

May 2011

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Coastal News

www.mapua.gen.nz

email: coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz

covering Mapua & Ruby Bay,
run by volunteers

Six months after the by-pass opening

Half a year down the track in our post-by-pass life, some people may be wondering what happened to the various proposals and projects floated by Coastal Initiative Group. What news of the sculpture and gateways project, the interpretative signage project, the road character changes, the off-road recreational pathways?

The good news is that these initiatives are still afloat, very much alive, and paddling hard to make headway and progress with a great deal of goodwill and help from around the district. The river has been running hard for us over the last year as the Tasman District Council's infrastructural repair commitments from the Aorere floods in Golden Bay, and other recessionary pressures put a lid on things. The communities have had to be more creative, work harder, and think outside of the square as the resourcing issues for these projects are faced up to.

Firstly, the sculpture project, which would see sentinel sculptures at the three entrances to our coastal zone from the new highway; sites are ready and the work that's going forward now is happening both at the locations and in the Opus Consultancy Engineering Office. Like so many of our community development projects active right now, business and corporate assistance, generously offered without cost, is the key to realising these exciting community initiatives. Hockley Brothers Contracting will do some digging for us at the Mapua site, so the engineers know what they are dealing with under the ground. Many thanks to Opus Consultancy and to Hockley Brothers Contracting!

The first of the interpretative signs was installed just weeks ago at the Tasman site, this is also the site for the Tasman sculpture. Discussions are developed for further

signs in the district to put local stories and information in places where people can easily get to. Watch the *Coastal News* for more!

More progress has been made with recreational pathways, both in Ruby Bay, with the opening of the Pine Hill Road loop, and in Tasman, with their new track at Dicker Road. The Nelson Tasman Cycleway Trust will be rolling out the Richmond to Mapua section of their amazing trail over the next year. This will be a major development for our communities, bringing more visitors to the wharf and tourism businesses, stimulating employment and amenity development across the region. Also, we'll be able to walk to Richmond or cycle to Nelson off-road and on the flat! Let alone island-hopping for an afternoon at Rabbit Island on our own ferry service!

All these new initiatives are rolling out right now, members of our community are being resourceful, resilient and highly motivated to achieve what we all can see will make a better place. Their efforts, though so often unseen and unacknowledged, will bear fruits for us all as the villages here on the coast get it together with this exciting new chapter in our story.

The Coastal Initiative Group is a cluster of representatives from the three mandated community groups in our area—The Tasman Area Community Association, The Mapua and District Community Association and The Mapua and District Business Association. It was formed a couple of years ago and given the job of reviewing, revising and leading responses to the challenges and changes brought to our communities by the Ruby Bay by-pass.

(See also Hugh Gordon's comments on the by-pass. on page 7 -Ed itors)

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.

Garden Notes

What can one say about May? The last month of each season is considered 'slow' with changeable weather, waiting for the next season to arrive, etc, so the avid gardener plans to have their autumn clean-up well in hand.

All cuttings will be well rooted by now, and protected, all spring bulbs planted, except for lily bulbs which should be in store now, and if you purchase, plant right away as they have a very short rest period.

Any bare spots in your vegie patch can be dug with generous helpings of compost, leaf mould, or animal manure then left rough to winter to break down in the spring.

Tips for buying bulbs are: Select large to medium sized bulbs; they should be round and plump and firm, feel heavy, not shrivelled, no sign of growth, not crushed or damaged, no spots or mould (flat bulbs seldom flower). Dahlia tubers can be lifted and stored in a cool, dry place..

Tasks for May: Prepare your soil for any new roses you may buy later. Add lime to sweeten your ground, mainly on your vegie patch. All proteas, banksias and rhododendrons, which love acid soils, must be avoided. In the flower garden the only plants I put lime round are carnations. They love it.

You can spray fruit trees and ornamentals to control scale. I use an oil spray for this purpose. Proteas, waratahs, and gardenias are prone to scale. I nearly lost my waratah last year and literally soaked the tree over a long period; now it is free and growing again. I will keep an eye on it.

In the vegie garden, cabbages, caulis, parsley, spinach and radishes are safe to plant out now. In mild spots strawberry runners can be planted too.

Asparagus is a perennial vegetable that can last for years. Select healthy two-year crowns such as the new Purple Gourmet. Planted now they will crop reliably for two seasons. Thirty crowns are required to feed four to five people.

Make a narrow, long bed so you can pick from each side, manure well and dig 60cm deep, place a layer of bone dust on the bottom. Mix the top soil with as rich a compost as possible and layer with sand. You can leave the planting until July if you choose when the soil will be consolidated. Plant 40cm apart.

I have not long lifted my polyanthuses, dug a trench, put down a layer of horse manure, divided the plants, and put them straight back in. I managed to do this just before the last great rain we had so they will have a good start for hopefully a good flowering in late winter-early spring.

They are a long-stemmed variety not seen today, and good for picking. Sadly due to strict imports we have lost an introduction from America called "Tecalote" which had a most beautiful range of colours not seen here. Polyanthus breeders have gone for a plant producing flowers as close to the soil as one can get, possibly for mass planting in public places. However, we can still enjoy our flowers, vegies and trees.

The Coastal Garden Group and Mapua Hall Committee are under way with their organising of the spring flower show for Saturday, 10 September. Each month until September an update will be published to keep readers informed.

Barry Highsted

A step forward with Hall plans

A community meeting was held at the Mapua Hall on 6 April to present the concepts for the hall renovation and extension and to get suggestions from community members. The meeting was a success, the hall supper room was packed with interested people, and everyone had a chance to interact with hall committee members and make suggestions for ways to make the design even better.

The next stages of this process are rather bureaucratic and involve further funding applications and various consents from the Tasman District Council, and the committee will work hard to bring us closer to the actual building activities as soon as possible. The delay of TDC funding for a year (or at least most of it) is of course a set-back, but we understand the reason (costly repair work in Golden Bay) and it gives us more time to prepare for the major work on the hall.

We pointed out at the meeting that the committee sees three stages to the upgrade of the hall:

- Improvement of the existing facilities within the present building

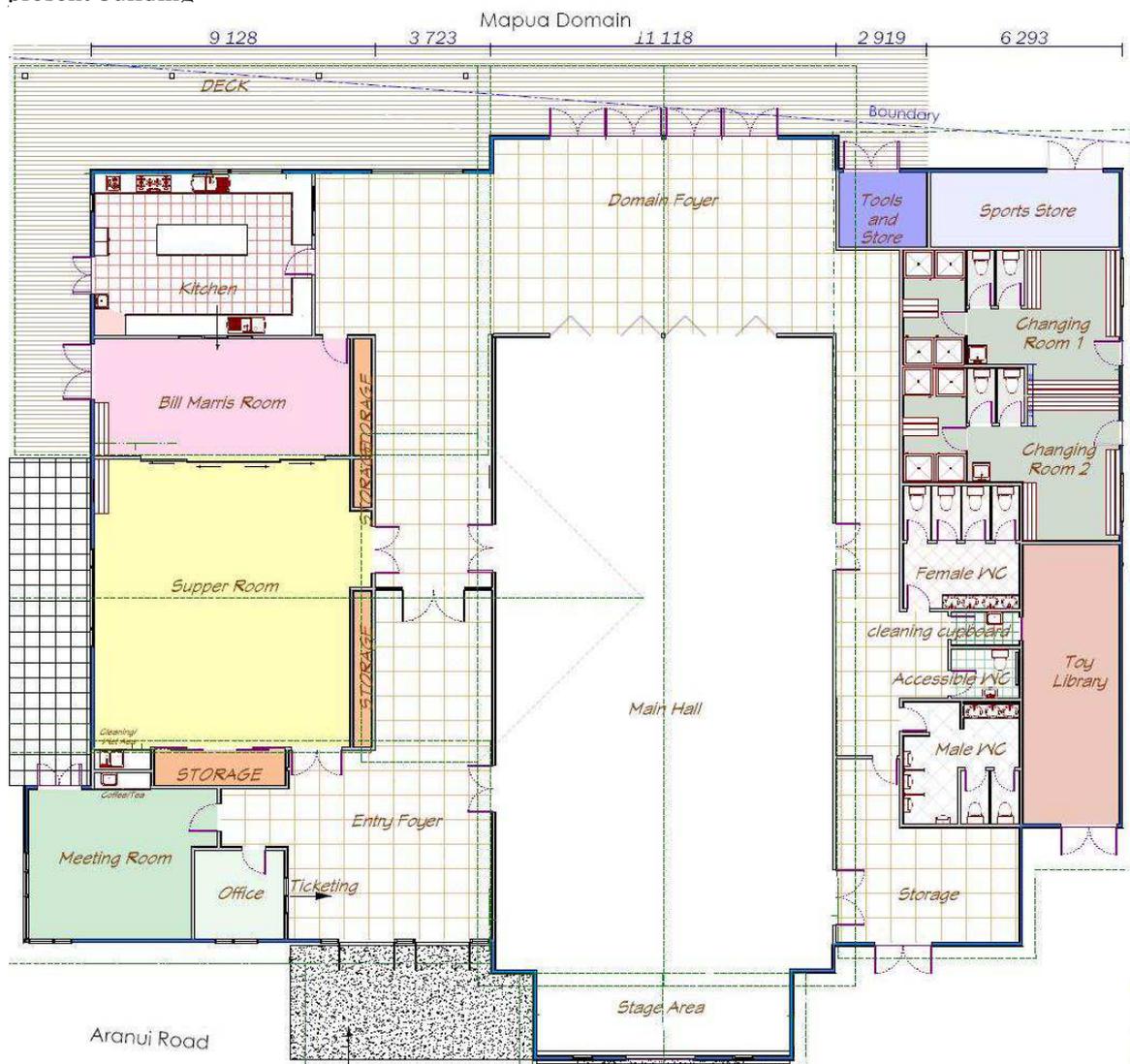
- Adding to the hall a separate block with new toilets, sports changing rooms etc.
- The main construction work to extend the present hall, adding a new kitchen and connecting all the spaces in a convenient manner.

We are developing a business plan for future years and want to inspire new activities in the present hall, to the extent that it can be used more actively, as well as new activities in the enlarged hall. To get this future planning to move forward at a good pace, we need more people to help either as Hall Committee members, or as volunteers that take on specific tasks. A few hours a month can be a great contribution. Please let us know if you are willing to help:

Contact Mary Garner, our committee secretary, ph 540-2853, email m.garner@xtra.co.nz.

The accompanying draft plan is just that—a draft—and will undergo some changes in response to suggestions from the community.

Tord Kjellstrom, Chair, Mapua Hall Committee



Mahana School

At the time of writing, Mahana School is wrapping Term One, the children are looking forward to the school holidays, while the teachers, who have been busy preparing school reports, are also ready for a break. The swimming pool is now closed, and hats used on the hot summer days have been put away as the days cool and the autumn leaves start to fall. The large white nets covering the plump, ripe grapes in the surrounding fields have been drawn back for the fruit to be removed from the vines, while the nearby apple orchards are in the peak of harvest. With autumn setting in, the school organised an annual working bee to tidy up in preparation for winter.

Bradley Gale (6) from Piwakawaka reports: I came with my Mum and Dad to the school working bee, which was held to make the school look tidier, we have one every year. It was quite cool putting stuff on the trailer and helping. My sister Hannah (10) pushed the wheelbarrow. We cut down heaps and heaps of the trees, to tidy up behind the butterfly wall, and Rod put a new floor in to move the PE shed on to. We swept up the leaves, and we dumped them in the paddocks. We stayed here and my Mum did a BBQ and we had sausages at the end of the working bee, and then me and my Dad hit some balls with a bat in the bottom playing field. We had other friends that came like Heidi, Luke, and Leah. When I walked into the school on Monday it looked very much different, there were so many trees gone, and it was much tidier.

Theo Field (9) from Kereru, reports on some school and family history, culminating in the discovery of the Mahana Red apple, a delicious variety of Braeburn now grown around the world, and enjoyed by school families who are able to buy it by the bag at his family's roadside stall.

Mahana School started off for families working in the surrounding orchards. My grandfather went to Mahana School, and so did my Dad and his brothers.

We live on the orchard my Grandpa lived on, now my Dad owns it.

My Dad was the first one to find the Mahana Red apple. One day he was driving the tractor down a row of Braeburn when he saw a dark red apple. If there are light red rows of Braeburn, and you see light red apples with a touch of green, and then you see a bright red apple, of course you're going to inspect it.

He marked it to see if there was the same apple there the next year, and it was so he brought the buds to the nursery to make some more trees of Mahana Red, and now they grow it in America. They're delicious – crunchy, sweet and yum, and they are a dark red colour.

William Davis (11) from KOTUKU reports on a different type of food – scone baking in the school kitchen:

The year 7 and 8 are entering the Maggi Kitchen Showdown, a television cooking show, run by the Erin Simpson, with a prize of \$5000. We had a cook off to choose a team to represent the school, and cooked scones with an added twist, in groups of three. My group did pinwheel scones with chocolate and mashed banana. We rolled out the dough and put melted chocolate drops and banana on it, and then rolled it up. We cooked it in the school kitchen, and when we took them out, they were cooked, but not over-cooked. We put the spare melted chocolate in a pot, but it went hard, and then we microwaved it and it burnt, so we tossed it away. Instead we used spare chocolate drops and beat cream to go with it. It was voted the second best out of the three teams. One person from our team was selected for the school team, Harriet Webster. The other three are: Izzie Taikato, Josie Huxford. And Safari Muir.



A review of the by-pass, six months on

We have been using the Ruby Bay by-pass for six months already. Would you believe it? How has it affected Mapua, Ruby Bay and Tasman? It's time for a review.

The opening day, October 22nd, 2010, was cold and clear at the iwi Dawn Blessing ceremonies followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony along the new roadway up from Tasman overlooking the Kina Estuary.

A day to remember for a variety of reasons, not the least being major changes for motorists and for residents of the coastal strip. Whoops, "coastal strip?" A name change here. It is now "The Ruby Coast" and the former State Highway is renamed Mapua Drive, Stafford Drive and Aporo Road. The roadway is now a "secondary highway" and is under the jurisdiction of the Tasman District Council.

To refresh your memories—the Ruby Bay by-pass is 10.7km long and is now a part of State Highway 60, the Coastal Highway. The number of access points and side-road connections has been reduced from 168 to just 11. It has been designated a "limited access road" restricting future development of private access or driveways, thereby a considerable safety feature.

The by-pass has been named Te Mamaku Drive in recognition of iwi input to the project. The Maori pa on the Moutere Hills was called Te Mamaku, and is also the name of the black tree fern.

On-and-off sites have largely worked reasonably well after an initial getting used to. One problem point is the Mapua on-and-off intersection where there has already been one serious accident. The on-access to Richmond is being improved as I write. Other minor works have been done at the Tasman on-and-off intersection.

The general comments both locally and further a field about the by-pass after the first six months? Regular commuters between Motueka and Richmond/Nelson whom I have spoken to are very pleased with the time-saving, fuel savings and much easier driving a road with a steady 100kmh speed limit.

Residents living on the former State Highway route are delighted with the huge reduction in both traffic volume and traffic noise. Businesses along the former SH60 are another matter altogether depending on how much they rely on passing traffic for their custom. Vehicle movements of 7000 to 8000 on average a day have fallen to about 1500 to 2000 a day passing their premises. The full effects of the winter months on businesses are yet to come.

Mapua Sewage Pump Station: Officially referred to by the TDC as the Mapua Wastewater Pumping Station,

the upgrade work is now scheduled (hopefully) for June/July. Why the delay? Resource consents were not in place. Why? Communication problems between TDC departments? I wonder.

TDC Annual Plan An average 7% increase coming in our 2011/2012 rates, 3% estimated for inflation leaving a 4.71% burden for us as ratepayers to pick up. In addition an additional 1.98% to replenish the TDC General Disaster Fund. Plus the Targeted rates for various things. Mapua has a targeted rate for the Ruby Bay Seawall.

Mayor Richard Kempthorne, Waimea councillors and TDC staff made a very comprehensive presentation to the general meeting of the Mapua & Districts Community Association general meeting on 11 April. Attendance of the public was disappointing to say the least. The council crowd outnumbered the ratepayers. What does this say to all of us who foot the rates bill? Do we really care what our rates are? Public submissions to the Annual Plan closed 21 April. Time will tell and we will all know when the final rates are posted in June.

Mapua Community Hall: A large turnout for the launch of the concept plans for a rebuild of our Community Hall. The meeting on 6 April was very well attended. Perhaps Hall Committee chairman Tord Kjellstrom is right—have a public meeting with liquid refreshments and finger food on the programme and people will turn out in numbers. Good incentive, interested or not!

There were good questions and a good general discussion. Suggestions were to be considered by the Hall Committee on 26 April. The delay in the TDC \$860,000 participatory funding for the rebuild until the 2012/2013 financial year allows valuable extra time to firm up plans and consents etc. A vote of thanks to the committee members for their continued efforts on behalf of our community.

Port Mapua/Waterfront Park: The steering group for the Port Mapua area has been established. Members have been selected by Mayor Kempthorne from iwi, community organisations, wharf owners and tenants and TDC staff.. There will also be representation from local residents. They have adopted the name for themselves—the Waterfront Precinct Advisory Group. Cr Brian Ensor is chairperson. To date, meetings have been held in February and March. The next meeting is to be early this month and will be followed by two public



consultation forums at the Mapua Boat Club rooms on Wednesday, 25 May, 3pm to 5pm and 6pm to 8pm.

Public Car Park: At last the public car park is finished. Need I say more? No, I have said enough about this TDC fiasco. That's all history now. A lesson learned? Yes—continued need for an improved information stream from the TDC to the public.

Missing Report: The Labour Department Report on the effects of the Fruit Growers Chemical site clean-up on the residents within the designated effected zone has still not been released to the public. The TDC staff have seen it but you and I haven't. Yoohoo Department of Labour, hello Department of Health. Do you hope that if you drag your feet long enough, we all might just forget all about it?

Other Stuff: There's much more to say about the doings in Mapua. But, enough said for this month. I hope you attended the Easter Fair, observed Anzac Day with respect and enjoyed a holiday break.

A matter of priorities

I think it's time for our community to rethink its priorities. It is concerning that we have a shortfall in funding to upgrade our well-used hall but can afford luxury items like a million dollar-plus waterfront park.

When the park was conceived many years ago, times were different. But with the current economic situation, and new priorities in our community, can we really justify this type of expenditure? Let's face it; every dollar we spend is reflected on our rates bills.

The Mapua hall adds a lot of value to our community. But the hall upgrade funding from the TDC has been delayed now to 2012/13 according to the draft Annual Plan. The waterfront park amphitheatre and the rest of the elaborate plan are "nice to have", but not essential. What we do need are new public conveniences at the wharf, and some trees and benches.

Other members of the community are in agreement but no one wants to say anything at the community meetings for fear of raining on the parade. Let's think about allotting a more modest sum for the waterfront park and redirecting funds to the Mapua Hall upgrade.

A Dickson

Postal Delivery

We can post you the Coastal News. To take advantage of this post \$15 with your name and address to Coastal News, PO Box 19, Mapua Store, 7048. Include your new postal code for rapid delivery.

Made Your Submission?

I refer to the Draft Annual Plan 2011/2012' presented by the Tasman District Council in the Mapua Hall. A disappointingly few local residents subjected themselves to the cost of governance process; they were after all paying, in more than one way, for the privilege.

The plan is accepted as an essential tool for maximising value for our community dollar. For those insomniacs the "new Treasury Management Policy" is a curable read. However, the Mayor's Message is an excellent executive summary.

Anyway, for all the tightrope tippy-toe rhetoric about the balancing act between raising revenues to meet increasing expenditures...the determination of how much to increase rates is still not disclosed. Local government is well equipped to impose regulations, but tend to relax when applying it to itself!

Why isn't there a mandatory or self-regulating formula (based on, say, the inflation rate, consumer price index, wage rates, and the like)? A so-called "ability-to-pay" increase cannot be market-tested in a monopolistic environment. I'm far from suggesting that we can elect an alternative service-provider, eg the Nelson City Council.

I don't think I'm alone when I admit to reduced disposable income and erosion of capital/savings, so why are we compelled to mortgage against a doubtful economic recovery by inflating debt ceilings (the folly of United States of China)?

So what will the children of our community inherit? The cynic may say, "a ticket to Australia funded by a student loan." Some truth in that, but faced with infrastructural debt burdens and inability to maintain from annual rate revenues, the dilemma may be solved by making it more attractive to live elsewhere.

I guess that in the end, the natural environment will determine the "lifestyle" we seek, the population it can support and the burden of bureaucracy it can bear. If it's any consolation greater civilisations than ours, have/had greater problems than ours.

W K Darling, Ruby Bay

Mapua Health Centre

Dr Cindy de Villiers will be away for most of May and when she returns she will be changing her consult days to Wednesday-Friday. Dr Tim Phillips will continue his Thursday and Friday sessions, with Elizabeth Wood on Monday to Tuesday and Tim Ewer Monday to Wednesday.

The Nelson PHO is now allowing GP practices to offer free smoking cessation sessions and medication costs (including Champix tablets) to beneficiaries and CSC (community services card) holders. We have staff trained to help patients in giving up cigarette smoking, so please consider making an appointment if you'd like to have a look at the programme (540-2211). The PHO is also supporting the routine prescribing of vitamin D to people over the age of 65, which simply means taking a tablet every month. This has come out of numerous research articles showing the high incidence of vitamin D deficiency and the importance that this vitamin has to our health in terms of strong bones, fighting infection, cancer prevention, and decreasing heart disease and diabetes (*BMJ 2010, 340:b5664*).

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. 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 immunization please phone the practice nurse.

This month's health and school events include:

2	Term 2 begins for primary, intermediary and secondary schools	
2-8	Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal	www.salvationarmy.org.nz
2-8	NZ Sign Language Week	www.nzslta.org.nz
5	International Midwives Day	www.midwiferycouncil.org.nz
9	World Red Cross Day	www.redcross.org.nz
11-17	CFS/ME Awareness Week	www.anzmes.org.nz
12	International Nurses Day	www.nursingcouncil.org.nz
17-23	Hospice Appeal Week Hospice NZ	www.hospice.org.nz
23-29	Coeliac Awareness Week	www.colourcards.com/coeliac
23-29	Youth Week	www.nzaahd.co.nz
27-29	World Vision 40-hour Famine	www.worldvision.org.nz
31	World Smoke-Free 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.

Sam's Spam

May

As a website designer, I am often asked for ways to optimise web content for the search engines, known as Search Engine Optimisation (SEO). The way sites are ranked is a closely guarded secret but search engines do use a number of factors to rank the relevance of websites for various search terms. By using some of the better-known ones, you can improve your position on a search engine results page and increase the chances of your business being found online. Your web designer will most probably already have some of the information but if you can help by making sure you have the right key words etc—you know your customers better than anyone!

I have summarised the main points on SEO from a useful article I found at: <http://www.business.govt.nz/managing/the-web/five-tips-for-optimising-your-web-content-for-search-engines>

Use keywords

Use relevant words and phrases that people might use when looking for a business like yours and then select and target relevant keywords or phrases on each web page. Avoid jargon and technical keywords and focus on simple niche keywords that will drive relevant traffic to your website. As a guide, aim to use each keyword or phrase naturally within the text and don't repeat each more than three times on a page.

Meta tags

Meta tags are worth including in the HTML code to improve your ranking with search engines that do use them. Google, for example, will often include the meta title description as the text that appears below the page link on the search engine results page. The meta description gives a brief outline of the web page content and the meta keywords allow

you to list the keywords that are relevant to that web page.

Article titles

It is widely believed that search engines place considerable importance on the text you use in your article title tag. This means that using the title 'home page' is a waste as it is not good for SEO. Think more strategically and give it a keyword-rich title like "ABC Auto Repairs".

Headings and sub-headings

Don't forget to use keywords in your main heading and sub-heading tags. The reasoning is that words used in titles, which are usually in a large font and in bold or a different colour, are likely to be seen as more important by search engines.

Web page content and links

As a rule of thumb, you should include 250 words of text on every web page to ensure search engine robots index the page. Write your text with your intended audience in mind and tweak it to include your chosen two or three keywords, rather than the other way around.

Free stuff

This month's free stuff is Paint.NET. (a similar idea to Photoshop)

<http://www.getpaint.net/>

Paint.NET is free image and photo editing software for computers that run Windows. It started development as an undergraduate college senior design project mentored by Microsoft, and is now being maintained by some of the alumni that originally worked on it. Originally intended as a free replacement for the Microsoft Paint software that comes with Windows, it has grown into a powerful yet simple image and photo-editor tool.

Under The Bonnet with Fred

Back when Men were Men and I had a 4x4

Well, this month I ran out of time with writing submissions to the TDC so I will tell you about some of the characters and incidences when running 4x4 Coast-to-Coast for 14 years. The 4x4 Coast-to-Coast was three days driving from Greymouth to Kaikoura, about 600km on abandon historical roads and river valleys. It was run in three classes—Touring, Endurance and Tough Tough. The latter got its name from competitors wanting tougher challenges, so I told them, “I’ll give you Tough plus Tough but don’t come to me if you break your truck.” They loved it. The last two years we added GPS navigation. It seemed to attract the real doers. Some places we went there was no communication. Not even a world phone would work on Cloudy Range.

Characters and incidences:

Bruce the Goose—an entertaining personality, but he could not be helped. The first year he came on 4x4 Coast-to-Coast he had a standard Toyota Hilux with big tyres. We all said “you’ll break the axles” and he did. Next year he up-sized the back axles and shredded the gearbox and caused wind-up between front and rear axles as they were out of ratio. Next year he put in a V6 engine in which overpowered the gearbox and broke it again. He was told the tyres were too big to try lowering the transfer box ratio. Next year, a stronger gearbox was fitted along with the bigger engine which made a stronger drive train which put too much on the back axle and he shredded the diff. Next year he said he couldn’t afford it! Despite much advice from experienced 4x4ers, poor Bruce was his own worst enemy but a real character.

The computer boys—money was no problem. Two characters turned up for Tough Tough in a brand new \$123,000 VX Land Cruiser with leather interior. The scrutineers came in at registration with these two and I advised them their 4x4 was too expensive for Tough Tough 4x4ing.. His response: “If I can afford \$123,000 Land Cruiser I will do what I like with it.” So I made him sign a waiver on any liability or responsibility for the vehicle. Day One he stalled it in a river crossing and filled it with water to the top of the gear shift. We cleaned the filters out for him; luckily he didn’t hydraulic the engine. Day Two he stoved in the back guard, bumper and tailgate. Day Three, he arrived in Hanmer Springs without a windscreen. Apparently it had popped out. Also he stripped the front diff lock. At prize-giving we gave



him the hard luck prize for providing the most entertainment. I understand he took it back to the Toyota dealership and told them to fix it but two years later I heard its was still on blocks and lawyers were involved.

A Mercedes deflection—I was running a spring tour up the Wairou Valley, Rainbow Station Road to Hanmer, and one person had a brand new Mercedes Benz 400 4WD which had a big plastic deflection plate fixed under the motor which I was sure would not last the tour. The owner of the Mercedes told me the tow bar cost \$1600! (What did that bit of plastic cost?) At the first river crossing Toyotas were crossing without pause. The Mercedes stopped at the river bank. I encouraged him to cross the river to take part in the true 4x4 experience but to head up stream first then turn to cross to miss the large rock below the water. No! He went strait across, clipped the rock and the plastic deflection plate floated downstream. I ran to catch the plate in the river, missed it the first time and fell in the ice-cold water. Missed again, an alarm went off in my head, now soaking and seriously cold. I had another go and fell again but managed to get that plate. I got up, struggled to the bank but fell again with my legs now numb but safe only metres from a rapid. Moral of this story is that a dead hero won’t be remembered for saving a bit of plastic.

A Toyota and the old lady—I had a large tour of 48 vehicles and although I had told the group organiser that RAV4s were to be excluded as suitable vehicles, a 70-year-old lady and two friends turned up at registration with a Toyota RAV4. We couldn’t send them home to Waikato to change vehicles so they would

:Under the Bonnet:

be chaperoned by me, which they were pleased about. No problems with them except listening to instructions sometimes. We left Lake Rotorua up the Perkio track. They were told to drive on the outside of the tight corners, not to stop and to stay in first gear. Well, they cut the first corner and the underside of the RAV4 was hitting rocks. I didn't want to stop them on the steep track so I let them go for it. Later she said, "I want a word with you tonight." At dinner in Hanmer Springs I thought I better go and take my medicine. She said, "Look here young man, God, I have had a good time today! You know my husband is dead and he wouldn't have let me do things like this." She must have got a taste for 4x4ing as the next day I had to stop her crossing the Hanmer River with water flowing over the bonnet of her RAV4.

Life should have adventure. Cars can be fun.

Fred Cassin

Fire Brigade



March-April call-outs

Mar 17: Grass fire Carlyon Rd. Grass between fires caught alight.

Mar 20: Forest fire off Tasman View Rd

Mar 22: Car v van SH60 & Apple Valley Rd. Vehicle failed to give way

Mar 23: Forest fire off Tasman View Rd. Turned back.

Mar 24: Alarm activation at Redwood Cellars. Worker set off. No action taken.

Apr 4: Forest fire off Tasman View Rd. Turned back.

Apr 8: Bonfire Seaton Valley Rd. Put out. No permit.

Apr 10: House bus fire near Motueka.

Apr 1: Car fire Te Mamaku Dr. Out on arrival.

26 calls year to date.

Safety Tip – clean chimneys & check for faults, fix as needed

BOOK REVIEW

The Leopard (written 2009, translated 2011) by Jo Nesbo, Available in the Mapua Library. Reviewed by Sue England.

He may or may not be the next Stieg Larsson as the front cover claims, but Jo Nesbo is certainly a name to add to your reading list if you are a fan of crime novels, mysteries and whodunits.

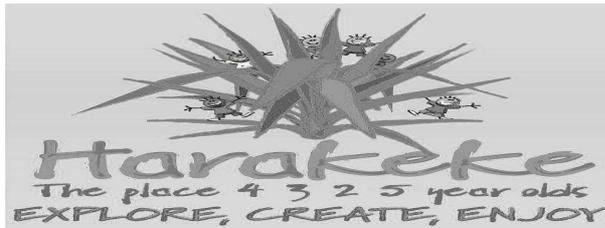
The Leopard is the sixth book by Jo Nesbo, written in his native Norwegian and translated by Don Bartlett, a freelance translator of Scandinavian literature. It is a stand-alone story but with references to people and crimes solved in the previous five books. It is also the longest yet at a whopping 611 pages but the twists in the plot hook you in, as does the enigmatic hero, Harry Hole. If like me you have followed the successes of Scarpetta, Reacher, Rizzoli and Salander you will love the strengths and weaknesses of Detective Inspector Harry Hole.

The trauma of solving the Snowman investigation left Harry physically and mentally depleted. He fled to the squalor of the opium dens in Hong Kong and finally this is where colleague Kaja Solness discovers him. His skills are needed again but he is persuaded to return only because his father is seriously ill in hospital. His reluctance turns to curiosity. Two young women with 24 inexplicable puncture wounds

have drowned in their own blood. There are no clues at the crime scenes and the press is having a field day. When a third female victim is found decapitated in a city park, Harry's instincts get the better of him and he gets actively involved.

The three women appear unconnected until a discovery is made that they all spent a night in an isolated mountain cabin. But other skiers also spent the same night in the cabin and now they are being picked off one by one. Why? The chase takes Harry from Oslo into the Norwegian mountains, from Rwanda to African Congo as the plot twists and turns like a slippery eel. It is gripping, exposing not only the criminal mind but also the corruption that exists in Africa and at high levels in Norwegian business and the Police Force.

The leopard of the title may refer to the cat-like stealth of the killer or that our spots never change and our fundamental character will always be revealed. It is unimportant. The story is good, the writing excellent and I am already looking forward to the next exploit of Inspector Harry Hole.



Hi, tçna koutou and hallo to everyone

Busy times and lots happening here at Harakeke:

The planning for an exciting OPEN DAY on the 15th of May is in full swing; thank you for all our families who are sharing their great ideas and volunteering lots and lots of their time – without them we wouldn't be able to offer wonderful raffles (donations from The Mudcastle and John McIntyre are amongst them)...and lots more on the day. Please all feel welcome to pop in and enjoy the splendid autumn colours and good company.

Recently our programme has been centred around physical education, with our children attending a GYM FUN Fundamentals workshop at Saxton Field, and having Sport Tasman's well-known *Activity Trailer* again at Harakeke for a whole week; thoroughly enjoying the challenges of new activities

and great equipment. We also invited Country Kids to join us for a day to make the most of this wonderful resource and keep the community spirit alive.

We have been celebrating on many occasions too: there were birthday parties, sad farewells when children transitioned to school and our annual *Easter Hunt*, a really special family event including pot luck dinner.

And before we forget, we also welcomed a very special new member of the Harakeke whānau: Tui, the most gorgeous black little puppy, offering learning opportunities for her and us in abundance.

Ka kite and hopefully we will see you at the OPEN DAY – Harakeke's teaching team.

Quotations

“Political correctness is tyranny with manners.” - *Charlton Heston (1924-2008)*

“When one person suffers from a delusion it is called insanity; when many people suffer from a delusion it is called religion.”

- *Robert Pirsig (1948-)*

MAPUA LIBRARY



The library year is coming to an end. Members of the library and the community are cordially invited to our Annual General Meeting in the library, Aranui Road, on Tuesday 10 May at 7.30pm. There will be refreshments after the meeting.

This is an opportunity to hear what the library has accomplished during the past year and learn about aspirations for the year to come. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

During the past year we computerised the library, using the open-source integrated system “Koha”. Volunteers spent many extra hours working on the installation of, and training for, the new system; we were very grateful to them for undertaking that workload so willingly. Koha is now operating to our satisfaction. From comments received from our readers, it’s operating well for you too—that was our objective. We thank all our members for your patience and understanding as we went through the process of entering all books into the system. We’ll continue to develop functionality and offer more enhancements to provide an even better service to you in the year ahead.

The library is in good financial heart. We’re able to provide new releases for the coming year; so keep watching our new release list each month for the latest books to hit our shelves.

We also enjoyed working closely with Mapua School last year by providing library sessions for classes while their library was closed. We’ll continue to work with the school by providing an amended version of the BEAR (Be Excited About Reading Programme) during the second term. Our thanks to Lorraine Powers for her innovative ideas in this area; thank you too the members of the community who became involved in this very worthwhile project over the Christmas holidays. We had some very happy children (and parents) at the end of the holidays.

A note for budding writers. A writing group was formed after the Literary Festival last year; its members would welcome new contributors. They meet once a month to share writing experiences; if you would like to find out more about this group please call Lorraine Powers on 540-3500.

Now don’t forget our AGM on the 10th May!

Dot Moriarty

New Library Hours: Open every afternoon

Monday: 2-4.30pm

Tuesday: 2-4.30pm

Wednesday: 2-6.30pm

Thursday: 10-12.30pm; 2-4.30pm

Friday: 2-4.30pm

Saturday 2-4.30pm

Nelson Pastel Artists scoop awards

PANZ (pastel artists of New Zealand) have just held their 9th annual “Purely Pastel” Art Awards and Convention at Tauranga over the weekend of 25-27 March and members of our Nelson Area have virtually scooped the pool.

Tony Allain took the main honors with his painting “Federation Square”. Bill Burke “Little Feet” and Catherine Russ “The River 2” both won Merit Awards

Tony Allain was honoured with an “Artist Member” title. (This is earned through continuous awards in selected open exhibitions). Marian Painter was chosen as the inaugural Scholarship winner for 2011 (\$500 towards tutor’s fees)

Judith March won the raffle, which was a box of pastels.

PANZ will be celebrating their 10th anniversary in Blenheim in March 2012 so our members are all gearing up for a big attendance

Back on the local scene, our Tuesdays have been very busy with large attendances, demos, presentations and a visit with some children from Bounce. There were some budding artists among this little lot and they certainly “got among the pastels” with vigour. Much fun.



We will have a visit from Maggie Cross of the Otago Area on 10 May. Maggie will show us how to paint a still life with only three colours so this should be a real challenge for some of us. We also have some more new faces attending so lots on at the Mapua Hall on a Tuesday morning. Come along and share a cuppa with us and see what we are up to. Enquiries to Glenys Forbes, 540-3388.



Out and about with Bounce
 Have you ever noticed an excited group of preschoolers, accompanied by orange vested teachers, out and about in Mapua? It could be that you have seen our Bounce explorers off to check out another interesting activity in the Village. We are so lucky to be located in an area with so many wonderful learning opportunities.

Last term we took advantage of a few things that the Mapua village has to offer including trips to the library at least fortnightly.

Art is a strong focus at present so off went a group of children to see the pastel artists (PANZ) one week, then the next week we went to the Mapua Art Group. Both groups of artists were incredibly welcoming and we felt very lucky to have them share their art with us. The work that our children are doing from these experiences is awesome.

We recently had the privilege of taking a group of children to Shelia and Dave Wilson's where they were spoilt rotten while finding out how other people grow their gardens. We gained some more ideas for our own Bounce garden which we are presently harvesting and getting ready for winter planting. We have also had the president of the Coastal Garden Group come to check out what we are doing in our garden with a view to working together in future gardening endeavours.

Our good relationship with Mapua School continues with another recent visit for our 4 year olds who are nearing school age. Ms Dawkins has also come to Bounce to see us which our children really enjoy. A recent visit by a small group of our children to Lower Moutere School, where one of our students will soon begin his primary school experience, was also a great success and much enjoyed.

We have had a variety of visitors to Bounce from parents cooking with us to ERO (Education Review Office) who came and spent a day with us, observing our practice and looking into our documentation. ERO have sent us their preliminary report which we were highly delighted with. We hope to have the actual report out for public viewing on the ministry website soon. (www.ero.govt.nz)

We have many plans for next term including: visiting the vets, more library trips, going to see Snook's garden and another Mapua school visit.

A big thanks to everyone that has helped to make our trips possible from the parents who say YES to the people we have visited. A BIG thanks also to the people that have come to spend time with us. You are all appreciated and have a great impact on our children's learning.

86 Aranui Road, Mapua Ph/Fax: (03) 5403330 Email: teambounce@hotmail.com



Mark Your Calendars!

This year's Mapua Show will feature the best works of the region's artists and craftspeople. Along with many of the favourites from previous years, we'll also be showcasing artists new to the region and local artists who haven't exhibited in the past. Plus there will be a number of arts-related activities in which you and your children can participate.

So be sure and mark your calendars now for 12 & 13 November!

Reminder to exhibitors: Spaces in the hall are filling up fast. To secure your preferred space in the hall, return your forms now. If you don't have a form, contact Debbi Bamfield at 540-2942 or email her at scapperdo4u@yahoo.com.

Hills Community Church

Where Do You Go for Answers?

On a quest for inspiration for this month's article I went on-line to my Yahoo homepage for help. Perhaps a news article might get the creative juices flowing. I don't normally peruse what's on that page but this month I was desperate. The menu bar offered some interesting options. There were links to business and travel, jobs and real estate, lifestyle and the weather. I decided to start at the top of the list—"Answers." Hmm, I thought, what might I find there?

There was a "recent" and "most popular" tab. I started with 'most recent.' Some of the posted questions were: Is there a game where you can cut hair? How much weight could the branches of a tree support? I want a career in medicine, choosing between a medical assistant and a midwife what one would you recommend? My own question: are these people serious?

From there I moved on to 'most popular'. Here's what I found at the top of that list: "Is anyone ELSE (sic) interested in Ravindra Jadega's performance?" My question: who is Ravindra Jadega? (Apparently he's a cricket player). Another: "I really want to know if I'm a musician." Now, seriously, if you have to ask ... But I must say this next one really intrigued me (for obvious reasons): "What do I need to know to start my own religion?" I scanned the 11 posted responses to this question and quickly determined this web-site was visited by people of dubious intelligence who liked to hear themselves talk (so to speak).

But it prompts a question of my own: "Where do you go for answers?" As children our questions are pretty basic and we quickly learn to go to people we trust for answers. Mum and dad are solid sources of information and so is grandma but grandpa can come up with some pretty quirky replies—just ask our grandchildren! School teachers are generally reliable, but school chums can offer rather dubious bits of information. Remember those whispered conversations about the 'birds and the bees'? There was always one kid who spoke with great conviction regarding the facts of life that later proved quite extraordinarily false.

As we grow older, the simple questions of our youth morph into more complex and not so easily answered ones: "Why doesn't she love me anymore?" "How can I raise a family on my own?" "What if I never find a career to satisfy me?" "Is there more to life?" These questions don't have simple answers and I certainly wouldn't trust some anonymous person

on a web-page to answer them. Yet, it would appear, many people do!

What this suggests to me is that people are desperate for answers to life's deepest questions. And that's reasonable. Life is full of complex, complicated and often times gut-wrenching questions. Is there a consistent voice you can trust? The Bible tells us there is: God. And God's answers to our questions aren't nearly as convoluted and difficult to understand as we sometimes make them out to be. Advice such as: Love one another, obey my commands (main two: love God and love your neighbour) and trust me. These responses actually cover quite a bit of ground when it comes to the questions of life. Think about it. Try them out on a couple of questions you might be having right now.

Trusting the One with all the answers, Marilyn Loken, Minister, Hills Community Church

"To God belong wisdom and power, counsel and understanding are God's." Job 12:13

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 & Children's programme including crèche 10:30am; Holy Communion celebrated at both services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays with morning tea in-between. 1st Sunday of each month: one family-style service @ 10:30am followed by a shared lunch.

Weekly Calendar:

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.

Noticeboard

Community Association: At our May general meeting, the Association will host presentations by the National Cycleway organisers – also part of the presentation will be the local boat builder / owner who will provide an update on the Mapua to Rabbit Island access, so all in all it's a presentation that everyone local should come to hear what it will mean to our community. Everyone welcome!

Coastal Connections Social Group: Our next lunch-time gathering is at "Jester House", Aporo Road, Tasman, on 12 May 2011. Look forward to seeing you all. Julie Haliday, 540 3533.

Mapua Show Inc. next AGM 24 May, 7:30 pm at 25 Pinehill Rd. For info: Debbi, 540 2942 or DLBamfield@gmail.com.

Massage for Health (Ruby Bay): 03 970 0960 (local call) or 02102 55 65 25, amanda.stevens824@gmail.com NZQA Qualified

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.

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

Friendship Club meets third Thursdays 2pm, Supper room at the Hall. Indoor bowls followed by afternoon tea (please bring a plate). \$2 door charge and 20¢ raffle. We are a group of friendly people who enjoy a good laugh (some of us are not good bowlers). We welcome new members. Val Roche 540-3685

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

Women's Recreation Group - meets outside Mapua Mall Thursday mornings. Leaves 9.15am for

1½ hour walk. Route varies. Join us whenever you can. Some members may cycle. Info Lynley 540 2292.

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

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

Kidz'n'Koffee Playgroup, Wednesdays (in school term), 10am-noon at Hills Community Church. Ages 0-5yrs. All parents & caregivers are welcome to attend, no cost, donation for morning tea. Come & relax & meet some neighbours. Lisa Gant 543 2530, Tressa Waynan 540 2632.

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

Probus Club meets first Fridays, Mapua Hall 1.30pm. All retirees most welcome. Enquiries to Pres. Anne Evans; 540 3070, Secr. Margaret Butchart 5402686

Genealogy Computer Discussion Group: This year our bimonthly meeting will be 1.30pm on Saturdays, on the following dates: 11 June, 13 Aug, 8 Oct and 10 Dec. Info: Val 540 3931 or Peter 540 2686.

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

Mapua Art Group: Painting/Drawing Thursdays 9-12.30, Supper Room, Mapua Hall. Like-minded artists get together to paint and help each other in a fun, social environment. All levels & media welcome. \$4 session includes morning tea. Tables, chairs provided. Lisa Chandler, 540 3933

RSA Meetings: RSA room, Mapua Library, 2.00pm, second Mondays, and refreshments are served at the close.

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

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