



REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH

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

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

Newsletter

JULY 2025

REBUS MEETING: Friday 25th July 2025, at 10 am, Khandallah Bowling Club

Speaker - Brooke Fryer

Our July speaker is Brooke Fryer from WELLfed. This is a free adult education programme. Participants learn how to plan, shop, safely prepare and cook low-cost healthy meals, with a strong focus on seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables.

Short Talk: Ross Fletcher

Vote of thanks: Ken Nelson

REBUS MEETING: Friday 29th August 2025, at 10 am, Khandallah Bowling Club

Speaker: Lance Lukin from the Mission to Seafarers

The Mission to Seafarers is an organisation dedicated to caring for seafarers and their welfare. They offer practical support, emergency assistance, and a friendly welcome to seafarers that find their ship in the port of Wellington.

Short Talk: Pam Fletcher

Vote of thanks: Liz Beresford

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another month and we are now into school holidays. I'm sure many of our REBUS members, like us, are about the locality with youngsters in tow. The libraries are busy places during this time as are some of the shopping malls with entertainment to help pass the time. For the first week Johnsonville Mall had an 'ice-rink' to play on, at least it wasn't cold!

I enjoyed June's speaker Marion Hobbs. What an interesting presentation, giving us a more intimate insight into the running of our parliamentary system.

We now look forward to another speaker on 25th July. Best wishes to all.

Michael

FOR THE RECORD

60 members were present at the June meeting, plus two visitors. There were 27 apologies, and 19 members 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.

Woodmancote Warblers Request

The Warblers are always on the lookout for new songs to sing and of course need music. Does anyone happen to have any suitable song sheets or music books that I would be able to copy songs from. Those suitable would be 'Golden Oldies,' Songs from the Shows; Folk Songs; and music from the 50's, 60's & 70's. We could also do with some more male singers!

Ken Nelson

Theatre Notes

Cringeworthy – 90s!

A high-octane explosion of '90s nostalgia!

Following the success of Cringeworthy '60s, '70s and '80s, this show pays homage to NZ music and culture in the last decade of the 20th century. Expect a 'rad' mix of local and international hits delivered with snappy dance moves, scintillating vocals and a generous dollop of cheesy comedy.

At the 25th July meeting, our theatre outing organiser, Peter Clemerson, will take names of members who would like to join him and Navina in a sing-along at **6.30pm on Wednesday 3rd September** at the **Circa theatre**.

Amaze yourself by recalling all those songs you thought you had forgotten.

Twenty one REBUS members have booked for "The Sound Inside" on Wednesday 30th July.

Peter Clemerson

REPORTS

REBUS Meeting 27th June 2025

New Member



Gayl Gaukrodger grew up just out of Christchurch though she has spent almost all her adult life in the North Island - in Palmerston North, Napier, Rotorua and, since 2008, Wellington.

She is a Systems Trainer, part-time these days with an eye on retirement, though she has no set date for that yet.

She was inspired to come along to Khandallah REBUS after reading about some of the meetings in the Independent Herald.

Laurel Fergusson – Leaving Wellington

Laurel Fergusson spoke briefly at the June meeting about how much she had enjoyed REBUS, and told members that she and her husband are shifting to Nelson. Laurel was President in 2021 and 2022 and said she very sorry to be leaving her friends at REBUS, but was looking forward to living in Nelson. She would love anyone visiting Nelson to get in touch with her, and she may be able to pop back to REBUS to see her friends if she was visiting Wellington. We wish Laurel all the very best, and thank her for her contributions to our club.



Guest Speaker – Marian Hobbs

Life in Parliament - 1996 to 2008

Marian Hobbs is a former Minister for the Environment in Helen Clarke's government. She surprised us when she said anyone in the room should be able to be an MP. But she said the expectations placed on politicians to learn all aspects of the job from day one are crazy. Politicians need to have some focussed training, not just how to make speeches, but how to do research, use the library, work with secretaries, make amendments to legislation and to understand the standing orders of the House. But when she entered the first MMP Parliament there was little training available. There is much more now.

From 1972 to 1996 Marian had been a teacher, after completing a degree in English and Political Science and then a Masters in Educational Administration. She appreciated our English curriculum, which allowed choice. She is worried by the limiting of choice today.



Marian entered Parliament in 1996 and over her twelve years as an MP she had three different roles: Backbench in opposition; Minister in Cabinet and finally backbench in government and Assistant Speaker.

From 1996 to 1999 she was one of the list MPs in the first MMP parliament. Marian commented on how parliament has changed. Rarely was an individual vote taken. Most were votes by Party, cast by the party whip, so there was no walking over to Parliament to cast your vote. There was some experimentation about what duties a list MP should have when Parliament was not sitting. Electorate MPs had their electorates. So, in some parties list MPs were sent to support in electorates: Marian was sent to Kaikoura and to Coromandel!

She was given the broadcasting portfolio to research, and to write policy on what her party might do if they came into government. There were no guidelines and you learnt on the job, making contacts, asking the library for help.

One change from work outside parliament was the lack of performance reviews or even job descriptions. That too has changed in current times. Because if it is not recognised what an MP does not know, the appropriate training cannot be organised.

From 1999 to 2008 Marian was Member for Wellington Central. A local MP builds contacts with local government and Marian had a positive relationship with the mayor, Kerry Prendergast who often helped out with the issues of constituents. Some were very different issues, such as the request from a woman for a paddock. She did not want help into housing, just access to a paddock, where she could put up her tent.

From 1999 to 2005 Marian was a Minister for the Environment, Biosecurity, National Library and Archives and other portfolios. There were many issues with difficult choices to make. Varroa mite arrived in beehives and Marian had to choose between containing the mite or attempting to search for it through the forests and exterminating it. Then there was the issue of how genetic modification was used. In the middle of that time when a Royal Commission was held, it was rumoured that genetically modified corn had been imported and planted in New Zealand "Corngate."

A ministerial job entailed much overseas travel, and no days were allocated for rest and recovery. Avoiding a fellow passenger who wanted to lobby a captive Minister in the next seat was a constant hazard! The ministerial job required much detailed reading especially Cabinet Papers on matters that were being read about for the first time, like taxation, health administration, climate change etc. There were 330 pages at least, every weekend, plus briefing papers.

But there were some great wins. For Marian, one was remediating the worsening water quality in Lake Taupo. Regional and local councillors and the Tuwharetoa iwi had raised this issue with her. It was resolved after much research and discussions. This was by the reduction of the number

of grazing animals on the western lands around the lake, and by central government, with regional and local governments, paying compensation to the farmers.

Marian's hours spent working were at least 110 out of the possible 168 hours a week.

In 2005 she asked the Prime Minister if she could stand down from Cabinet. The request was granted and Marian returned to the backbench. In her last year she was voted in as Assistant Speaker, which was close to being a teacher again. When dealing with two MPs arguing and one of them using poor language, she found herself standing and nearly saying "I will not have language like that used in my classroom!!!"

Short Talk Speaker: Mary Hercus



In 1860, a mixed Hercus family came to New Zealand. In New Zealand and Australia all those with the Hercus family name are related.

Mary read French, History and English at Otago University for a B.A. and History M.A. Later she taught in Australia. She worked in the U.K. Hammersmith Postgraduate Medical School, working from notes on Post Mortems conducted by a Chinese Doctor.

Later she joined two friends to go camping in Europe. In Holland the camping grounds were on bitumen. They went through France, Spain and Italy. One of the three had family friends in Italy. (The Italian family had sheltered her brother during WW2). They tracked down the family in Perugia, and when Mary returned to study, she stayed with them. In the 60s she worked as an au pair in Florence, near Santa Croce.

Mary completed a course for teachers in Paris, and worked for the boutique La Demure which sold tapestries. She was able to visit the Gobelin factory, where artists drew the designs, and women made the tapestries. Mary found England and Scotland awful in winter.

After more travel she returned to NZ where she joined Foreign Affairs and was posted to Washington DC for 4 years. There she met her future husband, married and moved to New York city where she lived for 42 years in a brick terrace house. When the phone stopped working, she found the neighbours had built their fireplace over the phone lines.

One of her sons is dyslexic. She took courses at Columbia University, studied for a Learning Disabilities Doctorate, and taught in the Department of Learning Disabilities.

Mary returned home in 2010.

The Heiress - Review

A large group of REBUS members attended the performance of "The Heiress" on 25th June.

In 1880 Henry James wrote a novel called *Washington Square*.

In 1947, it was turned into a play called *The Heiress* by American playwrights Ruth and Augustus Goetz.

Two years later, the play was adapted into the film, *The Heiress*, starring Olivia de Havilland.

Seventy-eight years later Stagecraft Theatre, Wellington presented the show for our entertainment. Directed by Meredith Dooley, her incredible cast held the audience in the palms of their hands during an extraordinary performance. Set in the 1850s in New York, the play follows Catherine Sloper a young woman who lives under the shadow of her domineering father, Doctor Austin Sloper. Catherine is wealthy but is constantly put down by her widowed father. She is very shy and socially awkward. When the charming but penniless suitor Morris Townsend starts courting her, Catherine falls deeply in love. She cannot see that he is only interested in her inheritance. Aimee Sullivan as Catherine and Phil Peleton as her father both gave riveting performances. Aimee's growth of character throughout the play was fascinating and her final actions we're totally believable. The rest

of the cast were strong and gave stellar performances also. The play was superbly costumed in keeping with the period and the set was suggestive of the affluence of the family. Even some of the father's comments, which would be totally unacceptable today, showed the audience the situation of those times. This was a thought-provoking production, showing a different time with different standards of behaviour. It was well worth the trip to town.

Jillian Carpenter

French wine tasting, 24 June 2025

For something rather different from our walking, garden or singing groups, lunch or dinner outings, last month a lucky group of Rebus members enjoyed a French Wine Tasting, hosted in a private home. The sommelier, Michael Hutton, is the son of our hosts.

We were limited to 15 participants: the number of 'tasting' pours per bottle of wine. Michael gave a very entertaining talk to accompany the tastings, taking us on a circuit around France, through both well-known and lesser-known wine regions. He illustrated his talk with informative and picturesque slides, with maps and images of beautiful scenery and vineyards. Some showed surprisingly narrowly spaced low-growing rows of vines, for hand picking of grapes by single pickers.

Nine different wines were sampled, ranging from a Premier Cru Champagne - Serge Gallois Blanc de Blanc, through Sauvignon Blanc, Gewurztraminer, Rosé, Cotes du Rhone, both Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from Burgundy, a Medoc Cru Bourgeois, and ending with a delicate dessert wine. At its simplest: bubbles, whites, rosé, reds and a sticky – a delicious tasting from vineyards most of us had not previously encountered.

We were of course supplied with spittoons, to emulate professional wine tasters – but I'm fairly sure they were almost untouched.

For anyone interested, check out www.ewine.co.nz

Sharon Major



Because of cancellations two places have become available for the Italian wine tasting on Tuesday 29 July, 3.30 pm \$25. Please contact David Hutton huttondavidnz@gmail.com

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).

Lunch Group



A group of ten from the club's lunch group enjoyed lunch on Wednesday 25th June at the Rata Cafe at Zealandia. Although the winter weather on the day was cold and damp it did not affect the enjoyable conversations and comradeship over lunch. The lunch group's next outing will be on **Wednesday, 27th August.**

Raey Butterworth

Planes, Trains and Automobiles

The **next meeting of the group** will be **Thursday September 11th** as I will be away for July and August. Anybody who may be interested in the group can email Harry at hdfriedlander@gmail.com
Harry Friedlander

Dine Out Group

This month, Dinner Group 2 dined out at BambuchiSan in Hataitai. The food is a fusion of Canadian and Japanese dishes. We had the Chef's Choice menu at \$40 per head (nice not having to make decisions) and every dish was delicious. One of our group said "Let's come back here next month".

Walking Group



The walkers continue their weekly strolls despite the inclement weather and nearly all the males were noted on one occasion wearing beanies. The warmth of the chosen cafe has provided a welcome refuge and only the parking restrictions in the area have been the incentive to leave our table."

Bernie Brown

Here are the walkers, well wrapped up for the weather. Note the unusual ratio of men to women. Often the other way round with some groups.

The first **Wednesday of July** was a beautiful sunny windless day, and the **Walking Group** made good use of their **Gold Cards**. First taking a bus to the Railway Station, then a train to Waterloo Station where they caught a bus which took them on a 'Tiki Tour' round Wainuiomata. It was a short walk to the Colombus Café in the new Mitre 10 store, which had excellent cabinet food and a good cup of coffee. Then it was a walk through the Wainuiomata shops, where some purchases were even made. A shorter bus route was taken back to Waterloo Station, then Wellington Station and a bus home. A good day out.

Heather Nelson

ROMEOS (Rebus Old Men Eating Out) Lunch Group

A survey was recently emailed out to ROMEO members asking them for feedback on the various venues they visit. Thank you to all those who have returned the survey – and there is still time for those who haven't sent it back to do so.

Ken Nelson

Garden Group

This month saw our Garden Group meet at Lighthouse Cinema in Petone for a little mid-winter social get-together instead of braving the cool and soggy temperatures outside.

A group of 16 members met and thoroughly enjoyed "An Exhibition on Screen, Michelangelo".

We were all impressed with the detailed and expert information as well as the images that were portrayed on screen.

A really worthwhile winter outing which we finished off with lunch at Caffiend Cafe in Petone (never one to disappoint).

Viv Forrest

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
Quilting	Sue Day	479-7247
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