



## REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH

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

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

June 2023

### Newsletter

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

**SHORT TALK:** Murray Major

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Susanna Berry and Susan Guthrie, senior analysts at the Reserve Bank, on the future of money, including the future of NZ's cash system.

**Vote of thanks:** Sheila Williams

**REBUS MEETING: July 28 2023, at 10 am, at the Khandallah Bowling Club**

**SHORT TALK:** David Hutton

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Len Cook, CBE, Statistician, speaking on The NZ Census and how this informs government planning decisions.

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

With the excellent midwinter Matariki lunch fresh in my mind, I wish to thank Jenny Cornelius for arranging it and for making sure that we had such a good turnout. It was a most enjoyable gathering with a much-appreciated menu, which I trust satisfied everybody. I also wish to thank the drivers, including Audrey Thomson's shuttle from Malvina that got several of us there, and back.

To me, it is another example of how fortunate I am to have such an efficient, capable, and enthusiastic committee that arranges these activities for you. And I trust that you make use of the wide range of activities that the club offers to you, whether it is walking, singing, going to theatres, dining, or going on big trips, such as the Marlborough Garden Festival.

You may recall that our vice president, Judy Whiteside suggested the setting up of a movie group. Please contact her if you are interested.

No doubt, you are looking forward to hearing the two speakers from the Reserve Bank, Susanna Berry and Susan Guthrie, talk about the future of money in NZ. I am expecting a good turnout for this important topic. It will also be my pleasure to induct two new members, Sally Chrystall and Joanne Greenlees, to our club on Friday.

I have mentioned to the Khandallah Bowling Club our concern about the acoustics of our meeting space. This will be discussed at their July Board meeting.

At our most recent committee meeting, our treasurer John Preston mentioned that a few members have not yet renewed their subscription. He may have sent you a reminder already. Please check your bank account. Thank you to the vast majority who have renewed their subscriptions. Looking forward to seeing you on Friday 30 June.

Best wishes,  
Nick

## MEETING REMINDERS

- Please remember to wear your **name-tag**. And could you check – have you written contact details (in case of accident) on the reverse of your name-tag? If not, please do so.
- 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 **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.

### Garden Marlborough Trip November 8-12, 2023

We still have a few places available on this trip, but we need to know by Friday 30th of June if you would like to come. After this date, we can put you on the waiting list in case of cancellations. This year's Garden Marlborough calendar of events will be online at [www.gardenmarlborough.co.nz](http://www.gardenmarlborough.co.nz) on the 8th of July.

We are planning two full-day garden tours with an optional wine tour for the middle day (10 Nov). There are half-day garden tours, workshops with leading NZ gardeners, landscapers, and more, as optional extras for 10th November.

For inquiries please contact Viv Forrest ph 021 069 0397 ; email: [djandvaf@gmail.com](mailto:djandvaf@gmail.com)  
or Jenny Cornelius ph 479 8669 or 027 272 5659 ; email: [corneliusj746@gmail.com](mailto:corneliusj746@gmail.com)  
or Geraldine George ph 479 0004 ; email: [gg\\_geraldine@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:gg_geraldine@yahoo.co.nz)

## Theatre visits

### 20th July, Circa: *Prima Facie*.

Thirty members have booked for this visit.

### 24th August, Circa: *Public Service Announcements – Election 2023*

By Thom Adams, Jamie McCaskill and Anya Tate-Manning.

The names of members wishing to join a party will be taken at the Rebus meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June. 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

### May 26 MEETING

#### SPEAKER

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

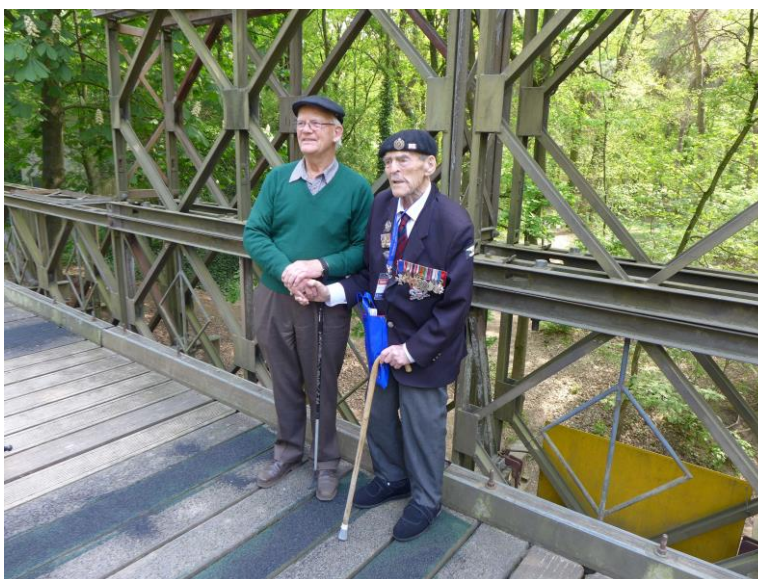
We were curious about President Nick's link to the Netherlands and this very long Bailey bridge, and his talk was extremely interesting. Nick had travelled to the Netherlands in May 2022 to be present at the unveiling of two monuments (one on each side of the Maas river) to commemorate the building of the longest floating Bailey bridge of WWII: the Lambrechtsen Bridge, between Oeffelt and Gennepe.

Nick was representing his father, Constant Lambrechtsen van Ritthem – a ‘river engineer’, a civil engineer with specialist knowledge of water level fluctuations of Dutch rivers. He had volunteered as a liaison officer in October 1944 to help the British Royal Engineers with all the rivers that the Army still had to cross, "The Opposed Crossing of a Water Obstacle", before they could invade Germany.

The Maas River at Gennepe was already in flood at the end of January 1945, but was contained within its summer dykes. It was Lt Lambrechtsen’s task to predict how wide the river was going to be a fortnight later (following winter snow melt and rain), after 10 February 1945, stipulated by Brigadier “Ginger” Campbell - the chief engineer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in 1944. The timing was crucial – because that was when the British Army planned to invade Germany as part of Operation Veritable.

When Lt Lambrechtsen correctly forecast that the Maas was going to be 1.2 km wide, the Brigadier ordered 140 lorries of Bailey bridge material for constructing the bridge, designed by Lambrechtsen and Captain (later Major) Ted Hunt of the British Royal Engineers. This Bailey Pontoon Bridge, 1,222 metres long, the longest floating Bailey bridge built during WWII, was built in eight days, under sniper fire, by 7<sup>th</sup> Army Troop Engineers. It was a Class 40 bridge (suitable for 40-ton loads, i.e. tanks). The bridge was open for use on the night of 19 February 1945. It was in use for several weeks and adjusted as the river level fell.

Major Hunt was still alive at the unveiling at 102 years of age, but he died just two months later, having seen his dream fulfilled in a spectacular way by the Dutch Army Engineers. Nick’s father died in November 1994.



Nick and Major Ted Hunt on a Bailey bridge in 2022

#### **The inscription on the monument reads:**

These two Bailey segments, floating above the banks of Oeffelt and Gennepe, are a tribute to the floating Bailey Bridge, 1222 metres long and weighing 1126 tons, that the English sapper Major Edwin Hunt MVO and the Dutch civil engineer reserve lieutenant Constant Lambrechtsen van Ritthem planned and designed. The bridge was built between 12 and 20 February 1945 by 7th Army Troops Engineers of the British Second Army. With its staggering length, this masterpiece was the longest floating Bailey Bridge of WWII. "Have no fear, the sappers are here!"

#### **FOR THE RECORD**

Attendance figures for our 26 May meeting: we welcomed 68 members, and six visitors. We received apologies from 19 members, and noted 21 members were silent.

## SHORT TALK

### David Littlejohn



David Littlejohn entertained us with a comprehensive glimpse through his life from childhood to meeting the English born girlfriend who became his wife, to marriage in England and almost three years of winter work in London interspersed with four summer months each year, minivan touring/exploring Europe – before returning to NZ in March 1983. And now we have to wait for Judith Littlejohn's short talk to find out what happened next!

David's parents had migrated from London in 1950, and probably found life very different in Upper Hutt, mainly in Heretaunga. David was born in 1954, three years after his brother, and in 1957 the family went to the UK to be introduced to all their relations. Aged three, David does not remember much about the journey by ship, except for the

dress-up party crossing the Equator when his brother went as Robin Hood and he was Maid Marion.

Primary school at Brentwood School was followed by Wellesley College at Day's Bay, which meant long days travelling, particularly when afternoon sport was added in. At Whanganui Collegiate as a boarder, sport was increasingly important, particularly rowing. Winning the Maadi Cup in 1971 was a highlight; as was leaving school with a bursary to attend university.

At Canterbury University, rowing took David to the university games at Massey University in 1973 – and rowing with Trevor Coker, a member of the successful 1972 Munich eight, in the University eights race. Canterbury won.

David returned to Wellington in 1976, and joined Shell Oil as an executive trainee – and that was where he met Judith, now his wife.

Since Judith wished to be married in England with her family, that was a great excuse for them both to leave Shell and travel. They left NZ in July 1980, explored parts of West and East Coast US on the way over – and after many family reunions and much enjoying of the London theatre scene – plays, musicals, ballets – plus exhaustive travels throughout the UK and continental Europe, they returned to NZ in 1983.

## Peter Clemerson Theatre Review

### Theatre visit to the Gryphon Theatre, 9th June 2023

In a full house of seventy people, ten leaving by or during the interval leaves a very noticeable hole. And so it was at the Gryphon Theatre when 19 members attended a performance of the Goodale brothers' award winning 2013 play *Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense*, based upon P G Wodehouse's 1938 novel [The Code of the Woosters](#). Given its successes in London, throughout the UK and then internationally, the choice of the play by the Repertory Company is understandable. However, its very success demands an exceptionally talented cast to meet the challenges of the fast-moving script and the multiple role changes it imposes upon three male actors. Alas, such talent was not to be seen at the Gryphon Theatre on the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> June.



Tom Foy's excessive gesturing as Bertie Wooster had become tiresome within five minutes, when the first two of the ten left, and Ethan Lawn's Jeeves lacked the lofty disdain one expects of a supercilious valet. Nick Edwards tried hard in a multiplicity of roles although in none did he capture the audience. And instead of quick costume changes and rapid stage settings, we got pauses and pauses and more pauses, with Jeeves obliged to make impromptu remarks to fill them. It won't do, you know.

*Peter Clemerson*

### **Visit to the Michael Fowler Centre, June 15**

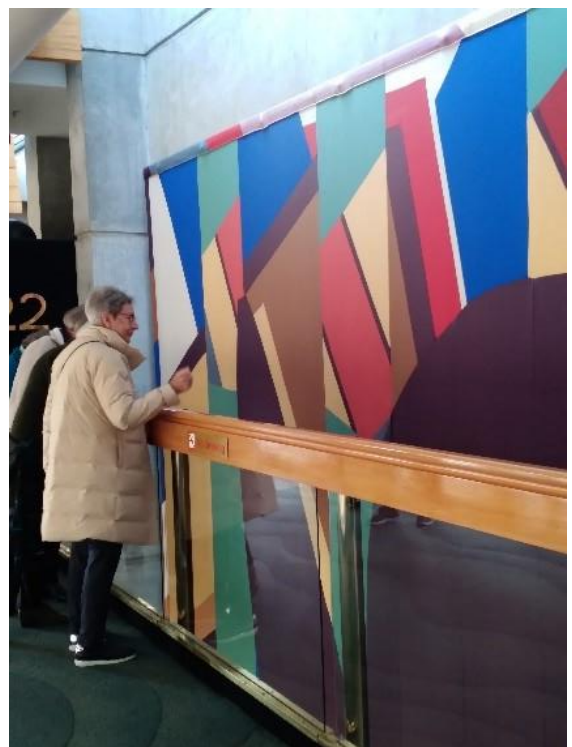
Peter Stupples, a retired Art History lecturer, gave 18 of us a talk and tour of the Gordon Crook banners and wall-hangings at the Michael Fowler Centre.

Textile artist Gordon Crook was commissioned by the Wellington City Council in 1982 to create the 12 banners and 10 wall hangings that add colour and softness to the concrete interior of the building. Nancye Seaton, herself a designer and maker of theatrical and ballet costumes, sewed all these art works.

The banners are 7m long by 1.5m wide, with colourful designs applied onto the linen background. The curved lower edges reflect the curved openings in the concrete columns of the concourse. The wall hangings, which hang between two floors, are 7m long by 5.5m wide and made of wool crepe. They are situated between the doors to the auditorium.

The vivid banners and wall-hangings all feature different bold, abstract designs.

*Jenny Cornelius*



## Midwinter lunch

The Royal Wellington Golf Club, Upper Hutt, was the venue for our 22 June Midwinter lunch. Friendship and a delicious meal were enjoyed by 57 people in the lovely dining area with grand views of the wintry-looking golf course.

*Jenny Cornelius*



There are more photos on the website.

## 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:** On May 22nd 11 members of our Rebus Garden Group met with a very knowledgeable guide from the Botanical Gardens Society for a 90 minute walk from the top of the Cable Car in Kelburn to the front entrance in Tinakori Road.

We were told about trees and vegetation that were originally part of Gondwana, and how the vegetation adapted when the landmasses shifted. Apparently not all the vegetation adapted to their new environment, though lots of species did over time, to produce New Zealand's own thick forests and unusual plants.

After a very informative tour, we went away with far more knowledge about our beautiful Botanical Garden in Wellington and its history. The outing finished with a light lunch at Picnic Cafe near the rose gardens.

On June 13th a small number Garden Group members took advantage of a guided tour of Katherine Mansfield's birthplace in Tinakori Road. The house was stripped back in 2019 and earthquake strengthened to restore it to as close to an original condition as possible. This included a very successful matching of period wallpapers and furniture.

The head gardener then spoke to us about the restoration of the garden with plants specific to the time of the Beauchamp family residence.

Please Note: on Election Day there will be an Open Home at the Katherine Mansfield House with plants from the garden on sale.

*Viv Forrest*

**Warblers Singing Group:** WARBLERS had their usual monthly sing on Tuesday 13th. Whilst the men's section was somewhat depleted in number, the ladies (as always) held their own. Our next sing is scheduled for Tuesday 11th July.

*Ken Nelson*

**ROMEO Men Lunching:** ROMEOS monthly luncheon was at the "1841" in Johnsonville on Wednesday June 14th. A number of our regulars had other commitments (bothersome things like Jury Duty and Covid!), but six of us had a most enjoyable lunch and chat. REBUS men, keep Wednesday 12th July free for the next ROMEO luncheon.

*Ken Nelson*

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

**Lunch Group:** The lunch group will visit the Sipriana Cafe in the Capital Gateway for lunch on Wednesday 28 June 2023.

*Raey Butterworth.*



**Walking Group:** The walking group has firmly established the newest coffee shop in Khandallah as its preferred provider with both inside and outdoor seating available.

The June Gold Card walk was brought forward a week and on the last day of May we caught the number 60 bus to Porirua. After seeing the exhibitions at Pataka we lunched at the resident cafe before strolling back to the Porirua station for our return journey.

*Bernie Brown*

**Dinner Group 1:** We had a very enjoyable evening at the Victoria Tavern, Petone, earlier this month. Nine of us enjoyed the excellent food and each other's company.

*Judith Littlejohn*

**Dinner Group 3:** This dining group, jointly organised by Jenny Middlemass and Rosemary Ralston, is going to the Cashmere Lounge on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of June. There will be 13 members dining that night.

*Rosemary Ralston*

**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                |
| <b>Audio Visual System</b>     | Michael Harrison (Outside committee) | 479-9302                |