

Coastal News

email: coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz

covering Mapua & Ruby Bay,
run by volunteers

The clock is ticking once again

Our Hall Clock is once again counting time and the Mapua Village Hall Committee is moving ahead with plans to renovate and extend our Village Hall.

Twenty years ago, the late Bill Marris donated the clock to the hall. Bill is fondly remembered for his many years of tireless work to maintain the hall as an important community facility and was a life member of the Hall Society. After Bill's passing, the clock fell into some disrepair,

but thanks to work donated by Andreas Niemann and Mike Perry, it will once again be telling Mapua residents and visitors the correct time.

We are living in changing times and things are happening at an ever-increasing speed. To keep Mapua residents up to speed with the upcoming hall development, the hall society is setting up an email list to distribute information to members of the Hall Society about of what is happening with the hall project, as well as other news from the hall committee.

All residents of Mapua-Ruby Bay and nearby areas are eligible for membership of the Mapua Hall Society. There is no annual fee, although donations are welcome. If you would like to join the society and

receive the hall development updates for free, please send an email with your name, address and phone number to Mary Garner (our secretary) at: m.garner@xtra.co.nz

The committee's next step is to develop plans of the proposed renovation and extension and display them in the Mapua Community Library so that everyone can comment on the plans.

The Tasman District Council has earmarked a considerable sum of money for the project, amounting to 80% of the total cost. The balance has to be raised by our community and the Hall Committee will embark on

a serious fund-raising mission in February next year.

All offers of support for this community project will be genuinely welcomed. Such support does not necessarily have to be in the form of a financial contribution. A donation of expertise or hours of work is also very valuable. This is a community project, and everyone who makes a contribution of any kind, is equally important.

The photograph shows the hall committee with the repaired clock: Kim Bowie (left), Hanne Bjorklund, Mike Perry, Jim Bryse, Tord Kjellstrom (chair), Andreas Niemann, Graeme Stradling and Mary Garner (secretary).

Tord Kjellstrom



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

Councillor's comment

Efficient Water Use Forum's Aim

The unpredictable nature of the climate is again highlighted with October and November being two of the driest months on record. With water rationing already being talked about, it demonstrates just how important water is to our region's prosperity.

Recently, I attended a meeting to hear the recommendations of the Land and Water Forum which was a body formed by the Government to look at a better ways of managing our water resource in New Zealand. The main aim of the forum was to see how the many groups could work together more collaboratively in dealing with issues around water quality and its efficient use. It was pleasing to hear that the Tasman District is regarded by many as a leader in water management and the Lee Valley Dam project is being watched with great interest.

Last week I attended a workshop with Peter Kenyon, an Australian, who has worked with over 1000 small towns in Australia and New Zealand to develop healthy, sustainable and vibrant communities. Peter has written many publications and

has some wonderful and refreshing ideas on how to engage communities in revitalizing their town.

He likes to see at a minimum 20% of the community involved; some towns that he has worked with have had up to 60%. He stresses how important youth involvement is in creating a healthy community. Some towns have been keeping in contact with their young people after they have left the district to encourage them back to set up home and raise their families.

The new council starts a fresh term faced with many challenges, not the least of which is continuing to deliver a high level of service at an affordable level. I think we are all aware that the economy is still very fragile and there will have to be some belt-tightening during the next Annual Plan round which we start looking at in December. The new council is shaping up to be a cohesive unit with the three new councillors fitting in well.

I wish everyone a happy and enjoyable festive season and that we can look forward to more positive times in 2011.

Cr Brian Ensor

Indigo Style: Mapua's own Gok Wan

Returning home to Mapua after 10 years away, Shannan's new business Indigo Style is dedicated to helping women feel comfortable with who they are.

Shannan has a background in life coaching and beauty therapy for the past 20 years, and now training in image and colour consulting two years ago says all the disciplines come together perfectly.

"Many women, especially as they mature, begin to experience self doubt. We worry about our waistlines, lines in our skin, yet it's amazing how easy it is to accentuate our best features and diminish the others; we don't have to spend thousands to feel great about ourselves."

Shannan offers many options including all aspects of beauty therapy; colour analysis—wear the colours that belong to you and make you shine; image and style consultations; wardrobe audits—we wear only 20% of our clothes 80% of the time; shopping trips—buy what you love and love what you buy; and make-up lessons.

For colour and style Shannan offers personal consultations or why not get a group of friends together for a group consultation? "It's fantastic fun and provides a good grounding. The focus can be make-up, colour, style or image—you choose. Each person receives a personalised workbook and the focus is still on you as an individual. It's a brilliant, economical way to learn a lot.

Coastal Garden Group

Christmas is just around the corner and this is the last newsletter for the year. Your committee wishes you all the very best for the festive season and the coming New Year, may the fruits of your gardens be all you ever wished for.

Barry welcomed three new members to our last monthly meeting and there were 12 apologies.

Max gave a report on the two Motueka garden visits. They were a mind-blowing experience for those who were able to go. Then Margaret reported on the bus trip and garden visits to Rai Valley, which by all accounts was a fabulous day—fun bus trip, great gardens and wonderful morning tea.

Arrangements we made for our members to supply the visiting Rai Valley group with morning tea, so thank you to all the ladies (and Barry) for offering their services and food for the day.

A change of date was made for the four members' garden visits. That was to have been the 18th of November but was moved to the 8th of November. There

have been excellent reports coming in from people who were able to go to these.

Our members have enjoyed a number of wonderful garden visits over the last two months and once again our thanks go out to the hosts for allowing us to wander around their domains.

Instead of a speaker for our monthly meeting we had an open question-and-answer discussion. This was well received with some lively participation from both the panel and members. The topics ranged from seeds to plants and how to combat leaf diseases to Max's recipe for compost. Hopefully some of us went home a little wiser with all this shared information.

Some of our members also belong to a craft group and bought along a selection of their interesting work for us to see and happily answered questions from the floor. After another of our wonderful afternoon teas we had a great plant auction once again.

Ngairie Barrett, secretary

Garden Notes



Summer means Christmas and Christmas means new potatoes, minted peas, broad beans, fresh carrots, cauliflower and broccoli—all the requirements for the traditional Kiwi dinner.

Has everyone noticed the huge increase in vegie prices since the GST increase? All the more reason to grow your own. I do realize it is much easier to add vegies to the trolley, but hey, a punnet of six plants for say \$2.85 compared with one cauli at \$3. Most vegies can be bought as plants. Only carrots and parsnips have to be sown in rows by seed.

Take tomato plants—they are everywhere, take very little room, you can even plant them in bags. One needs only six to eight plants, they are easy to grow, feed and water and in a very short time fruit all summer.

We need to change our thinking on how we garden and think smarter New Zealand. (Don't you hate that ad?)

There is no *Coastal News* for January, so just a reminder that January is the month to plant again in time for the Easter table.

Tasks for December: Remove all spent flower heads. Lift tulips, daffodils and hyacinths, clean and store them in a cool airy place. Mulch. Mulch. Mulch. Looks like another hot, dry summer ahead. Restrictions could be severe, please don't waste water.

Pests arrive in earnest during December with warm weather and plenty of foliage. White fly turns up now and needs immediately attention. Use a Safers spray or similar organic product—soapy water, or nature's way, natural derris dust.

Remember to lift garlic after the longest day.

Do have a blessed Christmas and a very safe holiday period.

Barry Highsted

MAPUA COMBINED PROBUS

The guest speaker at the monthly November meeting was Detective-Sergeant Ian Langridge, who spoke on “What is Being Done to Address Family Violence?”

Ian has been living in Mapua for the last five years. His career started at the Police Training College at Porirua in 1984. He became a detective in Wellington and moved to Greymouth before moving up to Nelson. He talked about many disturbing aspects of family violence. During 2000 to 2004 statistics showed on average a death every 12 days due to violent situations. On an average of every 6 minutes police received reports of violent situations across the country. During this year so far there had been an increase of up to 20% of reported violent incidents over the Nelson Bays area.

Ian spoke of the various reasons relating to family violence. Thirty-three per cent of all reported violence relates to excessive alcohol consumption. The majority of violent incidents were caused by male partners. Children were often influenced to become aggressive when they lived with violent parents.

Police have recently been given the authority to remove a violent partner to temporary accommodation for a set time. This allows time until the situation can be resolved before returning to the family home.

If the situation cannot be resolved the offender will have a court order restricting access to the family, and have the opportunity to receive counselling.

There were often various situations where the violated partner would accept their violent relationship, such as for religious grounds, or a fear of breaking up the family.

Ian said there had been an improvement in communications since the law has been revised allowing the police to become more involved in domestic incidents. As a result there had been an increase in the reporting of domestic violence over the last 10 years, though this did not necessarily indicate an overall increase in violence.

Club member Peter Butchart gave the mini speech on his passion for flying. In 1957 he took his first exams to join the Air Force for his compulsory military training at Wigram. He was offered the opportunity of joining the RNZAF, but his father was not keen on the idea and Peter was required to finish his apprenticeship as a baker.

His next moves for flying were taking exams in 1974 and sitting the flight test at the Motueka Aero Club to obtain his private pilot's license. After some 500 hours flying, Peter went to the Nelson Aviation College and took the exams to get a commercial license. At that time he was busy farming tobacco in the district. When he stopped flying, Peter had over 1100 hours in his log book.

Peter spoke of his great interest in the early history of flying. He has had the opportunity to visit various museums in America, RAF Hendon near London, and the Air Force base in Blenheim, as well as the Boeing aircraft manufacturing plant near Seattle, USA, where he saw a B747 being built, and the Bell helicopter plant in Montreal, Canada.

David Higgs

Animal Health File

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

Drinking to excess

Now that the pre-Christmas silly season is upon us we are probably finding that we are all drinking to excess at the moment. While our pets (hopefully) do not consume alcohol to the levels that we humans do, keeping an eye on their water intake is a good idea as an increase in thirst can be the first indicator that something is going wrong.

Excessive drinking is given the technical name of polydipsia. A normal, healthy dog or cat will usually drink around 40-60ml of water per kilogram of bodyweight a day. This can vary a bit based on the ambient temperature and whether they are consuming wet or dry pet food. However, a water intake of over 100 ml/kg/day denotes that something is wrong. Many owners have a sneaky suspicion that their pet's water intake has gone up as they either find that they are refilling their water bowls far more frequently than usual or they catch them drinking from places that they never used to drink from.

Many different disease processes can cause polydipsia. The most common in older pets are kidney disease, diabetes mellitus and liver disease. If we have a suspicion that your pet is polydipsic we will run some blood and urine tests. Commonly we run a biochemistry panel. This blood test panel is useful for looking for kidney and liver disease, diabetes, protein loss and some other more obscure things. A urine sample can also be very useful as it can help cinch the

diagnosis of diabetes and kidney failure and also checks for urinary tract infections which in some animals can lead to polydipsia. Sometimes other follow-up blood tests are also needed and sometimes we will get you to measure your pet's actual water intake. This can be useful in confirming that there is actually polydipsia and also can be useful in some disease processes in measuring response to treatment.

As you can imagine measuring the water intake of a cat can be very difficult as they often have multiple water sources that may include anything from your toilet bowl to the neighbour's fish pond. Dogs are much easier as they more commonly have only one or two water sources. The best way to measure a 24-hour water intake is to keep the dog kennelled or the cat confined to one room (not the bathroom!) and measure how much water you put into their water bowl at the start of the 24-hour period and how much is left. The difference is of course the measurement that we want to know.

So while you may be slightly polydipsic yourself at the moment, file it away in the back of your mind that if you do notice increased thirst in your pet it is likely to be more than a seasonal phenomenon and should be checked out by your vet.



To the Mapua Community

What an amazing community to live in, although I have always felt privileged to live in Mapua, when Chris died in the crash at Fox Glacier in September, to experience, the kindnesses of so many people in the community, has been an incredible help for me and his boys over this tragic time. I would like to thank so much all those that gave flowers, cards, cooking, money, mowed lawns, kind words and looks. Thanks again.

Dido Eden

Bright lights

First of all congratulations to all concerned on the opening the Ruby Bay by-pass. It is a really good outcome for all of us in the area and travellers to the area. I do, however, have one complaint!

The intersection lighting is intrusive at night with a lot of light spill (pollution). I expect that the major cause of this is the fact that they are brilliant white rather than the traditional yellow/orange that one finds at other highway intersections. They are also very tall so they definitely intrude well above the horizon. The major areas of concern are at Gardner/Chaytor and Stagecoach roads and Dominion Road and further up the hill towards Motueka.

An additional concern I have is that these brilliant white lights interfere with my night vision as one is in total darkness until reaching the intersections. I would consider the issue a safety hazard as it takes a couple of seconds to recover from the glare (at 100kmh that's a far distance to travel with impaired vision).

Patrick Duffy, Dawson Road

Change in Traffic

By-pass Reverie. Numerous phone calls to say how welcome the change in the traffic on the old SH60. Also the huge reduction of traffic noise, with one person reporting he over-slept as the racket from the daily 5:45am truck and trailer passing his home on Stafford Drive no longer served as his morning alarm clock.

So, how is the new road settling in? So far, so good, I am led to believe. However, it will be another year before the overall effect of the new route on Mapua, Ruby Bay and Tasman can be properly assessed. What's missing? Better signage to identify direct people to the Ruby Coast Scenic Drive.

Higgs Reserve: Looks a bomb site; a tragic cock-up. The desecration of the Higgs Reserve is a huge setback to the efforts of those who had worked so diligently with the NZ Transport Agency, the by-pass contractor Downer Edi Works, the Department of Conservation, the TDC, iwi and others towards the restoration of this priceless area. Norm Thawley's years of dedicated efforts on the reserve have been wasted.

The report on the future for the Higgs Reserve so carefully crafted by Elspeth Collier and David Mitchell is now just that, a report. What has happened is now history and cannot be undone. Thankfully, the Dominion Stream was saved at the last minute and the fish life preserved. Why did this happen? Those who knew better and could have prevented it, including





myself, lost our focus. That's the charitable way to express it. The hard-learned lesson? Never relax your vigilance for a moment. Don't make assumptions about the actions of others.

The future for the Higgs Reserve? A restoration plan is in place and is being implemented. It behoves all of us to make sure it is implemented as planned. In five years or so something environmentally of value may start to be evident and the Higgs Reserve can take up its rightful place as the reserve area it was meant to be. It can still become an integral part of the Dominion Flats Project.

Mapua Doings: You will see and read elsewhere in this issue of the *Coastal News* the report by Tord Kjellstrom on the status of planning for our Community Hall. It is good to know that he and his committee are dedicated to producing a workable, user-friendly and economically feasible plan for the rejuvenation of the hall. They deserve support from the Mapua community. Think about it. Please keep thinking about it and be prepared to commit some time, effort and perhaps some dollars to make it start to happen in 2012.

The Dominion Flats project is moving ahead. Land acquisition is under way through negotiations by the TDC with the NZ Land Information Department. Our member of Parliament Chris Auchinvole is assisting with this.

At last, the parking area on the Waterfront Park is being created and is due for completion by mid-December. While this is by no means going to be adequate to solve the peak parking requirements at the port and park area, it is at least a reasonable start in the right direction. Hopefully, there is going to be more coming from this start. Will the TDC now open the field across Tahiti Street from the Waterfront Park for public parking in the interim? Please take time to let one of our ward councillors how you feel about

this. Otherwise, it may not happen. A rather cynical remark you say? Well, that's the track record so far.

Both the traffic and the parking issues at the wharf were addressed at a meeting held on 18 November in the TDC chambers. The meeting was called by Mayor Richard Kempthorne and attended by port business interests, representatives of the Mapua Community Association, Crs Tim King, Trevor Norris and Brian Ensor and TDC staff. Gary Clark, TDC traffic manager, presented some very positive short, medium and long term solutions. His ideas are innovative and well researched. They were vigorously discussed by those attending, but initiating and implementing some changes is another matter.

One thing for certain, the situation as it is now has to change. How long does it take before public safety becomes more important than commercial interests? Words are cheap. We seem never to lack for words; now there may at last be hope for constructive action. Let's hope we see it. No one wants the wharf area to get the reputation that it is not a safe place to bring your kids and family..

Mystery: I'm having difficulty in reconciling a local real estate company's questionnaire and my safety and security. Answers, anybody?

The *Coastal News* year is ending with this issue. As we used to sing in elementary school so many years ago in California, "Now the day is ending, and we are going home. Good bye, good bye, it's time for us to go." Looking forward to 2011 with anticipation. Looking back at 2010 with amazement. Enjoy and relish your "gift" of the present.

Hugh Gordon

Mapua School

A Day in the Life...

8:35am - We are walking, scootering or biking to school with our mums, dads, prams and pets. Thank you for looking out for us as you back out of your drive or travel down the road. We appreciate that you have our safety in mind and we love it when you wave "Hello".

10:00 - It's Friday, our turn to visit the library. Many thanks to the librarians and the volunteers who have welcomed us and shared their knowledge and joy of reading. We look forward to seeing you each week and will continue to visit throughout the summer. We wonder how many books we will be able to read during our time off?

12:30 - Lunch time...but we have so much to do! Sports practice, ukulele, music, band, speech, kappa haka, Buddy Time.... whewso many options....We know our teachers need a break after a year of providing opportunity to enrich our learning. They work so hard to help us "Be All we Can".

1:30 - The senior students are heading across the street to Aranui Park. The Tane's Ark project has been an amazing experience for all involved. It was so rewarding when Air New Zealand chose the project to be included in its Kids Restore NZ Trust. We were 1 of three projects selected in the country. Besides that, we have planted hundreds of natives to help rejuvenate the area. Can you imagine what it will look like in 100 years?

3:00 - School is out and we are heading to after-school activities. We love it when you cheer us on as we represent Mapua in the community. It's really cool to hear you cheer from the sidelines at the Domain or in the stands when we play miniball, netball, cricket or football. Our gymnastics, hip hop and swimming successes have been achieved because you believe in us and know that if we work hard at something, we will become confident, capable learners.

4:00 - Look what's in the newspaper. Isn't that a great photo! Our thanks to the *Coastal News*, *Community Newspapers* and *Nelson Mail*. We appreciate your reporting on our activities and successes. It is exciting to see our faces and know that others think that what we do is important. You can't imagine how many clippings are sent to our relatives overseas - our grandparents love it!

7:00 - We've been fed and our homework is finished for the night. The Principal, staff, parents and friends of Mapua School are arriving to help fund-raise, plan for the future, provide strategic direction, organise committees and weekend working bees. We

know you are tired and have worked all day - thank you for giving your time so freely to make our school such a great place.

To our mums, dads and extended families, to the community and friends of Mapua School and to our Principal and teachers - Thank You! This has been a great year and although we can't wait for the last day of school, we look forward to making you proud of us and continuing to strive to "Be All We Can".

Lisa Dunn, Trustee

MDBA new website soon to go live

Many of you will have read in the last edition of the *Coastal News* that the Mapua and Districts Business Association has been working hard over the last few months on developing a new website. Several months ago the project was put out to tender with a combined tender from David Letsche from Making Websites Work and Jane Smith from Chocolate Dog being selected as the successful web developers.

Like most projects of this size it has taken a great amount of effort to pull together and will be going live during December. From then it will be a work in progress with much information still to be added and updated. It will take us some months to get all the information on to the website that we want to be able to include. There will also be an ongoing effort and commitment to maintain the website and keep it up to date and relevant both to the tourists that visit our area, to our membership and to the wider community. We encourage you to visit the site regularly and watch as it grows and transforms!

The web is www.rubycoastmouterehills.co.nz and we should have this live by the middle of December, just in time for the summer tourist season. We hope that you will help us by promoting our website as the place to go for any friends and family looking at holidaying in our area and also make use of the features we are making available for locals such as the community events calendar and our local business listings.

Sculpture Project



A watercolour illustration of the sculpture for Tasman by project member Adi Tate

Artists around the Ruby Coast have been working together this year to evolve a sculptural project. The project, initially from a local artists' ideas workshop, was taken up by the Coastal Initiative Group and has now been endorsed by the local community and business associations in Mapua and Tasman.

The grouping of artists, including leading sculptors, designers and community arts enthusiasts, has evolved the design and formed important relationships with iwi, industry and corporate bodies, government departments and the Tasman District Council.

Local artist and group co-ordinator Graeme Stradling says the project is planned to construct and install sculpture sentinels or "gateway" structures at the road entrances to Ruby Coast.

The artists, school children, local businesses and groups will be invited to play their part in making these sculptures. For more information, or to get involved with this fantastic creative project, contact Graeme at Korepo Gallery in Ruby Bay or ring 540-2050.

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

New Ruby Bay/Mapua Playgroup

Dear parents and care-givers of little children aged 0 to 6 years old, there is a new local Steiner Playgroup in Ruby Bay/Mapua up and running again!

Do you know that feeling of coming out of a busy town to the countryside and you suddenly feel now you can breathe again? Do you notice the difference in speed, sounds, smells, space and impressions as you change from the city to the rural environment and how it affects you?

If you do, than maybe Steiner education speaks to you and your child. We offer a playgroup of special character. It aims to create a space and atmosphere where children (and grown-ups) can breathe freely, can open up and develop there senses of taste, smell, sound, sight, without being overwhelmed from stimulation and impressions. It is a space of magic, beauty, play and warmth, a place where they can feel safe and nurtured. It is a world the preschool child naturally feels connected to.

The simple natural toys, the wholesome bread buns we bake and share together, the songs, rhymes and games, the play, the walk in the garden and the story, all correspond with the rhythms of life, the breathing in and out, the changes of seasons. Creating and fostering these values allow the child to engage in its natural capability of creative play and imagination. Both of these qualities build the foundation for the intellectual learning in the years to come.

We hope we made you a little bit curious, and invite you to come along. Gina, Charlotte and Doris, your playgroup facilitators (from Korea, New Zealand and Switzerland) are keen to share their experience with Steiner education with you. We meet on: Wednesday from 9.30am till noon, at 11 Korepo Road (off Pomona Road), in Ruby Bay, contact Charlotte on phone 540-3734, www.nn.steiner.schools.co.nz

Progress on the Waterfront Park

It may not be the most glamorous part to build first, but the car park is important and it is good to see construction after the years of community activity to get the public reserve to be developed.

Anchor Construction was awarded the tender to build the car park, as the first part to be constructed. The intention is to construct the hardworks before a Christmas break which puts work on hold while the wharf area is typically busy, and have the parking area useable over that time. Planting will then be done in February when the weather is more suitable.

It will be characterised by relaxed local materials, typical of the overall material palette, with a lime chip gravel surface, recycled wharf timber seats and low impact drainage solutions.

The car park design will introduce the three structuring themes of the overall park. This area is overlaid by the Fruitgrowers Grid which refers to the fruit-growing history of the site and is expressed in the horticultural forms of plantings of kowhai. Below this, the ground cover palette of planting is of plants native to the Waimea Estuary environment, arranged in the more organic forms of the Estuarine Grid expressed in arcs and curves of planting blocks where possible. The third structural grid, The Coolstore Grid, which reflects the geometry of the cool stores and refers to the constructed nature of the whole site, is less evident but will be more noticeable in built elements in later phases.

Meanwhile, my office is continuing with documentation of the Waterfront Amphitheatre. This will be the next area to go to tender for construction, likely early next year.

On less pragmatic aspects which continue in parallel; the Mapua Community Library is assisting in selecting a text piece that will be sandblasted into one of the amphitheatre seats. The schools will be invited to review the name of Mapua Waterfront Park, which has come to be used by default. Given that it is they who will be the future keepers, it seems appropriate to see if that is the name the next generation want to give the park.

For visitors to the area, information on the Fruitgrowers site can be found on banners near the waterfront.

Robin Simpson, Project Landscape Architect



By-pass Notables:

Pictured above are some of the people who helped bring the Ruby Bay by-pass into being. They are from left—John Hurley, former Mayor of Tasman District; Damien O'Connor, list MP for West Coast Tasman; Trevor Norris, Tasman District councillor; Bob Dickenson, former CEO of the Tasman District Council; Roger Ashworth, former roading and traffic manager for the TDC; and Hugh Gordon, Mapua resident who kept pushing for the road and kept us informed

Community Association

The Mapua & Districts Community Association will have a brief meeting before its annual Christmas get-together on Monday 13 December at 7:30pm in the Mapua Hall (Supper Room). All members and potential members are welcome so if you've been thinking about joining the association, this might be the night to come along with your \$5 sub and enjoy a glass of wine and a chat.

The association would like to thank all sub-committee members and members in general for their contribution to what has been a very successful year in moving towards the completion of a number of large and important community projects.

Season's greetings to you all. We wish you safe journeys and great holidays – if you're not travelling, we look forward to seeing you around the traps over the holiday break.

Executive Committee: Devin Gallagher (chair), Hugh Gordon, Nadienne Cookson, Dave Wilson, Helen Bibby, Sal Randall, Angela Fon, Graeme Stradling, Tim Hawthorne and Pam Stinton (secretary).

Christmas gift suggestions

To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect."

~ Oren Arnold

Mapua Health Centre

Dr Mark Fry's contract finishes this month. We have greatly appreciated his excellent care and support in filling the gap left by Richard Thomas and we wish him all the best for his new appointment. We are very fortunate that Tim Phillips has agreed to take over his sessions on Thursdays and Fridays. Dr Phillips is well known to many, having been a GP at both Motueka and Wakefield, and brings with him a highly skilled and experienced background, including expertise in minor surgery.

Dr Elizabeth Wood has taken on a part-time role with the Nelson and Marlborough District Health Board as a member of the Executive Leadership Team for medical and surgical services. She will continue to work on at the health centre on Mondays and Tuesdays, but her Friday sessions will be taken over by Janine Bailey.

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.

A reminder to all registered patients that we are offering FREE 'be-well' health checks to men aged 45-64 and women 55-64. These checks are aimed to maximise your health and help identify and manage any risk factors you may have in terms of potential for problems such as heart attacks, strokes and diabetes. We have attempted to send reminders out to all those eligible, but please contact us if you think you may have been missed out (5402211).

National and global health promotion events for the month include the following:

1 Dec World Aids Day

www.who.org

3 Dec International Day of Disabled Persons

www.un.org/disabilities

3 Dec National Jandal Day (surf life saving)

www.slsnz.org.nz

5 Dec International Volunteers Day

www.worldvolunteerweb.org

10 Dec World Human Rights Day

www.un.org

On behalf of the team at Mapua Health I would like to thank you for your support over the last twelve months and wish you all a safe, healthy and happy Christmas, and all the very best for 2011.

Dr Tim Ewer

MAPUA PLAYCENTRE

Some ideas for Christmas

The Mapua Playcentre will be closed over the Christmas school holidays.

For people with young families, Christmas can be a stressful time. Remember the best gift you can give a child is your attention and time. “An hour playing games with a child will tell you more about them than a week of talking.”

What does Christmas mean to you? For families starting out, it is an exciting opportunity to start your own family traditions around Christmas.

* Make the Christmas light drive. Crank up the Christmas carols on the radio and sing along.

* Invite the neighbourhood kids over to decorate a batch of biscuit, or in my case a cheap packet of vanilla wines. For you cooks out there whip up a batch of sugar or gingerbread cookies, cut out some fun shapes and then invite everyone over to decorate. By asking everyone to bring decorations for the cookies, the costs are split among the crowd. End the afternoon with some carol singing.

* Have the kids make Christmas tags for the presents. What person with children doesn't have construction paper, glue, glitter and paint lying around the house somewhere? Set out all the art options and let your kids use their creativity to make home-made tags for those Christmas presents for the rest of the family.

* Have a Christmas movie marathon night. Nothing will put you in the Christmas mood faster than watching

“A Charlie Brown Christmas.” Or the old classic “Virginia’s Christmas.”

For visitors to Mapua here are some ideas for kids over summer:

Child-friendly cafes: Jester House, Up the Garden Path, The Tasman Dairy, Toad Hall, Riverside Cafe, Hamish’s for ice-cream, Mapua Leisure Park Cafe for a coffee or wine while the kids make sand castles.

Cheap Christmas family outings for all ages: Berry picking, roasting marshmallows at McKee Reserve, collecting shells on the beach to paint and hang on the Christmas tree. Take a rug, books, ball and food for the BBQ and hang out at Kina Beach Domain or Grossi Point—there are great shade trees at both, bike or walk along the waterfront in Ruby Bay to Mapua and climb over the rocks, walk up the bush to the look-out at McKee Reserve. Check out the aquarium at the Mapua wharf, take the boogey boards and head to Marahau when the tide is out opposite the outdoor education camp is great for toddlers, with shallow warm pools forming, Kaiteriteri beach and playground, the trains at Tahuna beach and the playground, Founders Park, paddle the Motueka River. Many of these activities are FREE!!!

From Mapua Playcentre, we wish you a memorable holiday and a Christmas full of love, friends and family.

The Big Yellow Chipper!

Hello everyone- since June 2008 I have been operating in your area undertaking all aspects of your tree work. Judging by the ongoing work I can conclude that I have been able to meet the needs of most of you which is good. It's a very challenging, difficult, dangerous and extremely competitive profession, but that and the satisfaction of a job well done adds to the attraction that keeps me motivated to serve your area.

In recent times I have called on the assistance of a long standing tree service man in the Tasman District by the name of Bob Roborgh (Over 30 years experience). Between us we can greatly increase our workload, pumping out those hard to deal with unwanted trees, or pieces of them.

Our greatest weapon besides chainsaws and the energy to wield them is Bob's Big Yellow Chipper. Not only does it turn up to 10 inch diameter trees and branches into valuable mulch but it does it at an incredible speed - as fast as we can feed it! It really must be seen to be believed. We can turn up to your yard and in a matter of minutes transform that pile of unburnable, unwanted garden waste into next year's compost, or completely remove it in our tip truck. No job is too small. The chipper eats all vegetation but doesn't eat dirt, stones, wire or steel.

We are taking bookings now for the pre Christmas cleanup, and ***we are offering a 15% discount on chipper running cost throughout the month of December.***

Merry Christmas, from Matiu and Bob.

Rangers Rugby

Rangers entered a team in the Tasman Sevens competition on the Saturday 13 November at Trafalgar Park and competed well, being in the pool with the top two teams (Nelson A and Stoke).

Social touch rugby is under way on Tuesday evenings from 6pm to keep up the fitness over the summer. Any new players are welcome to come along. Gold coin donation.

The Senior team is looking for a head coach for 2011. If you'd like to be involved please contact Mark on 0274 229 949.

MAPUA Bowling Club

Our first tournament of the season, the Guthrie Bowron Triples, was held recently at the Richmond Bowling Club. This resulted in a win for a Richmond team skipped by Kay Tomlinson but our local team of Frank Gibbison, Joan Gibbison and Dave England came a close second. Many thanks go to our valued sponsor Guthrie Bowron, and to the Richmond Club for allowing us to use their green for the tournament.

The playing surface of our green continues to improve under the guidance of Les McAlwee and we are hoping to start bowling on it in December.

Any enquiries to our Club Captain Don Sixtus, phone 540-2960, or our President Arnie Ahnfeldt, phone 540-3032

Maurie Daubney

Sam's Spam

Dec/Jan

Hi readers. As this is the last column for the year, I thought I would share some of my favourite free websites with you. They should give you some things to do over the summer holidays!

<http://www.dailylit.com/>

Free books by email! Daily Lit is a fabulous site that gives you access to over 800+ free books. There are also other books you can pay to subscribe to or send as a gift to a friend. DailyLit sends books in installments via e-mail or RSS feed, including on your Blackberry and iPhone. Installments arrive in your Inbox according to the schedule you set (e.g. 7am every weekday). You can read each installment in less than 5 minutes and, if you have more time to read, you can receive additional installments immediately on demand.

Titles include bestselling and award winning titles, from literary fiction and romance to language learning and science fiction. You can browse either by Author, Titles or Categories to find something you like. The site also features forums where you can discuss your favourite books and authors.

www.freethinkinggames.com

The Free Thinking Games website has so many wonderful free categories for online games, including:

Strategy games, Logical thinking, Word games, Puzzle and riddles, Mind stimulation games, Critical thinking, eg, chess games

Free e-books **<http://www.witguides.com>**

The comprehensive free e-books library is the premier online source for a wide range of useful e-books that

are completely free with no need to sign-up or buy anything. You can download e-books safely and securely from their directory. Each book that is submitted to them is reviewed and tested for content, spam and viruses.

Categories include:

“ ?Novels and stories, “ ?Arts and humanities, “ ?Business, “ ?Education, “ ?Games and fun, “ ?House and garden, “ ?Pets and animals,” ?Sports, “ ?Internet and computers, “ ?Religion and cultures, “ ?World and travel

Computer Training

<http://www.gcflearnfree.org/>

This website gives you access to free online computer training. Once you click on the main heading, it comes up with the following three sections: 1. Getting started Computer basics, Windows, Internet 101, Internet basics, Email basics, Mozilla Firefox, Facebook 101. 2. Using office software Word (including 2007), Excel, PowerPoint, Access Office, Open Office.org, Outlook 2003, Publisher 2003. 3. Exploring life. This is the work and career section and gives advice on career planning, résumé writing, covering letters etc. You can choose which areas you wish to learn about – great for improving your computer skills!

Mapua's second annual clothing swap a success

Mapua's second annual clothes swap was held on 6 November with a 30-strong bunch of women turning out for a great social night swapping good-quality clothing, shoes and accessories.

A supper provided by Mahana school's awesome supper making/fund-raising team preceded the mad dash to the racks of clothes. With fewer women than last year but many more clothes on offer there were a lot of different ensembles put together during the evening and a really great supportive atmosphere with everyone giving each other great feedback on outfits.

The racks for the clothes were once again provided by Fred Cassin of Fred Cassin Scaffolding and the design and layout this year was fantastic, allowing really good access to all the clothes. Tickets were once again sold by Tessa Mae's and by Tasman Bay Vets. As the clothes swappers left they were treated to a homemade chocolate to round out the night made by the team at Corru Gate Accommodation. There were also many other helpers on the night including bar people, clothing receivers and

displayers, door people, ushers, cleaners, kitchen helpers and tidy-up crew who deserve a big thank you for helping make this community event such a big success.

So – what was it all about? The main objective was to give women from Mapua and environs a social networking opportunity that encouraged community participation and recycling. We also wanted to fund-raise for Mahana School who provided the sumptuous supper and for Transition Town Mapua to add to our trust fund for future community environmental projects.

Once again the organisers received great feedback and a larger team of organisers was formed for the next clothing swap which will be held next year in winter. So don't throw out any of those mistaken purchases, wrong colour choices or clothes that don't fit quite right anymore – hold on to them for the next Mapua Big Night Out Clothing Swap

Under The Bonnet with Fred

The Ruska Classica—a nice bit of fun

A Ruska is a Dutch beach buggy built originally by Arie Ruska who changed from car restoration to making fibreglass buggies in the 1970s after a friend had seen beach buggies in USA and asked him to make one. What started off as a business making a simple beach buggy, has now developed into a line of 10 models with look-alike bodies of classic sports cars, a super bug and the comic-looking Classica, which caught my eye down at the wharf while sampling the Golden Bear range of beers.

John has been in New Zealand only four years and loves it after retiring from the sea as a professional yacht captain. The Classica was brought from a Wellington dealer who has brought and sold the car three times. It was originally imported in 1982 and has since had five North Island owners. John is still immensely pleased with the car.

Describing the car is quite difficult. I think you first of all have to get a mind-set on the looks of a 1928 Model A or Morris 6 where all lights and fittings were external. A sort of added-later look that all cars of the 1920s and 30s had. With the Ruska Classica that look starts with the ridged, flat chrome front bumper and then especially the front windscreen which angles out from the body. Almost a Walt Disney look. The front guards roll nicely over the wheels, down to and into the running boards and then on over the rear wheels. The fibreglass moulded mudguards are ribbed for strength and neatly ridged. They are still a little flexible to make them shake like all 1920s cars.

Headlights and indicators are attached to the front guards and circular wing mirrors are attached to door posts. The front radiator surround is moulded silver fibreglass. I would have done it in chrome to give it more sparkle. Ruska Classica badging is behind the tight mesh grill. The back of the car has a classic rear-mounted spare wheel on the engine cover and a matching chrome bumper. The tail lights are attached to the rear mudguards to keep the 30s look. The wide whitewall tyres are on 15in rims.

This car is a four-seater with no doors and a convertible top which quickly folds down to expose the nicely buttoned vinyl upholstery. The driver's seat is tight and the window sill is up high enough to be a comfortable arm rest. Instrumentation is basic, just like the age it portrays with speed, fuel gauge and charge meter only. The dash has an array of switches which appear to be add-ons but there was one that gives you two horn sound options—regular horn and a bugle sound, quite appropriate for the car. A good sound is



also made by a classic third horn mounted outside the door post which requires squeezing to operate. A small tubular vase is fixed to the dash for the 'flower of the day', a nice touch added by Juliet. I must say the car has been well made with all fittings and fibreglass in very good condition for a 30-year-old car.

The Ruska is on a VW Beetle chassis and has a 1600cc, four cylinder VW engine with four-speed gear box. Top speed, fuel economy and 0-100kmh time are unknown. John says he doesn't care—the car is about fun. Searching the Internet, there seems to be quite a following of Ruska buggies in Europe and the Classica still fetches good prices. I couldn't find out whether Ruska is still manufacturing buggyie.

Luckily John let me drive; with the top down we cruised along Carolyn Road with dust billowing behind, and drove out on to Old Coach Road along the ridge past Woolaston Estate. The car had good acceleration and handled the corners nicely. The suspension did shudder a bit but that is typical of the VW suspension. On our return all John's neighbours waved out as we passed.

John and Juliet love taking the Classica out for evenings down to the Mapua Wharf to socialise and watch the reaction of people as they try to work out what the Classica is. A true classic European sports car.

While on my OE in the 70s I had a 1967 VW Kombi in South Africa. There's a photo on my office wall of my VW Kombi with a rising sun painted in blue and yellow on the front but I don't know who that fellow with the long fair hair is any more. It was great surfie wagon for cruising up the coast from Durban looking for that perfect wave. One of my favourite sayings about Africa was "Coca Cola, Volkswagen and OK". The only safe thing to drink was Coca Cola, only buy a Volkswagen as you can always get parts and if you said OK everyone understood. The air-cooled engine in the hot temperatures of Africa was excellent.

Fred Cassin

Hills Community Church

Why Do You Do What You Do?

Why do you do what you do? Is it out of a sense of responsibility, obligation, or habit? Or is it because it's your nature, your professional training or your upbringing? Or perhaps it's because you are a Kiwi or South African or Swiss? Lots of variables go into why we do the things we do and why we do them the way we do them.

Growing up in Detroit, Michigan, to first-generation Americans of Polish immigrants there were a lot of things we did because of our ethnic heritage, particularly around Christmas. There were certain foods my mother prepared, special decorations that went on the tree and unique customs we followed that our Italian, Lebanese, Swedish and German neighbours did not. They did their own thing.

Often I've been asked why Hills Community Church does the things it does in and for the community—things like “Messy Church” twice each term, the mid-winter dinner, the Costume Carnival and Carols-in-the-Park. Or why we're willing to open our doors for community-sponsored events and cater for many of them. These things take a lot of work, a lot of organisation, a lot of volunteer time and expense. Most of these events are free. The catered events cover our costs and provide ‘seed funding’ for special projects or needs within the church and a portion always goes to support Missions. So why do we do what we do?

Well, the reason is the season. Christmas is coming and for Christians around the world it's not the silly season as it's so often portrayed in advertisements—it is the special season, the sacred Season of Love.

“Love came down at Christmas” as the traditional carol says. It because of the love God has for us that we do what we do. We do what we do because of love, for the sake of love and to spread that love which for us is Jesus Christ. Why do we do what we do? Because we love God, we love his Son Jesus Christ and—we love you!

Marilyn Loken, Minister, Hills Community Church

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

Our Holiday Schedule

Carols-in-the-Park, Sunday, 19 December, 5pm

A family picnic in Aranui Park featuring the Motueka Brass Band and other entertainment

Serenity Service, Wednesday, 22 December, 7:30pm

A service for those who seek a quieter expression of Christmas this year

Christmas Eve, Friday, 24 December, 9pm

A Candlelight Service with Carols and Readings

Christmas Day, Saturday, 25 December

8 am Traditional Holy Communion Service

9:30am Family Christmas Service

January Worship: One service @ 9:30am

Weekly Calendar:

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

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

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

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

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

BOOK REVIEW

“Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson (2006) and Stones into Schools (2009) by Greg Mortenson – both available in the Mapua Community Library. Reviewed by Adrienne Taylor.

The first time you share tea with a Balti, you are a stranger, the second time you are an honoured guest. The third time you become family. These are the words of a Pakistani villager that give the title to the first of Greg Mortenson’s moving books. Greg Mortenson is an American mountaineer and trained trauma nurse who, after a failed attempt to climb K2 in the Himalayas, stumbled into a remote village in Pakistan. The impoverished people of the village nursed him back to health and he vowed to build a school for the children, who were scratching their lessons in the dirt with twigs.

Instead of walking away from this rash promise, Mortenson faced numerous formidable challenges to raise funds, repeated death threats from outraged mullahs, separation from his wife and children, kidnapping, and very tough living conditions (eg, sleeping in his car to save money). His one-man mission resulted in the eventual building of 55 schools, especially for girls, deep in Taliban territory in rural Pakistan and Afghanistan, an extraordinary feat in a region where Americans are often feared and hated. (Journalist David Oliver Relin collaborated with Greg Mortenson on this book.)

Mortenson’s original promise to build a school gave rise to the Central Asia Institute, and his second book *Stones into Schools* explains that the institute has achieved its innovative educational work without government money.

Much of this second book deals with logistical challenges such as his organisation’s expansion into remote and inaccessible regions. If this sounds a little starchy be assured that it isn’t. Mortenson’s passion, distinctive personal style, unorthodox tactics and description of the physical and political landscape of Afghanistan make it just as compelling as *Three Cups of Tea*. He is not afraid to speak out about the lip-service paid by President Karzai and former President General Pervez Musharraf, who in reality fail to provide any help. He also offers some important insights about how to cut through bureaucratic red tape, how to accomplish a lot with very little resources, and how to harness the involvement of the most impoverished villagers. For example, where there is Taliban resistance to girls having any education at all, local villagers who want a school have dealt with religious threats by appointing a mullah to oversee the project.

Both these books are compelling reading, full of true life adventure. Greg Mortenson is an accidental hero who followed through on a promise. His work is inspiring and shows what can be done with the right combination of character and determination – he really has changed the world. Many people (including the US military, which has made *Three Cups of Tea* required reading) see Mortenson’s way of working as the appropriate way to fight terrorism. Even if you don’t usually read non-fiction, please try these highly readable books.

Fire Brigade

Oct 23: Vegetation fire in Jessie Street, caused by gas-cutting gear.

Nov 3: Tanker to Motueka to help with out-of-control burn-off.

Nov 5: Grass fire on Te Mamaka Road, out on arrival.

Nov 8: Power line down on Goddard Road, Tasman. Waited for lineman.

Nov 9: House fire Big Pokororo Road, turned back.

Nov 10: Tanker to Wai-iti Valley Road for a shed fire.

Nov 13: Tree fire Gardner Valley Road, turned back.

Nov 14: Tanker to a car & tree fire Pigeon Valley Road.

60 calls year to date



Safety Tip – Keep a close eye on children and young adults around barbecues, braziers, lit candles, oil burners and camp-fires. Always keep matches and lighters up high out of reach of children

On 13 November the Brigade held its annual Awards night and meal at the Hills Community Church. It is a great venue and we had great meal that church members provided.

This year Ian Goaten and Mike Stephenson got certificates for three years service, Alastair Hill got a five-year medal, Alby Wyatt a bar for 23 years, Greg Olsen a bar for 13 years and Aaron Thawley and Ian Woolfe got a bar for seven years service

MAPUA LIBRARY



Christmas greetings to all! I trust you are still able to take time out to relax and read in this busy time leading up to the holiday period. Some of our readers will be pleased to hear that we have recently increased our supply of large-print books as Richmond Library has very kindly lent us 100 books, they certainly increase the variety we are able to offer. We also have to thank the Lion Foundation for a generous grant that will allow us to buy new stock. So do call in and stock up on some Christmas reading material when you are passing.

Literacy and community! What a powerful combination.

We mentioned last month our intention to run a reading programme for children over the school holidays and plans for this are now in place, thanks to Lorraine Powers' enthusiasm and planning. It's called **BEAR – Be Excited About Reading**.

So, the library will be open especially for children on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10.30am and 11.30am from 15 December through to 28 January, except during the week between Christmas and New Year. Do 'drop in' at any of those times; there's no cost.

The objective is not to teach reading, it's simply to encourage, inspire and keep kids reading over the summer in a friendly, fun and positive environment. **BEAR** is a *community* reading programme with benefits all around. Many of our volunteers are older members of our community and **BEAR** offers a lovely opportunity for children to interact with a more mature and experienced generation, something

they may miss out on especially if their extended family lives away.

There's an opportunity for everyone to be involved in **BEAR**. Mums can listen to other children read to them while they wait for their own kids, teenagers or older siblings can be reading-buddies to little ones; all reading role-models are greatly appreciated. There will be bears of the cuddly variety there too, to hear a happy story from anyone who's feeling shy.

We will also have a colouring and "Name the BEAR" competition; entry forms for this can be obtained from the library.

Lorraine has advertised this programme very fully in school newsletters. If you wish to find out more details or enrol your child, please call either Lorraine on 540-3500, Eileen on 540-2250 or email powersfamilynz@gmail.com so that we can roster on our volunteers for each morning. We would really love to see these sessions well attended.

With Christmas approaching we will also be outside the 4 Square the week of the 13th to 18th December selling tickets for our very popular raffle. There are always two very happy winning families in the district each year and this fund-raising venture of course helps us buy more stock, so do stop off for a ticket or two (and a chat).

This has been a busy year at the library with many great achievements. We look forward to providing another interesting year in 2011 and wish all our readers and friends a very happy and safe Christmas and holiday period with family and friends.

Dot Moriarty

Library Hours:

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

Art Group Exhibitions



The Mapua Art Group is getting out and about over summer with two exhibitions being held in the area. After the success of the group's exhibition earlier this year at the Moutere Inn, art lovers will be able to view and buy a new range of works produced by the group from opening night Thursday 20 January until 31 January. Their second summer exhibition will be held at the Richmond Library from 23 February to 23 March.

The group includes more than 20 local artists who meet to paint and create in the Mapua Hall every Thursday morning in mediums ranging from oil, acrylic, mixed media to watercolour paintings as well as textiles.

Mapua Art Group Exhibition manager Linda Morris says the group has gone from strength to strength over the past year. "It's been amazing to watch people's skills and creativity really blossom. Our members are producing exciting art works and we're all inspired by each other so we hope the public will be inspired too."

To help with exhibitions, the Mapua/Ruby Bay and District Community Trust has granted the group \$330 towards building portable exhibition stands. That

means MAG can exhibit in a wide variety of spaces—not restricted by wall space—so watch out for exhibitions in less traditional spaces.

MAG wishes to thank the trust for its generous donation and support of local art.

For your diaries, the opening of the Moutere Inn exhibition will be held at 6pm on 20 January and everyone is welcome.



News from our Early Learning Centre in the Moutere Hills

By the time you read this a lot would have happened at Harakeke. We would have had our final licensing visit from the Ministry of Education ensuring us that we fully comply with the latest regulations and are doing the right things... and are doing them well.

We would have also attended the Tasman Nelson Environment Awards ceremony at Woollaston Estate on 24 November ...as a winner or a finalist.

"Healthy Living – good choices start in Early Childhood", an exciting informative evening with speakers from Public Health, the NZ Heart Foundation and Sport Tasman would have hopefully attracted a good crowd to Harakeke and extended our knowledge.

At the moment of writing we are busy enjoying the beautiful warm weather and the sunshine filtered by our many beautiful flowering robinia trees and the new shade sails over the sand pit. Lots of outside play, painted faces and physical challenges, water play in various forms (including watering the plants) is an all-time favourite and growth in the vegetable and fruit garden is 'living proof' - we are already harvesting quite a bit of produce – red ripe strawberries the hungry bear will never get!!(Luckily we are not restricted by rain water I might add).

By now we are also in full swing of planning the details of Harakeke's inaugural 'KIWI CHRISTMAS CAMPOUT' that will end our year in true kiwi family style.

More about that in the next issue.

Until then the Harakeke Whanau wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Nga mihi o te wa me te Tau Hou ki a koutou katoa

Noticeboard

Tamaha Sea Scouts 2010 Annual General Meeting Thursday 16th December 7.30pm Grossi Point Reserve, Mapua. Everyone welcome

Starburst Theatre Mapua now taking registrations for 2011. There will be two groups running with a maximum of 16 children. Times Wednesdays 4.30-5.30 and 5.30-6.30. Contact Julie at starbursttheatre@hotmail.com

Friendship Club will hold its usual meeting 2pm 16 December, with a game of bowls and afternoon tea. In January we will have a New Year lunch at the Suburban Club. New members are always made welcome. The club meets on the 3rd Thursday each month, \$2 for Hall rental, and monthly raffle 20¢. For information about the lunch or regular meetings contact Val Roche 540-3685.

Coastal Connections Social Group. The Christmas luncheon is to be held at the Riverside Cafe, Motueka on 9 December. Also, the dinner with partners is to be held at the Boatshed, Mapua, on 16 December at 6:30pm. Look forward to seeing you all on both occasions. Julie Haliday, 540 3533

Ironing - Same Day Service. \$15/hour. Contact Amanda on 02102 55 65 25

Genealogy Computer Discussion Group: This year our bimonthly meeting will be 1.30pm on Saturday Dec 11th. Info: Val 540 3931 or Peter 540 2686.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Children's Gymnastics: 1-9yrs. improves a child's strength, balance, coordination, spatial awareness & eye tracking using hand apparatus, songs, and gym equipment. Thursdays @ Mapua. Fridays @ Upper Moutere. Ring Sam, 5432512

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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