

Coastal News

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covering Mapua & Ruby Bay,
run by volunteers

Council's use of court shocks residents

Residents attending a meeting on council planning changes for Mapua and Ruby Bay were shocked to learn that the most controversial change had already been made law.

Using a new clause in the Resource Management Act, the Tasman District Council had by-passed the public submission process and obtained an Environment Court order giving immediate effect to new rules for an enlarged Coastal Hazard Zone between Ruby Bay and the Mapua Leisure Park.

Within this large coastal area, new housing development will not normally be allowed and restrictions have been placed on any new building in the area. However, owners of big blocks of land have been given permission to subdivide down to 3.5ha blocks, though new homes on them will need to be relocatable.

The council's shock move was described as "extraordinary" and "anti-democratic" by Tord Kjellstrom, the chairman of a residents' association committee which put a huge effort into community submissions for the plan.

While the council's plan changes include many positive new developments advocated by the residents' committee which Tord had chaired, the surprise change of stance by the council on housing in the coastal hazard area and the use of a court order were a focus of questions at the Community Association's meeting.

Among the positive changes were:

- Clearer acknowledgement of the hazard of coastal development and dangers of sea level rise and climate change.
 - New reserves and indicative coastal strips.
 - Additional walkways and cycle-walkways linking most areas of Mapua–Ruby Bay
 - An area for new playing fields in the Seaton Valley area.
 - Planned enhancement of Mapua Drive and the Higgs Reserve area with new tree planting to create a "gateway" to Mapua.
 - Focus on new housing development on high areas away from the coast.

- Development of the Waterfront Park and links from it to the Mapua Wharf and associated shops and businesses.

The council's decision to use the court was made at a closed council meeting in January and there was no public announcement of its intention. TDC Policy Planner Steve Markham subsequently made the application that selected provisions of Plan Change 22 should have immediate legal effect.

The justification he cited in his application was that the land between Mapua and Ruby Bay was likely to be affected by future coastal erosion and inundation.

The application was considered by Judge Brian Dwyer sitting alone in chambers in Wellington and approved on February 28, two days after public notification of the plan changes.

In his judgment, Judge Dwyer did not wholly accept what he called an "underlying reason for the application," that it was designed to prevent a rush of applications for subdivision under the old rules.

The measures sought represented a "substantial change in the status quo," Judge Dwyer said. However, after consideration, he was "satisfied that the application was consistent with the principle of sustainable development."

The court decision affects a large low-lying area of land which has long been identified as hazardous because of erosion or sea level rise.

In a 2010 draft on the plan changes, the council said it would forbid future residential development there because of the likelihood of more storm surges and coastal inundation.

However, submissions from nine landowners paid a big part in councillors changing their minds. There was reportedly a long discussion of the hazard zone, before councillors agreed on what one councillor described as 'a compromise'. He said they felt a total ban would be unfair on the landowners.

Council staff anticipate that the new rules on minimum lot sizes will lead to about seven more lots in the area. Under the old rules, many more than that



number was possible. It also seems likely aspects of the decision will be appealed.

A major unresolved issue is the need for better public access to Mapua Beach and along the beach between the old Mill Walkway. In answer to questions at the community association meeting, planner Rose Biss told residents that there were no proposals for better public access to Mapua Beach. However, she said that two new areas of esplanade

strip reserves along the top of the stone wall between the Talley property and Mapua Leisure Park had recently been created as part of recent subdivisions.

How these reserves might be accessed or used by members of the public remains unclear.

The meeting passed a resolution of appreciation to Tord Kjellstrom and his committee for the work they had put into the community submissions on the plan.

David Mitchell

Submission deadlines extended

Deadlines for submissions to the draft TDC plan changes for Mapua-Ruby Bay have been extended to Tuesday April 26, the first working day after Easter.

The original closing date was Monday April 11. The two-week extension follows a request to the council from the Mapua and District Community Association's March meeting. It was felt that the plan changes were complex and far-reaching and needed more time for consideration.

Copies of Plan Change 22 covering Mapua-Ruby Bay and the associated maps are available at the Mapua Library as well as at the council offices in Richmond and Motueka. The plan changes relate to

the council's main planning document, the Tasman Resource Management Plan.

Draft budget and plan

Residents and groups interested in what the council plans to spend in the next financial year have a chance to comment on council's draft budget and plan. The plan was released for public scrutiny on March 19 and submissions close on Thursday April 21, the Thursday before Good Friday, at 4.30pm.

A summary of the plan as it relates to Tasman settlements including Mapua-Ruby Bay is available from council offices and the Mapua Library.

Residents have a chance to see maps and plans and to talk with council staff and officials at a public "drop-in" meeting on the Annual Plan at the Mapua Hall on Monday April 11 from 4pm to 6pm. There is a second chance to talk with officials and councillors at the Community Association meeting that night at 7.45pm.

David Mitchell

Garden Notes



During April, shorter days and colder nights cause the growth to slow and continues towards winter, hence the need to protect tropical and subtropical plants which really do prefer constant warm conditions, but will survive if protection is given.

I know frost cloth can look a bit untidy but if a plant rewards you with a beautiful display all summer long, then the effort is worth it. I have three I cover—two Mandevillas, and one Pyrostegia, all vines and all do well and do reward me with a long flowering season, so I cover at the first sign of frosts and leave covered until about the end of August or when frosts are at the end. No, I don't remove and replace each day as the plants are quite happy under cover.

Any autumn rain we get will reduce the need for regular watering now. Baskets and pots still need some water. This I do in the mornings to give time for them to warm up.

Pest and disease control during April should concentrate on removal of any vegetation and leaves that have fallen as these are potential sources of infection in spring. Brown rot on fruit is one example.

Earwigs are a pest right now especially on dahlias, so watch this one as they just love dahlias. Codling moths are beginning the next stage of their cycle,

dropping to the soil where they will pupate to return in the spring. Now is the best time to gather or spray them.

The first spraying of stone fruit against leaf curl can be done now, this is good garden practice.

Tasks for April: Planting of all spring flowering bulbs this month; the stores are full of goodies to tempt you (and me).

Dead-head dahlias to prolong flowering. If your compost heap is ready to dig into the vegie patch, now is the time, then start another one.

Plant fruit trees now and collect any vegie crops that have matured, ready for storing. eg, pumpkins

This is the absolute time to prepare pots for spring showing, with pansies and polyanthus being the most rewarding if given a rich potting compost. Tulips and hyacinths can also be grown in pots but only once as they lose their vitality quickly.

April of course is our main clean-up time—trimming trees to shape, clearing beds and cutting back so you can put your garden to bed for the winter. If you want an early flowering of sweet peas now is the time to sow them. A lot of work to be done this month so happy gardening.

Barry Highsted

MAPUA & DISTRICTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The main issue for discussion at the March meeting of the association was the Mapua Ruby Bay Draft Plan Change No. 22 proposed by Tasman District Council.

The council proposes to amend the Tasman Resource Management Plan to allow for future expansion of Mapua and Ruby Bay away from low-lying land, the inundation and erosion-prone coastline between Mapua and Ruby Bay, onto more elevated land, opportunities for increasing residential density on some sites close to amenities in Mapua as well as provision for new inter-connecting walkways, open spaces and business sites.

Rose Biss, policy planner at TDC, provided those attending the meeting with a presentation which covered coastal hazards; changes re Mapua/Ruby Bay growth strategy; deferment changes for new residential, rural residential and light industrial zoning; changes re ex FCC site – commercial zoning; and changes to roading hierarchy – Mapua Drive/Stafford Drive changed from arterial to collector roads; by-pass route added as an arterial; error in Aranui Road status near wharf corrected; landscaping required along Mapua Drive and limited access on Mapua Drive in draft plan change removed.

The Draft Plan Change also talks about commercial zoning in residential areas. More about these proposed changes and implications for residents are covered by David Mitchell in this edition of the *Coastal News*.

Check out the Tasman District Council's website for more information into what the Plan Change may mean for you and your property.

Mapua Hall: Some readers of the March edition of the *Coastal News* may have misinterpreted the association's notice of its acting chair's resignation as being that of the hall committee's chair, as both articles appeared on the same page. But no, you'd be wrong! That notice referred to the MDCA's acting chair Devin Gallagher and not the hall committee, which is bounding along at a great pace towards a plan for redevelopment. In regard to TDC funding for the hall's redevelopment, let's also be clear there is funding but it won't be available until next year due to the need to bring bridges and roads in Golden Bay up to scratch after flooding there.

The plans for the hall's redevelopment will be unveiled at an informal presentation at the hall on Wednesday 6 April. Everyone is welcome to come along to hear what it's all about. This will provide an opportunity to provide feedback and have a good natter about the good old days. Which reminds me,

if anyone has any photographs, articles or items of interest about earlier days of the hall, please contact either Tord Kjellstrom, the Hall Committee chairman, or me. They have a project in mind and such historical memorabilia would be gratefully received.

Community Development Scheme: The association is pleased to support an application by the Coastal Initiative Group for funding through the Department of Internal Affairs community development scheme in order to fund a community project co-ordinator position. The funding, if successful, would be spread over three years and provide funds for salary, office materials, rental space, etc. This position would provide a valuable opportunity to make some significant progress towards the visions and plans of our community, so please all keep our collective fingers crossed.

Higgs Reserve: A landscape & planting plan is in place. Weed control and dealing with the willows will happen this year, with planting of the damaged part deferred to 2012.

Apple Valley East land: Some of you may have heard about the possibility of a connection to Apple Valley Road through the provision of land adjoining two reclamation areas near Trafalgar and Dominion roads. At this stage we haven't got anything further to report other than 'work in progress'. Watch this space...

Newcomers' welcome package: We would love to hear from anyone in the community who would like to co-ordinate a welcome package for newcomers to our area. This would include such material as community information about schools, medical services, clubs, groups etc. If you're interested in knowing more about this and want to assist, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you're a newcomer to the area, any ideas or feedback from your own perspective would be helpful.

Waterfront park/Mapua wharf: The wharf area continues to be a strong draw card for us all and it's great to see lots of visitors using the facilities and enjoying the ambiance of this very special area over summer. Don't forget to try and leave the car at home if you can or at least park it away from the wharf area if possible to avoid congestion. Lots of work going on in the background for the overall park design and improving facilities for all stakeholders.

Draft Mapua structure plan: With work beginning some three years ago by the association towards the creation of a relevant plan for this district, much work has been done, particularly by Tord Kjellstrom and Anna Crosbie towards that end, so the decision has now been made to disband that sub-

committee. As a result of their extensive work, a better structure plan will emerge. Thank you Tord and Anna.

Mapua Domain: The choice has had to be made to do some minor improvements to the playground area this year, with a full upgrade to follow next year. Meanwhile, Nadienne Cookson has been progressing plans for extension of the skatepark this year. Another space to watch!

Civil Defence: Helen Bibby has been beavering away behind the scenes with a core group of people

working out a civil defence strategy specific to our district. Meanwhile, people are reminded that such a group may not be able to assist you immediately in a major event so it's essential that each household has a three-day self-sufficiency kit prepared and easily available. As we've seen with the Christchurch earthquakes, water is one of the paramount items we need to have in our kit. Allow 3 litres per person per day for a minimum of three days.

Pam Stinton, Secretary.

MAPUA Bowling Club

Our bowling season closes on Sunday 17 April with our popular tournament sponsored by Tessa Mae's With Attitude. Many thanks to Tessa Mae, and to all our valued sponsors throughout the season. Recent tournament winners have been the visiting teams skipped by Lindsay Mackie from Richmond Bowling Club, who won the Wilma van Beek Triples, and Justine Cowman from Motueka Bowling Club who won the Paddy Day Triples.

Recently finalised club championships have been the Women's Singles won by Jean Daubney and the Men's Triples won by Don Sixtus (skip) John Trotter, and Ron Charles.

The League Bowls held on Monday evenings have again been a huge success. Many thanks go to Vicki and Don Sixtus for their organisation over the season and to our valued sponsors Hamishes, Video Easy, and Mapua Trading Co.

A warm welcome is extended to you all to join us next season.

Maurie Daubney

PANZ

This year's "Top of the South" pastel art exhibition was held over the weekend of 25, 26 and 27 Feb at the Mapua Hall. The opening night saw a large attendance and the event was warmly opened by the Mayor of Tasman, Richard Kempthorn. Our friends in stricken Christchurch were remembered by a short silence.

Members had worked tirelessly on the Friday to decorate the hall and hang a record number of entries, which received some wonderful feedback from those attending. Positive feedback like that is very rewarding to members and helps to keep us on track.

Winners of the raffles are as follows:

\$100 towards the painting of choice: Malcolm Blair Hamper: (1st draw) M J Sly, (2nd draw) Bill Broughton.

Winner of the People's Choice (by popular vote) was Glenys Forbes of Ruby Bay with her portrait of "Bells" (daughter Annabel)

We have had a number of new members join this year and a number of visitors join us while on their holidays, which has been very stimulating for us all. Don't forget that you are very welcome to come and visit us at the hall during a Tuesday morning session, just to look or even have a "play" with the pastels. Further information: Glenys Forbes 540-388

Mahana School

Mahana School welcomes four new students from Christchurch since the earthquake on February 22: Jack Drage, and Hallie Wheeler (Kereru - Middle Room), along with Eve and Quinn Mickell (Kotuku - Senior Room). The school has had a busy few weeks, organising a fund-raising triathlon for the Christchurch Earthquake Relief Fund, raising \$1440. The triathlon was a practise run for the 22 students who took part in the Weet-Bix Tryathlon held at Tahunanui Beach two days later. The school also hosted the area swimming sports for junior students, and the senior event was held at the Upper Moutere School. Besides all that, there is a special new friend in the Piwakawaka (Junior) Room.

Cody Forward (6) from Piwakawa reports:

I took part in the school triathlon, I liked coming first in the junior running, against Yasmina and Zeta. Then I went down to the bottom field to tag Max to do the biking, he came first. Max tagged Bradley and then he did the swimming, and he came first, beating Heidi by about 10cm.

We have two soft toys in the Piwakawaka Room. The cat with the hat is called The Cat in the Hat, and there's a bird called the piwakawaka, which is nicknamed Pipi. They are both teddies. Our teacher Kath brought them in as a mascot. Cat in the Hat came in about four years ago, he's been here as long as Mr Neal (principal Justin Neal), but Pipi is new.

Kath said we were going to have a hunt for Pipi and we found a nest, and there was something under it, little soccer ball rubbers to keep in the classroom, but I lost mine.

The Cat in the Hat and Pipi go to people's houses if you are good for the day, and we have a book and write about what they did. I had The Cat in the Hat last year, but I have had Pipi this year. I wrote that I had a milk bottle which I cut in half and I put Pipi inside it. I taped it to my bike, and then I did some jumps and I put a piece of string over his head like a seatbelt to keep him in. He was very tiny but he still fitted. Pipi makes me feel happy because he's our new mascot and he makes noises like a real fantail. Eva

went into her forest with Pipi and she made this sound, and then heaps of piwakawakas came.

Some people put photos in the book. Bradley made him swim in the sea, he had a bowl and he put The Cat in the Hat inside it.

Meila Picard (8) from Kereru:

I took part in the Weet-Bix Tryathlon. I did it individually, swimming 100m, cycling 5km, and then finishing by running up and down the field about four times. We went up to our necks in water and then started swimming along the shore. It was a bit cold but it was also exciting. When I was swimming and cycling I didn't get puffed but when I ran I did, but when I was close to the finish line I sprinted. When I finished I felt proud of myself. This was my second time in the event but last time I did it there was a tsunami warning and sharks so we didn't do the swimming.

Jack Coakley (11) from Kotuku:

Mahana School took part in the Moutere Senior Swimming Sports for years 4 to 8 also involving the following schools: Dovedale, Tasman Bay Christian School, Tasman, and Upper Moutere. The outstanding performers were Harriet Webster and Safari Muir, with Harriet finishing first in breaststroke and freestyle. Safari finished second in the butterfly and won the backstroke. Both girls, who train once a week at Richmond's ASB Aquatic Centre, went on to take part in the Motueka Swimming Sports. Safari came second in the backstroke final, and third in breast stroke. Harriet came runner-up in the freestyle and butterfly, fourth in breaststroke, competing also in the medley, and finishing third overall.

"I was pleased with it," said Harriet, "Because there was a really fast girl, Samantha Trevurza, who is third for her age in New Zealand, she won every single race that she did, and we weren't that far behind her."

Meila Picard also came second in the Girls' Under 8 freestyle, while Christopher Davis won the boys' 8 years backstroke, and Molly Floyd finished third in the girls' under 10 years breaststroke.

Animal Health File

Dr. Paula Short, Tasman Bay Vets, 69 Aranui Road, Mapua, ph 540-2329

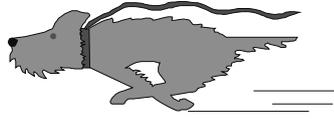
Microchipping—Learning from the Christchurch Earthquake

The recent earthquake in Christchurch has been a terrible experience not only for people but also for their pets. We have seen many Christchurch residents at our clinics up here, who have fled the devastated city with their pets in tow. Not only do the people look traumatised but so do the animals. One couple we saw waited five days for their cat to come back home, after it went missing on the day of the quake, before they evacuated up here.

We have also watched the pictures on the news of the Canterbury SPCA brimming with lost pets which they are unable to find owners for. Dogs are relatively easy to rehome, as since the introduction of compulsory microchipping in June 2006, a large percentage of the dog population is now permanently identified. However, most cats are not. We have spoken to our veterinary colleagues in Christchurch and they are busily microchipping the cats of concerned owners down there, as well as older dogs who were born before microchipping legislation was put in place.

We would strongly recommend to cat and dog owners in our region that they microchip their pets. Thus, we are prepared should we ever face a natural disaster such as what has happened in Christchurch or Japan in recent weeks. There are benefits as well in normal day-to-day life as many cats wander over a large area and we often have cats brought to the clinic who have been found hit by a car on the road.

Dogs, too, can escape their properties and get into trouble. Usually we have no idea who the pet belongs to and can do only minor treatment before getting an owner's permission to continue with any more costly



and serious treatment needed. So we have to wait for you to realise your pet is missing and call us.

Unfortunately this happens at least three or four times a year and is very stressful for all involved. If your cat or dog has a microchip then we can scan him/her and then contact you – problem solved.

The microchipping procedure involves inserting a small chip, the size of a grain of rice, under the skin between the shoulder blades. It is generally no more painful than a vaccination, although the needle is a bit bigger.

The cost at our clinics is \$46 for the microchip and its insertion. It is an extra \$20 for registration on the NZ Companion Animal Register which is a nationwide database which can be accessed by vets and the SPCA day and night and is open to all animal species including dogs, cats, horses and birds. You can have a look at their website at www.animalregister.co.nz for more information.

Legally dogs need to be only on the council database but the NZ Companion Animal Register is considered a superior database because of the ability of vets and the SPCA to access it and the fact that it allows contact details for a back-up/alternative person to be registered as well as yourself. So should anything happen to you, we have someone else we can contact.

To encourage rapid uptake of microchipping we are running a discounted promotion for the next three months of 10% off the cost of the microchip and insertion for all cats and dogs.



What's in a word?

Detour. Webster's definition: "A roundabout way, especially one used temporarily instead of a main route." I pretty well defined my main route when I wrote last December about anticipation. I was certainly not anticipating a "detour" in my life. However, out of the blue, I have had one, am still on it and won't return to my main route for a few weeks yet. My detour involved our health care system, the Nelson Hospital and Ward 10 and the road to recovery. I may comment on our health care system another time. Enough for now to say I received excellent care for which I am most profoundly thankful and appreciative.

Correction. In my March *Coastal News* letter I stated that "that the TDC partial funding for the Mapua Community Hall renovation project was to be withdrawn from the TDC budget." Some took this to mean "cancelled". Not so. Only "deferred" until next year.. Apologies to any who misunderstood my use of the word "withdrawn".

Mapua Hall. Elsewhere in this issue the announcement by the Mapua Hall Committee of a public meeting on Wednesday, 6 April to reveal the hall renovation plans. An important event for our community and another step closer to commencement of the hall renovation project. Please make a special effort to attend this meeting.

Sewage Pumping Station. I am informed that the TDC engineering department has scheduled beginning the upgrade of the sewage pumping station at Port Mapua on or about 1 April. It is also my understanding that the work will be undertaken at the present location of the existing pumping station. This despite overwhelming public expression that it be relocated a short distance along Aranui Road towards the Iwa Street intersection.

Cycleway. "Tasman Loop Cycle Trail route threatens native bird habitat." (*Nelson Mail* article 19 March) goes to emphasise the need for better communication between those involved. Poor communication—an ongoing problem in our society. Two hands for the task. The right hand needs to be in touch with the left and vice versa.

TDC Proposed Plan Change No. 22. Are you a property owner in Mapua/Ruby Bay? If so, pay attention to this TDC Proposed Plan Change.

TDC Annual Plan. Time to review the Annual Plan and make submissions. The Annual Plan document is rather glossy and fancy, with pictures etc. A public relations statement? I was under the impression that money was in very short supply. Apparently not in this instance. (*Details of deadlines and hearings for the Plan*

Change No. 22 and the Annual Plan are in David Mitchell's report earlier in this newsletter. Editor)

Remember that each day is the "present". A gift to each and every one of us.

Hugh Gordon

"You're Joking!"

The TDC (Tsunami Devastated Council) is asking for submissions (by 11 April) (*This date has been moved to 26 April. Editors*) regarding the proposed Change 22 of the Tasman Resource Management Plan. Essentially the plan change "allows for future expansion of Port Mapua and Ruby Bay away from low-lying land...on to more elevated land..."

I would suggest that our non-justifiable and escalating local government rates and charges could be better spent on essential services, and not on superfluous policy-making. I allude to the historical and current catastrophes that are regular enough to influence market demand and individual choice, so why the need to interfere and formally regulate?

Bureaucratic 'bumpf', I hear the original Port Mapua wetlands residents cry out as their habitat has been eroded away by bricks and mortar of human residential infill. And what are the plan's details on the practical realities on relocating high risk essential services, such as food stores, health providers, transport fuel supplies, fire protection, and other welfare units (schools, churches, community hall, etc). Where do they go? Up to the top of Seaton Valley?

Maybe, just maybe, these recent earth-shattering events are a wake-up call for us all to re-prioritise our lives and determine what are the basic essentials for daily living...not forgetting that shared trauma brings us closer together, a co-operative spirit necessary for recovery and survival.

We share a wonderfully unique place to live and enjoy, long may it continue. However, we shouldn't wait for a disaster to determine how 'together' we are. This suggests we should enhance our community by strengthening social contact with our neighbours and increasing participation in community events.

In summary, I acknowledge that we need some governance but we are capable of and can be more effective in determining our own destiny.

W K Darling, Ruby Bay

Mapua Health Centre

We are coming up to autumn and the likelihood of various viruses starting to creep in and test our immune systems. The cold viruses tend to cause a runny nose, head congestion, cough and general feeling of being under the weather. A full-blown influenza attack is a much more severe illness with some of the 'cold' features plus generalised aches, temperature and sweats, often a severe headache and feeling very unwell. This can be quite difficult to diagnose as it shares some of the symptoms of meningitis and therefore it is important to seek medical help if you are at all unsure.

This year's flu vaccines are now available and we have been sending out reminders to those who have previously been immunised. If you would like more information about the vaccine or to book an appointment for immunisation please contact the practice nurse on 540-2211.

A reminder that we have set up a 'Prescription' email address site – prescription@mapuahealth.com to give another way to get hold of repeat prescriptions. You simply need to send an email and you will receive a return email with instructions about the details we need to organise your prescription. It's as simple as that, although still important to give 24 hours notice.

This month's health/school events include:

April 1-3 Red puppy appeal (Foundation for Blind)

April 2 World Autism Day

April 7 World Health Day

April 15 Term 1 ends

April 25 Anzac Day

April 27-3/5 Asthma Awareness Week

While on the topic of respiratory bugs a quick look at the journals shows that there are a number of natural options that may be of help: extra vitamin C may not decrease the likelihood of colds a lot, unless you're doing extra exercise as in athletes when the risk can be halved, but it does significantly reduce the severity of colds (*Cochrane Review 2010*); zinc administered within 24 hours of onset of symptoms reduces the duration and severity of the common cold in healthy people and when supplemented for at least five months, it reduces cold incidence, school absenteeism and prescription of antibiotics in children (*Cochrane Review 2011*); probiotics can decrease the risk of occurrence of common infectious diseases in children and limits the risk of school day loss (*Ther Adv Resp Dis Aug 2010*); and vitamin D supplementation during the winter may reduce the incidence of influenza A, especially in children (*Am J Clin Nutr. Mar 2010*).

www.rnzfb.org.nz

www.autismnz.org.nz

www.who.int/en

www.minedu.govt.nz

www.rsa.org.nz/

www.asthmanz.org.nz

Mapua School

New Faces, New Friends

The Tasman region has welcomed many Christchurch residents affected by the February earthquake. Extended families and friends as well as strangers have opened their homes to provide shelter, support and routine for their guests.

At Mapua School, 34 students (two more today), have been enrolled and warmly greeted. Students and parents alike share feelings of empathy, compassion, protectiveness and guilt. We discuss safety procedures, personal stories as well as plans for the future. These feelings and conversations are being replicated throughout the country – people trying to make sense, trying to heal.

The students at Mapua School have been adamant that they help the Christchurch community. In the three

weeks since the quake, there have been baked goods and craft stalls at the wharf and 4 Square, lemonade stands, cake raffles, pine cone collection, sausage sizzles, a car wash, movie evening and Black & Red gold coin day. In all, \$2158.80 was raised for the earthquake relief effort.

Many thanks to those who stopped and said hello and supported their efforts by purchasing a cake, craft or sausage.

A big part of "Being All We Can" is our consideration and care of others. Our country, our community, and especially our children can be proud of their response and outreach since 22 February.

Lisa Dunn, Trustee

Nature Notes – Annette Walker

Strange goings on in the night at Mapua

Two unusual birds (with feathers) have recently been seen late at night in the village.

A couple of little blue penguins were seen waddling round at about three o'clock in the morning outside the aquarium and two fluttering shearwaters were also found, one by the shops on Aranui Road and the other banged into wires on the roof of the aquarium.

Both are interesting sea birds which may be seen, bobbing round on the surface of the sea during the day but at night the little blue penguin waddles up above the shoreline to roost. Fluttering shearwaters can be seen in large flocks skimming the surface of the water out in the bay where they feed on small fish just underneath. Although they can stay on the surface of the water at night, they also fly inland to their roosts which are usually on headlands.

Both birds were once very common around Mapua, for instance, penguins used to spend the night under the bach I now live in beside the channel and I have seen a little blue penguins waddle ashore at two o'clock in the morning on the full moon. Fluttering shearwaters were probably really common on places like the bluffs

at Ruby Bay but up until now I have only seen birds stranded after a northerly storm.

One can only speculate why these birds have suddenly appeared in the village. It could be that it is at the end of their breeding season and young birds may not have learnt all their skills about flying or safe places to roost. On the other hand it maybe just a coincidence.

Perhaps fluttering shearwaters are recovering in numbers, for stoat traps are set in the McKee Reserve and no dogs or cats are allowed. It may be that the increasing use of bright lights in the village or car lights are blinding the birds as they navigate ashore.

Whatever the theory, look carefully if you see a bird lying on the road at night, unable to fly (the undamaged bird on the road was taken to Rabbit Island that night) and drive carefully round the wharf at night as it would be awful to see a penguin squashed on the road.

I would like to thank Willie Cook, ornithologist, and Ken, caretaker of the McKee Reserve, for their helpful comments.

MAPUA PLAYCENTRE

Playcentre is off to a great start this year, with a new coat of paint we are welcoming new families, as well as some very welcome Christchurch visitors. For those who don't know how Playcentre works, we are an early childhood education facility where parents attend alongside their children to share in their learning and play. Any age children are welcome and under 2s are free, the cost otherwise per family is \$50 a term.

There is a lovely area for babies with exploring baskets full of interesting and natural things to feel and play with, so if you have a younger child, don't think they are too young to come along and play!

Our sessions are currently Monday and Fridays 9.30am to noon, and there are places available, so please don't hesitate to come down to see for yourself our wonderful Centre.

The Mapua Playcentre is excited to be hosting the SPACE programme (Supporting Parents Alongside

Children's Education), beginning term 2. Mondays at 12.30pm. For mainly first-time parents, SPACE runs weekly over 3-4 terms, it is for babies under 4 months and covers topics such as Sleeping, Stimulation, Brain Development, Temperament and Movement to name a few. In a group setting it is exciting to see your child develop alongside other babies, and lasting relationships can be built with other families. If you are interested in either a visit to Playcentre or for more information about the Space Programme, please see contact details below, or feel free to drop in on a Playcentre session any time!

Playcentre, 84 Aranui Road, Mapua. Ph 540-2386
SPACE, Bridgit Knowles, 021 1480 161,
knowlestaylor@xnet.co.nz

MAPUA COMBINED PROBUS

The guest speaker at the club's monthly meeting was Chan Woolaston, talking about her home country of British Guyana, a relatively small country on the north-east coast of South America, close to Brazil. The coastal area was first discovered by the Spanish in 1499. The Dutch settled there in 1590 and the British in 1850. The land area is now split between French, Dutch and British Guyana.

British Guyana is similar in land size to that of the Britain, with a population of about 500,000. The local language is a variation of English. The native East Indians, living towards the centre of the country, retain their own language. The country is very flat with long straight roads and canals. Driving on the roads can take you directly north, south east or west from the capital of Georgetown. The sea around most of the coastline is brown due to the discharge of the Amazon River. A popular pastime for the locals using large nets is shrimp fishing

The medical services are somewhat unusual. The local doctors start their working day by driving around a designated area of a town or village. They will stop at a property with a special notice on the gate which indicates to the doctor that the resident needs medical help. The rest of the day is taken up with their usual

work at the medical center. One of the common illness problems is malaria due to the high incidence of mosquitoes. Many parts of the coast is below sea level and makes ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes.

British Guyana's economy is based on the export of rice, sugar, gold, and hardwood. Chan enjoyed found the local mud crab very acceptable eating. She returned to British Guyana in 2000 to find many changes to her earlier life as a child. Chan's initial visit to New Zealand was in 1967. Prior to that date she had been university student in the Britain where she met up with her husband Philip. On completion of their studies they hitch-hiked their way to New Zealand.

The rest of the meeting continued with the tenth annual general meeting. Ann Evens was voted in as the club's new president, and John Sharman is vice-president. A vote of thanks was given to the club's previous committee. As the Mapua Hall is booked on 1 April the next club meeting will be held on the following Friday, 8 April.

David Higgs

Fire Brigade

February–March call-outs

Feb 18: Multiple fires between Tahī Street and Langford Drive. Police investigating.

Mar 7: Grass fire Westdale Road. Turn back by Appleby.

Mar 10: Grassfire Stagecoach Road. Wind changed on a controlled fire.

Mar 17: Grass fire Carlyon Road. Grass between fires caught alight

18 calls year to date.

Safety Tip – Change batteries in smoke alarms and check they are working

To the Residents of Mapua,

On behalf of the Mapua Volunteer Fire Brigade I would like to thank the following businesses for their generous support of our relief weekends for Christchurch fire-fighters and their families after the devastating earthquake on 22 February:

Mapua Leisure Park, Golden Bear, the Apple Shed, Tap Alehouse, Hamish's, the Naked Bun, Touch the Sea Aquarium, Mapua Four Square, Perry's Auto Services, Mapua Auto Centre, Motueka Mini Golf, Carter Holt Harvey Packaging and New Zealand Couriers.

Obviously without the support of these businesses we would not have been able to make this happen. The families were overwhelmed by the generosity and support given to them by our 'friendly little town' and can't wait to come back.

Thanks again.

Aaron Thawley, Station Officer, Mapua VFB

Mapua Hall development concept

As mentioned in the March *Coastal News*, the Mapua Public Hall Society committee is organising an event in the hall on Wednesday 6 April from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

There will be a short presentation of the proposed design concept for the future Mapua Hall at 6pm, with a display of drawings and sketches of what the new extended and renovated Mapua Hall could look like.

The presentation will be followed by an opportunity to discuss the proposal and share your own ideas with members of the committee. There will also be feedback forms and a suggestion box available for additional ideas.

Drinks and nibbles will be available, and donations towards the cost of this presentation and the new hall development will be appreciated.

During the last year many consultations with community organisations, user groups and individuals have produced lists of ideas for how to best renovate and extend the hall within a reasonable budget. The present proposal integrates as many of these ideas as

possible, so that the new hall will be user-friendly and practical and meet the needs of the Mapua and Ruby Bay community for many years to come.

We look forward to seeing a great turnout on Saturday 26 April —the Mapua Hall is a very special place for many people and unlike most other halls, it is completely owned by our community.

The Mapua Hall Committee members will have name tags on so they can be identified and answer some of your questions. The committee is also interested in hearing from people within the community who may have skills and knowledge that will support this project. Offers of practical work on the renovation activities will also be most welcome.

Funding from the TDC is still available, but parts of it may be delayed till the 2012-2013 budget year because of the need for repair of roads and bridges in Golden Bay after the recent extreme flooding there.

See you there. You are all welcome!

Mapua Hall Committee: Tord Kjellstrom, Graeme Stradling, Mary Garner, Hanne Bjorklund, Jim Bryse, Andreas Niemann and Kim Bowie.

Rangers Rugby

Senior Division II

The 2011 season has kicked off and Rangers have a promising season ahead. The old boys, Muzz, Burf, Burky, Red and Craig are back for another season and some exciting new players have registered. There's still room for a few extra players in the squad if anyone can play, phone Mark on 0274 229 949.

April games:

April 2 - Wanderers at Brightwater

April 9 - Collingwood at Home

April 16 - Murchison at Murchison

April 23 - Takaka at Takaka

We thank out sponsors who support the club, namely The Moutere Inn; Richmond Hire; Pro Rugby; Carran Miller Strawbridge; Speights/Tui; Acclaim Finance; Sunrise Engineering; George Perry and Upper Moutere General Store

Come down and support the local rugby club on the 6th April against Collingwood!

Mark

Applications for Grants

Voluntary organisations are invited to apply to the Mapua/Ruby Bay and District Community Trust for a grant. Applications will be considered in May and should be in by 1 May. Application forms can be obtained from the secretary (ph 540-3203) or the treasurer (ph 540-3642) and returned to PO Box 19, Mapua 7048.

Grants will usually be less than \$300 but this may be varied at the discretion of the trustees.

Under The Bonnet with Fred

Firebird—A Streetcar with Desire

Dion said he had a muscle car, described as just a little toy. Well, it's not that little being 5m long with a 6.6-litre worked engine with sparkling chrome alloys, colour Maui Blue (ice-blue), just dark enough to highlight the chrome on the car. Breathtaking when you see it and as blue is my colour it looked very, very nice. Dion, it's not little, being longer than two Suzuki Swifts and four times their engine capacity.

The history of Dion's car, a 1970 Pontiac Firebird, is not known but it arrived in New Zealand in 1972 and Dion is the third owner. The second owner used to drag-race the car in Christchurch. Dion has redone the motor and gearbox. Much to the car's credit it still has the original paintwork, indicating it has been looked after. Pontiac Firebirds featured in many car chase movies in the 70s.

This 1970 Pontiac Firebird is second-generation car with the 400 cu in (6.6 litre) Ram Air, high compression motor, 335hp, 0-60mph in 8 seconds, three-speed Turbo 400 auto transmission with 12-bolt Detroit True differential. Dion has had electronic ignition fitted, replacing the distributor. Ram Air is a system of forcing air into the air cleaner through the two raised air intakes on the bonnet (see the photo). Under the bonnet is not crowded like modern V8's with enough space for even the family cat who sleeps on the inner guard—it must get a fright when the engine starts! The car has dual-circuit power brakes, discs on the front and drums on the back. It has air-conditioning with no anti-pollution gear—just a big Holley 750 carburettor to make that 6.6 litres go. I was going to describe the body but the photo says all with the bull-nose front which is also a collapsible bumper, making the car look aggressive. The real American long bonnet raises your expectation of engine size. What the photo doesn't show is the signature duck-tail air-foil on the boot which was the design feature which helped make the car sell well. The duck-tail air-foil was so popular it was copied by many other car makers. Tear-drop rear lights are highlighted with chrome. The Foose chrome alloy wheels add USA bling to the car.



The interior is one colour—black, making a nice contrast with the blue exterior. Nice too to have chrome on all the fittings. The seats are wide and comfortable with lap and shoulder seat belts fitted.

Again like last month I suggested we went up the new by-pass for the road test to compare the Firebird with its cousin the Chev Corvette. We were up and motoring listening to Credence Clearwater Revival music on the CD player and to quote Dion, “You have to have the right music for old cars”.

Instantly we turned the Tavern corner the worked V8 showed a blaze of acceleration up the hill past the Seaton Valley turn-off. Dion said the car had been dragged by its previous owner and it showed, and I experienced the excitement of a drag race. Right off Mapua Drive up Te Mamaku Drive (the by-pas) and I said to Dion, “Make it go “and you have got to imagine the noise and acceleration on a drag strip as the car without pause flew up Te Mamaku Drive. Within seconds we were passing Stage Coach Road turn-off slowing, to a speed limit cruise with the a quieter race track muffler noise.

For the first time in years the experience did make my hair stand on end, yes truly! You cannot beat the blaze of acceleration and noise to give you a thrill. We slowed and turned into Aporo Drive, the engine surging a little at lower speeds, waiting to prove itself again.

We came down the Bluffs road and around the lazy left then right with the suspension more comfortable than the Mustangs and other muscle cars I had ridden in.

This 1970 Pontiac Firebird is a real muscle car. No turbos on this one, just a 6.6-litre engine with a strong gearbox that makes this car go fast quickly. A friend of mine in the 1970s used to have a picture on his wall of the then new Pontiac Firebird cut out of an American magazine. The only caption was “Just Add Gas”. I remember it to this day.

Dion, the ice-blue colour and the nice original condition interior and engine makes it the best one yet. This car did have real muscle but it also had style.

Fred Cassin

Mapua & Districts Soccer Club



Registrations for 2011 have been rolling in with lots of new members from midgets through to seniors. It's great to see our club grow stronger each year and we look to exceed our membership numbers of 140 for last year.

We welcome past and new players of all abilities; no experience is necessary. If you are interested in playing or if your child is interested we still have spaces in some grades so please contact the following people.

Senior Men's Coach: Stewart Campbell or Frank Wigger, s_campbell150@hotmail.com or Frank.Wigger@spicers.co.nz

Senior Women co-ordinator: Bridget Wild, the wildfamily@xtra.co.nz

Junior co-ordinator: Sian Potts, sianpotts@xtra.co.nz

We are always looking for willing parents/guardians/grandparents to help within the club, if you are able to help in any way or would be interested in coaching or refereeing, please get in touch.

We have had a number of referees leave the Nelson area this year so Nelson Bays will be looking for parents/players to fill this much-needed role. If this is something you would be interested in doing Nelson Bays Football Club offers great training courses for refs and coaches; we will even fund the cost of some of the courses so please have a look at the site, www.nelsonbaysfootball.co.nz. It's a great way to get

involved with your child's development and to get more involved in the community.

Fund-raising

One of our fund-raisers this year will be a raffle with three great prizes up for grabs; large family hamper, kayaking trip for two people and a restaurant voucher. All funds raised go straight to the club. Tickets are \$2 each with each player receiving 8 tickets to sell. Hopefully you will know somebody in the club who can sell you a ticket. Otherwise please contact Sian on sianpotts@xtra.co.nz if you would like to buy tickets.

President: Sian Potts, sianpotts@xtra.co.nz

Secretary: Anna Caswell, annacaswell@callsouth.net.nz

Treasurer: Phil Jones, home@vibrantearth.co.nz

Senior Men's Coach: Stuart Campbell, s_campbell150@hotmail.com

Senior Women's Co-ordinator: Brigit Wild, the wildfamily@xtra.co.nz

BOOK REVIEW

*This month Barbara Mercer reviews *The Mitford Girls* by Mary S. Lovell*

The public's fascination for the six extraordinary daughters of Lord Redesdale is as enduring now as when they were first launched into society after the first World War - and their impact then was immediate. Many books have been written about each and all of them with varying degrees of accuracy, but Mary S. Lovell's biography *'The Mitford Girls'* is possibly one of the most meticulously researched of them all and the author manages to remain steadfastly objective and fair minded throughout.

The 'mad, mad Mitfords' have inspired both admiration and hatred as the sisters, with the exception of Pamela, lived high profile lives, scandalizing the world with their exploits and achieving both fame and notoriety. Each endowed with exceptional beauty and intelligence, they emerged, following a sheltered, albeit unconventional upbringing, into the freedom and wild gaiety of the period between the wars and they set about making their presence felt.

They all followed different paths, but in spite of their violently conflicting political affiliations, the close family bond, in the main, stoically survived. This was largely due over the years to the

steadying influence of the youngest daughter Deborah, the only one who followed the conventional path expected of her family's aristocratic status. She became the Duchess of Devonshire, respected and admired mistress of the Chatsworth Estate and whose fortunes she helped to revive due to her remarkable business acumen.

Unity, confidante and companion of Adolf Hitler was a dedicated Nazi. Diana, who married the hated Fascist leader Oswald Moseley, having earlier shocked society with their affair, was a great admirer of Hitler and remained so without apology throughout her long life. In contrast Jessica, who created her own scandal by eloping at seventeen with Winston Churchill's nephew, was an active and committed communist.

Nancy and Jessica became highly successful authors, basing their books on thinly veiled characterizations of their own family members - much to the chagrin of their much maligned parents.

Not only is this book a fascinating chronicle of the lives of six remarkable women, but it gives an enlightening and unbiased insight into the lives of many of the people responsible for shaping the course of history in the turbulent early years of the twentieth century.

MAPUA LIBRARY



I am pleased to report that 150 people in Mapua now know for sure where underpants come from! They also know why Joe Bennett was wearing one pink and one lime green sock, why he lives in New Zealand instead of his native UK and how his dog, Blue, challenges walkers wearing Ipods.

The opening question to Joe Bennett on Friday 4 March in the Mapua Hall referred to his book *Where Underpants Come From* and set the tone for an informative, thought-provoking and hilarious evening's entertainment prompted by a variety of questions from the audience. In essence a writer of books, plays and newspaper articles, Joe is also a performer. He made the stage his own and from the word go had the full attention of everyone who had bought a ticket for the 'Evening with Joe Bennett.'

Joe lives in Lyttelton. His house is damaged, his theatre is damaged beyond repair and his community is devastated. But he kept his promise to us by flying to Mapua from Christchurch because he is a fervent supporter of libraries and was particularly charmed by our independent, volunteer-run service to the community. He wants to come back and we will be very pleased to see him.

This was our major fund-raising event for 2011 and has proved to be a huge success that will be reflected in more new books on our shelves. We are indebted to Joe Bennett but there are others who deserve thanks. Alister and Anna Gunn of 'Take Note' in Motueka always support our library. Alister sold books on the night and has now donated three

of Joe's books to add to our catalogue. And also thanks to all the volunteers who worked hard to make the evening fizz and buzz and run like clockwork.

A collection taken on the night for the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal raised \$315. Many thanks to everyone who dipped into their pockets in support. This money will be going to a specific need in Lyttelton that will be identified by Joe. If you still wish to contribute, you can hand a donation in at the library. And please note our extended opening times listed below. This is a trial run for three months but already appears to be proving popular. Apart from Sundays, the library is open every afternoon as well as Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings.

One final thought that might be of interest. *The Butler* written by Joe Bennett will be performed at the Civic Theatre in Blenheim on Tuesday and Wednesday, 12th and 13th April. It is theatre, circus, comedy and pathos in a mix that could only be written by Joe Bennett. It is truly a stunning and exhilarating show and one to be recommended.

Sue England

Library Hours:

Monday	2pm - 4.30pm
Tuesday	2pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday	2pm - 6.50pm
Thursday	10am - 12.30pm 2pm - 4.30pm
Friday	2pm - 4.30pm
Saturday	2pm - 4.30pm

Band raises funds for Chch relief

The weather was nice and warm and the music was excellent so a large crowd turned up at the Golden Bear brewery on Friday 11 March, at the Mapua Wharf for the special Christchurch earthquake fund-raising event.

The man with the black bowler hat collected \$555.70 in his hat, the band Riffraff donated its fee and the brewery management topped up the contribution to a total of \$1200. The money is being donated to the "Mayoral Fund" at the Christchurch City Council. This fund is targeted to welfare and help for badly affected citizens.

A great thanks to the brewery management, the Riffraff band (Graeme, Adrienne, Chrissie and Andrew, with a cameo performance from Barry), and all people who turned up and contributed so generously to the Christchurch Mayoral Relief Fund.

Tord Kjellstrom



Riffraff in action

FASHION NEWS

On 15 April at 5pm, the Rock'n'Frock will be closing its doors to make way for a new owner and name. The shop will remain as a recycled clothing boutique and I will continue to operate the Clothing Alteration Business from these premises.

The new shop will re-open for trading on Easter Saturday and I will remain closed for two weeks, available for alterations again on Tuesday 3 May. Come in as soon as possible if you require alterations for the Easter holidays.

I am pursuing new interests and will also be back to designing new clothing again under the Sculpture and Paradox labels. Further fashion shows to fund-raise for the Mapua Hall refurbishment and Soccer Club are planned for spring 2011.

I would like to say a very big thank you to all of my valued customers, buyers and sellers for the amazing support over the last three years in Ruby Bay and Aranui Road. You have contributed immensely to the success of the Rock'n'Frock and all have benefited.

See you soon for all of your clothing requirements and don't forget the final two weeks of great clear-out bargains!

Thanks, Jo McFarlane

Hills Community Church

We Shall Rise—the Easter Message

Recently spent eight weeks near Arizona's capital city, Phoenix. Had it not been for the spurious English "lord" named Darrell Duppa, Arizona's capital city might have been called "Pumpkinville." Duppa was a well-educated world traveler who, it was rumored, was given a substantial allowance by his wealthy English relatives to remain permanently at large.

His raucous lifestyle, highlighted by epic bouts with dipsomania, was, no doubt, a source of embarrassment to his relatives and contributed to his banishment to Arizona. It was said "Lord" Duppa was fluent in seven languages. Unfortunately for his listeners, the erudite eccentric spoke all seven in the same paragraph.

Duppa was a member of a committee chosen to select a name for this new settlement on the banks of the Salt River one sunny October day in 1870. An intrepid group of entrepreneurs had cleaned out some prehistoric canals dug by the now-vanished Hohokam people; an irrigation company had been organized and plans were being made to develop farms. Soon the arid valley would grow crops to supply a military post and mining camps throughout the Bradshaw Mountains.

One member wanted to call the new settlement "Stonewall," after his hero, the late "Stonewall" Jackson. Another member chose Salina for the Salt River; still another wanted Pumpkinville for the wild pumpkins growing in the area.

When Duppa's turn came, he arose and waxed eloquently on the ancient civilization that had once flourished on the land where they stood. He predicted the rise of another great civilization on the same site. In his inimitable elocutionary style Duppa compared the phenomenon to the mythical Phoenix bird of Egypt. A fire spirit with a colourful plumage and a tail of gold and scarlet it had a 500 to 1000-year life-cycle, near the end of which it built itself a nest of twigs that then ignited; both nest and bird burned fiercely and were reduced to ashes, from which a new, young phoenix or phoenix egg arose, reborn anew to live again. The Phoenix's ability to be reborn from its own ashes has long been presented as a symbol of rebirth, immortality, and renewal. Needless to say, Duppa's proposal carried the day.

Christians believe that 2000 years ago an event of historical, not mythological, proportions took place when Jesus Christ rose from the dead after his crucifixion. We celebrate that event at Easter. We believe Christ's death and resurrection allows people to experience a new relationship with God unmarred by sin and death and to share in that same resurrection

experience. Human lives are of greater value to God than cities ruined by earthquakes, tsunamis, war or the simple passage of time. Receive the Easter message as an invitation to rise from the ashes of sin and death and be reborn—once and for all.

Easter blessings, Marilyn Loken, Minister, Hills Community Church

Hills Community Church is a community-based and multi-denominational with historical roots in the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and Pentecostal traditions. We offer traditional and contemporary worship in an informal and relaxed style. Visitors and newcomers are most welcome.

Sunday Worship: Traditional service 9am, Contemporary service & Children's programme including crèche 10:30am; Holy Communion celebrated at both services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays with morning tea in-between. 1st Sunday of each month: one family-style service @ 10:30am followed by a shared lunch.

Messy Church! Once per term we offer an all-ages, all-family event to celebrate and explore the goodness of God in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Join us 5-7pm on Friday nights for a simple meal followed by games, crafts and a creative sharing of God's word. No cost. Next Messy Church: Friday 15 April 15 an Easter theme.

Easter Schedule:

Good Friday Service @ 7:30pm with Holy Communion

Journey to the Cross—a dramatic presentation of the final days of Jesus Christ

Easter Sunday @ 9am with Holy Communion

Watch for our unique Easter displays at the Mapua Fair

Weekly Calendar:

1st & 3rd Tuesdays: 12:15pm—NZ Prayer Book Communion service followed by intercessory prayer

Wednesdays: 10am-noon—Kidz n Koffee Open to parents-caregivers-pre-K kids—a great way to make new friends.

Fridays: 10am-noon—Craft n Coffee—learn a craft & share a laugh! Open to all, crèche provided

Drop-off for Area Food Bank – Bring your non-perishable food items to the church (122 Aranui Rd) on Friday mornings between 9am & noon.

We offer numerous activities throughout the week. Contact 540-3848 for more information on our ministries.

Traffic Count

It doesn't take a scientific survey to show that traffic on the Ruby Bay road has fallen off since the by-pass has opened, and no doubt council staff and roading engineers have a good idea of vehicle numbers, but the *Coastal News* decided to do its own unscientific count of traffic on Stafford Drive before and after the opening.

We stationed ourselves at Pine Hill Reserve each time. The first occasions were 2.30pm to 3.30pm on Tuesday 6 July last year, and then at 4pm to 5pm on Sunday 3 October, just before the opening.

The second occasions were on Wednesday 9 March this year from 2.15pm to 3.15pm, and on Sunday 20 March from 4pm to 5pm.

For Tuesday 6 July last year: There were 350 cars, light trucks and vans counted in the hour, 37 trucks, buses, motorhomes and campervans, and eight motorcycles. A total of 395 vehicles.

For Sunday 3 October: There were 460 cars, light trucks and vans counted, 10 trucks, buses, motorhomes and campervans, and 11 motorcycles. A total of 481 vehicles, with a big increase in the number of cars and a drop in heavy vehicles.

For Wednesday 9 March this year: There were 167 cars etc in the hour, 12 trucks etc, four motorcyclists and two cyclists. A total of 185 vehicles.

For Sunday 20 March: There were 128 cars etc counted, seven trucks etc, 10 motorbikes and six cyclists. A total of 151 vehicles, or 330 fewer than for the corresponding day in October, which is a decrease of nearly 70 percent.

No wonder the residents of Stafford Drive says they can now get onto the road with hardly having to look for traffic.

Terry Smith

Off to a Roaring Start!

Spaces are filling up fast for November's Magical Mapua Show, which promises to be the biggest one yet. This year the show will expand beyond the hall for the first time to a number of local venues – an opportunity to truly showcase this wonderful community and share its “magic” with the entire region

Locations within the hall are given on a “first-come, first-served” basis – so exhibitors are reminded that the



earlier you respond, the better chance you have of securing your preferred space.

If you are a new artist in the area and would like to be added to the exhibitors' list, call Debbi Bamfield at 540-2942 or email her at scrappendo4u@yahoo.com.

Edited by Andrew Earlam (advertising) 540-2845, Terry Smith (editorial) 540-3203, and compiled by Barbara Mercer, 540-3022. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editors. We aim to have the newsletter out by the 1st of the month. Deadline for paper copy at the Mapua Store and e-mailed items (preferred) to coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz is the 20th of the month. Small ads are by gold coin donation in the collection boxes, club notices free. Printed by the Tasman District Council.

Noticeboard

Massage for Health (Ruby Bay): 03 970 0960 (local call) or 02102 55 65 25, amanda.stevens824@gmail.com NZQA Qualified

Coastal Connections Social Group: The next lunch-time gathering of the Group is to be at "Stoneridge", cnr Malling Road and Moutere Highway, on 14 April 2011. Look forward to seeing you all. Julie Haliday, 540 3533."

Survival Kit: No food stash complete without preserves. For your bottling **PEARS** call Keith 540 2540.

Mapua Hills Rose Society (est 1949) meets 1st Mondays (except J months) 7.45pm, Supper Room, Mapua Hall. Rose lovers, growers, visitors and guests very welcome. Enquiries: Letty Thawley, 540 2876, Margaret Sinclair 03 528 8477.

Need technical help? Can't connect your DVD player? Don't know how to download photos from your digital camera? Computer running slowly? Local help is at hand! Average job price only \$20! Basic web design also available - pages start from just \$35. Call Sam, 540 2804. – sambennett@live.jp

Friendship Club meets third Thursdays 2pm, Supper room at the Hall. We have a game of indoor bowls followed by afternoon tea (please bring a plate). \$2 door charge and 20¢ raffle. We are a group of friendly people who enjoy a good laugh (some of us are not good bowlers). We welcome new members. Val Roche 540-3685

Genealogy Computer Discussion Group: This year our bimonthly meeting will be 1.30pm on Saturdays, on the following dates: 9 Apr, 11 June, 13 Aug, 8 Oct and 10 Dec. Info: Val 540 3931 or Peter 540 2686.

Children's Gymnastics: 1-9yrs. improves a child's strength, balance, coordination, spatial awareness & eye tracking using hand apparatus, songs, and gym equipment. Thursdays @ Mapua. Fridays @ Upper Moutere. Ring Sam, 5432512

Toy Library: extensive selection of toys, puzzles & videos for children 0-5yrs. Behind Mapua Hall every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 10-11.30am & 6.30-7.30pm. Phone

Emma 03 929 5123 or Gill 543 2195 about membership or casual hire.

Women's Recreation Group - meets outside Mapua Mall Thursday mornings. Leaves 9.15am for 1½ hour walk. Route varies. Join us whenever you can. Some members may cycle. Info Lynley 540 2292.

Mapua Village Quilters meet each Wednesday evening. We are a small group, anyone interested to join us, please contact Linda, 540 2840

Spinners, Knitters, Weavers – Wool Gatherers meet at Mapua Hall, second Tuesdays, 10am. All welcome.

Kidz'n'Koffee Playgroup, Wednesdays (in school term), 10am-noon at Hills Community Church. Ages 0-5yrs. All parents & caregivers are welcome to attend, no cost, donation for morning tea. Come & relax & meet some neighbours. Lisa Gant 543 2530, Tressa Waynan 540 2632.

Fair Exchange: We meet the second & fourth Wednesdays of the month. 9am at the Smokehouse to exchange homemade or homegrown items. Info: Debbi, 540-2942 or DLBamfield@gmail.com.

Probus Club meets first Fridays, Mapua Hall 1.30pm. All retirees most welcome. Enquiries to Pres. Anne Evans; 540 3070, Secr. Margaret Butchart 5402686

Coastal Garden Group meet first Thursdays, 1.15pm, Supper Room, Mapua Hall. Members, guests & visitors welcome. Barry Highsted 540 3139.

PANZ (pastel artists of NZ) meet each Tuesday, Mapua Hall, 9am-noon. If you are interested in trying pastels as a painting medium, please join us. Glenys Forbes 540-3388.

Mapua Art Group: Painting/Drawing Thursdays 9-12.30, Supper Room, Mapua Hall. Like-minded artists get together to paint and help each other in a fun, social environment. All levels & media welcome. \$4 session includes morning tea. Tables, chairs provided. Lisa Chandler, 540 3933

RSA Meetings: RSA room, Mapua Library, 2.00pm, second Mondays, and refreshments are served at the close.

YOGA with Robin - Classes weekly. All levels welcome. Call 540 2113 for class times & information

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