



REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH

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

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

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026

REBUS MEETING: Friday 27th February 2026, at 10 am, Khandallah Bowling Club

Speaker: Mary O'Keefe from Heritage Solutions

Heritage Solutions is a Wellington-based consultancy specialising in archaeological and historic heritage matters.

Short Talk: Gayl Gaukrodger

Vote of Thanks: Chris Sissons

REBUS MEETING: Friday 27th March 2026, at 10 am, Khandallah Bowling Club

Please Note: This meeting is the Annual General Meeting.

Speaker: Tom Kay - Organiser & Spokesperson for **Choose Clean Water**. His topic is "Making Room for Rivers."

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The cicadas are chirruping and the monarchs are fluttering – it must be summer. Really? The gusts of wind at the top of Mt Kaukau reached 193kph. It may not have been that high down in Khandallah, but wind damage was still noticeable, with toppled sizable trees on Burma and Woodmancote Roads, being examples.

A luncheon group that has been organised by Raey Butterworth for many years needs a new leader. Some members now prefer going out during daylight hours rather than at night, particularly during the winter. Please consider volunteering for this role, one lunch each month is not arduous. Talking of lunches, the midwinter lunch has been booked for 11th June, I know it's an early warning but put it on your calendar.

I look forward to seeing you all on Friday, 27th February, and 27th March for the AGM.

Michael Harrison

FOR THE RECORD

Attendance at our January 2025 REBUS meeting.

We welcomed 70 members to our meeting on January 30th, and were pleased to greet three visitors. We received apologies from 18 members (thank you for notifying us), while 16 of our members were 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.

NEWS AND REPORTS

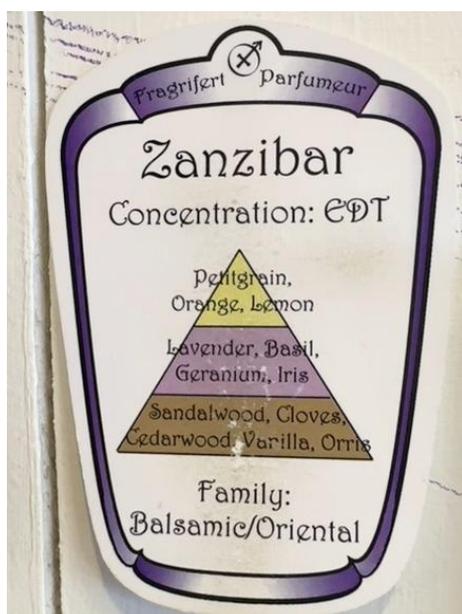
Morning Tea Rosters 2026

If you are on a morning-tea team and you are no longer available for this job, can you please let either your team-leader or Viv Forrest know as soon as possible. Viv is currently putting together the roster for the new Presidential year and requires names of those not wanting to proceed for another twelve months. Thanks to those who wish to stay on, as the last twelve months have proven to work well and have been problem-free, thanks to your hard work. **We also would like some more volunteers for the roster.** Please get in touch with Viv Forrest if you can help.

REBUS outing to Fragrifert Parfumeur

Fourteen of us visited Fragrifert Parfumeur on Wednesday 11 February in Kelburn, arriving by car or on the Cable Car.

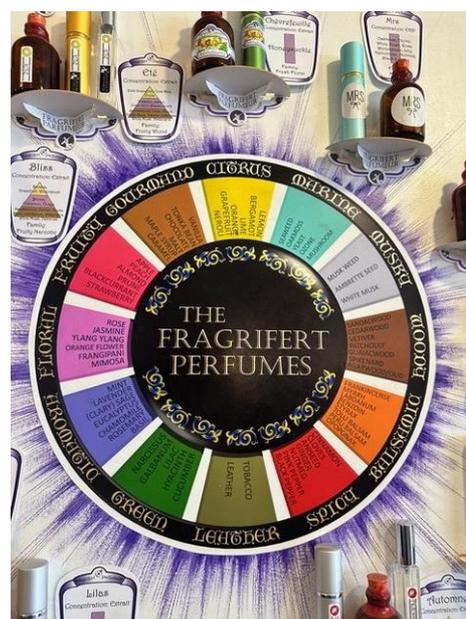
The owner and perfumer, Francesco greeted us dressed in Victorian attire (as was his assistant) and introduced us to his wonderful old copper still and other equipment, explaining the process of perfume making (in a word, complicated).



One of the perfumes chosen

Francesco makes a very large range of perfumes, which made choosing our sample to take home very difficult. Reasons for choosing the particular perfume varied, but my favourite was the person who chose the gorse perfume to remind a friend of the gorse flowers she used to collect in the UK for the Christmas table!

Francesco advised us to keep our perfumes in the dark, and to spray them on the wrist, not the neck.



Classification of ingredients wheel

Following the visit, nine of us enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Top of the Cable Car restaurant.

The entire experience was so interesting and convivial that I completely forgot to take photos! Thanks to Chris Sissons for sharing his photos.

Christine McKenna

REBUS Short Talk:

Linda Sissons – Life-long learning

Linda grabbed our attention immediately, describing a group of students waiting to enter a lecture room. (In 1978, the Continuing Education Centre at Waikato University).

Not your usual student crowd – big guys off a worksite in boots and work gear. Grown men, family men with work responsibilities and probably some with significant Hapu or marae roles. They were shaking with fear, sweating, smoking, fidgeting. Linda kept puzzling why the prospect of a day off-site learning new stuff was so traumatic.

Addressing this problem became the heart of Linda's life's work "so far".

Linda began working life teaching at VUW, doing a PhD at London Uni, then marrying Chris whose academic career in Microbiology started with a post-doc fellowship at Edinburgh Uni. Linda went sideways into management and vocational education, which lead to teaching in prisons and New Towns in Scotland – and thinking hard about how learning can serve grown-up people dealing with challenging lives.



In Scotland Linda was in charge of support for geographically 'remote' students at the exciting, experimental Open University; while she and Chris worked with their neighbours to form a Tenant's Association for their dilapidated 100-apartment University owned Edinburgh tenement, then fought through bureaucracy to establish the Lister Housing Co-operative, the first Community Housing Co-operative in Scotland.

Visiting Edinburgh in 2018, Chris and Linda were thrilled to see the thriving, beautifully-restored Georgian buildings, in the still community run association of now over 185 separate homes.

Linda stressed that working beside people who despite often terrible education experiences, were able to devise smart, complex, evidence based strategies and decisions on complex technical matters – in supportive environments and where the outcomes really mattered – taught her that the old concept of

education as pouring knowledge into empty vessels was utterly ineffective. It doesn't work.

Back home in 1977, Linda was challenged by NZ's dual education system: universities for "thinking", vocational providers for "doing". After six years at Waikato Uni's Continuing Education Centre, in 1986 she became the first CE of the short-lived TUEA, an employer/union/government initiative. She loved the work, believing that any workplace will be more productive and more successful if everyone who works there understands both how things are made and done, and is encouraged to contribute their ideas and imaginations to doing things better. The doing AND the thinking.

That experience led to fascination with the concept of Productivity and the place of skills in that, and in trying to work out what to do, as an educator, about NZ's abysmal productivity record.

After TUEA Linda joined the Open Polytechnic led by Shona Butterfield. Over 25 years she led Hutt Valley Polytechnic, Wellington Institute of Technology, UCOL (the Primary Industries Training Association), and Taratahi Agricultural College, a Private Training Enterprise.

Returning to those sweating nervous learners at Waikato Uni. They feared education as a humiliating hurdle race, with winners and losers and only right or wrong answers. They had little chance to decide for themselves what they needed to know, and how they might acquire that knowledge, while having their power in all this respected. This alternative approach is embodied in the newly emerging learning theory called heutagogy*. (**Self-determined learning*).

This new approach will be increasingly important in today's world: a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous world, where each person is likely to need to completely change careers at least 3 times; a world where AI presents as many challenges as quick answers, and is expected to have a major impact on jobs and employment.

Sharon Major

REBUS Guest Speaker at the February meeting:

Lisa Theron, Dress for Success Programme Manager



Lisa answered the question puzzling us at the start: What is Yes for Success? Do you mean Dress for Success?

Well yes, partly. Worldwide, Dress for Success is focussed on empowering women – but in 2023 Dress for Success Wellington expanded to become Yes for Success, with a commitment to inclusivity across all genders.

They aim to help people to build skills and confidence, to enable them to achieve economic independence: to find employment and thrive in their careers. With one branch in Wellington city and another in Lower Hutt, they work to create stronger communities to support individuals to achieve their aspirations in work and life.

Dress for Success manages this with a volunteer board, a small team of part-time staff, and around 150 volunteers, who deliver their programmes, manage the clothing donations and run the 'dressed' boutiques. Revenue from selling clothes in the pre-loved

boutiques is a key support for the programmes, while donated clothes are vital for providing good choices for people for their job interviews, and for workwear.

Dress for Success partners, particularly MSD and Corrections, and corporate partnerships, make a vital contribution to the organisation, and a big difference in the lives of people around the region.

Dress for Success delivers career coaching and styling services to MSD clients. They provide four week courses for people on a benefit, making sure that they are upskilled. Workshops for women in prison (Arohata) – prepare women to find work and be ready to make positive change. Hay's Recruitment and other subject matter experts deliver monthly workshops, while Deloitte's offer space.

Dress for Success services include:

- Interview styling – ensuring the person walks away in something they enjoy wearing
- Confidence styling – for people who need a refreshed look, to return to the workforce. This can include haircuts.
- Career coaching – one on one, professional support – supporting people going through job search.
- Mentoring
- Workshops and career advice – being in groups with other jobseekers. Monthly success workshops – an opportunity to develop some soft skills, as well as networking opportunities.
- Work experience – often in a Dress for Success office – which may result in a reference. A lot of migrant volunteers, with years of work experience back home, but no NZ experience on their CV's. Working for Dress for Success they gain more language skills, and NZ work experience.

If you would like more information, see www.yesforsuccess.org.nz

Sharon Major

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).

Garden Group

The Garden Group started the New Year with a couple of amazing visits.

Our first of the year in **January** was at the Annual Lions Club fundraiser Waikanae Garden Tour. A small group of us managed to see about 5-6 gardens that we had not viewed before interspersed with an enjoyable lunch together. It was a well worthwhile trip especially as we chose the best day weatherwise for the weekend.



The Garden Group visit in **February** was a guided tour, by one of the gardeners, all over the grounds of Government House. This included the hidden meadow below the conifer garden and the Queen's favourite secluded seat. The colours in the gardens were amazing (mostly dahlias and hydrangeas as they are treated as perennials and not seen over the cooler months) but not forgetting the extremely rare white rata. We were treated to really interesting information about the shaping, formation and maintenance of the gardens and allowed to ramble at our own pace. A really well-spent hour and a half before we headed off to Greta Point Cafe for a pleasant lunch overlooking the sea.



NEW GROUP - Dinner Group 3

At the end of February Dinner Group 3 had its inaugural meeting. A group of fourteen enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Namaste Indian Restaurant in Khandallah village. The food was wonderful and the camaraderie was lively. We enjoyed meeting new people and sharing stories, laughs and experiences with fellow Rebus members.

It was great to have a good number of fairly new members bringing their own verve into the Rebus community.

Ros Paterson



NOTE: Our three dinner groups have no vacancies. If you would be interested in going to one, please consider starting one. Please get in touch with Michael or Stella.

Dinner Group 1 Report

Eleven of our group drove out to Plimmerton for our February get together. We dined at Topor, the Polish restaurant on Beach Road.

We had visited this restaurant last year and we said we must return. We spent yet again a lovely evening there. Great company, delicious food and murmurings of "we must return again to sample more of the wonderful menu options offered." This venue comes highly recommended.

Our next dinner meeting will be on Thursday, 5 March. Venue to be confirmed.

Judith Littlejohn

Planes, Trains and Automobiles Group

The Planes, Trains and Automobiles group met for its first meeting of the year.

We enjoyed some "electric" cherries and viewed a video about the Electric Cherries orchard, its historical story and the vehicles that populate the orchard. The cherries are grown using 100% electric machinery and vehicles.

Harry Friedlander

The Woodmancote Warblers Singing Group

Fifteen "Warblers" gathered in the Burma Lounge at Malvina Major for the first time in our new venue. The old piano may not have been A1, but the acoustics were good and I reckon we managed to produce some most acceptable singing! We would welcome some new voices if any REBUS members are interested in coming along (especially some male voices). And, of course, if you live in the Malvina Major Village, you don't even need to venture out to join us. We sing for about an hour then have afternoon tea. We will be meeting on the second Tuesday of the month in the Burma Lounge, Malvina Major Retirement Village, at 1.30 pm. Please get in touch with me if you are interested in joining us. Ken Nelson Phone 939 9166, Cell 021 128 3323, or email me on kwnelson21@gmail.com

Ken Nelson

ROMEO Lunch Group (REBUS Old Men Eating Out)

The ROMEOS had their first luncheon for the year at the 1841 Bar and Restaurant. Lively conversations up and down the table ensued covering the usual: politics, the good old days, state of the world, etc. Any REBUS male is welcome to come along and sample our monthly luncheon on the second Wednesday of each month. We have various venues (pub meal or various ethnic restaurants) The emphasis is not on fine dining, but rather a good old "chin wag" over a tasty lunch.

Ken Nelson

New Groups

If you are interested in going to a new book group or dinner group, please get in touch with our President, Michael Harrison, or Secretary, Stella Thorp, (details below) as there may be enough people to start a new group.

Or if you have a particular interest that you would like to share with others by starting a completely different REBUS group, please get in touch with Stella or Michael also.

We have the ROMEO lunch group for men, and it has been suggested that a "Juliets" lunch group, for women, be started. Are there any volunteers?

REBUS Theatre Visit - Review of The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

Circa's 50th season commences with a revival of a classic of modern theatre, produced by a celebrated director in a production reflecting yesteryear. Colin McColl's *The Glass Menagerie* is performed on designer Tony Rabbit's bare stage reflecting Circa's original Illot Building home on Harris St., earthquake bracing a puzzle in a domestic drama set in St Louis, Missouri, USA.

Tom Wingfield (Simon Leary) introduces the play as his version of earlier events, acquainting the audience with a genre invented by Tennessee Williams; the memory play, an account of the past from one person's point of view. In a dead-end warehouse job, Tom escaped to the loos to write verse. He yearned to become a merchant seaman in search of adventure, apparently unaware that he would exchange his empty life on land for one at sea.

His older sister Laura (Asley Harnett) is crippled by shyness, an attack of pleurosis still hobbling both her gait and her life. She has retreated from all attempts by her mother Amanda (Hera Dunleavy) to get her out of the house, into employment and a social life. Instead, she fantasizes at home about her menagerie, realised in most productions by coloured glass figurines, but in McColl's by miniature glass bottles, emphasising Laura's flight from reality.

Into this sad household enters "a gentleman caller", Jim O'Connor (Jackson Burling) a kindly but ambitious colleague of Tom's, invited to dinner at Amanda's insistence in an attempt to enrich her daughter's life, and who knows, perhaps spark a romance. It works, perhaps too well. Laura is smitten and Tom is attracted. A gentle kiss forces Tom to a reality. He is already engaged, only months from marriage. In a wrenching scene, Laura screams her disappointment, the ruination of hopes raised and dashed, and flees.

The play reflects several elements of Williams' life: his unhappy homelife, his introspective writings, his mother's anxious attempts to provide respectability and his sister's mental fragility.

The cast all provided excellent performances with Ashley Harnett salient as Laura. A recent graduate of Toi Whakaari, her preening before a mirror as she anticipates Tom's arrival for dinner and her stricken cries at another of life's defeats provided career-enhancing occasions for display. When a student, she must have craved such opportunities.

Peter Clemerson

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
Dinner Group 3: NV	Ros Paterson	479-3131 or 021 214 7046
French Speaking	Dawn Ferguson	dawncferguson@gmail.com
Garden Group	Viv Forrest	021 069 0397
Planes, Trains & Automobiles	Harry Friedlander	021 153 2867
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