

Coastal News

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covering Mapua & Ruby Bay,
run by volunteers

Mapua site gets the all-clear

By Jenny Easton, Resource Scientist, contaminants, Tasman District Council

The environmental Site Audit Report was released by the Ministry for the Environment at the end of July, and concludes that the remediated Fruitgrowers Chemical Company site at Mapua is fit for the intended future land uses, and recommends some additional monitoring.

The Tasman District Council will now take back the responsibility of the site from the Ministry for the Environment which has managed the remediation over the last five years. Old factory sites are notoriously difficult to clean up, with pockets of buried waste, sumps, drums and old pipes. The physical location of the factory next to the estuary, residential houses and shops has made the site clean-up particularly challenging.

This Site Audit comes at the culmination of a long process that the council and the Mapua community have been involved in since 1988, when the former pesticide factory was closed after decades of pressure from the locals, and the extent of contamination of the soils and adjacent estuary started to become apparent. The following 20 years consisted of an information-gathering period, researching various remedial options, securing funding, finally obtaining the consents in 2003 followed by four years of remedial action on site and the last year waiting for the soil validation and Site Audit process to be completed.

The independent Site Auditor's job was to assess whether the different parts of the site met the specified soil acceptance criteria (SACs), whether the site is now fit for purpose or any further steps necessary to achieve this. To do this they had to consider the groundwater quality, the validation results of the excavated walls and floors, as well as the validation of the soils after their treatment (if necessary) and placement back into the correct areas of the site. They have thoroughly reviewed all the relevant documents, spoken to the people involved with the work to better understand the

actual site practices, and the TDC has confidence in their 180-page report and their conclusion. The Site Audit document and the four-page executive summary are available from the TDC website (www.tasman.govt.nz).

The various intended land uses of residential, open space and commercial, and marine ecosystems for the 3.4ha of land and adjacent estuary were decided at the hearing in 2003, and site-specific SACs stipulated in the consents would enable each of those land uses.

The remediation involved excavating most of the site, and testing and stockpiling the different soil types depending on their levels of pesticide contamination. Material exceeding the commercial grade SAC was treated to reduce the concentration using a modified ball mill: the mechanochemical dehalogenation (MCD) industrial plant, owned by the NZ company EDL.

Additional monitoring

To recap, the Site Audit has determined that the site is fit for all its intended purposes, and has recommended some additional monitoring of the soil, groundwater and adjacent beaches but this will not prevent the site being used from now on. The Ministry for the Environment has committed to undertaking this additional monitoring, and have asked TDC to co-ordinate it.

1) Soil testing for (a) ammonia gas when buildings are being established on the waterfront park side, and (b) for the organochlorines in the residential soil on the FCC West, and this will be done by reanalysing the samples held by the laboratory to a lower detection limit.

2) Twelve additional groundwater monitoring bores, in addition to the existing ones, which will provide better information on the direction and rate of groundwater flow. The quality of the groundwater from the site, and into the neighbouring wells, is not suitable as a drinking water supply, but satisfactory for irrigation. The properties in that area are provided with reticulated supply.

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Mapua site contd:

3) The adjacent beaches don't meet the very stringent SACs, and were instead assessed under a different Site Audit criteria; whether they had been "cleaned up to extent practical", considering the difficulty of working in the soft mud and below the water line, and the background concentration of pesticides in the wider estuary which, although low, would recontaminate the beaches. Further monitoring of the beaches is recommended by the Site Auditor to benchmark the ecosystems there, and monitor the effect of the nutrients leaching out of the site via the groundwater. The edible shellfish such as mud snails are also being monitored.

Site Management Plan

The East (mainly car park and Waterfront Park) and the Reserve triangle have a clean cap of 0.5m soil and turf over commercial grade soil, and it is necessary to ensure that the commercial grade soil does not enter the estuary and that a clean cap remains in place. The Site Auditors have approved a specific Site Management Plan (SMP) for these and some other controls including

limiting groundwater use, and this SMP will be followed for any future excavations and tree plantings etc.

What's next?

In the next few months the installation of the additional groundwater monitoring bores and marine sediment sampling will take place.

The Health Report is still expected and consequently the Labour Department report is also held up. The Ministry for the Environment is expecting the final Dilapidation Survey soon, and will be contacting affected landowners.

Development on the Waterfront Park is progressing, and the council has yet to consider the development options for the FCC West.

The Reserve triangle near Coult Place will become the responsibility of Parks and Reserves and walking paths and a foot bridge considered at a later stage.

Police Update

Hi everyone. We are certainly in the midst of winter and it goes without saying that extra caution is needed on the roads. With all the frosty nights there aren't many people moving about at all some nights, but as usual there are always a few out to cause some form of trouble. Thank you to those who have advised me of the issues with youth gathering in Aranui Park behind the Mapua tavern. The shed out in the grassed area looks like it is becoming a meeting point where youth drink. Issues with cars getting through the trees and out into the park are being addressed by the council.

Some nights youths from the park are going out onto Aranui Road so be aware and if you hear any nonsense going on please call at the time.

Fuel is still being stolen randomly. Make sure your supplies are out of sight and locked up.

*Grant Heney, Rural Community Constable,
Motueka, Ph 03-528-1220*

Mapua Occurrences

July 11: Mailboxes damaged on Old Coach Road-Seaton

Valley Road. Several Motueka youths apprehended

July 9-10: Mailbox in Iwa Street damaged. 80 stubby beer bottles stolen from car port, Higgs Road

July 1-3: Red 10-litre fuel container stolen Coult Place

July 1: Accident at Pinehill Rd-Main Road intersection, Ruby Bay

June 30: 27-year-old Ruby Bay man disqualified driving after minor accident

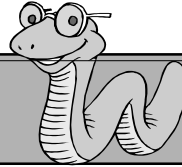
June 28-29: Permin Road, generator, wheelbarrow, radio stolen

June 26-27: Coastal Highway. meat, red 10-litre fuel container stolen

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Coastal Garden Group



The theme of the July meeting was garden pests

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by mechanical means (fences, tree guards) or by chemical warfare, using really stinky concoctions. One particular one was passed around to offend our delicate noses. Then we talked about pests specific to roses. There was lots of audience participation and a lively discussion. We concluded with a discussion on companion planting.

Our gardening quote of the month was, "What this country needs is dirtier fingers and cleaner minds".

The meeting was, as usual, well attended with 50 people. After a fantastic afternoon, (thanks to the providers of it), we had the final bloom/cluster/shrub competition of the year. Despite it being winter, we still had a gorgeous selection of entries in all categories.

Max then gave his tips for the month, concentrating on pruning roses. Here's a few of them: walk round the bush twice and look for the shape required, take out dead wood, take out the skinny stuff, take out crossovers, stake water shoots, cut at 45° above bud, looking at the direction that the bud will grow, wire brush the crown, wire brush stems of standards and spray with lime sulphur. We concluded with the lively monthly auction.

Spring Show

Fed up with winter? Wish those warmer days and shorter nights were back? Well don't despair, the Coastal Garden Group is gearing up for their Spring Show where members will dispel the chill of winter with a spectacular display of colourful blooms. The show will be open for public viewing on Thursday 3rd September from 12pm. Look out for your next edition of the *Coastal News* for further details.

Garden Notes