

Coastal News

email: coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz

covering Mapua & Ruby Bay,
run by volunteers

Native forest 'gateway' proposed

A proposal for a native forest "gateway" to Mapua may emerge from discussions between community groups and the Ruby Bay by-pass road makers.

A possible change to New Zealand Transport Agency's landscape plan for the Higgs Reserve area of the by-pass, near the junction of SH 60 with Dominion Road, is being considered. Discussions are at an early stage.

After one meeting with representatives of the Community Association in early November, managers from New Zealand Transport Agency (formerly known as Transit) agreed to consider a suggestion from the Waimea Estuary subcommittee of the Mapua and District Community Association for the "gateway" project.

The proposed park project would involve land on the north side of the by-pass in an area between Dominion Road and Seaton Valley Road. This was purchased for the by-pass construction but marked for disposal after work finished (see the accompanying map). Under the proposal, it could become part of a park with a sequence of native vegetation stretching from the estuary shoreline to tall trees and a series of existing high-quality wetlands in the upper valley. These largely undisturbed wetlands are in a gully between Seaton Valley Road and Chaytor Road.

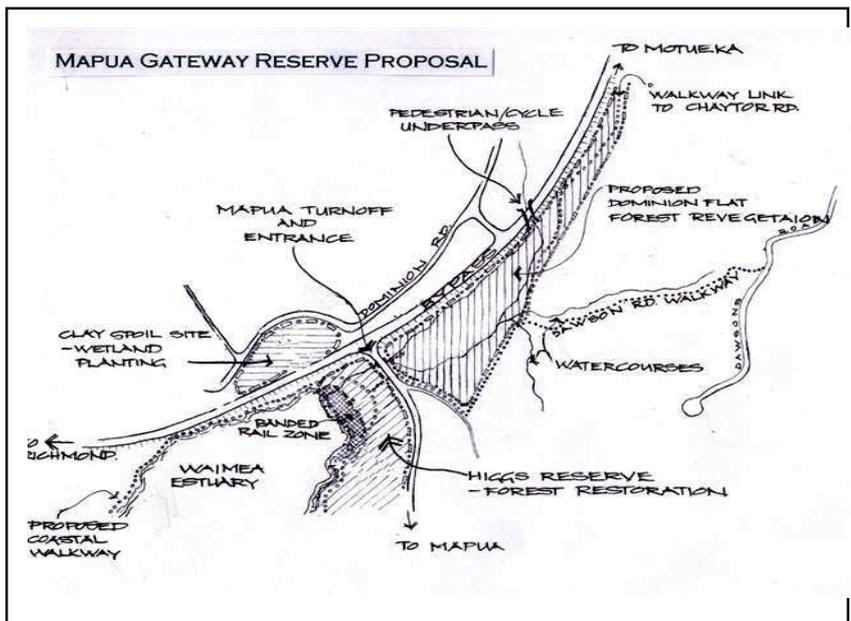
The project is regarded as providing a unique opportunity to have at Mapua's front door an example of the vegetation that was once widespread around Waimea Estuary.

The idea has gained favour with some community groups which have so far looked at it, including the Mapua and District Cycle Walkway Group and the Coastal Initiatives Group.

The Waimea Estuary subcommittee of the Community Association, which has proposed the plan, aims to promote the estuary and Mapua's location. The subcommittee calls the estuary a "taonga" (treasure) and says it is rated as one of the most important in the country because of the large number of species there. It is also rated as important internationally because of the large number of migratory birds.

The committee points out that the Higgs Reserve area will become increasingly important to Mapua for a number of reasons. These include:

a) For the majority of people coming to Mapua, the Higgs Reserve area will be the turn-off and a logical place for a distinctive "gateway".



The team at The Coastal News would like to wish all our readers, contributors and advertisers a joyful Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year

b) It will be a crossroads for walkway-cycleways linking Mapua to Dawson Rd, Chaytor Rd and to a new cycle-walkway now being developed, which will follow the Old Coach Road route to Lower Moutere.

c) It could also link to future cycle-walkways that will follow the estuary coastline to Appleby and then link to cycle-walkways to Richmond and Brightwater.

The vision for a “shoreline to tall trees” reserve comes originally from the Department of Conservation. A September 1989 report by DoC wetlands expert John Preece identified the high ecological values in the area.

The report said that the estuary edge near Higgs Reserve was in a relatively natural state with sea rush and jointed rush leading up to marsh ribbonwood and providing a good breeding and feeding area for banded rail and other rare and threatened birds, such as marsh crake. Mr Preece said that DoC had plans to link up the estuarine edge with a sequence of other native plants leading to tall trees like kahikatea.

“Most of the Waimea Inlet was once surrounded by forest, but now there are only a few tiny, isolated remnants,” he said. The Higgs area represented one of the very few opportunities to have a complete sequence of vegetation ranging from reeds to ribbonwood and then to manuka and finally to tall trees like the kahikatea, which is noted for the rich fruit it produces, attracting particularly tui and kereru.

“It is certainly the only place where it would be possible for the public to see such a vegetation sequence from a main road.”

Because of the high natural values in the Higgs Reserve area, Mr Preece opposed the final route chosen for the road through the estuarine areas of the Higgs and a neighbouring DoC reserve. However, he said that if engineers felt there was no other option for the road, there were clear objectives for landscape mitigation. These were:

- Re-establishment of estuary-edge habitat for banded rails and other rare birds and
- Creating a complete vegetation sequence through to tall forest.

The estuary sub-committee suggested that a kahikatea forest “gateway” would be very appropriate because the name “Mâpua” means “fruitful, abundant, and bountiful”. It was a term specifically associated with the fruiting stage of kahikatea trees, and recalls the presence in the Korepo (Seaton Valley) Swamp of

a kahikatea-pukatea forest which was estimated to extend over 320ha.

The Waimea County Council (now Tasman District) had also proposed that the Higgs Reserve reed beds should be protected because of their importance for banded rail. The county council also proposed that existing native plants should be supplemented with “kahikatea, pukatea and other damp-loving trees”. In 1985, it drew up a draft plan for the reserve, but it was never adopted and, because of access difficulties from SH60, the reserve has been given only minimum maintenance and attention over the past 20 years.

The opportunity for the community to have input into the NZTA landscape plan came about because of some late changes the agency decided to make. NZTA is committed under its consent to a process of consultation with DoC and the Tasman District Council. However, in this case, it has gone further than that and is involving iwi, the Coastal Initiative Group and it was also prepared to consider ideas raised by the estuary subcommittee.

The “gateway” proposal and other matters relating to Higgs Reserve were discussed at a meeting involving representatives of NZTA, TDC, DoC and the Mapua and Districts Community Association on November 12.

A draft report produced by the estuary subcommittee was subsequently distributed to all parties and some Mapua community groups. It is available for reading at the Mapua Library and electronic copies are available to anyone interested. People wanting a copy should send a request to wetland@mapua.gen.nz.

Any letters of support, from either individuals or organisations, would be welcome. NZTA is looking for evidence that the proposal does have support in the community which at this stage needs only to be for the idea in principle. Any proposal that might come from the discussion process would almost certainly be referred back to the Community Association for further consideration and it would also involve the council.

The subcommittee welcomes comments, suggestions and any letters of support. These should be sent to wetland@mapua.gen.nz. They will need to be lodged as quickly as possible because of the speed with which NZTA is working on the issue.

David Mitchell

Coastal Garden Group

Our speaker for the November was Richard Snethurst. He's a landscape designer who has recently moved to New Zealand, and now works for Nelmac. He gave an interesting talk, using a computer and projector to illustrate gardens he has designed. He says that people tend to inherit their gardens from the previous owner and don't like changing the structure; they are reticent to cut down trees or change existing plants.

People should change their gardens as often as they decorate their houses and not be afraid of swapping plants. Things to consider in garden design are: shape, contours, privacy, climate, movement of the sun, soil type, what plants grow well, drainage, existing features and views.

One problem he often encounters when someone brings him in to do a job is that of the budget. The garden owner doesn't want to tell him what the budget is, so he has to tactfully extract it from them.

Richard showed photos of gardens he has designed, and explained why things were done. For instance, he had to disguise an above-ground pool, and explained to

us how pergolas, planting and decoration were used to lead the viewer's eye away from the raised pool. He placed a large emphasis on low voltage lighting and use of water features. He mentioned that the UK doesn't have the restrictions we do over here when it comes to ponds, as a result they are more much more common in UK gardens.

We welcomed several new and returning members to the club and, as usual, had a well-attended meeting. Announcements were made regarding upcoming garden tours, the Mapua Show and the new local Fair Exchange event. After afternoon tea we had the plant auction, this month we had a very large amount of plants for sale. We rounded off the meeting with Barry and Janet leading the discussion on the extensive array of interesting blooms and shrubs that had been brought in by members.

The next meeting is our Christmas party on 3 December in one our member's gardens. We'll have a demonstration on how to do topiary along with the festivities. If you'd like to join us, please call Barry Highsted, 540-3139.

Richard Banfield, Secretary

Garden Notes

Summer—the time when we can take a well deserved rest from our labours and enjoy some of the fruits of our toil, pick or dig fruit and vegetables we planted months ago. Christmas is coming, outdoor living at this time can be a real joy with family and friends. We must still be aware that now is the time to watch the moisture problem.

The recent winds have contributed to the rapid drying out quite quickly after so much rain, this is where mulch does help somewhat to assist. Soak hoses and Sprinklers are still the best option for watering a large garden, but in many instances a regular walk around the garden with a hand held hose is the best way to get to know just what plant needs what and when.

Pests begin their invasions in earnest in December, whitefly, aphids, thrips and mites are all destructive during the drier months. Super Shield and a pyrethrum-based spray will be effective on most of these pests.

Tasks for December: Remove spent flower heads. One can still plant dahlia tubers. Lift daffodils, tulips and hyacinths and store in a dry bag. Keep mulching.

Mulch vegies with grass clippings or sawdust, Watering in the evening is best; one good watering a week is better than lots of smaller ones

December is cherry time; these trees do need really good covering from birds, which are the worst pest for cherries and will find any loophole available to them. I have finely given up the struggle and the birds have won.

This is the time to thin peaches, plums, apples and nectarines. It is well worth the trouble to give the tree a chance to produce much larger fruit.

There is no *Coastal News* during January so do have a blessed time during this festive season, and safe travelling on those roads.

Barry Highsted

Coastal Initiative Group

The Coastal Initiative Group held a community meeting in the Mapua Boat Club's rooms to seek feedback on priorities for the future. The Tasman District Council joined this meeting to outline some necessary road name changes and their process for community input into possible new names.

The road-naming issues arise from the Ruby Bay by-pass. Parts of the existing highway will lose its present name as the new road becomes the Coastal Highway. Old Coach Road is also affected by being carved into three by the new highway, and house numbers beyond Tasman up to the Motueka roundabout may also be affected. The business of changing road names and house numbers is by a formal process of recommendation, consultation and legal formalisation; it all takes a while, so the council is moving along with this. The Coastal Initiative's decision to work alongside the council and help facilitate the community meeting means that our communities have been given the opportunity to suggest and discuss naming options. Then the recommendations that go forward into the formal process are from the community. Submissions close on 4 December. Remember to get them in the mail or drop them into a TDC office.

The other part of the meeting was to try to find some consensus across our communities over future directions and preferred projects. Funds for all community projects are very restricted, both by rating pressures and by the Government's removal of many subsidies and central funding criteria. So there is even more reason for our communities to be careful, and frugal in our expectations over the next few years. We won't get everything we want, and we need to set some priorities from within the communities. The Coastal Initiative Group's community consultation meeting has delivered some indicative results and trends which are summarised here:

The physical environment, access and amenity:

- Restoration projects, walkways and natural heritage scored highly in our feedback.
- The communities of this coast are increasingly defining themselves as community custodians of a rich series of coastal public spaces and environmental projects.
- Baigents Reserve, McKee Domain and Higgs Reserve are seen as key regional resources, and the communities feel increasingly empowered to protect and enhance these assets.

- Linkages, walkways, cycle lanes and the changed character of the old Coastal Highway: Cycle lanes along the entire strip, speed restrictions and public safety in an increasingly pedestrian and cycle friendly place are leading community priorities.

- The Mapua hall is seen as an important community facility, and one that needs to be improved, in the context of other community facilities, and future needs.

Some written submissions were also received.

Among the topics raised were:

Public transport. Increasing pressures over transport costs over the next decades will see more emphasis placed on public transport and other more efficient transport solutions. Provisions should be made in planning and highway configuration for road shoulder safe bus stopping areas and transportation hubs, especially at the beginning and end of the Ruby Coast Scenic Route.

Balanced Development. Although there is little sign of any present conflict, the community is aware of the dynamic relationship between tourism/business development and the peace and tranquility this area offers its residents. CIG represents the interests of both the community associations and the business sector and has evolved its vision of development and growth to serve both perspectives. Its commercial focus is on development that attracts visitors to the area, into the matrix of locally owned small business that has established the commercial character of the area.

These in turn are the employers of our young people and residents and make for a healthy local economy and an enduring community. Ruby Coast residents enjoy the benefits that local tourism can offer, from local shops and cafes, to a more accessible environment. The increased access and understanding of this beautiful environment, with more walkways and cycleways, also deliver mental and physical health benefits for residents as well as visitors.

The Coastal Initiative Group was pleased with the meeting turn-out; at 65 it was a full house.

It's good to see that we do care about this place and that there is community will to improve and enhance our environment. The Group intends to hold further meetings as we translate this vision into proposals and projects that we can all help make happen.

Graeme Stradling, for Coastal Initiative Group

PANZ



Well, it is the end of a very busy year for the Nelson Area members of PANZ. We have been meeting every Tuesday morning at the Mapua Village Hall from February through to today (17th Nov). For our closing get together, we had a fun “paint along with Tony” which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. (Tony Allain is a professional artist who has won acclaim in both the UK and NZ as well as many other overseas countries) Our Tuesday mornings are lots of fun, educational and friendly. As well as the regular get togethers, we have had several workshops with both local and overseas tutors and of course the “Top of the South” pastel art exhibition which is now a feature event.

Members exhibited at the “Mapua Magic” Show weekend, and November also included an end of the year barbeque on the 24th at the home of Anne Cegarra and Patrick Cudennec on Graham Valley Road.

A framing workshop with Lance Trolle will be held on the weekend of 5/6 December in the supper room of the Mapua Hall. It is proving to be a very popular event and places fill quickly.

Don’t forget to put 26 February 2010 on your calendar. This is the opening night for our “Top of the South” pastel exhibition. The exhibition will run over the weekend and is free entry to viewers. We will be running the ever popular “People’s Choice” award again so be prepared to vote for your favorite painting.

Members have all been given a Christmas Challenge. We each have a copy of two pictures, one of which we are to choose and paint. The result must NOT be identical to the original picture. Finished paintings are to be presented on the first Tuesday meeting of 2010. (9th Feb) This will be the third Christmas challenge we have done and it is looked forward to with total enthusiasm.

All enquiries re any of the above to Glenys Forbes, 540-3388

Sarau Festival close

Hey everyone – let’s get cranking with planning the Sarau Festival – less than two months to go! Keep an eye on our website: www.saraufestival.co.nz

Start creating your entries for the competitions:

- Scarecrow (remember to think about the blackcurrant theme)
- The Blackcurrant Cooking Competitions— jams, jellies, preserves, the children’s section, baking, and innovative recipes.

If you don’t enter, then who will?

Again we will have the fantastic Moutere Mountain Bike event, entertainment, activities, growing and cooking demonstrations.

This is our chance to showcase the Moutere/Mapua area to Nelson, wider New Zealand, and overseas visitors with all our businesses and activities, and just with welcoming fun. Get involved – we need you!

Specific help needed:

1. Someone to make six new flags for the flag poles (plain or painted)
2. Someone to organise shade for the festival – gazebos, trees, shrubs etc
3. Someone to do the accounts.

If you can help with any of these or have any ideas please email jenny@saraufestival.co.nz or phone me on 543-2715.

Jenny Leith

MAPUA COMBINED PROBUS

The guest speaker at the club's monthly meeting was Bernard Isherwood. His subject was his experience of terrorism during his 31 years involvement with the army and the SAS. Bernard was born and brought up in Nelson.

His army career started as a cadet at Sandhurst military college in England. He progressed through the ranks from a junior officer to the position of a commanding officer. Bernard was able to use his computerised projector to illustrate his talk covering many aspects of terrorism through out the world.

Bernard thought it would be unlikely, in the foreseeable future, to experience another world war. The first major experience of terrorism was the Northern Ireland conflict between the local Catholics and Protestants. September 11, 2001 was the next major terrorist attack with the two passenger planes being flown into the Twin Towers of New York. Bernard said that this event took several years to plan with the terrorist pilots being trained in the United States.

Bernard's photos included a photo of Osama Bin Laden, the instigator of the destruction of the Twin Towers. He listed several other terrorist leaders that have been responsible for various bombings. One major incident which Bernard was closely associated with was the bombing of the Marriott Hotel in Jakarta that took place in August 2003. He was enjoying a cup of coffee about five minutes away from the hotel when the bomb was detonated. This was actuated by a suicidal man who had parked his truck close to the hotel entrance.

While New Zealand has not experienced direct terrorism, the government has taken steps to have training programmes for both the army and the police

to work together. These anti-terrorist squads are on call seven days a week. This was instigated by the Muldoon government after the sabotage of the Rainbow Warrior at an Auckland wharf in 1985.

Bernard finished his talk with his view about the future regarding terrorism. He considers terrorism will continue to play an increasing part in world dramas. In response to a question about how terrorist groups can finance their activities, Bernard said that the drug industry was one of the major sources of finance.

Club member Joy Sharman gave the afternoon's mini-talk, starting with days growing up in Blenheim. One of her first jobs was as a Correspondence School tutor for children living in the Marlborough Sounds. It was an inspiring time enjoying glorious scenery and plentiful fishing. Joy moved on to a job in Wellington as a laboratory assistant, where she met her husband to be, John. From Wellington Joy moved south to Invermay on the old Taeri Airport south of Dunedin, working as a laboratory technician. Joy and John were married and moved to Halswell, Christchurch. It was there she took up her interest in gardening, specialising in growing proteas and camellias. Since their move to Mapua Joy has continued to grow these plants. She has added to her variety of roses and giant lilies, which have reached up to over three metres. Joy finished her interesting talk by showing a large photographic folder of various flowers she has grown. She also displayed a variety of protea cuttings that were offered club members to take home.

Community Association

What a great turnout we had at the November meeting of the association! There was much discussion and debate around the recent decision to replace the existing Mapua Community Hall. A number of people felt that community apathy implied by local media was incorrect and that more information and facts and figures were needed to make informed decisions. The historic and social aspects of the hall are clearly of particular interest to a number of people.

Because we don't know when it's going to happen...

Anyone with particular skills that might be very handy for a stranded community should the "Big One" occur are invited to put their name onto a local list being compiled by Helen Bibby so that if and when it happens, their skills can be put to good use.

District Annual Plan

Susan Edwards of the Tasman District Council provided an update on the Annual Plan review process the council was about to begin. Susan's news that newly released government policy proposals to remove project funding subsidies was received with concern. What this will mean for the council is that if it plans to continue with planned work, funding will have to come from local resources.

Concerned members of the community are encouraged to drop a line to their MP because the removal of subsidies from central government will mean more costs for this community!

The draft Annual Plan process is:

1) Draft annual plan out for consultation on 22nd March

2) Submissions period will follow through to 26th April.

3) Hearings for submissions will be held 12th to 21st May.

4) Final plan will be adopted by the council on 30th June.

Landscaping of the Old Mill Walkway

Stephen Richards, TDC Reserves Officer, presented to the meeting the proposed landscaping along Old Mill Walkway. The plan was well received. As Stephen pointed out, landscaping design is limited by the number of plant species that can be used due to coastal salt spray. The plants that the landscapers plan to use are those that exist well on coastal margins and help stabilize the shore.

Regional Cycleways Initiative

Work on this initiative is gathering momentum and Rob Ingram (chair, Regional Cycleways Trust) and Steve Waring (sales and marketing) reported to the meeting the overwhelming enthusiasm for the initiative. The cycleway will have destination centres connected by major cycle trails across the top of the South Island. This will have huge benefits for visitors and locals alike:

- Fourth busiest NZ airport
- Central NZ location
- Cycle loop means people can arrive back at their starting point
- Mild climate
- Social and business benefits
- Less vehicular congestion
- Community ownership

There is much more work to be done and when working groups are called for, that's when the community can get involved. Meanwhile, the funding application is being prepared. Many other groups around the country are vying for a share of the \$50m funding proposal so the Trust will need our support to make it happen.

Pam Stinton, secretary

Hall chairman responds to concerns

Thank you for your invitation to provide comment on the current status and thinking of the Mapua Hall Committee (MHC) in respect of changes for the hall.

We have followed with interest, the various letters and articles which have been published in the *Coastal News* and other media and we very much value the efforts of the contributors. We have also received much correspondence following our recent public meeting. All of this has been the exact response we hoped to evoke. On a personal level, it has been a most interesting experience, particularly as I have not been part of a public representative committee before, let alone the chairman!!

The questions that appear to be on the public's mind are:

- Do we really need a new hall?
- How is a new hall going to be funded?
- What is the new hall going to look like?

A raft of other questions have arisen however, when given due consideration, it appears many of them are simply one of the above questions in finer detail and would be answered to a large extent, by answering the above. These three questions are the core of the MHC's current focus and are certainly worthy of succinct response—the exact reason, as a new committee, we chose to start this due diligence process with a public meeting (held in October).

Some committee background: Five of our committee members were new this year. I think it is fair to say that we had a serious lack of in-depth knowledge of the history of the MHC and grasp of issues surrounding the hall development. For many of us, our understandings were based on a blend of public supposition and hearsay.

At first this presented a level of concern, however, we quickly saw the advantage of not having a limiting attitude based on years of personal opinions and beliefs!

We felt that an integral part of this process was to pragmatically review and gain clear understanding of the options for both a new hall and a renovation. Once we gained an excellent understanding, the next step was to have a public meeting to flush out any “gems” of information about the hall that may not have been considered by us.

We believed the most responsible way to run that meeting was to open by detailing the results of our initial investigation and the facts as we understood them, followed by an open floor for public input. We concluded our presentation with a recommendation that we work towards building a new hall. This was on the understanding that any final decision was subject to extensive public and financial due diligence and that we welcomed all correspondence. Furthermore, we made it clear that we are committed to a democratic process when we reach points where firm and binding decisions need to be made on behalf of the community. We undertook to provide the appropriate forum for debates, submissions and votes as we approached decision times on crucial matters. We made it clear, that as a new committee, we wanted to connect with the community to begin building an appreciation of their views, needs and desires for the hall.

On the whole we are satisfied this was achieved. A large number at the meeting stood up and expressed their views; some for a new hall and some for a renovation. We were very pleased with this part of the meeting and have received good feedback on the Q & A session. It appears however, that some went away from the meeting with a slightly different understanding of our message and to them I apologise. I trust this letter provides some comfort to you that we will not be tearing down the hall next week and that we do listen to your feedback.

In regards to some of the detail, eg, what sort of carpet might go into a new hall what the future hire rates may be or what the kitchen colour is, we feel these issues must be dealt with in stages and are mindful not to get too far ahead of ourselves. The next step is to look at the finances and see what is actually viable.

We now look forward to a period of extensive consultation with the community and encourage everyone with an interest in our hall to make submissions regardless of their opinion.

Mike Harvey, chairman, Mapua Hall Committee

(Comments can be sent to our secretary, Mary Garner, c/- PO Box 19 Mapua, or by email to m.garner@xtra.co.nz.)



Hall decision needs another look

I read with interest the articles in the November issue of the *Coastal News* with regard the proposal to build a new hall.

I have been a resident of Mapua for 32 years. My husband grew up in and around Mapua; when he left school he worked locally for several years before we started a local business employing local people. His parents were heavily involved within the community and were directly involved in the building of the Mapua Hall by way of volunteer labour; supplying food to the volunteer builders and investing in the hall with a £100 share.

Over the years I have been involved within many community groups, clubs and organisations, one being for several years the hall committee, so I have a relatively good understanding of the day-to-day challenges the hall committee faces.

With many years and many lessons learnt from personal experiences including mistakes, I have become aware that when an individual is being asked to share their opinion on a given topic they need to feel their point of view is truly valued and that they will be treated with respect. This is done by creating an atmosphere where open, honest, respectful and balanced debate is encouraged and achieved. An atmosphere where listening to the opinions of others is of paramount importance so the audience feels it is a safe place for them to participate in the debate.

It is very difficult to achieve an accurate reflection of community feelings in an atmosphere where a presentation appears weighted; where a confrontation between the presenter and a member of the audience has taken place; where it is obvious the committee's decision has already been made; and where residents may leave feeling the whole meeting has been a formality so the committee can say community consultation has occurred.

I acknowledge the time and energy put in by the committee; I am sure the intentions of the committee are in the best interest of the community. However, if the committee is serious about wanting community

opinion and input then I feel the community needs to feel any opinions they may share are: a) genuinely wanted; b) valued by the committee; and c) received without prejudice. It may have been more helpful if the community had been presented with the non-biased raw facts, delivered in a manner which gave residents a certain degree of confidence that the information gathered would be of assistance to the committee when deciding where to go from here.

I also feel any public reporting the committee makes to the community (ie, *Coastal News* article November 09 issue) should be a true account of meeting outcomes. I was present at this meeting and I am unsure how it can be reported that 'the meeting concluded with a clear endorsement of a new hall' or suggest the statement, 'Let us do it once and do it right' made by a committee member was endorsed by the meeting when not once was there a show of hands. The suggestion there be a show of hands was rejected by the committee, so how was a conclusion of community endorsement reached?

The hall may not have any architectural historical significance but there is certainly much local historical significance in the current hall. It represents an era when the true-blue Kiwi "can-do" attitude was strong. It directly reflects the post-war struggles of a developing community; a time when community members were prepared to put their time, money, physical energy and labour into the building of a community hall for all residents to enjoy. It was a time when if you wanted something done everyone worked together to make it happen, without relying on funds from the local council or charitable trusts. The Mapua Hall is a result of genuine Kiwi determination, grit, toil and a strong community spirit.

I understand the hall needs tidying, but I am not convinced destroying the hall and the cultural history is the answer, without at the very least, becoming fully informed. I would like to see the community presented with a full, well-balanced feasibility study which

contd:

Letters to the Editor...



appraises all available options including ongoing costs—current and projected; design options—including renovations/extensions which are in keeping with the present character of the building; marketing research—what increased usage is required and how will this increase be achieved; and the benefits of each option, both for and against.

I would like residents to ask themselves: How would I like to enhance our community for future generations? Keeping in mind that we are only caretakers for such a short time, before it becomes the responsibility of the next generations.

Ask yourself what makes Mapua wharf so special? Is it the closeness and accessibility to the sea? Is it the buildings? Is it the businesses located there? Is it a combination of all these along with other features? What would the Mapua wharf look like if all the old wharf and coolstore buildings were demolished and replaced with new buildings? Would the wharf area hold the same appeal if these old buildings were no longer there? What is so different about the hall?

Twenty-odd years ago the wharf buildings were in threat of being demolished because the council felt they were past their use-by date. The community saved these buildings and look at them today!

For me, I haven't been given enough information to make an informed decision whether to vote for or against the rebuild proposal put forward by the hall committee.

Perhaps the community could be asked: Who is in favour of the committee applying for funds to allow an in-depth, neutral feasibility study being undertaken into the renovation versus rebuild options?

Maybe there are other members of the community, who like me, would like more information before making such an important, emotive decision.

So as a community, maybe it is time for us all to set our own personal agendas aside and start working together peacefully for the greater good of the whole community and future generations. Let us really make sure we 'Do it once', but 'Get it right'.

Marion Satherly

Hall outcome “misleading”

I refer to the November issue of the *Coastal News*, “New Hall for Mapua Finds Favour”...how misleading! Upon reading the constructive comments of community stalwart, Lynda Mabin, a considered and sensible synopsis of current community hall requirements emerges.

No-one is knocking the voluntary efforts of the current Hall Committee, and as trustees for the existing facility we must guide them in their initiatives to proceed to commit development of a hall. The energy of the whole community needs to be behind such a proposal; clearly it is not.

Most community residents/commentators openly say there is insufficient detail in the proposal to 'build' to make an informed decision. A local referendum is called for, so who defines 'local' and the loading of the questions? Remember we are still paying for the under-used monument in the Moutere. Admittedly, the tide and residential development is moving that way, if crossing the new Coastal Highway is possible?

Many residents do not use the hall facility and chose to use alternatives, not to say they may be willing to make a contribution to the upgrade of existing facilities which may then encourage them to use the hall.

Personally, I would be prepared to contribute time and materials towards an upgrade, but would be professionally obligated to charge for my services to provide the necessary cost benefit analyses on the hall rebuild option. Upon further consideration, it would be difficult for me to recommend a further \$500pa to householders' rates, but that would liven up the debate and fill the next hall meeting!

In any event, long-term sustainability or health of a community takes long-term investment in social services, that is, schools, shops (inclusive of health and spiritual) etc, and I am of the opinion that our basic needs are being adequately met. City and urban lifestyle is not my choice of sustainable living.

Fund-raising events can give purpose/direction for a community, and the likes of the successful 'Spring Fling' and Easter Fair could be emulated with themed winter and summer carnivals. I'm positive we can come up with something unique to promote. I picture Bill Marris winning the inaugural mobility-scooter drag race. Who knows, the next generation may have gondola races around Old Port Mapua...if they can be removed from their virtual-reality helmets!

W K Darling, Ruby Bay



Hall redevelopment questioned

On Friday, 13 November, due to an event in the Mapua Hall (which by the way was a great event and congratulations to everyone involved; I love the way the hall can scrub up when required), our Friday circuit class was transferred to the Upper Moutere Recreation Centre. It is a 15-minute drive each way and due to the constraints of being on a concrete floor we couldn't do the exercises with the same amount of vigour and impact.

This really highlighted to me how affected we would be if the Mapua Hall was completely demolished and rebuilt instead of working with the good bits we have and remodelling the rest. The rebuilding would take at least a year, I presume, and in that time Lynda's classes would have to move. I know for myself I don't have the extra 15 minutes each way to drive to Upper Moutere and would be more likely to join a gym in Richmond. However, that is not how I wish to exercise as it is not only about the exercise but also the fellowship involved. The classes as they are now provide an excellent service to the community and cater for an age range from 15 to 80+. I'm not sure of the upper age range as they are so sprightly and young at heart they often put me to shame!

Lynda holds seven different classes in the Mapua Hall each week of which I attend two classes a week, and my son also attends a class.

Yes, the hall can be freezing in the winter and the toilets are not the best but the main body of the hall is great to exercise in. If the hall was remodelled I'm sure the bits that need doing could be worked around the needs and timing of the community users. For example the exercise classes are only term time and the insulating and repanelling of the walls could be done in the holidays or a few weeks either side so it creates the least disruption. Then the back of the hall could be opened up to provide access to the Domain for the sports groups, too.

There seems to be some conflicting information out in the community as to what the Hall Committee has agreed to do. This issue needs clarification along with the question of cost and where this will fall, and more consultation with the whole community.

Rose Barnes

Thanks for Show

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Richard Bullock and his team for the successful Mapua Show held on 14/15 November. I for one know all the hard work that goes into creating this for the enjoyment for all who take part or come to view. Well done.

Barry Highsted

Please keep the charm

Soon after moving to Mapua in 2002 I joined Lynda Mabin's aerobics classes, my first time inside the Village Hall. I was at once impressed and thrilled to find such a good wooden floor. As a ballet teacher of some 40 years (in the USA), finding such a floor in the beautiful village we had made our home almost brought me out of retirement!

In the US so many buildings are new, and as here in NZ the first thing in new buildings is to pour concrete. What a waste that would be if we are to pull down and put up a new hall. Gone would be the great wooden floor, so important and beneficial for all dance and other sports activities.

The letter last month also, from Mr Niemann, suggesting we take a look at restoration and extension of the hall to preserve the charm and "village-style character" of the village, could do with some heeding.

Lynda Mabin's letter impressed me because of her history with the hall, having been a committee member and user for so many years, so many points in her letter need to be considered. Anyone who did not read the letter may wish to look it over.

The hall is only part of this wonderful place, there is also the compact village centre, the sea and scenery, but mostly the warm, caring and hospitable people make up the village spirit and charm. Please do not spoil all this with a modern, incongruous building.

Valerie Roche.

Thanks for help and donations

On the 3rd November at 12.30pm my son Michael Cox along with Jamie Morgan and his mum Kate and Dan Sutherland had their hair shaved off. All proceeds from this shave went to the Nelson Cancer Society. On the day over \$2400 was handed over, and even after the event people are still donating.

I would like to thank Pauline from Hair in Mapua and Hair Rocks for giving her time, and for doing a fantastic job. They all look great.

I thank Mapua School for supporting the boys and Kate on the day; it was lovely to hear the cheering and words of encouragement.

And finally thanks to the business and local people of Mapua who very kindly sponsored the boys and Kate, or who donated money to such a worthy cause. The generosity you showed was just heart-warming. Thank you again.

Julie Cox



The passing of time

Time flies. Time passes so quickly. Time waits for no one. "Late again!" How often do we hear it and say it? So here we are and 2009 is soon to be history; the first 10 years of the 21st century is soon to be history as well. I just know it seemed to go by in a heck of a hurry!

The work on the Ruby Bay by-pass is now very much in our face at both ends of the project. During December there will be traffic disruptions at the southern end at Apple Valley Road and Trafalgar Road. Haul trucks will again be crossing on their way to the Higgs Reserve and Dominion Road flats with fill material.

On 9 December the By-Pass Stakeholders will meet at 2pm at the Mapua Hall supper-room for an update on the project and discussion of any community issues which have become involved. Do you have any? Please let me know and I will raise them at this meeting.

Looking Back: 2009 has been an interesting year for Mapua and the Ruby Bay/Tasman coastal area. The Ruby Bay by-pass finally ceased to be a "maybe" and became a "reality". To say the local landscape has been radically and irrevocably changed is an understatement.

The so called "clean-up" of the Fruit Growers Chemical Plant site at Mapua has been completed (sort of). The Ministry for the Environment has handed the site back to the TDC and Mapua residents with flourish and soothing words. The Minister of Conservation, Nick Smith, and our Mayor, Richard Kempthorne, together with Paul Reynolds, the Secretary of MFE, Dennis Bush King from the TDC and our member of Parliament Chris Auchinvole, contributed.

Sadly, there was no-one from the Ministry of Health, which has not yet submitted its report on the effects of the clean-up on the health of the Mapua community, specifically on those who were pin-pointed by their survey in 2007. While the Ministry may win the prize for being the last past the post, it is not alone. Both the MfE and the TDC have run a close second in the area of communication to the community, MfE conveniently signing off its part of the clean-up just prior to the TDC dumping excess contaminated soil on both the

waterfront park site and the western edge of the Waimea Estuary. The only good part of all this, at least at the moment, is that the site is at last open to the public.

The Mapua Domain Sub-Committee has made 2009 a landmark year for the Domain area. by their efforts on behalf of all who now are wish to use the Domain. The lights and the concrete walkway are just some of the improvements. Congratulations to Bridget Wild, Nadienne Cookson and Pam Stinton and others and to the splendid co-operation from the TDC Parks and Reserves Department and their staff.

The Mapua Hall committee has been hard at work to ascertain whether a new hall or a re-model of the existing hall is the way to the future for this essential facility. The recent public meeting was a good start towards achieving a consensus despite some inaccurate reporting by the *Nelson Mail*. More discussion and information would be welcomed

The Seaton Valley Walkway & Cycleway after what seemed to be a good start has fallen by the wayside. There a few parts that are OK and some not. The rest is undone and therefore unusable. Question for the TDC: Why start something and then just stop in the middle of it?

Last, but by no means least for 2009 is the draft report on the Higgs Reserve area from the Waimea Estuary Sub-committee (Elspeth Collier & David Mitchell) of the Mapua and Districts Community Association. Well done Elspeth and David. Your concern for the welfare of the estuary is appreciated by all of us.

Next month we start the second decade of the 21st century. Most of the 2009 community affairs items are on-going. There will be plenty of things to focus upon. The next issue of *Coastal News* will be for February. Andrew Earlam, Terry Smith and Barbara Mercer and supporting staff all get a well-earned break. The *Coastal News*, a great asset to our area, is the result of their dedicated efforts. We owe them a vote of thanks. So do I. Best wishes for what's left of 2009 and for the year to follow.

Hugh Gordon

Doctor's farewell

As some of you will already know, I am soon to finish working at the Mapua Health Centre. I have been offered a position in Richmond that I intend to take up at the end of January. As was the case with my wife Sally a few months ago, there are a variety of reasons for moving, but basically after almost 10 years I am looking forward to a change of scenery! I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues at the Health Centre for their help and support over that time.

May I also say that I consider myself fortunate to have been able to serve such a great local community . Being invited into people's lives and given the chance to try and help in some way is rewarding and humbling in equal measure .I have been made to feel welcome and appreciated and thank my patients greatly for this . In the future I anticipate keeping in touch with many of you on a social rather than professional basis!

Richard Thomas

Moutere Hills RSA

The monthly meeting on 9 November was opened by the president, Norm Thawley, reciting the Ode. Special mention was made of the passing of Eric King-Turner, retired surgeon commander, Royal Navy. Mention was also made of Val Long, wife of member Bob Long.

Arrangements were finalised for the Christmas lunch at the Mapua Bowling Club on Wednesday, 9 December.

Norm Thawley was to represent the RSA and lay a wreath at a Combined School Sports event to commemorate Armistice Day.

The Cadet Scheme to help young people is still not progressing, but inquiries from interested young folk and their parents would be most welcome. Phone Norm Thawley on 540-2876 or Peter Butchart on 540-2686.

Meetings of the RSA are held at the clubrooms at the library at 2pm on the second Monday of each month and refreshments are served at the close.

The next meeting will be on Monday 14 December, Wives and partners are cordially invited to join us for a special afternoon tea.

Norm Thawley, president.



The Mapua Hall came alive on the 14th and 15th of November for the biennial Mapua Show.

Decorating and erecting the display areas began on Thursday the 12th with the 13th being a very full day, with exhibitors setting up their displays. On Friday evening a gala function was attended by helpers and exhibitors. All enjoyed the delicious food prepared by Diana Furlong and her team and the singing of Peter Gordon. Ruby Bay Wines generously donated wine for the evening function and this too was enjoyed by those present.

As promised, the show featured a wide range of exhibitors. Some exhibitors made a good number of sales while others may not have sold as many items but were well received and able to promote their work to a wide audience. Our charity exhibitors, Ella and Vesper, sold an amazing number of cards and four local organisations will benefit from their efforts. The Motueka Floral Art Group supported us with a number of attractive floral arrangements at the entrance to the hall merely to enhance hall decorations. While mentioning these two, we are grateful to all our exhibitors for the time and care they put into their displays and are very mindful that without them we don't have a show. We also extend these thanks to well over 1000 visitors who made all the effort worthwhile and to The Hills Community Church team who kept the refreshments going all weekend.

Many firms in Mapua donated towards our raffle and we really appreciate their support but we would especially like to mention our major sponsors—Mapua Auto Centre, Overland Electrical, Tessa Mae's and Karpaintz. Their generosity enabled us to do extensive promotional work before the show.

While the organising committee has yet to evaluate our 2009 show, it is not too soon to thank them for the hours and hours of work that went into the event. I would also like to extend our appreciation to all those who supported us during the setting up and clearing up phases of the show.

Many just saw work to be done and stayed until it was completed. Thank you one and all.

Richard Bullock, chairman

Police Update

Hi all. Warmer nights now mean that more people are out and about. It has been very noticeable in the last few weeks that a lot of new faces are in the district and as often happens we are now starting to see an increase in damage being done and graffiti occurring.

Unfortunately there has been a spate of thefts from cars in Mapua. They are sporadic but all in the centre of the village. Make sure you don't leave valuables in your car and that they are locked. We need to catch this person so if you disturb someone please contact us immediately on 111. We may be able to track them with a police dog.

Lots of campervans and rental cars around as well so just be patient and remember that these people don't know the roads most of the time. We have just been to a three-car accident in Motueka this morning involving tourists.

Have a safe and enjoyable Festive Season.

*Grant Heney, Rural Community Constable,
Motueka. Ph 528-1226.*

Mapua Occurrences:

Nov 16: Burglary at Mapua Coolstore premises. Till and cash stolen

Nov 11/12: Theft from car in Iwa Street. Sony stereo stolen

Nov 11/12: Mailbox damaged in Citrus Grove

Nov 7: Theft of black handbag from Mapua Tavern

Nov 1: Domestic at McKee Domain. Male arrested for assaulting a female

Oct 22: Domestic outside Mapua Tavern

Oct 22/23: Theft from car in Iwa Street. Navigation system taken

Sam's Spam

December 2009

Well I can't believe this is the last Sam's Spam for the 2009 and as the holidays are fast approaching, I have again compiled an end-of-year list of free "hobby" and activity websites for all ages to fill your spare time. I wish you all a happy Christmas and look forward to writing for you all again next year.

Free online books and articles

If you want a website to keep you busy over the holidays, Scribd is the one for you. It is a place for people to publish their own writings (they do say there is a book in each of us!) but it also has complete books from publishers, articles, magazines, creative writing, how-to guides, recipes, sheet music, schoolwork and more. When you click on a category, you can then choose those that are most viewed, most liked, most discussed etc.

You can browse Scribd and read as many documents as you like but if you want to download an eBook etc you'll need to join, but this is free.

www.scribd.com

Free drawing lessons

Artist Brenda Hoddinott has created this great website that gives pages and page of free drawing lessons! The lessons are categorised for different levels: Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced so there is something for all ages and ability. There is an extensive number of topics including Shading, Cartoons, Animals and Fantasy, Faces and Figures, Caricature, Perspective etc.

www.drawspace.com

Free downloadable papercraft models.

This website has every kind of papercraft you could imagine - from simple toys to intricate crafts, there's something for all the family. There are many categories, eg, animals, buildings of the world, toys, seasons and holiday cards, origami and much more. All the models are FREE to download!

<http://cp.c-ij.com/english/3D-papercraft/>

Free Christmas coupons to use as gifts

Instead of a present, why not give someone your time through using Christmas Coupons? Children can print off these FREE coupons for someone to redeem, eg, "This coupon is good for..."

- Cleaning my room
- Doing my homework
- Breakfast in bed.

There is also a blank template so you can put in any other ideas for use by adults or kids. The list of possibilities is endless, eg, weeding the veggie patch, washing the car, taking the dog out etc.

<http://www.dltk-holidays.com/Xmas/mcoupons.html>

Free "virtual pet"

There's a saying that "a dog is for life, not just for Christmas" so why not try caring for a FREE virtual one before deciding whether to get the real thing – it could save a lot of heartbreak and expense! The experience is very useful for seeing just how much work is involved in feeding and caring for a pet. Even if you have a pet, Neopets are a great fun thing to have whatever your age. You can feed your Neopet, play with it, go for an adventure around Neopia, and play over 160 games!

<http://www.neopets.com>

Free blog

Blogs seem to be everywhere, but what actually are they? In simple terms, a blog is a web site where you write stuff on an ongoing basis, post your photos, etc. New stuff shows up at the top, so your visitors can read it, and then they can comment on it, link to it, email you etc. If you want to set up a blog account (perhaps to tell everyone about your adventures over the coming summer holidays!) you can get this for free from Google.

<https://www.blogger.com/start>

BOOK REVIEW

Berlin Poplars, by Anne B. Ragde. Available in the Mapua Library. Reviewed by Adrienne Taylor

I must admit I was initially drawn to this book because of its very “Scandinavian” cover. When I read that it was about a dysfunctional family and written by a prize-winning Norwegian novelist, I was hooked (I’m always a sucker for any book about generations of family conflict, and my mother-in-law was Norwegian).

The story opens with an undertaker arranging the funeral of a young suicide victim. The undertaker, Margido, is the middle of the three Neshov brothers and while he is a very Christian and deeply respected man, he is emotionally aloof and hasn’t spoken to his two brothers in years. Tor, the oldest brother, lives with his old parents on the family farm and seems happiest in the company of his breeding pigs. The other brother, Erlend, has escaped homophobic Norway and his family to live with his lover in Copenhagen. He is a window-dresser and has an obsessive love of Swarovski crystal miniatures.

When the aged mother has a stroke, there is a reunion of the three brothers and Tor’s daughter, a young woman whom Tor has never loved and who has never met her uncles or grandparents. This is only the first in a series of disturbing revelations that lead to upheaval and family tension.

The beautiful and remote scenery of northern Norway provides the setting for the novel and Ragde’s writing reflects the landscape. One reviewer described the writing as subtle and self-effacing, “an ideal tool for splintering the brothers’ stout outer panelling of Norwegian wood to expose the steamy saunas of turmoil within”. She not only builds very strong characters but tells you a lot of fascinating information about their professions, particularly about pig breeding and undertaking! This might all sound a bit grim but Ragde writes with a great deal of humour and warmth. The sub-text of the novel is that no matter how strenuously we might deny family ties and how emotionally dysfunctional a family might be, we ultimately cannot avoid defining ourselves through family and a sense of belonging.

She also brings a comic touch to an exploration of some of the characteristics of Norwegian identity such as the desire to be close to nature, and a passion of fairness and consensus. If this isn’t enough, the book has a surprise ending.

This translation of this book is so good that you can’t believe it wasn’t written in English. It’s a treat so here’s hoping that more of this prolific writer’s books are translated soon.

MAPUA LIBRARY

Ph 540-2545

With warmer weather now imminent, I’m sure thoughts of holidays are uppermost in our minds, and what better way to relax than to find a ‘good read’ from the library and chill out on the beach or by the pool. This month we have received the latest fiction publications from the following authors to help you find the holiday mood:

Barbara Kingsolver, *Lacuna*; Maurice Gee, *Access Road*; Anita Shreve, *A Change In Attitude*; Rachael King, *Magpie Hall*; Robert Harris, *Alustrum*; Marian Keyes, *The Brightest Star*; Paulina Simons, *A Song In The Daylight In The Sky*

Also in stock for the children to enjoy is the latest Christine Fernyhough book, *Ben and Mark, Boys of The High Country*, a delightful story of two boys growing up on a high country sheep station with beautiful photography by Christine’s husband, John Bougen. Of course we have a very good selection of reading in our non-fiction area for our more factual readers too.

Over the holiday period we welcome many visitors to our community and are happy to extend temporary membership during their stay. It is always interesting to meet readers from other areas, to exchange ideas with them, and perhaps incorporate some of these ideas into our library. It’s all part of our growth.

When Christmas is passed, you will have read all the books you received as gifts, and they will be starting to gather dust stacked beside the bed. So, do think of the library as a grateful recipient. We are always happy to receive donations of books, and if they are not already in stock and are in good readable condition we will readily accept them for our shelves – just another way you can help us grow.

The Library Volunteers wish all their readers a very happy and safe festive season and look forward to seeing you in the New Year. We have such an exciting year planned for 2010 as we computerise the library and host the Literary Festival in March next year. More on this exciting forthcoming event in the New Year.

Meantime, happy reading, and laughing, and swimming and relaxing.

Dot Moriarty

Library Hours:

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 2pm – 4:30pm

Wednesday 5pm – 6:50pm

Thursday 10am – 12:30pm

Animal Health File

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

The Christmas Break

A few months back a client kindly lent me a copy of one of James Herriot's books after I finally confessed to having never read one. Many of you will think that strange for a vet and I will admit that after a few pages I was quietly chuckling away at his stories, many of his troubles and woes being quite familiar to me after over 10 years of vetting.

The book was action-packed with story after story of weird and wonderful animal emergencies as well as the odd weird and wonderful client. They certainly make the job seem as if it is madly exciting all the time and do little to show that the reality of being a vet actually means a lot of routine work, especially speying, castrating and vaccinating.

Of course, we do have our exciting days, or as I like to call them now, our James Herriot days. I distinctly remember one Tuesday last spring that was definitely a "James Herriot day". It started out looking like a perfectly normal day—some routine vaccinations, neuters and the odd bit of dental work. But by lunchtime I had rescued a calf that had become pinned in deep mud by a bathtub that had fallen over on top of it and saved a calf that was choking on a kiwifruit!

But I had it lucky. Back in the surgery Gabe had begun a routine cat spey only to become very

frustrated that he couldn't find any uterus. Of course the first question you ask is ... is this cat really a girl? A quick double check under the tail by the nurse reveals that yes it is, there being no testicles present and a normal ano-genital distance. Being a reasonably recent graduate Gabe begins beating himself up, thinking he is a terrible surgeon because he can't find a uterus in this cat. Eventually he finds a very tiny little deformed uterus, hiding in the entirely wrong place in the abdomen! Nature always has the last laugh!

Both Gabe and I will be taking a break over Christmas and the Mapua clinic will be closed for the days between Christmas and New Year. Chris will be available at our Motueka clinic as well as an English locum vet, Caroline, who is an extremely experienced vet with both small and large animals. We will, as always, have a vet on duty 24 hours a day including the Christmas and New Year statutory holidays. If you are in any doubt about your animal's health just ring our Motueka clinic number and follow the prompts to be put through to the duty vet.

Hopefully it will be a relaxing and safe Christmas for everyone and I might just read one or two more of James Herriot's masterpieces.

Coastal Connections

A smaller group gathered at the Riverside Cafe in Motueka to chat and enjoy tasty food in very generous proportions. (A smaller group because of several ladies working hard helping organise the Arts and Craft weekend at the village.

After lunch some of us ventured to New Zealand's oldest pub (the Moutere Inn), just to check it out, then onto nearby Katie Gold's fabulous collection of artwork. We then had coffee at the Upper Moutere Post Office in their outside cafe, in fragrant bushy surrounds, then on to Moutere Gold's store stocked with all manner of home-made preserves—just like Nana used to make.

Worthy of mention: the original founding member of Coastal Connections, Nan Crawley, has now moved

to Nelson. Nan and Bernard celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently. Their daughter came up with the "x" in our Group's name. We wish them both all the very best.

(Editor's note: when I started editing this newsletter some years ago the group headed their report Coastal Connections, the usual spelling of connections, and I have altered Julie's spelling when she began the reports. Perhaps by February when the next issue comes out we will have decided one way or the other.)

Our Christmas lunch will be held at the Gothic Restaurant in Motueka with a full three course fare. I hope everyone can come to celebrate together.

Julie Haliday.

Under The Bonnet with Fred

Pete's Mitsubishi Colt Galant GTO GS

That's a long name for a small motor car but its name does tell a tale of Japanese ingenuity in getting into the Western world of cars. Good marketing is selling them what they want but also selling them what they know. Pete Dunn is well known at Mapua Auto and also on the Tasman Golf Club as he was club captain for some years. I must admit with my strong loyalty to big cars and after researching this story I release how clever the Japanese car makers have been. I suppose that's why we all drive one.

The car started life in Wellington with the first owner being Yvonne Jackson, but within 500 miles the ownership had moved to Isobel Patterson. This may have been when overseas funds were needed to buy a car—people would buy a new car and then on-sell it sometimes for thousands of pounds more second-hand. Richmond owner Linda Page-Griffith was next and then to local owner Eleanor Bailey of Ruby Bay. Pete used to service the car for the Baileys and would often say, "When you're ready to sell, I'm interested". The car came for a service all clean and polished and yes they were selling. Pete got his dream car and has now owned it for 19 years. While on a five-year OE in Africa and Asia Pete had the car on blocks.

The body is a nice trendy 70s silver colour with an original Galant strip changing for purple to red down the side and over the rear guard bulge. That stylish vent cover on the back pillar I'm sure I have seen on something else. Nice double head lights with a parallel bar plastic grill, plastic a new material for car's in 70s. A feature of the car is the new to the 70s in NZ a pillarless two-door coupe and I must say that in my youth it was a real head-turner.

This is where the story about the car and my research starts to gel. The back of the car is a copy of the Ford Mustang with sectional rear lights and the duck tail turn-up a design copy from the Pontiac Firebird. Upholstery is a nice crushed velvet coloured to match that strip on the body and is in excellent condition. Instrumentation is excellent with seven small dials, including engine oil temperature and

warning lights for everything. Reading lights above rear view mirror with boot-open warning light, way ahead of a Mk IV Ford Zodiac of the day. Steering



wheel is collapsible with a soft protective centre, again the Japanese marketing safety in your car while a Mk IV Zodiac had hard bakelite and horn rings to injure yourself on. Inside is very American with the lots of dials and warning lights, bucket seats, those long, comfortable arm rests and a big ash tray as most people smoked in 1973. Cheviot wheels are fitted to the car and are also 36 years old and in beautiful condition. They have even managed to retain those little plastic centre caps after all this time.

All fitting are highlighted with chrome or polished stainless steel for a nice 70s finish. Why has the car got so many American design features? Well Hiroaki Kamisago was sent by Mitsubishi Motors to a design school in Los Angeles for eight months and on his return designed a car. The president of Mitsubishi liked it and the GTO Galant was made ready for the world motor show in 1972. The designer didn't have much time so might have taken a few short cuts by borrowing the good parts of the Mustang, Pontiac Firebird and Ford Cougar, but he made a great job.

GS tells you what's under the bonnet, a 2000cc Astron 4G52B, single overhead cam design motor with twin carbs. All British sports cars had twin carbs in the 70s, before fuel injection. Plenty of space under the bonnet with a dual hydraulic braking system fitted and the header wrap on the exhaust manifold. The engine appears small but it is not cluttered with all the add-ons of modern cars. It's a nice and simple

Hills Community Church

The Mystery Gift

Many years ago Rod and I started a tradition called “The Mystery Gift” with our then adolescent daughter. In earlier years, Rod would save up his loose change and periodically hand it over to Lori as a treat. We decided to turn the giving into more of a challenge as she got older by taking the collection of coins and disguising them as “The Mystery Gift”. The first year it was a Christmas-wrapped glass jar filled with water and coins. We made a big fuss about the gift to ‘heighten the drama’ and she had to guess what was in this unexpected and heavy package.

The gift was a big hit and thus began a yearly tradition which involved finding more unique and dastardly ways of packaging the loose change and even sending her on treasure hunts to locate it. One year it was buried in a box of cat litter (unused, thank you) which she had to dig out coin by coin; another year a super-sized jar of dill pickles (a favourite treat); and yet another year she had to scoop it all out of a can of lard! I’m not sure who had more fun with “The Mystery Gift”—the givers or the receiver—but somehow this silly gift became the highlight of Christmas Day and is still talked about today.

Every Christmas we celebrate a surprising and most mysterious gift—the birth of Jesus Christ: when God entered our world as ‘one of us’ in order to lead us back to Him. Receiving this gift means a lot to us but it means even more to God—the giver of the gift. It is an expression of incredible love and grace and an opportunity to re-unite with the human race in a most special way.

My hope and my prayer for you all this Christmas is to have willing hearts and open arms to receive the best “Mystery Gift” of all—Jesus Christ.

With anticipation, Rev Marilyn Loken, Minister, Hills Community Church

Our Holiday Schedule

Pre-Christmas Family Celebration. Sunday 6 December, 5-7pm. Join us for Christmas Crafts, Carols, Food & Fun!

Christmas Cuppa @ Hills. Tuesday, 15 December, 2:30-4:30pm. An afternoon for the 50+ crowd for food, fun & fellowship

Carols-in-the-Park. Sunday, 20 December, 5pm. A family picnic in Aranui Park featuring the Motueka Brass Band and other entertainment

Blue Christmas, Wednesday, 22 December, 7:30pm. A service of remembrance for those who have experienced loss in their lives or who seek a quieter expression of Christmas this year

Christmas Eve. Thursday, 24 December, 9pm. A Candlelight Service with Carols and Readings

Christmas Day. Friday, 25 December.

8:00am Traditional Holy Communion Service

9:30am Family Christmas Service

January Worship: One service @ 9:30am followed by—

Sizzling Summer Sundays! Family Get-togethers. Meet for picnic lunch @ 11:30am. Bring the beach gear!

January 10—McKee Domain

January 17—Rabbit Island, Grass area by Shade Sails

January 24—Grossi Point

Under the bonnet - contd:

engine with one job—to make the back wheels go around as fast as possible. It develops 125hp at 4000rpm and the car weighs 980kg so there is a good power to weight ratio. This car has to pull only 7.84kg per horsepower; my 89 Cadillac has to pull 10.8kg per horsepower so Pete’s Galant should out-gun my 89 Cadillac V8.

The car has the original owner manual which has amazing details on how to drive the car, techniques on how to pass, humorous cartoon characters showing how to push-start the car and a nice handy quick fix

should you have engine problems. Best of all was a page on what you should wear, plus brushing your hair as part of the driving your Galant!

Until I started doing these stories I was not aware how much the body design was part of the marketing and you have to say the original designer, Hiroaki Kamisago, did pick the nice bits of the 70s muscle cars but made a classic Japanese sports coupe.

I like this car and found its history interesting. Nice one, Pete. I won’t tell anyone where you keep it.

Fred Cassin

By-pass project speeds up

Everyone on the Ruby Bay by-pass is full of the joys of spring, now that it has finally arrived! The past month has seen much improved weather which has allowed for an increase in the rate of production on the project. We are at present working on up to 10 separate work fronts on the project so keeping everyone busy. Total earthworks shifted to date on the project has now reached 1.15 million cubic metres and work has either begun or been completed on all seven of the major culverts.

Major milestones for November were:

1) Earthworks have resumed around Trafalgar Road with focusing on construction of a temporary by-pass.

2) Earthworks have also started on the Tasman tie-in.

3) Continued laying sub-base and base course working north towards Tasman;

4) Begun construction of the reinforced soil slope (RSS) beside Chaytor Road;

5) Kidson Construction completed construction of Higgs major single box culvert and began work on Gardener Valley pedestrian culvert;

6) Backfilled around Tasman 1 and 2, Higgs and Dominion culverts;

7) A planting group from Mahana School helped with riparian planting along the stream diversions at Dominion Road;



Guardrail installation

8) Completed installing riprap stilling basin at Higgs and Dominion box culverts;

9) Installed turf reinforced matting (enkamat) on a batter by Chaytor Road to protect the batter from erosion from run-off, and once grass is grown will reinforce the batter;

10) Began guard rail socket installation.

Looking forward:

1) Earthworks will continue on the south end of the project around Trafalgar and Dominion roads.

2) The pavement crews will continue placing AP65 and AP40 pavement heading north towards Tasman and will start placing AP65 from the TDC water tank area heading south to Gardner Valley

3) Construction of a walkway between Harley Road and the Tasman pedestrian underpass will begin.

4) The temporary by-pass adjacent to Trafalgar Road will be completed and traffic transferred.

5) Gardener Valley pedestrian culvert will be completed and backfilled.

6) Kerb and channel works will start shortly.

7) Sealing work is expected to commence.

8) Further hydro-seeding of completed batters to begin..



Enkamat placed on batter by Chaytor Road

Jo Orr, Environmental Manager, Downer EDI Works

Mapua Health Centre

There are about to be some big changes in the staff at the Health Centre. This month one of our wonderful practice nurses, Delwyn, is leaving us as she is moving to Christchurch. And in the New Year, Richard Thomas will be taking up a position in Richmond. Richard has been a major part of the medical team for the last eight years and Delwyn has been a practice and hyperbaric nurse for four years. They will both be greatly missed for their enthusiasm, humour, caring natures and excellent work, and we wish them well in their new jobs. We are in the process of choosing replacements for them and look forward to giving some background of the new members of our team in the next newsletter.

Now that summer is here and it's time to wonder about shaking off some of those slothful habits of winter. This includes a diet with not too much meat and dairy fats but with plenty of plant foods, fruit and fish (diet sheets available at the Health Centre). Also, consider adding some regular aerobic exercise (eg, brisk 40-minute walk, 4-5/week, gym programme or swimming, riding, etc) and loss of weight for those who are overweight. You may also want to consider getting a green prescription which is a Government-funded scheme where a programme can be specifically tailored for you. Free consultations are also available to help quit smoking which include free/subsidised nicotine patches, gum and lozenges which can reduce

nicotine craving. For more detailed information please contact one of our practice nurses on 540-2211.

Also, a reminder that Healthline is available. It is a free telephone health information service where calls are looked after by registered nurses using a computer programme that specifies the recommendations. The telephone triage may include symptom assessment, counselling, home treatment advice, referral, information provision, disease management and crisis intervention. To call Healthline phone 0800 611 116.

The long-range forecast is hinting at a wonderfully warm summer which means that there is likely to be plenty of UV light to zap our skin and potentially lead to skin cancer if we get over exposed. So please don't forget the sunsmart slogan of slip under some shade, slip into some clothing, slop on some sunscreen and slap on a hat. However, 20 minutes a day of exposure to sunshine away from the peak UV hours of 10am-2pm is good for helping the skin to make healthy Vitamin D levels.

We're glad to announce that our website is finally up and fully functioning at www.mapuahealth.com. On behalf of the team at Mapua Health I would like to thank you for your support over the last 12 months and wish you all a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and all the best for 2010.

Borrow an Owl

The Transition Town Mapua group is pleased to announce that our first purchase has arrived and is ready for community use. It is a Centameter Owl and the funding for this nifty device has come from some of the money raised at the Mapua Big Night Out Clothing Swap.

So what is it?

The Centameter Owl is a device that you can use for measuring how much electricity your appliances or your household or organisation is using. It easily clicks into the switchboard or onto an appliance cord and instantly tells you how much electricity is currently being used (excuse the pun!). It can also show you how much money your household spends on electricity over a period. You'll be surprised at how quickly you find yourself turning a couple of lights off, or switching appliances off at the wall when not in use!

It really is a fascinating and simple piece of equipment.

If you're keen to borrow it feel free to contact Roger Waddell on 540-2793.

Transition Town Mapua has other initiatives in the pipeline as well—watch this space!

Army Cadet Corps

The Motueka Army Cadet Unit will be bringing members of the unit to Mapua on Saturday, 30 January 2010 for a display and a chance for young members of the Mapua community to have a look at what they do, and to discuss the opportunities that are available with the Cadets.

The Cadets will be at the Mapua Hall, Aranui Road, from 1pm till 3pm, and all are very welcome to come along, have a look, ask questions and join in with the Cadets.

This visit has been arranged by members of the Moutere Hills sub branch of the Nelson RSA.

For further information please contact either Norm Thawley (540-2876) or Frank Gibbison (540-3055).

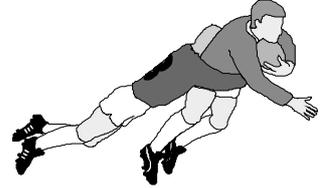
Rangers Rugby

The Rangers Rugby Senior B team is looking for a number of positions to be filled including treasurer, Senior B assistant manager, Senior B forward coach, and a publicity officer.

Any volunteers please contact Mark on 0274 229 949

Social touch is being played at the Moutere Hills Community Centre at 6pm Tuesday

evenings for anyone that wants to turn up for a run around. There are three games played, Competitive, Mixed Social and Children/Beginners. The last Touch night will be on the 15th December then for a break over Xmas/ New Year, starting again in the New Year.



Car-pooling made easy

The early December edition of the Tasman District Council's *Newsline* will have an article encouraging people who want to car-pool to use the Jayride website to organise their shared rides. It's free and easy to use and there are drop-down sections where you enter your starting town and destination. You have to register on the Jayride website to be able to participate and get the phone numbers of the people who could give you a ride. It's really easy to do, and if everyone who can offer a lift, on a casual or regular basis, and everyone who wants a ride uses this web site, car-pooling in the district will be easy.

It will take a while to spread the word, for people to get used to the idea of car-pooling, and to build up numbers of rides on Jayride, so don't give up if there is nothing for you to start with – keep checking the site and use it as often as you can.

There are lots of good reasons to car-pool, and it's suited for a district that has minimal public transport, as well as busy cities.

Jenny Easton

Mahana School

One of our students, Georgia Chapple, gets special mention in this update. Of her own accord she decided to do something to raise funds for child cancer and set a date to shave her hair off at school assembly. With a target of \$1000 of donations she exceeded her own expectations and as Lisa of Zoom in Mapua shaved off the last bit Georgia topped \$1755.

There was the odd tearful eye from some of the parent bystanders as Georgia smiled her way through the ordeal amidst the cheers and clapping from the rest of the school. Then proudly, she stood up and wrapped a Canteen bandana round her head. What a true inspiration to us all from this special girl!

The entire school attended the interschool athletics at the Upper Moutere Domain recently. Despite it being a Saturday it was an official school day, offset by the participating schools able to end term 4 a day early. It was a well organised event and the Mahana kids featured strongly individually. The school claimed a couple of school trophies at the prize-giving.

Thanks to everybody that entered a team in the recent quiz evening. The good will amongst the school cluster was evidenced with Upper Moutere School lending the Mahana Home and School fund-raising team their hall and equipment for the night. It was an entertaining night interspersed with a few twists engineered to spice up the evening. We need to acknowledge the four upstanding members of the school community, Rik, Steve, Rod and Justin, who graciously accepted a public roasting exposing some of their best-kept secrets (thanks to the collaboration

of their wives) all in the name of charity. The Home and School do a great job of fund-raising for the things the school budget doesn't meet and the team on the night put on a very polished event.

This year sees the retirement of Rose Cartwright, Carmen Gale and Lisa Gant from their executive positions on the committee. These ladies have poured their heart and soul into fund-raising and have helped to raise thousands of dollars for the school. We'd like to acknowledge them and their contribution.

The school is now busily preparing for the school production. All classes are involved with the script being developed by the pupils. The theme is based on reality TV and when the kids have finalised a date they will be putting on an evening performance and an afternoon matinee that the public will be invited to.

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

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

Thanks to Andrew and Terry from the *Coastal News* for finding a slot for the school each month!

Tony Brown, Mahana School parent, on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Mapua shines at Nelson Tasman Environment Awards

It was a big day for Mapua when the Nelson Tasman Environment Awards were presented at Woollaston Estates winery at the end of November

Two Mapua organisations and a developer with Mapua associations did well in the awards and, in addition, individuals from the Mapua and Moutere district were involved in other award winning projects.

In addition, the Moutere district venue, Woollaston Estates winery, was something of a star as well. The big entrance hall of the cellar area proved excellent for a big function like the awards. The spacious area and uncluttered design ensured all in the audience of about 150 had a good view of the proceedings and then space to mingle over drinks and snacks before and after the ceremony. It proved a fitting venue for the reunion of the two councils in a single environmental award contest, after several years of each going their own way.

In the community groups section of the awards, Friends of Mapua Wetland was first equal for its work. Bounce early childhood learning centre from Mapua won a highly commended award in the schools' section for environmental features in their Aranui Road centre and property developer Chris Edmonds, who has links with Mapua, was part of a group which took first prize in a new urban design section. This was for the 73ha Appleby Hills subdivision, a Rural 3 zone development off SH 60.

Friends of Mapua Wetland chairperson Janet Taylor was presented with a framed certificate and cheque for \$500 from the chairman of the community groups' section judging panel, Philip Wilson, who praised the project for the way it had involved both the school and the community. It involved creation of a 1ha wetland forest with a wide range of Moutere District plants, including a number of rare and threatened plants.

The Mapua group shared honours with the Sherry River Catchment Group from the Tadmor area for their Integrated Catchment Management project aimed at reducing stream and river pollution. Mr Wilson said both winners were examples of the sort of community projects the council and community wanted to encourage.

The judges had difficulty deciding the winners from a record field of 19 entrants, he said, ranging from big projects like the Brook Waimarama sanctuary, which involves building a pest-proof fence around more than 700ha of native forest, to smaller community planting projects.

In her short speech, Janet Taylor accepted the award on behalf of so many people who had contributed to the wetland in many ways. She also thanked the Department of Conservation Biodiversity Funds, Tasman District Council, Friends' committee

contd:



Mapua School pupils tell judges of the Nelson Tasman Environment Awards about the work they had been doing in Mapua Wetland. Here Alice Reade, accompanied by Kynan Cowley-Hunt, explains how she and others helped plant about 40 kahikatea trees in the wetland. Alice and Kynan are team leaders for another conservation project next year, Tane's Ark. The third team leader involved was Jessica Cox. The judges were, from left: Cr Stuart Borlase, Philip Wilson (Nelson Pine Industries and chairman of the panel) and Mike Tasman-Jones (TDC).

Tasman Environment Awards contd:

members, the wider network of Friends of Mapua Wetland, Mapua School and the Mapua community.

Pictures from the various projects were shown on a large screen to the crowd of about 150 who attended the function. Photos of Mapua Wetland were shown on the big screen of three pupils, Alice Reade, Jessica Cox and Kynan Cowley-Hunt, who explained specific features in the wetland to the judges during their visit.

The Tasman –Nelson award success followed news two days earlier that the Friends of Mapua Wetland had won a national award from the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, also given for the Friends' achievements in their community conservation project.

Brook Waimarama Sanctuary in Nelson won a highly commended award in the community groups section, along with the other finalist, Friends of Flora. The tremendous effort of the Friends of Flora in organising teams of volunteers to check more than 600 stoat traps in 5000ha of the Flora catchment of Mt Arthur has resulted in the return of whio, or blue duck to the area. The group now has plans to bring back great spotted kiwi or roroa to the area, a task they describe as their "greatest challenge".

Attention to environmental issues in the construction of the Bounce early childhood centre impressed the judges. The building makes extensive

use of recycled materials, including a recycled staircase, is well insulated and ventilated and has environment-friendly lighting systems. Co-owner Lisa Jane Lawson said the emphasis on the environment included the outdoors, where, there is a vegetable garden and composting system, both used to encourage the children's interest. The judges said selecting finalists in the hotly-contested schools' section was difficult. The section winner was Nayland Primary School.

The awards were also a big day for the Ward family of Old school Road. Upper Moutere Nick Ward, wife Eve and their children won a highly commended award in the individuals and family section for their enhancement and improvement for a block of original Moutere native forest. In his speech, Nick praised work done on the project by son Jeremy and said the project had been a "labour of love" for the family.

Daughter Abby also featured on the programme with fellow student Brittany Packer, both speaking about their roles as New Zealand representatives to the young people's section of the Kyoto Agreement climate talks being held soon in Copenhagen.

Kina Reserve plans

Tasman residents are concerned about possible encroachments onto the L E H Baigent Memorial Reserve at Kina after meetings between the Tasman District Council and the Rank Group, which owns Carter Holt Harvey.

The Rank Group wants to develop its property, which includes part of the Baigent Reserve, to create eight residential titles. This would require council consent.

A meeting of the Tasman Area Community Association was told that the land had not been legally

set aside as a reserve, although Lewis Baigent had intended that the land be held as a public reserve.

Tasman's Mayor, Richard Kempthorne, said there had been meetings with the Rank Group. It had been "an informal approach to see if there was any interest from the council in taking over the reserve on behalf of the community." He said the subdivision process and the reserve process would be separate processes.

Noticeboard

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

Apple Mac Interest Group: Got an Apple Mac, or thinking of getting one? SeniorNet Motueka now has an Apple Mac interest group, and is running Mac courses. Email Val Swatsridge at swats@clear.net.nz, or phone Anton Petre at 526-6272. SeniorNet is open to those aged 55 and over, and features regular meetings, tutorials, open days and a monthly newsletter. Learn more at www.seniornetmotueka.org.nz.

Ironing in Mapua: Need your clothes ironed? Please call Alla 03 5402445. Only \$12/hr. I prefer to work from my place 76 Iwa St, Mapua. I look forward to your call. Mob: 027 28 99449.

Totara Seedlings - free to a good home. Phone Joy 540 3642

Wanted to Rent: small car shed in Mapua to store small car. Ph 540 2554

Rooms to rent for counselling, massage, health practitioners in Mapua village. tel Julie on 5402705 or email julie@inhealth.co.nz

Mapua Village Quilters meet each Wednesday evening. We are a small group, anyone interested to join us, please contact Rinny, 540 2117

Need technical help? Can't connect your DVD player? Don't know how to download photos from your digital camera? Computer running slowly? Local help is at hand! Average job price only \$20! Basic web design also available - pages start from just \$35. Call Sam on 03 540 2804. – sambennett@live.jp

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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