

March 2012

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Coastal News

www.mapua.gen.nz

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covering Mapua & Ruby Bay,
run by volunteers

Amalgamation, Some Pros and Cons

By Brian Ensor, ward councillor

I would like to make it clear that this article is based on my own opinions and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Tasman District Council.

I have been prompted to write this article because I realise that there are a great number of people who are finding it difficult to get information or are confused about the amalgamation proposal concerning the union of the Tasman District Council and the Nelson City Council.

This proposal has been primarily driven by the Nelson Business Community. My concern is that what might be seen as beneficial for business does not necessarily translate to benefits for you and me, the average ratepayer, or even necessarily Tasman businesses.

One common theme that I continually hear is that if a union of the two districts doesn't happen now that the Government will force it anyway. The Prime Minister and leader of the National Party, John Key, has repeatedly said during the last year that any local government amalgamation is in the hands of the community and that his government will not force amalgamation on any community.

There has also been much said about potential cost-savings. In the launch of this petition for a union of the two districts, the petitioner, Aldo Miccio, made some extravagant claims about cost savings. It is interesting to note that the Local Government Commission in its final decision on the Reorganisation Scheme has been very careful to downplay potential cost savings and has said, "An undue focus on financial savings may therefore be misleading for the public."

One thing that is clear from the reorganisation proposal that will significantly affect every ratepayer, is that the debt of each council will be ring-fenced and a targeted rate added to the annual rates to pay off debt.

Rates are one of the key issues and should be of primary concern for all ratepayers. There has been a great deal of speculation about what may happen with rates in the future. We do know that this proposal

recommends a capital rating system, the same one that the Tasman District operates under, and that aligning the whole district to a capital rating system (Nelson has a land value rating system) under an amalgamated Council would be dealt with in 2015.

There are several scenarios which could have an impact on rates related to this proposal. Nelson City Council operates a business differential which in essence means that the Nelson Business Community subsidises the residential community. The question one would ask is what would happen if the differential was removed? The likely outcome would be that the residential community would have to pay more rates. The other question is if the new council decided to leave the business differential in place, would that then mean that Richmond businesses would be rated the same way with a resulting increase in their rates? And would a new council extend this out to other business communities such as Mapua, Motueka, Wakefield and Brightwater.

The commission has also quoted the findings of a recent joint Australian and New Zealand report on options for consolidation in local government. This report concluded that "efficiency gains can be achieved through various forms of consolidation such as amalgamations, but these are unlikely to produce reductions in local rates and charges due to other expenditure needs." One of the big uncertainties is the cost of the transition and then the true cost to run the larger bureaucracy.

One of the key criticisms from the ordinary person in the street following amalgamations all around the globe is that a bigger organisation tends to lose contact with its constituents, accessibility to staff becomes more difficult and often a silo mentality develops. The Tasman District Council performs both territorial and regional responsibilities over a very large area. Staffing levels could be described as lean in comparison with other councils of a similar size with similar duties. Under this proposal the new amalgamated council will



employ approximately double the number of staff that now work at the Tasman District Council. I am sure that most of us have had experience dealing with larger organisations and are well aware that efficient use of both resources and staff can be a major challenge.

The reorganisation proposal includes the creation of two advisory boards, a Rural Advisory Committee and a Maori Board who along with both the Motueka and Golden Bay Community Boards will each appoint a member to sit on every council standing committee. While I support closer contact with both Iwi and the rural sector, my concern is that what is at present a simple and uncomplicated governance structure will now have an extra layer which will add considerably to the cost of governance, both in remuneration and staff time, in servicing these committees. Accordingly, the local Government Commission is projecting increases of nearly \$500,000 per annum for the proposed governance structure.

The cost of community boards is at present met by a targeted rate which is paid by the communities they represent. Under this proposal the costs of the two community boards and advisory boards will be met by ratepayers throughout the district.

Rural representation is a major concern for all the communities that live outside the two main urban areas of Richmond and Nelson. The simple fact at the

moment is that the Tasman District is represented by councillors who all to some degree or another have some connection and understanding of the rural community. Under this proposal, 10 of the 16 councillors would come from the two main urban areas of Richmond and Nelson. I don't believe that the creation of the Rural Advisory Committee will address concerns over rural representation in communities such as Wakefield, Brightwater, Mapua, Tasman and other small communities.

There has been some mention that the combined councils with a population of 90,000 will give more voice on the national scene when competing with councils such as Auckland City. I think this is wishful thinking when you are competing against a council with a population of 1.5 million. There are already moves by South Island councils to work together. This makes sense; together we would be a formidable force to lobby central government on important issues.

I would like to finish by saying that this amalgamation proposal will have an effect on everyone's lives. There have been a lot of extravagant claims since the petition was first launched. I urge you to research this proposal as much as possible and, most importantly, exercise your right to vote along with your family and friends.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Red Tent, by Anita Diamant, reviewed by Janey Clark. This book is available in the Mapua Library

T*he Red Tent* tells the mostly unknown biblical story of Dinah, daughter of the patriarch Jacob and his wife Leah. In Chapter 34 of the book of Genesis, Dinah's tale is a short, horrific episode in the narrative of Jacob and Joseph.

Anita Diamant has taken this story and told it from the female perspective. Dinah herself narrates *The Red Tent*, vividly depicting and celebrating the life of woman in these ancient times, as she tells her life story.

The Red Tent is an actual tent where Dinah and the other women of Jacob's tribe must, according to ancient law, take refuge when menstruating or giving birth. After birthing the mother recuperates in this place for a month with her newborn baby. The tent

is also a place where they gossip about local events, take care of domestic chores and more importantly provide mutual support and encouragement to one another.

I read this book when I was heavily pregnant with my third child and could not help but be envious of the obvious advantages this female community may have provided for its members.

If you've ever wondered how life might have been in biblical times, this is a must. Anita Diamant is a masterful storyteller who cleverly interweaves rich characters and their relationships with the culture and religion of that time. It is an absorbing read. When I read *The Red Tent* my housework piled up around me because I could not put the book down.

Review mistake

Readers will have noticed a rather truncated book review of *Life on Wheels* last month. It was in by mistake. All going well the proper, full-length review will be in the *Coastal News* next month.

Want to speak with confidence?

If you have ever thought about joining Toastmasters but thought it would be too scary talking in front of people you are just the sort of person who should join. This is a friendly and supportive way to learn and overcome your fears. This is not a club for people who are competent speakers with nothing to learn. It is for people who have something to learn, who want to practice the art of effective communication. Sure some in the club are better than others but we need a mix of experience to run the club successfully. Come along for three nights for free and see if you like it. No obligation.

Toastmasters will teach you to listen objectively, speak with confidence and evaluate your peers as you watch them present a speech. You'll learn all about impromptu speaking and having fun while doing that. Toastmasters isn't just about delivering a speech, it's about learning to become a competent communicator. Once you have become a competent communicator there is the opportunity to learn the art of specialty

speeches, being an entertaining speaker, technical presentations, story-telling, interpersonal communication and more.

Another side to Toastmasters is leaning to become an effective leader. You will practice your leadership skills each week preparing for, organising and conducting meetings and motivating others to help themselves. Leadership takes practice and Toastmasters is a great and supportive environment for doing this.

Join any time! Toastmasters is open to anyone 18 years and older. It's all about opening doors to opportunities, a club where you can learn some very valuable skills about listening, speaking and leadership. Toastmasters Motueka meets the first and third Wednesday night of the month 7.15pm at the Band hall, Motueka. For more information give your local girl Ella Evans a call on 540-2212 or our membership guy Glyn Lewis-Jones on 03 528-9474 or email glynlewisjones@gmail.com

Fund-raising continues for the Hall

Please respond generously to the Mapua Hall fundraiser flyer coming to mail-boxes soon. The hall has been a key part of the Mapua community for many years and it's time to repay the wear and tear and make it fit for purpose for the future. The Mapua Hall Committee has managed to maintain a strong partnership with the Tasman District Council and a commitment to improve the hall is still in the council's costings. This is with the proviso that the community raises a part of the cost.

Many people of asked how and when they can best help, and the time has now come to grow the fund through personal or family donation or subscription. Please see your flyer for details or ring Graeme Stradling 540-2050 for a mail-out flyer. Remember that your donation is tax-deductible and the Hall Society is a charitable trust. There has been a very positive response and many donated hours from local professionals and experts as the committee refines the plans and details the planning and building applications. Thank you to all concerned so far. Come on Mapua!

The Mapua Hall will be getting a handsome hand from Greg Olsen's 'Sir Greg's Collectibles' in its transformation into an American Music Hall for this month's fun night, 'Shall We Dance?'. Flags, wagon wheels, Wild West shotgun welcomes, we get it

together for dance night like no other, (except maybe if you were in Montana in 1952). American food and drink will be available, super hotdogs and ice-cold homemade lemonade, amongst the offering.

The Mapua Hall fund-raising has been busy over the summer with a series of events and fundraisers. SHALL WE DANCE? is on Saturday 10 March at 7pm and it promises to be another excellent night. As well as celebrating the old hall, all American fun, dance and great music, we are also giving the beautiful hardwood floor a nostalgic workout, back to the good old days of 'Dances at the Hall on Saturday Night'.

Members of the Nelson square dancing and round dancing club will demonstrate their moves and some of the region's best callers will warm us up. Later we rock and roll. Prizes and surprises will feature during the evening to create a family friendly fun night out.

Food and refreshment will be sold from the 'Canteen'; hotdogs, snacks, popcorn with refreshments including homemade lemonade, American beer, tea and coffee. Entry is by ticket or at the door. \$10 adult or \$25 family. Proceeds go to the Hall Renovation Project.

Please ring Graeme at 540-2050 for further information.

Tasman School



The beginning of 2012 brings with it some exciting new developments for Tasman School. Have a look at our new website . www.tasman.school.nz. Our redesigned school entrance is near completion with a spacious reception area and stylish office, staffroom and workroom. This latest building venture compliments the already upgraded classrooms and pool, leaving our school looking at its best. We will be officially opening our 'new look' area in the coming weeks. This date will be posted on our facebook page - <http://www.facebook.com/TasmanSchool>

Feel free to come and join us.

Along with a number of new families to Tasman this term we also welcome our new teacher Annabelle Armstrong. She has made a fantastic start in Room 2 and we are looking forward to benefiting from the expertise she has developed, leading numeracy training for teachers across the region.

Abel Tasman Camp

Our seniors, having just returned from Wellington last term, are wasting no time in hitting the great outdoors for their Abel Tasman Camp. After experiencing what city life has to offer, we will be setting our sights on abseiling, kayaking, tramping, orienteering and much, much more.

It is always a lot of fun and a great chance to get to know each other better.

This year we are particularly fortunate to be heading out to Tonga Island to snorkel the marine reserve under the expert guidance of Megan Wilson, who runs the EMR (Experiencing Marine Reserves) programme. This will give our school leaders the opportunity to see first-hand the positive effect that their local marine reserve is having in supporting marine biodiversity. As part of our learning we will be planning our own



project to help protect and preserve our waterways. We have a lot to look forward to.

The Great Muddy Buddy Event

We are busy planning for Muddy Buddies as well. This is our major fund-raiser and fantastic community event, so find a friend and plan your outfit. 18 March. Tasman School. Register from 9.30am. Everyone welcome ... pass the word! See www.muddybuddy.co.nz

Centennial 2013

Although 2013 still seems a long way off we are seeking past students and community members who could help us to plan our centennial celebrations. If that sounds like you, we look forward to your call, or better still, drop in, take a look around and be impressed with all that is happening in our great little school.

We have a great staff, fantastic children and a wonderful community ... all ensuring we are off to a wonderful new year of learning and fun.

Susan Shand

Animal Health File

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

Skin Cancers in Cats

Despite the fact that we have had a decidedly average summer in terms of sunshine hours, I am sure that we have all been slip, slop and slapping on those summer days where the sun has come out. Spare a thought for our sun-loving feline friends who don't have the options for sun protection that we do.

Cats can get skin cancer too. In fact in white cats and cats with white noses and white ear tips it is very common and is called a squamous cell carcinoma. On the nose the first lesions seen often appear like a small ulcer or scratch injury that is not healing. On the ear tips the precancerous changes are commonly crusting and red patches and the ear tips may begin to curl over. Sometimes there is also hair loss.

Squamous cell carcinomas carry a pretty good prognosis in cats. They don't tend to spread to other areas of the body so if caught and treated early the outcome is usually favourable. For tumours on the ear tips the best treatment is surgical resection of the affected area of the ear.

For noses things can get a bit more complicated. If we get lesions early then by far the most cosmetic and cheapest treatment is called cryosurgery. This involves a general anaesthetic and freezing the cancerous cells with liquid nitrogen to destroy them. Occasionally cancers will reappear in the same or a neighbouring site and so repetition of the treatment is required. Larger lesions may require surgical resection of the affected parts of the nose. As you can imagine this can be pretty difficult, costly and unsightly in a cat, so it is not commonly done.

While it would be nice to say that prevention is better than cure – good luck keeping your cat out of the sun between the hours of 10am and 4pm, popping a hat on him or stopping him licking off sunscreen! The best that you can do is to keep a close eye out for any unusual skin changes on the nose, ears and even eyelids of your cat and bring him down for a check up if anything is amiss.



Summer is so tiring

Out and About with Hugh

Oleaginous: Let's start with words this month. Did you look in your dictionary? No! OK, it's an adjective and is pronounced (oh-lee-aj-uh-nuhs). From the Latin; "oleaginous". (of an olive tree). First known use, 1634. Meanings: (1) Resembling or having the properties of oil: oily; also, containing or producing oil. Origins: middle English, middle French (oleagineux). (2) Other meanings: Marked by an offensively ingratiating manner or quality. Eg, adulatory, gushy, fulsome, soapy, unctuous and a few others. Whoopee! The perfect word to describe some of those who are pontificating in the *Nelson Mail* on the Nelson/Tasman amalgamation proposal.

Regarding the proposal: In my opinion, "representation" is the real issue. In particular rural representation. Why is nobody talking about the value-added effect on our area from the income that comes from our very large rural areas? And it is a very large contribution to the wealth of the area. That's mostly Tasman, but Nelson isn't all just urban either. Representation should be decided on something more than population density and head count. We must give adequate recognition to the very significant importance of our rural areas.

One thing for certain; the battle lines are drawn and the big guns are already shooting. There will be a lot more discussion (and pontificating) this month. Hey out there! Are you listening? More fodder to digest before you make up your mind yes or no.

Mapua Hall Fund-raiser: "Swing Mapua" – Aspire Big Band visit, 24/25 February. Did you attend either or both the programmes? Were they well attended? Was the Fund-raiser a success? Why am I asking? Because the *Coastal News* copy deadline is the 20th of the preceding month so I can only hope the Hall Committee's efforts are going to be successful and their \$5000 goal for the week-end is achieved.

Chairperson Tord Kjellstrom and the Hall Committee members and many other volunteers are contributing their time and effort to make the rebuilding of our Mapua Community Hall happen. The TDC allocation of \$800,000 towards the rebuilding project depends upon our community raising \$200,000. Help with a donation to Mapua Public Hall Society Inc. Development Account to Westpac account No. 03-0693-0124689-25

Your donation is tax-deductible. The Hall Society wants to acknowledge donors with thanks. However, you may remain anonymous if that is your preference. **Mapua Library Literary Festival:** 'SOAR AGAIN' 23-35 March. Starting with a Cocktail Party the evening of the 23rd, Writing Workshops & Story Time on

Saturday the 24th and finishing with a 'Café OOH! LA! LA!' on Sunday the 25th, this is a community event not to be missed. For the programme and bookings contact Sue England at 540-2934 or email her at s1ad2as3@xtra.co.nz This fund-raising event for our Mapua Community Library is worthy of your full support.

Dominion Flats: Two years ago this land was much in the news The Dominion Flats stream was to be relocated to accommodate construction of the Ruby Bay by-pass. Our local school children, concerned local residents and Conservation Department staff joined to relocate the marine life of the stream. Dominion Flats was to be a dedicated environmental and conservation area. Today it a disgraceful mess, overgrown with blackberry, broom, etc, and the stream effectively blocked. In short this land and its stream is reverting into a wilderness. How have "we" allowed this situation to develop from a worthwhile environmental project into an overgrown and neglected area. Aside from ourselves, who is else is responsible for allowing this to happen? The NZ Transport Agency, the Tasman District Council, Opus Consultants and Darroch Ltd Property Management Services—all are responsible. Darroch Ltd In particular is responsible for the Dominion Flats area. There is much more to come to come to light on this sad story of neglect and lack of attention. I will have more to say about this next month.

Mapua Community Association: Our Mayor Richard Kempthorne, TDC councillors and TDC staff members will be attending the Community Association meeting this month to present and discuss the District Council Long Term Plan. This is of particular interest to all ratepayers this year in view of the council budget crisis created by two years of extensive flood damage in the Tasman District. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. The date is 12 March. The meeting will begin with a Public Forum at 7pm and a TDC presentation at 7:30pm in the Super Room of the Mapua Community Hall.

Waterfront Park: Let's go to the ark for a picnic. How about the new Waterfront Park? OK? No? No! No shade, no toilet facilities, no benches. Not a brilliant start to our new park. Bad timing! No money! Disappointing! Be patient and just remember this: it wasn't so long ago that the TDC was going to flog off the entire site.

Sewage Treatment Plant: Under construction this month. Some disruptions at the wharf access (Aranui Road). More patience for two to three months.

Word for April: eccedentiast.

Hugh Gordon

MAPUA COMBINED PROBUS

The club's guest speaker for the first meeting of the year in February was John Marchbanks, the former manager of Oakwoods Retirement Village in Richmond, who trained to be a registered nurse in Australia.

Retirement villages started in Florida, USA, and in New Zealand in the early 1960s. A big incentive to move to a village was loneliness after the loss of a partner. There are opportunities to become involved in various social interests within the village community. Another consideration was the inability or unwillingness to manage the former family home and grounds.

John spoke about the changes to Oakwoods since his early involvement. The original village had some impressive gardens that the tenants could enjoy. With the increasing demand for retirement accommodation the gardens were lost to the development of new villas. With the increasing ageing population there would be an ongoing demand for retirement accommodation.

John also spoke on retirement homes such as Whareama in Stoke, where the service by staff was to provide a 24/7 service to their clients. The majority of clients would have a major handicap that restricted their independence, such as dementia or a stroke. A similar service was not available in most retirement villages.

John answered a variety of questions at the end of his talk. One comment made was the ultimate retirement lifestyle which was to have a permanent cabin on a cruise liner. John pointed out that some cruise companies do make some permanent cabins available for the wealthy retirees.

Club member Valerie Roche, gave a mini talk, with the use of her video, on her professional life as a dance tutor. During her time in Omaha, Nebraska, Valerie took a keen interest in dancing, and in particular ballet. It was in 1975 when she gained her Royal Academy of Dance Advanced Teacher's Certificate. She became a member of the Royal Dance Academy at the age of

18, and was awarded life membership in 2004. In 1999 a 20-minute video was made, and introduced by Bill Kelly of Nebraska Public Broadcasting.

The video, *The Joy of Dance*, followed the development of a piece of choreography which was part of the larger production by the Omaha Academy of Ballet's *Sleeping Beauty* recital. The piece of choreography was the final requirement for certification to gain the Associate Diploma of The Imperial Society for Teacher's of Dance.

The video showed Valerie instructing a small class of adults and taking ballet classes for several groups of children. Valerie is still involved with dancing, taking ballet classes within the Nelson district.

David Higgs

PANZ



The month of February started with a rush this year as we organised a two-day framing workshop on the Sunday and Monday prior to our opening Tuesday on the 14th. The workshop was booked out and Lance Trolle' had his patience pushed to the limit trying to help new attendees and helping out with "mistakes". It was a lot of fun as well as educational, and a number of works were framed for our annual exhibition.

Our first Tuesday for the year proved to be a cracker, with two visitors and a large turnout of members. Over the Christmas break, members had been given a picture to paint which must not look like the original. Some wonderful paintings were displayed from this challenge and already, members are looking forward to the next one.

At the end of March, the national PANZ convention and "Purely Pastel" Art Awards will be held in Blenheim. This will be a 10th anniversary of the birth of PANZ and a group of about 20+ members from Nelson area are all booked to attend. Some will also be exhibiting.

The 5th annual "Top of the South" pastel art exhibition was held on the 25th and 26th February so we will have all the results for you in the next edition of the *Coastal News*. Don't forget that you are always welcome to pop in on a Tuesday morning at the Mapua Hall to see what we do. Contact Glenys Forbes on 540-3388.

Mahana School

What a busy time the beginning of the term is. It

is great to be back into school, and I'm sure many parents are breathing a sigh of relief! Our school year began with the welcoming of five-year-old Renee Huxford in Piwakawaka Class and Jude Heath who is teaching in Kereru Class. I'm sure the first day for both of them was a big event in their lives and it was great to welcome them as new members of our school community. The first year at school is a special and very important time, and at Mahana we are really lucky to enjoy a teacher-learner ratio that allows each student to really develop a relationship with the teachers. I know that the Mahana five and six-year-olds get the time and attention they need to feel happy and secure, and to learn.

The focus for our senior class, 'Kotuku', is facing your challenges together, so during the second week of school the class worked together to build rafts that they then paddled from Grossi Point, past the Mapua wharf, to the Mapua Leisure Park. The rafts were constructed from tyres, manuka and rope, and the students produced some remarkably sea-worthy vessels. Some went for voluntary swims, but the teamwork on display was excellent. It was great to see the senior students take on leadership roles and the fun was obvious. The class then spent the night in and around the Upper Moutere Church Hall. Thanks to Upper Moutere School for allowing us to use their pool, and to the church itself for allowing us to ring the church bell! (sorry neighbours) Playing spotlight around the church was a highlight for the kids and is an experience that they will never forget.



Our Middle Class, 'Kereru', is enjoying their time with Ms Heath. They are preparing for the swimming sports and are putting in some great training. Jude (Ms Heath) is busy organising and planning and teaching and has already made a big contribution to our school.

We are soon embarking on a whole school wakaama experience at Kaiteriteri as part of our 'Heroes' study. We will be working with world champion Clair Sykes who will be our hero for the day. We are lucky to be able to take on whole school experiences that we think are a very special and important time for our students.

We will be continuing our 'Superb Kids Challenge' home-learning programme this year. The students complete a set of real-life challenges at home such as preparing dinner for the family, helping out someone in need, or taking on a challenge in order to win the very special Mahana Challenge Bands that can be worn with pride. These have proved to be a really positive focus for the students and their families and are celebrated with the whole school at our Friday assemblies.

The other big development this term is the introduction of a clubs programme each Thursday afternoon. This term the students from Year 1 to 6 get to take part in a range of activities including movie making, animation, cooking, art, and discovery time, while our Year 7 and 8 students will be geocaching. Each student will get a choice of two activities every term and we hope to introduce and extend our range of activities as the year progresses.

And there is more to come. Please remember that families are welcome to visit us anytime, or check out our new website at www.mahana.school.nz, or check out our class blogs.

Justin Neal, Principal



MAPUA LIBRARY



Yes, it is now March: “Soar Again” Literary Festival month.

Stories and limericks are now with the judges. Make sure of your place in the writers’ workshops and encourage any children interested in story writing to join the children’s programme with Melanie and the afternoon of music, reading and poetry for younger children led by Craig Smith and Anna Crosbie too.

Tickets are available now and selling well for the opening on Friday 23rd with Joe Bennett and for the Sunday Café Ooh La La on 25th with Jenny Patrick, Vanda Symond, David Young and Joe Bennett.

Don’t miss out!! Contact Sue England on 540-2934 to order your tickets and then you can pick them up and pay for them at the library during opening hours.

The library committee wishes to thank the Mapua/ Ruby Bay and District Community Trust for its grant to the library for the replacement of children’s books. These favourites just wear out with use, not misuse, and would be sadly missed without the grant to replace them.

There seems to be misunderstanding about our magazine section. Here is how it works; Magazines with the BLUE stickers, in the boxes, are issued just like the books. Magazines with the WHITE stickers, on the shelves, patrons may borrow. They are entered in the computer, but we do want them back for others to borrow.

Then when the shelves get too full or magazines are outdated magazines are put in the basket by the foyer. These magazines are giveaways for patrons to keep.

Eileen Dobbie

Hours: Open every afternoon

Monday:	2.00 – 4.30pm
Tuesday:	2.00 – 4.30pm
Wednesday:	2.00 - 6.30pm
Thursday:	10.00 - 12.30pm; 2–4.30pm
Friday:	2.00 – 4.30pm
Saturday	2.00 – 4.30pm

MAPUA Bowling Club

The Write Bias

Arrangements made during the past few months came to fruition on Tuesday 31 January when Mapua hosted a group of touring bowlers from the Canterbury region. This was a highly successful day with a guided tour around the district, lunch, tea ... and a spot of bowling! Three clubs from the Ashburton area joined forces for seven days to visit clubs in the Nelson district.

Ashburton is fortunate; none of their greens have been damaged by the recent earthquakes. Central Christchurch has been less lucky. Many bowling greens are now unplayable and Mapua was pleased to support a national initiative, “Caps for Canterbury”, to raise funds for bowls restoration.

The ladies at Mapua have completed all their club championship matches and the men are not far behind. We can now look forward to the presentation of the ‘silverware’ and annual polish! Some of our winners will now go forward to the Nelson District ‘Champion of Champions’ events and we wish them all every success.

For any information about bowling please contact the secretary, Jean Daubney (543-2765) or the president, Dave England (540-2934).

Sue England

Open Day at Prize-winning Planting Project

An open day to show progress at Mapua Wetland and Tâne's Ark is being planned for Saturday 31 March.

Visitors will be welcome at both native forest restoration sites from 1pm to 3.30pm, and there will be explanatory displays, and an opportunity to walk round both sites, or to take a guided tour.

Mapua Wetland is now in its seventh year since restoration planting of native trees, shrubs and grasses was started and growth rates there have been surprisingly good.

Access around the wetland has been improved with the construction of a new bridge, and substantial improvement of an existing one. Better pathways and a new entrance area are being developed.

The wetland, adjacent to Aranui Park, is on private land, has a Queen Elizabeth II protective covenant, and in 2009 was awarded a Plant Conservation Network award for best community project. In the same year, it was also co-winner of the Tasman-Nelson Enviro Award for best community project. It is administered by an incorporated society, the Friends of Mapua Wetland.

From November last year till February, Mapua Wetland featured in an exhibition of photos displayed at the Mapua Library.

The other native planting project, Tâne's Ark in Aranui Park, was in the news late last year when Mapua School won the Tasman Nelson Enviro Award for best school conservation project in the region. After the schoolchildren have been planting for more than two years, some trees have grown to a height of about two metres.

Tâne's Ark is a joint project involving Mapua School, the Friends of Mapua Wetland, and Tasman District



Friends of Mapua Wetland members Judy Mitchell, Janet Taylor and Henry Fisher take a pew on a clever new bridge designed and built by Henry. It will be in use on the Open Day on 31 March.

Council. It incorporates a cycle-walkway path, which it is hoped will link Aranui Park to Higgs Road. The route may also form part of the Great Taste Tasman regional cycle trail.

For the open day on 31 March, it is planned to show some of the results from a new project at the wetland, a survey of native species conducted by schoolchildren that shows more than 100 different species of animals, insects and fish that live in the wetland. The study is supported by the World Wildlife Fund.

If 31 March is wet, the Open Day will be held on Sunday afternoon, 1 April.

David Mitchell

Hills Community Church

April Fool's Day is a month away but let's talk foolishness anyway. Have you done anything foolish lately? I'm not, by nature, a 'morning person' and recently in a half-awake state I emptied an entire bag of coffee into the plunge pot instead of the coffee canister. Thank goodness I realised what I had done before adding the hot water—that would have been one strong cuppa!

We are raised to avoid looking foolish. Teachers devote their lives training foolishness *out* of children. It is not viewed as a positive character trait. But much can be said in favour of foolishness. One of the greatest teachers of all time, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was a fabulous teacher and a big promoter of foolishness.

Think about Jesus' most distinctive teachings from the Sermon on the Mount. They sound as foolish today as they did then. Only a fool would try to live them out!

- If someone strikes you, turn the other cheek.
- If someone forces you to go a mile with them, go two.
- If someone compels you to give up your shirt, offer your jacket as well.
- Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you and bless them.

But, wait, there's more!

- Give your life away for God's sake, then you will gain it.
- The greatest among you is the servant of all.
- Find the greatest freedom in obedience.
- Discover that Christ is to be found in the poor, in "the least of these."
- Trust that your redemption comes from a man who died in a state execution.

What would happen if we let go of our sensibilities from time to time and did something a little risky and foolish like:

- Forgive someone who doesn't even ask for forgiveness.
- Be kind to someone who doesn't really deserve it.
- Stop being just nice and tolerant and start being deeply compassionate.
- Love our enemy, instead of fighting fire with fire.
- Resolve to let someone "begin again" in our affections, in spite of all the ways they have disappointed or betrayed us.
- Give to someone who cannot repay us.
- Pray for someone's healing or their deeper spiritual conversion to God and neighbour, against all the odds that we can see.

Back in 1968, Dr. Kent M. Keith wrote *The Paradoxical Commandments*:

- People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centred—love them anyway.
- If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives—do good anyway.
- If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies—succeed anyway.

- The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow—do good anyway.
- Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable—be honest and frank anyway.
- The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds—think big anyway.
- People favour underdogs but follow only top dogs—fight for a few underdogs anyway.
- What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight—build anyway.
- People really need help but may attack you if you do help them—help people anyway.
- Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth—give the world the best you have anyway.

I'm not sure, but Dr. Keith might have learned a little foolishness at the feet of the Master.

Foolishly yours, Marilyn Loken, Minister, Hills Community Church

Hills Community Church is a community-based church with historical roots in the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and Pentecostal traditions. We offer traditional and contemporary worship in an informal and relaxed style. Visitors and newcomers are most welcome.

Sunday Worship: Traditional service 9am, Contemporary service & Children's programme including crèche 10:30am; Holy Communion celebrated at both services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays with morning tea in-between. 1st Sunday of each month: one family-style service at 10:30am followed by a shared lunch.

Upcoming Event: "A Messy Church Easter" on Friday, 30th March 5-7pm. We welcome all families to an evening of fun and food.

Weekly Calendar:

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 and share a laugh! Open to all, crèche provided
Drop-off For Area Food Bank – Bring your non-perishable food items to the church (122 Aranui Rd) on Friday mornings between 9am and noon.

We offer numerous activities throughout the week. Contact 540-3848 for more information on our ministries.

Under The Bonnet with Fred

Don't overlook that red hatchback

Most of us see a two-door hatchback car as something you take the kids to school in. But the world has moved on from V8s—looking good and noise. Modern cars have efficient computer management that gives Andy's VXR a split personality. This smart little car has two drive modes so you can take the kids to school and on the way home you can hit the sports mode button and turn it into a little brat.

Andy set his mind on buying a Renault 56T Turbo and found one in Dunedin and asked his brother to take it for a test drive on his behalf. Unfortunately, or fortunately for Andy, the car blew up minutes into the test drive. A bit awkward as the owner was a local traffic cop! Later while visiting his brother he found his second choice, a 2008 Holden VXR manufactured in Germany as an Opel VXR, rebadged as a Holden in Australia or a Vauxhall VXR in the UK.

The car is based on the Holden Astra with sports trim and up-spec motor. The body shape is typical Astra but with a nice, long eyebrow side-windows which give the modern sports look for a fast car. The front has the all incorporated headlights with the addition of driving lights in the lower bumper. The back seems to be identical to the base Holden Astra but does have a nice bit of chrome across to contrast with the fire engine red paint. Wheels are the optional 19in alloys with Invo low-profile tyres. Very smart to look at. I do think Holden or Opel should have put on more badges or sports strips to tell us all this is not a standard Astra but a very fast Aussie sports coupe. Maybe the standard look about the car is the surprise experience you get when you drive it.

Recaro leather sports seats are a half-tone colour to exterior paint. The dash is a dark grey and silver but again Holden should have brought some of that nice fire engine red colour inside. Instrumentation is well placed with a cluster of speedo, rev counter, fuel and temperature gauges around the steering wheel. The centre of the steering wheel still has the Opel lighting badge and OPC on the speedo for Opel Performance Car. An on-board computer screen displays settings for radio, heater etc. Right of the steering wheel is a trip computer. I thought the bright silver knob on the gear lever was great with a good clear display of the six-speed gear positions. Best of all was the sports mode button—push and hold for five seconds and this car goes from an already incredible 244bhp to 290bhp.

Specs: Engine 2000cc in-line four-cylinder, double overhead cam, turbo-charged, with the chip



290bhp at 5600rpm (138kw). Gearbox is a close-ratio, six-speed manual. Standard VXR without Andy's chip: 0-60mph 6.2 seconds, top speed 244kmh. With the chip Andy says it will do 280kmh. Surprisingly the car weighs 1441kg, heavier than I expected but you need weight to keep it down or safe. Fuel use 9.3l/100km.

Comparison: 2008 Ford Mustang. 4000cc, 210bhp, weight 1579kg, 0-60mph 6.8sec, fuel use 11.2l/100km.

What's a chip? Courtenay Sports in the UK sent a computer chip which was plugged into the VXR computer that reads the car's computer settings. It was removed then plugged into a laptop which sent a file of the car to Courtenay Motor Sports. The file was reprogrammed to Level 1 Sports, sent back to the laptop, loaded on the chip then plugged back in the car's computer, giving an increase of 45bhp in sports mode. Time to do this yourself is half an hour and costs \$1300. Not even the cost of a bigger carburettor and exhaust system for the V8 boys.

Andy took me for a drive and pushed the sports mode button. After an initial blistering acceleration we remained glued to the tar seal on those tight corners with a nice rally car-howl from the exhaust. I could see the rev counter rising and falling as we moved through the first four gear changes. I guess the fifth and sixth are reserved for open road cruising. Andy was good with the car, always in the right gear at the right time.

Andy let me have a drive. A six-speed manual gear change was new to me and with the car being so quiet I did stall initially. Once I had it sorted the car lit up on the second gear change with over 5000rpm and in third I was already at the speed limit. In fourth gear I could have done my favourite 160kmh with two gears to go. New to the car, I found it exciting to drive with the thrill of "what happens next" if I give it more?

I have been in many fast cars with the looks but not the go. Andy, your VXR is the fastest car I have ever been in and my ears did really pop during that first acceleration. All Mapua petrol-heads should slow in respect as they pass that red Holden VXR hatch-back parked at the Tap. A nice motor.

Fred Cassin

Sam's Spam

Hi everyone. People often ask me what are my top tips for making computers run more efficiently.

I found a useful article (see link below) with more tips but I have summarised my favourite ones below:

<http://www.techradar.com/news/computing-components/10-new-year-s-resolutions-for-your-pc-1049888>

Update your Windows software

Go to the Windows Update utility in the Control Panel and click the 'Change settings' option on the left-hand side—just set important updates to "Install automatically" and you need not worry about it again.

Clear out the clutter!

Computers collect clutter over time, eg, old programmes and stuff you have downloaded and forgotten about. Clearing out the clutter will help your computer work more quickly and efficiently.

Open My Computer, right-click your hard drive (usually (C:) drive) and select 'Properties' from the drop-down list. Click the 'Disk cleanup' button and after a quick check of your system, you'll see how much space you can save by deleting temporary files, rubbish in the Recycle Bin and a variety of logs. Click 'OK' to clean it up!

Defrag your hard drive

This is not as painful as it sounds! Now that you've cleared out the clutter from your hard

drive, you can optimise the space that's left. Deleting files leaves spaces in the hard drive and when you defrag it gets rid of these gaps

To defrag your hard drive, right-click your hard drive(s), select 'Properties', click on the 'Tools' tab and then click the 'Defragment now' button.

Optimise Windows

Windows 7 boasts built-in tools to help you optimise it.

Open the Control Panel from the Start menu, select 'Find and fix problems' under the System and Security section, and then select 'Check for performance issues'. Follow the suggestions supplied by the wizard and any advice it offers.

Free software of the month: Avast!

Avast! Free Antivirus represents the fastest growing antivirus protection available on the market. This edition is free of charge for home use. Its features include:

- Anti-spyware built in
- Automatic updates
- Strong self-protection
- System integration
- Simple User Interface
- Integrated Virus Cleaner
- Network Shield

To download, visit www.avast.com/free-antivirus-download.

Mapua School

What Makes a Good Coach

A good coach evaluates strengths and weaknesses. A good coach develops the individual as well as their talents. A good coach sees opportunities for improvement as well as celebrates success.

You will find good coaches in the classroom, in the community, in the home, as well as on the field.

At Mapua School we are fortunate to have outstanding teaching professionals who work to bring out the best in their students. They are passionate about learning and developing the whole student. Our teachers use a variety of teaching techniques so that students understand concepts and retain the skills they have learned. They work to develop strategies to ensure that children with a variety of capabilities are challenged and find success in their studies. They work to build knowledge as well as self esteem.

In the wider Mapua community, we are fortunate to have individuals who are passionate about developing the talents and skills of our youth through dance, music, language and sport. Tuesday night at the Tap sees budding singers and musicians entertain with growing confidence and the knowledge that their coach believes in them. Throughout the week on the domain or tennis courts hours of instruction is provided by parents and volunteers dedicated to developing individual skills as well as sportsmanship. Groups compete with equal dashes of nerves and pride representing our school,



community and region as code representatives, dance troupes and speakers – all under the tutelage of good coaches.

Perhaps some of the most important coaching takes place at home with parents and family members. Completing homework, science projects, practicing spelling words – even trying to understand the new math concepts and strategies requires inspiration, persuasion and an investment of time. Sometimes even getting dressed and to school on time with a smile takes great coaching.

We are fortunate to have teachers, trainers and coaches helping to prepare our youth in their many endeavours. Growing up and learning new things can be challenging. But with good coaching our children are rewarded with the knowledge that others believe in them. They have confidence that they have partners in helping them to be the best that they can. That they are capable of learning new concepts and ideas and it is alright to fail as long as you try again and learn from your mistakes. Most importantly, that it feels great to accomplish, to win and to be successful.

*Like you, trying to be a good coach, Lisa Dunn,
Trustee*

New give-way rules this month

A major publicity campaign aimed at educating drivers about the new give-way rules will kick off this month.

The New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) is spending \$1.2 million on the nationwide advertising campaign which will include TV, radio, online and print advertising as well as a leaflet drop to 1.73 million homes.

The ads will focus on highlighting the date of the change—Sunday, March 25—and will provide a simple overview of the new rules.

NZTA chief executive Geoff Dangerfield said the campaign would kick off on 15 March, 10 days before the go-live date, and would continue through until April 1. It had been carefully timed to ensure maximum awareness of the changes, while at the same time minimising the risk of drivers starting to apply the new rules too early.

“The new rules will help to reduce confusion and reduce crashes by making decision-making easier for drivers at intersections, but there are obvious safety risks if some people start following the new rules too early,” said Mr Dangerfield.

The website www.giveway.govt.nz will be updated with a range of new material, including videos illustrating the rule changes from a birds-eye view and from a driver’s view, an interactive quiz for people to test their knowledge of the rules, and PDF leaflets on the rule changes available in 13 languages and in larger print.

At the same time half a million leaflets detailing the rule changes will be distributed via councils, police, the NZTA and driver licensing agents.

Changing the give-way rules is one of the first actions being implemented as part of the government’s Safer Journeys road safety strategy.

Who gives way?

The new rules come into effect at 5am on 25 March.

All traffic turning right will have to give way to vehicles coming from the opposite direction and turning left. This rule will apply at crossroads, T-intersections and driveways where both vehicles are facing each other with no signs or signals, or the same signs or signals.

At an uncontrolled T-intersection, all traffic from a terminating road (bottom of the T) will have to give way to all traffic on a continuing road (top of the T).

Garden Notes



Autumn. The tranquil months, calm days, cool nights leading to those lovely colours on the trees later on. Traditionally this is the time for harvest—plums, peaches and nectarines, all picked, bottled and cleared away.

I notice a change in my small miniature cyclamen, hederifolium, which is just starting to make growth for flowering in the winter and spring.

March is the month for planting bulbs of all kinds, so any you want shifted, now is the time. New season's bulbs are in stores now right through to April and there are new varieties to tempt you. Don't add any fertiliser at this time, wait until they appear about 2cm above the ground in spring and dust with blood and bone or a balanced fertiliser which will enhance the colour and size of flower.

The worst disease about at this time is mildew, attacking roses, hydrangeas, sweet peas, cucumbers and pumpkins to name a few. Most gardeners have their pet remedy for this but I find regular watering works for me.

Caterpillar infestation is the one to watch for, and should you be troubled by this then spray with Nature's Way Derris dust which is reasonably safe to use.

March is the month to take cuttings which will strike quite readily now. Some growers advocate dividing perennials at this time but I find spring is better as the ground is damp and away they go.

As the pip-fruit trees shed their fruit crop and leaves start to drop a spray with a copper base in autumn and winter will limit the extent of damage the following summer. I sprayed for leaf curl which worked but forgot spraying for brown rot, and needless to say my nectarines suffered rather badly.

Potato and kumera tubers can be lifted and stored in a dry, cool airy place.

Just a little extra—March is the month when one can wrench a tree/shrub, which means taking a spade and digging right round the shrub then giving it a heave up, settling it back in the hole and water then leaving until you are ready to shift to its new home. This operation gives the plant a better chance of survival as it will have made more roots. Happy gardening

Barry Highsted

Fire Brigade

January 12 – February 12 call-outs

Jan 2: Medical assistance at Kina, stood down.

Jan 25: Permitted burn in paddock in Ruby Bay, no action.

Jan 26: Tanker to fire off Moutere Hill

Jan 29: Alarm at Moutere Hills Community Centre. Stood down.

Feb 5: Car v pole SH60 near Bronte Rd. Assist police.

Feb 11: Bonfire at Pine Hill reserve on beach. No permit, burning after dark. Put fire out.

Seven calls year to date.

Safety Tip: keep BBQs away from buildings and other flammable objects

We believe we are so lucky at Bounce! Every day at our Early Learning Centre, we have wonderful adventures, learn about the world and our rich natural environment, and we often find out that the unexpected and our spontaneous discoveries can make some of the best learning moments ever!

A couple of monarch butterflies have given us fantastic opportunities to observe at close hand, the fascinating changes from tiny white eggs to the yellow and black caterpillars, which managed to demolish about eight swan plants before they transformed themselves.

Lately the beautiful, pale green chrysalises, speckled with gold, have been watched closely by our children, who've been waiting for signs that butterflies are ready to hatch.

Then, one Monday afternoon, a wonderful surprise! Two more swan plants arrived at Bounce, complete with their own chrysalises, two of these almost ready to hatch. Along with this thoughtful and timely gift was a beautiful book on the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. Our grateful thanks to a very kind grandmother; you really helped our children's learning come alive. The first of the butterflies took flight on that warm, sunny afternoon!

Another successful summer harvest means we have been eating fresh strawberries, carrots, apple cucumbers, zucchini and soon the sweet corn straight from our garden. Yum!



We have also been lucky enough to have Alyson, a very knowledgeable landscaper, helping us transform some outdoor areas at Bounce. Beautiful gardens now surround the outdoor play equipment and soon we will be focusing on the Centre's front entry. We're pretty excited that a neighbouring craftsman is helping us with a unique signage design to help make Bounce more eye-catching from the road. Watch that space!

We really value the support and positive feedback that we receive and do appreciate all the opportunities that our unique community has to offer.

Best wishes for a good year from the Bounce team.

Mapua Health Centre

We are 22 years old! And it's our birthday this month. That is the Mapua and Districts Health Centre came into being in the middle of March 1990 after an amazing effort by the local community in collaboration with the Nelson Area Health Board, who had just bought the site of the old post office. It has gone through various metamorphoses and changes over the intervening years, with the latest being the addition of two further rooms at the back of the building to allow for the hyperbaric oxygen unit and extra staff. Many thanks to all the volunteer help that we have had over recent years and to the health committee who generously give their time and energy to looking after the building and equipment.

The committee that oversees the building is actively looking at how we can plan for the future and cope with the increasing population and changes in health provision (with some services likely to be devolved from the hospital to primary care). Ideally we would like to build a new purpose-designed centre that also incorporated other services such as physiotherapy, pharmacy, dentist and other health professionals. If you have any ideas for achieving this or wish to help the committee please contact the chairperson, Chris Short, chrissshort@xtra.co.nz.

Each year we have several final-year medical students sit in with the doctors and nurses to get some

experience of general practice. We recently had Rebecca with us and in March/April we will have Kirsty. Feedback from previous students is that they really enjoy their time at the Health Centre and greatly appreciate the opportunity and experience of working with patients in the GP setting. Thank you for helping us support these young trainee doctors.

This year's flu vaccines will soon be available and we will be contacting those who are on our computer recall system when they arrive. However, if you would like to receive a vaccination against the flu and have not had one previously from our centre please call the practice nurse, as we need to order sufficient supplies in advance.

Just a reminder that we normally require 24 hours notice for preparing prescriptions and if you have internet access you can re-order routine prescriptions by emailing prescription@mapuahealth.com (you will need to give your details re name and exact medication required). Unfortunately, due to the high demand for same-day prescriptions we will now be charging an additional fee for urgent, same-day scripts. The charges are \$10 for routine prescriptions for next day pick-up, an additional \$10 if not paid within five working days, and \$20 for a same-day prescription.

Some of the events for the month:

- 1-31 Child Cancer Appeal month
- 1-31 Epilepsy Appeal month www.epilepsy.org.nz
- 1 World Book Day
- 4 National Children's Day
- 5-12 Plunkett Awareness week www.plunket.org.nz
- 5-12 WellChild /Tamariki Ora week
- 8 International Women's Day
- 8 World Kidney Day
- 8-14 National Just Water Week www.kidneys.co.nz
- 12-19 Red Cross Appeal week www.redcross.org.nz
- 12-19 Brain Awareness Week

[index.php](#)

- 14 Walk to Work Day
- 17-24 Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Week
- 24 World Tuberculosis Day www.stoptb.org
- 30 Red Puppy Awareness (guide dog)

www.childcancer.org.nz

www.worldbookday.com
www.childrensday.org.nz

www.wellchild.org.nz
www.internationalwomensday.com
www.worldkidneyday.org

www.neurological.org.nz/brainweek/

www.livingstreets.org.nz
www.mda.org.nz

www.mzfb.org.nz

Help Tâne's Ark and the cycleway to 'March On'

Residents interested in assisting Mapua School children's vision of a native forest reserve and pathway link to Higgs Road are being asked to help the project to "March On".

On three Sunday afternoons in March, supportive friends are being invited to help out for an hour or two at the Tâne's Ark project in Aranui Park. Any support will be very welcome.

After one of the wettest summers in Nelson in many years, the 2000 trees and shrubs planted by the children over the past years have grown amazingly – but so have the weeds.

A school 'Tâne's Team' of 15 pupils has already been deployed to start knocking back the weeds. But it's a big job. They also have other commitments and want to get started on a new project to enhance and improve the school car park area.

As a result, Friends of Mapua Wetland is calling on residents who want to see the reserve developed and particularly on those who want to see progress on the planned cycle-walkway path linking Aranui Park to Higgs Road to give a helping hand.

Both weeding and some infill planting are planned for three Sunday afternoons in March, March 11, March 18 and March 25. Please mark the dates on your calendar. All that is needed is garden gloves and a grubber or spade. If you can spend an hour or two on any one of those three days, it would be greatly appreciated.

Light refreshments will be available. If it is wet on any of the Sundays, the work would be postponed.

The aim is to have the reserve at its best for Saturday March 31, when an open day is being held for the neighbouring Mapua Wetland as well as for Tâne's Ark.

Children from the school's Tâne's Team will be on hand then to guide visitors and show them what has been achieved. They will also explain what their project will mean for the cycle-walkway route, and for progressing the regional Great Taste Tasman Cycle Trail through Mapua.

Tâne's Ark was designed to encourage children's skills and leadership in environmental projects and it has succeeded beyond expectations. Mapua School children, working with the Friends of Mapua Wetland and Tasman District Council, transformed 1ha of weedy wetland into a developing reserve and attractive gateway into Mapua village. In November last year, Mapua School was awarded the Tasman Nelson Enviro Award for best school project in the region, with prize money of \$1000.

The vision of the pathway that would link Higgs Road to the school was further advanced when the two adjacent landowners generously agreed to support the project by allowing the pathway to go through their properties. Last year, the Nelson Cycle Trails Trust endorsed the plan and said it would incorporate the route in the regional Tasman Great Taste Trail.

The trust recently set a target date of October this year to have the trail in place from the Mapua Wharf to Higgs Road and beyond to the Chaytor Road underpass near the Moutere Hills ridgeline.

A Mapua "March On" working bee will hopefully show community support both for the children's initiative, and for the innovative and exciting regional cycle trail that is already bringing great benefits to Mapua.

David Mitchell



Kia ora koutou, It is great to be back at Harakeke and seeing all the children and their families again, all sharing tales of their adventures during the summer holidays! We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new families who have joined us this year.

With all these wonderfully hot summer days we have been making the most of our environment at Harakeke to keep ourselves cool; exploring our shady forest and playing in the paddling pool have been a couple of favourite activities. It has also been fun learning about what we can make with blackcurrants with the children helping to make blackcurrant juice and jam and enjoying these taste sensations!

Speaking of blackcurrants we were all looking forward to the Sarau Festival and decided to have a go at making some purple hats for the purple hat competition. This was a fund-raiser for the Kenbe La Foundation that is focusing its efforts this year on the children of Nepal. We shared with the children how different life is for Nepalese children and how we could help them in a small way by participating in the purple hat competition. Reading of some children's

experiences in Nepal was a real eye-opener and I encourage anyone who is interested to take the time to read some of these on www.purplecakeday.org

We were inspired to make papier-mâché balloons and had a fantastic time decorating them in all kinds of purple paraphernalia (our thanks to Mariri Recycling and Motueka Floral Art Studio). To our surprise we won the junior section of the purple hat competition and will be part of a Purple Cake Day display later this month at the Nelson Library.

The children have been also discovering various insects and tree seedlings around Harakeke which has created interest in our environment with several child-initiated projects in the planning stages – we will see where those lead us and might have more to report on next time. Next issue we will also hope to be able to introduce you to our newest flock of ducklings, at present kept warm and cared for by our children with the help of an incubator. We successfully raised ducks in the past as some of you might remember and are looking forward to another fun learning time.

Ka kite. your Harakeke team

Two years' hard work pays off

An intense drive to take her artistic talent to a new level led Ruby Bay painter Lisa Chandler to enrol in a two-year Masters of Fine Arts through the Whitecliffe College of Arts and Design in Auckland. Already an accomplished landscape artist, Lisa felt that she needed a challenge. She started that journey in 2010.

The first six months were hard and Lisa wondered if the task of completing the Masters was going to be possible. Not only did the course require the expense and effort of travelling to Auckland every two months for week-long seminars, but each time a new series of paintings had to be presented and backed by research and essays on the theory that supported the work.

"The first year pulled my work apart and made me question everything," said Lisa, "But in the second year I put it all back together, in a new and exciting form!"

Art of course comes with conflict, and at one stage Lisa's supervisor threatened to remove all the tubes of blue paint from her studio. A compromise was gradually worked through over the following months. Lisa's new palette still contains blue, but as a highlight rather than a dominant colour.

The Masters also had its humorous moments. Lisa's works can be very large, 2 metres by 1.5 metres; so she managed to startle more than a few early morning joggers as she lugged these paintings down Auckland streets from the main campus to the college's gallery.

Lisa's new work is based on the concept of the non-place—spaces such as streets, airports and bus



terminals that people pass through. In the second year the links between Lisa's studio practice and the concepts behind her work came together. Much to Lisa's satisfaction the many hours of experimentation with paint in year one evolved into resolved paintings in year two.

Lisa's graduate exhibition, 'Negotiating the Non-Place', was held in Auckland in January and she is delighted to be bringing the paintings to Reflections Gallery. The exhibition will include the large paintings, which have themselves transitioned through Auckland streets. Her intriguing contemporary art works, the result of two years of ups and downs, challenges and triumphs, will be on show at Reflections Gallery at the Wow Museum from 21 March to 22 April 2012.

Entry to Reflections Art Gallery is free and works range in price from \$1500 to \$6500. If you would like to come and meet Lisa at the opening event on 20 March she can be contacted through her website regarding an invitation, www.lisachandler.co.nz

Mapua B&B becomes bike trail partner

Congratulations to Rose Griffin of The Gentle Cycling Company, Lis Pedersen of Cats Pjamas B&B Mapua and Pete Pattullo of UBIKE - Nelson, for being the first three businesses to sign up with Nelson Tasman Cycle Trails Trust (NTCTT) as Official Partners.

The NTCTT Official Partner membership provides a path for Nelson Tasman cycle-friendly businesses to work together to build the profile of Tasman's Great Taste Trail and the Dun Mountain Trail as part of the Nga Haerenga, The New Zealand Cycle Trail, increase turnover for businesses associated with the network and provide benefits and jobs to our communities. One hundred percent of the membership fees are used by the Trust for growth and development of local trails, associated maps and marketing activity.

Lis says "Cats Pjamas B&B is ideally suited for people on cycling holidays because of our existing set-up and love of cycling. So it was with great joy that we learned of Tasman's Great Taste Trail concept. We're excited at the potential for this wonderful asset in our region. It's going to showcase our spectacular nature, villages, artists and cafe's in a "slow food" kind of way—to a whole new audience. It's a privilege to be involved from the beginning and we're looking forward

to working with like-minded people to provide an exceptional experience for our cycling visitors, to the extent that Cats Pjamas offers bike owners user access to its fully equipped 'on site' bike repair facility. "

As the Trust continues to develop its marketing and promotional collateral, member businesses will be showcased and promoted. The Trust has had keen interest from cycle businesses, the food and beverage industry and a number of local tourism ventures. NTCTT executive Fiona Newey says, "We need the involvement of a diverse range of services including accommodation, transport, bike hire, cycle repair, food, beverages, and activities for when visitors to our cycle trails are not cycling."

Additional marketing and sponsorship opportunities are available for those businesses seeking a higher level of involvement with our two local Great Rides. For further information please email exec@heartofbiking.org.nz

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.



Hello, my name is Finbar, I am nearly 20 and this year is my first year out of school.

I am looking for work in the Moutere area.

I have experience as a kitchen hand, a cleaner, in the workshop, gardening, car grooming. I am strong, fit and enthusiastic.

I really like working as a team and learning new skills. I attend NMIT on Mondays and Tuesdays but I am available any other time.

My CV and references are available on request.

Can you help?

Please ph or email 03 5432119 or gundula@harakeke.org.nz

Noticeboard

Artists work shop space to let/share in established workshop/gallery. \$50/week plus share of power. Ph Peter - 5442847 or 027 5259327

Garage Sale – 4A Moreland Pl., Mapua, Saturday, 10 March, 10am start. Moving, everything must go, furniture, household goods, tools, garden pots with plants etc.

Water Tank wanted, black plastic, 2-3000 litre with inspection hatch/cover. Please phone 03 548 2424

Karpaintz Ltd. Panel & Paint: From 23 February until 29 March Karpaintz will be closed. We are going back to England as Graham's grandfather will be 100 on 29 February and there is a family celebration. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Zoom Salon summer hours: Mon through Sat, late nights Tue & Thur. www.zoomhair.co.nz 540 2333

Ruby Coast Newcomers Coffee Group: come and meet new people and make new friends. 10am last Friday of every month, Jester House Café, Tasman. Info: Fiona, 526 6840, fiona.oliver@xtra.co.nz or just turn up. Everyone is very welcome.

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.

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

Mapua Hills Rose Society (est 1949) meets 1st Mondays (except J months) 7.45pm, Supper Room, Mapua Hall. Rose lovers, growers, visitors and guests very welcome. Enquiries: Letty Thawley, 540 2876, Margaret Sinclair 03 528 8477.

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.

RSA Meetings: RSA room, Mapua Library, 2pm, second Mondays, refreshments served at the close.

Kidz 'n' Koffee playgroup: 10am – noon, Wednesdays during school term at Old Church Hall, Aranui Rd. All parents and caregivers welcome, we cater for 0-6 yrs. Gold coin donation for a delicious morning tea. Come and make some new friends. Info: Anja, 544 8733

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

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

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, 544 0737. – sambennett@live.jp

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

Toy Library: extensive selection of toys, puzzles & videos for children 0-5yrs. Behind Mapua Hall every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 10-11.30am & 6.30-7.30pm. Phone Anja, 544 8733, about membership or casual hire.

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

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