

May 2010

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Coastal News

email: coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz

covering Mapua & Ruby Bay,
run by volunteers

By-pass Contractors Earn Praise

As work on the Ruby Bay by-pass races to a conclusion, the road-making team has much to be proud of.

A new target date to have traffic using the by-pass by 1 June this year was announced by project manager Marc Papke to a recent community partnering meeting in Mapua. He noted that the goal was dependent on the weather, but said he was “cautiously optimistic”. If achieved, it would mean the \$30m road construction project would be completed nearly seven months ahead of the original target, a considerable achievement.

Equally importantly, the road team has gained respect for its ability to listen to the local community and to adapt what appeared to be an uncompromising highway design into one more user-friendly and less environmentally damaging.

A year ago, such a result would have seemed unlikely. The design of the by-pass near Mapua, approved 10 years before construction began, caused shock at the way it intruded into the Waimea Estuary. In the Trafalgar Road and Dominion Road bays the route cut into the estuarine edge, damaging the habitat of the rare and shy banded rail.

The route then went up the Dominion Stream valley, once a wetland forest and still with extensive wetland areas. It had abundant native fish life and valuable fish breeding areas.

In the late 1980s, DoC had been planning to establish a conservation area in this area with “sequence of forest from estuary edge to high trees”. DoC strongly urged the New Zealand Transport Agency (formerly Transit) to consider alternatives to the route up Dominion Valley, which it said should be only “a last resort”. Its arguments failed and the designated route, approved at ministerial level, took exactly this route.

Links for pedestrians and cyclists between the Mapua community, Mahana and Upper Moutere appeared effectively cut off by the design, which aimed



A range of experts was involved in finding the best route for the 'Tasman Loop' regional cycleway in the Dominion Stream area. Senior Works EDI engineer Stuart Hughes from the Regional Cycleway Trust (second from left) had advice from a range of experts, including from left, Selwyn Steedman and Steve Elkington, engineers with the TDC, John Tailby, senior engineer with the by-pass roading team, Devin Gallagher of the Mapua Community Association, Dugald Ley, TDC engineer assigned to advise the cycleway trust, and Elspeth Collier, chair of the Estuary sub-committee of the Community Association.

to limit access from side roads and prevent cross-road intersections.

Compounding all this, early construction in 2009 resulted in huge quantities of clay and saline fill being dumped on a DoC reserve, burying an area of centuries old fertile peat and making it useless for the sort of rehabilitation DoC had proposed. The mountain of spoil that resulted featured in a front page photo in the *Nelson Mail*, with responses criticising the NZTA and the council which had campaigned for the road.

By that stage, some of us were so despairing of the environmental damage that we considered the only recourse to remediate the damage was to lodge a complaint with the Commissioner for the Environment.

Contd

Instead, we decided to follow a more constructive course of seeking modifications in the landscape plans which would reduce the adverse impact of the by-pass route.

A year later, many of those most concerned about the adverse impact of the bypass will acknowledge the big steps the road-making team has taken to adapt the project and reduce the environmental damage.

How has such a remarkable turnaround been achieved?

NZTA had itself set in place policies and processes that meant it would listen and respond to community concerns. In December, 2008 it had called a meeting of community groups and iwi in an effort to build a relationship between the road-building team and the community before work started. The aim was to build relationships, to create processes for communication and agree on methods of resolving issues.

This conference adopted a vision statement that the highway should “deliver the best possible solution to the wider community and the environment”. Its communication process was designed to ensure “no surprises”, to encourage open discussion, and ensure timely responses. A key outcome included a commitment to “exceed cultural and environmental expectations”.

As the road was built the parties came together for two-monthly meetings which feature progress reports, an opportunity for community members to ask questions and air complaints and a chance to talk over a cup of tea.

One of the early complaints over the design was the lack of connecting routes across the by-pass for cyclists and pedestrians. After community lobbying and support from the Tasman District Council, changes were made to the design to incorporate two underpasses that now go beneath the highway for cyclist and walkers – one near the former Seaton Valley/Gardener Valley junction and one near Dominion Road.

Following a report prepared for the Mapua Community Association on the impact of the by-pass in the estuary area, three association representatives and a Community Initiatives Group representative were included in meetings of a landscaping committee, which already included Department of Conservation and Tasman District Council representatives.

What made the difference for us as that decision-makers on the project listened to us and were quick to

adopt significant changes in the area from Trafalgar Road to Higgs Reserve. These ranged from removing a random plum tree which had seeded in the estuary to ensuring healthy stream flows for fish. The NZTA also agreed to plant about a hectare of the former Higgs Reserve in coastal native species to encourage the return of banded rails.

We were also very lucky to have guidance from some independent experts, notably ornithologist Peter Gaze and Martin Rutledge from DoC, with expertise on birds and fish and Tom Kroos, an expert on fish, who was consultant for mitigation measures in the Dominion Stream area.

Before signing off on the plan the NZTA also made an undertaking to commission and fund follow-up studies of the area. This means that measures to encourage fish and rare birds will be monitored by experts and, if the measures inadequate, there is an opportunity to consider what more can be done.

The Estuary Sub-committee of the Community Association’s is still pursuing another main objective, to see if the Dominion Stream area can be used to establish a reserve with a “sequence of natural vegetation” in line with DoC’s original 1989 objective.

The committee has inspected the area and with advice from the TDC and DoC commissioned a report on the feasibility of the project. The concept has been presented to the TDC, based on a principle that land surplus to the by-pass project can be transferred to council ownership, if it is to be used for a “public work”.

The sub-committee believes the park project and protecting the stream and biodiversity of the area is such a “public work”. Its case has also been bolstered by a recent decision of the Regional Cycleway Trust which would like a cycleway to follow the Dominion Stream and pass through such a reserve.

The Community Association is continuing to work on its native reserve proposal, and awaits decision by the council. Those of us who opposed the by-pass route through a sensitive and important part of our district, do acknowledge the NZTA and the roading team for listening to us and making some important changes.

David Mitchell

Coastal Garden Group

The speaker for the April meeting was one of the founders of the garden club, Diana Furlong. She spoke about her garden. She stressed that it was more of an “interesting” and less of a “landscape” garden, since she plants whatever she feels like, and just has to have new plants that come out.

She described her garden as a ‘good memory’ garden as many of the plants in her garden were taken from cuttings from dear friends, many of whom have sadly passed away. She initially started on a low budget and bought many mail-order Parva plants. The Moutere clay was a challenge at first, but she found that copious quantities of gypsum helped a lot. When planting trees, she soaks newspaper rolls containing sheep pellets and puts these in the hole before putting in the tree.

Diana mentioned how well her tamarillos grow, and was inundated with questions on pruning and looking after them.

Garden Notes

May, the last month of autumn, and what a beautiful autumn it has been—those lazy, hazy days of sunshine which all help to make the coming winter seem that little bit shorter.

At this very outset I would remind readers of what I wrote in the May issue last year, that if you want a good crop of fruit on your plum, peach, nectarine, greengage, etc, then during May give a generous feeding of potash round each tree. I did this last May and I had a very good crop on each tree. Remember potash is for the flowers’ fruit production, and it worked, I did hear of many who were disappointed with their crops. Well, maybe they will listen this time.

I also gave a dressing of general fertiliser in the spring as is my custom. Nitrogen is for leaf growth.

In most regions it is time to stop planting and start planning for the coming spring season. Some gardeners talk of putting their garden to sleep for the winter In the deep south maybe, but there is still much to be done—trimming back overgrown trees, climbing roses, hedges and more,

I have just spent the past two weeks dividing polyanthus and replanting them on a good dollop of horse manure, hopefully for a good display in the spring.

May is the month to lift and divide lilies, lift and move about any perennials, especially delphiniums

We held the first of our ‘artist’ spots, where each month artistically talented members of club spend five minutes presenting their art works. Lynne gave an interesting overview of her glass, paper and basket work.

The next meeting is on 6 May 6th, meeting at 1pm in the supper room at the Mapua Hall for a 1:15 start. Our guest speaker, Frank, owner of Frank’s Trees, will speak on the topic of grafting ornamental trees. If you’d like to join us, please call Barry Highsted, 540-3139.

Richard Bamfield, secretary

What a man needs in gardening is a cast-iron back, with a hinge in it. ~Charles Dudley Warner,
My Summer in a Garden, 1871

now, and scatter a few pellets about them as snails are always around. Perennials with thong-like roots are best transplanted in spring.

Most readers will remember only too well those nasty frosts of last year, so preparation, plus a watchful eye, must be kept to ensure protection for your most precious plants. Frost cloth I find is the best if applied right, and clothes pegs works well for me, cheap as well. I have only three climbers to attend to and they deserve all the effort I give them, because the reward during the flowering season I receive is so much, especially the red Mandevilla, which flowers from October to now. I cover at the first sign of frost until late August or until temperatures begin to rise.

This is the best time to re-organise/design your garden or portion thereof, as you may wish to do.

This is the best time to plant strawberries, a little tip-pruning of fruit trees as well and cut out any canker you may find.

Chrysanthemum is the flower of May, and my heartfelt sympathy goes out to Olwyn Mulligan who had a freak wind rip through hers, destroying most of them. The worst being Olwyn has to wait until this time next year, (and they were coming into flower). Sorry, Olwyn. Keep smiling and keep gardening everyone.

Barry Highsted

Opinions on Hall still sought

April was a busy month for the Mapua Hall Committee with a lot of groundwork being done in the interests of the future of the hall.

Thanks to Barry Evans for grading the car park. The potholes were beginning to threaten small cars but we now have an even surface again.

We have begun speaking to community groups and appreciate the interest being shown in the hall's future. It would be valuable to get an even wider community opinion than we can get by talking to groups who invite us along and we are still thinking about how this may best be achieved. Should you belong to a community organisation and would like to be consulted, it is still not too late to contact me for a time and date but we do plan to make our final rebuild/renovate decision early in June. You need to get in touch soon.

Our committee has also had a reshuffle. Due to the resignation of Shane Harrison, our treasurer, we had a vacancy to fill. We are pleased to announce that we were able to solve the problem from within our existing committee and Hanne Bjorklund has kindly volunteered to take on the role.

There has also been a change in chairperson. Mike Harvey has stood down from the chair because of ever increasing business commitments and Richard Bullock has taken over this role. We are grateful that Mike has been willing to stay on our committee.

After our little plea in last month's *Coastal News* we have had one offer from someone willing to join our committee. We are still looking for others and

would love to hear from you. Some of you may also be interested in joining a sub-committee without being part of the full committee. I can't see why this should be a problem if you have a special interest or skill.

To facilitate greater urgency, sub-committees have been set up to deal with immediate issues. Aside from day-to-day matters relating to the running of the hall, our present priorities are community consultation and putting together some ideas for raising money. The latter will be a big one and we will need community support. We hope this will be forthcoming when we announce what we hope to do with our hall.

We are also sad to report that we have lost an invaluable and long-serving member of our committee with the passing of Bill Marris. Bill has been devoted to the interests of the Mapua Hall for over four decades and as little as two weeks ago was still attending to clocks in the facility. He couldn't climb ladders any more but he had an intimate knowledge of each clock's idiosyncrasies and passed them on just in time. Bill's contribution to our hall and community is likely to be well documented elsewhere but we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Bill and our sorrow at losing a loved and respected life member of our committee.

*Richard Bullock, chairman,
richbull@clear.net.nz, 540-2311*

By-pass project

Once again we have had a very good month of dry weather which has allowed us to continue pavement preparation and chip sealing with another 1.5km completed, bringing the total area sealed to date to 6.6km. Drainage is almost completed throughout the job with the only area in the section remaining to be cut out by the new Apple Valley East tie-in. Major milestones on the project have been:

- 1) Cut-through of Harley Road close to the SH60 intersection completed.
- 2) Continued laying of kerbing and channel through the job, including by Chaytor Road and through the Apple Valley/Trafalgar area.
- 3) Cut out the old section of Seaton Valley/Gardener Valley Road and transferred traffic on to the new Old Coach Road tie-in.
- 4) Continued laying sub-base and base course, working south towards the Richmond end tie-in with SH60.



- 5) Emulsion primed and chip sealed another 1.5km of the alignment outside the Dominion office and at the Tasman end of the job.

- 6) Constructed W-section at Dominion Road and through Higgs crossing;
- 7) Began constructing noise fence above the earth bund between Chaytor Road and the alignment.

8) Environmental contouring of the estuary area at Tasman under the request of DOC, which will be planted.

9) Began pipe-dropper work to transfer water down the steep batters.

10) Further hydroseeding took place at the end of March but with the little rain the grass has not struck well yet.

Jo Orr, Environmental Manager, Downer EDI Works



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

MAPUA COMBINED PROBUS

The guest speaker in April was Peter Cozens, who was appointed Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies, New Zealand, in 2002. This Centre provides a forum for discussion and debate, research and consultancy of New Zealand's security environment, national, regional and global security, defence, the environment and sustainable development, plus the analysis of strategic implications of political and economic issues.

Peter Cozens' background is essentially of a maritime nature, and includes service at sea in the merchant marine and the Royal New Zealand navy as well as staff appointments ashore.

Peter entitled his talk "New Zealand's Maritime Potential," and led off by saying that traditional agriculture does not now meet the national needs in terms of foreign earnings, and then posed the question, "so what do we do?" He pointed out that our nearest customer (Australia) is over 1000 miles away, and the rest are even further away.

While discussing an Oceans Policy he said that in 1957 the statement was made: "New Zealand's maritime reserves are her greatest untapped potential". One example given was that of a 200kg blue fin tuna being worth between US\$50000 to US\$70000 in the Japanese marketplace.

He made the point that a lot of today's activities are pernicious, with the ability to destroy. New Zealand extended its Exclusive Economic Zone out to its 200-mile limit in 1978, and the continental shelf within that zone is as large as the Indian sub-continent. A very small amount is being spent on research in the sea. He questioned why a university of the ocean was not being planned for Nelson as the country's largest fishing port—surely a good investment.

What are we doing wrong? Peter pointed out that we are concentrating on large-volume, low-return exports rather than high value, low volume, and quoted \$7000 a ton for milk solids as against \$45,000 a ton for scallops.

Pollution of waterways is another factor never talked about openly, but he said there are 14 major estuaries around New Zealand that are badly polluted.

New Zealand's largest export products to Australia in 2009 were oil and gas, and New Zealand has huge offshore hydrocarbon deposits. There is the possibility of a \$30 billion oil-producing industry in New Zealand within 10 years. There are also huge offshore deposits of many sought-after materials. Another possibility is that of cosmetic remedies from fish products – up to 60% of these remedies come from a marine source.

A point constantly raised by Peter was: "We don't know what is out in the sea".

He touched on the remarkable potential in Cook Strait for power generation, and estimated that it could well be twice what is now available on shore.

Times are changing, and New Zealand needs to think about new products, as our customers are going away from traditional meat products and more towards fish. A whole change is needed in the political thinking and the political will to make these changes happen, and one way would be incentives in the form of substantial tax breaks for research and development.

With a population of only 4 million people, New Zealand is short of development capital, and this where joint ventures with overseas partners would be so very good for our future. He felt there is a lack of vision in New Zealand, and that unless this changed, we will not progress. The mini speaker was club member Maureen Fon who entitled her talk, "Never marry a foreigner". Maureen described the mixed Protestant and Catholic background she came from and the issues that were encountered in the area. She told of how she met her husband to be in Christchurch after the war when he came to New Zealand as an 18-year-old Italian boy seeking a better life, and how her father had expressed to her his ideas on marrying a foreign boy.

What started out as a holiday in Ruby Bay in the early 1960s, eventually led them to finally making their home in Ruby Bay about five years ago, proving that dreams can come true.

Peter Butchart.

Councillor's comment

Water projects "essential"

Once again we are experiencing just how unpredictable the climate can be. The La Nina weather pattern according to weather experts is waning, but we can still expect below average rainfall for the next two to three months. The one thing that most people agree on regarding climate change is that we can expect more dramatic weather as the global temperature increases during the 21st Century.

The Tasman District Council is regarded by many as a leader in water management and the advancement of two projects, the Lee Valley Dam and the Coastal Pipeline from Motueka to Mapua, are essential for not only the economic growth of the region but also security of supply.

The Annual Plan consultation with the various communities in the district has just been completed. Numbers at meetings were low, due in part to there being a lack of controversial topics. It was still a valuable exercise for councillors to meet with, and hear from, members of the community.

It was pleasing to see that both the Mapua Boat Club and the Mapua and Districts Business Association received grants from the new Community Development Fund.

Congratulations to Angela Fon and her committee for organising such a successful Mapua Easter Fair, I thoroughly enjoyed it.

On a less savoury note the topic of alcohol and violence is being discussed at length throughout the country. One gets the feeling that tolerance to this is wearing thin and that communities and the general public have had enough. It seems to me that tougher measures and attitudes from both law makers and communities are well overdue to prevent anti-social behaviors and that the message should be "that getting drunk is not cool". It makes far more sense to put money and energy into preventative measures at the top of the cliff rather than continuing to pour vast sums of money into building prisons where the success of rehabilitation is not high.

Freedom camping is raising the ire of many, not only in our district but in many other areas of New Zealand. The problem is that many of the young people visiting our country do not want to spend money on accommodation and would rather spend their money on fun activities. The challenge is to still encourage these people to visit New Zealand and at the same time making it very clear that leaving their waste in our countryside is not an option. Education is achieving limited success but the consensus from councils is that we need tougher deterrents; the most likely outcome is that councils from throughout the South Island, or hopefully nationally, will formulate a combined strategy to combat this issue.

I hope people are able make the most of this wonderful autumn weather.

Cr Brian Ensor

Moutere Hills RSA

The April meeting at 2pm on the second Monday of the month was opened by the President welcoming the ten members present and reading the Ode to the Fallen. The main business of the meeting was to make final arrangements for Poppy Day on 23 April and for the Anzac Day service in Mapua, as well as confirming details for the services at Tasman and Upper Moutere which are run by local groups.

The proposal for support to Mapua cadets training with the Motueka Cadet Unit moved forward with the receipt of a cheque from our member who initiated this action and supplied the funds. The funds are to be applied to subsidising term fees. These fees at present are \$30 a term and the RSA will pay half of this amount. Over a full year this support will amount to \$60 a cadet.

At the time the cheque was received three cadets from Mapua were on the roll but two of these now have moved to other parts of the district. This support went to Cadet Kurtis Atkins who hopes his cadet training will lead to enrolment in one of the NZ Armed Services. We are hoping for new enrolments from this area and to this end the Training Officer, Lt George Thomasson, intends holding another training/recruiting session at the Mapua Hall in June or July.

Bob Bright reported that Jack Aspray's health has deteriorated and that he has moved to Whareama Rest Home in Stoke. The Welfare Committee approved a grant to one of our widows to assist with upgrading her home heating system.

F H Gibbison

Animal Health File

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

Baby Boom and Bust

It's funny how just when I am struggling for a topic for the next month's column something comes along (usually after hours!) to trigger a topic for the next article. This week I have had a series of phone calls from friends having babies. One after the other we have had an Amelia, an Emily, a Sam and a George on the scene amongst our friends in the closest thing I have seen to a baby boom. So it should have come as no surprise to me to get a phone call on Saturday night to attend to some babies myself!

Lucy was a two-year-old Jack Russell and this was her first pregnancy. Unfortunately things had not gone too well so far with her first puppy being stillborn and the second one on the way when the owner rang to say it was not coming out. On arrival on the clinic it was indeed stuck and took a bit of effort to manually remove and was also born dead. An X-ray of Lucy's still huge belly revealed two more pups to go.

The next stage was an injection of a drug called Oxytocin into her leg muscle to produce some good, strong uterine contractions. This delivered the next puppy but he was also born dead. After another half

an hour the fourth puppy was no further along and we took Lucy to surgery for a caesarian. Fortunately the last puppy was still just alive when she was hastily plucked from Lucy's uterus and after a great resuscitation effort from the nurses, including lots of oxygen, lots of rubbing and a few drugs, she was all ready for a feed before mum even woke up!

The next morning the two of them went happily back home to their family. Fortunately for Lucy, her owners were smart and called us early on in the course of her dystocia (birthing trouble) so we were able to pull her and one puppy through the labour. Not all dogs are this lucky.

If you are thinking of letting your dog have pups please contact us and come in a grab a copy of our Breeding Handout. This is a document that we like to give to all prospective puppy parents that details the entire process of breeding, whelping and post natal care and has great information about how a normal labour should progress as well as containing a set of guidelines on when to call the vet. Please remember that we are available 24/7 for emergencies and the golden rule for caesarians is that at least one puppy gets named after the vet that delivered it! Although I will confess to having a baby deer named after me too!



Letters to the Editor...



What now for the Mapua Hall?

Richard Bullock, on behalf of the Mapua Hall Committee, deplores the paucity of recent community comment into the new building proposal (April *Coastal News*), while at the same time dismissing the “eloquent reasoning” of those of us who have made our opinions felt.

In my letter to the editor, published in the February *Coastal News*, I agreed with Marion Satherly that there was the need for a community survey to establish residents’ views on the proposal.

Let me spell out what I would like to see before a binding decision is made by the committee in respect to the apparent “deadline” of 31 May:

1. Clear and simple summaries of the expected costs of several alternative solutions, eg, repairing the existing hall, building a swept-up multi-use facility, or building a more modest replacement.

2. A summary of the expected levels of hall hire fees necessary to meet the expense of each of these alternatives, compared to the present fees.

3. A well-advertised community meeting to present the alternatives and respond to questions.

4. A summary of the information to be published in the *Coastal News*, together with a tear-out voting paper setting out the options, and a suitable ballot box placed in a local business to collect the responses. Additional voting papers could be made available where the box is situated.

Surely, as residents, we are entitled to know what is being proposed, and what the cost effects to us, as end-users, will be. Mapua’s hall situation is unlikely to be unique, and there must be many examples around New Zealand of similar projects, with information available on their capital costs and levels of hire fees.

On the new road

Today (April 21), I was privileged to accompany Marc Papke on an inspection of work in progress on the Ruby Bay by-pass. Marc is the supervising engineer for the contractor Downer WorksEDI. We saw both ends of the by-pass and everything in between as well. We drove the new road for its entire length. Lots of activity at the Seaton Valley/Gardner Valley area. The final Harley Road tie-in is to wait until the road opens.

Last month I noted being able to “see” the two ends. Today they are there ready to be hooked into the existing SH60. The contractors are serving two masters—the need for continuing fine weather and the need for rain. Fine weather for construction to

proceed; rain to allow the hydro-seeded banks of the cuts along the route to establish grasses and clovers for erosion control

In the meantime, there will be some major traffic stop and go at the Apple Valley East section of the project. This upset may be over before this issue of the *Coastal News* goes to press. If so, thanks for being patient. If not, please be patient with the delays. They will last for a very few days.

Mapua Hall: Richard Bullock answered my question, “Mapua Hall committee, where are you?” before I asked it. Was that ESP? I doubt it. Whatever, it is good to know that the committee is to going to get out in the community. In that regard I understand that the Hall Committee is on the agenda for the next meeting of the Mapua & Districts Community Association. That meeting is on Monday the 10th of May at the Supper Room of the Mapua Community Hall at 7:30pm. Come and listen to what they have to say to us.

Richard comments about the user rates for the hall. Definitely two sides to that issue. Which leads to the question, “Why do we have a community hall that is privately owned?” To my knowledge there are only three community halls privately owned in the entire Tasman District. Privately owned in the Mapua instance means that there is a “Hall Company” that is registered with the Company’s Office, has its own constitution etc and “owns” the real estate it sits on. Why is this? Basically, because that was how it had to be 60 years ago. In those days, the Community Hall was the hub of every community. Today that is no longer true. The hall is an essential public facility that fits into a quite different role in our present society than it once did. Public ownership, ie the TDC, would put the burden of maintenance etc. into the public purse. The Hall Committee could then look after bookings and billings without having to try and meet all the expenses from user charges.

It isn’t nor was it ever intended to be run as a business, even a non-profit one. There are those who won’t agree to that for a variety of reasons. There are those who will. Let’s hear from them. This is surely an important community issue. You have until 31 May to register a comment, with Richard Bullock, richbull@clear.net.nz, or with Mary Garner, m.garner@xtra.co.nz.

Wharf Parking: The initial meeting of the Wharf Group at the Wharfside Restaurant on 26 March was very successful in getting the various parties and

Letters to the Editor...



interests together. Already some positive results. The designated parking area of the Waterfront Park has been properly fenced. There is no longer a locked gate on Tahi Street to get into it the parking area there. Hopefully, signage is to follow. The group is actively pursuing the issue. The major issue as I see it? The TDC taking an active role in implementing additional parking along Aranui Road, re-establishing restricted parking in the immediate area to the wharf, assisting in enforcing those restrictions and traffic flow to stop just driving in and driving out.

Health Report: The much publicised Mapua Community meeting on the public health risk from the remediation of the former Fruit-growers Chemical Company site was held as scheduled on 21 April. It was mainly attended by residents who live near the site, some of whom have had their health compromised by dust from the remediation process.

Matt Allen of Allen & Clarke, Wellington, conducted the meeting. He did an excellent job in spite of being hired by the Ministry of Health. Completely unbiased. All who wanted to express a view or make suggestions to the issue had the opportunity to do so.

The group endorsed the recommendations put forth by Tord Kjellstrom. Blood-testing and/or other testing for chemicals is to be recommended. Also soil testing. An area profile survey of residents of the affected area. There is to be feed back from the MoH and open communication. To be in the loop call 0800-288-588 or mallen@allenandclarke.co.nz, or PO Box 10730.

It remains to be seen whether the Ministry takes the usual dodge of lack of money or fronts up to the issues. The Government seems to have no problem with 10 or 15 million Dollars when it come to the World Rugby Cup and then puts a relatively few people's health in the "too expensive" basket. That's the sad reality of it.

Meanwhile, back at the Capital, the Ministry of Labour is hanging on for dear life to its report on the health status of those who worked at the Chemical Company before its closure. They (the MoL) have said the release date is before the end of April. This is another don't-hold-your-breath one. We wait and we wait.

Bottom Line: In spite of it all, our vibrant community is a good place in which to live.

Hugh Gordon

Easter Fair or Flea Market?

I keep seeing all the articles on how fantastic this year's Mapua Easter Fair was and how they had a record number of stalls and how great they were. Were people walking around with their eyes closed or were they too high on candy floss? Don't get me wrong, I love a good fair and enjoy supporting such events.

I had stayed away the previous year due to the lack of quality of goods for sale and for some reason thought this year would be different, more up-market with fabulous collectables to purchase. Alas if anything it had deteriorated for the worse. A giant flea market comes to mind. How many cheap sunglass stalls does one need at such an event?

Come on Mapua, step up and make it amazing. There are so many good quality, unique traders around the Top of the South/Nelson region that could be there selling their wares to the hungry buyers looking for something different and of great quality which Nelson is famous for!

Kirsten Mabbott

Temporary Closing

Hi everyone. It has been a long time since we last wrote in the *Coastal News*. Just to bring you all up to date with what has been happening with Karpaintz Ltd these last few months.

1. We have moved premises; we are now at 14 Warren Place, just over the road, and we have installed a new spray oven. In August we will install a new high solids paint system which will be unique to the top of the South Island; it is better for the environment and people.
2. We have been fitting out the new workshop and office and hope to have an open day later this year, so you can all come and see what we do.
3. Due to our eldest son getting married in England in June, we will be closing from the 27th May until the 5th July. If you need us during that time, and feel that you can wait, please do. Safe driving everyone.

Graham and Julie Cox

Mapua School

Fun and Games at Bridge Valley



Chatters of excitement filled Rooms 11 and 7 as we were going on CAMP! What better way to start the day of camp...than a test! Room 11 had to complete one and although it was a boring way to start the day, it was probably quite good to calm the nerves and keep the excitement down!

Bridge Valley Adventure Camp is a Christian camp between Wakefield and Brightwater, designed to expand people's outdoor education and physical education skills. There are many activities to challenge the brain and the body to the extremes. The activities help people to step outside their comfort zone, but also Bridge Valley is a great place to socialise with friends and have fun.

Bridge Valley has awesome facilities including comfortable cabins, delicious meals, and a whole heap of facilities used for activities. These include: confidence course, rock climbing wall, the exhilarating karts, and a huge range more! One of the favorites of the students was the aqua tramp and water pillow. An awesome creation that got lots of laughs and a huge amount of fun!

We can start with Day 1. Wow, camp is awesome! First we did team-building and we had to have three people blindfolded in a group (five groups) and they had to trust their group members to the finish. This was a great way to instill trust into their groups and get to know everybody's leadership styles. We also completed many other small team-building activities to involve trust and cooperation. On day 1 we also got to explore the camp and see what we were up for over the next five days.

We all woke up to Tuesday morning, the sun shone brightly though the window of the cabins and the sound of "I wonder what we are going to do today?" In a matter of minutes we were up, had breakfast and raring to go. Tuesday was our first activity day and we couldn't wait to go to our first one, ranging from

karting to rock climbing. Karting was a huge hit. Tuesday was yet again a pretty fantastic day but it wasn't over yet! The amazing makeover was to come. A funny and fun activity held by Group 1. There is a heap of funny photos to check out!

Wednesday was our second activity day. After a few moans and groans by 9am we were ready to go. Our next set of activities ranged from fire and damper to the rock climbing wall. After an active full-on day it was 4pm, which was when we all got the chance to have an hour and a half in water the each day, using the aqua tramp, the water slide, and the diving platform. The water looked rather murky...but when the sun is that hot, who really cares?

Thursday we were all alive and ready....kind of! A few with lost voices and a few croaky throats, well what do you expect!? Shouting and screaming is always a huge attribute when there is lightning and thunder, a game of spotlight and a massive group of kids!

Friday...the day, it had to come. Some were sad but were ready to go! Droopy, tired faces. Moans and groans filled the room. A camp of many experiences and huge range of activities.

But to wake us up and liven up the teachers and workers and Bridge Valley we decided to hold the last activity—THE IRON MAN! This involved persistence and speed. Each group competed against the rest for the fastest time through a range of small tasks, ie, through the confidence course or running up the hill to the willow tree. After that it was time to dry off and get ready to hit the road! Camp at Bridge Valley was an amazing experience for all of the years 6,7 and 8.

Thank you to all of the people that contributed to help us on our camp, we all really appreciate your help.

Lydia Campbell-Robinson and Lucy Simpson, Mapua School

(Apologies to Mapua School. This was supposed to have been in last month but it got lost in the cyberspace. Editors)

Sam's Spam

May 2010

This month and next I will be encouraging those people who are not confident with a computer to up-skill themselves. Did you know there are free Community Computing courses run by NMIT in Richmond? I have summarised some points below but just contact them directly for full information.
<http://www.nmit.ac.nz/schools/business-computer-tech/communitycomputercentre.aspx>

What is Community Computing?

Community Computing is self-paced learning for people who want to grasp the basics of computing software packages. NMIT has a Community Computing Centre in Richmond. You study at your own pace and in your own time and your learning is free!

How does it work?

Community Computing allows you to learn new skills at a level and pace that suits you. You have total freedom, flexibility and control of your own study. Simply work through the material at your own pace.

When can I study?

You can choose your study sessions during the centre's opening hours. The centre is open five days a week. You will need to book the time with one of the receptionists at the Community Computing Centres.

Where is the centre located?

Richmond Community Computing, NMIT Richmond Campus, 390 Lower Queen St, Richmond
Tel: (03) 546-9175 ext 644, Email: richmondcc@nmit.ac.nz

Hours:

Mon to Fri: 9am - 1pm

Thurs: 6pm - 8pm

Closed Saturday & Sunday.

What Courses can I choose to study?

File Management, Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Database, Desktop Publishing, PowerPoint, Email and Internet, MYOB, Keyboarding with Mavis Beacon.

How do I enrol?

Complete an enrolment form (printable from the website) and return it to NMIT, or call in to Community Computer Centre in Richmond Students enrolling must be over 16 years and a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.

Free stuff:

This month's free stuff is: Windows Live Movie Maker. With Windows Live Movie Maker, you can easily turn your photos, videos, and music into a great movie. Customising your movie is simple with easy-to-use editing tools. Trim your video clips to show only the parts you want. Add titles, transitions, music, and effects like panning and zooming. You can download it free from: <http://download.live.com/moviemaker/>

Mapua Health Centre

We have just had two medical students working at the health centre as part of their final year training and we greatly appreciate the support shown by patients. The students have really enjoyed getting some experience of how general practice works and the opportunity to have more clinical interaction outside their hospital training. Our next one is in September.

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 [540-2211].

This year's flu vaccine is now available and we have already had a lot of people taking advantage of the special vaccination sessions. 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.

A flick around the journals once again shows that fish oil is good for us and can even improve the attention and brain function in boys (*Am J Clin Nutr*, Feb 2010). If you're already starting to feel the winter blues then B vitamins may be helpful (*Gin Nutr*, Jan 2010) and folate in men (*J Nutr*, Jan 2010), as well as increasing zinc intake in young women which may be effective in reducing anger and depression (*Eur J Clin Nutr*, 2010). The latest research on weight loss suggests that multivitamins (*Int J Obes (Load)*, Feb 2010) and green tea (*Eur J Gin Nutr*, April 2010) may be helpful in losing

those extra kilograms, and if your into athletics fish oil can improve your lung function (*J Sci Med Sport*, March 2010) and extra vit E helps maintain healthy mineral metabolism (*Biol Trace Elem Res*, March 2010).

This month's health events include:

- 5 International Midwives Day
www.midwiferycouncil.org.nz
- 7 Balloon Day Asthma & Respiratory Foundation
www.asthmaco.nz
- 9 World Red Cross Day www.redcross.org.nz
- 11-17 ME Awareness Week www.anzmes.org.nz
- 12 Internationa Nurses Day
www.nursingcouncil.org.nz
- 17-23 Hospice Appeal Week Hospice New Zealand
www.hospice.org.nz
- 15 International Day of Families www.un.org
- 22-29 Coeliac Awareness Week www.colourcards.com/coeliac/
- 23-29Heart Children Awareness Week
www.heartchildren.org.nz
- 22-30 Youth Week www.nzaand.co.nz
- 311 World No-Tobacco Day www.who.int
- 31-6 Infant Gastric Awareness Week
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 (aimed at runners, walkers and cyclists)
- www.snowsmart.co.nz (for skiers and snowboarders)
- www.netballsmart.co.nz
- 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.

Help Needed on New Scout Den

The Tamaha Sea Scout Group in Mapua was given the old Rovers Hall from Nelson to use as a scout den about five years ago. It just needed to be relocated to a suitable site in Mapua. After much discussion with the Tasman District Council, it was agreed that the den would be located in the Mapua Domain between the Playcentre and the Bowling Club.

Finally on the night of 3 March the building was moved to its new home by Perriam Enterprises, with financial assistance from the Tasman District Council.

Since the building hasn't been used for quite some time it is in need of some TLC. This started on Saturday 27 March when a large group from the Mormon Church in Stoke volunteered, along with cub and scout parents and other helpers, to paint the exterior of the building, install some timber skirting around the piles, and remove some interior walls that were no longer required. Even the Playcentre gardens got a bit of a clean up! Thanks again to all who helped out.

The den is starting to look good and fit in with its surroundings. But there is still lots more to do. The roof has yet to be cleaned and painted, and new spouting is needed. Some interior changes and an

entrance ramp are required to make it more accessible; and electricity, water and sewer connections are required. A small extension is also planned to provide some storage space for cub and scout materials.

The scout group is dependent on fund-raising and the general support of the community to provide the facilities and carry out the activities that give our young people an opportunity to have new experiences and learn new skills in a safe and healthy environment.

If any local electrical, plumbing or drain laying contractors or building material suppliers are able to donate their services or materials to assist with the completion of the scout den, it would be a great gift to the Mapua area youth and the community in general. Similarly, if there are any others out there that are willing to help with getting the scout den up and running, please contact Peter Born, Tamaha Scout Group Leader at 543-2331 or pborn@xtra.co.nz.

If you would like to make a financial donation towards the completion of the den please send it to Scout Association of NZ Tamaha Group, c/- Miranda Sicking, Treasurer, 5 Morland Place, Mapua.

The second Mapua Charity Country Classic Cruise, held on Sunday 21 March, was a great success, say its organisers, Fred Cassin and Tim Moriarty.

"This year we had over 30 vehicles: some of our friends from the inaugural event and some new Yankee talent. And what a range!" said Fred.

The range was impressive: 17 marques, all distinctive examples, representing six countries, with all ages (the vehicles and the people), and all sizes (now we're just talking about the cars here).

Highlights included the pride of the British Empire promenaded by authentic cheerful Brits in Series One Land Rovers with an optional clip-on mad Irishman; the huge 'Starsky and Hutch' '76 Ford Grand Turino complete with an optional clamp-on police flashing light and loudspeaker; the '64 Pontiac Bonneville only slightly smaller than your average aircraft carrier; the showroom-perfect (40-year-old?) Alfa Romeo; the magnificently original XK-140 Jaguar that's a New Zealand motorsport icon.

After the drivers' safety briefing, the vehicles departed from the Wetlands site and ran over two different scenic routes, completing some tricky questionnaires along the way. The accent this year was

on fresh routes, some surprising learning about our own 'back yard' (including of course our precious Wetland) with plenty of time for rest stops.

The Route winners were Jeff Welch (was he Starsky or Hutch?) and Terry and Margaret Goff in their Escort. The Peoples' Choice vote went to the Coster's stunning '55 Ford Customline, proudly shown by Graham and Julie Cox. Mapua admirers at the wharf couldn't resist Graham's handiwork: that stunning yellow and cream finish.

All proceeds from the Classic Cruise went to the Friends of Mapua Wetland whose Janet Taylor said, "Your donations raised \$713 for the Wetland. We were thrilled to take part in such a great community activity for Mapua and to have your donations come our way."

Plans are already afoot to repeat the Mapua Charity Country Classic Cruise next year...so, finish that European project car; we may just need to take on the Yanks again.

Police Update

Hi all. The days are getting shorter and cooler now. Won't be long before we have wet roads and longer dark nights, so just a reminder to be extra careful on our country roads. The village is getting along reasonably well this fruit season so well, but there have been some disturbing incidents that you wouldn't really think would happen in such a small, quiet place. One is due to outside influences and the second I suspect will be as well.

In the small hours of Sunday 28 March two vehicles parked at the rear of the Mapua Playcentre on Aranui Road by the Domain were set on fire.

The Playcentre fence and a shed by the fence were singed as well. Obviously someone has decided to set these two cars on fire deliberately, and we are continuing with our enquiries, but this doesn't sound like the actions of a local person. I strongly suspect it will be a person from either Nelson or Richmond.

Then at the start of Easter weekend there was an argument between two local youths. One of these texted some friends from Richmond to come to Mapua because he said there was going to be a fight. The result was several car-loads of intoxicated youths turning up on Aranui Road, grabbing sticks and behaving aggressively. One Mapua youth was badly assaulted and knocked unconscious.

This is shocking for the village. We have made one arrest for fighting and further arrests are being investigated.

I keep saying that although the Village is such a lovely place it doesn't stop people from outside and committing crimes in the Village. We all need to remember that.

On a more positive note there have been very few thefts or burglaries in the Mapua area so far; long may that last.

Grant Heney, Rural Community Constable, Motueka Police
Mapua Occurrences:

Mar 27: Two vehicles set on fire at Mapua Domain. Also damage to Scout premises.

Mar 31: Search warrant at an Iwa Street house. Female arrested for drug offences.

Apr 1-4: Theft of smoke generator and 30m yellow power cord from rear of Mapua Fire Station.

Apr 2: Disorder and assault on Aranui Road. Stoke youth under 20 caught drink driving at Ruby Bay.

Apr 4: 23-year-old Thorpe man going to ride motorbike around the Domain. Spoken to by off-duty police officer, became hostile and aggressive, arrested for disorderly behaviour. Theft from skatepark of bag containing two video cameras, JVC Avirio brand and Samsung.

Fire Brigade



March-April call-outs

Mar 16: Plantation fire Old Coach Rd & Moore Rd. Helped put out.

Mar 22: Power lines arcing on Stafford Drive, waited for Network Tasman to arrive.

Mar 27: Two cars on fire near Playcentre, damage to shed. Police investigating

Apr 1: Beach fire Ruby Bay, extinguished by owner

Apr 2: Bonfire Kina Peninsula, brigade put out. Police attended.

Apr 3: Permitted fire Westdale Rd, no action taken.

Apr 9: Hot ashes caused outside fire Apple Valley Rd. Out on arrival. Damped down.

32 calls this year to date

Safety Tip – Put hot ashes in a metal container, spread out over a area, or leave for a few days before disposing. Never leave container on carpet or similar material.

Graham Hay, a fire fighter for 20 years in the Mapua Volunteer Fire Brigade, has resigned. Graham will be missed in the brigade.

(Many readers will have seen a perhaps romantic version of the origin of The “Last Post” in a local newspaper. The following is a more prosaic account of how it began. Which version you prefer is a matter of choice. Like many long-established customs the beginnings are obscure. Editors)

The “Last Post” is one of a number of bugle calls in military tradition which mark the phases of the day. Where “Reveille” signaled the start of a soldier’s day, the “Last Post” signaled its end.

It is believed originally to have been part of a more elaborate routine, known in the British Army as “tattoo”, that had its origins in the 17th century. During the evening, a duty officer had to do the rounds of his unit’s position, checking that the sentry posts were manned and rounding up the off-duty soldiers and packing them off to their beds or billets.

He would be accompanied by one or more musicians. The “first post” was sounded when the duty officer started his rounds and, as the party proceeded from post to post, a drum was played. The drum beats told off-duty soldiers it was time to rest; if the soldiers were billeted in a town, the beats told them it was time to quit the pubs.

“Tattoo” is a derivation of doe den tap toe, Dutch for “turn off the taps”, a call which is said to have followed the drum beats in many a Dutch pub while English armies were campaigning through Holland and Flanders in the 1690s. (It is also from this routine that American practice of “taps” or “drum taps” originated.)

Another bugle call was sounded when the party completed their rounds, when they reached the “last post”: this signaled the night sentries were alert at their posts and gave one last warning to any soldiers still at large that it was time to retire for the evening.

The “Last Post” was incorporated into funeral and memorial services as a final farewell and symbolises that the duty of the dead is over and that they can rest in peace.

The words to the “Last Post”

Come home! Come home! The last post is sounding

For you to hear. All good soldiers know very well there

Is nothing to fear while they do what is right, and forget

All the worries they have met in their duties through the

Year. A soldier cannot always be great, but he can be a

Gentleman and he can be a right good pal to his comrades in

His squad. So all you soldiers listen to this – Deal fair by all

And you’ll never be amiss.

Be Brave! Be Just! Be Honest and True Men!

Waterfront Park plan progressing

All going well, construction on Stage 1 of the Mapua Waterfront Park will begin this year. Stage 1 includes the waterfront amphitheatre, the car park and some planting on the southern boundary.

Irving Smith Jack have developed great preliminary concepts for shelters including the amenities building and picnic shelters, all with water-collecting roofs and tanks. The amenities building in the adopted Concept Plan was intended to provide an interpretation centre for the estuary, park shelter, room for community uses and toilets.

As these are future prospects, the brief for the architects is for a roof which can accommodate these facilities as they become required or funded, ie, to plug in under the roof over time. So for Stage 2 it is intended to construct a visually light roof, two male, two female and one accessible toilets, water tanks and a covered terrace area for park users or events.

Engineers are looking at upgrading the sewer pumping station. This now appears as tank covers and a ventilation pipe just behind the Smokehouse marquee. Engineers are investigating changing and moving this to a place in the park about opposite Iwa Street. This

requires co-ordination with the amenity building which is intended for Stage 2 next year.

There will be opportunities to discuss both the architectural concepts and the sewerage upgrade in coming weeks.

The Mapua Districts Business Association, particularly the wharf businesses, and the Community Association have been discussing some of the wider issues raised from the beginning of the park design process. These include:

- Parking: The park cannot fulfill all the needs of the growing wharf activities and the temporary parking now open will not be available during construction. Parking along the north grass verge of Aranui Road makes sense as this is relatively unconstrained and economical.
- The need to address circulation and pedestrian safety issues in the wharf area through a holistic review.
- Lighting the wharf precinct to integrate the park and wharf area for safety and appeal.
- Establishing community values for future development on the “commercial area” in the north-west corner of the Waterfront Park.
- Discussing the future uses for the land on the west side of Tahi Street.
- Building a vision for a whole flourishing precinct for locals, visitors, businesses and the environment

Other groups have been discussing how to move forward on health matters arising from the remediation process. Let your thoughts be known at the Community Association meetings and watch for dates to review the park developments mentioned.

Robin Simpson, Project Landscape Architect

PANZ



A Nelson Area member, Tony Allain, took out top honours in the recent PANZ “Purely Pastel” National Art Awards which were held in Dunedin at the end of March. Tony’s painting, “The Boat Painters,” was held in high regard by all three judges and was selected from 89 other paintings from all over New Zealand.

On 13 and 14 April, we held a Portrait in Pastel workshop with Master Pastelist Australia, Lyn Diefenbach. Members from both Picton and Christchurch attended along with our local group members and a very full two days was enjoyed by all. Some wonderful portraits were produced—much to all our surprise—and we all went home exhausted but very happy. Lyn is a wonderful tutor and managed to keep us all enthused, even through the “trying” bits. We all learned a lot and were very appreciative of her continued encouragement and constructive tuition.

Don’t forget. We meet every Tuesday morning at the Mapua Hall and encourage new members at all times. Come and try working with pastel. You may be surprised how very instant, vibrant and versatile this medium is.

Enquiries to Glenys Forbes, 540-3388

Hills Community Church

What makes a place home?

This past month, my husband Rod and I took a fortnight holiday in the south. With high hopes of seeing some autumn colour—and hopefully not freezing to death—we had an enjoyable tour as far south as the Otago Peninsula before making our way back along the West Coast. We didn't freeze, the sun shone for most of the trip, the wind behaved itself and the autumn leaves did not disappoint.

One of our stops was to Larnach Castle—a beautiful and enchanting spot. The gardens were magnificent and the castle was impressive. I haven't often visited lavish estates (though I once toured Henry Ford's mansion), but I when I do I always find myself pondering: "How could anyone actually live here?"

I couldn't envision small children running wild along the hallways or creating a mess at the dinner table (of course not, they were all at boarding schools in England). Nor could I see myself searching for the newspaper on the front lawn in my tattered dressing gown and worn fuzzy slippers. The place simply didn't feel 'homely.'

For those who know the tragic history of the Larnach family, its subsequent conversion into a hospital for the mentally ill, and ultimate its downward slide into ruin, one would hardly imagine an embroidered sampler in the entry hall proclaiming: "There's no place like home."

Well, for me, there is a place called home and that is beautiful Mapua. What makes Mapua home for me goes way beyond the ever-changing estuary, the wonderful restaurants and all the amenities afforded by a well-equipped village. What makes Mapua home is the people.

This past year I have witnessed a generosity of love and goodwill unrivalled anywhere. Several of our community's finest and one of our community's most memorable persons have passed away and the community really rallied to support the grieving families. There have been others in need and in crisis who were helped in quiet and simple ways. In the midst of the tragedy and sorrow the people of Mapua and the surrounding area pulled together to share one another's burdens with exemplary community spirit. And, over and over again I heard people say: "Only in Mapua!"

Of course, there are caring communities throughout New Zealand and around the world but there are many

which are not. So, what makes the difference? Some say it's our size. Certainly it is easier to know one's neighbour in a small community. We are more likely to work shoulder to shoulder at school, civic, and church activities which can create a closer bond between us. Maybe all that sunshine generates a happier countenance. Whatever it is—it is our greatest asset and treasurer—not to be squandered but to be lavished upon one another and all who come to call this place "home."

*Glad to be home again, Marilyn Loken, Minister,
Hills Community Church*

"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions." 1 John 3:16-18

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Toastmasters to meet at lunchtimes

Motueka Toastmasters is about to start meeting twice a month at lunchtime, says the president, Roger Hynd. The club will retain its twice-monthly evening meetings as well.

"We feel that there are many folk in Motueka who might like an opportunity to enjoy, and benefit from, Toastmasters, but who are not able to make a meeting in the evening."

Lunchtime meetings will be held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Community House. The first one will be at 12 noon on 12 May. "These meetings will begin at noon and finish at 12.55pm," promises Roger. "Since the art of keeping to time is something valued by Toastmasters, I can guarantee that meetings will run on time." Those attending will enjoy two prepared speeches and an impromptu speaking session as well as the essential evaluations, which are the heart of the Toastmasters experience.

Toastmasters exists to help people develop confidence in public speaking and public roles. There are programmes for speaking improvement but also for developing leadership skills, through the medium of roles and responsibilities in the club.

"People tend to stay in Toastmasters long enough to become comfortable with the skills they need," says Roger. "Those who really benefit stay at least until they finish their first 10 set speeches, which are done to a development plan provided by Toastmasters. It sets you up with all the essential skills of public speaking. After that, there are many development

programmes for special skills, like how to use humour effectively."

The most common reaction of visitors is to be surprised at how enjoyable the Toastmasters experience is. "People have the most amazing array of interests and experiences," says Roger. "We hear some truly inspiring stories. It's not surprising that Toastmasters clubs are usually marked by the friendship between members."

Motueka Toastmasters invites all interested people to attend the first lunchtime meeting on 12 May. Interested persons can contact Roger on photoman@xtra.co.nz or by phoning 021 992 599 – or simply turn up on the day.

Coastal Connections

April showers were nowhere to be seen this April, although they were much needed.

A group of thirteen ladies enjoyed the cuisine at Up The Garden Path in Motueka. Always popular, the generous fish chowder lived up to expectations.

One topic of discussion was the recent trip by a carload of our group to Takaka. Beautiful Begonias at Pohara was a favourite place to visit but I think a local clothes shop did some excellent business on that day before the very tired ladies returned home.

A number of our members volunteered to serve tea and goodies at this year's Anzac Day commemoration in Mapua. Much appreciation to those who helped on this very important day.

May's luncheon will be held at the historic Upper Moutere Inn.

Julie Haliday

BOOK REVIEW

“Limestone” by Fiona Farrell, Random House, available in the Mapua Library.
Reviewed by Adrienne Taylor.

Fiona Farrell was a guest speaker at the Mapua Community Library Literary Festival in March so I was inspired to read her most recent book “Limestone” before I heard her speak. The story is about Clare, an art historian from the University of Canterbury, aged about 50, who is on her way to an academic conference in Ireland. Her other agenda for this trip is to try to track down her long lost Irish father (Michael) who walked out on her family in Oamaru when she was a little girl.

Limestone is written as a series of anecdotes narrated in two separate voices. When Clare thinks about the more distant past and her childhood, the narration is in the first person. Present and recent events are written in the third person and the chapters alternate between these two voices, highlighted by the use of two different typefaces. The “present” events let us see something of Clare’s inner insecurities and self-deceptions, for example, while she shuns romantic notions of “coupledom”, she cannot deny the need to find out about her father’s disappearance or her need to share her life with someone. Readers are also treated to some very wry observations about academic life and the arcane snobbery of the world of art history. Farrell conveys sadness and tragedy very well.

To quote the book’s back cover, “Clare Lacy is on a quest” and Farrell has played with the elements of a traditional quest: there’s a blind man at a crossroads, a woman in a high tower, chance encounters and clues that are not immediately understood. Nicholas Reid said in the NZ Listener “This book has a tight controlling intelligence behind it, and what seems random reflection or digression fall into its place as the pattern is revealed”. Clare’s quest concludes at the end of the book and the two voices merge as if the contrast between past and present recede as pieces of the puzzle are put together.

Farrell was born in Oamaru, limestone country, and the limestone metaphor represents geological time as a contrast for human time as a foundation for the book. Human time is constructed of an infinite number of stories and experiences – limestone is made up of an infinite number of tiny creatures called bryozoans, still existing since 500 million years ago. I found the descriptions of limestone landscapes all over the world really got my imagination going but it took a little longer for the real significance of limestone in the novel, as a measure of time, to sink in.

Some of the stories were particularly evocative: the wonderful descriptions of childhood and family life in NZ in the 1950s and 60s; the terrible sadness that Clare inadvertently caused her mother; the desperation of Michael building a limestone wall; the horrors of being trapped on a 27 hour flight to London next to an opinionated loudmouth. However, the book is very much more than the sum of the episodes. It is a complex story about identity, inheritance, the passing of time that is beautifully written and wonderfully readable. I finished this book full of admiration for the fine craftsmanship and intelligence Farrell has displayed. The ending could have been trite but it was very satisfying and believable, a testament to good writing.

Fiona’s presentation at the literary festival gave us some insight as to why she wrote Limestone while she was living in Ireland. To conclude a quote from her website: “For each of us, the quests that dominate our lives are deeply compelling. We believe our lives matter. They have significance. We try to record them in some fashion or set up memorials. And of course this is true. Each life matters terribly to the person living it. Clare’s search for her father matters to her, and I hope that readers will believe, for the time it takes them to read the book, that it matters too”. I couldn’t put this book down and already look forward to reading it again.

MAPUA LIBRARY

Ph 540-2545



We know that we are fortunate to live in such a great location and also to be part of a caring and sharing community. Never was this more evident when we recently held our very successful Literary Festival. Once the planning and format were in place, offers of assistance to help with the running of the weekend festival came from many areas of the district. These were gratefully received, as they helped to ease the load of our already busy volunteers.

The organising group for the festival and the library volunteers would like to thank all those people who gave their time and energy in various ways; a special ‘thank you!’ goes out to the Mapua Gardening Group ladies who provided the magnificent arrangements and table decorations for the village hall. With this help and the loan of various props we were able to create a delightful ambience that added to the success of the weekend. We also received donations from many of the local businesses which were greatly appreciated; so these together with your attendance at the functions enabled the weekend to become ‘For the community, by the community’.

As well as having the opportunity to socialise, to meet and hear some of our favourite authors, we also managed to raise many precious dollars for the library.

This is great news for all our readers as it means many more books may be purchased and enjoyed by all. With this very satisfactory outcome we were all very tired but extremely happy little ‘tiggers’ at the end of that great weekend.

Now here is another invitation:

Library Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 11th May, 7.30pm at the library.
Refreshments served after the meeting

If you have an interest in the library, do come to our AGM. We are always interested to receive feedback from the community so here is an opportunity to join with us, share ideas and socialise with friends and supporters of our Community Library.

Dot Moriarty

Library Hours:

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday	2pm – 4:30pm
Wednesday	5pm – 6:50pm
Thursday	10am – 12:30pm

Under The Bonnet with Fred

Nissan Primera CVT—Carolyn's Shopping Car

At Easter we took my wife Carolyn's 2006 Nissan Primera with CVT transmission for a getaway from the crowds and a weekend at Akaroa—a 518km-trip through the Lewis Pass which was a good test for a modern car.

We bought the Primera from Foodstuffs Ltd and being an ex-corporate car it was well maintained and in prime condition at 96,000km. It is a nice bright fluoro-red colour with dark grey interior. The body is much like other Japanese cars of the same year with a wedge front opening out to a high boot. The front has big multi-function lights with head lights, park and indicators all included, giving a bright-eyed look. The sides are rolled and rise to the high boot which I must say for a medium size car is big. The rear lights are big and along with the high stoplight in the centre of the back window, braking and indication lights can be easily seen by other vehicles. Nice Nissan mag wheels with 205/65/16 tyres.

Under the bonnet is a 2000cc east-west engine and front-wheel-drive with 140bhp on tap. It does 0-100kmh in 10.7 seconds, a bit slow. It weighs 1378kg but manages a very impressive 8 litres per 100km (35mpg).

The car has tight bucket seats, a nice bit of wood grain around the centre console and wiper and light switches on the steering column. Then in the centre of the dashboard I am introduced to a multi-function control for radio, heater, air-conditioning, CD player etc which looks like a cellphone and a screen. Just as well Carolyn knows how it all works as I always get it mixed up. It has a button which swings the wing mirrors in electrically—nice when parking in tight spots. The centre console has cup-holders, a big ash tray and a nice chrome gear lever. The key-unlock button has a range of about 30m which is great if you're out in a dark car park looking for the Primera. You just keep pointing it around and the car suddenly lights up with the interior light staying on until you get to the car. The driver's door arm rest was hard and uncomfortable on my elbow, my only criticism.

The transmission is different and this is what the story is about. The car has a CVT (continuously variable transmission) gearbox which has two conical pulleys with a steel belt and the pulleys open and close to provide the best ratio for acceleration or load. I won't try and explain it all but it is a belt-driven automatic gearbox similar to the DAF, a Dutch car of the 70s.



Carolyn's has a torque converter for initial take-off which is nice and smooth but I found there is a bit of a surge as the belt-drive system starts working. Once moving the rev counter goes up with the speed but as the car reaches a cruising speed the rev counter drifts down with the transmission having settled into the best gear ratio. Sometimes driving up a rise in the road you are totally unaware the car has changed gear except for the rev counter showing an increase.

It did take a while to accept the CVT transmission. It has the same positive throttle sensation as driving an electric forklift but drove smoothly like a modern sports car. See www.cvt.co.nz for further explanation of a CVT transmission and also click on vehicles fitted with CVTs; you might be quite surprised.

One of our driving experiences on our way to Akaroa was out of Waikari with a little Toyota Yaris attempting to pass our group (Primera, car and trailer, bus and trailer and Fonterra tanker) but got a fright when he discovered the mission in front of him and pulled sharply in front of us. The passing lanes appeared and I pulled out to get rid of that sort of Easter madness. The Primera rev counter went slowly up to 3500rpm and the noise changed from silent engine to a whirrrrrr then the speed increased to 100kmh then suddenly to 120kmh with the revs sliding down slowly as we passed the lot. This car can go when you want it to. Coming out of Akaroa on the steep hills the CVT transmission provide excellent down-hill engine braking.

I keep comparing cars to the comfort of my old sofa-seat Cadillac but Carolyn's 2006 Primera was also comfortable, sporty to drive, very economical, especially quiet on the road and a new generation in cars. The CVT transmission is the gearbox of the future. Aren't I nice writing a story about my wife's car!

Fred Cassin

Planning for ‘Gateway’ sculptures

The idea for “Gateway” sculptures marking the entrances to our coast from the new Ruby Bay bypass emerged from earlier discussions in the arts community around our district. Everybody seemed to think it a good idea, and one that could happen, given we have quite a few resident sculptors and a strong arts community. That was a couple of years ago and since then the Coastal Initiative Group has carried the idea along and included it in future developments. The by-pass is happening shortly so it’s time to do some planning.

The group has three planned main sites for sculptures and signage—on the Mapua turn, the Moutere junction and the Tasman turn. A community-developed local signage series will also be able to continue on to other key sites. As a part of a broader signage series around the district, the signs can share both style and character that fit well among the high quality environments of Ruby Coast. Appropriate siting, style and content is under discussion.

The next job to do is really the planning for making and installing the sculpture. The Coastal Initiative Group would like to see a strong community arts project emerge that will have a “locally grown” and friendly feel but also produce a work, or series of works, that have high artistic values and add something creative and informing to this place.

The development of the signs alongside the sculptures have already been allocated initial community funding from the TDC. This will allow for the necessary research and consultation to take place to develop the idea and to produce a prototype. The signs will show information, maps and pictures as well

as having other threads of information from history and ecology to iwi interpretation, a bit of community in there too.

This is a fabulous creative opportunity and one that should bring out the best from our district. The Coastal Initiative Group would like to see it develop as a collaborative community arts project, involving the artists as well as the communities and schools. This will bring down costs as well as sharing the work!

Initially the artists and sculpture specialists will have a good review and study of the proposal and come up with some strong contenders for the nature of the project; the Coastal Initiative Group will be guided by the strengths of the best art ideas as well as the vision that has been developed for strong community ownership and relevance. To be successful, community arts has got to be open and enthusiastic, so the process will allow for comment, consultation and direction. And we plan to have a very good time doing this project! So if you are keen to get involved, there will be opportunity.

Firstly there will be an arts meeting this month to look at the project outline and discuss options. This will report back to the Coastal Initiative Group. Siting issues will also have to be worked through with the council, DOC and other groups. The meeting for artists, sculptors and practitioners will be at Graeme Stradling’s Korepo Gallery in Ruby Bay on Tuesday May 11 at 4 pm.

For further information on this project or Coastal Initiative Group work contact the secretary, Janet Taylor, ph 540-3364, or ring Graeme Stradling ph 540-2050.

Noticeboard

Apartment to Rent, Ruby Bay. 2 bedroom, suit residential and commercial use. Great deck and sea front views. Phone 540 2050

Artists & Sculptors - Gateway Sculptures design meeting. 4 pm Tuesday 11th May at Korepo Gallery (opposite Ruby Bay Store). Phone Graeme Stradling 540 2050 for more information.

Firewood for sale - \$60 cu m delivered. Call 540 2188 or 027 229 4050

Friendship Club is planning its mid-year luncheon for May 20th. Details are not yet complete, so please telephone Valerie, 540-3685, for information. This is a great time for new members to meet and get to know us, so please be in touch and join us for a good lunch and friendship. Future months will find us playing indoor bowls on the 3rd Thursdays.

DanceMoves Hula Classes for Women: To improve mind/body coordination, balance, flexibility, grace and posture. These Hawaiian Hula based classes start Monday 10 May, 11-Noon, Mapua Hall. \$80,8wks.No experience needed. To enquire/enrol ph Catherine 5488046, 027 3232 098, learn@dancemoves.co.nz

Cardio Tennis: heart pumping fitness which burns fat, increases stamina while having a whole lot of fun. The ultimate workout with no ability required. Classes on Monday & Tuesday mornings 9.30-10.30am at Mapua Tennis Courts. To register or for more info phone Vanessa 5432 332 or email claybrookestate@xtra.co.nz

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

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

Mapua Art Group: Painting/Drawing mornings Thursdays 9-12.30, 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 & media most welcome. \$4 session includes morning tea. Tables and chairs provided. Lisa Chandler, 540 3933.

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

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

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

some neighbours. Lisa Gant 543 2530, Tressa Waynan 540 2632.

Toy Library: check out our extensive selection of toys, puzzles & videos for children 0-5yrs. Located behind Mapua Hall every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 10-11.30am & 6.30-7.30pm. Phone Emma 03 929 5123 or Gill 543 2195 about membership or casual hire.

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

Probus Club meets first Fridays, Mapua Hall 1.30pm. All retirees most welcome. Enquiries to Pres. Ray Kitto, 03 520 2622, Secr. Margaret Butchart 5402686

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

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.

RSA Meetings are held in the RSA room at the Mapua Library at 2.00pm, second Monday of each month and refreshments are served at the close.

Children's Gymnastics: 1-9yrs. Designed to improve a child's strength, balance, coordination, spatial awareness & eye tracking using hand apparatus, songs, and gym equipment in a fun, positive learning environment. Thursdays @ the Old Hills Community Church Hall, Mapua. Fridays @ Moutere Hills Community Centre, Upper Moutere. Ring Sam, 5402896

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

Genealogy Computer Discussion Group: This year our bimonthly meetings will be 1.30pm on Saturdays on these dates: June 12th; Aug 14th; Oct 9th; Dec 11th. Info: Val 540 3931 or Peter 540 2686.

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

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