

Causeway Victory Claimed

The community successfully pushed back on the Tasman District Council proposal to sell the Mapua causeway last month. After a spirited series of speakers attacked the council's proposal at the February Community Association meeting, the association decided to take a head-on approach and attend the public forum of the TDC Corporate Services Committee. The outcome was a reversal of the council's agenda to move quickly to deliver a result, (and a result probably meant a sale of the causeway into private hands).

This was one of the biggest challenges for the Mapua and District Community Association for many years. Yet the council reported only moderate significance here. In contrast, the association straw poll found that those at the February meeting were unanimous in their opposition. This was well reflected anecdotally in the village. Support came in from around the country, then from around the world. A Facebook page drawing attention to the proposal had a thousand hits in four days.

At the association meeting members questioned the proposed sale. Why would the council want to act against the wishes of its community? Why sell the causeway? The council's report, on which the proposal was based was called half-baked, ill-considered, flawed and of no merit.

Local iwi hadn't been notified and yet the site of the causeway is foreshore and seabed. It's in the Waimea Estuary, with its overlay of iwi guardianship and its conservation status.

The TDC hadn't consulted legal advisors about the proposal to sell the causeway. This proposal is a complex one and needs a proper review by TDC's

legal experts. The complex of laws surrounding estuary and foreshore responsibilities under marine and coastal legislation hadn't been addressed.

The causeway was formed as an access to the coast, has been used as one for 50 years and it appears that it is recognized as a road in New Zealand common law by implied dedication. Closing and selling public roads is the subject of many protracted actions in New Zealand courts where council processes are often deficient. Then ratepayers foot the bill.

The council's own Long Term Plan—and how the proposal might comply with it—was not addressed. The causeway is a strategic asset. A coastal emergency event, such as boating, fishing, recreational, weather, earthquake, fire or tsunami would require unrestricted vehicular access. It's all in the TDC's Long Term Plan. But this is the last public access left before Ruby Bay. A sale would appear to contravene the future-proofing plans of our council. It is a major part of the flood protection strategy for low-lying Mapua. With sea level rise this causeway is an important 'line in the sand' for our village.

The considerable legal weaknesses of any public access agreements across private land have been well documented.

By the time the Community Association representatives arrived at the TDC meeting room the proposal was no longer viable. Our councillors had decided to back out graciously, and good on them! David Mitchell deserves much credit for clearly identifying the scale of the issue; others played significant roles in unpicking the background threads, the legal issues and rallying the local community.

Although the association applauded the decision to halt the consultation process, many of the team who took on this challenge feel let down by the council. Many voluntary hours have been spent fighting the proposal and council staff too has put in the hours. All for what? The relationship with the TDC is important to this association; it needs to be looked after from both sides. The council should recognize the value of listening to local voices before delivering decisions that may affect us.

Graeme Stradling, MDCA secretary

Website & Facebook

The MDCA is pleased to announce the launch of its new website and Facebook page. The goal of both is to make immediate community news and developments accessible to all online and allow for feedback and interaction. Now you can contribute your thoughts, photos and videos of what's happening in Mapua and local communities. Log on at: www.facebook.com/MapuaCommunityAssociation and www.ourmapua.org

Causeway Decision Delights MDCA

The Mapua and Districts Community Association (MDCA) was informed of and is delighted with the Tasman District Council's decision to seek further legal advice and information relating to any proposal to sell the Mapua Causeway before proceeding any further and going into a consultation process.

The association particularly notes and appreciates the advocacy on this issue by our Ward Councillors—Tim King, Trevor Norris and Brian Ensor.

At MDCA's February meeting, unanimous opposition to the Mapua Causeway sale was expressed. MDCA representatives were mandated to present this opposition in the public forum session of the 11 February TDC Corporate Services Committee.

The association deeply appreciates its councillors' recognition of the complex and significant issues including:

The privatisation of public land

The lack of participation by iwi in developing and advancing the proposal to sell

Limiting public access to the estuary with no enforceable safeguards

The significance of the causeway as a dyke in a Marine Coastal Environment in the face of rising seas

Strong public opposition

MDCA expects that this delay and further legal diligence will result in the whole proposal to sell the Mapua Causeway being pulled and anticipates being updated on this process by our ward councillors.

Elena Meredith

Coastal Garden Group

Our guest speaker at the February meeting of the Coastal Garden Group was Sheila Budgen of the Spirit of Adventure Trust, who spoke on what the Trust does for young people.

Sheila spoke about her volunteer involvement with the Trust over a number of years, the ships involved being the original *Spirit of Adventure* and the current *Spirit of New Zealand*, the character development opportunities through the 10-day sail training given to the youth of New Zealand aged between 15 and 18 years, and her experiences training these people. The ship is also occasionally used for other age groups.

The *Spirit of New Zealand* carries 40 trainees plus crew and volunteer helpers. During the voyages the youngsters have an opportunity to learn, and develop from each other, qualities of independence, understanding and community spirit through the medium of the sea. Although the trainees are learning how to sail the ship, the focus is on development of personal skills such as team work, co-operation and communication.

Opportunities are also given to children with disabilities to undertake a five-day sailing.

To take part in these voyages, the young people need to raise over \$1800 – the actual cost is greater and the Trust subsidises the balance through donations and various fund-raising activities. The participants, through raising their portion of the cost themselves, gain better satisfaction out of the training than if they were just placed on a ship without any prior effort.

Nominations for participation come from schools, Social Welfare and the police.

Sheila also advised us of The Spirit of Tasman Bay Trust which she helped set up and which aims to help local young people with their fund-raising efforts, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Those eligible for sponsorship will be young people aged 15 to 18 years, living in the area covered by the Nelson and Bays Telephone Directory.

Judy Sisam

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Ecologists Bring Green Vision to Mapua

Two ecologists who have had a big influence on native forest planting in the Mapua area were among about 100 National Wetland Conference delegates who visited last month.

One was John Preece, a former Department of Conservation officer who now works as a national wetland consultant; the other was the nationally-known “Bug Man,” scientist-turned-educator Ruud Kleinpaste.

For John, it was his first visit back to the Mapua Wetland site since 2004, when he wrote a report to the Tasman District Council recommending the establishment of a 1ha wetland native forest planting on a bare paddock in the Beere property, just south of Aranui Park.

His report was accepted by the council, which, with the Department of Conservation, supported the project that is now planted with 8000 native trees, including more than 200 kahikatea trees. After the visit, John said he was amazed at the rate of growth of the trees planted in the 12 years since he handed in his report.

John was also an important influence in Mapua’s biggest planting project, the “Gateway” planting project in Dominion Flats, backed by the Mapua and District Community Association and ably led by Neville and Helen Bibby.

Back in the 1990s, John wrote a report for DoC which expressed strong reservations about the planned route of the by-pass road, now known as Te Mamaku Drive. He warned that the road would go straight through an ecologically important wetland area and urged that NZ Transport Authority should “consider all possible alternatives to crossing this area.” In his report, John said an area of pasture at Higgs Reserve would originally have been forest “and we (DoC) still have the opportunity to recreate this. Most of Waimea Inlet was once surrounded by forest, but now there are only a few tiny isolated remnants. The Higgs area as a whole represents one of the very few opportunities to have a complete sequence of vegetation ranging from sacocornia (a perennial sea-grass) to manuka and to tall forest. It is certainly the only place where it would be possible for the public to see such a vegetation sequence from a main road.”

For almost a decade, John’s vision seemed to have been lost in the push by the TDC and Transit to complete the by-pass road. However, his vision was later picked up on by the Mapua and District Community

Association after the by-pass was built. The association successfully urged the TDC to purchase some of the surplus by-pass land and the community association, led by Helen and Neville, have led the community in planting more than 20,000 plants there.

Delegates to the conference visited the Dominion Flats site and saw the rapid progress that has been made on the community project. They also heard from Neville and Helen about the long-term objective to create a natural forested connection from the Waimea Estuary to the Chaytor wetland, about 800 metres inland. Also present was one of the hardest workers in the Dominion Flats project, Gillian Pollock.

John is now adviser for another wetland project in the district—a large planting project in Horton Road on properties owned by Doug Hattersley, Mike McMillan and Richard Clements and the delegates also visited this site.

Ruud Keimpaste played an important part in helping the Mapua School planting project in Aranui Park to get off the ground. In 2010, he visited the school, saw the site for the Tāne’s Ark project and encouraged the children and the school to become what he calls “a hope spot.”

At the time, Ruud was working with Air New Zealand, and a subsequent grant from the airline helped the pupils to establish a copse of the rare narrow-leaved maire trees that are now a valuable seed source for future plantings of the trees.

During his visit last month, Ruud met Alice Reade, one of the Mapua School pupils who guided him through Tāne’s Ark and Mapua Wetland in 2010. Alice has now completed her studies at Nelson College for Girls and this year is off to Victoria University to begin an architecture course. Alice said that in conversation during his visit, Ruud remembered an incident in 2010 where they found a golden hunter wasp dragging a dead spider back to its nest in the Mapua Wetland. However, while he remembered the particular insects, Alice wasn’t so sure he remembered her.

These days, Ruud says he is so busy that he can no longer visit individual schools and he concentrates on his role as an educator of teachers. Speaking to the conference, Ruud lamented that New Zealand had “successfully managed to raise a whole generation of kids, in almost complete disconnect from their natural environment.



John Preece

Continued on page 4

School Pupils Guide Wetland Visitors

On Wednesday, 13 February, a group of people from all around New Zealand came to Nelson to come and see the wetlands all around the Nelson and Tasman region. Twelve Year 8 students were offered the opportunity to represent the Mapua Wetland as tour guides. The first bus load was taken all around the wetlands and were shown how much the wetland has grown and developed. We told them about how the school has also been involved with Tane's Ark and the Mapua Wetlands.

The groups were very interested about these projects and asked lots of questions about the history.

Meanwhile, bus two went over to the church to have their lunch and a nice cup of tea made by some of the other Year 8s. Over all, it was a great success and everybody enjoyed the tour.

Amelia Mephan, Year 8, Mapua School.

The Year 8 students were a credit to the school and showed themselves to be polite, resourceful and very capable leaders, as the following emails we received confirm:

"The school team performed extremely well in hot and pretty difficult conditions. Luis and Amelia were excellent as the welcoming pair and later in making sure everything else went smoothly. The guides handled their tasks really well, taking their groups around a fairly complex and circuitous route through the wetland. However, the most impressive effort came from the students helping across at the



church function room, when delegates found that they could get a cup of tea or coffee if they asked for it..."

David Mitchell, Mapua Wetlands Committee member.

"I was part of the wetlands group which visited the Mapua Wetland yesterday. I would like to pass on comments made by a number of members of the group. They were universally impressed by the demeanour and professionalism of all of the students. It was a pleasure to be met, escorted, and hosted by your school. I was particularly impressed at the ability of the students to converse with the group on an individual level, they were lovely kids and it added considerably to the enjoyment of this part of our field trip. It was also impressive to see the degree of ownership of the project by the pupils, and their obvious pride. The wetlands people thought they were a very classy group, and were a credit to themselves and the school..."

John Preece, NZ Wetlands.

Ecologists Bring Green Vision... *Continued from page 3*

"This is already starting to show and will become a major factor in the future," he said.

"The value of our biodiversity and the understanding of ecosystems, carbon and water cycles as well as circular economic principles simply have to be embedded in our every-day thinking and language."

Mapua School was not included in his criticism of the lack of environment education at schools. Ruud confirmed the view expressed in 2010 that Mapua should become a "hope spot" for the country.

After his latest visit to, he told a group of 20 Mapua School children that he felt that Mapua was definitely a "hope spot."

David Mitchell



Ruud Kleinpaste and Alice Reade at Mapua Wetland, during the visit by National Wetland Restoration Symposium

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Letters to the Editor

Cats and lilies

I am writing this for all cat lovers and cat owners.

On 31 January I bought a lovely Japanese yellow lily plant from a stall at the Sarau festival. At first I put it in my courtyard area and then a few days later I decided to bring the plant nearer the house so I could see it from my kitchen.

Several days later my cat vomited and I put it down to getting rid of a fur ball. Later she started to refuse food and became very lethargic. This time I put her behaviour down to the hot weather. After three days I became concerned and took her to the vet on 13 February.

An examination showed my cat had enlarged kidneys and a very low temperature and I had to leave her to have a blood and urine test. My vet asked me to go home and await the test results. It wasn't long before I received some shocking news. My cat's cell levels were extremely abnormal and kidneys grossly enlarged. She was dying and very little chance of recovery. Euthanasia was the only option.

I now know that the lily family is poisonous to cats. This includes Easter, Tiger, Japanese, Rubrum and Day lilies. Japanese lilies are the most toxic and cats only have to lick the stem, petal, stamen or pollen to die within three to six days. Treatment must happen within 18 hours of exposure for any chance of success.

I had placed my lily plant near where my cat spent a lot of time.

It is my sad story and my beloved cat is now buried in my garden and I miss her. I do hope my story will prevent other pets being lost and if you are a cat lover please warn others of the danger of the lily plant to our feline friends.

Julie Booth, ph 543-2233.



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Boat Ramp Still on the Agenda

The issue of relocating a local Mapua trailer-boat ramp to replace the ramp at the wharf (which has become surrounded by commercial activity and deemed by the TDC to be a health and safety issue), remains high on our agenda. Our subcommittee remains convinced that the only practicable place is on the southern side of the waterfront park.

Our subcommittee has spoken with representatives of the Mapua and District Community Association and has support in general from their representatives. A point to remember for the future is that the green space taken up by a boat ramp on the waterfront would be compensated by Grossi Point Reserve again recapturing its green space.

There is still a long way to go but trailer-boat users can rest assured that we will keep this issue to the forefront and I would remind boaties that if you join the club you will receive up-to-date information as we move forward.

One of the points at our high-profile meeting in the local hall just before Christmas was that we no longer have a dinghy shelter at the wharf since the restaurant replaced it with BBQ tables and windows. The council has recognised this loss and the location and design of a new dinghy shelter is on their plans and being discussed with the boat club.

Don't forget our Thursday night 'Club Night', where we can have up to 30 to 40 members and guests. The bar opens at 5.30pm and closes at 7pm. The place is a buzz of catching up on fishing gossip and local news.

The Museum has four new photo boards up. One future photo board subject is labelled 'Fun' and will have a focus of local activity on the water around Mapua. I would love to be able to reproduce any early photos you may have of fun on the water up until the 1960s. Please ring me on 540-2850 if you think you may have photos of interest.

Fishing Competition

Your committee has decided on a suitable date for the local kids' fishing competition which coincides with a small tide in the afternoon.



a boy

It will start with registration at midday with the tide coming in. Lines in the water at 1pm. They will have two hours of fishing before the tide turns at 3.30pm. The tides are also small so less danger on the wharf and

easy fishing for the little ones. It will wrap up with prize-giving after 3.30pm.

A sausage sizzle and cups of tea will be running throughout the event.

PLEASE, we need someone in overall charge as well as volunteers for registration (at least three), advertising, BBQ, tea/coffee table, prizes etc.

Please contact Clare if you are interested.

Annette K Walker, president, Mapua Boat Club

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Mapua Health Centre

We are 26 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, which 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 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, Derek Craze (info@mapuahealth.com).

We would like to welcome Christina Noetzli (a 6th year Medical Student) to the practice. Christina will be with us until 24 March as part of her training. During her time with us Christina will sit in on consults (with the patient consent) as well as consulting patients under supervision of our doctors. This is a great opportunity for medical students to obtain a greater understanding of primary healthcare in the rural community.

This year's flu vaccines will hopefully be available by late March and when they arrive we will contact those who are on our computer recall system. However, if you would like to receive a vaccination against the flu and have not had one previously please call our receptionists at the end of March to arrange an appointment.

NMDHB and the Nelson Bays PHO would like to hear from the young people in our community aged

12-24 years to ascertain if there are gaps in the health services we provide and if so where. It is important for young people to have a choice about their health-care so we would appreciate any feedback you can offer. There are two ways to complete the survey and both are confidential.

1. Paper survey forms are in our waiting room together with a drop box

2. Online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/youthhealth16>

The closing date for the survey is 15 April 2016

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, plus \$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 | www.childcancer.org.nz |
| 1-31 | Epilepsy Appeal month | www.epilepsy.org.nz |
| 1-31 | Melanoma Awareness month | www.melanoma.org.nz |
| 1 | Zero Discrimination Day (UNAIDS) | www.unaids.org/en/resources/campaigns |
| 1-6 | Hearing week | www.nfd.org.nz |
| 3 | World Book Day | www.worldbookday.com |
| 6 | National Children's Day | www.childrensday.org.nz |
| 7-13 | Plunkett Awareness week | www.plunket.org.nz |
| 8 | International Women's Day | internationalwomensday.com |
| 9 | Walk to Work Day | www.livingstreets.org.nz |
| 14-20 | Brain Awareness Week | www.neurological.org.nz/brainweek/index.php |
| 19 | Neighbours Day Aotearoa | http://neighboursday.org.nz |
| 20 | World Oral Health Day | www.worldoralhealthday.com |
| 21 | Elimination of Racial Discrimination Day | www.un.org/en/events/racialdiscriminationday |
| 22 | World Water Day | www.un.org/en/events/waterday |
| 24 | World Tuberculosis Day | www.stoptb.org |



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Building a House: Does it Make Sense?

This month I was hoping to write about fluorescent waistcoats, hard hats, concrete, diggers and mounds of earth. I was hoping the building site would be positively abuzz with activity. I was wrong. Action this month has seen the sheep moved onto their next appointment and nothing else has happened. And, unfortunately, nothing else may happen for a few weeks yet.

Rumour has it the building consent is nearly through the hands of the Tasman District Council. It was filed before Christmas but it must have languished in a drawer or briefcase somewhere because after 30 working days we are still not quite there. A couple of questions have been asked and promptly answered, and we received the bill for it this week so there is good reason to believe it exists, or will exist soon. We have faith, and when reason fails I am very glad there is faith.

People often ask me about building and, as a real estate person, I try to tell them what I can to help inform them. The first thing I tell them is it isn't quick, plan on about a year from getting a contract on the land to getting into your own home. I used to say a year and secretly think nine months; now I say a year and really mean a year. By the time you add up getting title to the land (one month), getting a builder and have plans done (two months), getting the filing ready, filing and getting building consent from Council (two months), mobilising the building project and pouring concrete (one month) and then actually doing the walls, roof and all that stuff, well that's another four months at least. So then a couple of months for rain, summer holidays and lo! One year.

The second question is cost. Costs per square metre can be whatever you want, so long as you start somewhere above \$2000 per square metre. That's where you start; non-standard is extra, so are water tanks, wastewater systems, driveways, landscaping,

shed, vegie patch and many other things, such as fixing the things you missed in the plans a year ago.

The third question is economics: does it make financial sense? Unfortunately not so much: in return for getting exactly what you think you wanted a year earlier, you pay a premium compared to what you can buy second-hand, so to speak. It seems to have always been this way. In Australia, a wise person (and they are hard to find in Australia) told me it was the GST which is, essentially, a haircut on your money. It's the Government share of the transaction and adds no value to your new place. Existing properties, or non-commercial ones anyway, have already taken the haircut and you don't get done twice. Looking on the bright side, we don't have stamp duty, so that's good.

Economists would argue that the GST raises all house prices by the tax amount and the costs of a second-hand house would automatically rise by 15% if GST suddenly appeared ("shadow pricing" it's called). Alas economic theory tends to work better after the event and isn't much good at forecasting. After all, if economists were so smart they'd have made their money investing in their insights and wouldn't be economist still, would they?

So if it takes a year, costs an arm and a leg and you end up with a house worth less than the market price for something similar, why would anyone build? Because we want to create something that reflects us as unique entities; something that is just right for us, fit for our purpose. We each have the vision that we can do it just that little bit better than anyone else can, that our baby will truly be remarkable. For houses are like babies for the most part—everyone except the family think they all look like Winston Churchill. In summary, we build because we can. TDC willing, that is.

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Mapua Craft Group

It was a fun first Friday back for the Craft Group early in February. More chat than craft was achieved but we did manage to settle on a few projects for this term.

We started the term with a simply-card make by Julie Cox and for the past fortnight have been making lovely fabric hearts under the guidance of Rowena Lukomska.

Our ongoing group community project will be all about Twiddle Muffs for those suffering with Alzheimer's and Dementia; wretched conditions which touch most all of us somehow. Twiddle Muffs can be made by knitting or crochet or with fabric. Once made, they are embellished with all manner of bits and bobs to twiddle.

Anyone interested in joining our small group will find us in the Hills Community Church supper room of a Friday between 10am and midday.

We try all manner of simple craft work including

- Paper craft and card making
- Sewing projects
- Knitting and crochet
- Cooking
- Small upcycling ideas

Occasionally we have guest speakers, demonstrations and group outings. It's a social get together for some fun and a chat, trying our hands at some easy craft along the way.

For more information contact Julie Cox on 540-3602, or email juliecox@xtra.co.nz Or just come along.



Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
Glibido: All talk and no action.

SENIOR MOMENTS

Hills Community Church

Held on *second* and *last* Wednesdays of the month
At Hills Community Church - 122 Aranui Rd, Mapua

10 AM to 12:00



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Mapua Community Library

(Moutere Hills RSA Memorial Library)

Library Fund-raisers

Sprig and Fern quiz nights: Wednesday 16 March and Wednesday 23 March at 7.30pm

We would love your support of these fund-raisers. You may like to make up your own team with friends and neighbours and come along, or just turn up and join a group. Bookings are not taken so you may like to go early and have some food and drinks to secure your table.

Raffle Donations

If you missed the opportunity to donate to the Christmas raffle and would like to donate to the raffles we will be selling at the Sprig and Fern Fund-raisers. Please call Lynley on 540-2292 or leave your donation at the library.

Patron Records

We are aware that our library member cards have been in use for five years now, so will be updating our record of your membership. Please be prepared to answer a couple of questions next time you are in the library.

Bike Stands – Donations Welcome!

We would like erect bike stands at the front of the library for our visitors and also at the back of the library for our volunteers. If you have something suitable that you would be happy to donate we would be very grateful – and I am sure that our local cyclists would too! Please ring Lynley on 540-2292.

Display

Thanks to Janet Marshall for allowing us to display her lovely work through January-February. By time of publication we will be showing Heather Miller's embroidery. Do pop in and admire her talent.

Daylight Saving – A Reminder

Because daylight saving finishes on 3 April we will revert to our 'winter hours' of finishing the Wednesday session at 4.30pm. Consequently Wednesday 30 March will be the last 6.30pm closing until late September.

Last but not least, thank you so much to all who support the wonderful treasure that is our library. There are so many folk who contribute – especially behind the scenes. This effort all comes together to maintain and update a very special village resource. THANKS.

Lynley Worsley

Library Hours (closed Statutory Holidays)

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Monday | 2pm-4.30pm |
| Tuesday | 2pm-4.30pm |
| Wednesday | 2pm-4.30pm (6.30pm Daylight Saving) |
| Thursday | 10am-12.30pm; 2pm-4.30pm |
| Friday | 2pm-4.30pm |
| Saturday | 2pm-4.30pm |

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www.mapuacommunitylibrary.co.nz

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BOOK REVIEW

On Immunity—an Inoculation, by Eula Biss. *The Text Publishing Company 2014. Reviewed by Rachel Boon. Available in the Mapua Community Library.*

I was drawn to this book for a number of reasons – its dark and mysterious cover, the author's exotic name and the title – 'Immunity – An Inoculation'. A lovely play on words.

Eula Biss has taken the sometimes difficult and often-times controversial topic of vaccination and presented it in a delightful manner using her own experiences of fearfulness as a new mother, her ability to research and keep asking questions of those around her, interwoven with a depth of knowledge of history and ancient mythology. Drawing on wise comments from her father – an oncologist, and a childhood exposure to Greek mythology along with Grimm's fairy tales and the original Dracula story from 1897, she gives a novel approach to a subject that risks being dry or over emotional.

She also acknowledges that as parents we are entitled to make an individual decision regarding our child/children's health in respect to having them vaccinated or not, but in actuality we do not live in isolation but in community so if we decide to decline vaccination, we do so in the trust [and

privilege of living in a country that provides vaccines for its young] that our children will be protected by the vaccinated children that surround them.

But also, because we live in community, our unvaccinated children can be responsible for passing on potential harm to those too young to be protected by vaccination or not able to be for other reasons. Thus the predicament we have the luxury of pondering. Many third world countries don't have the choice – vaccination is not available for them so children die.

Biss gives a fascinating history of vaccines going back to the 18th century with smallpox but also a very readable explanation of the immune process for a child from the moment he/she is born. An area often not understood well by most of us but also often rife with myth and misconception.

This book is definitely a bonus for all new parents fearful of everything that may harm their precious newborn but also wanting to do the best for their child in today's world. Also for grandparents, aunts, uncles, health professionals and anyone else interested in understanding more about vaccines, immunity and how it can impact on the individual, community and the world.



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Mapua Probus Club

The club's first meeting for the year for the Probus Club of Mapua and District was its annual picnic held at Rabbit Island on 5 February. There was a good turnout of members and friends, having the sole use of the central domain on the island. Unfortunately the weather was not ideal, with overcast conditions.

The club's monthly lunch date was held on 18 February at the Alpine Lodge at St Arnaud. Members enjoyed their meal and the rural view from the lodge. Unfortunately again the weather didn't give the opportunity for many members to have a short walk around Lake Rotoiti.

On the return back to Mapua several members had to drive through partially flooded roads around the Brightwater and Hope areas.

David Higgs



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- Visit our creative supporters - lots of great cafés and restaurants on the way round and all on the map.
- Hire a bike from Wheelie Fantastic at The Wharf to do the tour.

RCA

**Silent Auction
online and at the**

**Opening Night
Event - 4 March**

**Open Studios
5 - 6 March**

Mapua Bowling Club

THE WRITE BIAS

The fine weather has provided plenty of sunshine for the roll-ups at the club. Sunscreen, hats, sunglasses and a bottle of water were necessary accessories while on the green during the past month.

Two special events were held recently at the Club. First up was the annual Rose Bowl competition in which teams from Ngatimoti competed against the Mapua teams for the Rose Bowl trophy. This year the tournament was played at Mapua. As always the event was keenly contested, but with the usual friendly rivalry that exists between the two clubs. Mapua has held the cup for the past few years but this year Ngatimoti was the victor. A special afternoon tea and prize-giving followed play. Chrissy Infield, President of the Ngatimoti club accepted the Rose Bowl Trophy for Ngatimoti.

The second special event was a tournament held in memory of Elston Blain, a former member and president of our club, well-known musician in the Nelson region and a former teacher in the area. He is also fondly remembered from his days as publican behind the bar at Hotel Motueka. The tournament is an annual drawn 2-4-2 event which is well supported by the club members. This year's winners were George Perry (Upper Moutere) and David Davison (Ruby Bay). They received bottles of wine which were kindly donated by the Blain family and they will have their names engraved on a very splendid cup.

Club championship matches continue to be played with some finals results recorded for the year.

On the regional bowling scene, congratulations go to Mapua Bowling Club member, Sue England, for

being selected to represent Nelson clubs in an inter-regional tournament in Blenheim, and well done for helping her team win both of their matches by good margins. Mapua is very proud to think that a club member was invited to play with a World Champion, Jo Edwards. Brilliant.

League Bowling continues on Monday evenings, beginning at 6 p.m. It is great to relax and play some bowls in the cool of the evening. These sessions are open to new and experienced bowlers with both friendly and competitive play. There is no need to pre-book; just turn up on a Monday evening and give it a go. Flat-soled shoes are essential to protect the green, but there are plenty of sets of bowls to borrow at the club and the bar offers welcome refreshments. Why not give it a try?

For information about bowling, coaching or booking the clubhouse and facilities please call the president, Michael Busby, on 544- 6325.

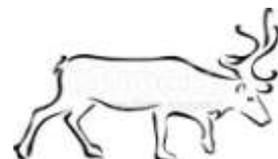
Barbara Brown



Top Photo: Dave England (Mapua) hands over the Rose Bowl to Chrissy Infield (Ngatimoti).

Bottom Photo: George Perry (Upper Moutere) and David Davison (Ruby Bay) win the Elston Blain Trophy.

Bob from America was arguing with Rudolf from Soviet Russia. They argued about politics, about religion, about their presidents - even about the weather. One night Rudolf said it was raining outside, but Bob would not agree. He said it was sleeting. So they argued all night: Rain! Sleet! Rain! Sleet! The argument continued until Bob's wife pulled him aside and said: "Dear, you're wrong. It is raining. And this time the Russian is right, because ... Rudolf the Red knows rain, dear."



Mapua Natural Health Clinic

Eating for Health

Selenium

Selenium is a trace mineral found naturally in the soil and in certain foods. Because New Zealand soil has low levels of Selenium, food grown here reflects that and our dietary intake of Selenium is lower than in many other countries.

Selenium has been known to improve immunity, reduce inflammation and act as antioxidant reducing free radical damage.

Natural food sources that are high in selenium include Brazil nuts, eggs, liver, tuna, cod, and sunflower seeds, in addition to poultry and certain types of meat.

Selenium can be brought in a liquid form or in capsules. Discuss your selenium needs with your natural health specialist and take as directed.

In the Kitchen

Quinoa Tabouli

- 2 cups cooked quinoa
- 1 ripe tomato diced
- ¼ red onion finely diced
- ¼ cucumber peeled and diced
- ½ red pepper diced
- 1 cup (packed) finely chopped flat leaf parsley
- ⅛ cup finely chopped mint
- ½ lg lemon, juiced
- ¼ cup olive oil
- Sea salt to taste

1. Pile the quinoa in a bowl and allow to cool almost to room temperature.
2. Add all the chopped veges and herbs and toss to mix.
3. Mix the lemon juice and olive oil in a cup then sprinkle the mixture over the salad.
4. Toss. Add salt to taste.

A great addition to any meal. Quinoa is high in protein.

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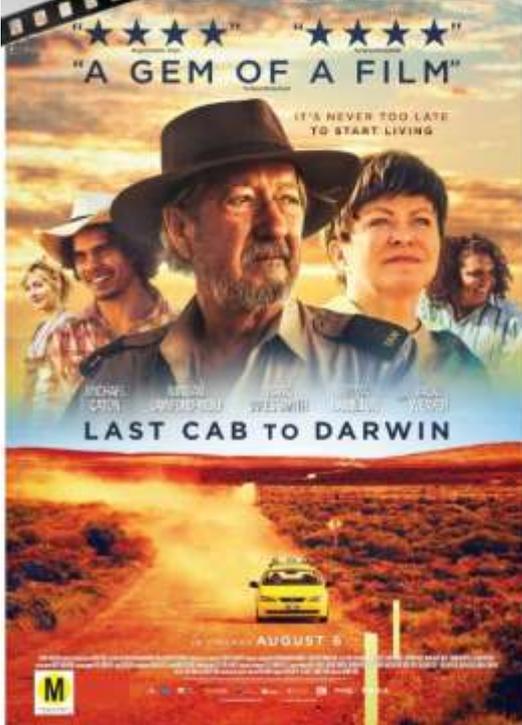
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Movie Night At the Mapua Hall is Back!

Sunday 13th March Entry at 6.15pm
Movie starts at 6.30pm



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What's On at the Hall In March

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sat | Sun |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------|
| | 1 9am PANZ 1pm Beginners Tai Chi 2.30 Sit & Be Fit 6pm Cardio/Pump 6pm Yoga 7pm Pilates | 2 9am Yoga 9:05am Aerobics 10:05am Pilates 12.30pm Tai Chi | 3 9am Mapua Art Group 3.30pm Karate 6pm Zumba 7pm Comm. Assc. Meeting | 4 9am Yoga 9:05am Aerobics 10:05am Pilates 1pm Probus 7pm RCA opening night event. | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9.15 Yoga with Robin | 8 9am PANZ 10am Mapua Creative 1pm Beginners Tai Chi 2.30 Sit & Be Fit 6pm Cardio/Pump 6pm Yoga 7pm Pilates | 9 9am Yoga 9:05am Aerobics 10:05am Pilates 12.30pm Tai Chi | 10 9am Mapua Art Group 3.30pm Karate 6pm Zumba | 11 9am Yoga 9:05am Aerobics 10:05am Pilates 7.30pm BARN DANCE WITH THE EASTERN | 12 9:05am Aerobics 10:05am Pilates 12-4pm Painting Class | 13 6.30pm Mapua Movie Night |
| 14 9.15 Yoga with Robin 7pm Comm. Assc. Meeting | 15 9am PANZ 1pm Beginners Tai Chi 2.30 Sit & Be Fit 6pm Cardio/Pump 6pm Yoga 7pm Pilates | 16 9am Yoga 9:05am Aerobics 10:05am Pilates 12.30pm Tai Chi | 17 9am Mapua Art Group 2pm Friendship Club 3.30pm Karate 6pm Zumba | 18 9am Yoga 9:05am Aerobics 10:05am Pilates | 19 9:05am Aerobics 10:05am Pilates | 20 |
| 21 9.15 Yoga with Robin 1pm Savage Club Concert 7pm Hall Committee | 22 9am PANZ 1pm Beginners Tai Chi 2.30 Sit & Be Fit 6pm Cardio/Pump 6pm Yoga 7pm Pilates | 23 9am Yoga 9:05am Aerobics 10:05am Pilates 12.30pm Tai Chi | 24 9am Mapua Art Group 3.30pm Karate 6pm Zumba | 25 GOOD FRIDAY | 26 | 27 MAPUA EASTER SHOW |
| 28 EASTER MONDAY 7pm Waterfront Park Meeting | 29 9am PANZ 1pm Beginners Tai Chi 2.30 Sit & Be Fit 6pm Cardio/Pump 6pm Yoga 7pm Pilates | 30 9am Yoga 9:05am Aerobics 10:05am Pilates 12.30pm Tai Chi | 31 9am Mapua Art Group 3.30pm Karate 6pm Zumba | | | |



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Out and About with Hugh

Not For Sale: The strongly worded protest to the TDC Corporate Services Committee on 11 July by a delegation of members of the Mapua & Districts Community Association regarding the council's proposed sale of the Mapua Causeway struck home. As a consequence, the council has listened to Mapua residents and is not planning to sell the Mapua Causeway. The message was loud and clear. To use the council's wording, "the matter is shelved" pending further legal research and examination.

This certainly reflected the overwhelming feeling in the Mapua community against the TDC proposal. Indeed, it is a classic example of the "People Power" of a community in action. Also particularly gratifying was the support of our Waimea Ward Councillors, Trevor Norris, Tim King and Brian Ensor. The "shelving" of the matter comes as welcome news for Mapua residents.

It is also a "Heads Up" notice to the council that prior to selling council "assets" in order to retire council debt, the community wants the council to come up with robust explanations as to why this is a sound financial policy.

Before entering into any sale arrangements or agreements, councillors and council staff need to keep it in mind that it is the "property-owner ratepayers" who own the "council's assets" and ultimately pay the rates which enable the council to function.

As an aside, and for your information: These assets consist of over 200 properties made up of land, buildings, vehicles, equipment and facilities of one sort or another etc. They are currently valued at \$1.4 million.

This matter about selling assets is not yet resolved. The TDC is in debt up to its ears. Present council policy is geared to retiring debt. The political will to continue that policy and to make a stab at running the council will be particularly at issue as 2016 is election year for Local Body office-holders. Candidates for office have to declare their intentions no later than 12 August. Elections are scheduled for October and will again be by postal voting. We await with bated breath to see who wants to be re-elected or who might have an interest in being elected for the first time to govern us. Perhaps there are public spirited individuals in the district who may take up that challenge.

Subdivisions and property development are continuing in and around Mapua. Fifteen new sections are now staked out for sale off the end of Tahī Street as of December last year. Many perhaps already sold as of this writing. Priced from \$223,000 to \$298,000; add the cost of a dwelling to that figure and it is hardly what is considered affordable housing for the New Zealand average family. What will be the impact of this rising cost on real estate on the Mapua Village? Economically? Socially? Time will tell.

Moving On: The *Nelson Mail* of 25 January makes headline news of a luxury home being for sale for nine million dollars. Are we supposed to be surprised? Why is this headline news? Why is it news in the first place?

Activity down at Port Mapua continues at a dizzy pace. It is definitely now a destination in its own right. The Doomsday crowd who said the Ruby Bay by-pass would isolate Mapua could not have been more mistaken. The port is now a most desirable place to go. The opening of the Shed 4 complex has added a new and interesting atmosphere to the Mapua Wharf area. Evolving plans for the Waterfront Park area bode well for its future use as a public amenity. The public toilet building? No doubting where it is, but still no signage to tell you how to find it.

Heavy going? Definitely time to lighten up a bit.

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a dry well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally he decided the animal was old, and as the well needed to be covered up anyway it just wasn't worth it to try and retrieve the donkey.

He invited all his neighbours to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down. The farmer looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back the donkey would shake it off and step up. As the farmer's neighbours continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and step up again. Pretty soon everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off.

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick of getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells by not stopping and never giving up! Shake them off and take a step up.

Remember the five simple rules to be happy: Free your heart from hatred and envy. Forgive. Free your mind from worries. Most will never happen. Live simply and appreciate what you have. Give more. Expect less.

Now! Enough of that that sort of stuff....The donkey came back and bit the farmer who tried to bury him. The gash from the bite got infected and the farmer eventually died from septic shock.

The moral of today's lesson: When you do something wrong and try to cover your ass, it always come back to bite you!

Thanks to Brian Smith of Nelson SeniorNet for the above Cautionary Tale.

Hugh Gordon



As Good As It Gets? (Part I)

In the film *As Good As It Gets* (1997) Jack Nicholson plays Melvyn, an obsessive compulsive, socially inept, autistic, semi-reclusive but, successful author. He eventually gets the woman of his dreams via a number of personal and social mishaps. There's a poignant scene in the film, where his 'shrink' refuses to see him in the middle of a crisis. As Melvyn storms out past others awaiting their own therapy, he utters something of a plaintiff cry to them, '...have you ever thought, is this as good as it gets?'

The question could be applied to myriad situations. For some, it becomes an relative statement, 'This is as good as it gets'. For others, the question form has a deep sense of longing and a heavy dose of hopelessness. When was the last time you heard the phrase used and in what context?

We all want 'as good as it gets' – for our families, work, and leisure. But how would you know if it is indeed as good as it gets? How do you measure 'good' – against what or whom? Then of course, there's always someone out there looking to persuade you that their way, is better if not, in fact, the best. Their sincerity, integrity, or altruism may tempt you to consider further what they are selling. There's a vast market-place for what is good or the best. It grows ever broader in a global village and spawns vigorous and (sometimes healthy) debate.

From the controversies of the TPP to 'better living' advertisements, the 'good life' is what most folk aspire to although the means of access to it and the

strings attached may temper the demand for it. It seems so, at least, with material goods.

Jesus exploded into the global exchange market of the first century day. There were, similarly to our day, great swathes of ideas and ideologies competing for the hearts and lives of, well, everyone. The then 'known' world (where West and East influenced each other) supported an information technology proliferation, a freer-flowing range and exchange of ideas, and, various callings to the ultimate lifestyle. Some were (in theory) accessible to all – some, the material 'good life', were most definitely not.

Against such a background then it is quite staggering of Jesus to say, "I came that you might have life – and that to the full" (John 10:10b). This is Jesus' version of 'as good as it gets.' What did he mean by it and in what context did he demonstrate it? These are questions worth developing next month.

Richard Drury

For more information on the Tasman Bible Church go to www.tasmanbiblechurch.org.nz

What do people do on a date?

'Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.'

Lynnette, aged 8



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Pastel Artists of New Zealand

Who noticed the ‘deliberate’ mistake in my last article? Christmas and winter are synonymous to this lass who spent 55 years living in the UK; will I ever get used to summer in December? So the ‘Nelson PANZ Winter Challenge’ was actually the Christmas or Summer Challenge but whatever its title, the results were amazing. Some exceptional work was on display when we reconvened on Tuesday 9 February. Inspiration truly had us all in its clutches and the variety of work proved just how inventive pastel artists can be when challenged with homework ... by Glenys!

Our first session back teetered on the edge of chaotic. A grand turnout by existing members, some new painters keen to have a go, the weavers weaving away in the background so space was at a premium. Plenty to organise with the looming Art Awards and a fund-raiser scheduled for Friday 19 February. But everything was sorted, everyone was happy and it was a pleasure to be back amongst friends.

Just weeks to go until the national event here in Mapua and we are still calm as preparations are on track. The final fund-raiser, a movie night at the State Cinema in Motueka, should bring in the remaining funds needed to host our convention. Registrations are well up, entries for the awards starting to arrive and we look forward to seeing lots of you on opening night and at the exhibition. For those of you interested our programme is:

- 15 April: Abel Tasman boat trip, \$50
- 15 April: Opening Night & Awards, 7pm. Mapua Hall Free
- 16-17 April: Members-only Convention, 9am-4pm. Mapua Hall n/a
- 16 April: Celebration Dinner, Jellyfish, Mapua Wharf, \$50
- 18/19 & 20/21 April: Members-only master classes, n/a
- 16 April – 1 May: Art Exhibition daily 9am-4pm Mapua Hall. Free

If you want to find out more about pastels and the PANZ art group in Mapua visitors are always welcome. Just call into the Community Hall on a Tuesday morning between 9am and 12 noon when you see the PANZ board outside. Or contact Glenys Forbes on 540-3388 for more information.

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Hills Community Church



One of the things I love doing each evening, especially during these summer months, is step outside for a few moments of quiet reflection at the end of the day. There is something awe-inspiring about the night sky that leads me to a sense of wonder and amazement. One of the most famous photos ever taken is a photo of the sky, *Deep Field*, taken by the Hubble space telescope.

It is in fact a composite of many exposures of the exact same small point in space, about the same size to us as a tennis ball viewed from 100 metres away. In this image of such a tiny portion of space only a few stars from our Milky Way galaxy can be seen. But what is truly astonishing though is that in this tiny area of 'nothing' the photo records some 3000 galaxies, all of which are completely invisible to us. The universe is truly staggering in its magnitude.

The amazing thing is that, however this universe was created, the very same power that created galaxies by the millions, has also created and formed you into the person you uniquely are. And I wonder whether, just as we live without seeing the astonishing depth of the universe, we also live without truly seeing the depth of God's involvement in our lives.

As this year unfolds, may we be open to discovering the God story that lies behind the everyday, the God story that is being written in and through our lives. But even more; that we may come to know the God who has created us and given us life, and loves each one of us. And just as the Apostle Paul wrote to

the church in Ephesus: 'May we grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.' Ephesians 3:18

Blessings in Christ, the Rev John Sherlock

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: 9am, Traditional service. 10:30am Contemporary service & Children's programme including crèche; Holy Communion celebrated at both services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays with morning tea in-between.

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 Road) on Friday mornings between 10am & noon.

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

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Moving to Mapua, an early account

Part 10 of a series of excerpts from the book, *Turning Back the Clock*, by the late Iola McPherson. Iola moved from Nelson to Mapua in August, 1932, at the age of none and this is part of her story.

Flax and Timber

In 1872 Arthur Chaytor leased a property in what is now called Mapua, built a house of rammed mud and timber, and brought out his bride from England. He named his property 'Seaton Estate' after his family estate in England. The slope on the hill was covered for many years in double daffodils. Mr and Mrs Chaytor had five children.

Flax was very prolific in Mapua in those days and covered much of the swampy land in the area. Arthur Chaytor decided to start a flax mill which he sited on old Mill Creek (as the ditch running into the mudflat was named in 1872). Chaytor used a bullock team to drag the flax from the swamp after it had been cut by reap hook, a manual labour that was both wet and sticky – the men had to change into dry clothes before biking home at dusk.

It was Arthur Chaytor who built the first jetty on the present wharf site and from there he shipped his flax fibre. He also shipped out poles for the hop gardens in Motueka. These came from the gum trees that had been cleared from the hill. Small steamers came to load at his jetty. The *Elsie* was a frequent caller, along with other small craft. *Elsie* was a 20-ton vessel and was built of wood in 1884. Sadly the vessel was destroyed by fire at Blackball Wharf, Havelock, in 1906.

In 1906 Edward (Ted) Senior took over the flax mill from Chaytor. The Senior brothers had bought land in Mapua that same year. Ted Senior cut timber in Marahau, built a house on the rise overlooking the wharf where Langford Drive now is and planted a peach orchard on the flat. Early settlers in Mapua referred to the area as 'The Garden of Eden' because it was surrounded by flowering wattle and fruit trees. Molly Stafford told me that it used to be covered in buttercups and hyacinths as well and was very picturesque. In 1908 Ted Senior left, leaving his brother in charge of the mill.

Many years later Josephine Marshall and I used to play in Old Mill Creek where it flowed out onto the mudflats with baby flounder around our bare feet. We also caught whitebait there in season and collected mushrooms in the nearby paddock in autumn. The creek wasn't very big at first but it was fast-flowing. Over the years the creek widened. It was mainly used

by the mill for washing the fibres of flax after they had gone over the stripper which took off the green skin. Although the mill had closed down by the time we played there, the wire rails where they used to hang the flax fibre out to dry still stood in the paddock.

Watts' timber mill and box factory.

The big house in Ruby Bay that today is called Holton House, near Pine Hill Heights Road, was originally the property of the Buxton family who owned a large department store in Nelson city and used to travel out in a horse and trap to Ruby Bay for their holidays. In 1919 Ken Watts and his wife came from Wellington and bought the house along with a large acreage of land. They planted pine trees where an orchard had been and later Ken Watts started a private sawmill, milling the older pine trees at the rear of the section.

The Watts also had a mixed farm of sheep, pigs and cattle. My brother Bob worked for Mr Watts for a while and learnt to drive a tractor there. One day while he was still learning, he was seen coming down a hill on the tractor at some speed and heading straight for the pig sty. Forgetting he was no longer driving a horse and cart, Bob was yelling, "Whoa! Whoa!" The pig sty was demolished but the pigs safely scattered.

After a while Ken Watts sold the farm and bought land in Iwa Street, Mapua where he set up a larger mill.

Later he set up a box factory making tomato and apple cases. He employed his brother, Trevor, and some other men. Ken Watts also built two mill houses in Toru Street for his workers who were married men with families. He then built himself a house and Mrs Watt's parents came from Wellington to join them.

I used to take a billycart to the mill, which was across the paddock from where we lived, and pick up short ends of unwanted timber for kindling wood for Mum's fire. I would also gather sawdust for the vegetable garden. Mr and Mrs Watts had three children. Their daughter, Glenn, was a very smart student at school and later became dux. She was my age and we were often together – mostly reading.

The mill lasted for quite a number of years until 1934 when Baigents set up a sawmill next to the school. The Watts then closed down their mill and went back to Wellington.

Mr L E Baigent was a very prominent sawmiller and had plantations all over the Moutere Hills and sawmills in several different places. He made his money out of pine plantations and provided work for



many people. The main pine plantation on Rabbit Island was planted around that time – during The Depression – although some of the pines and gum trees had been planted there much earlier. A men’s camp was set up there and the planting on Rabbit Island gave men some work in those hard times.

The Baigents had a bach on the waterfront by the wharf in Mapua where Mr Baigent and his family often stayed for summer holidays. He also planted an enormous vegetable garden and many fruit trees.

Baigent’s mill had come from Rai Valley in pieces and was assembled in a paddock just over the fence from the Mapua School. Gyp Boyd and Fred Westley came to run the mill along with their families. Gyp Boyd had a house on the mill site. He and his wife had six children. The Westleys lived in Stringer’s house above the bowling green.

Soon the mill was up and operating, producing timber and there was a box factory on the site as well. The mill was very close to the school boundary and so noisy! It was very hard for us students to concentrate on lessons with the screech of saws coming from next door. It was hard on the teachers as well; they had to close all doors and windows to try to deaden the noise. The only thing about the mill that we welcomed were the twelve o’clock and three o’clock whistles—the latter of which meant ‘home time’ for us.

The sawmill and box factory were still operating when I left school in 1936. Then the Baigent’s mill and box factory shifted to Tasman and the school children there had to put up with the screech of the saws.

A limited number of Iola McPherson’s book, Turning Back the Clock, are still available. Please ring Jeanette on 540-2769.



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After Oiling The Deck I Threw The Rags Into a Corner ... You Wouldn't Believe What Happened Next!

Linseed oil and other common oils spontaneously combust. I attended a call out recently to a fire in an apple orchard workers cottage. We recently read the report of the cause and I was astonished at the findings.

I questioned it and went on to do my own research and the phenomenon of spontaneous combustion is a real and present danger few people appear to know about.

Spontaneous combustion occurs when an object suddenly bursts into flame without obvious cause. No match, no sparks, no lightning, no electrical short or smoking cigarette... nothing!

What causes it? With linseed oil and other oils used to finish wood, including some exterior deck sealers and wood stains, heat is generated during the drying process. This is because these oils do not dry like paint (through the evaporation of a solvent or water). Instead, they dry through the same process that generates fire... oxidation.

Despite the stories about spontaneous combustion it's a difficult phenomenon to reproduce ... however, spontaneous combustion is real!

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Oxidation generates lots of heat... and can cause fires! And that's the key! Burning is rapid oxidation. For spontaneous combustion to occur, enough heat must accumulate so fire can start. You would never see a piece of furniture spontaneously combust because the oil oxidizes in open air so the surface never even gets warm to the touch! But a pile of oil-soaked rags can...

A pile of oil-soaked rags can get smokin' hot...

In every case of spontaneous combustion of drying oils that I have found during my research, the cause has been a bunch of oil soaked rags. It seems that, as the oil oxidizes, the rags act as an insulator, allowing the oxidizing oil to become hot enough to cause the cloth to smoke and eventually ignite. The bigger the pile, the greater the possible heat and the greater the risk.

Room temperature is also a factor. The warmer it is, the quicker the rags can reach ignition temperature.

Who Knew! Till next time stay safe!

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Under The Bonnet with Fred

Road trip to Waiheke



With Carolyn having family getting married on Waiheke Island we planned a road trip which would touch base with all family on route and would take in Marlborough Sounds, Taupo, Whakatane, Waiheke Island, Whangaparoa Peninsula, Whanganui River and Wellington with a tour of Parliament House.

What vehicle to take? Was it economy or style? The economical Nissan Primera using petrol at the rate of 9 litres/100km, or my latest project, a 1995 Chevrolet Caprice station wagon using 12 litres/100km?

In Carolyn's words, "If you're taking that thing you're paying for the gas!" The station wagon had space for all the presents for the grandchildren so we went in style in the old classic cruiser, sitting on soft bench seats you would be happy to have in your lounge.

Crossing Cook Strait with odd big cars raised the problem of identifying the car in their computer base for pricing. Cook Strait Ferries wanted to add \$30 because of its length and weight, but with Strait Freight no extra. Waiheke Island Ferries charged \$20 extra for the station wagon but as I now have a Gold Card I travelled free of charge so I still saved \$30 on the total cost. Good on you Winston Peters.

Fuel costs at Perry's Auto Mapua for 95 octane petrol was \$1.83. With my Gold card discount that came down to \$1.73 a litre which brings it to only 3 cents more than the cheapest fuel on the trip. But that was the end of Gold Card fuel discounts. As the cashier at Z in Waiouru said, "Those things don't work around here." Fuel was cheaper in the North island with Gull in Whakatane selling 95 octane petrol for only \$1.70 litre. Waiheke Island fuel was \$2.14 litre, the most expensive.

It has been a few years since I have driven north of Feilding and the North Island roads are better and noticeable straighter than the windy roads to Christchurch. State Highway 1 is still a race track for all traffic. Home town Whakatane was booming with the commercial area car parks full, people out shopping and no empty shops. As we were leaving Thames we heard on the car radio that Auckland's Southern Motorway was blocked with an accident, so we drove the coastal road along the Firth of Thames via Miranda,

Kawakawa Bay to Half Moon Bay. It matched North Island's East Coast road for sea views plus the nice settlements on route giving it character. An interesting diversion.

Driving on Waiheke island is an experience which reflects its nice casual lifestyle. The roads have evolved rather than being planned. They are disorganised, hilly, narrow and windy and bush-clad a lot of the time, making for poor road visibility, much like Kaiteriteri. Probably because of the rocky coastline you have to drive up to top of a ridge before dropping back down to the many bays where people live. The narrow bush-clad roads do provide safe driving as road courtesy is required to give safe passing because there is nowhere to go—except over the bank! The 50kmh speed limit is about as fast as you can safely drive and sets the character of Waiheke Island—you have to have courtesy and time for other people.

We notice the real islanders at the Countdown supermarket. Probably the last of the hippies, despite the island's reputation of being a wealthy place. The



big houses were always surrounded by old baches with a Kiwi character. The car ferry was modern and efficient. Sixty percent of the island is farmed or in vineyards. A cup of coffee was \$5.50 and fish & chips at Palm Beach were excellent. Best place: Man of War

Bay winery. Most of the island is on tank water and the increasing population has put a strain on the sewerage system, which also requires water! The same problems even in Paradise!

We did 2668km on the trip. I spent \$438 on petrol—12.3 litres per /100km, from my 5.7 litre 1995 Chev Caprice. If we had taken Carolyn's Nissan Primera doing we would have spent \$324. I will say the Nissan would have been a lot easier to find parking in the crowded North Island.

PS: The tour of Parliament House was free and as the tour guide told, us it was our building. People who work there can get married there. The debating chamber is quite small and had a recent renovation It seems the building has been in continual restoration of some sort over the years with recent earthquake-strengthening and again the front covered in scaffolding. We had a cup of coffee at the Back Bencher café across the road to finish off before catching the ferry.

Fred Cassin

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Living in the Mapua district with my husband Ben Brownie and two dogs "Bruno" and "Mars" is the icing on the cake. Mapua is such a thriving community and one I am proud to be part of.

I have three adult children with my daughter Kristen being part of the new Mapua complex working at "Albertas" as head barista, she makes the best coffee! My oldest boy Marcus is in the army based in Burnham and my middle child Simon plays professional rugby league for the NZ Warriors. Mike Pero were the proud sponsors bringing The Warriors to Nelson for a pre season game on February 20th at Trafalgar Park, this was a first for the region and great for the region.

I like to build strong client relationships, using my experience, knowledge and energy with attention to detail and extremely high professional standards, which has enabled me to build a reputation for achieving positive and consistent results.

My other passion is "The Wendy House" I love all things interior design and especially being able to produce something simple yet timeless that is practical at the same time. The trestle tables and bench seats have proven to be popular for all kinds of uses including dining table and office desk. Easy to fold up and put away they are great to have in the garage as an extra table for Christmas time.

I have one down at Alberta's in their gallery for anyone wanting to view. My website www.thewendyhouse.co.nz has all the details and photos. Ph 5403809 or 027 4490616



www.rubycoastmouterehills.co.nz



www.rubycoastmouterehills.co.nz is a local website with information about our region. By 'clicking' on the 'Business' tab you will find the business listings - this is an online directory with contact details for MDBA business members - a quick and easy way to find what you need locally. It also links to the www.itson.co.nz website.

The 8th of March is 'International Women's Day' and the MDBA are hosting a 'celebration dinner' at Petite Fleur to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution women make to our local business community. For more information contact Janet.

HairLounge Ruby Bay



The HairLounge Ruby Bay has now been styling our communities hair since October last year. The salon is situated next to Ruby Bay take-a-ways on Stafford drive, a beautiful little spot close to the beach. Stylist Alison Hatch and partner Mike have created a lovely salon using local materials with attention to comfortable salon chairs and lounge wash basins. The salon has a relaxed feel and everyone is welcome. Come in and chat and always feel free to sit outside and rest for a while if you are walking or biking past. Mike is always ready for a chat and will make you tea or coffee anytime.

Alison has been styling hair for 35 years, starting her apprenticeship in the UK with the John Oliver group later to proceed to a free lance career to some of the rich and famous around East Anglia. Becoming a travelling Colour Technician to salons around the UK for 7 years has given Alison a head start over most when it comes to colour consultations. More recently in the UK Alison has passed on her knowledge to up and coming young stylists as a tutor. You can be reassured Alison's focus is using high quality products, free of sulfates, parabens and artificial colorants also Wella Immosense a colour brand specially formulated to reduce the risk of developing allergy. Alison is open Monday to Fridays 9.00 to 5.00, outside these hours by appointment. To make an appointment you can come in or ring the HairLounge on 540 3699 or mobile 022 379 9851.

Visit the HairLounge facebook page and website www.hairlounge.nz



Supporting local businesses since 1992

Noticeboard

WANTED: Room to rent - long term in Mapua / Ruby Bay. For an established local client base with a Natural Health Practitioner/ Business - preferably with a toilet and kitchenette facility. Ph: 021-136-8439

Mosaic Project: We're nearly ready to start the third wall of the toilet block in Aranui Road. Please get in touch if you want to take part. No prior mosaic experience needed. Tools provided. Colourful tiles or china accepted. Text Bridget 0211 838 790, 12 Iwa Street.

Yuan Gong weekly in Mapua. Classes for beginners starting 7 March 11.15 am. Info: Marianne 546 8584 or bmtc@xtra.co.nz

Mapua Craft Group meet Fridays 10 – noon, supper room, Hills Community Church. Simple craft work including: paper craft & card making, sewing, knitting & crochet, cooking, small upcycling ideas. Occasional guest speakers, demonstrations & group outings. A social get together, some fun and a chat, some easy craft along the way. Info: Julie Cox 540-3602, juliecox@xtra.co.nz or see you there.

Lost: small black cat from upper Pomona Road area. Please phone 021-545-265 if you can help.

Cards: Bored with mass produced greeting cards? Join some like-minded people, have some FUN and make your own individual cards. Info: Julie 027-741-8575, juliecox@xtra.co.nz An independent stampin up demonstrator.

Kidz 'n' Koffee playgroup: 10am – noon, Wednesdays during school term at Old Church Hall, Aranui Rd. All parents & caregivers welcome, we cater for 0-6 yrs. Gold coin donation for morning tea. Come & make some new friends. Info: Bridget, 540-2572.

Daytime Book Group: Meets first Tuesdays 9.45am. New members welcome. Anne 540-3934

Fair Exchange: A small group meets at Appleshed restaurant 9am 2nd & 4th Wednesdays to exchange home grown and home made produce & goods. We welcome everyone! It's the sharing that counts. Info: Judith Holmes 021 072 8924 / 544-0890.

Ruby Coast Newcomers Social Group: meet new people, make new friends. We have coffee at 10am last Fridays at Tasman Store & hold ad hoc day & evening social events. Info: Vivien/Richard 526-6707, vpeters@xtra.co.nz, or just turn up.

Coastal Garden Group meet first Thursdays, 1.00pm, Tasman Bible Hall. Members, guests & visitors welcome. Judy Sisam, 547-7292, 142doubleview@gmail.com

Women's Recreation Group - meets outside Mapua Mall Thursdays. Leaves 9.15am for 1½hr walk. Route varies. Join us whenever you can. Some mem-

bers may cycle. Info Lynley 540-2292.

Mapua Art Group meets Bill Marris Room Mapua Hall Thursday mornings, 9-noon. Like-minded artists get together to paint, draw, help each other in a social environment. All levels & media welcome. \$5 / session includes morning tea. Tables, chairs & easels provided. Cushla Moorhead 03 528 6548.

Mapua Friendship Club meets twice a month, 3rd Thursdays & last Fridays at Mapua Hall for indoor bowls and bring-a-plate afternoon tea. New members enthusiastically welcomed, no prior bowling experience needed - non-competitive, just a lot of laughs. \$3 door fee, 20¢ raffle. Contact: Val 540-3685.

Mapua Social Cycling Group: "Wheels 2 Meals". Approx 20 – 30 km ride with coffee break at halfway point and no racing! Depart Mapua Wharf each fine Thursday @ 9:30 am. Anyone interested - just turn up with your bike, "Hi Vis" top and coffee money, or email me wheels2meals@gmail.com

Ruby Coast Walking Group meets 9.30am Wednesdays outside Tasman Store. We walk for about 1½ hours, then enjoy a coffee & muffin back at the Store. Walk according to your ability and speed. Newcomers & everyone very welcome. Just turn up or contact Fiona - 526-6840, fiona.oliver@xtra.co.nz

Probus Club meets at Mapua Hall, 1.30 pm, first Friday of each month. Guest speakers talk for about an hour on various subjects. After afternoon tea a club member will give a short talk of their interest. Now in its 15th year, new members always welcome. President: Janice Higgs, 03 528-8883, Secretary: Rita Mitchell, 03 528-8097

Motueka SeniorNet: Get tech savvy and share more family experiences. Community computer support for 50+. Training courses for iPads, Phones, Tablets, PC and Mac. Members meeting 10am first Mondays. 42 Pah Street, Motueka. seniornetmotueka.org.nz

Spinners, Knitters, Weavers – Creative Fibre Group meet Mapua Hall, 2nd Tuesdays 10am. All welcome.

Moutere Hills Rose Society. A gardener with a special love of roses? We meet monthly - contact Margaret 03 528-8477 or Cynthia 03 528-8664.

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

Technical problems solved! - Don't know how to use your electronic devices? Can't set up something new you've bought? Need computer tuition? Local help is at hand! Average job price just \$35. Web design and mobile app creation also available. Call Sam, 03 544-0737, sam@sambennett.co.nz.