

# Coastal News

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covering Mapua & Ruby Bay,  
run by volunteers

## Toru St residents want better protection

A change is needed to TDC's rule about fully commercial businesses starting up in a residential zone if conflict like that which occurred recently in Toru Street, Mapua, is to be avoided.

That is the view of the residents' group which has been making representations to the council over its permission to allow a Harcourts real estate office in their residential area. They feel that the presence and activities of the office alter the character of their residential area. They fear it will lead to further commercial take-overs of homes in their street.

The residents' group also feels strongly that the present council policy of not notifying property owners of planning applications that could affect their community and property is not acceptable and needs to change.

The group has no problem with the rules on home-occupation businesses, where businesses are permitted in a residential home occupied by the owner.

Its objection is to fully commercial businesses, which require different sorts of buildings, facilities, parking, signage and which raise a range of issues not covered in the rules for residential zones.

"Harcourts' office is not a home occupied office it is a full-franchise, commercial office with signage and parking problems on residential land," says Fred Cassin of the Toru Street residents' group.

He is upset that the TDC has recently granted Harcourts a separate consent for increased signage on its building.

"If a building consent is applied for next, will the Harcourts' office look like a shop?" he asked. "I do wonder at Harcourts' wisdom, as they have upset the community they say they wish to serve."

The council's present District Plan residential

zone rules allows a wide range of commercial or industrial activities to establish within a residential zone purely at the discretion of the council. Under those rules, the only land use that would be rejected out of hand is certain types of livestock farming and commercial animal boarding or breeding facilities. Other commercial or other types of land use applications are open to consideration on a case-by-case by council staff.

In the case of Harcourts' arrival in Toru Street, the firm simply applied to set up its commercial office in the street, with residents not advised or consulted. The application was considered and approved by a foreign-born planning officer with little local experience who has since left the council, with the decision not notified to nearby property owners. The office opened soon after.

The residents previously opposed fully commercial use of their residential zone in Toru Street in 1986 when the then Waimea County Council proposed a zoning change to commercial zone for the street.

Objections cited the historic character of the area, the established nature of the homes, and the presence of attractive trees and gardens. One objection, from Bruce and Jane Renwick, was that the council should consult with residents before considering any future proposals for commercial use in their area.

The Toru Street residents say the area is a pleasant place for families to live, an asset to the community and a popular walking route from the shopping area to the wharf. They fear fragmentation of their neighbourhood with other firms following the lead of Harcourts and setting up commercial premises in the street.

Since Harcourts opened, residents say the firm



*Contd*

*Toru St: contd*

breached a number of key consent conditions. They have fought a long and frustrating fight with council staff to have matters dealt with.

Issues where they have succeeded have included:

- A proposal by the firm to start a tourist information service would have been a breach of the conditions and the firm was advised that it could not proceed. However, the council authorised it to run a "Community Watch" service not included in its original application.

- The council accepted that Harcourts' removal of a screening hedge from the frontage of the property was what it called a "minor breach" of the consent and the firm subsequently agreed to install a fence. However, a difference of opinion remains between the council and the residents over the height of the fence compared to the original hedge.

Issues where the residents have not been successful have been mainly over advertising signage. From the time of opening, residents have photos which show that Harcourts breached the consent conditions for advertising signage in a residential zone.

While the council required some changes in signage, shortly before Christmas it accepted a separate consent application for additional signage for the property. This was also a non-notified application.

The council rejected claims by the residents that it was wrong to be considering a new application on a matter it had already dealt with in the first consent. Council consents manager Phil Doole said in reply to the residents: "In our view (the new application for additional signage) did not fall within the scope of the original proposal to establish the real estate office". The group is continuing discussions with Mr Doole.

In December, the Toru Street residents presented their case in the open forum section of a full council meeting, but the forum allowed no questions or

discussion. A request from the group to meet with the council's planning manager, Dennis Bush-King, was declined.

The residents' group now plans to take the matter back to the council's Environment and Planning committee for reconsideration of the main issues for residential property owners. They seek two main changes :

1. Commercial activities made "non-compliant" in a residential zone because there are no zone rules covering commercial, industrial or other land uses in a residential zone.

This change would not prohibit commercial businesses establishing in a residential zone, but an application for a non-compliant activity would require a higher level of proof, consultation and consideration by the council.

The residents say the present "discretionary" status means rules that are permitted under various discretionary decisions by council are variable in their content and application. There is no requirement for consistency across the district and consequently no certainty for home-owners or the community.

Most importantly the present rule does not take into account the interests of the property owners in the residential zone.

2. The second change they seek is that council must advise residential home owners of planning applications which could affect their properties or neighbourhood. The Toru Street residents feel that the TDC's present "non-notification" policy unreasonably denies residents of important information affecting their rights to enjoy and protect their property.

Fred Cassin says the group would like to hear the opinion of other Mapua-Ruby Bay residents on this issue, and comments would be welcome at his e-mail address: [frostie08@gmail.com](mailto:frostie08@gmail.com), or by phoning him at evenings on 540-3469.

*David Mitchell*

# Garden Notes



February, the last month of summer. Where has it gone? This is the inbetween month, spring long gone and too early to plant bulbs, this is for late March, so the main tasks are mulching and watering, plants in pots and new vegie plantings. although we will see daylight hours begin to shorten it can still be hot, so keep an eye on the vegie garden, especially making sure it doesn't dry out.

January-February are the months to plant again for the Easter table—potatoes, carrots, cabbages etc.

This month we can begin to harvest any seed you may like to keep for next season. This can be fun and I am gathering pansy, poppy, nemesia seeds, especially a blue nemesia, just to see how I get on. All will be kept in paper bags as plastic sweats. You can take heel cuttings now of semi-ripe wood with a heel of the older wood dipped in rooting hormone, honey, or willow water. Plant in gritty soil in a pot cover with a clear plastic bag until growth begins. Another task is dead-heading, an ever ongoing task.

January has seen the flowering of the most spectacular blooms of the large hybrid lilies with the strong perfume. I was fortunate to be invited to Margaret Satherley's 'nursery'. The colours—reds, golds, pinks, whites, plain or spotted, short stems, long stems, tall stems—just glorious to breathe in those perfumes. Such a variety of lilies. Well done Margaret.

Last year we were fortunate at the garden club to purchase lilies at a one-off from our member Pamelene Cuttle. Some have grown 1.8m to 2m high with massive heads. I have the well known name "Casablanca" and white perfume, so white and pure with a strong perfume. I do intend to build up my collection of these beauties.

Hanging baskets have been good this year but possibly could do with a liquid feed from now on to keep the flowering going. The Nelson baskets are as beautiful as ever. Well done Mike Gaffa.

Do enjoy your garden as I always do. Cheers.

*Barry Highsted*

## Rangers Rugby

Rangers Rugby Club is seeking senior players to play in the Division II competition in 2011. Light training happens on Tuesday nights 6pm, and a Fitness Boot camp has started at 10.30am on Saturdays at Moutere Hills Community Centre. Team trainings begin in March. Phone Mark 0274229949 for more details.



# Mapua Hall upgrade moving quickly

The hall committee is moving forward with a proposed design for the renovation and extension of the Mapua hall. We plan to launch the design and plans at a function in March after which the plans will be on display in the library and the hall for public comment on any improvements. Clearly, the final designs and the actual building extensions and renovations will depend on the funds available, so we will have to make decisions on what to include and what to exclude.

The plan will be a combination of some upgrading work on the current hall with the addition of several new spaces. This will allow us to honour our historic hall as well as add some badly needed new toilets and kitchen, along with other utility and meeting spaces.

Although the final plan and details are yet to be finalised, we expect the new hall design to include the following features:

- A new commercial-standard kitchen which will interface with the Domain and garden area, allowing external as well as internal server access.
- New toilets including disability access
- Sports changing rooms and toilets which will be externally accessible

- A utility room including a tub (useful for managing floral or other displays requiring water, certain art and craft activities etc)
- At least one new small meeting room
- Generous foyer space with areas for display of artwork, exhibitions etc
- Plenty of storage space
- Space for Toy Library and sports groups needing storage for regular activities
- Upgraded lighting with emphasis on the use of natural light
- Small office for hall management

There will be many ways in which the community will be able to assist in our hall project. Obviously, there will be a fund-raising campaign (launch also to be announced) and community members will be able to contribute “in kind” donations of skills, time and products. More details will be provided at our March function.

In the meantime, we would like to acknowledge and thank architect John McDougall, building practitioner Dave de Gray and quantity surveyor Graeme Smith for their donated time and skills.

We look forward to providing the community with a further update and details of the March design launch, in the next *Coastal News*.

## Trading Without Money

The Mapua Fair Exchange has just passed its first year of sharing. The Fair Exchange is a friendly opportunity to swap and share excess home-produced food and items. The atmosphere is generous—sharing with plenty of ideas, recipes and handy hints. The Exchange is held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 9am outside the Smokehouse takeaways at Mapua Wharf.

Numbers attending vary each week from a few to many and the goods are as diverse as the traders. During the summer months there is a huge variety of fresh fruits and vegies, but as the growing season slows we see a lot more of preserves, pickles, baking and hand-made goodies like knitted items to hand-made cards.

The exchange is open to anyone with home-made or home-grown items they would like to swap. No money changes hands and swaps are determined by the

individual traders. As this is mostly our surplus and not for profit, we find that the trading is easy and agreeable. But you have to get in quick. Traders arrive at 9am and by 9.30am the swapping has finished and the socializing is now the focus.

Debbi Bamfield maintains an email list of the traders that want to get reminders before the next exchange. Prior to each email traders are encouraged to send in any requests for specific products or to let others know what they have to offer. This works especially well for items that might be more perishable or not easily transported like hens or sheep etc. If you would like to be on the email list or just want to know more, contact Debbi on 540-2942 or email at DLBamfield@gmail.com.

Hope to see you at our next swap!

*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.*

# Mapua School

## A great year to Be All We Can

The Mapua School community is looking forward to a great year of learning, friendship and “Being All We Can”. We welcome many new students who are either new entrants or joining us from other parts of the country or world. Paula Moon is joining the staff as a Year 2 teacher and will bring expertise, energy, enthusiasm and smiles to her classroom.

We are fortunate that our class sizes this year are well below the MOE standards. To accomplish this, the Board of Trustees has committed to funding additional teachers and resources so that each child has the best opportunity to learn and excel in their studies. This is a fantastic and tangible way to use some of the monies raised at the Easter Fair.

Architectural drawings are being finalised and tendering is taking place to build an additional new classroom and renovate rooms 3 and 4. Our fingers are crossed that these two projects will be completed by the end of Term 2.

We are also looking forward to enjoying our school library which has been used as a classroom for the past year. As well as enthusiastic readers, there are many talented young junior librarians in the school. The re-opening of the library will allow them to continue their training and their enjoyment of reading and helping others. Monies from the Garden Evening will be used to supplement the existing book collection as well as buy furnishings and shelving.

You may have noticed activity at the end of last year and throughout the holidays on the back field. Huge shade sails, hung from surplus power poles, climbing walls and imaginative play areas have been created by volunteers and building professionals from the school community. Many thanks to all who gave their time and energy to create such a fantastic place.

Finally, we want to thank all in the Mapua community for making sure that our children are safe as they walk, bike or skate to school. They will be excited to get back to their friends and classmates and might not be as aware of their surroundings as they should be – Please keep an eye out for them as you exit your driveway or head down the road – we appreciate it!

*Striving to “Be All I Can”, Lisa  
Dunn, Trustee*

# Mahana School

## Busy Term 1 Planned

The new school year is almost upon us and we have a busy term one planned for Mahana School. We are making the most of the summer weather and our fantastic pool (and new pool seating) with plenty of swimming. There is staff development with a swimming coach and of course the swimming sports. We also welcome Mrs Scorrar back to the Middle room.

Looking back at 2010, Term Four began with the Mahana School Twilight Family Fiesta, our biannual fund-raiser. It was a huge success with much positive feedback about the new twilight timeslot, the great food and entertainment and the wonderful, relaxed family vibe.

In early November, our whole school took part in the Kapa Haka Fun Day in Motueka, where we performed our original waiata. What an awesome event this was – well done to all the children and a special thanks to Whaea Jane for all her time and effort!

At the Moutere Hills Schools Athletics day on November 13, Mahana School performed their brilliant best and came away with four shields: The Challenge Shield for the highest average points for over 10-year-old sprints; the Moutere Memorial Shield for the highest average points for under 10-year-old sprints; the Harakeke Shield for highest average points for high and long jumps and finally the Lindsay Fraser Shield highest average points overall for track and field. These were fantastic results for our small school.

In December, each of our classes had a class camp. The senior roomers (Kotuku) went over to Wellington for a week and had an awesome urban experience, cramming in heaps of activities and experiences. The Middle roomers (Keruru) went bush, camping at Kina Beach and the Junior roomers (Piwakawaka) had a camp day at school.



# Police Report

Hi to you all. Hope you managed to have a bit of time to relax over the “silly season”. We have found that this holiday period has been fantastic in the respect that there haven’t been many trouble-makers in the entire area at all. Brilliant!

Perhaps a combination of liquor bans and good security at local camping grounds has finally sent out a message that bad behaviour won't be tolerated. We haven't had the normal minor disorder and broken bottles. The Leisure Park has had very few problems at all, a credit to their night security is in order I think. The McKee Domain has had a few drunken people removed and a domestic assault, thefts or burglaries have been few and far between in the Mapua area.

Just a reminder, though, not to get complacent. Don't leave your sheds or cars unlocked, fuel cans easily accessible or unlatched windows open on hot nights, as has happened in previous years it only takes a group to come from Nelson or Richmond one night and play merry hell.

*Grant Heney, Community Constable, Motueka*

## **Mapua Occurrences:**

Jan 17: Accident Higgs Rd & Main Rd, car hits dog

Jan 16: Theft from Higgs Road address. Guitar, iPod, camera stolen

Jan 2: Domestic argument Iwa Street

Dec 30: Bike stolen from Stafford Drive. Blue/Black road bike with carrier and lights

Dec 23: Male arrested for breaching bail conditions

Dec 16: Male arrested for assaulting a female, Domestic incident Iwa Street

Dec 11: Domestic argument Pomona Rd

Dec 7: Minor accident Seaton Valley Rd & Coastal Highway

# PANZ



The first gathering of the Nelson Area of PANZ for 2011 will be on 8 Feb at the Mapua Hall, 9am to noon. It will be the start of a very full year for members, with workshops, fun days and general friendship. Members travel from Nelson, Stephens Bay, Motueka, Ngatimoti and the Moutere areas to take part each week and it is a steady learning curve for us all as we try different techniques and push our boundaries.

The “Top of the South” pastel art exhibition will again be hosted by the Nelson Area and with Marlborough and West Coast Areas invited to join us, there promises to be a good selection of quality artworks for sale. As this is the culmination of a year's work, all work exhibited will be fresh. Opening night is 25 February and the exhibition will be open both Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th from 9am to 4.30pm at the Mapua Hall.

Members have been set a challenge during the summer break and we are all looking forward to seeing the results on the 8th February.

Visitors and new members are always welcome to attend our painting gatherings. If you wish to try pastel as a painting medium, come along and join us. Further enquiries to Glenys Forbes at 03) 540-3388

# The problem with dogs...



One of the pleasures of living in the country is that you can keep a few chickens. Free-range.

In some other countries, this is a problem: you have to cope with attacks from foxes, snakes... Here, however, it is a different problem—apart from stoats and ferrets, and maybe the odd hawk—wandering and uncontrolled dogs.

Dog owners in or visiting country areas need a wake-up call. Too many of them are careless when it comes to controlling their animals. You can't do that in rural areas. They need to know the consequences.

We keep chooks, and in several years, we have had a dog "incident" on average once a year. We have lost valuable birds. In one case, a dog brought into the area by people looking at nearby for-sale properties killed two chooks. I did not get to the shotgun in time. The dogs are quick and silent. The gun is locked away.

And we did not know—dogs that kill chickens do not bark. They just move in and kill, quietly. And once they have done it, they will keep doing it.

They will also kill cats, or the kids' pet rabbits and guinea pigs, and attack other dogs.

One cure is a bullet, and another, I am told, is to put the dead fowl on an electric fence. When the dog goes to it, it will get the message.

I do keep a cartridge handy filled with rock salt, but I may use something more lethal if things are bad enough.

Our other "incidents"?

Well, two chooks killed. Later, another taken off by the dog, but rescued alive. No eggs for a long time, of course. Another incident: a visitor letting his dog run behind the car, up the road, and through several properties along the way.

Another time, a dog from more than 2km away was found actually inside the chicken run. The owners told the ranger the dog was safe because he often chased their chooks, and they found it quite funny, but "...he did not really hurt them."

How stupid. Did they want to train the dog to chase fowls? Did they want it dead?

As I told the ranger: if I see it in our chook run again, it won't be going home.

I owned dogs for more than 40 years, and I think dogs are great. I loved ours dearly. They were kept under control. A hint here too: dogs brought up with chooks, and trained, will not attack them. But uncontrolled dogs are not great, and their owners are definitely not.

A friend had visitors, with a dog. It was allowed to run loose, killed hens, and put the others to flight. I believe he should have said to his visitor, "That's \$40 a

chicken and 25c for the cartridge ...". He undoubtedly thinks I am too severe.

Look at the Dog Control Act, 1996. Dogs have to be registered and (since 2006) chipped. Dogs must be properly cared for, and not mistreated. Owners must keep their dogs under control at all times. When a dog roams "at large" the ranger can seize it.

You must use or carry a leash at all times when you take your dog out in public.

On your own property, the dog must be under someone's direct control, or confined so that it cannot leave the property. If not, the dog can be seized and the owner fined up to \$3000.

Dogs that attack people, or animals, or "rush at" people or animals, can be deemed dangerous. That applies if the local council believes that the dog is a threat to people or stock, or poultry. Such dogs must be kept in a securely fenced area. They must be muzzled and leashed when out in public. They must be neutered, and cannot be sold without council consent.

If these requirements are not met, the owner can be fined \$3000 and the dog destroyed.

Dogs that are considered a threat to people, stock or poultry can be declared by the council as "menacing" – a step less than dangerous. The local council must declare the dog "menacing" if the owner has a conviction for the animal "attacking or rushing at people and animals".

The dog can be required to be neutered and muzzled in public places.

The owner of any dog that attacks any person or animal can be fined up to \$3000, apart from civil damages, and the dog destroyed.

Anyone who sees a dog attacking a person or animal may immediately destroy the dog.

Translation: if your dog attacks and kills my chooks or cat, he's a goner. But if you intend any such action, or even complaining to the ranger, you must be absolutely clear on your facts, and that you have identified the right canine offender.

But owning a dog is a responsibility, as well as a joy. Sadly, some owners are not responsible, but they should not expect the rest of us to pay the price for that.

If you see a dog attacking other animals, and can't take direct action, get the best description of the dog you can, and ring the Tasman District Council dog officer.

Be assured that he will take action.

*Anton Petrie*

# Mapua Health Centre

We warmly welcome Tim Phillips and Janine Bailey who are already familiar doctors to our centre. They will be working on Fridays in the place of Mark Fry and Elizabeth Woods.

So far, it has been quite a healthy start to the year with no major outbreaks of illnesses except for a few tummy bugs and a mild flu-like illness. We have had the usual hazards of summer holiday excesses including strained body parts from once-a-year extreme physical exertion, attacks by out-of-control garden implements and a variety of gravity related events.

There is the ongoing risk of being overcooked by the sun and it's important to remember to avoid too much sun exposure between 11am and 4pm, eg, wear a hat + long sleeve shirt + sunglasses, slop on sunscreen 15 minutes before going outside and use a broad-spectrum product with a sun protection factor of 30+ (they usually last only 2-3 hours so need re-applying for longer sun exposures).

The festive season tends to be challenging on the waistline and roaming around the latest medical literature we find that:

- A team of European researchers has confirmed what many weight-loss gurus have claimed: eating more protein and fewer refined carbohydrates helps to keep the pounds off. Among men and women who had lost at least eight percent of their body weight on a low-calorie diet, those who spent the next six months following a maintenance diet high in protein and low in refined carbs were the least likely to regain any weight, and were also the least likely to drop out of the study. (NEJM, 25 Nov 2010)

- Another study shows that increasing whole-grain intake instead of refined carbs is associated with lower VAT in adults – that's not a cure for your tax bill but "visceral adipose tissue" which is a scientific way of saying your waistline. (Am J Clin Nutr, Nov 2010)

- Keeping to more organic foods may also be important as research in animals shows that early-life organophosphate exposures may contribute to the increased worldwide incidence of obesity and diabetes. (Reprod Toxicol, Sept 2010)

- Having enough vitamin D (which means getting out in the sun without getting sunburnt for at least 20 minutes/day and a nutritious diet) seems to decrease the likelihood of obesity – especially in children. (Am J Clin Nutr, Dec 2010).

Some of the events for the month:

1-28 National Bike Wise month\*

[www.heartracercor.org.nz/rideforheart](http://www.heartracercor.org.nz/rideforheart)

6 Waitangi Day

7-12 Heart Appeal Week [www.nhf.org.nz](http://www.nhf.org.nz)

7-12 Epilepsy New Zealand Appeal Week  
[www.epilepsy.org.nz](http://www.epilepsy.org.nz)

13-15 IHC National Awareness Week  
[www.ihc.org.nz](http://www.ihc.org.nz)

16 Go by Bike Day [bikewise.co.nz](http://bikewise.co.nz)

20 **World Day of Social Justice**  
[www.un.org/esa/socdev/social](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social)

28-6 Mar New Zealand Red Cross Annual Appeal  
[www.redcross.org.nz](http://www.redcross.org.nz)

\* **Bike Wise is New Zealand's national programme of activities, which promote cycling as a fun, healthy and safe way to travel.** Over the past few years, through a dedicated network of regional and local coordinators, we've been getting more people on their bikes and improving bike safety. Why not join them and get back in the saddle?

# Tait descendants meet

Recently the descendants of Ivy and Peter Tait, formerly of Ruby Bay and Marraiges Road, Tasman, held a reunion over three days at Paretai, the Girl Guide camp in the Lee Valley.

The four surviving children of Ivy and Peter—Alan, Donald, Doreen and Audrey, all attended, along with nearly all of the 22 grandchildren, plus their numerous offspring and partners, bringing the total to over 100. This also included some close relatives not in the immediate family.

It was Bruce Blundell's idea that the present generation of cousins should have the opportunity that our children had when growing up of getting to know their cousins, who are quite widespread. Looking at the activity on Facebook, it seems we might have achieved that goal.. (Bruce is from Auckland, but was formerly in Tasman).

The 50s generation formed the organising committee, but our generation was allowed some input, particularly from Doreen who compiled the family tree booklet, and Audrey and Alan ,who helped with the catering.

The seven family groups all wore different coloured specially designed T-shirts, which made identifying who belonged to who much easier.

On-site activities were held at Paretai with several mixing-up games over the three days. Off-site activities were organised for the middle day, but unfortunately that was the day it really rained, and



the water skiing, kayaking, horse-riding, fishing and motocross were cancelled. Some were able to go horse-riding and paint-balling later in the day

The highlight of the gathering was the “Tait Idol” event, with celebrity judges, held on the last night. An amazing array of talents were revealed, but the audience didn't always agree with the judges, and voiced their disapproval..

This was a great event and all agreed it was very well organised and ran without a hitch, apart from the weather.

*Audrey Kitto..*

# An opportunity to learn Spanish

Salsa tapas or paella – you may have experienced any one of these or maybe listened to Placida Domingo. The common theme is they are all Spanish. In today's shrinking world of travel the opportunities to meet Spanish people or visit Spanish-speaking countries is on the increase. The Spanish language is one of the three most spoken in the world and there are more speakers locally than you would probably realise.

If you have not had the opportunity to learn a second language, Spanish is one of the easier to learn. A second language can open many new horizons including literature, music, and culture; social or vocational opportunities.

I began studying the Spanish language 18 years ago in preparation for a mountaineering expedition I was organising to South America. The expedition was a success largely due to the advantage of reducing communication barriers with the local people whose services we employed to aid us in our goals.

I returned to the UK continuing to study the language through the Open University, Spanish language schools in Spain itself, and at the University of Santiago de Compostela.

The ability to communicate fluently whilst in Spain, added new dimensions to activities in which I was involved. My passions for mountaineering and flying gliders were enhanced as I began to enjoy a greater freedom and independence while participating in these activities.

Based on these experiences and 30 years of teaching engineering and technology in the UK I began to teach Spanish to other interested students.

I have found teaching Spanish in New Zealand to be a satisfying experience based on the motives of students who, like myself, are seeking to be independent travellers. Linguists agree that once having mastered a second language confidence soon grows to try others.

This year's courses will focus on speaking for which I now have the support of locally living native Spanish speakers. Group sizes are small, enabling

more individual attention. Lessons are structured and designed to deal with the everyday needs and the required skills of sourcing and communicating basic information will be explored.

*Chris Painter*

## MAPUA Bowling Club

After earlier difficulties with our playing surface the bowling season is now well under way, thanks to the excellent turf management of our greenkeeper Les McAlwee and his assistant Don Sixtus.

Mapua is a friendly and welcoming club seeking new members. If you are new to bowling, bowls are available to "have a go" and the club is open for bowling every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 1pm.

Monday evening League Bowls started again on 10 January with an excellent turnout of 10 teams. If you would like to make up or join a team of three please contact Vicki or Don Sixtus on 540-2960.

Recent club championships saw the completion of the Ladies Triples won by Sue England (skip), Judy March and Margaret Busby, and the Ladies Fours was won by Sylvia Peters (skip), Judy March, Jean Daubney and Margaret Busby.

The Men's Singles was won by Arnie Ahnfeldt and the Men's Pairs by Don Sixtus (skip), and Arnie Ahnfeldt. The Men's Fours was taken out by Don Sixtus (skip), Ron Charles, Dave England and John Trotter.

Our New Year's Day tournament sponsored by Matt Davidson of Ray White Real Estate was won by a Riwaka team skipped by Colin Morris. Our 2-4-2 tournament, sponsored by the Wharfside Restaurant and Golden Bear Brewery, was won by a visiting team on holiday from Christchurch skipped by Andy Chivers and his very promising 14-year-old partner Cameron Bailey. Many thanks to our valued sponsors who help make these tournaments possible.

Our congratulations go to Don Sixtus who has again been selected to play for the Nelson Bowls Representative team in games against Marlborough, West Coast and Buller.

*Maurie Daubney.*

# Sam's Spam

February

## Breaking an Addiction

As this is my first column this year, let me wish you all a happy 2011. It is tradition that when the New Year starts, we make resolutions, and I am no exception. Many people pledge to give up drink and/or smoking but the think I want to quit (or perhaps cut down on) is Facebook!

You may think this is an odd resolution but it seems thousands of others have the same idea. There is even a website to encourage the quitters! You can find it at <http://www.quitfacebookday.com/> The last time I checked, over 38,000 had joined.

People are now starting to quit because some are worried about privacy issues but equally others feel the site is taking up too much of their time. I was surprised to learn that Facebook addiction disorder (FAD) is now being seriously considered by some psychologists as a potential medical condition!

FAD symptoms show marked similarities to those of substance addiction—even down to the symptoms of withdrawal. As I have never considered my Facebook use as harmful, I have never tried to wean myself off it, but apparently there are users who become extremely anxious and break out in cold sweats if asked to stop using it for any length of time.

Becoming aware of FAD has been a wake-up call to me. I've decided to take control of my social networking before it takes control of me. I am going to keep the aspects that do add value to

my life, but cut down on applications that are making me spend more time in the virtual world than the real one.

If you have any kind of addiction, recognizing the symptoms, admitting there is a problem and taking action is the key to breaking its hold on you. Talking to others to get help is also vital but if like me, you think you may have FAD, speak to people face-to-face and not via a social networking site!

**Free Application of the Month:** Dragon Dictation

For those with an iPod Touch or iPhone out there, this app is a must-have. Dragon Dictation is an easy-to-use voice recognition application powered by Dragon NaturallySpeaking that allows you to easily speak and instantly see your text or email messages. In fact, it's up to five times faster than typing on the keyboard.

With Dragon Dictation you can also dictate status updates directly to your Social Networking applications (Facebook and Twitter) or send notes and reminders to yourself....all using your voice. So when you're on-the-go, stop typing and start speaking – from short text messages to longer email messages, and anything in between.

You can download the application today from the iTunes store.

# Under The Bonnet with Fred

## Jack's Chev Truck—65 years old

Jack has a long association with trucks through his contracting business while at Twizel and once owned a 130-ton low-loader, a serious truck. Chevrolet trucks were used as service vehicles in the business and Jack said they were good as they were reliable and easy to fix.

This lovely old truck has done only 74,341 miles since being bought new from Ingram Motors in Nelson by Mr Best of Best Orchards, now Waimea Estate just over the hump at Three Brothers Corners on your way to Mapua. I can imagine Mr Best driving the Chev along a dusty gravel road in the evenings to the Appleby pub to have a beer with the other orchardists. Jack bought the Chev from one of the daughters of Mr Best's estate. The daughter told Jack that one morning Mr Best couldn't start it so he went into town and brought a Mazda B1600 to replace it. Bit of contrast in size! The Chev apparently sat in the shed until Jack bought it about 1986.

The Chev is painted a nice dull fire engine red with little chrome, suggesting it might have been the military version. It has nice typical 40s rolled front mudguards with the same mudguard fitted to the back. The front grill is has a combination of horizontal and vertical bars, giving it the jail bar look that the hot-rodders like so much. It has a split windscreen with vacuum wipers. The interior is basic but organised with the military shaded light dash so the dash lights could not be seen at night from a distance. Speedo, oil, fuel, temperature and amps gauges are all there, plus it has a choke and hand throttle close to the hard black bakelite steering wheel. I like the long lever hand brake and accelerator pedal in between the brake and clutch pedals. Nice and classic.

Jack has the seat redone in leather, keeping the lovely smell of leather. The flat deck is still the original with the sides renewed at some time. One of the sales features of the truck was you could refuel and check oil and water all from the driver's side.

Jack was not sure what model the truck was but we did find an identification label. It was manufactured in Canada, which was usual for American vehicles imported to New Zealand. From the Internet we can confirm it as a "1/2-ton 1946 Chevrolet 3100 Pick Up" truck by measuring the wheelbase.. We could confirm from engine numbers the truck has the 216cu in (3540cc) six-cylinder engine with the splash crankshaft. This means the crankshaft has a vane which picks oil from the sump and splashes it on to the cylinder walls to lubricate the pistons.



No details on mpg, speed, or 0-60mph time but this was a truck designed for work, not play.

The body identification plate says it was manufactured in Canada but the serial numbers indicate it was made in Kansas City, Missouri, USA. Jack says it has the military dash which may account for the model numbers not lining up. So we might have found out a secret here. After WW2, the US Army sent their unwanted Chev trucks off to Canada where they were re-badged as General Motors Canada, then sold to the Commonwealth. Any Chevy enthusiast reading this can look up [www.oldmanualproject.com](http://www.oldmanualproject.com) which has workshop manuals online up to 1956.

Jack took me for a drive in the truck and it was an experience from the past with the shudder as the clutch slowly took up with creaking squeaking noises. Every gear change there was a little less shudder but once we were up and cruising there were no further gear changes required. The sucking noise from the oil bath air filter brought me back to my youth when mates and I had vehicles like this. No radio to interrupt your conversation and stress us with the worries of the world with non-stop news. The Chevy leans a little on the corners but at 45mph riding on the 700x15 cross-ply synthetic tyres with a speed rating of 35 mph I was not stressing. These vehicles are great. Everyone should own one and once a week take a slow drive down a lonely road to give us time to reflect. Petrol is cheaper then entertaining ourselves with technology. You ride in a vehicle like this, no computers or electric-driven accessories. Everything is mechanical but could I say after 65 years it still works.

Jack, the Chev truck is a piece on Nelson history with interesting origins and is a mechanical museum. The ride in the truck was great, slow and lazy.

*Fred Cassin*

# Hills Community Church

## Marking the highs and the lows

Every Christmas I give my husband a diary. He uses it to record both the mundane and the profound events of our lives. Our New Year's Day tradition while sipping some bubbles is to review the previous year's diary and re-live some of the events. It's amazing how much one can cram into a year. We reflect on the highs and the lows; recall the humorous and sad; marvel at the way certain things played out after days and weeks of prayer; and appreciate once again how God blessed, challenged and shaped our year.

For the past few years he has added a special entry each day entitled "highlight of the day." Sometimes the highlight has been as simple as the evening meal or a good rain. This past month I'm happy to report that the highlight of his day (and mine) has been the long-distance phone calls we've had each night as he's been away in the States. These phone calls have made Telecom quite happy, too.

**Highlights.** Every day has one if you take the time to look. Maybe it's watching the kids romp and giggle on the lawn in complete abandon, maybe it's receiving a card or phone call from a faraway friend. Perhaps it's the satisfaction of completing a difficult project or winning a much needed contract. When you identify a highlight at the end of each day you will notice an attitude-shift. You discover that no matter what happened that day in the end it really wasn't half-bad, a total waste, or filled with nothing but strife and conflict because you were able to identify that one little highlight.

Even the worst days can have a highlight though they require a bit more effort to discover. But if one realises that highlights always come wrapped in grace, peace, mercy, comfort or love it becomes possible to find them even on the bad days. Highlights contain trace elements of blessing. Highlights serve as reminders that we are not in this world alone. Notice the highlights in your life and you may catch a glimpse of the face of God.

*Living for the highlights, Marilyn Loken. Minister,  
Hills Community Church*

*"This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24*

**Happenings @ Hills**—we are a community-based, multi-denominational church with historical roots in the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and Pentecostal traditions. We offer both traditional and contemporary worship in an informal and relaxed style. Visitors and newcomers are most welcome.

**Sunday Worship:** Traditional service 9am, Contemporary service & "God's Garden" for Kids 10:30am; Holy Communion celebrated at both services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays with morning tea between services. First Sunday of each month: one service @ 10:30am followed by a shared lunch.

**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

We also offer numerous home groups and youth activities. Contact 540-3848 for more information on our ministries.

# BOOK REVIEW

*Life* by Keith Richards, is available in the Mapua Community Library. Reviewed by Tony Small

Keith Richards's autobiography, *Life*, starts brilliantly with the story of his arrest in Arkansas, and the subsequent farce of the court proceedings. Richards admits that it was foolish to be carrying drugs in their car, especially when he had cleaned up for the tour, but he spent his early life challenging the stifling authority of the times.

I most enjoyed his account of the formation of the Rolling Stones and the music that influenced them. I was reminded also, that those in power in the 50s and 60s seemed terribly afraid of the younger generation and new musical directions, and the Rolling Stones were at the forefront of the push for greater freedom of expression.

Richards is obviously passionate about his music, and the book tells at length about the challenges of writing songs and recording them, especially at times when group members were at loggerheads, or affected by drugs. I was surprised by the number of

other musicians who recorded with the Stones, filling in, or providing musical colour.

He tells about his struggles with drugs, with relationships, and especially his life-long friendship with Mick Jagger. During the 80s and 90s, Richards says that Jagger began to suffer from LVS (Lead Vocalist Syndrome), characterised by inability to consult and value other group members. Jagger put his solo career ahead of his commitment to the Stones, and Richards felt betrayed. In spite of that, they managed to make good music, and to continue to tour, though less often than Richards would have liked.

Richards's style is educated and entertaining, and the book is well-organised, with plenty of photos. There is too much detail for my taste about open guitar tuning, about getting off drugs, and about getting on with Jagger. But I recommend *Life* to anyone with an interest in music, and in a man who, some say, is *the* icon of rock music guitar players.

## Fire Brigade

### November – January call-outs



Nov 14: Tanker to a car & tree fire Pigeon Valley Rd. Pulled car up bank.

Nov 21: Car v tree Stafford Drive. Police investigating.

Nov 28: Smoldering fire Stafford Drive. Hot weather re-ignited fire.

Dec 4: Grass fire Horton Rd. Possible cause was a mower hitting a stone. Five brigades assisted with a helicopter.

Dec 7: Car in ditch Seaton Valley Rd.

Dec 27: Picnic table on fire Pine Hill Reserve.

Jan 1: Medical assistance, person fell down stairs. Ambulance delayed.

Jan 7: Dog stuck in drain pipe. Encouraged dog to move backward out of drain.

Jan 7: Tanker to mulch fire near MDF plant, Richmond.

Jan 12: Tanker to Motueka, stood down on station.

Jan 16: Car in ditch Appleby Highway. Stood down on station. Wrong area.

65 calls for the year 2010. Five calls year to date.

**Safety Tip – don't drink and fry**

## MAPUA COMBINED PROBUS

The club held its Christmas social on the 3 December, starting with a picnic lunch at the Paretai Girl Guide camp in the Lee Valley, close to Brightwater. Twenty members enjoyed the use of the camp's facilities to supply hot drinks. Home-made wine was also available, donated by our committee. The camp is a very pleasant open-spaced area set close to the Lee River. It is an ideal site for the guides' outdoor activities, with accommodation.

From Brightwater club members moved on to the Hope Community Church for a two-hour pantomime put on by the Operatunity Entertainment group. The title of the pantomime was "Jack and the Bean Sprout". The principle actors and directors of the group are Susan Boland, Geoffrey Hughes and John Cameron. They are all talented singers, as well as comedy actors putting on a very entertaining afternoon. There would have been an audience of over 300 people. The concert finished with the company putting on afternoon tea included in the cost.

The company put on a variety of monthly musical shows during the year in the majority of towns around New Zealand. Many of our Probus Club members have seen a number of concerts held at Hope over the last three years.

David Higgs

# MAPUA LIBRARY



**H**appy New Year everyone. It is February already with memories of Christmas fast fading ... but not quite. I am reminded of a tongue-in-cheek article in a December *Press*. 'Happy Herpes,' said Joe Bennett, not quite able to make himself say the 'C' word. Instead he chose herpes, something that comes around regularly and you can never get rid of!

Joe Bennett is a journalist, playwright, author and raconteur. From his humorous perspective he takes a wry and often astute look at life. It is my pleasure to announce that Joe will soon be here in Mapua as a special guest of our volunteer library.

If you would like to join Joe and the library volunteers on Friday 4 March from 6.30pm in the Mapua Hall, we would be delighted to see you. An Evening with Joe Bennett promises to be highly entertaining and tickets are now on sale from Sue (540-2934) or Catherine (540-2010).

The display board in the library building looks extremely jolly festooned with coloured drawings of teddy bears, all the entries for the BEAR (Be Excited About Reading) competition. The overall winner was Rebecca Taylor for beautifully colouring 'Shakespeare'. Lawrence Wailling was the junior winner with 'Fred'. 'Happy' by Byron, 'Bedey' by Josh Elliston and 'I love to read bear' by Daniel were all highly commended in the

colouring category. The winning name submitted by Benji Mansfield was 'Captain Bob'. Very well done to all the children that entered and a special well done to our winners.

The trial run of the BEAR scheme in the library during the summer holidays has been highly successful and enjoyed equally by the children and their listening buddies. It has been an opportunity for children of varying reading capabilities to read a book of their choice to someone other than Mum or Dad. Listeners were not only the regular library volunteers but also willing volunteers from the local community. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank everyone who helped with the running of BEAR and particularly to Lorraine Powers for the original suggestion and her dedicated hard work.

Our book buyers have been very busy lately and there are lots of new books on the shelves so do pop in and enjoy all the benefits of your Community Library. We look forward to seeing you.

*Sue England*

## **Library Hours:**

**Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 2pm – 4:30pm**

**Wednesday 5pm – 6:50pm**

**Thursday 10am – 12:30pm**

# Tane's Ark planting progresses

A year's hard work by a group of Mapua School pupils on the Tane's Ark planting project closed with an exciting finale.

About 20 students, family members, friends and teachers were the guests of well-known TV personality and 'Bug Man' Ruud Kleinpaste for a day-long introduction to the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary in Nelson. The Sanctuary comprises 715ha of former waterworks reserve which is planned to be enclosed with a 14km predator-proof fence to allow native plants and animals to thrive in a predator free environment.

Ruud Kleinpaste and sanctuary staff member Rick Field led a day's briefing about the sanctuary and the

need to give nature a hand, the pests that threaten native animals and the importance of biodiversity. The children learned, among other things:

- Whether people can eat wood. (No, we can't digest it),
- Why slaters can eat wood. (They have a unique digestive system able to absorb cellulose), and
- Why paraphanta snails have gone soft. (Their shells are weaker than they used to be because they are suffering a shortage of calcium. This has occurred because fewer seabirds now live in the coastal native forests. In the past, seabird droppings helped increase calcium in the soil)

A succession of information snippets about our bugs, birds and pests flowed from the entertaining Ruud Kleinpaste. After a briefing in the recently completed sanctuary's visitor centre and office, he



The 'Gateway' area of the Tane's Ark planting project in the south-western corner of Aranui Park. Work on realigning the stream and a new cycle-walkway path beside the stream has been done by the Tasman District Council.

took the children on a short streamside walk to the old Brook Stream dam. On the way, he introduced the children to an array of bugs and insects that he found and explained why each was important in sustaining healthy biodiversity in our forests.

The children were excited by the information and stories Ruud had at his finger-tips. The trip proved to be stimulating, entertaining and inspiring.

Ruud is a board member of the Air New Zealand supported charity, Kids Restore New Zealand, and was in Nelson specially for the Mapua School children to acknowledge the work they have done on the Tane's Ark project. Kids Restore New Zealand aims to promote environmental awareness and leadership among school students and it has supported the Tane's Ark project with a grant for plants and to cover extra teacher assistance.

The work by the school pupils at the Tane's Ark site in Aranui Park finished for the year at the end of November with new plantings of some rare and threatened native plants and the erection of a signboard designed and produced by the children. This was followed on 3 December with a barbecue and social function organised by the team members.

About 1900 trees, shrubs and grasses have been planted in Tane's Ark in the south-western corner of Aranui Park. During February, weeding and planting of some hardy species is continuing in wetter areas. Anyone interested in helping for an hour or two, or more, in this period, please call me at 540-2873, thank you.

*David Mitchell*



Ruud Kleinpaste tells Mapua School pupils why the Nelson paraphanta snails in his hands are under threat.

# Playhouse comes back to life

The Playhouse Cafe on Westdale Road is now open again under the new management of Nic Roland and Manuela Fuhrmann. Manuela is Swiss-trained chef with over 10 years of experience working around the world in places as far off as Europe and as close as the Alpine Lodge in St Arnaud. Nic is a former TVNZ News director and television producer with a passion for music and the arts.

Together they will maintain the thespian themes of the Playhouse with theatre dining on the last Saturday of the month. The couple also aim to host touring musicians and entertainment acts from around the country and world.

With such a wonderful venue, Nic and Manu will also be shifting the focus of the Playhouse towards events and functions. They will be offering competitive full packages options for weddings, private functions and corporate events. These will include all food, drink, audio video options, use of the stage and more.

Manu and Nic are truly looking forward to joining the local area and would like to add to the community spirit as much as possible. They would encourage community groups, schools and charities to approach them with their ideas and events to be hosted at the venue. For a good cause they are willing to allow the use the stage and lighting for little or no charge.

Adding to this The Playhouse Cafe will be hosting an Arts and Craft Market Day on the second Saturday

afternoon of every month. This will allow local artists and craft people a chance to set up stalls and sell their products on the magnificent Playhouse grounds. If the weather is bad the market will be shifted inside.

Manu's menu of classical European-styled cooking harnesses local Nelson produce and is further influenced by New Zealand's international flavours. The kitchen will be open seven days a week with a casual lunch menu from 11.30am till 2.30pm and dinner from 6pm to 9pm. Supplementing this will be an all-day snack menu packed with goodies to accompany your coffee and glass of local wine.

Please call us on 540-2985 for any booking enquiries or questions. Look out for the February schedule in this newsletter.



# Noticeboard

**Coastal Connections Social Group:** The first luncheon for the New Year is at the PLAYHOUSE, 171 Westdale Road, Mapua, 10 February. Look forward to seeing you all for a delightful start to the New Year. Julie Haliday, 540 3533.

**Skye Harvest Extra Virgin Olive Oil** 2010 harvest available. 750ml bottle \$20. Ph 540 2698. email slmcleod@xtra.co.nz. Orders delivered, or call in 113 Seaton Valley Rd Mapua.

**Sailboat wanted:** I am looking for a small sailboat to buy. Larger than an optimist, say 3m plus (for an adult). I don't mind what condition the boat is in as I am happy to restore it. So if you have a boat stored away somewhere taking up space I would be happy to negotiate a price with you. Thanks. Call Fred 03 540 3246.

**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: 12 Feb, 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. Ray Kitto, 03 520 2622, 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.

**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

**YOGA with Robin** - Classes weekly. All levels welcome. Call 540 2113 for class times & information. [www.rubybayyoga.com](http://www.rubybayyoga.com)

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