

Coastal News

email: coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz

covering Mapua & Ruby Bay
run by volunteers

By-pass work starts at last

The long-awaited, often delayed Ruby Bay by-pass project has started at last with the first scoop of earth being lifted near Dominion Road on 15 October by the MP for West Coast-Tasman, Damien O'Connor.

Not everyone in the Mapua-Ruby Bay area is in favour of the project, saying the \$21.8 million it is expected to cost could be better spent elsewhere or that the area will become a backwater and the existing road will fall into disrepair.

There is no doubt the new road will make a difference. Whether for better or worse only time will tell. On the positive side it will reduce the amount of traffic through Ruby Bay which includes two hills and a tricky corner near a school, as well as a popular beachfront stopping place. Regular commuters between Motueka and

Richmond or Nelson will appreciate the shortened route and heavy trucks and buses will save fuel and time.

One local resident who has made no secret of the being in favour of the project is Hugh Gordon. He has kept up the pressure on the Tasman District Council and politicians and kept readers of the *Coastal News* informed of the state of play. Ironically he used to live on the main road at Ruby Bay and was subject to incessant traffic noise, but moved recently to Dawson Road—not far from where the new road will be. However, he is hopeful that he won't be affected.

Hugh was at the official opening ceremony and agreed to supply the *Coastal News* with a brief history of the project to date and photographs he took at the ceremony. We have provided a map of the overall scheme and diagrams of four of the main intersections.

Long history behind new road - by Hugh Gordon

A long chain of events is drawing to a close with the awarding of the Ruby Bay by-pass contract to

Downer EDi Works

In the early 1900s, what we now know as State Highway 60 did not exist. Its forerunner was an unpaved track which meandered its way from Appleby to Motueka. Dusty and rough in summer, muddy and sloppy in winter.

A few facts about this road which may be of interest:

Until about 1973, the present Moutere Highway was State Highway 60. The road from Motueka to Richmond via Tasman, Ruby Bay and Appleby was the Coastal Road. It was maintained and administered by the Waimea County, now the Tasman District Council. After 1973 the Coastal Road became SH60 and has been maintained and administered by the National Roads Board, then Transit



Some of the officials and guests on the Dominion Road site.

Long history behind new road contd:

NZ, etc, and now Transit NZ has been amalgamated into the newly formed NZ Transport Agency (NZTA).

There was no direct road connection to Mapua/Ruby Bay until 1916, then the Waimea County had a road constructed from Upper Moutere through Gardners Valley and on to Mapua via Seaton Valley.

The Bluff Road which overlooks the McKee Reserve was constructed in 1917-18 and made a more direct road connection between Ruby Bay and Tasman. Prior to 1962 the road from Tasman to Motueka wound in and out along the foreshore of the Kina Inlet, turned inland at the Moutere River and joined the then SH60 at Jubilee Bridge in Lower Moutere, and on to Motueka.

In 1962, the Waimea County undertook to re-align the roadway from Tasman to Motueka. It was done on a budget of £15,000 a year covering about two miles each year. The existing bridge over the Moutere Inlet was built and the existing roundabout constructed at the east end of High Street at the finish of the project. Most of the old route still exists in the form of the various "loop" roads running off the highway.

By the 1960s the roadway from Appleby through to Mapua had been upgraded and sealed. The concept of a bridge over the Waimea Estuary channel off Grossi

Point and a level road down Rabbit Island finishing at Appleby had been abandoned after lack of any sort of support from the governments of the day.

Until the early 1990s there were no significant changes to SH60. At that point, Transit NZ decided to address the winding nature of the road. There were no passing lanes or turn-outs which made it pretty slow going during the fruit-harvesting period in particular. In the 90s the highway was upgraded and re-aligned, first from O'Connors Bridge at Appleby to Maisey Road and then from Maisey Road to Trafalgar Road.

During this period, there was a growing recognition within the Tasman District Council that Mapua and Ruby Bay were becoming a significant population and growth area. It was also



increasingly apparent that SH60 was almost within the heart of the area and, from a community viability and planning perspective, this was the wrong place for the highway. Transit NZ too was well aware of the growing problem.

Damien O'Connor speaking at the opening ceremony.

So began a period of discussion and consultation between local residents, the TDC and Transit NZ. Transit then initiated a more concentrated consultation 1998/1999. Works Consultancy Services initiated a "possible route" assessment for a by-pass around the Mapua-Ruby Bay area. Six options were put forward, including a "do the minimum". After two public meetings (with over 200 at each), numerous meetings, individual and public submissions etc, a route (option 6) was decided upon.

By 2002, planning, design, purchase of rights-of-way were completed and Transit was ready for tenders from potential roading contractors. At that point, the government in its wisdom decided that funding for an \$11 million road should be cancelled



Deborah Hume, Regional Director of the NZ Transport Agency, on the excavator with Damien O'Connor at the controls, and Trevor Norris.

Long history behind new road contd:

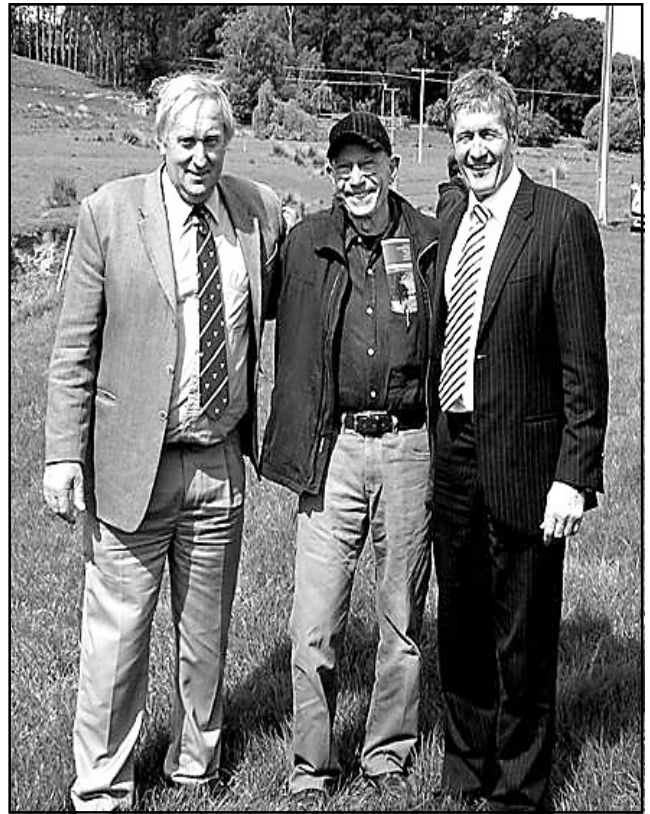
and funds diverted to Auckland as an area of “greater need.”

Most of us are aware that from 2002 until May of 2006 when the government announced a \$900 million road funding program, the Ruby Bay by-pass was a dead issue.

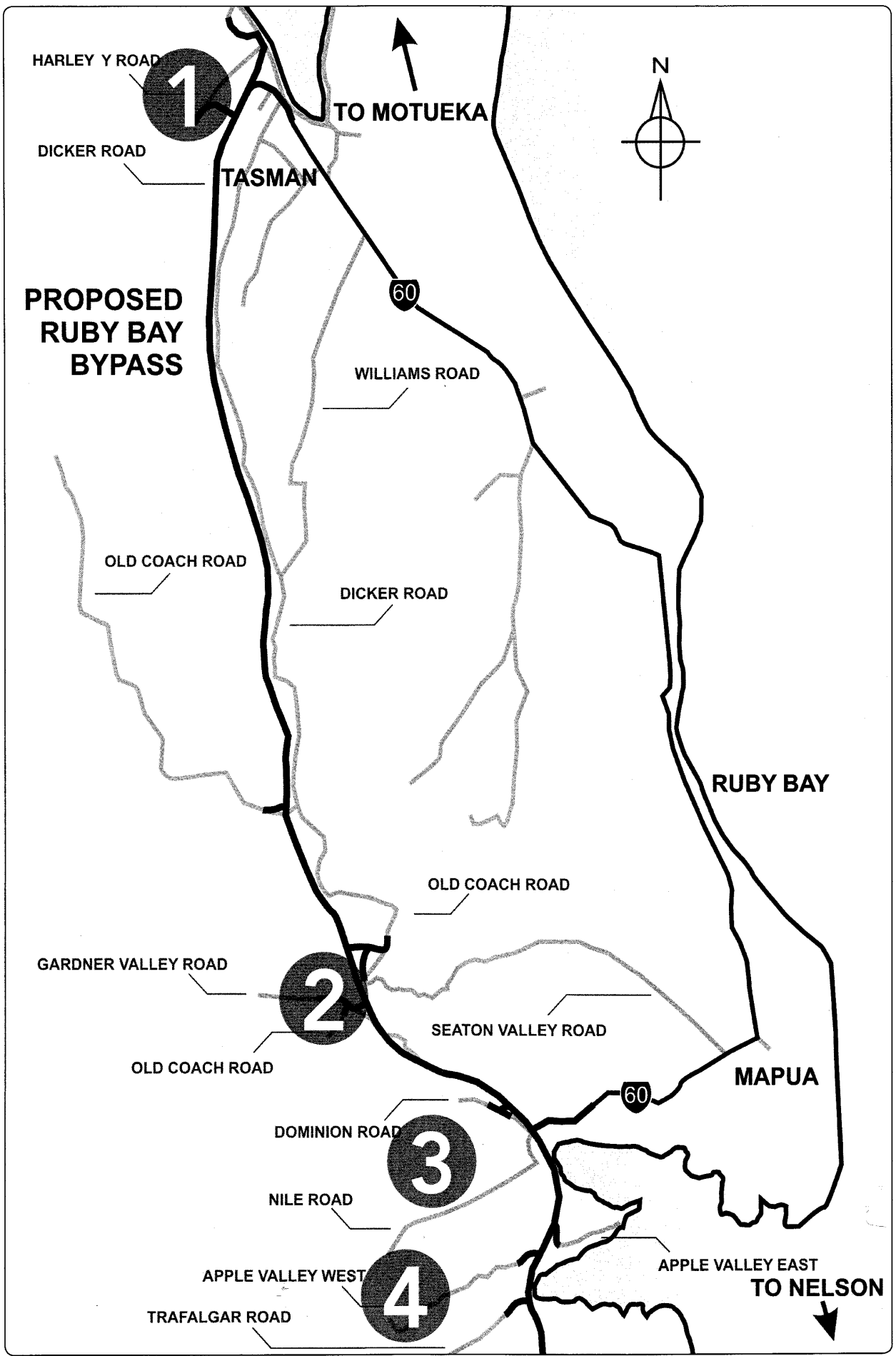
However, let’s not forget that now the road is costing another \$10 million-plus than in 2002. Transit had to virtually start from scratch—completely new design plans, modified routing, and rights-of-way adjustments. They only just squeaked in time-wise to avoid new resource consents. Perish the thought of what that would have cost in time and money.

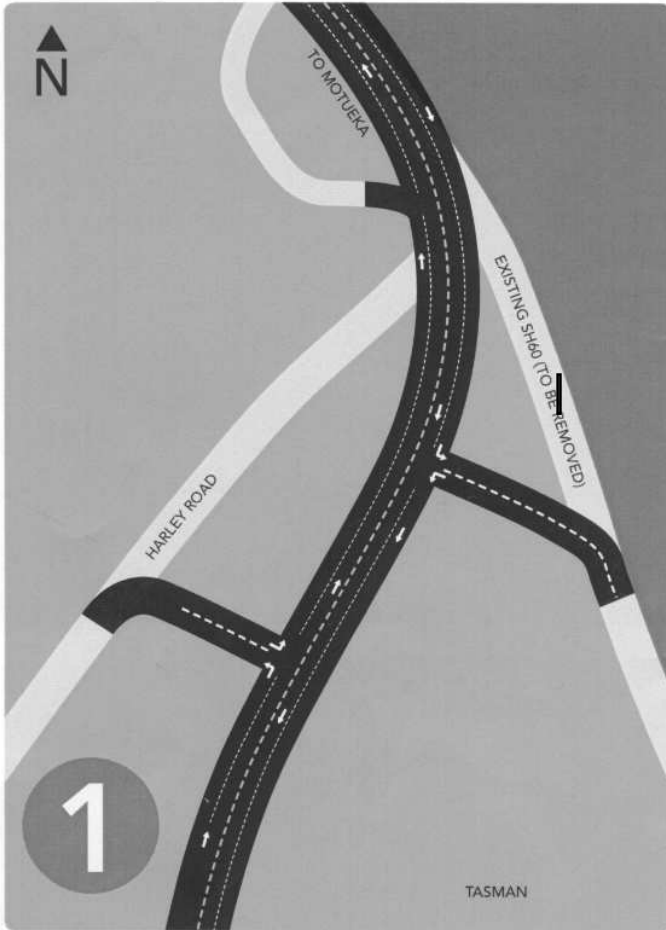
The bottom line? We’re getting the road. I say thank you to all who have supported and promoted the project.

NB. I am indebted to Jim Wareing, ex TDC roading engineer, Jack Andrew, TDC staff member, and posthumously to Bernard Wells of Mapua, author of “Labour of Love” a History of the Moutere Hills Area served by the Port of Mapua, for facts and figures and items of interest in the above.

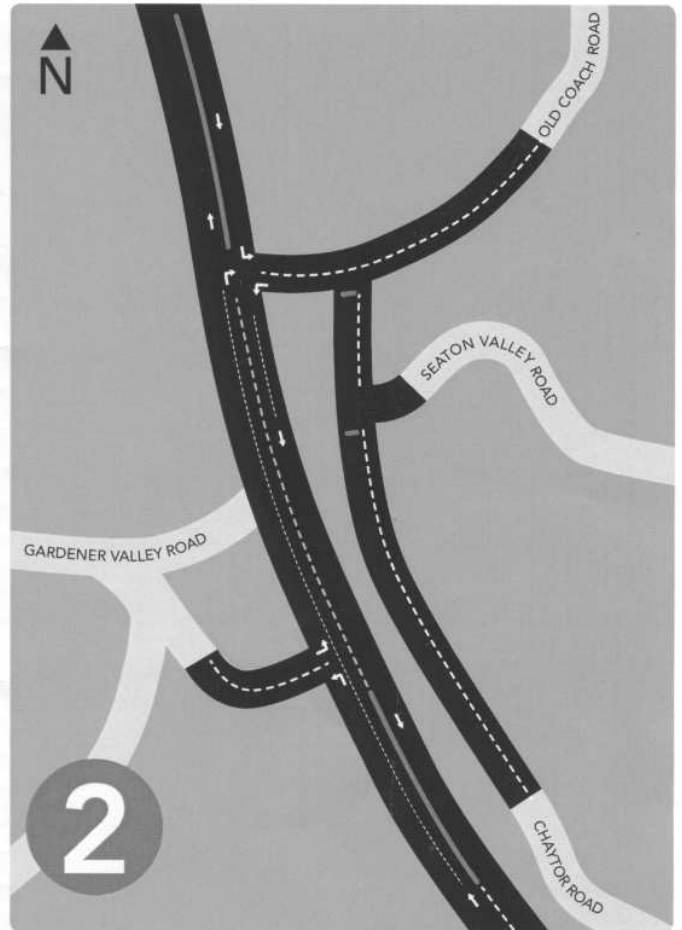


Cr Trevor Norris, Hugh Gordon, and Damien O'Connor, MP

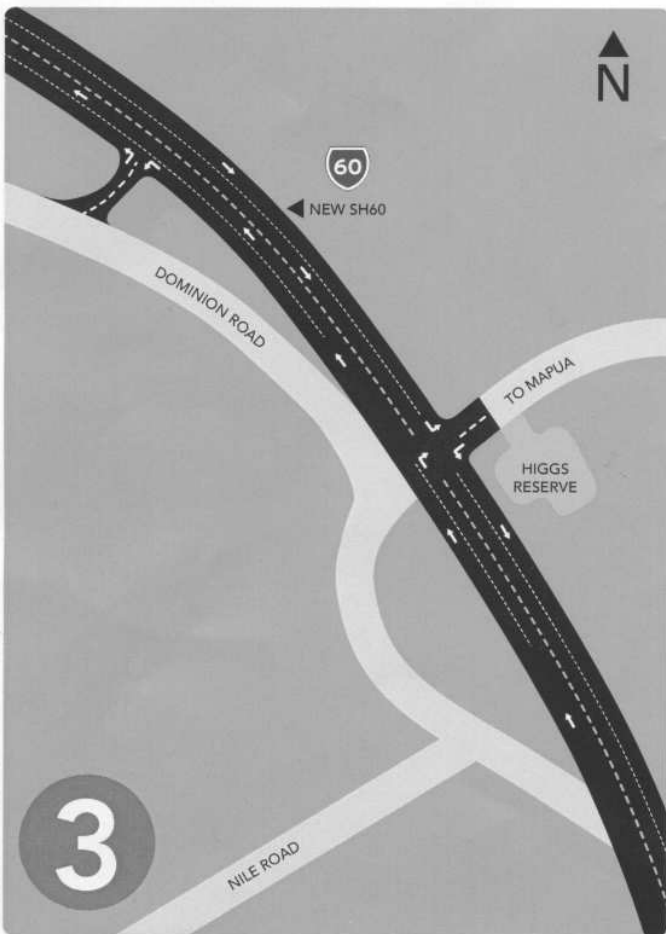




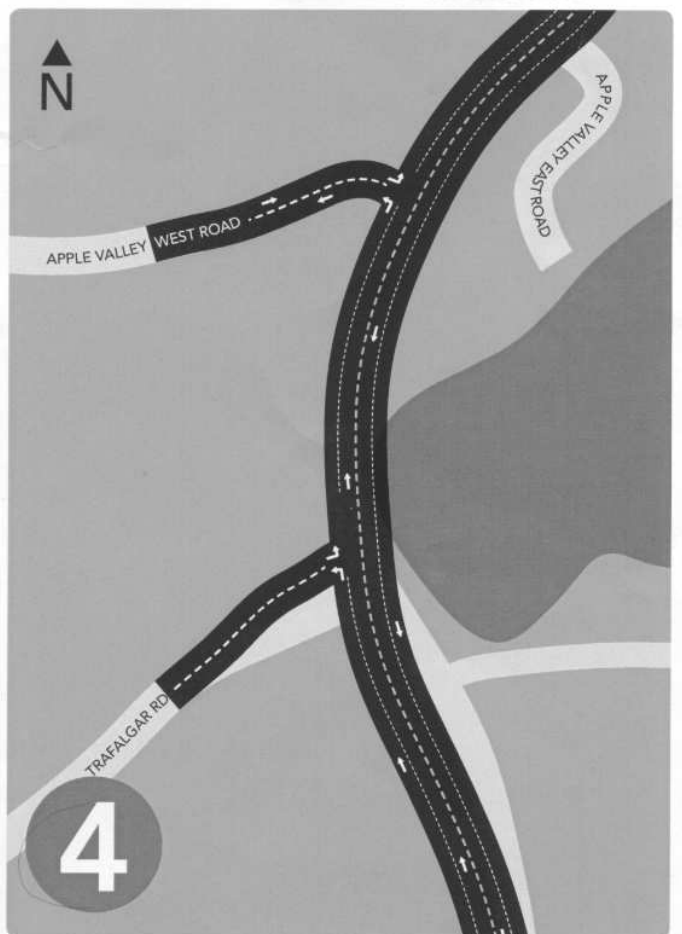
TASMAN VILLAGE CONNECTION



GARDENER VALLEY/SEATON VALLEY CONNECTION



DOMINION ROAD EXISTING SH60 CONNECTION (TO MAPUA)



Garden Notes



During this last part of spring longer daylight hours and warmer temperatures promote rapid growth and summer flowering. Perennials and shrubs respond to a feed of general garden fertiliser. Gardenias fed with a liquid fish food will have greener leaves, set larger and more fragrant flowers. Spring shrubs should be fed after flowering and given a good soaking to wash the fertiliser in. Spring-flowering bulbs require water after they have flowered to ensure good flowering next spring.

Rhododendrons should be dead-headed after flowering is over, then mulched with compost to retain moisture as they have surface roots. Over-feeding these plants can encourage leaf growth at the expense of flowers next season. Yellowing of the leaves means there is too much lime in the soil and can be rectified with a dressing of sulphate of ammonia or Epsom Salts.

November is the time to start the mulch programme for trees, shrubs, veges, and ornamentals. It is essential if growth is to be encouraged and a successful crop enjoyed. When applying mulch the soil should be well

soaked first. Mulch can be widespread, if in plentiful supply, or just placed round the tree, but be careful not to pile against the trunk as great damage can be done.

Ongoing plantings of all veges from now on ensures an abundance supply for the kitchen, and keeps the grocery bill down as well. Regular watering does help fruit to develop on citrus trees and set on other fruit trees.

We have been really blessed with the amount of rain received which has made it so much easier on the hoses, plus our tanks are topped up regularly.

Pests are on the trail again. Watch out for slug and snail damage. Thrips/white fly start to show now. The first flush of flowers on our roses appear now, I always think the first is the best—best colour, best stem length, best size heads and a true delight to all rose-lovers. As I said last month October and November are the best months of the gardeners' year, so do enjoy this time.

Barry Highsted

Clean-up Action Group Health Testing Meeting

The Mapua Clean-up Action Group met on 25 September to discuss health testing. In attendance were concerned residents, a site worker, a wharf business owner, and Dr Tim Ewer. Dr Ewer spoke of the difference between acute (short term but high concentration) poisoning effects which can result in severe effects like seizures, and chronic low-dose poisoning which can result in symptoms around the time of exposure and potentially, long term effects many years in the future. People have exhibited both chronic and acute symptoms as a result of exposure to the toxic chemicals emitted from the clean-up project. Health effects can also be influenced by genetic predisposition. Some people are more sensitive to chemicals than others.

Dr. Ewer also discussed what type of tests would be effective for toxic poisons like organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) in exposed people. Chronic low dose poisoning can result in gradual accumulation because it is not well excreted. Urine and blood tests are not effective months after exposure because OCPs and dioxins quickly become lodged in the fat of the body. A fat-tissue biopsy may be the only useful test at this point but it is invasive and very expensive. The group is looking into the types of testing available in New Zealand. Also discussed was the question of who to test. Residents living in close proximity to the site were more exposed than others but the group is also concerned about short term exposure—visitors to restaurants, restaurant workers, children or anyone else walking past the site. It was brought up that there are still people “coming out of the woodwork” who have concerns about exposure and potential ill-effects that were missed by the Ministry of Health survey.

One concerned resident asked what the smell was coming from the site. The simple answer it is a cocktail of chemicals. The group was referred to the PCE reports which concluded that the monitoring performed during the project was inadequate due to the limited suite of chemicals tested for (and other reasons). Therefore,

any health testing must include a wider range of toxins than just OCPs. There was discussion about the archived filters held by the TDC as a requirement of the resource consent. These filters could be re-analysed to include a larger group of chemicals than initially undertaken and may reveal what other chemicals should be included in health testing. However, there are limitations to this testing as many of the chemicals may have already been lost from the filters over the long period of storage.

It is worth noting that while the project was under way in 2006, the site doctor, Bill Glass, recommended that people downwind and family members of the workforce should be “sampled” during future projects. Also in 2006, the Peer Review Panel’s air emission specialist suggested that “it may be prudent to evaluate potential exposures for people in the Mapua area to benzene and other [volatile organic compounds].” It appears that these experts had concerns about the monitoring.

There is also concern that air-borne toxins may have accumulated in local residents’ rainwater tanks and these may also require testing. The MOH and Department of Labour reports for the Mapua clean-up will be released over the next few months. The group will work closely with these organisations to ensure that health testing and support is a priority issue. For more information contact Jill Reade at 540-3419 or email toxicmapua@ihug.co.nz.

Sherry Prauner

At our meeting in October we had many notices of upcoming events as we head into our favourite season for garden visits. These started in September with a visit to a daffodil garden at Ngatimoti and will continue through until our Christmas garden party in early December.

Irises were the topic for discussion the month and we were pleased to welcome David and Alison Nicholl, experts on the subject, as they have been growing them for more than 30 years and hybridising for 10. Alison explained the ideal growing conditions which include planting the iris in a position where the sun can bake the rhizome in the summer because this heat is that produces the flower for the following year.

It is also important to keep the rhizome free from debris and dead leaves. She advised that they do try to bury themselves as the roots seek moisture and they should be lifted to the surface again if this happens. They don't need too much fertiliser and are best fed once a year in August or early September.

David then explained how he prepares an iris bed for planting and how to control leaf spot which is the most common disease to affect irises in this area.

After tea we enjoyed the colour and variety of blooms that forms our regular competition and Max gave us hints and tips on how to plant up a hanging basket, with members recalling their own methods and making helpful comments.

Regular meetings take place on each first Thursday with the next meeting to be held on 6 November at 1.15pm in the Supper Room at the Mapua Hall. All enquires to either Barry Highsted (540-3139) or Anne-Marie Giddens (540-2335).

Mapua Hall Society Working Bee

Sat 15th Nov 9am at the Hall

The Mapua Hall Committee is holding a public working bee to give our hall a jolly good clean. We do our best as volunteers to cover the monthly cleaning basics but none of us has the time for any serious scrubbing! With recent chair purchases, the urgent wiring upgrade and a major renovation programme planned we don't feel we can justify the cost of commercial cleaners (although we did get quotes). We feel the hall could be given a good spring clean in less than a day depending on how much help we can get.

The public are invited to participate for *any time* they are able to give. Please can people bring any useful cleaning items e.g. buckets, rags, scrubbing brushes etc.

Please just turn up for as much time as you are able to give.

The committee will provide: Good plunger coffee
Morning and (if needed) afternoon tea
A gratefully cheerful and welcoming atmosphere
And oh yes, cleaning products and co-ordination of activities

Mapua Hall: Saturday 15th November 9am

Mapua Hall Society

Big drive for funds under way

Several months ago a survey was conducted among hall user groups, hall users, community organisations and individuals to gauge opinion on the need, or otherwise, for a hall upgrade and the extent to which such an upgrade should progress.

Not surprisingly the results showed that users' requests wanted us to do something between "do nothing" and "completely rebuild somewhere else". There were a few suggestion directed at the provision of specific facilities for special groups or special activities.

The strongest feeling was that the toilets and kitchen needed an upgrade, the hall a significant tidy up, more storage and easier access to facilities.

These factors have been incorporated into a feasibility study conducted primarily for the Lotteries Board to determine whether the project is one suitable for funding consideration. The feasibility study is complete, has been forwarded to the Lotteries Board and accepted by them. This means that after the submission of suitable plans and supporting documents, the lotteries Board will consider funding up to T! of the project cost. The remaining S! will have to be raised locally. This is expected to be \$300,000.

The Hall Society Committee is now engaged in a programme to gain Tasman District Council support for the renovations so that financial assistance may be

obtained through the LTCCP. While other avenues for financial assistance exist, the time scale is such that council support is essential.

We will prepare costings based on ideas and sketches arising from the earlier survey and submit these to the TDC for LTCCP consideration. This is required before the end of November and it has been suggested that earlier is better.

Once we have acceptance for inclusion in the LTCCP (which cannot be interpreted as funding support since there is an approval process to go through) we will start discussions with interested groups, detailed planning and additional fund raising.

An interesting time beckons.

Last month I drew attention to the need for funds to allow the rewiring of the hall to be done. The Hall Society Committee is very grateful for the donations received which have varied from \$10 to \$500 from individuals with a number at \$100. We thank you for that support but we are still short of our total.

We also sincerely thank the *Coastal News* for its donation of the next one year's profit towards hall funds. This will look excellent when we have to indicate to funders what money has been raised from within the community towards the projects being undertaken.

Your attention is drawn to an advertisement elsewhere in this issue about a working bee to clean the hall and make a number of essential repairs. This is scheduled for 15 November and the hall has been booked all day to allow this to happen. We intend to start at about 9am and will provide morning and afternoon tea as required. Please bring cleaning gear, ladders, mops etc. We look forward to seeing you there. Contact Glenys Forbes on 540-3388 for more information.

John Sharman, Chairman

Help for the hall

The following is the text of a letter to the chairman of the Mapua Hall Society, John Sharman:

Dear John

I refer to your appeal for donations as published in the October issue of the *Coastal News*.

At a meeting of the *Coastal News* staff it was resolved to donate the profits from the operation of the *Coastal News* to the Mapua Hall Society Inc for a period of one year back-dated to the end of July 2008.

The continuation of the gifting will be reviewed in July 2009.

We wish you well with your efforts to renovate the hall for the benefit of the greater Mapua-Ruby Bay district.

Yours sincerely

T R Hamlen-Williams

on behalf of the *Coastal News* staff

Animal Health File - Ask the Vet

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

This is the first column of our new format and this month's question is:

Could taggin

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1. *How much does it cost?*
2. *Is it painful?*
3. *How much does it cost?*

On 1 June 2006 it became compulsory to microchip all dogs born since that date or being registered with the council for the first time since that date. So we are slowly getting a population of permanently identified dogs. The council likes this as it helps their dog control officers keep an eye on whose dogs are where, particularly those dogs (and owners) who have a tendency towards bad behaviour!

The biggest benefits of microchipping from a vet's point of view is that permanent identification means that dogs who have escaped from home can be quickly returned to their owners. Over the years I have lost count of the number of dogs that have been brought into the clinic after being found wandering the streets with no collar (or council dog tag) on. Of course, the worst-case scenario here is the dog that has escaped your property, been hit by a car and then been brought to us. We have no idea who he belongs to and can do only minor treatment before getting an owner's permission to continue with any more costly and serious treatment needed. Unfortunately this happens at least three or four times a year and is very stressful for all involved. If your dog has a microchip then we can scan him, ring the council and then ring you – problem solved.

The procedure involves inserting a small chip, the size of a grain of rice, under the skin between the shoulder blades. It is generally no more painful than a vaccination, although the needle is a bit bigger.

want your dog put on the National Dog Database which is run by the council. It is an extra \$20 for registration on the NZ Companion Animal Register which is a nationwide database which can be accessed by vets and the SPCA 24 hours. It is open to all animal species including cats and birds. You can have a look at their website at www.animalregister.co.nz for more information.

Some people choose to go this next step and if you are planning on moving to another region it would be a wise move. Here in Tasman we have a very good relationship with the dog control officers, who don't seem to mind us ringing them late at night to get microchip details! (Thank you John and Phil).

For your older dog you need to weigh up the chances of him "doing a runner" from your section, taking into account his past habits, present activity level and how well fenced the property is. If he's not much of a flight risk you may want to leave him be, but if he is still a bit of a Houdini then microchipping would be a good idea.