



REBUS CLUB OF KHANDALLAH

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

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

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2025

NEXT REBUS MEETING: Friday 26th September 2025, at 10 am, Khandallah Bowling Club

Speaker: Bea Dawson, speaking on 'God, Guns and Gardens.'

The first missionaries developed the first European gardens in Northland.

Short Talk: Sharon Major

Vote of Thanks: Ros Paterson

REBUS MEETING: Friday 31st October 2025, at 10 am, Khandallah Bowling Club

Speaker: Kate Torrens from Triton Hearing

Short Talk: David Barnes

Vote of Thanks: Bill Goldstone

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Rebus visit to OpenStar



Fusion power is a form of energy generation that needs to replicate the same process powering the sun. In other words, it has to be VERY hot - millions of degrees centigrade. Light atoms are forced to join up into heavier atoms, releasing vast amounts of energy in the process.

The promise is to provide virtually limitless, clean energy. It is an immense scientific and engineering challenge.

At OpenStar, among their engineers and physicists, they have about eleven PhDs. There are many other highly skilled people fabricating and running the equipment, fundraising, communicating and providing support.



The device here in Wellington is novel in that it uses a large floating, doughnut shaped magnet inside a large stainless-steel container that looks like a UFO. They create a significant vacuum inside it; the floating magnet is very cold and the plasma 'gas' around it very hot. The machine here is a baby one on which they

are testing all the processes. They look forward over the next ten years to bigger machines to actually create energy. Absolutely phenomenal technology.

Thanks to OpenStar and our guide Alaina for a really interesting visit.

Michael

FOR THE RECORD

There were 70 members present at our August meeting, plus two visitors. There were 20 apologies, and 10 members were silent.

VISIT

A visit is being arranged to **Christ Church, Taita**, one of the oldest surviving churches in New Zealand and the oldest church still standing in the Wellington area. The church was built without using any nails and the first service was held on 1 January 1854. It is particularly fitting that we visit in November, as the **heritage roses will be in full bloom**. John Stevens will give a talk about the church, the graveyard and historical highlights. There will be time to visit the graveyard and afternoon tea will be provided. As we will be making a donation towards the maintenance of the church, we are asking for a donation of \$10 per person.



The church is located at **73 Eastern Hutt Road, Taita**, and the visit will be on **Tuesday 18th November at 2 pm and will finish round 4 pm**.

If you would like to come, you can reply to heathernelson303@gmail.com and pay \$10 pp into the **REBUS Bank Account. 03 0525 0220364 00, with your name, and code "Church."** Angela Hill will also be taking names at the next REBUS meeting, and you can pay by cash then if necessary. (Please put the money in an envelope with your name on it). Thanks to Angela for suggesting this visit.

Car pooling is suggested, so if you would like a ride, or can take someone, please let me know.

Heather Nelson

UP COMING EVENT



Christmas Lunch (Only three months until Christmas!)

The lunch is booked for Wednesday **10th December at The Pines**.

You may like to diary this event now.

Further details to come.

NOTICES

Justice of the Peace

A Justice of the Peace is available at Johnsonville Community Centre every day, except Sunday, from 10 am to 12 noon. Appointments are not necessary. The entrance is at 3 Frankmoore Avenue, and you walk straight ahead until you come to Room No. 3, which is on the left.

Wine bottle tops collection

Thank you to those who continue to collect and bring along the wine bottle tops to our meetings. They contribute to money raised for charity. In the last twelve months the Lions Club I belong to has donated \$377.50 each to Cancer Kids and Kidney Kids. In recent years the monies raised from the sale of the tops has mostly gone to the Cancer Kids. However, my Lions Group that collects the tops from various sources, (including those brought along to our REBUS Club meetings) has recently decided to return to supporting the Kidney Kids. This was the original charity that, many years ago, collection of the bottle tops was started for. Nationwide there are many Lions Clubs collecting the tops and providing valuable monies to support the Kidney Kids. The Kidney Kids money raised supports the children and families for those children with kidney disease and possibly undergoing dialysis.

Raey Butterworth

Knitting Beanies for Seafarers

Our last speaker at REBUS spoke about the plight of many Seafarers who visit New Zealand. (Full report on page 4.) One of the ways that we can help the seafarers is by knitting beanies.



Here is the pattern:

60g Double Knit Wool

Size 8 (4mm) Needles

Cast on 120 stitches.

Rib (2 plain 2 purl) for 30 cm.

Next Row – Knit 2 together to the end of the row. Next Row purl.

Repeat these two rows once more.

Then knit 1 row.

Purl 1 row.

Pull thread through all the stitches and sew up seam.

Some people may not be able to knit, but may have Double Knit (8ply) wool or acrylic yarn at home that someone

else could use. If so, please email Heather Nelson heathernelson303@gmail.com Natasha Nahkies will collect the beanies at REBUS and take them to the Mission to Seafarers.

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.

REPORTS

REBUS Information Notices

At the August meeting, past President Richard Campbell talked about the importance of retaining previous REBUS club membership levels and that to be a sustainable organisation a club needs to be constantly recruiting new members.

The importance of keeping up our membership numbers was also mentioned in a recent document sent out to committees by REBUS NZ Inc. It mentioned that invariably the reason that clubs close is that they have had difficulty in getting members to step up to take on roles on the committee, mainly because they lack younger, more energetic members to take over the reins. And it was also mentioned that while it is, of course, desirable to bring along friends and family to join clubs, we need to remember that there needs to be an influx of recently retired people to keep a good balance of newer and older members.

Richard had information notices available to give to prospective members. After speaking to a friend or acquaintance about REBUS these can be used as a follow up, giving details about our club and mentioning how to access details from our Website to see exactly how we function.

If you didn't pick up an information notice these will be available at further REBUS meetings, or you can email me, and I will send you a file so you can print your own. heathernelson303@gmail.com

Heather Nelson

Guest Speaker

Mission to Seafarers for Oceania and Pacific Region – Reverend Lance Lukin

The Reverend Lance Lukin from the Mission to Seafarers spoke of his work as part of the oldest charity in Wellington. He reminded us that New Zealand is an island nation, that is at the bottom of the world. We are fairly isolated from the rest of the world and we survive by being a trading nation. As New Zealand's trade is carried by sea, we rely on ships. And those ships are crewed by people. Transporting goods around the world is not cheap. The seafarers crewing ships that bring NZ imports earn wages far below the wages of NZ seafarers.

Life at Sea is tough

With global warming storms are getting worse. There are more accidents and ships sinking. On average a ship sinks somewhere in the world every three days. There is the constant risk of piracy. Global instability also impacts shipping. Life at sea is tough which is why the charity exists. The Mission to Seafarers was founded in the UK in 1836 by the Reverend John Ashley, and started here in Wellington in 1898. The first centre was opened in 1903. Ships then were unloaded by hand and a ship could be alongside for 2-3 weeks.

Today a ship will be alongside for less than 8 hours, making it tough for crews to come ashore and get any sort of break. The original centre has now been sold.

Every day human right abuses occur at sea.

The Area the Mission for Seafarers is responsible for is Oceania which covers Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia (around 100 million square kilometres of ocean). The Mission for Seafarers has teams across Oceania which visit the ships entering their ports. They provide WIFI, contactless shopping, mental health support, justice and advocacy and pastoral care, because life at sea can be very isolated. Isolation can be caused by conditions that make it hard to feel safe; shift work, language differences in multinational crews, bullying, trans-national crime. They also visit smaller ships which can be crewed by children without shoes or suitable clothes. One ship berthed in Suva after being at sea for 538 days. It had interacted with 19 other vessels, bunker ships delivering fuel and supplies, and fish processing ships to remove the catch.

One 14-year-old boy (who was rescued from a fishing boat) recently talked of his life:

"We work all day and all night on the boat. During work hours, we are not allowed to rest. If we do rest, we risk punishment. We try to be diligent and do our work without rest, but if we must [rest], we make sure that no one is around because stealing just one second of work time to look out at the sea means that we will be yelled at...we are scared because we have seen some crew members thrown off the boat or beaten with hooks and anchors that weigh close to one kilo and are as long as our arms. The crew [members] who were beaten with these sharp heavy objects bled profusely, especially when the sharp end of the hooks grabbed on to their skin. They could crack our skull open if they hit you too hard."

Every day human right abuses occur at sea. Some seafarers do not even have basic food or beds provided. The Mission to Seafarers exists to care for the seafarers who crew the ships, and to make life at sea ever so slightly better.

Story of the Starfish

Lance ended by telling the story of the starfish. A man walks along a beach after a storm and sees many stranded starfish. A little girl walks along throwing starfish back into the sea. The man says there are too many starfish for you to make a difference. But the little girl says it makes a difference to the starfish thrown back to the sea.



Short Talk – Pam Fletcher

Pam grew up in Uttoxeter, a small town in Staffordshire, England, and moved to Birmingham for nursing training. She came to New Zealand with another nurse and worked at Wellington Hospital. She met Ross, her husband while studying for a BA. They were both life-changing events. Ross and Pam married after she finished studying and she worked in the Nursing Research team in the Management Services and Research Unit of the Department of Health. She worked in a few Government Departments over the years including the State Services Commission, The Audit Office and the Ministry of Social Development, in research and policy development roles before ending back at the Ministry of Health in the Disability Support team and then the Health of Older People team.

Pam also spoke about SeniorNet, which is a national, membership-based, voluntary organization run by seniors helping others with digital technology. There are two SeniorNets in Wellington, Wellington North in Johnsonville and Wellington, which is based in Anvil House in Wakefield St. She is on the Executive Committee of the SeniorNet in the CBD. Demand for help with digital devices and technology has changed markedly over the last 6 years or so and SeniorNet needs to adapt what it offers to remain relevant. It is also a challenge finding tutors to teach, or help members.

Pam asked the audience how many of them used a smartphone, desktop computer, laptop or tablet; how many had needed help with their device(s) in the last year and where they got help from.

The two key messages she got were: use of smartphones may not be as high amongst seniors as she had thought and family and friends are significant sources of help. A minority had also used computer support companies such as Geeks on Wheels. You can find out more about SeniorNet Wellington by visiting their website: <https://wellingtonseniornet.co.nz/>

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).

Walking Group



The weekly walk would not be the sole means of getting folk fit to undertake an *El Camino* walk, but we can speculate about it and listen to the travel tales of several who have recently returned from other overseas adventures. The weather has dictated the length of walks and we look forward to real spring days.

The **September Goldcard** walk was organised by Heather and Ken Nelson who seemingly have connections with whoever arranges sunny days and the above photo shows the **Paekakariki** beach in the background with folk who took part in the train journey up the coast. Lunch was booked at Finns and enjoyed by us all and despite the restaurant being overawed at the number of diners at one time were served in a timely manner. Incidentally, the photo was taken by a friendly resident who stopped her car and crossed the road to take it so we could all be recorded.

Bernie Brown

Lunch Group

Eleven members of the club's lunch group visited the Featherston Tavern in Featherston Street, Wellington, for lunch on Wednesday 27th August. It was a different menu to the normal pub lunch fare, but very enjoyable. Good food and good chatter across the group. The next lunch outing will be Wednesday 29th October. Venue to be advised.

On another matter, I would like to hand over the running of the lunch group to a new leader. Having run it for at least seven years it is time for someone with new ideas to take over the group and maintain the outings and build on the membership of the current group. So if you enjoy going out for lunch with friends, enjoy seeking out good lunch spots and enjoy good conversations in a group setting, and if this sounds like you, please get in touch. raey@xtra.co.nz

Raey Butterworth

Dine Out Group 1

A large number of Dinner Group 1 members had an interesting get-together at Chouchou (the restaurant attached to Circa Theatre) earlier this month. As the kitchen there is quite small, we all had to pre-order our meals, so food soon began arriving once the drinks were delivered. The food had a French vibe - Duck a l'orange pie, Chicken Cordon Bleu, French Onion Soup and Nicoise Salad, etc. - all delicious. The interesting part of the evening was when theatre goers came and went to the two plays on offer - the venue was therefore very full and noisy one minute then almost empty the next!! Our next dinner is on Thursday, 2nd October. Venue to be confirmed.

Judith Littlejohn

The Woodmancote Warblers Singing Group

Sixteen warblers got together for their monthly sing on Tuesday 9th September. We welcomed two new warblers along. We sung a mixture of old favourites, some of our newer songs and started to learn a new song. We also practised a song to sing at the September Rebus meeting to celebrate the arrival of spring.

Ken Nelson

ROMEOS (REBUS Old Men Eating Out) Lunch Group

Whilst only six of our regulars met for lunch at The 1841 Bar and Restaurant on Wednesday, nevertheless the conversation was as lively as usual. The meal was most enjoyable, with the seafood chowder being the most popular. Local body elections were discussed, and we shared our ideas of how Wellington could be improved!

Ken Nelson

THEATRE REVIEW

Review of Cringeworthy 90s

Circa, September 2025

After the 60ss, 70s, 80s, and 50s (in that order) we get Cringeworthy 90s. Andrea Sanders' latest miscellany of pop, dance, jokes and reminiscence, frantically energetic and ear-achingly loud. But what else should we expect? Since when has pop been anything other than blaring, boisterous, lusty and occasionally tender?

In a show of 120 minutes, we heard something like 30 songs of disinterred recollection accompanied by dance routines which just made me envious. Not having been able to throw myself around the way five young things did for the last half century, I found their gymnastics amazing, for once the right word. 'Young things' did I write? That's a wrong word. Sanders formed The Beat Girls 29 years ago but dances as if she was a generation younger. Kali Kopae has a 20-year long career as actor, singer and dancer behind her already. Both were born two decades earlier than I thought during the opening number. To her credit and my relief, Sanders did joke about being puffed at the end.

As I and a two thirds full house watched the gyrations and twirlings, jumps and leaps of Andrea and Kali, my reaction was not of nostalgia but of envy. If we were supposed to reminisce, then their exuberance took me back not to the 90s but to the 60s when I could dance like they still do.

As to Sandres' selection of 30s numbers, with help from Google and Recoded Music NZ, I discovered she had 185 Number 1 hits to choose from, including Back Street Boys' *We want it that way*, and Shaft's *Sway*, well known by the audience but not by me. Nor can I claim any familiarity with most of the other 28. However, many in the audience did (average about 50 by my reckoning), with singing accompaniment and what used to be called hand jiving in my day adding to their evening.

However, the show was not just a duet of maturing females. Three accomplished male singers and dancers were there too, but in their 20s: Devon Neiman adding his choreographical skills, Jared Palleson his dry sense of humour and Mackenzie Htay his mastery of the guitar.

So what's next for Sanders'? Rather than a selection of the 2000s, how about a mix of the best of the best of the last 40 years of the 20th century. Then more people of our age group could join in the hand jive.

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
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
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