Please, stay home if you are unwell.
- If you can, send an apology to new **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.

### **Michael Fowler Centre, Gordon Crooke Banner Tour**

When: Thursday 15th June

Time: 10:30 am for a 1-hour tour.

Address: 111 Wakefield Street

Our tour host is Peter Stupples, a retired Senior Art History & Theory Lecturer.

Please pay \$5 towards a small gift for Peter, cash to Jenny.

Followed by lunch at Te Papa.

Getting there: own transport or bus to the Willis St stop by Mercer St and walk from there.

**Please register for this visit by Wednesday 31st of May.**

### **Rebus Mid-Winter Lunch**

**Thursday 22nd June**, at the Royal Wellington Golf Club.

Address: 28 Golf Road Heretaunga, Upper Hutt.

Time: 12 noon.

Cost: \$45 per person. Drinks at your own expense.

**Please register by Wednesday 14th June.**

Preferred payment is to the Club Account: 03 0525-0220364 00 or Jenny will take cash at the May meeting – please have the correct amount.

There is parking at the Golf Club or on the street outside, car-pooling is advised.

Let Jenny know if you can provide transport or need a lift.

**Contact Jenny:** Phone: 479 8669, Mobile: 027 272 5659,

email: [corneliusj746@gmail.com](mailto:corneliusj746@gmail.com)

### **Garden Marlborough Tour**

**From Wednesday 8th November to Sunday 12th November.**

You will have received an email a few days ago with the programme, transport, and accommodation details, along with the approximate cost.

While this is a garden-focused tour, it is open to all members. It includes 2 days of garden visits and the option of a half-day winery tour or a half-day garden tour or visiting some of Blenheims other attractions.

*Please read the Garden Marlborough Tour email carefully.*

Jenny will have a form available for you to make your registration at the Rebus meeting.

Otherwise, just register with Viv at [djandvaf@gmail.com](mailto:djandvaf@gmail.com) or 021 069 0397

## Theatre visit

24 June – 22 July. Circa (Professional theatre at 1 Taranaki St, Te Aro)

**Prima Facie** by Suzie Miller. A defence barrister finds herself the accused.

Proposed attendance: **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July**. To participate – put your name down on 26<sup>th</sup> May

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

### APRIL 28 MEETING

President Nick opened this meeting by introducing five visitors, who were warmly welcomed, then had the pleasant task of inducting new members Richard and Eleanor Bentley. (*See Comings and Goings page 4*).

## GUEST SPEAKER

**Alastair Henshaw**



Plans to make Wellington the world's first predator free capital city were outlined by guest speaker Alastair Henshaw, the Community Engagement and Field Officer from Predator Free Wellington.

Alastair spoke about making the capital a place where our native species can thrive.

Making Wellington predator free involves the commitment of thousands of households, community groups and organisations, all of whom are working together to remove every single rat, possum, stoat and weasel from the entire Wellington area. It also involves innovative ideas and new technology: for traps and bait stations,

trail cameras and many other monitoring tools, and the essential Apps that make all the data recovery possible.

Phase 1 of the predator eradication project began on the Miramar Peninsula. Norway rats and weasels have been eradicated there and Predator Free Wellington is now chasing down the last remaining ship rats. The outcome has been amazing, Alastair said there has been a 550% increase in piwakawaka, a 275% increase in riroriro, a 100% increase in tree wētā and geckos and skinks have also increased. Previously absent native birds have also returned to the peninsula, including kārearea, kākārīki, kākā, and ruru.

The next phase will cover Island Bay to the CBD. This will be an even bigger challenge.

If any of you would like to get involved with trapping in your backyard or local reserve, you can get in touch with the local trapping group at <https://www.pfw.org.nz/trapping/>

## FOR THE RECORD

Attendance figures for our 28 April meeting: we had 78 people at this meeting, including five visitors, and we received 12 apologies.

## SHORT TALK

### Stella Thorp

Everyone was instantly engaged by Stella's talk when she asked: "Who has flown into Hong Kong? Into the old airport Kai Tak, right in the middle of Kowloon?" Many hands went up – remembering the tall buildings so close on either side you felt you could reach out and touch them.

One July evening in 1968 two-thirds of Stella's family flew into Kai Tak airport. It wasn't Stella's first overseas trip. Her father was a New Zealand diplomat. His first overseas posting was in 1955, to New York. In those days you travelled by ship. But Stella doesn't remember it, not even her second birthday party on that voyage.



By 1968 Stella's older siblings were at university in Wellington. When her father flew in to be NZ Consul-General to Hong Kong, he brought her mother, Stella aged 15, and her younger brother. Their home was an apartment in a block called "Panorama" in the mid-levels of Hong Kong Island, with a splendid view: out across the bustling HK harbour, to Kowloon and the mists of the New Territories. International ships sailed through, Star Ferries went back and forth, junks and sampans plied their trade.

In 1967 the English Schools Foundation opened the new Island School. Stella entered the fourth form into the oldest cohort of students – no seniors. Those 30 students became a close-knit social group.

To ensure some family time, her parents bought a junk. The first time they pulled the sails up, they disintegrated. But Stella's father had made sure the junk had two outboard motors – to prevent headlines like: "NZ diplomat sparks international incident by drifting into the waters of Communist China." As an expat teenager, Stella had a lot of freedom. She explored Hong Kong on foot or by tram, discovering a place of great contrasts. But when after three years her father, mother and brother went to Western Samoa, Stella returned to Wellington, to start university – and reconnect with NZ. "I've had many adventures since Hong Kong – study, work, love, family and loss", Stella said.

In 2017 she returned to HK for the school's 50th celebration. A few of the old originals turned up – to find pollution where they used to swim, views blocked by apartment buildings, a smaller harbour due to land reclamation. But Stella was glad she went, to see old friends and Hong Kong as it is now. Then she was glad to return to our Wellington harbour, and the city that is her home.

## Comings and Goings

President Nick Lambrechtsen inducted Richard and Eleanor Bentley into our club at the April meeting. They were sponsored by David Hutton.

Although illness prevented Eleanor from attending the meeting, she was confirmed as a member 'in absentia', and we look forward to welcoming her soon.





Richard spent his early life in Khandallah, attending Khandallah School and Onslow College, and then studied engineering and economics at Canterbury University. Eleanor grew up on a farm in Five Rivers in Northern Southland, attended St Hilda's College in Dunedin and then graduated from the Christchurch School of Nursing.

They met in Christchurch in 1970 and married in England in 1972, living there for two and a half years with Eleanor working in industrial nursing and Richard in structural engineering. While there, they also travelled in the UK, Europe, Russia, and Israel.

Eleanor and Richard returned to NZ in 1974, settled in Khandallah, and met the Lambrechtsens and the Huttons. Then came 10 years in Auckland before returning to Wellington in 1990. They lived in Clark St for 20 years and both became heavily involved in the creation of the Karori Sanctuary.

Richard Bentley's career includes significant management and governance roles in many public, private, government and not for profit organisations. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Institution of Professional Engineers and a Fellow of the Institute of Directors. He was awarded the CNZM in 2006. Richard and Eleanor have three children, six grandsons and live in a town house in Calcutta Street.

#### **Khandallah REBUS Committee 2023-2024**



Back Row: Nick Lambrechtsen (President), Natasha Nahkies, Sharon Major, John Preston, Peter Clemerson, Vish Sarma.  
Front Row: Jenny Cornelius, Stella Thorp, Judy Whiteside, Angela Hill.  
Absent: Liz Beresford, Emma McCallum.

## Theatre Review

**Theatre outing to the Gryphon Theatre, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023.** It is a truth universally acknowledged that a mother with five daughters in Regency England must be in want of their marital security, and fun. And so it was with Amy Whiterod and Joy Hellyer's revisionist comic adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* for the stage and their own direction.

Fifteen Rebus members, as part of a full house, were delighted with their triumph. The cast of 21 were richly costumed in innumerable period ensembles and an army of nearly 40 off stage helpers ensured we admired their imaginative creativity. With Mr. Darcy played by Duncan MacIntyre, surely the handsomest young man in Wellington, and Elizabeth Bennet by Lydia Verschaffelt, an actress of established expressiveness, success was already secure. However, for this reviewer, the stars were the directors themselves. An impressively choreographed ball within the opening minutes, compelling skilled sword play and a speed dating scene elevated to farce were enthralling high moments, but without loss of Austen's resolute satire.

Yes, there were a few weak moments, as in all amateur productions, but only then can we see today a stage presentation of such large-scale inventiveness. The company calls itself Stagecraft and there was plenty of that.

*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:** We are having a Wellington Botanical gardens excursion this coming week, and as noted under Events, we have big plans for a Garden Marlborough Tour in November. This is open to any interested members of the club, who must register, with a deposit, by 9 June.

*Viv Forrest*

**Warblers Singing Group:** The Warblers singing group held their monthly singing session at the Isherwood's home on Tuesday 9th May. Fifteen singers enjoyed a lively singing session where the emphasis was on songs with a jazzy beat, followed by a delicious afternoon tea and time to socialise. New members always welcome (next meeting Tuesday 13th June.)

*Ken Nelson*

**ROMEO Men Lunching:** Eight Romeos met for their monthly luncheon on Wednesday 10th May. We decided to try a new venue and had an enjoyable luncheon and chat at *The Pickle Jar*, Karori. We'd love to see some new members so come along next month and try us out! (Next outing Wednesday 14th June).

*Ken Nelson* [kwnelson21@gmail.com](mailto:kwnelson21@gmail.com) 021 128 3323

**Lunch Group:** The group outing for April was to *La Cloche*. A group of 13 keen lunchers gathered to enjoy the food with a French theme. It is always a popular place to observe and enjoy the fine pastries and French cuisine. Our next lunch outing will be on Wednesday 28 June. Venue to be confirmed.

*Raey Butterworth.*





**Walking Group:** The Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt, is refurbishing and improving its collection storage. As much of the collection is out of its cases, they have decided to put these collections on display. This show is called 'Unhinged'. So on 3rd May sixteen of our **Gold Card Walkers** took the bus from Khandallah and then the Eastbourne bus from the Wellington Railway Station out to the Dowse. We had intended walking from Queens Drive across to the Dowse but the bus driver took pity on us and dropped off much closer! 'Unhinged' had a large selection of the usual

type of pots etc and some rather unusual pottery. The glassware was beautiful. In one of the large display areas there was a large variety of interesting paintings, furniture and many items which could be described as artistic !~!~ This was followed by lunch in the *Bellbird Eatery* at the Dowse.

The local **Wednesday weekly walking group**, which is much smaller than that of recent years, has discovered a new cafe in the Khandallah village by the name of *Bread and Butter* which provides a warm refuge when the weather rules out the veranda provided by The Parsons. To get there does entail a short walk from the meeting point to the other end of the street.

*Bill Goldstone and Bernie Brown*

**Dinner Group 3:** The members of our group revisited *Adzuki Bean* in Petone on May 17, and were not disappointed. - *Jenny Middlemass*

**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>	Maggie Jenns	477 0099
<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 5928
<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