

# **Rebus Club of Khandallah**

## **President's Report for 2022-2023**

I am pleased to present to you the 29<sup>th</sup> annual report of the Rebus Club of Khandallah.

### **Year in Review**

In the Annual Reports of corporate entities, there is a strong focus on “achievements”, such as increased revenue, profits and returns to shareholders. Ours, however, is a social club, and our achievements are more difficult to quantify.

However, when I reflect on the year that has been, I see many positives. I shall mention just a few illustrative examples:

Despite the Covid infection flare-up in one of our Club meetings, we managed to meet in person every month, and did not miss a single meeting. I think that, for a social club like ours, that is in itself is an achievement!

On two separate occasions, our guest speakers were unable to deliver their lecture on the day, and backed out at very short notice. Never mind, we said, and we found our own speakers in Peter Isherwood and David Hutton, and the meetings went on as scheduled. (Thanks again, Peter and David.)

To me, all this speaks to the wealth of talent and experience in our membership, and our adaptability as a club. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that we celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a social club in August last year.

A club thrives on the contributions from its various members. This year, we chose to recognise one member who has made an exemplary contribution to this club over a period of many years, in different roles. I refer, of course, to Bill Goldstone, who was awarded a life membership, only the second such instance in the history of our club.

### **Membership**

Our current membership stands at 107, about the same as this time last year, which was 108. The following new members were inducted into the club during the year:

**Murray Major**  
**Stella Thorp**  
**Lisa Stockler**  
**Tony Walsh**  
**Judith Littlejohn**  
**David Littlejohn**  
**Natasha Nahkies**  
**Sandi Hurnard**

## **Passings**

I should also wish to mention the names of some of our members and ex-members who passed away this year. They include:

**Stan George**

**Stan Ralston**

**Ken Thomason**

**Rob Thompson**

We mourned their passing and honoured their memory.

## **Current interest and activity groups**

Regarding our current interest and activity groups, I would like to thank the very committed co-ordinators who keep them running:

Two Book Groups: **Geraldine George** and **Ros Paterson**

Craft Group: **Penny Harrison**

Garden Group: **Viv Forrest**

Warblers Singing Group: **Ken Nelson**

Two Lunch Groups: **Ken Nelson** and **Raey Butterworth**

Two Walking Groups: **Bernie Brown** and **Bill Goldstone**

Three Dinner Groups: **Maggie Jenms**, **June Woods**, **Beverley Telfar**, **Rosemary Ralston** and **Jenny Middlemass**.

Thank you all. These groups are great places to meet people and indulge your personal interests.

## **Key Roles outside of the Committee**

I would like to thank the following people outside of the committee, who play such key roles in the functioning of our club:

- **Tony Cornelius** has been invaluable assisting Nick at the registration desk at club meetings.
- **Michael and Penny Harrison** fill the essential role of audio-visual technologists, by setting up the technology for our speakers at Club meetings. Their contribution is vital, and is much appreciated.
- **Heather Nelson**, our Website and Communications Administrator, who created and has since looked after our website, has also sent out our monthly newsletters and any emails to membership. In addition, she has written many articles for the ***Independent Herald*** and also for Rebus NZ Club news, thus raising our profile in the wider community. Heather has been a person to whom I could always turn for advice on pretty much anything Rebus related, and has made my job as your president much easier than it could have been.

- **Allan Shuker and Bill Goldstone** for being our photographers, though Bill “retired” from this role last year!
- **Gay Williamson** our Almoner, has performed sterling service in keeping in touch with our members when they were ailing or were in need of support.

### Ongoing Committee Members

I’d like to express my gratitude to each of the current Committee members who are continuing next year. My thanks go to each of you for your support and friendship:

- **Liz Beresford** has been quietly efficient in her role of coordinating short talks and vote of thanks. She has been good at raising key discussion points at the committee meetings, which helped us work towards solutions. Her contribution is much appreciated.
- **Jenny Cornelius** has organised several trips and visits this year including the Karori Cemetery and Wrights Hill Fortress tours; Tapestry exhibition and movie outing (The Gardener). But significantly, we have to thank Jenny in relation to a trip that had to be cancelled due to floods: The Hawkes Bay trip. A significant amount of money was paid up front by the members who enrolled for the trip, and Jenny was instrumental in recovering all but \$150 of a non-refundable deposit!
- **Angela Hill and Emma McCallum** – our ever-efficient committee members in charge of the morning teas, have always been very organised, and ready to adapt to decisions regarding on the serving of refreshments in the time of Covid. Emma even went to the extent of drawing up a layout plan of the Club, to help with the set-up of the morning tea and coffee.
- **Nick Lambrechtsen**. As Vice President, Nick has been someone I could always rely on to bounce off issues. Nick is quiet, but forthright, and has also been good at bringing us back on track during committee meetings, when occasionally, discussions lost their focus. His main task has been at the registration desk at club meetings and maintenance of the attendance register, something he has done very competently.
- **Sharon Major** has brought her own conversational style to the newsletter. In terms of content, she introduced the ‘Comings and Goings’ column, and I hope that such initiatives continue. Sharon and I have had several interesting discussions, from matters relating to members’ privacy rights, to academic discussions on the overuse of commas and exclamation marks!
- **John Preston** has been of immeasurable help to me and the committee, not only as the Treasurer, but as a lawyer. As a lawyer, he has helped us understand the constantly changing Covid regulations and guidelines, which informed our decision making. As Treasurer, his financial reports have been exemplary in their clarity and simplicity.

### Departing Committee Members

And now I turn to those Committee members who are stepping down this year.

- **Laurel Ferguson, Immediate Past President**– I could not have hoped for a better consigliere, or advisor, than Laurel. Her calmness, mature advice and timely prompts has made my job over this last year an easy one. I recall that she even ran a club meeting for me, when I was sick. Thank you, Laurel, for all your support.
- **Dave Forrest, Club Secretary**, has done an outstanding job in this role, which included preparing and maintaining all the club documentation, members list, name badges, collecting information for the induction of new members. And of course, he

has maintained this glorious chain that I now wear, and shall soon hand over to Nick!  
Thanks again, Dave, for all your help.

- **Heather Hutton** has been instrumental in facilitating the many guest lectures this Club has had the opportunity to listen to over the past three years. She has done such an excellent job, that we have confirmed guest speakers through till July this year. Thanks Heather.
- **Jan Watchman**, has done a very good job under very challenging circumstances: it is difficult being a theatre coordinator, when plays get cancelled routinely due to Covid issues. Thank you, Jan!

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I would like to thank all of you for your patience and understanding with the decisions your committee has taken.

At a personal level, I understand that not all of you found it easy to follow what I was actually saying at these club meetings, so I do really appreciate the support you have shown me.

Your continued participation in Club meetings and its interest groups, is what makes our Club a lively and thriving entity. I am confident that our club will continue to flourish in the years to come, and, that together, we have much to look forward to.

Thank you!

**Vish Sarma**  
**President**