



REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH

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

Newsletter

November 2023

REBUS MEETING: 24 November 2023, at 10 am, at the Khandallah Bowling Club

SHORT TALK: Natasha Nahkies

GUEST SPEAKER: Navina Clemerson, speaking about Nuremberg in the 1930's, a hotbed of Nazi activism. Navina's novel *There was a garden in Nuremberg*, is based on stories told by her mother and grandmother, and on her research in Nuremberg's city archives. Supported by photos of documents, maps, places and people, Navina will talk about new evidence which emerged from her research; fact versus fiction in historical novels; and will read a short passage from her book.

Vote of thanks: Nick Lambrechtsen

REBUS MEETING: 26 January 2024, at 10 am, at the Khandallah Bowling Club

SHORT TALK: Sandi Hurnard

GUEST SPEAKER: Grant Crowley, former Board member of the NZ Parole Board, will talk to us about some of the processes involved with assessing candidates for parole.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I usually remind you that Covid has not done with us yet, and this time, several members on the Marlborough Garden Tour got it. Hopefully effective antivirals will soon have you back on your feet so that you can attend our Christmas function at The Pines on Wednesday 13 December. I sincerely hope that you will recover quickly and won't suffer from "Long Covid". It seems that Covid will be with us till the end of days, just like the Spanish flu of 1918 for which we get our annual injection. That flu was of the same type as Covid, so be alert and take whatever precautions you prefer.

The members who went on the Marlborough Garden Tour will be able to tell you about their many adventures with ferry sailings, and experiences of wonderful gardens.

So far 61 members have registered for our Christmas function at The Pines on Wednesday 13 December. It is not too late to join us for what will be another most enjoyable occasion – I look forward to welcoming as many members as possible. Register online now or pay cash at this Friday's meeting. And at this November 24 meeting, you will be able to enjoy Christmas mince pies, kindly provided by the new owner/manager Ian Rivett of the Khandallah New World supermarket.

For next year's committee, we are looking for a new Treasurer, a Visits coordinator, a Short Talks & Vote of Thanks coordinator and a Vice President, because John Preston, Jenny Cornelius and Liz Beresford will retire and Judy Whiteside will become the president at our March AGM. So please consider stepping into some of those shoes before you get shoulder tapped.

Looking forward to seeing you on Friday 24 November because I am looking forward to Navina Clemerson's talk on her book "There was a garden in Nuremberg".

Enjoy reading your Newsletter.

Best wishes,

Nick

MEETING REMINDERS

- **Name-tag** - please wear it. Make sure you have contact details (in case of accident) on the back of your name-tag.
- Masks are optional, and morning tea/coffee will be provided. Christmas mince tarts even!
- 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
Judy will also welcome advance notice of any visitors to our meetings.

VISITS/EVENTS

A reminder for all our members: spouses/partners are welcome on most trips, visits and events – which of course includes our festive Christmas lunch.

The Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 13th December, at “The Pines,” 50 The Esplanade, Houghton Bay.

Cost: \$45 per person, which includes one glass of wine or juice on arrival.

Time: 12 pm, arriving from 11:30 am.

Direct payment to the Rebus Club Account is preferred:

Account Number: 03 0525 0220364 00

Jenny will collect money at the November meeting for those who need to pay cash.

Car pooling is advisable. Let Jenny know if you need a ride, and she will endeavour to match you up with someone who can provide transport.

Contact Jenny: Ph 479 8669 or 027 272 5659 Email:

corneliusj746@gmail.com



Halfway House Visit, February 2024

A visit is planned to The Halfway House at Glenside as a follow-up to Claire Bibby's talk at our October meeting. Note the date: **Thursday 8 February at 10.30am.**

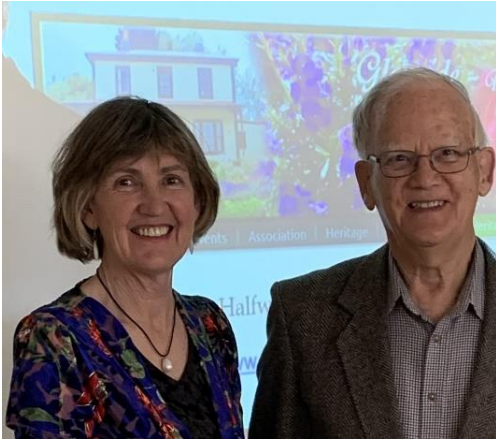
Heritage rose "Charles de Mill" circa 1790 - in front of The Halfway House.

FOR THE RECORD

Attendance figures for our 27 October meeting: we welcomed 69 members, and one visitor. We received apologies from 20 members, and noted 19 members were silent.

REPORTS, 27 October meeting

GUEST SPEAKER: Claire Bibby, President of the Glenside Progressive Association



Claire Bibby's talk about the historic Halfway House and heritage garden in Glenside provided a fascinating glimpse into part of Wellington's history; and of the hard work by a team of volunteer gardeners that is transforming the grounds of Halfway House into a Victorian farm garden.

Heritage walks and talks at The Halfway House were part of the Wellington Heritage festival earlier this month. The original Halfway House was built at Glenside halfway between Wellington and Porirua, in the 1840's and provided accommodation and food for travellers on the road. Back then the area was known as The Halfway, or alternatively, the Halfway House, until it was renamed Glenside in 1928.

The Alexander Turnbull Library archives hold interesting letters and artwork about the house from those early days. In 1849 John Ward McKain purchased The Halfway House. The road to Porirua had been upgraded between 1846-1849 by Military men and Māori, however in 1850 McKain held meetings to successfully influence building the main road north up Ngauranga Gorge as an alternative to the Kaiwharawhara route.

After passing through several proprietors, the Halfway House was bought by Alexander (Sandy) Brown in about 1871. He built the existing Halfway House in about 1880, possibly as a private home, in anticipation of the forthcoming railway ending the horse and coach travel along the Porirua Road. He tenanted the old Halfway House which burnt down in 1891.

The Halfway House remained privately owned until 1951 when it was purchased by the Wellington City Council. They installed tenants and then seemed to forget about the house when the last tenant died in 1995.

Meantime as Churton Park kept expanding, the Glenside Progressive Association started battling to keep the Glenside name, as the Glenside farms are such an old part of Wellington history. The campaign for restoration of The Halfway House began in 2001. The community successfully had it listed as a Heritage Building on the District Plan. The Reserve on which it stands became a Historic Reserve in 2014. The restored house was officially opened in 2017.

The Progressive Association researched how to develop the garden as a Victorian country farm garden, with heritage plants from before 1900, some sourced from the local early settler blocks. The plants are recorded on the Association website with provenance, planting date and location.

Claire's motto: lead, empower, enjoy. And get other people involved. For instance, in November 2022 the Governor General's husband planted a tree for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. One of the volunteer gardeners is a 16-year-old working for her Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Anyone is welcome to visit the garden on the Glenside Reserve, which is next to Twiglands Gardeners World on Middleton Road, Glenside. For more information, particularly about heritage plants, check out: www.glenside.org.nz

SHORT TALK Dr Bill Paterson

"We are shaped by where we come from but where we go is shaped by opportunities and choices". Bill is a third/fourth generation NZer with intertwining origins from Canterbury and Wellington, who worked overseas for most of his professional career before retiring to Wellington 15 years ago. His grandparents had connections with Parliament, Wellington harbour, Mt Vic tunnel and an entrepreneurial road construction business in Canterbury; his parents both served in WW2, and the family grew up in Christchurch. He developed a love for the outdoors early on and earned a doctorate in engineering in 1972 in Canterbury for research on road pavements with an outdoor accelerated trafficking facility, which continues to support NZ research now.



After a short OE, Bill did engineering research for six years in South Africa during the racially tense time of the 1970s. He and Ros found a progressive community and three of their children were born there. After three years back in NZ and with their fourth child, they left for Brazil in 1981. There Bill was part of an international team using the results of a huge field study to develop a universal economic tool for evaluating highway investments and user benefits that has been widely used since. He helped establish technical standards to harmonize measures across countries and used the tool to develop policies and strategies for road investments with The World Bank. Based in Washington DC from 1983, Bill travelled extensively helping developing countries set up road management systems and strategies using the tool.

From 1991, he moved into the Bank's lending operations in the East Asia-Pacific region, working on a range of scale and issues – small to large countries, highways to rural roads and later local infrastructure such as housing, water and sanitation – managing projects worth hundreds of million dollars. Disaster recovery and risk mitigation developed into a key focus, including post-disaster assessments in Samoa, Aceh, Tonga and Dominica. One highlight was achieving over 400 cyclone-resilient homes financed and built for landless poor in Tonga within a year of tropical cyclone Waka. Anti-corruption work became an additional major focus from 2000 onwards: developing means for detecting and deterring corruption in infrastructure projects, fighting a high-profile case and building up a transparency program.

Bill's family grew up with the rich varied cultures and experiences of this life, leading to the children, and now nine grandchildren, living in four different countries. After living in Hanoi for two years and retiring in 2008, Bill continued with consulting work and travel until recently. He has found working in highly diverse teams and situations in over 50 countries rewarding and a privilege.

Khandallah Rebus Circa Theatre visit 2 November 2023

Peter Clemerson Review: The Importance of Being Earnest

When you suspect that Wellington's theatre aficionados have seen Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* not once or twice but perhaps four or five times, you have to do something different. Jonathan Price's Circa Theatre production was well attuned to this need. But novelty can be risky. Not all innovations appeal to the gallery equally.

A female Algernon and a male – well almost – Gwendolen came as a surprise if you had not read the cast list. Whether you like sex reversed casts is a matter of personal taste, but it suited Price's stratospherically camp production. For many, perhaps most, it was just part of the fun. But did we watch a play or did we go to a pantomime?

No matter. The cast threw themselves into the spirit: characters and furniture entwined in slapstick, mood shifts as quick as Wilde's wit. For my money, Dawn Cheong's Cecily Cardew was preeminent; quicksilver changes of temperament, caprice enchanting, and such power without shrieks.

However, not all was well. Price's need to escape the cliché Lady Bracknell led him to a strange decision. Irene Wood seemed miscast. Her rendering was of someone not yet recovered from tonsillitis – Bracknell's thunder reduced to a stage whisper, her acclaimed retorts shrunk to mutterings.

The theatre layout had the audience sitting on three sides of a small square looking inwards. At any one time, at least a third of the audience was looking at an actor's back. A cast wearing microphones feeding a public address system was supposedly the solution, but even slight hearing loss, probably a common feature of the elderly audience, undermined it. The arrangement nevertheless had its advantages. The inner rows had close-ups of the cast's facial acrobatics. By the final bow, as Dr. Chasuble, Peter Hambleton's face muscles were surely aching.

***Editor's note:** Scintillating, delightful and very funny were comments heard from others in our group. And why shouldn't Lady Bracknell react with a gasped whisper, when she's just been given a sucker punch by the word 'handbag'? The debate continues . . .*

Trip to Raupara Springs Garden Marlborough Festival, 8th to 12th November.

Following a very delayed start to the trip, due to the Bluebridge Ferry hitting the wharf as it was leaving Wellington, 19 of our members had a wonderful three days at the Garden Marlborough Festival.

We enjoyed two full-day garden tours, visiting nine extensive and beautiful country gardens. These included three gardens of National Significance. The gardens were varied in age and design, some formal, most with 'garden rooms' and one a native garden planted in a formal style. On the other day, members chose to do a half-day garden tour, a workshop, a Wine Tour, or to investigate the attractions of Blenheim.



A shout-out to Picton Shuttles, who provided excellent service, given the 7-hour late arrival in Picton, and who were very helpful when transferring us back to Picton from Blenheim.



We enjoyed some lovely dinners, one at the Scotch Wine Bar where the Chef owner shouted the happy diners a vodka shot.

Jenny Cornelius

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 Report: See Jenny's report above on the Raupara Springs Garden Marlborough Festival visit.

Lunch Group: The Rebus lunch group completed their lunch schedule for the year with an outing to *Smith the Grocer* on 25 October and we are now looking forward to our first lunch outing in the new year, on February 28th, 2024. From our lunch group we wish everyone a wonderful family Christmas and a great 2024.

Raey Butterworth

ROMEO Men Lunching: ROMEOS met at *The Old Bailey* on Wednesday 15th for our final luncheon for the year.

Ken Nelson

Dinner Group 1: We had a very pleasant evening at *Loretta* on Cuba St this month. Very good service and attentive staff. The food was delicious too! We will be having our final group dinner for this year on 7 December at the *Thistle Inn*, Thorndon.

Judith Littlejohn





Dinner Group 3: Dinner Group 3 went to *Logan Brown at Bellamys* for the last dinner of the year. We had a set menu, with three choices in each of the courses, plus some complimentary side dishes. The food was the usual high LB standard and everyone enjoyed what they ordered. A highlight of the evening was the absence of any other diners - we had the whole of Bellamys to ourselves. No MPs of course, and no other diners from the public.

Jenny Middlemass

Warblers Singing Group: We met on Tuesday 14th November, and enjoyed practising our Christmas repertoire ready for the Khandallah Rebus Christmas Lunch.

Ken Nelson

Rebus Walking Groups

Gold Card Walk: In October '21 our Gold Card Walk was out to Island Bay. We decided to repeat this trip and on 1st November, 18 of us took a No 1 bus out to Island Bay. It was a perfect day and even a brave soul sunbathing on the sand! Most of us then walked 2km along the Esplanade and up The Parade to *The Blue Belle Cafe* where we had lunch. The No 1 bus stop is right outside the cafe. Most of us (the overgrown school children) again rode back on the top deck.

Heather started taking photos of the group but a woman driving past saw our happy smiling faces, stopped and offered to take a photo of us all. A kind thought.



The Wednesday weekly walks around Khandallah have continued with coffee at *The Bread and Butter Cafe*.

Bill and Bernie

(Bill Goldstone and Bernie Brown)

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

Book Group 1:	Geraldine George	479 0004
Book Group 2:	Ros Paterson	479 3131
Craft Group:	Penny Harrison	479 9302
Garden Group:	Viv Forrest	021 069 0397
Warblers Singing Group:	Ken Nelson	939 9166
ROMEO Men Lunching:	Ken Nelson	939 9166
Lunch Group:	Raey Butterworth	461 6673
Walking Group:	Bernie Brown (Local)	479-2804
	Bill Goldstone (Gold Card)	478 2288
Dinner Group 1: (NV)	Judith Littlejohn	0273613338
Dinner Group 2:	Beverley Telfar	479 2165
Dinner Group 3:	Jenny Middlemass	479-2638
Office Holders		
President	Nick Lambrechtsen	938 5911
Vice President	Judy Whiteside	479 5051
Secretary	Stella Thorp	021 299 4052
Treasurer	John Preston	479 2924
Past President	Vish Sarma	973 5527 or 022 159 3421
Speakers	Natasha Nahkies	027 240 4402
Visits	Jenny Cornelius	479 8669
Theatre	Peter Clemerson	938 5923
Morning Tea	Emma McCallum	479 4439
	Angela Hill	479 5580
Short Talks	Liz Beresford	022 598 7176
Newsletter	Sharon Major	479 5104 or 021 884 611
Interim Almoner	Ngaio Taylor	479 3183 or 021 0242 2150
Web & Communication	Heather Nelson (Outside committee)	939 9166
Audio Visual System	Michael Harrison (Outside committee)	479 9302