



# REBUS CHRONICLES

## November 2020

Dear Presidents, Secretaries and Officers,

*“Like as the waves make towards the pebbled shore, so do our months hasten to their end”*  
(with apologies to Shakespeare). Yes, 2020 will soon be behind us and few will mourn its passing.

Not in one’s most vivid imagination could the events of 2020 have been predicted.

The ramifications for our type of organization which arise from the Covid Pandemic, are yet to be quantified. The disruption which has been caused (and the possibility that there may be more), will clearly become a challenge for those Clubs which were experiencing difficulties - without those which Covid has added.

Here at Rebus headquarters, we are very mindful of the significant differences between the many Affiliates which are enjoying good growth and the few whose future seems uncertain.

### **Why the difference?**

We believe that those Clubs which are thriving have recognized the critical importance of membership growth. They have been proactive in their communities by engaging in some or all of the following:

- Promotional leaflet and poster distribution in key public areas.
- Submitting articles and photos to community media.
- Encouraging members to bring visitors to meetings.
- Ensuring quality speakers for Club days.
- Arranging Trips or events.
- Perhaps setting up a website.
- Establishing a new Interest Group/s.
- Encouraging members to enter photos for the Rebus Calendar competition.
- A focus on the need for retention of existing members – taking note of poor attendance and seeking to find/correct the reason.
- Encouraging the wearing of Rebus Pins and Brooches and displaying Rebus Car stickers.
- Sending contributions to Rebus Club News so their activities, speakers etc can be shared by other Clubs - instead of just a one-way communication.
- Liaising with other Rebus Clubs in their area and exchanging experiences.
- Maintaining a structured meeting agenda which retains some degree of formality.

We see the last item as especially important. Members need to be confident when bringing along a visitor/prospective member, that a good impression is achieved. If not, the visitor may not return and the member will be hesitant in repeating the process. Whilst informality has its place, there is no substitute for a well run meeting. Does yours get the tick of approval?

Those holding office grow older each year and without a flow of new members, will sooner or later say “it’s time for someone else to have a turn”. If your Club is one of these, you will need to take action before its too late.

The cancellation of our AGM at Taupo in May this year because of Covid 19 was a lost opportunity to canvas some of these issues. However, the Agenda for AGM 2021 will allow plenty of time to talk about each Club’s future and the outlook for your Society.

**We hope that your Club will be well represented. Please diarise Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May at Taupo.**

**The Rebus 2021 Calendar Competition.** In spite of the lock-down of some Clubs during the September and October months when orders would normally have been sourced from your membership, we were able to print 850 Calendars, just a few short of last year. The consequent contribution to our finances (esimated at this stage to be approx \$3000) will make a very useful addition. As well, the IRD have confirmed that net profit from sales will not be taxable as result of some fine-tuning recently done to the Society’s Rules.

However, as with 2019, only 2/3rds of our Clubs took part with total silence from the balance - even with several invitations to participate. Whilst it has never been our wish to impose any degree of compulsion, we simply hoped that a sense of fairness might have been sufficient motivation – given that all Clubs benefit.

The future of this fundraiser must therefore go under the microscope and will be an Agenda item for the 2021 AGM. We can only say a **“big thank you”** to the 31 Clubs who supported the project enabling us to produce an excellent quality Calendar of which we can be very proud, at the remarkably low price of \$10.



*This will be our our last Chronicles for 2020. So it remains for me, on behalf of the Rebus Board, Lynn, Peter, Nigel, Norma, John, Rick and Sue to wish you well for the festive season and refreshed determination to contribute to a great 2021 year for your Club.*

Graeme McIntosh (Chairman)