

Coastal News

email: coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz

covering Mapua & Ruby Bay
run by volunteers

Busy time for Hall committee

We all feel a bit “duck-like” on the hall committee at the moment. Nothing much happening on top of the water but there’s a bit of paddling going on underneath.

Summary of activity (for those, who like me only ever get time to read the top paragraph of anything):

- Rewiring is complete.
- Funding and other investigation work towards majoupgrade work continues and will move into top gear soon.
- Still some more chairs to be bought from designated funding
- Some generous donations received for rewiring and chairs
- Mix-ups in bookings – exacerbated by people choosing to read their watch rather than the booking book
- Change in chairmanship. Updated contact details for hall inquiries
- Invitation to please join the Hall Society (no cost, no responsibility but you would be then eligible to join the committee – *should you so desire!*)!
- Hall AGM coming up in three months. Your chance to be actively involved in major upgrades of the hall.
- Please don’t park in front of the hall unless for loading. If there is ever a fire, your vehicle would obstruct the entrance.

Rewiring. The rewiring of the hall is now complete and the hall has been re-insured. We received some generous donations from individuals and businesses within the community, including a grant from the NZ Community Trust.

Upgrade. After several meetings with council representatives, we are now awaiting the Tasman District Council’s draft LTCCP. If this includes an option for funding assistance as we hope it might, the committee will then begin the process of consultation with the

community, detailed planning and further fund-raising. The first step will be a submission to council in time for the adoption of their LTCCP on 30 June. In the meantime, the committee has visited several other halls in the region to gain ideas and inspiration. As a result of this and feedback from the community survey and feasibility study from last year, we have already compiled a reasonably detailed “wish list” of desirable facilities for the Mapua Hall.

New Chairs. The new chairs have been a vast improvement on the previous old wooden chairs (particularly those awful “joined-up” ones!). While the hall, in the short term, remains old, at least sitting through the average meeting or other gathering is going to be more comfortable. Buying new chairs was an achievable and relatively easy immediate improvement while we work through the rather longer and involved process of major upgrades. We still have some designated funding left for new chairs and we wish to acknowledge and thank in particular the Mapua Business Association for their most generous \$1500 donation.

Society/committee membership. With the Hall Society AGM coming up in a few months, we extend an invitation for people to join the Mapua Hall Society. There is no cost to do this nor is there any responsibility expected apart from an interest in your local hall. Membership of the Society allows people to stand for election on the committee if they are interested. This is the opportunity for people to be involved in the major changes coming up for the hall. Under the terms of our constitution, the committee may consist of up to 13 members including the executive (Chair, Deputy, Secretary and Treasurer). Anyone interested in joining the Mapua Hall Society

Hall Committee contd:

may contact the chairman or secretary at any time (see details below)

It was with regret that we accepted the resignation of John Sharman as chairman. John has worked tirelessly for the hall for the entire time he was on the committee. His skills at report writing, preparation of grant applications and his knowledge of local body affairs will be sorely missed. In the meantime, I have assumed chairmanship of the hall committee and Peter Butchart is secretary/treasurer. We will remain in these positions until the AGM when we hope some new members will join the committee.

Hall contacts. Peter and I will share the responsibility of responding to community inquiries and dealing with issues between meetings. Since I am largely unavailable during the working week due to work commitments, Peter holds the chairman's keys and is better placed to deal with non-urgent day-to-day issues. I am available and happy to be contacted by e-mail or by phone in the evening or weekends.

Chairman: Mary Garner ph 03 540-2853 or m.garner@xtra.co.nz

Sec/Treas: Peter Butchart ph 03 540-2686 or butchart@ts.co.nz

Hall bookings. There have been a few mix-ups recently. These can be minimised or avoided if people making bookings can *take note of other bookings already in the book*. For instance, if you are booking the main hall, you will not necessarily have access to the Supper Room if it is booked to another user at the same time. If you need exclusive use of the kitchen, eg, for a function, you need to book the hall accordingly.

Parking in front of the hall. PLEASE DON'T! Apart from loading purposes, cars parked immediately in front of the main doors present a hazard should there ever be a need to evacuate a hall full of people.

Mary Garner, chairman

Autumn is a time to make something of yourself!

What can you do as the nights grow longer with the onset of autumn? Make the most of the longer evenings – that's what! Specifically, do something to gain new skills, meet new people and challenge yourself.

Motueka Toastmasters Club will run a programme in April and May called "Speech Craft". Here's your chance to step outside your routines to develop your public speaking ability! Did you know that most people list public speaking as their No. 1 fear? Yet the ability to speak up confidently has many benefits. You could make more effective community contributions, tell better stories at family events, make more impressive and persuasive work-related presentations, interview better for new positions. Most of us could benefit by increased speaking confidence. Here's your chance!

Speech Craft will be held as a series of six short sessions on Wednesday evenings between 8 April & 13 May. You will hear from experienced presenters about how to be a better speaker and you will learn by doing. The programme includes many opportunities to practice, in a supportive environment. Your own personal Toastmasters advisor will help you prepare for several short talks. You will gain confidence in all aspects of communication, including written and impromptu speeches, audio-visual aids, body language and listening.

Who are Toastmasters?

Speech Craft is presented by Motueka Toastmasters club, an affiliate of Toastmasters International. Toastmasters is the world's largest organisation devoted to success through communication and leadership development. Toastmasters was founded in California in 1924 and now has more than 10,000 clubs in 90 countries. There are 233 clubs in New Zealand.

"Speech Craft" confident speaking course: 8 April – 13 May 2009: Pipe Band rooms, Old Wharf Road, Motueka. Cost to be advised. Manuals provided.

Register your interest today – call Roger on (03) 528-6104.

Garden Notes



We all have the dreaded Moutere clay, so for the March edition of the *Coastal News* here are some thoughts.

Improving clay soils is difficult if they are low-lying and wet. It may be necessary to dig trenches and lay drains to dry some very wet clay soils or to raise the beds above the soil surface.

Dig and break up clay soils in the spring when they are beginning to dry out. The time to do this is limited as these types of soils change quickly from very soft to hard in a matter of weeks.

Clay soils are very well suited to some plants. Roses enjoy clay and will flourish, given a little food. Many bulbs such as bluebells, narcissi, snowdrops and snowflakes thrive in clay conditions. Many perennial plants are happy in clay including acanthus, astilbe, bergenia, hellebores, hemerocallis, hostas, peonies, rudbeckia, and Shasta daisies.

Trees will eventually penetrate clay soils and flourish. Many shrubs will also grow in clay, including bamboo, berberis, cabbage trees, cherries, cornus, cotoneaster, flax, hebe, holly, hypericum, kauri, laurel, lilac, pyracantha, totara, viburnum and weigela.

Vegetables such as broad beans, broccoli and cabbage do well in clay soils, as do potatoes, which can help to break the soil up. Black currants, figs, gooseberries, plums and strawberries are all capable of growing and fruiting well in clay conditions.

Clay soils are often cold and wet in winter and spring. They can be warmed up and dried out by covering with large sheets of plastic or you can plant under cloches.

Once warmed up clay soils hold their heat longer than sandy ones. Digging clay soils in winter is likely to do more harm than good. The best time to plant is late winter or early spring, while the soil is still moist, not wet or dry. Adding compost, manures, or fertilisers on wet, cold clay will result in formation of toxic compounds that could poison your plants. Add these later in spring when warmer.

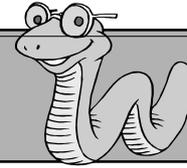
Compost and regular additions of gypsum, sand, peat, lime or dolomite to clay will quickly produce a good productive soil.

During autumn and winter when the soil is wet and cold avoid walking on it clay as this will compact it. Use planks to walk on. Raised beds are another way of coping with clay soils. Many gardeners in this area do have this method and it works well. Railway sleepers, wood frames, or brick walls, stone etc are useful. Adding sand and compost may take time but you will get there.

The tasks for March: Plant spring bulbs. This is the autumn clean-up getting ready for the winter season. This is a time for feeding as well and come spring you will see the benefit for doing so.

Happy gardening as your spell will come all too soon.

Barry Highsted



February saw the club welcome back a large number of members happy to catch up with one another after the summer break. There were lots of notices regarding daffodil orders, upcoming events and visits to be planned. Also an update on the work now started in Aranui Park. Our guest speaker this month was Bill Brett who gave us an interesting and informed presentation on control of pests and diseases in our garden.

Bill's background is in Agro-chemicals. However, he is not only interested in chemical solutions to our pest and diseases problems. He is anti dangerous sprays whether they are chemical or organic. Bill gave lots of good advice. Many were surprised to learn regarding organic controls that many of the products available are not tried and tested to the same degree as the traditional chemicals. In many cases they are toxic (they have to be to kill pests) so what are they doing to the environment and to us?

The use of chemicals and the type of chemicals has changed significantly since DDT and arsenate of lead were commonly used both commercially and in the home garden. Modern products are many times safer and are effective.

First and foremost Bill recommended prevention – keeping the garden clean, clearing dead and fallen leaves, crop rotation etc – buying disease resistant varieties where possible – physical controls such as picking off pests by hand or by bringing in predators. After that look at spraying and catch the problem early. He was careful to point out that spraying chemicals is a last resort and should be used sparingly, catching the problem early reduces the number of times you need to spray.

To work out the best spray or product to use you need to correctly identify the problem. Check the host plant, the symptoms and the season. The label on a product is its legal document. Follow the instruction carefully especially regarding disposal of any mixed up spray and the bottle. Our thanks to Bill for sharing his knowledge with us.

In Max's Notes this month he advised that we should be starting to propagate strawberries and starting to sow spring annuals. Mulching to conserve moisture is a must especially in the face of looming water restrictions. Don't feed the lawn during the dry weather, gather fallen rose leaves and clear dead material from the perennial bed. Now is a good time to reflect on what has worked and what has not and to start planning for next year.

Afternoon tea gave members time to chat and then we had the results of the Bloom, Cluster and Shrub competition which this month saw a large number of dahlias, begonias, fuchsias, geraniums, roses, a rather special hydrangea and an unusual paintbrush grace the table. This month's plant auction was the largest seen for some time and many members went home with new plants to treasure.

Our next monthly meeting is on Thursday 5th March. 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 please do come along, all enquires to either Barry Highsted (540-3139) or Anne-Marie Giddens (540-2335).

Community Association

The Association welcomed Chris Auchinvole MP to the February meeting. Crs Tim King, Trevor Norriss and Brian Ensor also attended the meeting. With a higher number than usual attending the, discussion was robust and lively!

Walkways and Cycleways

The independent Cycleways & Walkways Group was looking at a number of priorities. That being said, Cr Norriss pointed out that while there was huge pressure on council to provide off-road cycleways, there were a few examples of where people, particularly children riding to school, continued to use the road despite clearly defined and sealed extensions being provided. "Use them or lose them!"

Property Valuations

Hugh Gordon said the valuation process was flawed, arbitrary and unfair. The inequities of the present valuation system needed to be ironed out. Cr King pointed out that the process of valuation did not earn one cent more for council; it simply varied the amount proportionately for some and not so much for others. If rates went up for example by 13% you pay more, if less you pay less but council still received the same rated amount.

Waterfront Park

While the clean-up site and establishment of the park were really two separate issues, they had become intermingled due to high public interest. The waterfront park sub-committee was charged with forwarding the design and completion of the waterfront park. Various people had expressed concern about the high soil mound on the park site and council acknowledged that contouring the site to suit the proposed plan would entail soil removal.

There was also much discussion in regard to the recent commissioning of an environmental engineering firm to look at the contaminated site, alongside the report quietly released at Christmas time which some considered was done with a clear lack of community consultation. The large document took some wading through as it was over 700 pages long.

People were reluctantly resigned to note that nothing would happen on the site until the site audit was completed, estimated to be 3-4 months, probably longer. Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment, had been requested to assist with moving this process along. He had campaigned on that so "let's see some action."

Clean-Up Site

Ian Reade spoke on behalf of a group of concerned residents affected by the clean-up work. He and others had continued to raise issues throughout the clean-up process. Ian believed there should be a Parliamentary inquiry into the whole process.

Chris Auchinvole said it was obvious there remained some deep-seated concerns in this community. He would press for transparency in the newly commissioned report. This issue was a major focus for him as local MP.

Mapua Domain & Old Mill Walkway

Council was working to finish the new domain pathway and other domain projects. Sadly there had been extensive vandalism of the male toilets on the domain in recent weeks, culprits unknown, and council was working on that too.

People on bikes and walkers still encountered problems with overhanging trees along the Old Mill walkway – council was attending to this and other work along that stretch to make it a safer place to enjoy for walkers and cyclists alike.

Seawall & Esplanade

With imminent spring tides around Easter and the consent process for the final part of the wall having to go through full RMA process, Bruno Lemke was concerned about further erosion before it all came together. Chris Auchinvole said the whole purpose of introducing changes to RMA was to make life simpler for both councils and residents and that may be introduced in urgency this coming week and then the bill itself by 23rd February.

Grossi Point

A recent visit to Grossi Point by a local resident was spoiled by the large number of dogs free to roam around the picnic area, clearly not under the control of their owners. Two dogs had a fight and one did something very nasty close to this lady's picnic spot. Owners of dogs should be aware the status of dogs at the Point is being clarified and dog control may be notified to sort out those naughty owners who don't take care of their dogs in public areas.

Our meetings

Although the meeting packed in a lot of stuff, surprisingly the meeting closed just after 9pm so if you're wanting to come along to hear what's going on in your community, we'd love to see you at our next meeting, Monday 9th March, 7:30pm in the Village Hall (supper room).

*Pam Stinton, secretary, Mapua & Districts
Community Association*

Birdsong Trust

These are photos of the first of the Birdsong Trust stoat traps that are being set in the Astrolabe Roadstead in the Abel Tasman National Park

It is a great story.

The Birdsong Trust is an idea that was germinated by the commercial operators of the Abel Tasman National Park to try and restore the dawn chorus to the Abel Tasman National Park, and to protect and enhance biodiversity and improve the visitor experience.

All the commercial operators of the Abel Tasman are members of the trust and give a portion of each client's trip fee into the park to the trust. The trust is a partnership with DOC, combining DOC expertise and the Trust's money and vision. This is unique in New Zealand – the first time that all major tourism operators in a National Park have agreed to contribute funds, a 'Birdsong Fee', for the benefit of the Park and its wildlife.

The plan for 2009 is to spend money on possum traps, a stoat line, wasp eradication and bird relocation to Adele Island. Already at Adele Island the dawn chorus is resurging so well.

There is a website www.abeltasmanbirdsong.co.nz where there is a lot more information and you can become a Friend of the Birdsong, or simply make a donation.



Nayland College French

Trip *by Kit Clinton-Baker*

If when I was 12 and at Mapua School and you asked me what I would be excited about when I was 17 years old, I'm sure I would have said skiing or being able to drive or some adrenal-busting idea. But in my wildest dreams it would not have been a trip to France with my school.

But that is exactly what I am bursting with anticipation about. Now, after a year of fund-raising...

On Easter weekend, 12 Nayland College French students and two teachers take off for the South of France. On arriving in Nice we are home-hosted while attending a French Language school. Many activities are planned for us, including shopping in local markets, cooking, even river-kayaking up to an old Roman aqueduct.

A very cool thing that we are doing is going to Le Quesnoy, a small town in northern France, to celebrate Anzac Day.

Le Quesnoy was liberated by the New Zealand Armed Forces near the end of World War One after being occupied by the German Army for nearly the whole of the war. Because of this New Zealand holds a very dear place in the hearts of this town and every year they celebrate as a community Anzac Day and Armistice Day.

During the course of our preparations for the trip it emerged that some kids had great-grandparents and great uncles who had fought and died in northern France, and whose graves were there. This prompted communication with this town.

They have embraced us with open arms, saying the great-grandchildren of their brave liberators are always welcome in Le Quesnoy.

After the Anzac celebrations we will go by train to Paris and then fly home

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The 14th and 15th of November, 2009, have been set aside for the bi-annual Mapua Show. This weekend event will include a Friday night opening followed by two days when local art and craft people will have an opportunity to display and sell their wares.



The purpose of the show is to provide an attractive forum that complements the art works being done in our immediate region, We will be looking for as wide and varied a representation of these art works as possible.

Planning is already well under way to present the Mapua Hall in a way that highlights our “Magic of Mapua,” theme. Expect a miraculous transformation of the venue.

In response to our article in the *Coastal News* in the latter part of 2008, potential exhibitors have already applied for display space in our 2009 event. Space is limited by the size of the venue and it would be wise for potential 2009 exhibitors to book a display space early.

Direct enquiries to either Debbie Bamfield 03 540-2942, e-mail scrapperdo4u@yahoo.com, or to Jude Bethwaite 03 540-3013, e-mail jude.rubybay@xtra.co.nz

Mapua Health Centre

We are 19 years old!!! And it's our birthday this month. That is the Mapua and Districts Health Centre came into being in the middle of March 1990 after an amazing effort by the local community in collaboration with the Nelson Area Health Board, who had just bought the site of the old post office. It has gone through various metamorphoses and changes over the intervening years, with the latest being the addition of two further rooms at the back of the building to allow for the hyperbaric oxygen unit and extra staff. Many thanks to all the volunteer help that we have had over recent years and to the health committee who generously give their time and energy to looking after the building and equipment.

So it's time to have a party and everyone is invited! It will be on Sunday 22 March starting at 11 am and we will be having food, fun and festivities at the back of the Health Centre on 62 Aranui Road – so please come along. We will also be celebrating the opening of the hyperbaric chamber and the altitude simulation equipment (athletic training) with a chance for people to look around and see what it is about.

Some of you may be aware that last month we had a six-year medical student with us. Geraldine enjoyed her time at Mapua Health Centre and would like to thank all those patients she attended for allowing her the opportunity to work with you. Stephen is our next student and he will be joining us on 9 March for three weeks. This is such a great opportunity for medical students in their final year of training as it gives them a greater understanding of how general practice functions. Thank you for helping us support these young doctors.

Just a reminder that we have an online prescription service. If you have internet access you can re-order routine prescriptions by emailing prescription@mapuahealth.com and give your details re name and exact medication required. We will aim to have the script ready within 24 hours (and usually the same day).

This year's flu vaccines will soon be available and we will be contacting those who are on our computer recall system when they arrive. However, if you would like to receive a vaccination against the flu and have not had one previously from our centre please call the practice nurse, as we need to order sufficient supplies in advance.

Some of the events for the month:

1	Children's Day - 'Listening and Talking'	http://www.childrensday.org.nz/
1-6	Red Cross Awareness & Appeal Week	http://www.redcross.org.nz/cms_display.php
2-6	Feet First - Walk to School	http://www.feetfirst.govt.nz/
2-8	WellChild/Tamariki Ora week	http://www.wellchild.org.nz/
5	World Book Day	http://www.worldbookday.com/
8	International Women's Day	http://www.internationalwomensday.com/
9-15	Schizophrenia Fellowship Week	http://www.sfnat.org.nz/
9-15	NZ Kidney Foundation Week	http://www.worldkidneyday.org/
11-18	Victim Support Week	http://www.victimsupport.org.nz/
12	World Kidney Day	http://www.worldkidneyday.org/
16-22	Brain Awareness Week	http://www.neurological.org.nz/brainweek/index.php
18	Walk to Work Day	http://www.livingstreets.org.nz/
20-22	Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal	http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/
23-29	Child Cancer Foundation Appeal Week	http://www.childcancer.org.nz/
24	World Tuberculosis Day	http://www.stoptb.org/

MAPUA-RUBY BAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRUST

The next meeting of the Trust will be held in May and applications for grants are invited from voluntary organisations within the Mapua-Ruby Bay district.

Grants will normally be of \$300 or less but this may be varied in appropriate circumstances.

Application forms may be obtained from:

Terry Smith 540 3203 or John Sharman 540 3642

Beach subdivision plan withdrawn

A chance to improve the poor public access to Mapua Beach has been lost with the surprise withdrawal of a subdivision proposal.

The subdivision proposed by Michael and Rose Stephens was publicly notified at the end of November last year and, after a number of submissions, was due to go to a council hearing about now. It followed a similar application of a beachfront property from the Tidswell family to subdivide an existing property at the Mapua Channel end of the beach into two lots. This was approved by the Tasman District Council last year.

The Stephens' proposal which was to subdivide their Rural 1 zoned property of just under 7ha of beachfront property into three lots, with two of slightly over 2ha and one of about 2.5ha. An important part of the proposal would have been the question of road access.

The Stephens property and five other beachfront properties are at present reached by a private road which goes from Aranui Road near Mapua School in an easterly direction to the beach area and then turns south and ends near the boundary with the Mapua Leisure Park.

The Stephens' application said that given the length of the right of way and the number of properties it serves, "it is anticipated that the council will have no interest in maintaining this as public road". However, the subdivision proposal would have triggered a rule in the council's resource management plan which limits to six the number of users of a private right of way. Some submitters, including the writer, urged that if the subdivision was approved, the right of way should be upgraded to become a public road, as it was a requirement in the plan and a public road would provide better public access to the beach.

The Stephens' property has about 300m of rock wall protection running along the sea frontage. Their application, submitted by Jane Hilson of Planscapes, said that the purpose of the subdivision was "to allow Mr and Mrs Stephens to retain their interest in part of the property without being personally responsible for the maintenance of such an extensive length of sea wall. While the sea wall clearly benefits their own investment in this land, it is also of wider public benefit to properties adjoining and inland of the application site"

Ms Hilson said the financial burden of the maintenance had resulted in the Stephens placing their property on the market, but prospective purchasers were discouraged by the same problem.

"The subdivision will result in these costs being shared across three owners instead of one, with a similar length

of sea wall in each allotment as two of the existing properties at 158 and 160 Aranui Road. She said that the proposal would provide better long-term security for the wall.

Strongest opposition to the proposal came from the trustees of the Peter Talley Trust, representing the owner of the beachfront property to the north. Their submission said that the subdivision was contrary to relevant objectives and policies in the Draft Tasman Resource Management Plan.

"The application represents ad hoc development that...is not in accord with sound resource management practices," the Talley Trust submission said.

The proposed subdivision "would result in an intensity of use that is considered to be unsafe for a right of way of this size and length".

The submission claimed that there were no public access benefits from the application. It also criticised the lack of accurate survey plans to show mean high water springs and the lack of an engineering plan for the wall.

The Talley Trust submission disagreed with the Stephens' statement that the cost of maintaining the wall was a justification for the subdivision. If the wider public benefits were considered relevant, it said, the wall ownership should be transferred to the council as an esplanade reserve.

Among other submissions was one from a joint iwi organisation, Tiakina Te Taiao, concerned about wastewater dispersal plans for the subdivision and seeking a monitor for any earthworks undertaken. Its submission pointed out that bodies had been discovered in an area nearby in what is believed to have been the site of a Maori raupatu (conquest) battle in the 1820s. This was considered by Maori to be a wahi tapu (sacred place).

A submission from the Mapua School Board of Trustees opposed the application because of the impacts of the extra traffic. If the proposal was to be granted, conditions sought by the school included a higher standard right of way, access for the proposed Seaton Valley Stream walkway, and access from the right of way to the school.

The Stephens' application was withdrawn in early February. Meanwhile, the Tasman District Council has asked its planners to draw up rules that would prevent further ad hoc subdivision of this area and the new rules were to be included in the Mapua

Mapua & Districts Soccer Club

Development Plan. At a meeting on June 25 2008, the council asked its planners to draw up rules that would prevent further ad hoc subdivision of this area

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Up in the 1970s, the part of the right of way from the school to the beach was widely used by Mapua residents for access to the beach, though the owners say it was private property and there was no formal arrangement for this use.

In 1980, the then owners, the Tidswell, Hodgson, Stephens and Worseldine families, through Tainui Investments, were given council approval to subdivide the property into five lots for homes for family members. The conditions for the subdivision included one which extended right of access by the right of way to the newly subdivided properties.

The forerunner to the Community Association, the Mapua Residents and Ratepayers' Association, argued that another of the conditions for this subdivision was that public access to the esplanade reserve at the beach via the right of way had to be maintained. It was unsuccessful in its efforts and since the early 1980s access to the beach via the right of way has remained restricted by the owners of the properties it currently serves.

Public access to the beach from the school is now via a narrow public access track, which was designated after a separate, unrelated subdivision.

Meanwhile, public access along the beach to the western entrance of the Waimea Estuary has become more difficult from mid to high tide after the construction along the beachfront of the rock wall of about 1km from the Leisure Park to what is now the Talley property.

David Mitchell (who was a submitter opposing the subdivision proposal)