

Coastal News

email: coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz

covering Mapua & Ruby Bay
run by volunteers

One man's dream – a river park plan

This subject may seem a little outside our usual district, but all of us will be familiar with the Waimea River at the Appleby Bridge as we drive to Richmond or Nelson, and one of your editors grew up on a property backing onto the Wai-iti River at Wakefield, which incidentally had a lot more water in it then! We think it is an interesting project.

One man's curiosity about river banks near his home and strong public support for more recreational use of them has led to a proposal for a new and exciting park for the Tasman District. The man who kept asking questions was a landscape architect who worked for the Department of Lands and Survey, turned-nursery owner and conservation planner, Martin Conway, who with his wife Jo, 26 years ago bought a rural property at Brightwater on the banks of the Wai-iti River. They still live close to the Titoki Nursery they established, but these days their attention is more fixed on the nearby river and the possibilities they see for it.

The vision that evolved from Martin's questions has led to a formal proposal from the Tasman District Council for a unique 400ha park stretching along the river banks, the proposed Waimea River Park. The proposal is "out there" for the public in the form of a five-page council flier that is available to those who request it, but publicity about such a major proposal has been limited. That is a pity, because it calls for explanation.

Even to those who live here, the name "Waimea" can be confusing, because the river we are familiar with when we cross the Appleby Bridge changes names several times in its journey from the mountain ranges in the south to the sea. The stretch flowing from south to north under the Appleby Bridge to the Waimea Estuary is part of the Waimea River proper, which runs for about only 8km. The Waimea is formed at a point about 3km north of Brightwater at the confluence of its two big tributaries, the Wai-iti (small river) and the Wairoa (long river).

The proposed river park would encompass most of the Waimea and short sections of the lower Wai-iti and Wairoa rivers.

While a primary objective of the park would remain flood protection and while some commercial use would

remain in the area, there is the opportunity for a wide range of recreational possibilities. These include walking and cycle tracks, a horse-riding trail and access to points on the river that could offer swimming and picnic areas. It is also a chance to rehabilitate a once beautiful river area that has been sadly degraded, a situation that also needs some explanation.

When Martin and Jo bought their Brightwater property 26 years ago, they found that running along both sides of the river for about 10km from near Brightwater to the Waimea Estuary were extensive areas of what are called "bermlands".

For the most part these riverside pastures were used for stock grazing by adjacent farmers, while close to the Appleby Bridge, a large area was used for commercial gravel extraction and crushing. Another more recent lessee has been a commercial paintball operation.

On further inquiry, Martin found that almost all of the land was owned by the Tasman District Council and the various users were occupying leased areas, with the income going back to pay for the river protection works. There was, however, relatively little provision for public recreational interest or involvement in the river area.

A total of 393ha of land was originally acquired by the council under the Public Works Act for river control purposes, with a smaller council-owned area bought for soil conservation purposes.

While flood protection of the highly productive Waimea Plain continues to be a primary goal of the council's management, a secondary goal has been protection of the sources of the Waimea aquifer, a primary water supply for Richmond and nearby settlements.

But a combination of flood protection works, heavy extraction of water for agriculture and horticulture and the demands of road builders and the construction industry for Waimea gravel have taken a heavy toll on the river.

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The Waimea River itself has been bulldozed from a former braided river largely into a single channel with the wide river berms on either side, bordered by flood banks and serving as an area to contain floodwaters when the river rises.

Huge quantities of gravel have been extracted from the riverbed, lowering it, while an area on the Richmond side of the Appleby Bridge has been turned into an industrial zone for rock and gravel crushing. The river bank works have also created four-wheel-drive access along the riverbed, which is used by hunters, recreational drivers, and also, sadly, people with rubbish and unwanted pets to dump.

According to the council's own report, the gravel extraction and river works "altered the hydrological character of the river, replaced riparian plant communities, modified in-stream and riparian wildlife habitat and changed the natural character and aesthetic appeal of the river and its margins." In short, they rubbished the river.

Today, gravel continues to be mined in huge quantities from the plains, being stripped out after topsoil has been stockpiled, with the topsoil being returned after the gravel has gone. Through all these changes the flow of the river itself has fluctuated widely, in the latter part of the 20th century progressively reducing to a miserly trickle flowing under the Appleby Bridge at the height of summer.

Thankfully, in recent years, some of the flow has returned during summer after the construction upstream of a series of dams built for irrigators. These include the Kainui and Wai-iti dams and some weirs that serve as holding pools. One of these, near Martin and Jo's home is rated a good swimming hole and picnic area for future use.

Although in the mid-19th century native trees lined the Waimea River, today Martin can walk the length of the Waimea from his home near Brightwater to the Appleby Bridge and on the fingers of one hand count the number of native trees remaining. Part of the plan for the park is to plant a range of native trees that would include the titoki, totara, beech, narrow-eaved lacebark, matai and kowhai, which have survived and flourished in a few clusters along the Wai-iti close to Brightwater.

The council's report notes that river protection work has resulted in invasive introduced plants and warns that restoration efforts are likely to require long-term commitment and also likely to be costly. "However," it says, "the berm lands offer the best, if not the only opportunity to restore seriously depleted lowland ecosystems on the Waimea Plain".

Near the confluence of the Waimea River with the Waimea E estuary at Pearl Creek is a good example of what might be achieved by replanting the river bank

area. There, a Tasman Environmental Trust programme involving Appleby School pupils and a huge amount of work to protect young plants from drought, frost and the ravages of animal pests, is finally leading to a transformation of the landscape as young plants mature into trees.

This part of the proposed park is significant historically, both for the Maori and European settler activity there.

In the early 19th century, Pearl Creek, fed by a freshwater spring, was a fishing and eeling area for up to 200 Maori who lived at the nearby Waimea Pa (near the site of the present Appleby School). Research has shown that they were accomplished horticulturists on a huge scale. They had enhanced over 480ha of soil so that it could produce good crops of kumara. By adding fine gravels to break up the loamy soil and using phosphate-rich wood ash from fires, they were able to increase fertility to such an extent that 200 years later, recognisable "Maori soils" of high fertility remain in the area.

However, in 1828, the Waimea Pa was sacked by invading northern tribes under the leadership of Te Rauparaha. Survivors dispersed and Maori did not return in any numbers to live in the Waimea area. When New Zealand Company settlers arrived in the area in 1842, the land was vacant, and some of the oldest Nelson settler families established there.

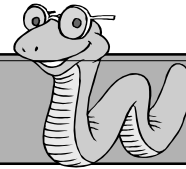
For example, O'Connor families still resident in the area are descended from brothers, Patrick and John O'Connor. They arrived from Ireland in Nelson in 1849 and 1853 respectively, and started farming in the Waimea area soon after. John Cottrell, the surveyor contracted by the New Zealand Company to survey Waimea West, helped to establish a twice-weekly ferry service from a point upstream of Pearl Creek to Nelson so that people could avoid an arduous journey negotiating the swampland between Waimea and Nelson.

About 2km south of the Appleby Bridge at a place called Challies Island, there is a further glimpse of what might be possible on a bigger scale. There, Nelson Marlborough Fish and Game has overseen excavation of an abandoned channel of the Waimea to create ponds surrounded by native plantings, making an attractive wildlife habitat for game-birds like ducks.

Initially, Martin's inquiries were about greater public access to the broad shouldered stopbanks on either side of the river. The 2-metre high banks, about 3-metres wide and stretching the length of the river on either side, make an ideal walking or cycling route, giving glimpses of the river and expansive views of

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Coastal Garden Group



Our esteemed chairman, Barry, was away so Max led the June meeting. We had another good turnout with 48 members attending. The new Garden club library was on show. There's a nominal charge of 50c to take a book out. If anyone has any garden books to spare, donations are most welcome.

The order list for Ravensdown fertilisers was passed round for last-minute orders. (The fertilisers were duly collected and delivered to the people who had put in orders the Monday after the meeting. I thus found myself with a half-ton of lime on my hands, well, in my trailer anyway. This kept me busy that afternoon.) We were updated on the progress in obtaining the new plants for the rhododendron dell for Aranui park. Bunnings kindly offered to donate some plants. Our application to the Mapua/Ruby Bay and Community Trust was successful and we have a grant for \$250 to spend on plants for the rhododendron dell.

The garden notes for the month included: compost leaves, this works well in a bag with blood and bone. Burn diseased leaves. Veges: plant broccoli, cauliflower, shallots, marigolds, calendulas (funny veges? – well I guess you can eat them on salads). Spray fruit trees with lime sulphur then prune. Plant lavender round fruit trees to prevent codling moth. Remember the birds! Plant new roses in June. If removing roses make sure you remove all soil around them, as diseases can lurk in the soil.

Our speaker was Vanessa Phillips from the *Nelson Mail*. Vanessa explained that she came from a family with a strong gardening background. Her great-grandfather and grandfather both had nursery businesses in the area. She started her journalistic career as a crime reporter writing about gory murders. After a while she trained as a florist for a change, but then went back to

journalism as the main garden writer and chief reporter for the *Nelson Mail*. If you've read her column 'Dirt Cheap' in the *Nelson Mail*, you can see that she counts the savings she makes by growing her own fruit and veges, more than \$800 to date.

Most of the ideas she writes about in her articles she tries at home first, for example no-dig gardening. She went on to explain her ongoing battle with weeds. She smothers them with cardboard and manure, only to get new weeds sprouting from the manure! She's really big on manure: she collects it at every opportunity, for example when her husband's doing moto cross, she can be caught walking round bagging manure or scooping it up while the pony show is going on at the Richmond showground.

She says her main problem to date has been her impatience, and gave an example of how she pulled up her yams while they were far too small. She made us laugh by pulling out her prize (??) pumpkin from her bag, all of 5cm across!!

We broke early and had a nice relaxing tea, since we weren't pressed for time. The quality and quantity of food was fabulous, my compliments to those who provided it.

We had a good selection of interesting plants in the Bloom Cluster Shrub competition and then had the usual auction, with lots of oranges, lemons, limes and tamarillos for sale. The big item this month was a fig tree that sold for \$16.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 2nd July. We will talk about garden pests, large or small. We meet at 1pm for a 1.15pm start in the Supper Room at the Mapua Village Hall. If you would like to join us, either as a visitor or a potential member, please come along. All enquires to Max Hornblow (540-2718).

Richard Bamfield, secretary

the plains and the various horticultural enterprises. There was public support for the concept. These days, there is walkway access along the stopbank, limited only by a shortage of points to get on and off the bank and the presence of an electric fence that controls stock movement the length of the route.

Martin hopes that there might be widespread public support for a managed park with better facilities for walking, cycling and other non-intrusive activities. There is scope for better access to the walking and cycling tracks from side roads on the Waimea West side, making it possible to make shorter round trips, and scope for development of parking, picnic and swimming places.

There is scope too for appropriate recognition for the Maori community who were the first farmers of the Waimea Plains. Above all, there is an opportunity to modify the compromised, bulldozed look of much of the Waimea and to restore it to something closer to the beautiful river it should be.

If you support the council's plan to improve and enhance the Waimea River banks with the Waimea River Park, please send your views to the TDC before the deadline on July 24. Submission forms are available from the writer at: wetland@mapua.gen.nz.

David Mitchell

Community Association

The chair, Devin Gallagher, commented on the excellent job done on the pavement area opposite the Mapua library and he congratulated Steve Elkington of TDC for organising a neat and quick job.

He welcomed everyone to the meeting, a good turnout with well over 55 people attending, including the Mayor, Richard Kempthorne. But before the Mayor got his turn, the meeting was brought well up to speed on a number of projects by TDC and NZ Transport Agency staff.

Ruby Bay by-pass

Proposed cycleways and walkways strategy: Garry Clarke briefed the meeting on the work he had been undertaking on the cycleway & walkways strategy as part of the 10-year plan. Part of that process was consideration of connecting cycle facilities around the by-pass. Cycleway and walkway projects from years 2 and 3 of the 10-year plan would now be brought into year 1 so that all linkages associated with the by-pass will happen when the by-pass is completed. This news was well received.

Garry further informed those present that in terms of the 10-year plan and the second value cycle link planned for year 6, that project may be able to be shifted closer to dovetail into the Tasman cycleway tourism proposal.

Higgs Reserve Information and Parking Area

Mathew Taylor said that part of the by-pass construction package includes the construction of a car park on the remaining low-lying part of Higgs Reserve. The plan for this was developed some years back as an interpretation of the Higgs family and community's desire for an information and stopping point for the benefit of the public and to showcase what Mapua has to offer.

The reserve was gifted by the Higgs family, some of whom attended the meeting to explain the background of what was envisaged when it was gifted to the community as a reserve to be administered by the TDC.

The timeline was critical so the community needs to be aware of the opportunity and whether this is the appropriate development of this part of the park or whether a revised proposal which avoids filling this former wetland can be agreed on.

Since the initial proposal dated back some years, further thought had been put into the idea as per the proposal sent out to members of the association earlier in the week by email.

The difficulties of the proposed access point, where car parking would best be placed and how the reserve might be developed, were extensively discussed.

Adjacent landowners voiced concern that this was the first time they had heard about the proposal, while others queried where pedestrian links to bus stops were planned for the properties adjacent to the estuary.

The main point about this was that the proposal would have to be completed within this calendar year as part of the by-pass project. The community would be consulted as part of that process before the strategy was finalised.

Members were invited to express through the association any concerns they may have.

Engineering Projects

David Stephenson of the TDC provided an overview of projects, in particular the resource consent for the seawall was now in place, with tender documents being finalised for review. These will be advertised early in July. The tender period was likely to be four weeks so potentially construction would begin around September. In parallel with this process, discussions would continue with neighbouring landowners as part of the seawall project.

The Seaton Valley Stream & Causeway Upgrade had been a long time coming and the council was now working through consenting issues. The council was hopeful for final sign-off fairly soon and tender documents would be advertised in June.

Council was present reviewing some of the investigative work done four years ago in regard to the Ruby Bay stormwater upgrade in light of some new rainfall and climate change projections. Meanwhile, some work would be done in Chaytor Reserve to improve seawater floodgate intake.

Last year extensive investigation work took place for replacement of sewerage pipes in the estuary. It had now been determined that the pipes can be joined up, cleaned and re-lined and that work will be done in due course. Iwi and Historic Places Trust had been involved in this process. Replacement of the pipeline across to Rabbit Island treatment plant was about to go to public tender.

The council has undertaken public consultation process in Motueka for applying for reticulated water supply; if that all goes ahead, it will be an 8-year project with a total cost of \$19m. Not a cheap exercise but will provide better water supply to Mapua and Tasman coastal area.

Mayor's Comments: The Mayor, Richard Kempthorne, provided a brief overview on a number of issues going on within the community, including the Mapua clean-up site and the imminent site auditor's report.

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Community Association contd:

The proposed cycle project for the district was a very strong and exiting proposal with great tourism potential for the district.

The LTCCP 10-year draft document had received 4700 submissions with 370 people speaking to their submission over a period of eight days, a huge process for council staff. Some of the more thought-provoking issues have been considered and recommendations currently being deliberated. The plan will then go to Audit NZ and then for sign-off on 30 June.

AGM: The Annual General Meeting of the association will be held on Monday 10th August. The Chair invited anyone who may be interested in joining the committee to make contact and everyone from the community was invited to attend.

Pam Stinton, secretary

Moutere Hills RSA

June was the AGM of the sub branch and was attended by 12 members as well as Bill Hunter, area president, and David Wallace, Nelson president. In the absence of President Norm Thawley the meeting was chaired by senior Vice-President Bob Bright. A welcome was extended to new members David England and John Sharman.

All existing officers were re-elected except for Harry Jardine who declined nomination because of ill-health

David Wallace congratulated the president on his comprehensive report and the branch on an impressive Poppy Day result. He also referred to the shift of Nelson RSA from the Maitai Club to the Suburban Club.

Bill Hunter congratulated the club on the attendance at this AGM. He referred to the service given by voluntary workers within the RSA and spoke on the restructure of welfare services for service people under the auspices of Sir Geoffrey Palmer and the coming seminar in Wellington to update welfare members in the systems available.

Although we have given some publicity to the branch's offer to assist young people who wish to join the Motueka Cadet Unit, so far we have had no response. The Unit's Training Officer will make a presentation at Mapua School outlining the type of training available within the cadets. This includes bush craft, leadership, rifle training, navigation and first aid.

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Police Update

Hi all. Winter is certainly here. Be extra cautious on those icy roads in the mornings and evenings and allow yourself a few more minutes to make a journey. Hope you are all managing to stay warm. Unfortunately we have noticed an increase in domestic incidents which I guess is partly to do with the economic situation the country is going through. If you are aware of couples under stress try to offer them support or advice—I can certainly put them onto assistance for finances or relationship assistance.

Some minor damage is being done in the Village and there was one burglary. Fuel is still an easy target if you let it be.

*Grant Heney, Rural Community Constable,
Motueka. Ph: 03) 528-1226 (Direct dial)*

Occurrences:

June 18: Male arrested for assaulting female, Ruby Bay

June 16: Male arrested for assaulting female and possession of offensive weapon, Iwa Street

June 14: Accident Seaton Valley, car v motorcycle. Found mountain bike, black Gt Avalanche brand.

June 7: Burglary Higgs Road, white Rotec benchtop oven stolen

May 30: Male drink-driver, Ruby Bay

May 29: Damage at wharf. Small fires lit

May 26: Accident Permin Road/SH60. Elderly driver goes through fence

May 25: Ball bearing fired through window, Pomona Road

May 24: 16-year-old male dealt with for cannabis possession, Gardner Valley Road

23 May: Domestic, Aranui Road. Domestic, Citrus Grove. Attempted suicide, Leisure Park.

May 22: Window broken at Hamish's Ice Cream Parlour

Mahana School

Mahana School's focus on inspiring leadership has gained momentum amongst a group of students who have put their hands up to become involved in this latest initiative.

The objective is to encourage the students to take an active role in enhancing various aspects of the school environment.

One of the areas that appealed to a splinter group of the leadership team was that of media. These six students all keen on writing have proven a valuable source for reporting on what has been happening within the school lately.

So, the content of this contribution has been provided by Mahana School's new reporters.

As for their colleagues, the media team reported that a small team focused on enhancing the library facility have also been proactive; drafting a request they asked Jenny in the office to print in the school newsletter. They petitioned parents to assist with repairing books and helping sort old books for a book sale to raise funds for replacements and new equipment.

The outdoors leadership team have a comprehensive action plan including developing veggie gardens and enhancing the playground, to name a few items.

On the sporting front the Mahana team performed well at the recent "under 100" schools Rippa Rugby tournament at the Upper Moutere domain, winning their semi-final heat and qualifying for the finals due to be played at Tahuna soon. Gymnastics is the next major event for the year four and up students soon to be held at the Motueka Recreation Centre.

As for events, the school will host a Matariki on 26 June. The day before is planned to be the preparation day. The following week the students will be running a cafe on 3 July. Each class will be catering a course for the meal, with the seniors responsible for the main, the middle room doing the desserts and the juniors in charge of the sides. What better way to see out the last day of term and to prove culinary ability to all the parents invited on the day?

The media team also covered class learning experiences, recording the details for a proposed new

year-book and content for this publication. They gave an account of the year 7 and 8 trip to Whenua Iti where they participated in abseiling and the trapeze. Our junior reporter gave an account of how the junior room had been learning about the significance of poppies on Anzac Day. The class painted pictures of poppies and learned of the history of the flower.

For further information about Mahana School and to view our children's recent activities, visit us on www.mahana.school.nz – much of the content on the site has been contributed by our pupils.

If you are considering a school in the district and would like to have a look around, please call Jenny in the office on 543-2887 to arrange an appointment.

Thanks to our school reporters for this content: Briar (11), Josie (9), Kate (9), Sapphira (7), Elizabeth (7) and Thomas B (5). On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Mahana School

Mapua & Districts Soccer Club

Team profiles

Our 9th grade Dragons have had a perfect start to the season with four wins and a draw so far. They are top of the "A" league and are all playing beautifully as a team. It is a pleasure to watch their progress from last year.

Andy Price

The Mapua Midgets have had a great turnout this year with 26 registered players. We have three Mapua teams and on Saturdays we play games against two teams from Rangers and one team from Motueka.

All the kids seem to be really enjoying it and we look as though we have some future star players within the group.

Craig McMiken

Councillor's comment

Mid-winter and one starts thinking of spending time basking in the sun at some exotic destination. The present economic situation and the presence of swine flu will, for many, dampen any thoughts of boarding a plane. When one looks at the weather in other parts of the country we are indeed fortunate to miss out on those screaming southerlies, snow and icy roads.

Finally, after many months of workshops and consultation with the community, The Tasman District Council has finalised its vision for the next 10 years through the Long Term Community Plan. This has been a huge process, especially for staff who have worked long hours putting together this document, as well as continuing with their day-to-day work. There has also been a great deal of work done by the various community associations and other groups in the district compiling a list of projects that they would like to see funded and implemented over the next 10 years. The Mapua/Ruby Bay area was well represented by many groups including the Community Association. One comment from councillors that may be worth considering for the future was that these groups should work together in presenting one submission on behalf of the area and prioritise their requests in order of importance. The TDC, in deciding on the General Rate for this coming year, has been mindful not only of affordability concerns from ratepayers, but also considered it important, as a major employer in the region through its various work projects, to maintain a positive direction for the local economy during these difficult economic times.

Council staff together with assistance from local Maori iwi groups and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust have been involved in a project updating cultural

heritage sites throughout the district. The aim of this is to ensure that activities around the district do not damage archaeological artifacts, or cultural values held by local Maori. While sites are located all over the district there is a higher density of sites in coastal areas such as around Mapua, Motueka and the Golden Bay coastline. A Cultural Heritage Sites database and draft changes to the Tasman Resource Management Plan are available for public viewing and comments..

Another recent release for public comment is changes to Part IV of the Tasman Resource Management Plan relating to the management of activities in rivers and lakes. These changes are about protecting and enhancing water quality, river ecosystems, fish passage, sustainable management of river beds and activities which take place on waterways. There will be a number of open days held around the district where councillors and staff will be available to answer questions.

One of the activities which the council has increased support for is the building of cycle ways and the Mapua/Ruby Bay and Tasman area has benefited from this with the bringing forward of funding in the 09/10 year to build the cycle paths leading from the Ruby Bay by-pass at Dominion Road, Seaton Valley/Gardner Valley Roads and Harley Road. Another project which is being planned by commercial interests to tap into the Government funding of \$50million for Tourism cycle ways are potential routes from Richmond to Tapawera and Richmond to Motueka via Mapua and Tasman. The potential business opportunities along these routes will be exciting as can be seen by the success of the Otago Rail Trail.

Cr Brian Ensor

Under the bonnet with Fred

American Muscle

We have all seen that yellow Mustang convertible around Mapua, but there's something different—raised bonnet with two nostril-like air intakes, painted “chrome yellow,” chrome wheels and two white racing strips to add to its go-fast appearance—a 1968 Ford Shelby Mustang, a limited-edition race-modified car, all muscle.

Wayne and Annie Coster's 1968 Mustang was bought in August 1993 from a 40-year-old surfer in Costa Mesa, south of Los Angeles, who used to just jam his surf board under the dash and across the passenger seat to travel between good surf spots! Interesting to note the car was found by a professional car-spotter who found specialist cars for clients. Also bought for the car was a Shelby makeover kit to bring the car to race-modified, and definitely an increase in status.

Importing the car in 1993 required 33% duty and 10% GST but required only to show the US ownership papers to register the car. No third-degree compliance like today. Amazingly, Wayne took two months and two days to do engine modification and a full back-to-bare-metal repaint job, ready as a show car for the Mustang Conference that year. I took five years to do up my first Cadillac!

Down in the basement parked in darkness, the yellow car seemed to be waiting to prove itself. Lifting the hood (bonnet), chrome engine components give a view of the powerful 240bhp V8 engine. Engine 5.0 litres (302cu in) with race-modified four-barrel carburettor, high spec ignition system, and engine bay strengthened with a Monte Carlo bar between wheel struts to contain the torque. The transmission is modified to respond to acceleration, necessary, as I was soon to find out.

Bridgestone chrome alloy wheels and tyres. The Mustang weighs 1.2 tonnes and a 240bhp engine makes this a go-fast car.

Inside the car seats are tan vinyl with a white adjustable-tilt steering wheel with a real 60s chrome horn ring. Kids, ask your parents what a horn ring is. All instrumentation is in the right place, highlighted with chrome. There is an electric convertible top and the coolest thing for a 60s sport car—a T-bar shift on the automatic transmission all in chrome. Not much space in the back seat as the car is only 15ft 4in (4.66m) long.



“Do you want to go for a drive?” asked Wayne. Of course I said yes. We rumbled down Pine Hill Road, left-turn onto the Coastal Highway to Motueka, a blaze of noise and acceleration, first right by the water, with me crying, “Hey Wayne! Wayne!” Too late, we're round the

corner. We did slow a little for the next right, but the transmission changed down again and we were doing XXmph (*figure deleted, Editor*), up the bluff, slowed for the hard left at the top, me trying to relax and trust the car, my right (brake) foot still planted hard on the floor. We cruised up to Tasman with the wind wafting our hair, adding to the sensation of speed with the engine rumbling, waiting to roar. This American sports car is an adventure waiting to happen. A yellow rocket in its own right.

Thank you to Wayne and Annie for bringing your business, Southern Mustang, to Ruby Bay—interesting cars going by and employment for locals.

Fred Cassin

Animal Health File

Dr. Paula Short Tasman Bay Vets

69 Aranui Road, Mapua ph: 5402329

Recession-proofing your pet

As the current economic recession bites we are finding that more and more people are enquiring about pet insurance as they are looking to fix their living costs as much as possible. Having worked in England a few years back where pet insurance is very popular, I am still at a loss to explain why not all that many New Zealander's have taken to the idea.

From a veterinarian's perspective we find that it gives us the opportunity to pursue both medical and surgical cases further than might normally be possible. There are a huge range of new technologies and techniques becoming available in veterinary science these days, but as you can imagine they do not come cheap. For example, we frequently refer orthopaedic and spinal cases to a veterinary specialist in Christchurch, where major surgery can easily cost \$3000 to \$4000. The specialists also now regularly use technologies such as MRI scans and these alone can cost over \$1000.

We have quite a few clients now who have taken up pet insurance and been very pleased with it. For most people the major benefit of pet insurance is knowing that should anything happen to their pet they will have the financial assistance of the insurance company in paying a large part of the veterinary

expenses that arise. Unfortunately when a pet becomes ill it is usually very unexpected and thus the bill is unexpected too. With pet insurance you make regular, small payments of a fixed amount.

For most people one of the first experiences they have with paying a vet bill is when having their pet neutered (some pet insurance policies cover this too). So this is the yardstick against which they may measure the likely cost when something goes wrong. However, most veterinary clinics heavily subsidise the cost of neutering to encourage pet owners to neuter their animals and thus reduce the size of the unwanted pet population. We often fail to explain this well to our clients, who are then surprised when they visit with a cat requiring surgery for an abscess and find out it costs far more than speying the cat did!

There are three main pet insurance companies in New Zealand, Ellenco, Pet N Sur and Pet Protect, and we can give you information brochures on all of them. As with all insurance policies it pays to read the fine print and ask carefully about any areas you do not understand especially if you have a pedigree breed as some breed exclusions may apply for certain medical conditions.

Garden Notes

July—often the coldest month and worst weather of the year. Frost begins to strike, burning or killing tender plants. Frost can be beneficial in killing those nasty bugs and for breaking up rough soil left lying in the vege garden. But I hate frost, coming as I do from the deep south—Gore, to be exact.

A few warm days may tempt the avid gardener to venture outside, but the wise will wait at least until the soil warms a little and the danger of severe frosts has passed. Roll on spring, I say. Remember that pests don't give up on the winter garden easily. So keep a sharp eye out for them and deal with them.

Tasks for July: Prune hydrangeas, fuschsias and roses; regularly trim conifer hedges. From now on plant rhubarb corms, build up the vege beds with

compost and if weather permits this is a good time to plant a new hedge.

Daphne Odora is the feature plant for July with its heavy scent and a promise of spring around the corner. Daphnes like acid soil. Another well-known feature plant is Clyclamen Persicum, a Mother's Day plant that can be grown outdoors here in Tasman. It is semi-hardy if grown in a sheltered place, and flowers for a long period.

Cymbidium orchid is another beauty which can be grown outdoors at a water's edge. Orchid mix is in shops and best used when planting outdoors. I have found them quite hardy and they flower freely when established. They should not be in full sun, though. These are two to try should you wish.

Barry Highsted

Letters to the Editor...

French adventure

Five weeks now in the northern hemisphere, far away from home. What's going on in Mapua? Why of course, just look at the *Coastal News* on the net! Easy. The June issue full of news and items of interest. Lots of local input. The editor must be pleased. Cycle and walkways, Ruby Coast etc. Don't forget to mention the Ruby Bay by-pass, Hugh. Well, I'm pleased to see it's right on track despite a few weather delays. Thank you Jo and Marc at DownerWorksEDI.

Shona and I are spending a week in the Liburon Valley near St. Saturin-les-Apt in the south of France. Brushing up on French phrases and pronunciation while we absorb the atmosphere and natural beauty of this part of the country. Cezanne, followed by Picasso then a flood of artists have immortalised Provence with their paintings. Peter Mayle has immortalised it another way. His book, *A Year in Provence*, and its sequels brought the visitors in numbers. Tourists and tourism have made a huge impact on both the economy and to some extent the culture of the region. In many respects a situation similar to the Nelson/Golden Bay area in the past 10 to 15 years. Some of the effects positive in terms of economics; some not so positive in the inflated property values.

The agriculture here is of particular interest in the number of small holdings which typify the district. Vineyards, fruit orchards, lavender fields and small plots of cereal crops. Many small wineries. Few sheep. No dairy farms. The French Government in its wisdom subsidises its agriculture and restricts imports. This policy enables the countless small farmers to stay in business. In Provence at least, it has allowed a whole way of life to continue and thus preserve their cultural heritage. There are very few empty shops in the

villages. Tourist boutiques and real estate offices replacing many more traditional ones but the baker, butcher, fruit and vege shops are still present. Local street markets everywhere. Every village has "its day".

The farmers are up to date with modern methods and machinery. There appears to be a considerable amount of co-op style arrangements. The organic farming movement is growing rapidly as well, which is good to see. The cherry orchards here are laden with a spectacular display of scarlet fruit. Harvesting is in full swing with both hand and mechanised picking. Cherries are not an expensive indulgence around here! Both plentiful and inexpensive. We are taking advantage of the opportunity

Subsidised agriculture and restricted imports not your thing? Don't like the concept? There are two sides to this argument of course but we have seen very, very few "made-in-China" labels on anything. International trade agreements? Hmm, I wonder?

Back to cycle and walkways. Our impression so far is that the French are very forward in both their thinking and planning when it comes to such matters. Well established walking tracks are everywhere around here. Cyclists and more cyclists. This forward thinking and planning extends to the bigger picture as well. At first glance we were a bit staggered by all the cars, trucks and people. But remembering we are being confronted by a scale of things far in excess of New Zealand we began to realise that underneath it all, there is a huge awareness here of the problems confronting their society in terms of pollution, peak oil, global warming and sea rise. Both the public and the private sectors are actively pursuing remedies and possible solutions. There are many lessons here to be absorbed.

We return to New Zealand next month and will be richer in knowledge of places and persons. Hopefully wiser in the way of things as well. The word is, "think positive."

Hugh Gordon

By-pass progress report

Weather this past month has impacted on progress on the Ruby Bay by-pass, with rain from the 9th to the 13th June putting a halt to all work. However, the weather has once again picked up and everything is back on track. Work continues through the forest corridor from the Seaton Valley intersection north with further bulk earthworks and trimming of batters. Also work is still affecting traffic on SH60 with two truck-crossings in place at times and so continued co-operation from the public is requested. We have shifted more than 800,000 cubic metres of material to date on the project and work has begun on four of the seven major culverts.

Major milestones in June were:

1 Continued undercutting and bulk-fill operations in Dominion flats with fill from Apple Valley West area

2 Began construction of a reinforced soil wall in a steep gully adjacent to Chaytor Road

3 Continuation of construction of Tasman 2 (Lower Field Creek) major culvert with Aquadam still in place to keep work site free of tidal and creek influence

4 Setting precast wing walls at Tasman pedestrian underpass begun

5 Continued laying subbase (initial pavement layer) through forest corridor. Have now laid a total of 1.8km

Looking forward:

Now that signs of the wet season have arrived, over the next few weeks we will implement a number of sediment and erosion control measures to ensure



the site is fully prepared for any adverse weather we do encounter. These measures will include straw mulching some of the exposed areas, which will reduce surface erosion and scour potential, also constructing more sediment ponds to treat dirty water run-off.

Work will be complete at Tasman 1 culvert inlet and outlet (Upper Field Creek), allowing for the final fish and eel salvage and relocation to take place. Tasman 1 culvert (Lower Field Creek) will be completed and the Aquadam removed, allowing Field Creek to flow through and out into the estuary. Establishment into Trafalgar Estuary so work can start on the extension of the existing culvert. Earthworks will continue at the bottom of Chaytor Road, cut to fill into Dominion Flats and at Apple Valley West as well as continuing through the forest corridor.

Jo Orr, Environmental Manager, Downer EDI Works

Mapua Health Centre

The Ministry of Health has decided to reclassify the swine flu from a “Contain It” to a “Manage It” priority. This means that the H1N1 virus is now in our communities and we will be treating this illness in much the same way we treat seasonal influenza. The policy states that “people who become unwell with any type of influenza will be expected to stay home and look after themselves, and call their GP only if they develop more serious illness or if they have serious chronic conditions (heart failure, severe lung disease, severe asthma) which put them at risk of a more serious illness”. This way health services can look after those who get complications or have other medical needs.

Treatment with antivirals – Tamiflu and Relenza – will be prescribed only for people with more severe influenza or those at higher risk of complications. Most people who have a normal flu-like illness are expected to stay in home isolation in order not to spread the virus, but contacts who are well will not need to put themselves into quarantine. Frequent hand-washing has been shown to decrease the spread of viruses and the use of extra vitamins B1, B3, C & D and zinc may help decrease the severity and length of upper respiratory tract infections. If you are concerned about having more serious symptoms please phone the Health Centre (540-2211) to arrange assessment.

It has been very sad for our community and the staff of the Health Centre that Peter Young passed away on 2nd of June. Peter has been a major force behind introducing public access to hyperbaric oxygen services into New Zealand as well as providing rescue and treatment services in other countries and offshore facilities around the world. Here in Mapua he set up a state-of-the-art hyperbaric oxygen chamber that has already treated many patients with some excellent outcomes. His extensive expertise, caring nature, passion for life, innovative imagination and wonderful sense of humour have endeared him to all of us who have had the privilege to work with him. He will be greatly missed.

If you are not familiar with hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) it is about using 100% oxygen at higher than normal pressures in order to speed up the recovery from certain injuries and to improve the body's ability to heal from a variety of conditions. The helpfulness of HBOT lies in its ability to produce much greater amounts of oxygen in the tissues of the body. The increase in pressure of oxygen with HBOT is a lot higher than breathing pure oxygen at normal pressure

and up to 15 times higher than breathing air. It is this increased saturation of oxygen in our body tissues that can accelerate the natural healing process

Health promotion events for this month:

July 20-26 Women's Refuge Awareness
www.womensrefuge.org.nz

July 27-Aug 2 Alzheimer's "Forget Me Not"
www.alzheimers.org.nz

July 26-Aug 2 Māori Language Week
www.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz

Also:

July 3 Term 2 ends - Primary, Intermediate & Secondary

July 20 Term 2 begins - Primary, Intermediate & Secondary

VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

May-June call-outs

May 2: Non-permitted rubbish fire Bronte Rd. No action taken but told to get permit next time.

May 17: Two-car accident, nose-to-tail SH60 & Domain Rd. Following too close.

May 22: Tyre burning Hewetson Rd, Upper Moutere. Put out.

May 26: Car in ditch SH60 near Marriages Rd. Medical assistance.

May 26: Permitted burn Bronte Rd, no action taken.

June 6: Hot ashes put on rubbish pile, caught on fire and spread toward pine trees. Owner put it out.

June 15: Motor-cycle hit car doing 3-point turn on Seaton Valley Rd. Rider taken to hospital.

June 19: Called to Tasman/Kina accident. Wrong address.

**Safety Tip – Clean chimneys two times a year.
Burn only dry wood.**



Sam's Spam

July 2009

Hi readers, Sam here. Can you believe that I have been writing this column for over two years and was only 14 when I started? The reason I am telling you this is because I would like to thank the editorial team of the *Coastal News* (all of whom are volunteers) for recently nominating me for a Youth Volunteer Award. These are designed to “celebrate the voluntary efforts of young people” in the Nelson/Tasman region and certificates were presented at a ceremony evening held at The New Hub.

As it is now winter, this month's topic, “Keeping your computer cool,” might seem a little strange! However, I recently had a hardware problem with my own laptop and had to get it repaired as it was overheating. This was caused by a dust build-up because I have the bad habit of putting my laptop on the bed to use it. I found more details about overheating causes on Stuff: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/technology/gadgets/2484408/Keep-your-computer-cool>

This article says, “Do not use laptops on uneven surfaces (like beds); air intakes and outlets are often located on the bottom and these are easily blocked.”

Other useful tips are:

In general, do not cover air holes in any computer case—they are needed for cooling.

Even if your house is spotless, the inside of your computer probably will not be. Gently blow out

accessible ports and air ducts with low-pressure air and use a soft brush to clear external air ducts. Avoid using vacuum cleaners, as they create static electricity which is instant death to computer hardware.

To test desktops, hold your hand near the fan outlets; the air should feel warm, but not fan-heater hot. If in doubt, get it checked.

Laptops are different. They have to keep everything cool while using as little space and battery power as possible. This often results in cooling systems that are barely adequate—dust build-up or a fan slowdown and problems begin.

My problem with the laptop overheating caused it to run slowly and sometimes shut down. If you are having problems, take it to a professional. When it comes to hardware repairs, don't try this at home!

Free download of the month: Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack for 2007 File Formats

One problem many of my customers have is that they cannot open Microsoft Word documents attached to e-mails they receive. This is usually because the documents that are sent to them are in Office 2007 format, which is incompatible with other versions of Microsoft Office. Microsoft has released an update to overcome this problem. You can find the free download at www.microsoft.com/downloads

BOOK REVIEW

This month Ro Cambridge reviews Cancer Vixen, by Marisa Acocella Marchetto. All books reviewed in this monthly column are available from the Mapua Library

This month I review a comic book about breast cancer. Like *I Had a Black Dog*, a picture book on depression which was reviewed last month, it falls somewhere between memoir, self-help and graphic novel. Both books stand out for their fresh approach to challenging topics like cancer and mood disorder. They also dispel the notion that picture books and comics are only for children, or should be only about childish subjects.

In reviewing *I had a Black Dog* British actor Stephen Fry (who not incidentally suffers from depression) commented on the “wit, insight, economy and complete understanding” contained in the deceptively simple picture book format. This is absolutely true of this month’s book, *Cancer Vixen*.

However, *Cancer Vixen* is visually quite a different book although its author/illustrator also tackles a serious subject. When Manhattanite Marisa Acocella Marchetto was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 43 she had an established career a cartoonist. In this book she has used her cartooning skills to document her diagnosis and treatment. *Cancer Vixen* has a much more frankly comic book style than *Black Dog* and this might deter some readers. However, it is this filmic quality of comics which makes the book so expressive: sudden jumps in time and perspective, colour, exaggeration, strong characterisation and visual shorthand.

Marchetto’s eye for the telling detail, lively sense of humour and the exuberance of her drawings makes us care about her and care about her story. We are invited into an intimate relationship with Marchetto as she goes through 11-months of treatment and meet the cast list that is her life—her fiancé, parents and friends, doctors and nurses. It’s a slight exaggeration to suggest that *Cancer Vixen* is *Sex in the City* meets *Serious Cancer Memoir* but it’s a close thing—we attend clinics and surgeries with Marchetto, but we also attend Manhattan restaurant openings and parties with her. We are entertained and moved by her interactions with her larger-than-life fiancé, mother and friends. While Marchetto is all guts and determination, a super hero in high-heels for much of the time, she lets us in on her fear of death, the bewildering choices of treatment and the indignities and boredoms of becoming a cancer patient.

As with all comics, the book uses comparatively few words as the pictures convey so much about setting, mood and character. This makes the book an “easy read”

MAPUA LIBRARY

Ph 540-2545

Have you ever been in the library and noticed parents sitting on the window seats in the sun reading to their children? Those of us on duty really love to see this—it really warms our book-loving hearts to see adults passing on a love of reading to the next generation.

We have an excellent variety of books in the children’s and young adults’ sections and are always adding to these with Rose and Ali (our book selectors) keeping a keen eye on new publications. This was really evident when the recent NZ Post Children’s Book Awards were announced, we were immediately able to display most of the books listed as winners. We were also delighted to note that one of our local young readers, Rhea duFresne-Mann, had written the review for the *Nelson Mail* on Kate de Goldi’s novel *The 10pm Question* which is in stock. Well done Rhea.

We are looking at providing more accessible storage for the very young readers picture book area. There is a huge demand in this area for books as the library also supplies the two child care establishments as well as community families. We are often asked how many books may be borrowed at one time. Our usual response has been “as many as you a parent/caregiver can manage and get back to the library within the three-week issue period”. We do not want to put limits on the number issued so we do ask that care is given to having books back by the due date so that everyone can enjoy the full variety that the library offers.

You may have also noticed that we are not a ‘hushed’ library. Members sometimes comment that they love the buzz they hear when they come in to select a book. Well, we are a happy, slightly noisy library and we enjoy providing a venue where the community can meet and discuss the latest book, their latest travel plans, or just have a chat. There will be no frowns from our librarians on duty!!

School holidays are approaching and we are looking forward to seeing our younger readers during these two weeks. The local Genealogy Group will have a display in the Exhibition Space and will have a little competition for children to complete. They will also

Contd

while never glossing over the realities of dealing with a life-threatening illness. Medium and message are uniquely bound together in this book. It offers a positive and yet unflinching perspective on the experience of breast cancer.

MAPUA COMBINED PROBUS

The guest speaker for Probus in June was David Melville representing the Ornithologist Society of New Zealand and his talk was on the bar-tailed godwits. He was able to use his laptop and projector to outline his talk on these migratory birds. David showed a map of the country giving the coastal areas of both main islands where the birds spend their summer months. A large number of the birds are found around the Tasman coastline, especially Cape Farewell Spit.

During their time here the birds moult and grow new sets of feathers. They also feed well on various beach insects. From September to April the birds almost double their weight. Their arrival weight being about 285 grams and they depart at around 470 grams.

The birds fly north at the end of our summer via Australia along the Pacific Coast, spending a short stop over in Japan, Korea or China. During 1994 to the year 2000, there has been an estimated decline of some 20,000 godwits. David's theory on their declining numbers was that China had developed a large sea wall that restricted a large feeding area for the birds.

The godwits continue north to their final destination of Alaska and the Yukar Delta Reserve, an area of some 27% the size of New Zealand. During the

northern summer the birds breed, and feed well to build up their body fat in preparation for their flight south to New Zealand. The non-stop flight is over 11,000km over nine days.

Other interesting photos were of the godwits' various coloured identification tags fitted around their legs, and satellite-tracking devices attached to their bodies. The tracking devices gave accurate information on their migratory flights.

The club's mini speaker was Peter Clark from Nelson speaking about his new business of selling Lazar bikes. During his time in London he was involved in selling Lazar bikes. Peter showed the bike with its 20-inch wheels. The bike is powered by a large rechargeable battery set behind the seat. The battery has an average life of four years at a present cost of \$700. On a fully charged battery the bike could cover about 40km. The other interesting feature of the bike is that it is hinged in the middle of the frame and can easily be fitted into a car boot. The Lazar bikes are manufactured in China and selling in New Zealand at \$1800. At the end of his talk Peter invited club members along for a demonstration ride.

David Higgs

provide forms to help start tracking your family's ancestry. A good little holiday project to keep children busy. It is always nice and warm inside the library, so do come along, curl up on that sunny window seat, browse the books and have a chat.

Dot Moriarty

Mapua Library contd:

Library Hours:

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 2pm – 4.30pm

Wednesday 5pm – 6.50pm

Thursday 10am – 12.30pm

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.

A is for Apple

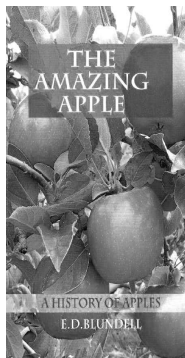
A former Mapua resident has written a book about apples—a product that was very important in this district until recent years and still plays an important part, although greatly reduced.

Doreen Blundel (née Tait) grew up on an apple orchard in Marriages Road and attended Mapua School and Motueka District High School. Her book, *The Amazing Apple, A history of apples*, includes orchard life in the 1940s and 50s, the fruit season, Moutere Hills district, early orcharding and the origin of names such as Ruby Bay, Mahana and Mapua. It also has recipes, botanical history, proverbs, health, heritage and cider.

An excerpt from the book says: “The Braeburn apple was discovered on William Bros’ orchard, Braeburn, Lower Moutere in 1953. Possibly a Cox’s Orange Pippin/Sturmer-cross. Keith Baker, a Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries inspector at the time, recognised its potential and also suggested the name.

“James Drummond, an early settler in Lower Moutere, came from Perthshire, Scotland. He built his homestead on a low slope above a stream. Brae is Gaelic for the side of a hill and burn is a stream, so he named it ‘Braeburn’.”

The editor of the *Orchardist* reviewed the book and wrote, “...this is a most worthwhile and interesting book. It is quite quirky in its content and easy to assimilate. Doreen Blundell is an experienced writer and her prose is always clear and lively.”



Coastal Connections

June’s luncheon venue was Up The Garden Path in Motueka. Just a small group of ten ladies enjoyed a very cosy environment and catching up with each other’s news and comings and goings.

It was drizzling outside but hearty fish chowder warmed our tummies and this was consumed as we sat by a roaring open fire. Ten out of ten for this venue. Lots of art work by various local artists both inside and outdoors were admired.

July’s luncheon will be held locally at the Mutton Bird Cafe here in beautiful Mapua on the 9th.

Please note: cancellation of our August luncheon. This has been decided because of the number of members who will be unable to attend. However, we look forward to seeing everyone again come spring for our September lunch.

Julie Haliday

Getting your dream project nearer reality



This will be the last topic covered in the 'Building and Consent Process' articles and deals with choosing a designer and the elements involved in getting your project from the dream stage to the document which communicates this dream to councils, building professionals, bankers, and most importantly, the originators of the dream.

Assuming that you have a property in mind to build on, you may want to engage the services of a designer to put together your ideas for a new house or renovation. Registered architects generally charge 10-15% of total build cost. Architectural designers are fully capable of designing your project to completion and if they belong to the Architectural Designers Association of New Zealand (ADNZ) then their recommended fees vary from 5-15%. Both registered architects and designers may offer to supervise your project through to completion. Draughtspeople generally are employed to draw plans and details and depending on expertise and complexity of design generally charge around 5% of costs.

Engineers are used to cover the design of all components which fall outside the standards of common timber-based construction. Concrete, steel, and soil structure are the most common design requirements met by engineers. All architects and designers must use engineers to provide this specific information.

Some types of information that would be handy to have on hand before meeting with your designer are:

1) Obtaining a land information memorandum (LIM) report from council which details legal description, stormwater and drainage issues, susceptibility to flooding or erosion, presence of hazardous contaminants, conservation or heritage protections and classifications, rates, valuations, or any covenants issued by council that may affect the land or building project are covered in the LIM report.

2) Finding out if you need a resource consent or not. This is something you can usually determine by meeting with a council planner and simply talking about your intended project. Occasionally these issues come up in the concept plan stage, but most often you can use the district scheme to determine if a resource consent is required.

Make sure that all the survey and title documentation is accurate and complete. If you plan on building close to critical setbacks or height limitations, you might need a registered surveyor to insure accuracy of boundaries and building placement. Trust me; this can be very costly if not done with some precision. The LIM report or subdivision producer statements usually tell you if any work is required in terms of soil stability or excavation limitations.

When meeting with a designer to talk about your project there are some fairly fundamental understandings

that need to be determined to ensure that protection is in place for all parties to proceed. Make sure that the designer has the experiences and ability to meet the requirements of your project. Ask questions and be satisfied that they listen, understand and are prepared to respond in a way that is inclusive and looking for your desired outcome. Ask for an estimate or quote on the expected cost of the design work. Most professionals will have a 'conditions of engagement' agreement so that all parties are clear as to their role and as a protection for both sides.

Clarity is good. Bring any information that can help with visualisation when you begin to describe your ideas to the designer whose job it is to put all these complex thoughts and ideas into a legally binding document. Sketches, pictures from magazines, photos of things that have caught your eye, or aspects of buildings you have seen all help provide clues to help you communicate your vision to the designer.

Discuss the budget. Be open in regard to the attachment or the importance of the project in terms of your lifestyle. Is this a dream home or renovation? Are you looking to make money by on-selling? Is it important to have regard for the capital value of the work? These matters are important because they underline the reasons for building and describe the essential qualities that you need to be satisfied with the outcome. The square-metre rate of building a new house today can vary between \$1000-\$4000/sq.m and you can appreciate that this represents a considerable difference in quality and efficiency of finished product. Sometimes tens of thousands of dollars worth of work can have no effect on the actual value of a house but can bring untold satisfaction and pleasure to the owner. Sometimes small, inexpensive adjustments to appearance or space can make considerable difference to the real value of a building in terms of saleability and comfort.

I think that as a designer I am selling my knowledge, experience and time to my clients in the same way that lawyers and accountants do. So to make the best judgment of project design I look to gather as much information as possible to put to good effect. That is why the more clarity you have in regard to your likes, dislikes, and objectives the easier it is to convert concept to reality.

In the final instalment next month I will describe the process of initial concept to working drawings ready for presenting to council.

*Dave DeGray, ph 543-2841 before 8pm Mon-Sat.
davedegray@xnet.co.nz*

Hills Community Church

Your help not always helpful

Recently in the news there was a story about a week-old puppy in England who got flushed down the toilet by a four-year-old boy. Apparently the puppy had gotten 'dirty' and the little boy thought he'd help clean it up in the toilet. Unfortunately his Good Samaritan efforts went slightly awry when he 'accidentally' flushed the toilet (final rinse cycle, I suppose). Kids and toilets—everyone's got a story on that topic. I vaguely recall my own attempt to keep a certain baby doll clean—anyway, this story reminds me of the sometimes tricky business of lending a hand.

First, there is the assumption that help is actually required. I'm not sure how dirty a week-old puppy gets when it spends most of its time with its mum but my guess would be not very. We've all stumbled into the trap of assuming someone needed our assistance when in fact they were getting along just fine without it. Perhaps we offer unsolicited advice or step in to correct a character flaw. We jump to point out the error of their ways certain that by doing so we will make them better people and their life easier. These attempts at assistance can be fraught with peril. Trust me on this.

Back in my university days I stepped in between two feuding roommates convinced I could help them sort out their differences. I soon had two roommates angry at me! I assumed they needed and wanted my help—wrong! Lesson learned: ask if assistance is required before offering it.

Second, there is the assumption that we are the ones best qualified to help. That puppy had a perfectly qualified caregiver at the ready—its mum. If anyone was going to know the most intimate needs of that puppy it would be her. The least qualified caregiver for that pup was the four-year-old (recall the 'accidental' flush). Sometimes we take on the unrealistic burden of helping someone when in fact the help they really need should come from another source. There are times in life's hard situations that the good friend, the caring neighbour or the concerned family member is not the most suitable person to intervene in someone's problems.

In seminary, my pastoral care professor impressed on us eager ministers-in-training to know our limitations and especially to know when to refer people for outside help. A common tendency among clergy is to assume they must solve every problem and meet every human need that comes their way. This is not only unrealistic it can be harmful. Lesson learned: sometimes the best help we can offer someone is to put them in contact with someone else.

It's good to help. It's important to help. The world is a much better and more hopeful place to live when we help others. And tragically we see far too many instances of people unwilling or afraid to help. But it can be a tricky business. We need to assess situations carefully to determine what if any help is required and then ensure that the best source of help is made available. Finally, it never hurts to look up (in prayer) for a little advice before helping out.

Hopefully helpful, Rev Marilyn Loken, Minister, Hills Community Church

"I lift my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2

New @ Hills

Drop-off for Area Food Bank

If you would like to make an easy contribution to the local food bank (Salvation Army-Motueka) you can bring your non-perishable food items to the church (123 Aranui Rd) on Friday mornings between 9am & noon. There will be a basket marked "Food Bank" in the front entry. We deliver these items on a monthly basis to the food bank.

Regular Happenings @ Hills—

Hills Community Church is 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. For more information call: 03 540 3848.

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.

And then there were five – a shaggy tale

Annette K. Walker

Over the summer I had a very persistent shag sheltering in the back cockpit of my yacht, 'Venture,' and insisting that it was the ideal roost in the channel. 'Venture' came over to the shore for maintenance work and I blissfully thought that would solve my shag problem, for they do cause one heck of a mess. But no, to my surprise changing my boat's position was not a problem and there he was early the next morning, preening himself on the stern. Cunning plans were devised, with strategically placed scattered ropes and buckets of water on the cockpit floor and finally he moved two boats up the channel, to Bob's boat.

All this was interesting but the most perplexing problem was, I could not identify the shag. We have four species feeding in the channel, the large 'black shag' and 'pied shag', which tend to congregate and feed in shoals at the shore edge in the winter and the tiny, rather shy, 'little black shag', which sits in yacht rigging cross-trees and pulpits and is often zooming around just below the surface close inshore, likewise the very common, 'little shag', which is also pied. These species have an Australasian distribution, the pied shag and little black shag being more restricted in their distribution around New Zealand.

But what was this persistent, solitary shag, neither pied nor black but grey? Rhys declared it to be an immature 'spotted shag', only found in New Zealand. I had seen the odd adult around before with its characteristic breeding crest of feathers on the head but this individual was making his home here. Exciting

though it was, I wondered how long he would stay. However, months went by and he gradually got his adult plumage and it is a delightful bird to watch for he always paddles up to the stern of Bob's boat and catapults out onto the flat boarding platform close to the water before launching himself with flapping wings up to his favourite perch on the narrow side of the boat.

In May my eye caught some strange goings on where he perched and, low and behold, there were two shags engaging in the touching shag behaviour of twining their necks together. There was clearly a difference in size between male and female and my 'he' turned into a 'she' – a large male had moved in! A few weeks later they were joined by another male. Here's trouble, I thought. But no, all was calm in the mini roost and in early June, another female turned up. Then, at dusk after a stormy day, there they all were, sitting on the roof of Bob's boat with a large, brownish, immature male sitting to one side.

It's hard to tell whether they are feeding in the channel and, although Bob's boat and mine have similar transoms with boarding platforms close to the water, I doubt whether a spotted shag flies round looking for this as an ideal roost. Spotted shags are common in the Abel Tasman National Park and maybe it's getting a bit crowded over there. Who knows, but it will be interesting to see if their numbers increase on Bob's boat.

And thank you Bob for providing a neat place to observe a rare visitor to the channel.

Car insurance is your choice

It's impossible to know everything this world can throw at you. But if you've got car insurance and have had a bump recently you're bound to get confused!

We would like to clarify who is the boss in your insurance contract. You are!

So if you've had a bump the first thing to do is find a repairer that is convenient for you. Don't worry about getting a courtesy car because all repairers should have one, they would be foolish not to.

You should also ring your insurance company and tell them what has happened. They will give you a claim number. They might even suggest a repairer in your area; these are usually their recommended repairers. Be careful here, you are the customer and insurance companies have been known to accidentally influence you to go further than you need. It has been known for them to say that if you don't go to their recommended repairer the work done isn't guaranteed. What they really mean is they don't guarantee workmanship at any repairer because that is the job of the repairer. Confusing, we know, but don't despair, you are the boss.

At the repairer an estimate can be done. They will need your claim number and insurance contact details. In some cases an assessor will want to see your car, usually at their convenience. Large companies like AMI will look at claims on a Wednesday at our workshop. Smaller companies will send out an independent assessor who will contact you. But most will work by digital photos and the estimate done when you go to your local repairer. You need not worry about anything after that—your repairer will contact you for a date to get your car repaired and supply a courtesy car.

When you collect your car you will have to pay your excess directly to the repairer, unless somebody crashes into you, then the excess will be waived.

We at Karpaintz in Warren Place are here to help, so please let us.

Graham and Julie Cox

New childhood learning centre

The construction of Harakeke, a new style early childhood learning centre on the site of the Tipistay accommodation on the Moutere Highway near Gardner Valley Road, is well under way.

The centre will cater for three to five-year-olds and is the vision of the owner and teacher, Gundula Montag-Ruebsam, a German-trained early childhood teacher with more than 25 years experience overseas and in Nelson. For the past seven years she has been teaching as an assistant supervisor at the local childcare centre.

Gundula has done extensive professional development over the years, including a post-graduate Diploma of Teaching Children with Special Teaching Needs.

“I chose the name Harakeke because it represents some of the belief I have for this centre. The harakeke, or flax, is a symbol of family and when a child comes here, they become part of this family. The new centre has been designed to have a warm, home feel set in a beautiful, natural outdoor learning environment.”

The building itself is being overseen by Gundula's husband and cabinet maker, Johannes Ruebsam. A lot of thought and passion has gone into the design which aims to connect to nature. An over 300-year-old matai tree trunk has been donated by a local family to form the centre pole in the main play room. It brings “great energy, linking the past to the future.” There is also an art studio and an upstairs “tree hut” within the building.

Gundula is keen to emphasize that Harakeke is not just about child-minding.

“Our philosophy is founded on our knowledge that early childhood education has to focus on the social, emotional, cognitive, physical and aesthetic development of the individual child. We emphasise the important role our Centre plays in sharing with the parents the vital role of nurturing and educating the children in our care through the development of trust, security and loving relationships as well as maximising their individual potential and supporting them during their transition to school.”

Harakeke is expected to be completed and operating by September. Gundula and Johannes are happy to show interested people and families around and enrolment packs will be available shortly. In the meantime contact Gundula by calling 03)543-2119 or e-mail gundula@harakeke.org.nz

MAPUA-RUBY BAY COMMUNITY TRUST INCORPORATED ACCOUNTS, 2009

Below is a copy of the audited accounts of the Mapua–Ruby Bay Community Trust as required by the Deed of the Trust.

Mapua Ruby Bay & District Community Trust Inc. Notes to the financial statements for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

The Trust was established as an entity on April 16 2004 and a Deed of Trust formally signed on April 28 2005. The Trust was incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act on May 5 2005 and registered as a charity with the Charities Commission in November 2008.

1. The *Coastal News* made donations to the Trust during this financial year of \$4,500
2. No personal donations were received.
3. No donations from businesses were received.
4. Grants totalling \$2,300 were made by the Trust to: Mapua Soccer Club (\$400), Pastel Artists of New Zealand (Nelson) (\$300), Mapua Play Centre (\$300), Friends of the Wetland (\$350), Mapua Fire Brigade (\$400), Mapua Toy Library (\$250) and the Mapua Community Library (\$300).
5. All of the Trust’s financial assets are held in linked “Now” and “Online Call” accounts at Kiwibank. The “Online Call” account earns interest calculated on a daily basis which is considered disburseable money and used for grants. All other income becomes part of the Trust’s equity and protected under the Trust’s Deed. Account operations can only be conducted through the “Now” account following internet transfer of money between the two accounts. Any movement of Trust funds out of the account is subject to prior approval and recorded at a Trustees’ meeting.

Financial responsibility statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements and ensuring that they comply with generally accepted accounting practice and give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust as at 31 March 2009.

The Trustees consider and are of the belief that they have discharged their duties in accordance with the provisions of the Deed of Trust (# 1631861).

For and on behalf of the Trustees, dated 14 April 2009

Chairman: T R Hamlen-Williams..... Treasurer: J R Sharman

Audited by: G Breakspeare (CA)

MAPUA - RUBY BAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRUST INC
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING 1 APRIL 2008 AND ENDING 31 MARCH 2009

			2009	2008
INCOME	Notes			
Coastal News Donations	1	\$4,500.00		\$7,900.00
Personal donations	2			
Business donations	3			
Interest		\$1,997.39		\$1,845.65
			\$6,497.39	\$9,745.65
LESS EXPENSES				
Administration		\$(-)		
Grants	4	\$(2,300.00)		\$(1,675.00)
			\$(2,300.00)	\$(1,675.00)
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD			<u>\$4,197.39</u>	<u>\$ 8,070.65</u>

MAPUA - RUBY BAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRUST INC
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING 1 APRIL 2008 AND ENDING 31 MARCH 2009

			2009	2008
TRUSTEES' EQUITY	Note		\$	\$
Capital Reserve Fund				27,185.00
Disbursement Fund			31,686.00	0
			889.29	1,191.90
			32,575.29	28,376.90
REPRESENTED BY				0
Current Assets				
Kiwibank "Now" Account	5	1.00		1.00
Kiwibank "On Line Call" Account	5	32,574.29		28,376.90
			32,575.29	28,376.90
			9	0
LESS				
Current Liabilities			Nil	Nil
			32,575.29	28,376.90
			9	0

**MAPUA - RUBY BAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRUST INC
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING 1 APRIL 2008 AND ENDING 31 MARCH 2009

Cashflows from operating activities

Notes	2009	2008
Cash was provided from		
Donations	\$4,500.00	\$7,900.00
Interest from Kiwbank	\$1,997.39	\$1,845.65
	<u>\$6,497.39</u>	<u>\$9,745.65</u>
 Cash was applied to		
Administration	\$(0.00)	\$(0.00)
Grant	\$(2,300.00)	\$(1,675.00)
	<u>\$(2,300.00)</u>	<u>\$(1,675.00)</u>
Net cash inflow	<u>\$4,197.39</u>	<u>\$8,070.65</u>
 Opening Balance (1 April 2008)	 \$28,377.90	 \$20,307.25 (1/4/07)
Closing Balance (31 March 2009)	\$32,575.29	\$28,377.90 (31/03/2008)

Grants

16 November 2006	Dot Moriarty	\$250.00
17 May 2007	Kids & Koffee	\$200.00
25 May 2007	Mapua Show	\$300.00
16 June 2007	Mapua Soccer Club	\$300.00
14 November 2007	Tamaha Sea Scouts	\$350.00
14 November 2007	Moutere Hills RSA	\$125.00
14 November 2007	Coastal Garden Group	\$400.00
16 May 2008	Mapua Soccer Club	\$400.00
16 May 2008	PANZ	\$300.00
16 May 2008	Mapua Play Centre	\$300.00
16 May 2008	Friends of the Wetland	\$350.00
16 November 2008	Mapua Fire brigade	\$400.00
16 November 2008	Mapua Toy Library	\$250.00
16 November 2008	Mapua Community Library	\$300.00
		\$4,225.00

John Sharman (Hon.Treasurer)

Noticeboard

Rose Pruning: 10am Saturday 4 July. (If wet, Saturday 11 July) Mapua Hall rose garden. Come and learn from proficient pruners. Helpful advice given. Contacts: Norm or Letty 540 2876.

Country Occasion at Neudorf, Sunday Nov 29, 10am until 4pm. 70 stalls under the trees at Neudorf. All proceeds to Child Cancer and the Moutere Community Centre. To enquire about a stall email judy@neudorf.co.nz

To Rent: Rooms or Office on Aranui Road, Mapua in village centre. Tel 5402705 for more info.

For Sale: Ski jacket XL purple, excellent condition, \$50 suit male or female, tel 5402705

Taoist Tai Chi - Improve your flexibility, mobility and balance, and learn to relax. Suitable for all ages. New class starts 1pm Wednesday 29 July at Mapua Hall. All welcome, no booking required. Contact: Julie Eccles 03 5266077 (evenings).

Acrylic Workshop: "Create Your Own Acrylic Masterpiece". No experience necessary! All materials supplied. 14hr painting workshop, covering theory, design, theme, technique & finishing. Holiday programme for children available on site at Tasman school. Tuesday 7 July

to Friday 10 July, 1-4.30pm, \$95.00. Please contact Fred 540-3246 for enrolment.

Friendship Club meets 3rd Thursdays, supper room at the Hall. Indoor bowls, Euchre & Crib, etc, afternoon tea (please bring a plate). \$1 donation and 20¢ raffle. We are a group of friendly people who enjoy a good laugh (some of us are not good bowlers!) We welcome old and new members. Val Roche 540 3685

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 on 03 540 2804. - sambennett@live.jp

Skye Harvest Extra Virgin Olive Oil available fresh from the producer. Ph 540 2698. Orders delivered, or call in 113 Seaton Valley Rd Mapua.

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. For more info Lynley 540 2292.

Genealogy Computer Discussion Group: This year our bimonthly meetings will be 1.30pm on Saturdays on the following dates: Aug 8, Oct 10, and Dec 12. For information: Val 540 3931 or Peter 540 2686.

Mapua Art Group: Painting/Drawing mornings every Thursday 9am-12.30pm, Supper Room, Mapua Hall. A group of like-minded artists get together to paint and help each other in a fun and social environment. All levels and media most welcome. \$4 session includes morning tea. Tables and chairs provided. Lisa Chandler, 540 3933.

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

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

Kidz'n'Koffee Playgroup, every Wednesday (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.

Toy Library: check out our extensive selection of toys, puzzles & videos for children 0-5yrs. Located behind the Mapua Hall every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 10-11.30am & 6.30-7.30pm. Phone Kerri 540 3386 or Gill 543 2195 about membership or casual hire.

Probus Club meets first Fridays, Mapua Hall 1.30pm. All retirees most welcome. Enquiries to Pres. Rosalie Wattereus, 03 582 9486, Secr. Margaret Butchart 5402686

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 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.

YOGA with Robin - YOGA Classes - Winter schedule - Wednesdays at 5 with Ingrid. For more info e-mail rubbybayyoga@ymail.com.

Fullpower and Kidpower

gives you the opportunity to find your own, innate powers, to develop strategies for personal safety in a variety of situations and to feel capable & confident when faced with challenges.

- ♦ Tailor-made workshops in Mapua - organise a training for YOUR group!
- ♦ FULLPOWER Personal Safety for women. 2x2 hours on 3 and 10 June in Nelson. Practical, hands-on, effective training. Flexible fees.
- ♦ Instructor Training and Position (part time). We are seeking local men and women who want to make a real difference. Our commitment is to provide full training and support to our instructors.

For more information or to register your interest, please Ph. (03) 543-2669 or e-mail newzealand@kidpower.org or go to www.kidpower.org.

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