

# Coastal News

email: [coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz](mailto:coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz)

covering Mapua & Ruby Bay  
run by volunteers

## Public's comment on hall plans wanted

At last! Something is about to be done about the men's toilets in the Mapua Hall. And the tired kitchen, the dark and dingy stage, the barely adequate ladies' loos, the tatty curtains, the horrible lino... A summary for the "headline readers:"

- After funding was allocated in the Tasman District Council draft LTCCP, the hall committee is proposing to rebuild the Mapua Hall at an estimated cost of \$1.7M - \$2M (depending on decisions about occupancy). These costings are fully inclusive of design fees, building consents and contingency fees but exclusive of reserve contributions.

- Further public endorsement of the rebuild decision will be sought as the community needs to be fully supportive of the project for it to succeed.

- Comment is therefore invited initially via a public meeting in conjunction with the hall AGM to be held on Wednesday 13 May at 7.30pm in the hall

- The long-term project plan for the rebuild will include extensive consultation with all hall user groups, the Mapua business community and other interested groups or individuals.

- The TDC funding (\$864,700 set down for 2010/11) is for "either a rebuild or renovation" of the hall and is subject to their LTCCP being adopted.

- The estimated cost of renovation of the hall is \$1.08M, with upgrading of the toilets alone an estimated \$150,000. The current rateable value of the hall is \$140,000.

- A fund-raising classic car rally in support of the hall is being held on Sunday 10 May.

- Recent hall maintenance includes blocking up a youth bolt-hole and fixing the cistern in those men's toilets.

### Community Consultation.

A feasibility study and associated community surveys commissioned by the hall last year, elicited a range of responses which varied from "doing nothing" to "completely rebuild somewhere else". Those surveys and feasibility study were neutral in regard to the rebuild vs renovate question so it could be considered that the community has been well consulted on the issue of the hall's development.

However, the present hall committee feels its decision to opt for rebuilding, should be endorsed by the community so we are inviting comments. These may be made by email to the chairman, [m.garner@xtra.co.nz](mailto:m.garner@xtra.co.nz) (Hall Proposal in the subject line please), or in person at our AGM to be held on Wednesday 13 May. If we are going to rebuild our local hall, it is important for the community to be right behind the proposal.

### Arguments in favour of a rebuild:

- Renovation would still leave Mapua with an old building

- The cost of renovating the toilets alone is more than the value of the entire building

- The existing old, tired hall compares unfavourably with similar facilities in other parts of the district, particularly on a population basis. Despite this, the Mapua Hall is still used more than 70 times each month by 30 different groups.

- The hall contains no audio-visual equipment or wiring. This is a requirement for modern public facilities and would be difficult to install in an old building.

- The projected population for Mapua by 2026 is 2860 (under a medium growth scenario), an increase of 52%. The hall in its present state does not meet community needs of today, let alone the future.

- The existing hall has no working interface with the Domain. With careful designing, a new hall could be used by both Domain users and other hall users independently of each other. A proposed interface with the Domain includes an upstairs function/viewing area, toilet facilities independent of other hall usage, a possible first aid room and external veranda and terraces to the Domain. These facilities would allow all Domain users to more easily host tournaments and sporting or other events

- A new hall, including commercial-standard kitchen, would enable the development of numerous

*Hall plans - contd:*

activities that have been dormant due to a lack of facilities and will enable people to participate in activities previously limited by requirements to travel.

### **Project Activity Plan.**

Still to be confirmed but broadly speaking:

- April 09 Submission to TDC in support of their proposed funding
- May Hall AGM and public meeting inviting comments on the rebuilding decision.
- End June Adoption of TDC LTCCP
- June–Aug Preparation of project plan and consultation with community
- Sept Applications to the Canterbury Community Trust close
- Sept – into Continued community consultation, fundraising and promotional 2010 events.
- Mid 2010 Application to Lottery Grants Board.
- June 2011 Strategy for rebuild due to TDC in support of their funding
- 2012 Possibly, maybe, hopefully start building!

### **Funding.**

If the TDC's draft LTCCP is adopted and funding confirmed, applications will be made to the

Canterbury Community Trust and to the Lottery Grants Board. Last year's Feasibility Study was conducted primarily for the LGB for it to determine whether the project is suitable for funding consideration. That Feasibility Study was accepted which means that after the submission of a substantial application, they will consider funding up to 2/3 of this project cost.

No funding is 100% guaranteed and indeed, the Feasibility Study preceded the present financial crisis. Any funding applications we make will have to be backed up with considerable community support. Which leads me neatly to the Mapua Charity Country Classic Cruise with the Mapua Hall as the beneficiary. (An article on this event is elsewhere in this *Coastal News*)

### **Maintenance.**

The cistern in the men's toilet has been fixed. A hole at the back of the hall has been resealed to prevent access underneath the hall by youths who were using the space for random if rather predictable activity. Hopefully none were left underneath. If anyone is missing a teenager, please phone the hall committee.

*Mary Garner, chairman, ph 540-2853,  
m.garner@xtra.co.nz*

## ***Rural Communities Trust***

The Rural Communities Trust (RCT) was formed in 1982 to provide help for people in rural communities whose needs are impacted by rural isolation. There are three rounds per annum the next three being 31 May 2009, 30 October 2009 and 29 January 2010. The Rural Communities Trust is committed to building an ongoing partnership between commercial organisations that service the rural sector, to provide for:

- The general welfare of rural communities by the maintenance, establishment and enhancement of services and facilities in rural communities.
- The welfare of individuals and families with special emphasis on health and educational needs.
- Each year the Trust approves grants for individuals where their location impacts on their ability to access health and welfare services and activities such as sports, travel, accommodation or education.

There are three types of applications forms; Individuals and Families, Groups and Education. The application form can be downloaded at [www.ruralcommunitiestrust.org.nz](http://www.ruralcommunitiestrust.org.nz)

## **Police Update**

Another successful Mapua Fair topped off a great Easter weekend weather-wise. It is a great fundraiser for the community and all the organisers and volunteers need congratulating. Crime-wise there has been a real spate of fuel thefts in the whole district. Most of it has been from rural orchards but if you leave a full fuel can out on display anywhere it isn't safe—so be warned!

I suspect that some of the larger fuel thieves may be running a black market, so we need someone to come forward with a bit of information. People out there will know or will have been offered cheap petrol and I need to have an anonymous phone call with a bit of a lead in the right direction.

Luckily there have been no other major crime trends in the Mapua area, so long may that last.

*Grant Heney, Rural Community Constable,  
Motueka, ph 03) 528-1226*

# Mapua Health Centre

The new and spacious waiting room seems to be working out well. Many thanks to Pete Walker for getting our new fish tank up and running and to Shona MacLean (Laughing Fish Studio) for the fabulous sculpture which the shy fish can hide behind.

Dr Cindy de Villiers is now working Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning and Sally Harris has swapped to Wednesday and Friday mornings. Our hyperbaric nurse, Bridget, will be going this month to the national Wound Care conference in Napier to present some of the successes that we have had with the use of our hyperbaric oxygen chamber.

There have been a variety of bugs going around including a transient infection of the inner ears which produces bouts of dizziness, vertigo and nausea – called acute vestibulitis – and usually due to a viral infection which is self-limiting but which may require medication to deal with the symptoms, as well as caution re driving and using machinery; and a diarrhoea and vomiting infection which again is usually self-limiting but requires care to avoid dehydration, especially in young children. There have also been a few cases of a more serious type of gastro-enteritis which tends to cause a more persistent diarrhoea which may be accompanied with colicky pains and the passage of blood. If in doubt please contact the medical centre on 540-2211.

This year's flu vaccine is now available. The vaccine is free for those over 65 years and for anyone with respiratory problems requiring regular use of inhalers, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease, cancer, certain neurological conditions and auto-immune disease. If you would like to receive immunisation please phone the practice nurse.

## **This month's health events include:**

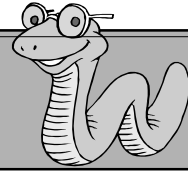
- 5 International Midwives Day  
[www.midwiferycouncil.org.nz](http://www.midwiferycouncil.org.nz)
- 8 World Red Cross Day  
[www.redcross.org.nz](http://www.redcross.org.nz)
- 9 Balloon Day Asthma & Respiratory Foundation  
[www.asthmaco.nz](http://www.asthmaco.nz)
- 10-16 ME Awareness Week [www.anzmes.org.nz](http://www.anzmes.org.nz)
- 12 International Nurses Day  
[www.nursingcouncil.org.nz](http://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz)
- 11-17 Hospice Appeal Week Hospice New Zealand  
[www.hospice.org.nz](http://www.hospice.org.nz)
- 15 International Day of Families  
[www.un.org](http://www.un.org)
- 23-29 Coeliac Awareness Week  
[www.colourcards.com/coeliac/](http://www.colourcards.com/coeliac/)
- 23-29 Heart Children Awareness Week  
[www.heartchildren.org.nz](http://www.heartchildren.org.nz)
- 26-1 Youth Week [www.nzaahd.co.nz](http://www.nzaahd.co.nz)
- 31 World No-Tobacco Day [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)
- 31-6 Infant Gastric Awareness Week  
[www.cryingoverspiltmilk.co.nz](http://www.cryingoverspiltmilk.co.nz)

And on the subject of cyberspace, ACC now has some websites aimed at helping more Kiwis who play sport or enjoy physical activities to stay injury-free.

- [www.activesmart.co.nz](http://www.activesmart.co.nz) (aimed at runners, walkers and cyclists)
- [www.snowsmart.co.nz](http://www.snowsmart.co.nz) (for skiers and snowboarders)
- [www.netballsmart.co.nz](http://www.netballsmart.co.nz)
- [www.soccersmart.co.nz](http://www.soccersmart.co.nz)

Anyone can visit the websites and access a range of fitness and injury-prevention information. In some instances, people may be advised to have their health checked by a health practitioner before beginning training. Please note, ACC does not cover the cost of these visits.

# Coastal Garden Group



April was a busy month for bulbs and plants and there were many notices about upcoming events that members take part in such as the autumn tidy-up at Settlers' Cottage and Anzac Day. Alan then introduced our speaker, John Barnes, who spoke to us about our soil and how to improve it.

John is the founder of Fertilizer New Zealand Ltd and has been involved with farming-related activities for most of his life. John has a strong belief that 'we are what we eat' and that it is, therefore, very important what we put on the ground.

For those of us living on clay it was interesting to note that the most common soil type in New Zealand is sandy. John noted that in the past farming and market gardening have largely used water-based fertilisers which leach through sandy soil and pollute our waterways. This is a trend his products aim to change. The company is based on science, the health of soil, the prevention of degeneration of fertile soil and plant health. Many of his products are compounds that are full of microbes. Different microbes have different functions in the soil and work in synergy with the plants. Microbes break down clay and bulk up sand, they can take nitrogen from the atmosphere to benefit plants and produce minerals necessary for plant health. In return plants produce proteins so that the microbes survive and develop.

John gave new meaning to the soil we all take for granted portraying it as a complete living eco-system which we need to take care of. Thank you, John, for sharing your passion with us.

The monthly hints and tips this month included dividing rhubarb and continue with the winter vegetables. It is time to feed the citrus and the compost heap. Compost heaps benefit from adding a 'hot' manure such as horse or hen as this boosts the heat within the heap, aiding decomposition just as the weather cools down. April is also a good month to plant sweet peas and poppies and to tidy up the perennial bed.

After tea the results of the competition were announced with lots of colour this month provided by dahlias, roses, and begonias as well as a few unusual flowers and shrubs. We ended with our plant auction and this was dominated by cut leucodendron stems which are so good at providing long-lasting colour in the home. Our thanks to everyone who helped in the kitchen and in tidying up the supper room after our activities.

Our next monthly meeting is on Thursday 7th May.

We meet at 1pm for a 1.15 pm start in the Supper Room at the Mapua Village Hall. If you would like to join us either as a visitor or as a potential new member, please do come along, all enquires to Barry Highsted (540-3139).

# Community Association

Well, it certainly seems the community is satisfied with the way things are running locally if the April General Meeting of the association was any indication. We were just a handful of people but ploughed through a mountain of issues just the same – and finished at a record time of 8.45pm! Does this mean that the community in general is happy with the way things are going for the community and district? Surely not!

Our Public Forum slot at the start of the meeting is proving a great success so if you want to get something off your chest, come along; we want to hear from you.

## **Long Term Community Plan**

Hugh Gordon raised the matter of submissions to the LTCCP, particularly in regard to one item which he felt was premature—the promotion by the council to purchase a public transport company that Hugh felt would be directly in opposition to existing transport services which, while not altogether adequate, were well used. He believed the budgeted item for this was excessive and not appropriate at this stage.

## **Draft Structure Plan**

David Kemp noted the Ruby Bay by-pass environment committee was formed to acknowledge the huge impact on the surrounding community. That impact was possibly more than the community had appreciated or absorbed at this point. This association was about being the consciousness of our community, particularly in regard to environmental and climate impact. The community needed to think about opportunities and threats within our environment while also having clarity around what it was that attracted people to the area. Think about it: how many 80-seater buses do we want coming into the village over summer? We need to start paying attention as a community to what we want to see three years down the track. David further suggested some sort of celebrations be held to get the community together—mid-winter gatherings, sector groups (wellness, accommodation, and restaurants for example) –a festival to celebrate.

“Let’s involve ourselves in this process to help the community evolve constructively”.

## **Mapua Domain**

People will have noticed the number of changes being made on the domain: Installation of bollards and gates by the Bowling Club to alleviate the problem of random drivers on the domain; installation of a pathway; dirt mounds moved to form a better cycle track; toilets under refurbishment. Installation of soccer lights, and cricket nets with two run-ups was imminent.

## **Mapua Waterfront Park**

There had been community feedback in regard to what seemed a contentious issue of planting a

heritage apple orchard on the Mapua Waterfront Park. Local business owners were also apparently unhappy about proposed car-parking in front of cool stores. Until the final audit was received, no decisions can be made about contouring or removal of the excess soil. Pam Stinton and Dave Kemp both proposed that with a little vision the excess soil could be shaped to provide auditorium-type contouring instead of being moved off-site.

## **Old Mill Walkway**

Bridget Wild has proposed that the TDC consider the installation of two foot bridges along this walkway over the two areas prone to flooding, otherwise it remained a danger to children and a nuisance in general. Shingle will shortly be applied along the length of the pathway but it was considered the foot bridges would provide additional safety when the pathway was prone to flooding over winter and wet weather in general.

## **Cycleways & Walkways**

The association was sorry to hear that Sarah McLeod, who has been such a great spokesperson at the association’s meetings for the independent Cycleways & Walkways Group, was standing down. Everyone agreed Sarah has done a great job in keeping everyone in the loop while she and her peers in the group worked hard with the council to establish a wonderful network of cycleways and walkways in the district. Well done Sarah and many thanks for your dedication.

## **Draft Mapua Structure Plan**

Tord Kjellstrom reported via email that a number of the points made in the association’s response were being integrated into the next version of the Structure Plan. Tord pointed out that a Structure Plan by a council has certain constraints on its content and it is not likely that the structure plan drafting at the TDC will be completed before June when it will then be made available for public comment. Meanwhile, Tord is finding his time in London useful for this project to learn about the ways planning for climate change and health protection are being dealt with there.

## **Moreland Place Estuary Planting Project**

It was hoped that planting will be able to take place, with the help of interested community members, within the next two months or it will be too late and people do need some forward notice.

## **Cycleways & Walkways**

The TDC had commissioned MWH Global to undertake a study alongside the upgrading of Old Coach

# Mapua Waterfront Parklands – Next Steps

Amongst ongoing discussions of many local issues which impact the Waterfront Park's development, the design process is moving forward. For example discussions on the Structure Plan for Mapua/Ruby Bay, funding allocation in the TDC'S Draft Ten-Year Plan and LTCCP, inquiry into the health impacts of the FCC remediation process, the audit progress of the greater FCC site, the "Coastal Initiative" organised to spearhead making the most of the main highway relocation, talk of a rowing/water sports centre opposite on Rabbit Island.... all are important and impact the park's development.

The TDC has approved the Concept Plan and given the go ahead for the next stage of design development after design alternatives were presented on two aspects of the concept plan. First was the Shared Zone for the Wharf end of Aranui Road where neither cars nor pedestrians had priority. After working with interested parties the area has developed to be smaller and closer to the water as illustrated.

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## *Community Association - contd*

Road between the proposed Ruby Bay by-pass and School Road. Part of that project was to construct a cycleway and according to TDC's Coastal Tasman Plan. This cycleway can be constructed in two ways:

- 1) Directly alongside and contoured to the proposed road, or

- 2) Separated from the road and contoured to the land.

It was evident from discussion that the second option was the preferred one as it was considered to provide a margin of safety to cycle users. However, it may not be constructed at the same grade to the road and in fact would follow the existing profile of the land. This could result in some sections of the cycle way being steeper than the road, depending on how the design goes.

## **FCC Clean-up**

It was agreed that Jenny Easton's article in the *Coastal News* on the estuary and clean-up site was a breath of fresh air. However, David Kemp said that while the community had been given reassurances that the watchers will be watched very carefully by different agencies before the final report was out, the question was, what are these reassurances worth in light of the local disquiet about the way in which operations had taken place. If there was an issue about compliance, just who exactly was checking the checkers?

If you're new to the community, come along to our next General Meeting of the association: Monday 11 May in the Village Hall (Supper Room) at 7.30pm.

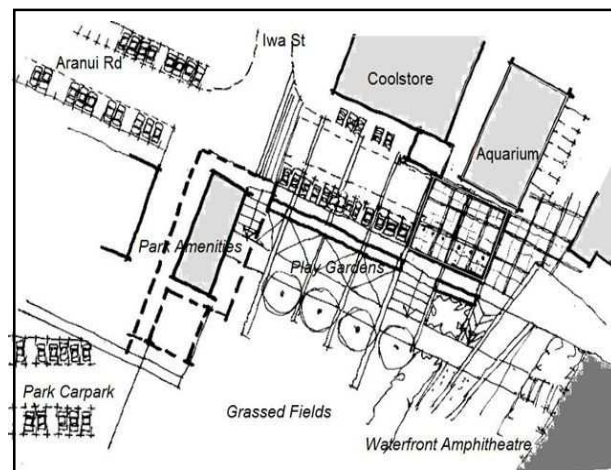
*Pam Stinton, secretary*

The second area was the Heritage Fruit Tree Collection. The initial proposal responded to many people's desires to express the site history and special qualities of the area. The feasibility of growing fruit trees needs to be made on a scientific basis and so awaits relevant information. The design team developed several alternatives to reduce the initial area to a smaller, contained area, but it may eventuate that the significance of the apple-growing industry will be expressed in ways other than through living trees.

Design development is where real shape and character is given to the initial concept. In this phase Heidi and I will want to talk to those of you with special interest in particular aspects. First, is likely to be refining the performance areas. At present the Concept Plan has the intimate amphitheatre by the water and a proposed moveable stage to the west of the big lawn for larger events. We shall contact people who expressed interest and offered expertise, but please let us know if you would like to be part of these discussions.

Also look out for focus group discussions on development of the play gardens – areas for kids of all ages!

*Robin Simpson, Project Landscape Architect*



# Garden Notes

Although May is the last month of autumn, the first real signs of winter can be felt. Temperatures are falling and dismal weather soon sees the garden stripped bare of autumn colour. The final trimmings and garden clean-up should be almost complete.

Some gardeners talk of putting their gardens to sleep for the winter, and this we do. Food and water are not major preoccupations as the growth is slowing down. A watch needs to be kept for snails and slugs which will devour any winter veges planted.

If you have not planted your spring bulbs as yet do so without delay so they can produce their root system over the winter months to then produce their flowers.

May is Liliium time, plant ASAP as they don't like being out of the ground. The soil should be rich with very good drainage, plant in dappled light, plus they don't like to compete for food or water as this results in decline of flowers and plants. It is then time to replant them elsewhere.

Delphiniums can be cut hard back, lifted and replanted. They, too, like rich free-draining soil but require more effort and care, staking, feeding, and watching for those pesky snails and slugs which can smell these plants from miles away and will decimate a whole plant in one evening. The new variety "Dowdeswells" has lovely shadings—not too tall and more robust along with the ability to be more perennial than most others.

Asparagus is a perennial vege which can last for many years. Select healthy two-year-old crowns from the new variety "Purple Gourmet" and plant now then they will begin to crop reliably after two seasons. They love rich well manured ground, compost and mulch, and if kept watered will reward you.

All ground should be well prepared for any new shrubs/trees to arrive for shifting or planting in July/August.

Happy gardening as usual.

*Barry Highsted*

## *The ShedLight Blokes*

After the summer break the Shedlight Blokes organised the first visit of the year. This was a trip to Murray and Pauline's sheds to see their collection (it is important to realise that some of the items on display are Pauline's). About 40 blokes arrived at 7pm and were welcomed by their dog who showed us to the shed.

We walked around to the entrance of this huge shed and in the first room was a 1946 Hillman Minx car that is for sale. Behind it was a 1928 Centaur tractor still in working order. It uses a Levoy motor and is all metal. In the main part of the shed were a host of vehicles of all types. Murray has a wealth of knowledge regarding each vehicle, including the history and previous owners. Some of the cars were a 1934 Chevrolet Master built as a hotrod, a 1934 Riley fast-back, and a 1962 Ford Consul police car with all the attachments. The old Mapua fire engine is there. This was sold to the Lions Club for \$1 and rebuilt 28 years ago and is still used for shows and demonstrations. Also on display were a Plymouth truck, a 1951 Morris van, 1965 Mini, Morris 8, 1958 Humber 80, an ex-army BSA bike, a BSA-

labelled bike with side-car made in China but copied from a BMW design, a big-block Harley Davidson bike, and a forerunner go-kart.

In a separate part of the shed were about 30 motorbikes. I won't list them all but Murray described them all—who originally owned it, how he acquired it, cost, what has been done to it, what is different about it, and why he will not sell it. There is a 1963 Ford Zodiac that looks magnificent. Around the edges of the room were several mannequins dressed in army uniforms, and also a nurse. There were also 10 or 12 old pinball machines, all fully operational but using old coins.

Murray and Pauline provided cups of tea or coffee and after Brian proposed a vote of thanks for a wonderful and interesting evening, we all severally departed.

*Owen Brett*

# Tasman District Council News

April was a busy month for councillors and staff working on Mapua issues.

The Ten-Year Plan (Long Term Council Community Plan) open forum and public meeting on 9 April were well attended. At the evening meeting there was a presentation by the strategic development manager Susan Edwards. This was followed by some useful debate about the council's level of indebtedness, the proposed holding company for council's business assets, climate change, peak oil, energy efficiency, the proposed tourism rate, whether the council should continue to fund roading at the current level and where it should provide cycleways.

Work is progressing well on a plan change for Mapua/Ruby Bay integrating some of the ideas suggested in relation to the Mapua Structure Plan which was consulted on in 2008. Anna Crosbie, a local planner, is assisting with some of the supporting documentation for the plan change.

The Community Services Committee considered submissions received on the Waterfront Park in Aranui Road at its April meeting. The four main issues raised were:

- Parking in the shared Aranui Road precinct
- Heritage fruit trees
- Wharf continuation
- Commercial area management

The council agreed to proceed to the next phase which is for more specific park design.

The resource consent for permission to erect a rock wall to protect the Old Mill Walkway was heard in late March. The Commissioner's favourable decision has been received and referred to the Minister of Conservation. Design and tender documents are being prepared.

*Rose Biss, Policy Planner*

## Mapua & Districts Soccer Club

### Club Day

What a great way to kick off the season! A big percentage of fees were collected, so thank you to all and we hope you have a great season. Thank you to the committee members and non-members who helped on the day, great job guys!

### Club kit & equipment

There has been lots of action on the domain recently. The first stage of the lights is under way. They should be up and running by the time this *Coastal News* goes to press. These lights will allow the senior teams to practice at Mapua Domain as opposed to the present arrangement of travelling to the Moutere Community Sports Centre. David Francis has been instrumental in moving the installation forward for the club. Thank you David for taking this project on.

The club has ordered approximately \$3500 of kit and equipment to raise the quality of teams' kits. This includes a new strip for the Midget Grade so look out for the new-look midgets.

The men's team has a new strip, kindly sponsored by The Tap, Mapua. They have had a challenging but great start to the new season.

We also have a container dropping into Mapua any day now; this will allow us to store all club equipment securely. A huge thank you to Shelley for sorting this out for us!

The Tasman District Council is looking at a new layout for the football pitches at Mapua Domain. The Nelson Bays League have created a 9-aside competition (our 13th grade will be one of the competitions) which require a pitch size between the 7-aside pitches we have had and the full pitch. The possible layout includes relocation of the main pitch towards the Aranui Road side of the domain. Discussions are still occurring with the council so at time of writing it is uncertain what the final layout will be.

### Registrations

All registrations should now be in for all teams. If you have not managed to get your registration form filled in and submitted, please contact Dave Francis as soon as possible on; [daf@blacksheeptouring.co.nz](mailto:daf@blacksheeptouring.co.nz) No pay no play!

### Matches

[www.nelsonsoccer.com](http://www.nelsonsoccer.com) This web site can be used to find out all the information you need for the season, draws, game schedules, ground locations, and tables.

### Club contacts:

Mapua and Districts Football Club, PO Box 38, Mapua.

Tony Jemmett Ph 540-3664

Gary Breakspeare 540-2044

Toby Wild (Seniors Men's co-ordinator) 540-2030

Bridget Wild (Senior Women's co-ordinator) 540-2030

E-mail [Jemmz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Jemmz@xtra.co.nz)



# Postcard From the Future

As the roading contractors carve through the hills and the Ruby Bay by-pass takes shape, representatives of Mapua and Tasman Community Associations, Mapua and District Business Association, and other interested parties, have put on their thinking caps to review the changes this may bring to the district. A steering group, the “The Coastal Initiative”, was formed last month to focus on these changes and how they affect the settlements of Tasman, Kina, Ruby Bay and Mapua.

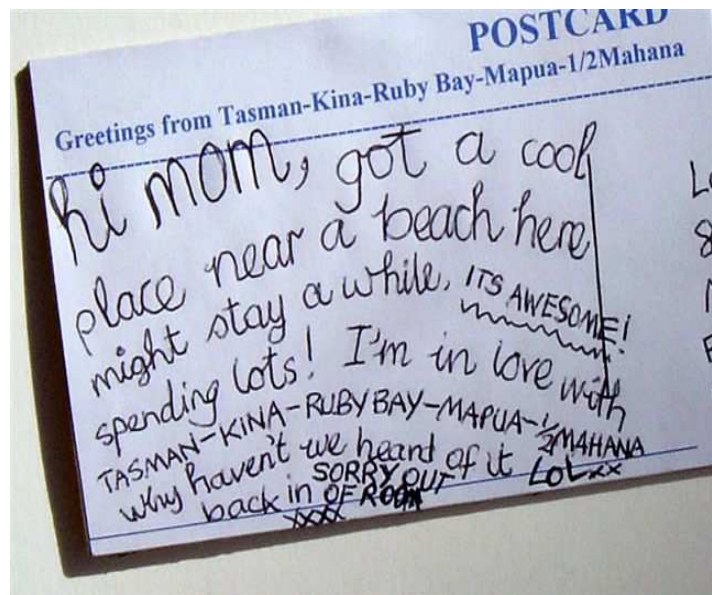
This is an amazing district with a unique environment, a healthy list of attractions and amenities, and a settled population of friendly and tolerant folk, a great place to live. The steering group’s emphasis is to look at “best possible outcomes” for the communities, trying to get it right. The by-pass will be a blessing for most; it’ll bring a new sense of peace and place to Ruby Bay, give Tasman a coastal village feel, and take away the trucks. It provides the opportunity to reinforce the district as a destination and a community and not a through route. But what other changes will ensue and what else is planned? This is where the steering group is working. Meetings with the Mayor, Richard Kempthorne, and TDC officials are in the wings as are consultations with DOC, Land Transport agencies etc. These will open up communications to hear and see what the agencies may plan for us, and allow us to lead some of the development through community initiatives and strong collective lobbying.

Some of the projects identified already that could benefit from this unified approach to the agencies and local government are:

- Accessibility – both for cyclists and walkers, the by-pass cuts across many recreational routes. Pedestrian/cycle underpasses now planned will help, but connections of cycleways and placement of walkways etc needs to be studied by the users as well as the engineers.

- The present coastal route, who will maintain it? What guarantees does the community have about this road remaining open? Who will own it? Once traffic volumes and speed decrease we want a place where we can walk and cycle safely and that makes easy stops for enjoying the creative works, environmental activities, food production and scenery the area offers.

- The Lights of Tasman – the Tasman community have an issue with the highway engineering planning which currently inserts 36 new street lights on a pole near you! That’s almost one per house! So they want



help lobbying for a better outcome. The same situation may occur at the Dominion Road end of the by-pass and at the other major intersections.

- Signage – as well as reviewing the signage on the highway and the new signage (and speed limits) on the coastal road, we envisage high quality interpretation signs and information panels at places around the district and a keyed map published.

- A new name? In a sense the by-pass is creating a focus for our communities and we are now recognising important common interests as well as a shared sense of identity. The district has never had a name that applies to all of us, Mapua tags “& district” to its handle to identify a broader community of interest. To be inclusive you need lots of hyphens. We are “Tasman-Kina-Ruby Bay-Mapua-and half of Mahana”! That’s a mouthful! Currently the signage has “Coastal Drive” as our preferred identity, the steering group feels that if the communities support a single name or alternative choice, this sign may still be able to be changed to reflect a place as well as a recreational option!

## Where to from here?

The steering group is beginning with meetings and consultations over the coming months. Also more expert advice is being sought to see if we can come up with a better district naming alternative. This process will be open to public input once a short list of possible choices is put together.

Then there is the issue of signage on the new highway. The two issues are related but not identical. The signage design is complex and the present plan has already been through a consultative, phase albeit several years ago. Some of this work is checks and

balances, some will involve lobby and initiative based change, consultations in the community and the associations.

This is an exciting time for our communities as we move beyond the by-pass construction phase. Soon the Ruby Bay by-pass will be history. There will just be the highway between Nelson and Motueka, and our district will sit between it and the coast. Let's make sure we get the best result out of these changes.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or comments feel free to contact the group's secretary, Janet Taylor. Via email [coordinator@mapua.biz](mailto:coordinator@mapua.biz) or phone 540-3364.



## Coastal Connections

April saw 17 of our group heading to Crusoe's Cafe in the Robinsons complex in Stoke. Not a pirate in sight but a cosy dining area with great food and excellent service.

Dot managed to quieten us down to welcome the group and inform us that Olive will unfortunately no longer be able to come to our monthly lunches. We wish her all the very best and trust she enjoyed the flowers that were delivered to her.

Barbara handed around a flyer she retrieved from the internet detailing a website called [www.dayofbirth.co.uk](http://www.dayofbirth.co.uk). Do try this website as you may be surprised by what is revealed. Just put your birth date in and go from there. Don't forget to click the Southern Hemisphere icon.

Have you heard of "Operation Cover Up"? Local ladies have put their knitting skills to good use to produce several pairs of booties and mittens for babies in orphanages in Eastern Europe. These were handed around and are so cute. One the subject of knitting, Netta Perry, who is in our group, knits tirelessly for the Motueka Hospice in a fund-raiser capacity. Netta's knitted garments are beautiful and a credit to her. If anyone has any spare wool to enable Netta to continue her knitting, it would be appreciated.

Hope to see you all at the Jester House & Cafe this month. Take care.

*Julie Haliday.*

## MAPUA COMBINED PROBUS

The main speaker at the club's monthly meeting on the 3 April. was Richard De Hamil and his subject was "Adventure in to Natural History." Richard left school when living in Dunedin and started his first job with the New Zealand Wildlife Service. His first assignment was conservation work on Stewart Island.

Richard was showed the meeting a large variety of slide photos of various birds including penguins, kakapo and the New Zealand falcon. There were some interesting photos of the tuataras taken during his working time on Stephens Island in the Marlborough Sounds. His photos also showed a variety of transportation to get to the various remote islands around New Zealand. These included helicopters, jet boats, and even a tourist boat returning to New Zealand close to the Auckland Island in the Southern Ocean. The majority of Richard's work with the Department of Conservation was trapping and eliminating predators, such as stoats, rats and even wild cats.

Club members found Richard's 90 minute talk very informative with a good variety of humour. His talk ended with a good response of questions from the meeting.

The club's mini-speaker was Cornella Baumgartner on "Kids' Power, Teen Power, and Full power". Cornella works through a charitable trust, working with various age groups to gain self-esteem and confidence when being confronted or intimidated by strangers. Her skills are in martial arts, being the holder of a black belt. She works with groups of about 15 people, often using schools and the police. During her talk Cornella demonstrated several points in the use of positive walking and body language when being out on one's own.

*Dave Higgs*

# *The People's Times -*

*helps NZ go digital*

Free webpages, notices and news coverage for individuals and not-for-profit groups

*The People's Times* is a new not-for-profit community web service, helping grassroots clubs, societies and community groups all over New Zealand to get online.

*The People's Times* can help groups manage their members, share information and publicise their activities, and anyone can use it to find and contact groups in their area. And best of all, it's completely free!

*The People's Times* offers three integrated services in one place:

- People's Times Communities – offering simple, ad-free webpages for groups with easy-to-use tools built in. Write blogs and news articles, post photos and notices, store and share files, or chat with other group members in secure forums;
- People's Times News – NZ's first dedicated 'citizen journalism' site: individuals and groups can publish original articles and pictures to our online newspaper, or share stories they've found elsewhere on the internet; and
- People's Times NoticeBoard – individuals and groups can browse, search, post and subscribe to free notices across a range of community-oriented categories, 24 hours a day (also accessible directly at [www.noticeboard.org.nz](http://www.noticeboard.org.nz)).

There are already more than 50 groups on the People's Times, and more are joining every day. Why not take a look and see if it could help yours? It's free, it only takes a few minutes to register, and you don't need any special skills or software to use it.

For more information visit [www.peoplestimes.org.nz](http://www.peoplestimes.org.nz), or contact the People's Times team directly at [info@peoplestimes.org.nz](mailto:info@peoplestimes.org.nz), or (04) 382-8711 (just ask for a call back if you're outside Wellington).

The People's Times is a partnership between the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand and e-learning specialists Flexible Learning Network, and was funded by the Community Partnership Fund.

# Moutere Hills RSA

The April meeting of the branch was held in the RSA room at the Mapua Library on 6 April. Attendance was eleven members plus one potential new member. The meeting opened with members standing for the *Ode to the Fallen*.

Arrangements for Poppy Day on 24 April and for the Anzac Day Service at 11am on 25 April were confirmed. The president thanked vice-president Bob Bright for arranging a visit of members to see the harvest and processing of hops at a farm in Upper Moutere. A most interesting operation.

K Broady reported on his meeting with Richard Easton regarding the refurbishment and re-installation of the gates at the RSA memorial in Tasman, including the incorporation of an RSA panel in the gates.

A letter was received from one of our members clarifying the detail of his offer of financial assistance towards some form of activity for the youth of the Mapua area. He suggests that an appropriate line for the RSA could be to encourage young people to join the Cadet Unit in Motueka by contributing to transport, uniform and other costs. Contact with the Cadet Unit indicates that uniforms may be issued and that an attendance fee is charged each term. Bob Bright suggested that other members may also wish to contribute to these costs. It was noted that the Cadet Unit will take part in the Anzac Day Parade and Service in Mapua.

Resolved that we proceed with this project. Families and young people in the Mapua area interested in taking part in this activity are invited to contact the president, Norm Thawley, phone 540-2876 or the vice-president, Frank Gibbison, phone 540-3055 or Bob Bright, phone 544— 2742.

A member requested the use of the electric wheelchair held by the branch. This was agreed

The next meeting will be held in the RSA Room at the Mapua Library at 2pm Monday 11 May,

*F H Gibbison*

# Animal Health File

Dr. Paula Short Tasman Bay Vets

69 Aranui Road, Mapua ph: 5402329

## Road Safety 101

One of the most common emergencies we see in our clinics are the RTA, or road traffic accident, also known as the HBC (hit by car) or the car vs cat or car vs dog. Dogs and cats are well known for making the odd silly decision when crossing the road but over the long Easter weekend I came across a scenario that I had not seen before.

Unfortunately an over-enthusiastic little dog managed to launch herself out of a car window directly into the path of an oncoming vehicle. As you can imagine the trauma was massive, leaving her with major spinal damage which we are hoping will come right. Only time and lots of TLC will tell.

Normally when we think about RTAs we think of it from the perspective of the doggy crossing the road who forgot to look both ways, but this incident got me thinking about road safety again from an entirely different angle—that of restraint of the pet that is in the car. My own dog loves sticking his head out of the car window. I have no idea why. Maybe it's the buzz of the wind in his face flapping his ears about or the zillions of cool new smells passing his nostrils every second. I know it this is common practice because I have a chuckle every time I pass a car with its canine occupant shooting the breeze.

The ultimate solution is, of course, to keep the windows closed. But it may be that a better compromise is the dog car harness. For quite some time we have been selling these harnesses which effectively seat-belt your dog in. There are some added bonuses from these harnesses in that they also stop your pet from becoming a dangerous missile should your car come to a screeching halt or should you be in an accident of your own.

My boy has a knack of still managing to get his face an acceptable distance out of the car window while still remaining belted in. When he was little we were very diligent parents and we belted him in every time he was in the car. But I have to admit that as he has gotten older and bigger we have become more slack about this, with the exception being when there is someone else in the back seat with him who doesn't feel the need for some Labrador-loving! However since Easter he has been securely buckled in and is probably wondering what all the fuss is about.

## VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

### Mar-April call-outs

Mar 17: Motor vehicle accident, Coastal Highway, assist police & road control.

Mar 27: Tanker to grass fire Redwood Valley Rd.

Mar 30: Vegetation fire Old Coach Road. Unattended teenager lighting wrong objects



**Safety Tip – The one-metre rule**  
– keep objects at least one-metre from a heat source.

In February Matt Davidson resigned from the brigade. Matt had been in the brigade for 14 years and reached the rank of acting DCFO. We will miss his leadership daytime availability

## MAPUA Bowling Club

Further to our last entry in the *Coastal News*: In an inaugural bowls tournament held on 2 March, Nelson Anniversary Day, the Elston Blain Two Four Two competition was won by Joan Gibbison and Merle Hendricks. Merle and her husband Fred come from Canada for regular holidays here in Mapua where their daughter lives. They hope to return next season. Perhaps Merle and Joan can defend the cup.

A reminder to members: the Bowling Club will hold its AGM on May 23rd at 10.30 am.

Mapua League Bowls has finished for the season. A special thanks to Vicky and Don Sixtus for all their help in organising the weekly Monday matches. A job well done.

A thank you also to the local business's: KFC Motueka, Video Ezy Mapua, Laughing Fish Studio, Mapua Country Trading, Touch the Sea, Serious Straws, Mapua 4 Square, and Hamish ice cream and coffee parlour. Lastly a big thank you to the league bowlers themselves for their patronage. Hope to see you all again next season. Watch this space for details.

# *Letters to the Editor...*

## *Ruby Bay by-pass*

The project rolls on. The continuing spell of open weather has given the DownerEDI contractor's workforce what amounts to a dream run. They are making the most of it. As motorists we are now experiencing the project in our faces as the Apple Valley West area impinges onto the present Highway 60. Traffic delays will be the order of the day for quite some time.

Work continues at the Tasman end as well with the existing pedestrian foot bridge making way for the double box culvert for stream and tide movement and the single box culvert for pedestrian movement under the new roadway coming along fairly soon.

The By-Pass Partnering Group will meet again on 13 May. Issues relating to lighting of the intersections and accesses will be discussed, as will signage at the various points along the by-pass and other points as well.

The following is the updated report (as of 16 April) from DownerEDI on the by-pass work.

*Hugh Gordon*

## *Contractor's report*

Last month the Ruby Bay by-pass project has seen an extended fine spell of weather with only minimal time lost during showers the week of the 6 April. This has meant that work has been progressing well through the forest corridor from the Seaton Valley intersection north, as well as establishment into new areas taking place. To date over 600,000 cubic meters has been shifted, the major milestones were:

- Commencement of bulk earthworks from Chaytor Hillside into Dominion Road flats including removal of unsuitable materials
- Temporary by-pass completed (near Apple Valley Road)
- Completion of lower Dominion Creek diversion, with over 1000 eels transferred from all diversions to date
- Upper Dominion Creek diversion to be cut in the dry this week with a fish and eel salvage to occur on completion of culvert installation; Tasman pedestrian culvert completed;
- Construction of Tasman 1 (Upper Field Creek) major culvert begun

## *Things I wanted to do*

About a year ago I decided that there were two things that I wanted to do. Think "bucket list", a session of putting the world "right" with friends, think what you will—but I was on a mission!

Semi-retired and already too busy, I decided that I had to:

1) Help get more solar water heating units into homes. (I was amazed to read how few of us use solar heat)

2) Help locals gain recognition that their work and products are top quality. (I saw it as unsustainable that kitchens were coming from as far afield as Dubai!)

I bought a lovely private acre of land on Higgs Road and set about my goal. The basic idea—to build three lovely homes, to install solar hot water heating, to employ local Mapua people and to buy New Zealand-made products from as close to Mapua as practical.

The first house is close to being finished. It is a fabulous testimony to the work of a long list of locals. The greatest credit is due to award-winning master builder Graham Weir and his son Craig.

It's important to me that everyone in the community gets the chance to come and see the work of the

talented group of locals who have worked on this project.

I invite you to come to see the first house either informally by ringing me or by coming to a community open home. You'll get the chance to talk to the tradespeople about their work and products. Hope to see you there. 62 Higgs Road, Sunday 17 May, 1pm to 3pm.

*Judith Holmes, phone 544-0890*

# Sam's Spam

March 2009

**H**ello readers. Below I have summarised some tips on how to stop your computer running slowly or freezing. <http://www.stuff.co.nz/technology/gadgets/2317763/First-aid-for-your-computer>

## **1. Find frozen programs and end them:**

**Computers with Windows XP or Vista,** Press Ctrl+Shift+Esc, which will bring up the Windows Task Manager. Click on the "processes" tab to see all the software running on your system. Click the "CPU" column heading to sort the column in descending order. The programs using the most CPU will be shown at the top. If one is consistently using a very high percentage of CPU time, it might be frozen. You can click on the process name and then the "end process" button (note, this will instantly shut down the application and you won't have an opportunity to save any files).

### **Mac computers**

Use the Activity Viewer to see frozen applications/programs. This is found in the Applications/Utilities folder. Open it up and click the "CPU" column heading. If a program is consistently using a very high percentage of CPU time, it may be frozen and you can click on the program name then click the "Quit Process" button on the toolbar. Programs listed in red are ones that OS X has detected are frozen (though this is not always accurate - sometimes a big app like iPhoto is just taking a long time to save its database and close down).

## **2. Find applications / programs that have been causing problems:**

### **Windows computers**

To view the system log, go to Control Panel. If it says "switch to classic view" in the left column, click that. Then click "administrative tools" and then "event viewer". In the event viewer that opens, select "Application" or "System" from the column on the left. Scroll down the log and look for warnings (yellow exclamation mark) or errors (red cross). Double-clicking on one of these entries will show you the detail of the error.

### **Mac computers**

Use Console which is found in the Applications/Utilities directory. In the left column, under the "Log database queries" heading, click "All messages". This will show all log entries from all software on your computer.

Scroll through the log file on the right-hand side for error messages.

## **3. Find out what's filling up your drive**

If your hard drive is almost full, it can dramatically slow down your computer. Disk space analysers help you delete the biggest files (but be sure you know what you're deleting!).

### **Free Stuff**

This month's free downloads are two free disk space analysers (see point 3 above) On Windows, WinDirStat will do the trick ([www.tinyurl.com/diskspace](http://www.tinyurl.com/diskspace)) and on OS X, Disk Inventory X ([www.derlien.com](http://www.derlien.com)) does a good job.

## BOOK REVIEW

All books are available from the Mapua Library. New borrowers welcome.

*Divisidero* by Michael Ondaatje and *Berlin Poplars* by Anne B. Ragde are available this month from Mapua Library. Reviewed by Jeanette Cook.

Both novels reviewed this month deal with disparate and dysfunctional farming families. Each is subtly crafted by a skilled author and enriched with perceptive human detail. But the plots of these two novels move in entirely opposite directions. *Divisidero* begins with a close-knit family of three teenagers and their solitary father who are split apart forever by a passionate and violent event, while in *Berlin Poplars*, three Norwegian brothers separated emotionally and geographically for twenty years are uncomfortably reunited by the death of their mother.

*Divisidero* begins on a Californian farm in the 1970s. Motherless Anna and her adopted sister Claire are inseparable, and farm hand Coop, the orphaned neighbour's son taken in by their father, is like an older brother to them. One night their father catches 16-year-old Anna and Coop in a passionate sexual encounter and reacts violently, splitting the family apart. Twenty years later Coop is a cardsharp in the casinos; Anna, a literary historian with an enigmatic gypsy lover, lives in France researching an obscure WWI French writer; Claire – the only one who continues to visit their father – works in a public defender's office in San Francisco.

Ondaatje's linear plot continues to follow each individual's story into the future, but their traumatic shared past is revisited only in their memories. Some readers may find this meandering picaresque approach frustrating, disappointed that there is no return to a satisfying family reunification and forgiveness. However, as in his best-known novel *The English Patient*, Ondaatje's poetically spare yet beautiful prose is mesmerising as we peel layers from the plot to reveal the gripping and often melancholy stories of others whose lives interact with or lie parallel to those of Anna and Coop. And as is often so with a consummate writer, the journey itself is almost more satisfying than reaching the destination.

In *Berlin Poplars*, Anne Ragde takes a slyly comic approach to her characters but her observations are no less perceptive. Tor is the only one of the three Neshov brothers who has remained on the remote family farm. Socially inept, he seems happiest when communing with his beloved sows. As Christmas approaches and the temperature drops below zero the daily pattern of his life is suddenly disrupted when his octogenarian mother fails to arise and cook his breakfast, and he takes several

## MAPUA LIBRARY

Ph 540-2545

You are invited to attend our library AGM – the more the merrier! Wednesday 7.30pm, 13th May at the library. Refreshments will be served after the meeting, and there will be a chance to hear what's going on, to have your say and to socialise with friends and supporters of our Community Library.

After nine years on the committee with six of those years as chair, I am stepping down and making space for fresh ideas and fresh enthusiasm to come on board. I'd like to thank all library volunteers, and the wider community for the tremendous support given to the library over the years I have been involved. Read this column next month to find out who is the new chief at the library!

We had an extremely successful day on Saturday 18th April, selling books and sausages to the passing traffic outside the library. We raised around \$700 for library running costs and it was great to see so many happy customers going off with their bargains. Thank you to all who gave their support, either by donating books, or by buying – it all helps!

At the library we have been keeping issuing statistics for a year now. The last time this was done was in 2005, and we have used the information to help with planning, grant applications and so on. You might be interested to know that in March 2005 approximately 600 books were issued, compared with 1300 for March 2009!

Sarah McLeod

### Library Hours:

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday	2pm – 4.30pm
Wednesday	5pm – 7 pm
Thursday	10am – 12.30pm

days to realise that this is not a temporary illness. His dour bachelor brother Margido, an undertaker in the local village, has not visited the farm for some time, while his younger brother Erlend, a gay window-dresser and obsessive style junkie lives in a Copenhagen apartment with his lover Crumb, from whom he has until now kept the details of his humble and rustic origins. After their mother's funeral this unlikely threesome find themselves reunited around the Christmas table, where their morose and until then monosyllabic father reveals a shocking family secret that changes their perceptions of themselves and their relationships with each other. This fine novel about a family denying yet ultimately being unable to escape their heritage, won Anne Ragde Norway's prestigious Riksmal prize.

# Mapua School

## To the Parents and Community of Mapua School

*(Note: This has been slightly abridged for space reasons. Editors)*

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on Mapua School.

Mapua School ... has a spacious outdoor environment, including adventure playgrounds and swimming pools. Both inside and outside areas contain art work, including a sculpture, dedicated since the 2005 ERO review, by an international artist. Since that time a new classroom has been added and safety features for pedestrians and cars improved. Shade structures have been provided and trees planted. The grounds are a well maintained and pleasant environment. The classrooms are well resourced. Colourful and attractive displays share, celebrate and show evidence of the processes of learning.

The Board of Trustees has a strong commitment to promote the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) as an integral tool for supporting teaching and learning. Since 2005, the school has been involved in Ministry of Education contracts for literacy, numeracy and ICT. It has been part of the 'Discover IT Tasman' professional cluster. A lead teacher from the school has been part of the management team in that cluster. She has led staff in continuous and extensive professional development.

This review evaluates the effectiveness of information and communication technologies as a tool in teaching and learning, progress in the achievement of Maori students, provision for international students and aspects of compliance, with emphasis on students' emotional and physical well-being. Requirements for the board to consult the Maori community and the whole-school community concerning the health curriculum are identified. ERO discussed with the board and senior managers the school's preparation for teaching The New Zealand Curriculum in 2010.

High quality practices integrate ICT throughout teaching and learning. The positive outcomes of

teachers' professional development are evident. Well-planned and appropriate support is available to extend students thinking skills and build their knowledge and capabilities. Students effectively use a range of multimedia in their learning, such as software to brainstorm and plan authentic real-life projects using global contexts.

A cooperative and supportive culture is promoted by affirming interactions between teachers and students and amongst the students themselves. Positive relationships reflect the focus on students taking pride in their work and responsibility for their own learning and behaviour, and on the importance of respect. The vision, 'To Be All I Can', is evident in the school.

Teachers have high expectations and classrooms are clearly focused on learning. Students are highly motivated, actively engaged and most are achieving at or above national expectations according to the collated and analysed results of school-wide tests.

Partnership with parents is actively encouraged. Opportunities are available for them to learn about the ICT tools and skills their children are using. They are kept well informed about school activities, progress and achievement through programmes such as the ICT Expo, class weblogs, electronic newsletters and assessment and report portfolios.

Recommendations agreed between ERO and the board focus on the continued development of school-wide curriculum planning and quality assurance practices.

ERO is confident that the board of trustees can manage the school in the interests of the students and the Crown and bring about the improvements outlined in this report.

If you would like a copy of the full report, please the school or see the ERO website, <http://www.ero.govt.nz> .

*Lennane Kent, Area Manager for Chief Review Officer*



# Mahana School

Term one at Mahana School drew to a close just before Easter with a couple of events that will become “world-famous-in-Mahana” occurrences.

Back by popular demand was Mahana’s “Wacky Hair Day”. If last year’s enthusiasm for this occasion was great, then by comparison this time it was spectacular. The whole school community was invited to join in. The only criteria for participation was, as the title suggests, hair had to be “wacky”.

This encouraged students, teachers, parents and siblings to sport outrageous hair-dos ranging from Mohawks, frizzes, wigs and every colour imaginable. Confectionary was a popular theme with sweets platted into locks.

This year saw the introduction of a catwalk where everybody had an opportunity to strut their stuff and display their entries to their classmates. Prizes were awarded to several categories.

Everybody participated in a range of fun activities and the kitchen area was made available for children to bake an assortment of Easter treats.

Gold coin donations from participants went towards senior room activities and proceeds from sales of sherbet on the day went towards World Vision.

Thanks to students Kaitlyn, Chrissie and Taylor for their efforts in making this such a successful event.

Instilling awareness of our environment and the planet’s resources in our children is and will become increasingly important. Thanks to senior student Tom Taikato’s initiative the school organised a night time torchlight trek from the school up to neighbouring Woolaston’s Estates to contribute towards Earth Hour.

More than half of the school roll and families turned up to join the trek to overlook Nelson to watch the city lights switch off and participate in the activities and evening supper.

Although the school has enjoyed many great activities outside the classroom this year, the focus of the school is still very aligned to enhancing reading and writing skills across all age groups.

For further information about Mahana School and to view our children’s recent activities, visit us on [www.mahana.school.nz](http://www.mahana.school.nz) – much of the content on the site has been contributed by our pupils. Blogspots by each class are frequently updated and give a great insight into our school culture.

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.

*Tony Brown, Mahana School parent, Board of Trustees*

# Hills Community Church

## *A Time for Celebration!*

Exciting times abound here at Hills Community Church. The release of this month's issue of the *Coastal News* coincides with our Grand Opening Weekend events—Friday, Saturday and Sunday 1st – 3rd May. Hopefully an invitation to all the events has reached your letter box because we want all our neighbours to join in our celebration.

Hills Community Church has already had an exciting history in Mapua of which many may be unaware. Perhaps now is a good time to share a little of our story. Hills Community Church came about in the early 1990s when the Mapua Fellowship, the Presbyterian-Methodist Uniting Parish and St James Anglican decided to merge and form a community church. Rev Ian Smith who was serving as pastor to the Fellowship was asked to serve as the minister of the combined venture.

From the onset it was dreamed that one day a new facility might be constructed. The Uniting Parish had sold some property and with some very special bequests from 'both sides of the road' these funds were held in trust for a good many years which ultimately gave us the financial resources to develop the project you see today. These resources were combined with the foresighted acquisition of property adjacent to where the St James Anglican church once stood. We broke ground for the new facility in January 2008 after the St James building was shifted to property owned by the late Frances Marshall and turned into a private residence.

Hills Community Church prides itself on truly being a church for the community with a wide range of programmes and activities sponsored by the church as well as numerous groups and organisations using our facilities. Our new facility will provide a wonderful venue for many additional community activities as well as allow us to expand our current ministries and programmes. Our motto for this project has been: "We're making a place for you!" and that motto is the ethos of who Hills Community Church is and what we stand for.

We continue to hold on to the tradition started in the very earliest days of Christian worship here in Mapua more than 90 years ago. Bernard Wells wrote in his book *The Fruits of Labour: a History of the Moutere Hills Area* regarding the formation of the first church in this area: "The settlers belonged to varying churches

and had combined together to form a church, showing the unity of spirit which they possessed."

Because of our blended Christian traditions Hills Community Church has an open attitude toward various styles of worship; we provide a warm fellowship with activities for all ages and interests and have a comprehensive outreach to various human needs. Our hearts, our minds and our doors are open and we welcome all persons to join us.

*Marilyn Loken, Minister, Hills Community Church*

### **Opening Celebration Events**

Friday 1st May, 7.30-10pm, "A Piece of Cake."

Free evening of cake, coffee and live jazz & blues music by nationally-acclaimed musician Liam Ryan

Saturday 2nd May, 10am-2pm, Family Fun Day  
Music & Dance performances, children's games, morning tea and lunchtime sausage sizzle

Sunday 3rd May, 10.30am, Community Celebration  
Worship

Worship and dedication of building followed by lunch

### **Regular Happenings @ Hills—**

Hills Community Church is a community-based 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: 540-3848.

Sunday Worship: Traditional service 9am, Contemporary service & SPACE 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. 5th Sundays: one service @ 10.30am led by our Youth.

1st & 3rd Tuesdays: 12:15pm—Anglican Communion service with 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.

# Getting started on your building project

The usual process involved in obtaining a building consent for doing an alteration or renovation to your house is as follows:

More or less decide what changes you would like to put in place, and have a pretty good idea of how much money you can realistically apply to the job. This preliminary budget can be determined in several ways which I will go into shortly.

Call in a designer or builder and check to see that what you want to do is do-able in the physical and practical sense in terms of the building code, taking into account possible complications, resource consent issues and all those things that experienced practitioners encounter in today's regulated building environment.

If you intend on managing the work yourself, make everyone very aware of the budget. This is especially important in the concept and design stage, because the consent documentation that you submit to council (plans and specifications) is a binding contract between the owner and the council. Use the expertise of the designer and/or builder to give you an idea of costings which helps you work out what is affordable and what kind of margins are involved. Preliminary estimates and discussions are usually approximations and if you are managing the build then you are responsible for the budgetary side of things.

If you are thinking about a contract in which a builder or project manager is running the job then they are often brought in when plans and specifications are firmly in place, or they advise and help you through to the design stage and follow up with the documentation and a fixed price for complete implementation of the planned work. In a contract the professionals involved are responsible for the outcome for a specific price so you will have much less to do with the day-to-day running of the job, and any changes that you may want to make need to be negotiated into the contract and clarity must be maintained at all times to keep track of cost escalations. The housing companies normally work in this way.

Once you have the plans and specifications drawn up and are satisfied that the costings are workable then the documentation is submitted to council and they ask the designer or owner for more information or clarity on any design points in order to insure that all the work to be put in place complies with the rules in place at the time of approval. Good quality and thorough plans go through quickly and provide clarity for all parties

involved. Poor quality plans are quite an issue with council as they look to upgrade the entire process of building from concept to compliance.



After the plans have been issued the TDC likes to see some sort of progress in the first year after consent has been granted, and generally for smaller jobs, movement towards completion within twelve months after work has begun. If there are delays in starting up or completion then they will write you a letter to see what's up and just generally open a dialogue to gain an understanding of your situation. There don't seem to be hard and fast rules governing implementation after consent has been granted. The main reason for needing to keep in touch re progress is because the rules (building code and standards) are changing all the time and some of these changes are fundamental to structure and durability. Occasionally these changes can impact on work in progress which can be a real hassle for everyone.

All the building code and standards parameters originate from the Department of Building and Housing, Building and Research Association NZ, or NZ Standards. These guys make up the rules. Councils are given the training and the responsibility to implement them. Many builders, myself included, and owners have gone right off when given the bad news of non-compliance by planners or inspectors. Timing is important, non-compliance is expensive, and the skills and experience of both council staff and tradespersons are critical in achieving good outcomes in these situations. I find that behaving like an adult often works and really the more I learn about the tasks that central government has given to council to take to the building profession and public the more I appreciate the need for good communication and understanding different perspectives. You are probably thinking that, yes, he is slipping over to the dark side inhabited by bureaucrats but it seems apparent that if we are going to do good quality building, then we pretty much have to go with the flow in order to put work in place that is compliant.

In the next instalment I will briefly cover the sort of work that you can do without building consent and hopefully respond to any comments the readers may care to contribute.

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

# Continuing the Cadillac Cruise of the USA

*(Continued from last month)*

The next half of journey driving Route 66 in US Texas to California was a sudden change in ethnic European and black population to a mixture, but most people Mexican-looking and most people spoke Spanish.

After lunch at the Midway Café in Adrian, Texas, we did 'head out on to the highway' and we did cruise along Interstate 44, just like the well-known trucker song. The Cadillac auto did its final change at about 60mph and we settled to cruise the slow lane and a Mack truck passed us piggy-backing six other Mack trucks at 80mph-plus, never to be seen by us again. Maybe Route 66 had gone but the Interstate 44 was alive with the people who use it.

Approaching the New Mexico border the car engine suddenly died and we ended up at a place called San Jan, another graveyard town of Route 66, now a truck stop and service station with a population 52.

The car had problems with the alternator not producing 14 volts to charge the car's electrical system, but after many hours and a new alternator it turned out turned out to be wiring at fault. While waiting for the car to be repaired we stayed the night in a 1950s motel with only half the building in use. The town was another victim of the new Interstate 44 with the main street full of abandoned buildings, grass growing through the footpaths and dry as a bone.

Carolyn and I must thank the owner of the truck stop, Tony, for his hospitality. He lent us a truck to go to the service station for lunch, dropped us at the motel and gave Carolyn a Navaho story-teller's bracelet and a hug as we left. We have since sent Tony New Zealand newspaper accounts of President Barack Obama's inauguration and Mapua stuff. He was amazed to hear our stories of how much water we have in New Zealand.

Every thing is big in US, the Wildorado Ranch—28,000 grain-fed beef cattle and a train with 160 three-storey carriages being pulled with four massive locomotives and pushed by two at the back. The B side of America was the trailer parks with long narrow houses on a truck chassis, despite middle America having four-bedroom houses with garaging for \$250,000 and mortgage interest rates of 3%!

Flagstaff, a nice mountain town, was our next major stop before we drove to the Grand Canyon the next day. For me it was amazing. Man, is that one big hole! Flashes of the Clarence River valley on Cloudy Range Station but a hundred times bigger. If you were an early settler looking for California and you arrived at the

Grand Canyon, it would be... umm! Carolyn could not get closer than 5m to the hand rail and had to hang on to my shirttail until she relaxed a bit. With my own experience at heights I slowed a little as I approached the hand rail, being one mile above the Colorado River way below. The canyon is managed by the American Department of the Environment with a free bus running to all the lookout points. You could take a mule ride to the bottom, but not for me riding on single tracks on mule which might have its own personality.

The canyon was well serviced with accommodation for all budgets and a small supermarket, but I must say there was no litter! The warning signs on the handrails told no lies: "If you fall you will die," not like New Zealand's "Caution. If you fall you may be injured, dial 111."

We had a enjoyable evening talking to some urban cowboy contractors at the motel, all very worried about the share market crash. One of them was having a marriage break-up and I could have bought his 1973 Cadillac coupe de ville 7.8 litre for \$US2000, but I'm afraid it's still in Denver, Colorado.

Driving through barren, scrubby land, much like around Alice Springs in Australia, we were heading for Las Vegas. Turned off the Interstate 44 at Kingman, drove along the ridge with nice panoramic views of the high sierra to the Hoover Dam which supplies all that electricity to Las Vegas. The dam not as amazing as described; to New Zealanders just another hydro scheme but clever use of the Colorado River.

With Las Vegas in the distance as we came off the ridge our GPS navigator started issuing instructions. Carolyn, the GPS navigator, and myself had much discussion as to the way we were directed towards the hotel. I, still not trusting the GPS, could see the hotel on the left, the GPS was saying turn right, there was much discussion \*\*\*\* but \*\*\*\*!, so I turned right under protest, 50 metres up the road, turn left taking us into the hotel car park, the GPS was spot on. We stayed in Casino New York New York, a replica theme building and restaurants of New York. Cost \$114 a night in a nice room with 40inch TV. If you go to Las Vegas go out at night, everything is always open. It's not just gambling—shows, water shows, different themes casinos at every turn, and it is an experience. We walked the shopping mile inside, where it rains over the water features, every hour on the hour. Prices were for all budgets but some

*contd on p29*

hard-looking characters were around trying to sell cocaine. We gave ourselves \$50 to gamble but after about an hour we ended up with a 2 cent cash-out voucher which we kept as a souvenir. The hotel room was a bit of a haven from the summer crowds and bustle of the strip.

Carolyn liked Las Vegas but I would go back at a quieter time under protest.

We left Las Vegas heading for Santa Monica, Los Angeles, the finish point of the old Route 66 but we had four hours driving through the Nevada desert where we had to put the air-conditioning on for the first time. A few hours in the LA traffic and for the first time in four weeks it was nice to see the sea. A walk in the water, the smell of the sea to remind us of Mapua. We stayed near the beach at Redondo, biked the famous Board Walk and ate out at the many different ethnic restaurants on the beach, Bought some giant pumpkin seeds and went to a car parts place where for \$4.80 I bought Cadillac logos and interior lights. God bless America!

Highlight: Carolyn, Las Vegas and Redondo Beach LA . Fred: Grand Canyon and Redondo Beach.

Some numbers: Airline tickets, around the world one way with four stops, \$3100pp. Travel insurance, \$400pp, Motels averaged \$US50 with breakfast, food cheap. Shipping the car with insurance, \$US2100.

Indiana to Los Angeles 4372km. Cadillac, 26mpg or 10.9 litres per 100km. 478 litres of fuel, 14cents per km, total fuel cost \$NZ619 (about 80 cents a litre)

After 40 days sitting side by side in a 24-year-old Cadillac, we are still married.

Life should have adventure.

*Fred & Carolyn Cassin*

## Mapua Charity Country Classic Cruise

Two local classic car enthusiasts – Fred Cassin and Tim Moriarty – have organised a new event: the Mapua Charity Country Classic Cruise.

Its inaugural run will be on Sunday 10th May, commencing with a driver briefing at 9.30am and subsequent departures from the Mapua Wharf. All the cars will return there mid-afternoon; do come and see them!

Fred and Tim said that there was an opportunity for a well-planned annual event for classic cars originating in Mapua. This is because of its known appeal to many as an exciting destination in the upper South Island and because different, interesting and safe routes can be completed in the quiet roads in our immediate surroundings. It's just the place, they said, for a 'Sunday run'.

More importantly, they saw the opportunity to focus the event on helping charities in Mapua, by charging a modest entry fee – this time, it's \$20 per car.

"This year we're collaborating with the committee of the Mapua Public Hall – our first beneficiary. Our hall has been the focus of community life here since the early days and right now it needs a helping hand," says Fred.

So, Mapua folk will see some outstanding classic cars in the village on Mothers' Day. Participants will be handed detailed route charts and a questionnaire, which will inform them about our environs.

From about 3pm onwards, the cars will gather in the wharf area, available for view. Some (clever or lucky) drivers will receive their trophies. For just a gold coin donation to the hall, Mapua folk can help award the highly-treasured prize—The People's Choice—your vote for the one car that best 'gets your motor running'.

If *Coastal News* readers want to register, then do send your name, your contact phone, and your car details to either [collegial@xtra.co.nz](mailto:collegial@xtra.co.nz) or post a note to 8A Toru Street, Mapua.

# Noticeboard

**St John Ambulance** requires a roster of people to mind a Mapua collection site during St John Week June 21-28. Please. Contact Fiona Newey 0272322213 or 5469445.if you can assist

**Offices** or therapy rooms available to rent on Aranui Road, Mapua (village centre) please tel Julie on 5402705 or email [julie@inhealth.co.nz](mailto:julie@inhealth.co.nz)

**Mapua Friendship Club** will meet at The Smugglers Pub & Cafe in Tahunanui for our mid-year luncheon on May 21st. We expect to have a good turnout. Anyone who may be interested in joining us in our regular club meetings or the luncheon would be most welcome. Please ring Val Roche on 540-3685 for information.

**Rangers Rugby Club:** Rugby training is underway at Moutere Hills Community Centre Thursday nights at 6pm sharp. Coaches: Mark/Steve 0274 229949, Manager: Alby 0272 290057, Asst Manager: Chris 021 540286. We welcome any new players. Come down for a run! Home games in May 2nd versus Murchison at 1pm, May 16th against Waimea OB (Club day).

**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](mailto:sambennett@live.jp)

**KIDPOWER** part time Instructor Training and Position. Make a real difference, become an expert in People Safety, help people be safe. For more information call us on 543 2669.

**KIDPOWER** Parent/Child Workshop for 4-7 year olds. Saturday afternoon, 9 May, Tahunanui. Gain positive, non-frightening tools for effective safety education in your family. Flexible fee - Call 543 2669 for details.

**Greenery** trailered away locally, reasonable cost. Alan 540 2525

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

**Dancemoves for Women:** Short, low impact Latin based routines with a touch of Pacifica designed to increase your mind/body coordination, balance, strength, flexibility, poise and grace. Gain confidence while having fun! Term One resumes Monday 11 May, 11am-noon, Mapua Hall. Enrolments: Catherine Callaghan at DanceMoves, 548 8046, 027 3232 098.

**Salsa partner dancing**, Upper Moutere Rec Centre. Starts Monday 4 May, \$70 for 7 weeks. Enrolments: Catherine Callaghan, 548 8046, 027 3232 098

**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: June 13, Aug 8, Oct 10, and Dec 12. For information phone 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. Laurie Metcalf 540 2295, 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** - Classes weekly. All levels welcome. Call 540 2113 for class times & information. [www.rubybayyoga.com](http://www.rubybayyoga.com)

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