



Māpua Master Plan

Opinion piece by Timo Neubauer

What's the future of Māpua?

I was looking forward to Tasman District Council's Masterplan for Māpua. After the flawed piecemeal approach of the past, an integrated masterplan is just what the village needs to deal with the various demands, growth prospects and the threats that the community is facing.

Last Saturday I went along to the Māpua Community Hall, where planners were collecting feedback on various plan options - feedback that should assist the Council decide on a plan to take through to consultation and use as a basis for future plan changes.

Arguably, a masterplan could be anything. It is not a defined term. As an urban designer I have my own expectations of such a plan. To me it provides the opportunity to test different spatial scenarios, different building typologies, heights, relationships to the street, public realm options and street networks, as well as the location and the nature of wetlands, streams, public reserves, and private gardens. Broad brush plan options can be done quickly and it's ok to do them in sketch form. The important thing is what they communicate.

Different masterplan options should show different spatial responses to questions, such as where do we provide growth? How much growth do we need in one area, if we can intensify in another? How would it be done? What are the implications of each option on infrastructure requirements, future rates, transport behaviour and carbon emissions as well as the overall look and feel of the village.

It makes sense to discuss such plan options early on with the community - not as a referendum, but to communicate the inevitable pros and cons that relate to each of the different approaches.

A Council planner at the drop-in session seemed to be of the opinion that people were able to understand the presented plans well and that they gave informed feedback. I was surprised at that, for even as a design professional, and having drawn up many masterplans myself, I was unable to understand the resulting outcome with any certainty.

In good old Kiwi planning fashion, I saw two-dimensional blobs of colour, indicating different planning zones: standard density residential (450m² lots), medium

density residential, mixed density housing, infill housing, mixed use and business.

My trouble is, I'm a big fan of intensification and think that, done well, redesigning our existing low-density housing areas to allow more people to enjoy the closer proximity to our centres can be a solution to many of our problems. The important and tricky point is it has got to be done well.

"Infill housing" on the contrary reeks of plonking houses on gardens, an unpopular approach that creates undesirable environments with privacy and outlook issues, too much concrete and not enough permeable green spaces. Would I come to regret it, if I voted for the "infill housing" option for Aranui Village, hoping for well-designed intensification?

I also like mixed use if it is done well. Why do the planners make me choose between mixed use or the wider intensification of low-density residential areas? Wouldn't it make more sense to do both and thereby reduce the need for Seaton Valley's beautiful landscape turning into another suburb?

I like the image depicting the option for business land at the Waterfront/Grossi Point: small scale two-storey units with a retail ground floor and offices above, or is it two-storey retail? How realistic is that? Other business zones around the district predominantly accommodate single-storey supermarkets, car dealerships or the likes of plumbing outlet stores with large car parks out the front. Is there a risk, perhaps, that such an entity would set up shop in this new business zone in Māpua (instead of the nice units shown in the image)? I would be horrified if I inadvertently condoned that by voting for this option.

So then, what would the mixed use or medium density residential options look like? No images provided, but the mixed-use option seems to come with a large parking area, while the business option does not. I am confused and don't understand the logic.

While I like a big public park at the corner of Aranui Road and Tahi Street, I fear that preventing housing in this location would mean more houses on paddocks and wetlands at Seaton Valley. But wasn't there an issue with contamination? How realistic or costly would it be to prepare this area for housing development of any kind, as suggested in two of the options? Where is the option to have less or no development at Seaton Valley at all?

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Why can we just choose between more or less standard density housing and the relative proportion of business land? Why do we need new 450m² housing lots at all, given that standalone residential already makes up 95% of our housing stock? And what does the proposed business zone actually mean?

I had so many unanswered questions that I could not wholeheartedly support any of the presented options. If anyone did, I wonder how useful their feedback would be, as all options seem sufficiently vague at answering the most important questions: What are we trying to achieve? What's the rationale? and Is it going to be well-designed? What is the future of Māpua?

I understand that Councils are not developers, but I think that Tasman District Council needs to take a much stronger lead in proactively giving certainty that Māpua village will be well-designed. Our Council is in the driver's seat to create the big vision for Māpua and to clearly articulate this vision through a legible spatial masterplan that everybody can understand and relate to. It also has the power to implement such a plan through specific spatial controls that would guide the future urban form.

Following the vague blanket zoning approach and leaving the spatial outcomes to developers will only end in unsatisfactory piecemeal - same as it has done in the past.

Timo Neubauer is a Tasman-based urban designer and small business owner. He is part of NelsonTasman2050, an independent think tank of built environment professionals. (nelsontasman2050.org.nz)



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Opinion piece by Jan Heijs

Is Māpua turning into a large exclusive seaside town?

Māpua village's future shape is about to be determined. The Tasman District Council published the Māpua Masterplan Options on 9 February. A drop-in session on 10 and 29 February provided for feedback using forms. You can still provide feedback online before the deadline on Sunday 10 March. Please take some time, go to https://shape.tasman.govt.nz/Mapua-masterplan-2023_. Exercise your democratic right. The consequences of this for our community - how Māpua will develop - will be enormous. Many of us don't realise what is about to hit us.

The 'Māpua Masterplan Options' seems to have caused mixed impressions. I have met some people who were impressed by what was presented and others who were left with many questions and concerns. What I take from this is that what was presented is not always well understood. It raises a wide range of expectations, some of which are obviously not intended.

And yes, the amount of work undertaken by TDC is impressive and it is great to see what is considered to develop the masterplan in one place.

I have some concerns and comments related to what is proposed. This opinion piece lists some of my key concerns. I have also prepared a more extensive feedback document that I will make available through some of the community Facebook pages.

I realise that not everyone will agree with all of my feedback, so feel free to disagree. At least we have something to think about and share with others in our community to better inform our feedback.

The time to digest the masterplan options and provide feedback is very limited. The MDCA has requested an extension of the deadline, but it is my understanding that this has been declined. This is worrying because it demonstrates that TDC does not want to allow for good quality community feedback. Just two drop-in sessions won't achieve this.

Village character

The current visuals / maps imply a change to a very high-end outcome, turning Māpua into an exclusive seaside town. This will attract the wealthy people of New Zealand, will cause escalation of house prices and drive many of our community out. The proposal does not reflect the desire of our community to retain Māpua's village character.

Although I understand what was presented is 'just' the result of computer-generated design, and is not necessarily what will be built, it does show the risk of what can happen when we leave it to the market.

We need a masterplan that reflects the need to retain a modest/village scale and uphold the apple-shed heritage building styles. This should then be required in future plan changes, consent processes and other initiatives such as the wharf and boat-ramp development, the (re)development of our streets, walking and cycling ways as well as open, green spaces.

Villages can be enhanced by a transition into a leafy streetscape with separated and safe walking and cycling

Continued from page 2

ways, more landscaped areas also used for traffic calming (replacing the temporary planter boxes) and allowing for stormwater treatment.

Allowing for more and smaller housing options in the village centre, along Aranui Road addresses the need for this type of housing closer to the village centre and brings more people into the centre. This is great for social connection and local business. I support the proposal for mixed use but would like to see that extended, including the current shopping area.

The village character must be preserved in and around the wharf. The extension of high-end commercial use presented in the options is entirely out of keeping with the village character. The Māpua wharf should be kept as a space to enjoy for all our community and its many visitors. It must be protected against further commercial expansion. The current boat ramp proposal is also, due to its scale and design (size of boat ramp and size of buildings) not in keeping with the need to retain our village character.

Intensification

The options include the provision for more housing choices. This was requested by many in our community. I largely support this change. However, infill housing without any guidance can often lead to very poor outcomes such as uncontrolled back-yard development. I suggest requiring 'high quality intensification' as opposed to 'just' infill. Future plan changes and clear mandatory design guidelines are required to ensure quality intensification.

I understand that council needs to go through a formal plan change process to remove the deferred status of the areas zone as 'deferred residential'. It is important and urgent that high quality intensification requirements are included in these plan changes.

Housing for target groups

In a number of options, the ability to provide retirement housing is listed. I'm not sure if we want gated retirement villages. These are generally expensive and isolate the retired – who can afford this – from everyone else. I prefer the requirement to achieve intergenerational living and plan requirements that support that.

I'm also surprised there is no allowance for other forms of development such as community owned living, build-to-rent and social housing. One of the staff members commented that social housing is not for Māpua. Where did that come from? I'm afraid this further supports my fear that TDC is aiming at a more exclusive seaside village.

Forgotten areas

The masterplan is silent on some of our areas such as that between the village centre and the wharf, the Leisure Park and Ruby Bay. I suspect this is because these areas are potentially affected by sea level rise but people living there should know exactly what the future holds for them. Forgetting about these or avoiding the discussion is not just and is short-term thinking.

New developments along Seaton Valley Road

The need for new developments (sprawl) in Seaton Valley is not substantiated. With more capacity provided in other existing residential areas and areas already zoned for residential development (see above), any additional capacity might not be needed. More clarity is needed

around the future demand to justify these new developments.

If more capacity is needed, the question of "when" is important because the 'Seaton valley capacity' might not be needed for many years to come. Staging is important because it will provide flexibility to better respond to future changes in demand and defer capital expenditure.

I have discussed the risk of sprawl in previous articles in the Coastal News. Disadvantages and risks related to new (greenfield) developments are also widely published. Although some people in these new developments might work in Māpua, it is very likely that most will commute to Motueka, Richmond and Nelson or further afield. This will be contributing to road congestions and the need for large investments by councils to provide for extra road capacity (rates!) Another disadvantage is adding to greenhouse gas emissions. All is avoidable!

It is frustrating that TDC appears to be using the prediction that was in the (already dated) Future Development Strategy as a bottom line and do not have an open mind to (re)justify and consider whether Māpua should continue to aim at this high growth target. This will only amplify the disadvantages mentioned above. It is completely undemocratic how TDC and NCC decided that Māpua should be an 'urban growth area'. The current process provides an opportunity for TDC to reconsider these predictions and the future of Māpua with an open mind.

Conclusion

The outlook for Māpua can be great, but the risk is considerable that Māpua will develop into something we don't want. I believe most Māpua residents don't aspire to become an exclusive sea-side town, nor do we want Māpua to become a new suburb of Richmond. The priority should be to provide what the Māpua community needs now, not what people from outside the region might want. Thus far, growth planning has been largely targeted at this out-of-region demand. Now it is our turn!

Make sure you let TDC know what you think.

Jan Heijs, Māpua resident

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Still more time for Māpua Masterplan engagement

Thanks so much to everyone who attended our community drop-in sessions on 10 and 29 February.

We're extremely grateful for your support and your feedback on the options and actions we have developed.

By 20 February, we had already received more than 400 pieces of feedback from the community – provided in person, in writing or through our Shape Tasman page.

We expect this high level of responses to continue right through until the close of this feedback round on Sunday March 10.

There is still time to provide your feedback - go to shape.tasman.govt.nz/mapua-masterplan-2023.

It is important to clarify that nothing has been pre-determined at this stage and any suggestions that we are putting forward are only options for consideration.

Several more steps are still to come in the process – and therefore more opportunities for the public to make their voice heard are available to you.

Once we have completed our consultation of Masterplan options, we will then finalise a draft Masterplan for public review.

It's at this stage that submissions, hearings, and deliberations will take place, after which we will make the final decision on the Masterplan.

We will, of course, keep you up to date around these dates and opportunities.

The end outcome is that we can produce a final Masterplan that reflects the views and aspirations of the Māpua community, and which will be implemented through methods such as plan changes and 10-Year Plan funding.

If you have any questions, you can get in touch with us at mapuamasterplan@tasman.govt.nz.

Motueka Orchid Show

Sunday 24th March

The Nelson Orchid Society is presenting an Orchid Show in Motueka at the Library Rooms, 32 Wallace Street.

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Māpuā Boat Ramp

Fish Mainland supports the Māpuā boat ramp

In 2019, a group of South Islanders explored the establishment of an organisation to represent their marine recreational fishing interests to Government and others. This exploration led to Fish Mainland being incorporated in 2020 and gaining charitable status in 2021.

Our charitable purpose is to coordinate and assist the South Island marine fishing community in restoring and sustaining fisheries resources for the benefit of all who fish in the waters of the South Island <https://www.fishmainland.nz>

To state the obvious, people must first have access to the water to have a fishing experience. Secure access to the water is increasingly important when considering the complexities, including safety factors, associated with launching and retrieving boats at undesignated access points.

Fish Mainland made a submission in support of the resource consent application for the Māpuā boat ramp. The main reason this submission fully supports the application is the real need for a new boat ramp in the area.

According to Maritime New Zealand research, playing or having fun on the water is the most common purpose of boating, followed by sightseeing, time in nature, exercise and fishing for fun or food.

This explains why the old boat ramp by the wharf was regularly used by local boaties and visitors alike. In fact, a high proportion of people in the Tasman region go boating, and we can expect the demand for use of boat ramps to increase.

According to Maritime New Zealand research, boat ramp use is increasing. More importantly, people in the Tasman region have the highest level of boat ownership or use (44%) for recreational/leisure-based activities, followed by Marlborough, Waikato/Taupo, and Northland (40% each).

It should be noted, these research results show that high boat ownership reflects higher usage of kayaks, followed by ownership of powerboats up to 6 metres in length.

Maritime New Zealand research also notes some important changes to the profile of those who go boating. That is, boating is no longer the domain of middle- or older-aged males using powerboats. In fact, a higher proportion of women (53%) report going boating compared to men (47%).

Also, there is a notable increase in boaties aged 16 to 24. According to Maritime New Zealand, this increase could be cause for concern, as this age group is more likely to use kayaks and personal watercraft and show less concern about safety guidelines.

Furthermore, there are fewer 'super fans', which shows a decrease in the frequency that people go boating. In other words, there can be fewer experienced boaties on the water at any one time <https://maritimenz.govt.nz/public/researchers/-research/>

These results highlight another reason to support the Māpuā boat ramp, which is safety. The ramp will enable



Māpuā Wharf

The Māpuā Boat Ramp application fails to say the main users of the wharf and surrounding water in summer are young people. There is no survey on numbers of children jumping off the wharf and swimming in the estuary around it.

The "final amended application" reads (on p5, Appendix 9), from October to April each year, on the new ramp, "... up to 60 boats would be expected to be launched on any day during a period between 6am and 1pm". Returning boats would use the wharf "until the ramp space becomes available". The risk of children being killed or injured should be assessed, because today's occasional berthing by slower yachts is not such a serious issue.

The wharf is Māpuā's alternative to Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. People come from all around the province to use this priceless community asset. It provides old-style free fun in an increasingly online, urbanised and expensive world. As well as picnicking and fishing with their families, young people learn to swim and socialise. There is no better way for us to invest, at very little cost, in our community than to preserve the wharf as a place for children.

Paul Bensemman

the Māpuā Marine Rescue Team to have 24/7 access to quickly respond to distress calls. Safety is an important community consideration since the Māpuā Team undertakes 10 to 12 rescues per year.

The new ramp will provide other local benefits, including reduced traffic in residential areas compared to the old boat ramp. Redirection of traffic will also free up the Grossi Point area for other important local activities, such as swimming, sailing, paddle boarding, picnicking, etc.

Furthermore, the new ramp will provide much-needed activities for local youth, such as assisting their involvement in Sea Scouts, which can deliver a myriad of benefits for families and community.

Finally, the Māpuā Boat Club's survey results show most locals support the new ramp. Careful consideration has been given to other groups and their current activities. We anticipate locals will work through any lingering differences so that the boat ramp becomes integral to locals and visitors having a safe day on the water and enjoying the lively activities along the Māpuā waterfront.

*Larnce Wichman NZOM
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Māpua Boat Club Regatta report 2024

The Māpua Boat Club annual Regatta was held Sunday Feb 18th under a clear sunny sky and with a light breeze that got up to about 12 knots by the finish.

After a briefing for all competitors at 10.30, the sailors were sent on their way at 11 o'clock. At ten-minute intervals they were followed by the Kayaks, Paddleboards, Powerboats and Radio Control Yachts. At 11.35 the Sailors had their second start of the day, followed again by Paddleboards, Kayaks, and the main event, the Māpua Cup. This is a rowing race in six-oar Sea Scout Cutters between crews representing the Tamaha Sea Scouts, and the Māpua Boat Club.



Cutters preparing to start

The sailing fleet included a Laser, a 420, and four Sea Scout cutters. Mike Shirer, a previous Regatta winner, won race one by 15 seconds from Graham and Anna Battersby in their 420. This result was reversed by the same margin in race 2, after Mike had had to do an extra tack at the top mark, letting the 420 through. Iron Duke Sea Scouts in 156 scored two thirds, and a second Iron Duke crew sailing 177 finished fourth in both races.

The Kayaks had a fleet of 14, and with ages from 70+ down to 8 years, the result was always going to be interesting.

Race 1 was taken out by the Postles Family triple, with Graham and David paddling, and grandson Finn conning from the front luggage hatch. Not starting race 2 cost them the Regatta, and the event was won by Margaret Pidgeon with a 1st and a 2nd. Kim Pope, David Measures and Hamish Ballantyne shared the minor placings. For the first time a number of young paddlers entered and next year Junior paddlers will have their own event.

Paddleboard numbers were up this year with 6 entries. Competition was close at the front of the fleet with Brett Farrell holding Khan Wyman off by a few seconds in each race. Kim Pope was first woman, one point ahead of Katrina Ballantyne. There were a couple of swims in this event and the rearguard were definitely more social than the winners!

The Radio Control Yachts had a good fleet of 9 boats, 6 IOMs, 1metre long, and 3 Dragonforce 65s, 650mm long.

Four races were held in a light breeze which rose to around 12 knots by the end of the series, accompanied by a light chop which also increased slightly, causing some issues with tacking, but giving swift rides downwind. The waves added another dimension to the racing which former Wellington sailor John Levy was able to capitalise on taking the over-all win with his International One Metre class yacht.

Unusually, racing together, from a Mark Foy start, the 3 Dragonforce 65 Class yachts put on a good show, with boats finishing 4th and 5th overall. They suffered a bit against the bigger boats in the 3rd race when the ferry cut through the course, and in the windiest race by having their big rigs on.

Nelson Radio Sailing Club Commodore had a winch failure before the start and spent the Regatta advising less experienced sailors. This produced some improved results for several boats.

The Mapua Cup produced the biggest fleet ever for this event. Although the Cup, a replica of the America's Cup, can only be won by either the local Tamaha Sea Scouts, or the Mapua Boat Club, the event is open to any Sea Scout Cutter. This year we had visitors from the Springlands Sea Scout Troop in Blenheim, and two boats from Nelson's Iron Duke Sea Scouts. The fleet lined up five abreast for the start off the southern end of the Mapua Wharf. On the starting hooter most got away well with 184 Tamaha in the lead at the turning mark 300m downstream, from 156 Iron Duke and 177 Iron Duke.

183 Mapua Boat Club was having trouble finding a gap to overtake, and 144 Springlands were lagging a wee bit. From the turn it was across to Rabbit Island and a run up to the top of the beach to fill a 10L bucket, then back to the boat, around the turning mark and back to the end of the wharf for the finish.

184 Tamaha rowed strongly to win by 20 seconds from 156 Iron Duke, with the Women's crew representing the Mapua Boat Club in 183 getting past 177 Iron Duke to take third place.

Springlands finished 5th, their young crew receiving a great ovation from the spectators on the wharf, as they crossed the finish line.

Along with the Club's safety boats, the Regatta was attended by the TDC Deputy Harbour Master Paul Appleby in the patrol boat 'Sentinel'. Thanks Paul.

A new Trophy this year was the Little America's Cup. A 150mm high replica of the famous trophy, it was one of a series produced for Team New Zealand sponsors for the 2000 Americas Cup Challenge. Cast in Pewter, coated with silver, and mounted on a plinth of Greenstone, it is an impressive item. It has been presented to the club by local resident Mike White who made it, along with several other sizes of the trophy for various purposes, at the time. It is for the winner of the Sailing event, and there was a tie this year, so, Mike Shirer will share it with Graham and Anna Battersby (photo left).



The Regatta finished with trophies and prizes being presented by Boat Club Life Member Annette Walker. Annette also acknowledged the team who put the Regatta together. This included Susan Hassell, Jill Robinson, Penny Cameron, Jenny Marchbanks, Katrina Ballantyne, Grant Palliser, John Marchbanks, Ray Bolderson, Gordon Adamson, Dennis Crawford, John Leydon, and Mike Kininmonth.

And of course, our sponsors who provide provisions and prizes: Delicious Homeware, Darby and Joan, and Māpua Four Square.



March 2024

March 1st

**Elton John and Billy Joel
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March 8th

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March 15th

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Māpua Village Bakery

Staff Update



Uther here is a relative newcomer to the area.

Originally from Greymouth, he's been in Tasman for two years and has been helping out at the bakery for the last year.

You can find him most days swapping back and forth between helping out at the back and then helping out at the front when needed.

When not at work he loves shooting hoops. He's been on a few teams over the years, and his favourite team is the Dallas Mavericks.

His favourite part of working at the bakery is the regular customers. However he really just likes everyone as we have lots of very nice customers.

When asked, he said his favourite treat was the classic custard slice, but at the end of the day he's all about the pies. And if there has to be a king of the pies, then it is the Butter Chicken.

New Products



What goes great on a cheese plate and with fresh bread? Chutney!

We now have a supply of local chutneys to match with your cheese and bakery purchases.

For more traditional styles of chutney Nelson Naturally has the Beetroot and Plum, the Fig and Feijoa, and the Mango and Lime. There's something there to match with almost anything.

From Atutahi (also in Nelson) we get some lovely chutneys with native ingredients. We have Horopito/ Tomato, Kanuka/Beetroot, and Kawakawa/Mango. These have been specifically chosen for their natural health benefits.

Pet of the Day



This is Tami. She's a 10yr old Westie rescue currently being looked after by Julianne.

She's a little shy and can be nervous around other dogs. But she's brave and she's trying to make friends at the bakery.

Tami loves walks more than anything else. A close second though is playing with Missie, her friend the cat.

When it comes to favourite foods, Tami can't go past chicken. So good!

But of course she had her first Bakery Doggie Biscuit today so maybe she'll have a new favourite soon.

Happy Easter



We're pleased to let everyone know that the Mapua Village Bakery and Cafe will be open over the Easter holidays. There will be no holiday surcharge of course.

We're also making a few special treats for Easter, so make sure to come on by during the holidays to try something new and tasty.

And don't forget, of course we'll have our bakery-made hot-cross buns. Come get them fresh out of the oven! And no, we're not putting them out a month early. You have to wait until closer to Easter.

Kai Collective

A new year for Māpua Kai Collective

After the Summer break, there was an epic cook up in the Māpua hall kitchen in mid-February, resulting in an outstanding number of meals - 145 fish pies and 40 plum crumbles. We must acknowledge our cooking team - thank you so much to Lynley Wooten who takes charge of the pots, Rose Barnes who manages the kitchen and keeps an eye on the recipe, and the team of fabulous kitchen workers. The whole idea would fall over without the efforts of you all.

We owe a big thank you to Talleys this month, as the company donated 10 kgs of Tarakihi fillets to the Māpua Kai Collective. Thanks to Donna Avery who has taken on the role of co-ordinating with Talleys on behalf of the Collective. We purchased another 10 kgs using our funds. Thanks also to Judy and Steve of Jester House for smoking 20 kgs of fish!

Our fruit crumbles vary during the year, depending on what is bountiful in local gardens and farms. We appreciate the recent efforts of Ginny Thornley and her team - they halved and de-pipped Ginny's excess plums which found their way into this month's crumbles. Thanks for your contribution, ladies, and to everyone else who has given us plums!

It is sometimes a challenge for us to accept donated produce if it requires processing at the time. We can usually find freezer space with a bit of notice, but fresh donations are best timed with our next cook up if we have advance warning and can adjust our recipes accordingly. However, it's certainly worth getting in touch if you have a glut. Probably best to try Rose on 021 111 1003.

If you are wanting to collect meals, you will need to time your trip to our freezer when the hall is open. This is

a change from last year - our public access freezer has moved to the rear of the Community Hall building, in an alcove near the kitchen. You will spot the beach-themed decoration on the lid and the freezer front. Thanks to Mick and Karen Toll for coming up with this solution to cover wear and tear.

When collecting meals, please remember you're not the only pebble on the beach. These emergency meals are made with love and given freely. They represent the hard work and generous donations of many people in this community. Please use this resource sparingly.

If you would like to become a regular donor, please consider a monthly arrangement! We acknowledge with gratitude our regular supporters for your ongoing financial donations.

Each meal costs the equivalent of a cup of coffee. So, a donation of just \$24 per month will pay for four meals. Please consider setting up a regular donation. Our account is: 03-1354-0464683-30. We bank with the NBS, who donate annually towards the cost of our packaging. What a great community-minded bank!

Please contact Bridget Castle on 021 183 8790, if you have questions about donations.

We were grateful to receive a generous donation of \$500 from the Christmas get-together of the Māpua and Districts Business Association. Thank you for choosing to support us.

Our good wishes for 2024 to all who live in this little village - what a great community to be part of! If you are aware of a neighbour who might need a little extra support, please remember this resource is available - while stocks last.

SAT 23rd MARCH 3 - 7PM
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Book Review

Bookshop Dogs by Ruth Shaw

(Author of "The bookseller at the end of the world")

I am not a dog owner at the moment as my loyalties lie with my elderly cat Sparkles, but I do have a soft spot for canines, growing up as I did with a wonderful, characterful, naughty bitser by the name of Monty, part fox terrier and part short haired sheep dog.

Monty had to be put down 60 years ago but reading Ruth's book takes me back to the fun we had with him as a family. He was cemented into our everyday life and the highlight of going on holiday was picking Monty up from the dogs' home on the way back and watching his crazy, unfettered delight at being with us again.

Ruth's book contains around 30 stories (accompanied with black and white photos) of similarly beloved dogs of all ages, breeds, temperaments, and degrees of quirkiness. Some belong to friends and neighbours who have visited her famous bookshop site in Manapouri on a regular basis: there's Jack who ate two weeks' worth of iron tablets and had to have his stomach pumped out and Cove whose photo reminds me so much of Monty. Cove's owner is often away so Ruth and Lance have him to stay and he now considers all 3 bookshops are his responsibility to oversee.

Other dogs have accompanied their owners in camper vans, cars, and caravans to visit Ruth and Lance's idyllic location. They are instantly welcomed and given permission to explore and make friends with other dogs and people who may also be visiting.

Ruth talks about Rafferty, a gentle giant of an Irish wolf hound who travelled from Waikouiti with his owners Mike and Lorna. It was love at first sight for Ruth once she realised it wasn't a Shetland pony sitting in the back of the car!

Then there's bright little Bertie from Tauranga. Bertie is an Australian terrier who likes nothing more than sitting in owner Liz's bike basket while she and husband Rob do the bike trails, Bertie running for two or three kilometres every so often to keep himself fit.

And the beautiful Bernese Mountain Dog Ladytuideschavonnes (or Tui for short) weighing in at 50 kilos, a 'real good sort' in my eyes. For many years Tui took part in the 'Reading to Dogs' programme in the Queenstown District where Helen, her owner, taught primary school. She has worked with many children with reading aloud difficulties over the years, sitting or lying patiently beside each child while they read to her and grow in confidence, knowing they won't be judged - and finding reading fun!

One dog however pops up again and again in the pages of this book. He didn't start life as a Bookshop Dog but

ended his days in retirement as a much adored one. Hunza, a 12-month-old German shepherd first came to live with Jane when she took on the job of detached youth care worker employed by the Invercargill City Council. Not being under the control of Social Welfare or the police meant that Jane was free to work in a way which suited her, walking the streets late at night protected by Hunza and using his beautiful temperament and charisma to gain the trust of young people in need.

They were drawn to Hunza and in time began to share their stories of abuse, alienation and family problems with Jane. She was then able to act as a caregiver and guide to help them get their lives on track with Hunza playing a huge part in the success of the initiative. She tells the heart moving story of a small nine year old Maori boy who was often hanging around and wanting to spend time with Hunza. He whispered his secret stories to Hunza as Jane drove him home many times in her van but refused to talk to Jane.

One late afternoon she overheard him asking Hunza if he could frighten his dad away and she realized the danger he was in. She stopped outside his house and ran in to talk to the mother before the father got home from work. She persuaded the

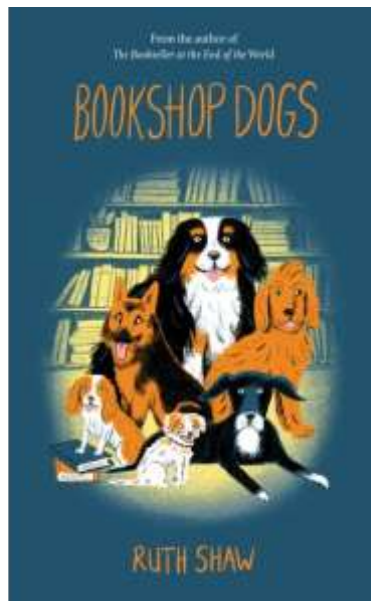
bruised and battered woman to quickly grab clothing and other necessities and come with her and the boy to a safe house. The mother wept when she saw Hunza in the back of the van with her boy. She cried "Thank you, thank you. Thank you, you precious dog." It was Hunza's first successful mission, the first of many.

No. I don't think you need to be a doggie person to enjoy this book. It is full of interesting characters in interesting situations and interesting locations - as well as dogs. (There is even a chapter on Page and Blackmore, our own well-known bookshop in Nelson.)

Ruth's first book surprised her with its massive success. "Who would think so many people would be interested in the life of an ordinary person like me?" she asks. But Jane is a legend. Her amazing autobiography attests to that. "Bookshop Dogs" is another story (or collection of stories.) Different but very readable.

Judy Vaughan

P.S. If you haven't discovered Jane's memoir "The Bookseller at the End of the World" you have missed out on a literary treat. Ruth is one of NZ's most courageous, resilient, and joyfully creative citizens. She has much to teach us about grabbing life's opportunities, laughing through the down times and helping countless people along the way. Read it if you can before "Bookshop Dogs." It will add to your understanding of Jane's unique world from 1946 to now.



Sailing Regatta

2024 Loyal Grossi Point Yacht Club Sailing Regatta

Sunday March 10th

The briefing is at 10am at Grossi point and the first start is at 10-15 am.

Racing around the Estuary from the start on the western side of Grossi point will involve a triangle and sausage course for each of the three divisions.

These are Racing Dinghies, including Lasers, Phase twos, Sunbursts with spinnakers, Fevas, 420s, Moths Europe dinghies, and always a surprise that gets dragged out for events like this. Any junior boats such as Optimists and Starlings get a start on the rest of the fleet.

The second division is for Non-Spinnaker or Cruising classes and includes Idle Alongs, Sea Scout Cutters, Sunbursts and Navigators.

Last year some other classic sailing boats attended and aroused a lot of interest with their superbly finished timber. Hopefully this year will see a bit less wind and we will see these elegant sailing craft performing.

The third division is for Catamarans, and with the sale of our two local Hobie 16s, the field is wide open this year. The Cresta Cats, Maricats, and Paper Tigers, all 14 feet long, will be evenly matched and the title looks to be wide open in this division.

The 4.5m King Tide gives us access to most of the estuary and the course will run from the start, towards Langford drive, across towards Bronte, down towards No-man's Island, and back to Grossi point to begin another lap. At least you will get to see the Estuary!

Entry is free and open to anyone with a sailing boat, and if you need a hand to put yours together, get in touch!

Lifejackets must be worn, and your boat needs a towrope fitted, twice the length of the boat.

Further information ring John on 5402543.



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12

Māpua Health Centre Report

We are 34 years old! It's our birthday this month. The Māpua 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 admin rooms and a staff room added to the back of the building. 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 center 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 warmly welcome a new GP registrar joining us, Shamini Mahadevan, who will be part of the medical team for the next six months. We are also delighted that Dr Louise Darwin is staying on for an extra six months to cover Sophie-Lee Mace's maternity leave.

In addition, we are pleased to have a new health coach, Jess Mullins, joining our team. Health coaching aims to build people's motivation and capability to better understand and self-manage their physical and emotional wellbeing needs. The health coach supports people and their whānau to access community and online resources and supports to enhance their social, emotional, and physical wellbeing. Appointments are fully funded.

We now have nurses trained to offer advice about advance care planning. This gives everyone a chance to say what's important to them. It helps people understand what the future might hold and to say what treatment they would and would not want. It helps people, their families and their healthcare teams plan for future and end of life care. This makes it much easier for families and healthcare providers to know what the person would want - particularly if they can no longer speak for themselves. If this is a something you are interested in exploring, please contact Māpua Health Centre to make an appointment with one of our nurses.

Shave for a cure week is a fundraising initiative that hits close to home for many Kiwis – a chance to shave, spread the word, and stand in solidarity with leukaemia and blood cancer survivors. It's an inspiring way to help fund vital care and resources for the 2,500 people affected.

Some of the events for the month

- 1-31 SunSmart in March <http://wellplace.nz>
- 1-31 Hearing Awareness Month www.deafness.org.au
- 1-31 Kidney Awareness Month www.kidney.health.nz

- 1-31 Brain Awareness Month <https://neurological.org.nz>
- 1 Neighbours Day Aotearoa <https://neighboursaotearoa.nz>
- 1 Zero Discrimination Day www.unaids.org/en/resources
- 2 World Book Day www.worldbookday.com
- 3 World Wildlife Day www.wildlifeday.org
- 3 World Hearing Day <https://www.who.int/campaigns>
- 4-11 Sea Week – Kaupapa Moana www.seaweek.org.nz
- 4-11 Parks Week <https://www.nzrecreation.org.nz/site/events>
- 4 HPV awareness day <https://www.direct.hpv.org.nz/resources>
- 6 National Children's Day www.childrensday.org.nz
- 8 International Women's Day www.internationalwomensday.com
- 9 World Kidney Day <https://www.worldkidneyday.org>
- 11 Relay for Life Day - Te Ara Toiora <https://relayforlife.org.nz/>
- 17 World Sleep Day www.sleephealth.org.nz
- 20 World Oral Health Day www.worldoralhealthday.com
- 21 International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination www.un.org/en/events/racialdiscriminationday
- 22 World Water Day www.un.org/en/events/waterday
- 23-29 Shave for A Cure Week <https://shaveforacure.co.nz>
- 24 World Tuberculosis Day www.stoptb.org

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Our latest news & adventures



School Camps at Whenua Iti

We have loved welcoming schools back and hearing the excited yelps from tamariki on site as they take part in their school camp to kick the year off with fun activities in the outdoors that encourage whanaungatanga - the building of good relationships - across their peers and with their teachers. Our camps weave adventure activities, cultural understanding and nature connection opportunities together for a unique experience based at our site. We will be running more school camps in Term 4. If you are keen to find out more head to www.wio.org.nz.

Opportunities for Primary Schools

In the coming terms we will be running our Mini Environmental Adventurers Programmes (Years 1-4) and a Whenua Day (Years 5-8) at \$15pp thanks to available funding. There are set dates available and Mo will be taking enquiries for any schools interested - you can email her to find out more: mo@wio.org.nz



Garin College Year 13 students at Lake Rotoiti for their camp

ExpedNZ Programme \$\$ to be reinvested

We kicked off the year welcoming The Bush School in January from Seattle who explored Te Taihū with us to enhance their global perspectives and worldview and hopefully take away important learnings to inform their decision-making in an ever-changing world. The profit from our ExpedNZ programmes is to be reinvested to support the delivery of programmes for our local community so that we are a more sustainable organisation.

Connecting with nature to uplift our hauora

As a team, connecting with nature isn't just what we talk about and teach, it's a part of who we are. Over the summer our team spent time underground exploring caves, visiting remote tarns in the Kahurangi national park, watched sunsets at the beach, cooked over open fires with our families and cooled off by swimming at the local awa, or walking through our beautiful native bush. And we all feel refreshed & ready for 2024!



Students from The Bush School in Seattle visit the Abel Tasman

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The Write Bias

News from Māpua Bowling Club

Club championships are almost complete with some of our winners already going forward into the Champ of Champs events where they will meet all the winners from the clubs within the Nelson Centre.

The first tournament held at Māpua since Christmas on Monday 12th February, was sponsored by Bowater Toyota. This is always popular and a sell-out, not just for the bowling and friendly atmosphere, but for the fabulous roast lunch that is provided. Tournaments are fundraisers for bowling clubs and this particular one is always very successful.

Members are now planning and looking forward to the next tournament on Monday 18th March, which will be sponsored by Days Funeral Services.

The RSA National Bowling Championships will take place on Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th March with Māpua and Motueka co-hosting the event. This will mean some hard work for members but is quite an accolade for our club.

The Friendship Group will recommence indoor carpet bowls on Monday 4th March and new players are always welcome. Val Roche is the contact for this on 03 540 3685.

For any information about bowling, coaching, or booking the Clubhouse and facilities, please contact the secretary, Di Blanchet on 03 540 2627 or check out our website, sporty.co.nz/māpuabowls

Sue England

MDCA Report

The first MDCA General Meeting for the year was held on 12 Feb and commenced with a presentation by Monique Patterson of Tasman Bay Guardians. Monique described the role of the Tasman Bay Guardians for wildlife in Māpua. It is surprising how important some very small creatures, both vertebrates and invertebrates are to the health of local aquatic ecology system that we are so dependent upon.

Māpua Masterplan

The latest version of the Māpua Masterplan came available on the Shape Tasman website at <https://shape.tasman.govt.nz/mapua-masterplan-2023> shortly before the first of the TDC's drop-in consultation sessions at the Māpua Hall on 10 Feb. The extensive changes from the previous version stimulated a robust discussion and the MDCA resolved to hold a public meeting open to all to better inform the local community and to correlate significant issues with the plan from the community perspective.

An MDCA Masterplan public meeting will be held on March 4 and is open to the public.

Readers are reminded to submit their own thoughts to the TDC team on the above website before March 10.

Councillors' reports

The Streets for People consultation program was briefly discussed, and Councillor Christeen MacKenzie offered to follow-up with the person running the consultation for clarification on some matters.

Councillor Dan Shallcross highlighted the value of the TDC Youth Council input which again raises the fact that the MDCA is very deficient in younger person's input. If you know someone who could provide a youthful input into local community concerns, the MDCA would love to hear from them.

Boat ramp

The boat ramp proposal resulted in some discussion. The application is now in the hands of the environment court.

Resuscitation training

The resuscitation training program implementation has been delayed by developments with obtaining a trainer. Persons who have indicated an interest in this will be contacted once a firm date and cost have been confirmed.

Secretary position

Our current secretary will be away for several months from the end of May., The MDCA is seeking a new secretary. Training and honorarium will be provided for this role. If you are interested, please email secretary@ourmapua.org

MDCA constitution

Finally, the somewhat bureaucratic issue of a new constitution will be addressed by a Constitution Subcommittee before a draft is presented to the rest of the MDCA. A new constitution is an essential requirement of the new Incorporated Societies Act and recent MDCA activity has highlighted a need to cover realms outside of the current document. This subcommittee will be headed by Paul McIntosh.

RUBY BAY STORE

What's On Next

Saturday 2 March 7.30pm

Luke Hurley Original music from this singer/guitarist and busker, who toured back in the day with Michele Shocked and Marianne Faithfull. \$25

Friday 8 March 7.30pm

Ceol Manawatu More Celtic flavoured blues from Palmerston North collective led by Paul Turner. Includes Craig Prichard, ex-Nelson. \$25

Saturday 9 March 7.30pm

Movie Night: *The Happy Prince* Last days of Oscar Wilde, starring Colin Firth, Emily Morgan and Rupert Everett. Rating M \$15/\$12

Saturday 16 March 7.30pm

The Unseen and Undersea World Two short but very different films about preserving our planet, the first the battle to save Te Waikoropupu Springs at Golden Bay. With speakers and discussion. \$10

Saturday 23 March 7.30pm

Clayton Taylor and Friends The Early Bobs frontman and his mates take us on a musical tour of Ireland. \$25

Sunday 24 March 7.30pm

Monthly Classic Movie Night: *In My Father's Den* A 2004 NZ-UK dramatic production, starring Matthew Macfadyen and Miranda Otto. R rating. \$15/\$12. Fish and chips special, \$20.

Saturday 30 March 7.30pm

The Early Bobs play Dylan album *John Wesley Harding*. \$25

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Māpua Craft Group report

Our first meeting for 2024 was on the 16th of February, when we discussed ideas for the year.

Our Birthday and Sympathy cards are available in the Mapua Library for small donations to library funds. Please support this project.

This year, we may try flax weaving and some Easter projects. We encourage recycling of unwanted items such as clothing and other material items. So far, we have made blankets that are sent to "Operation Coverup" and Ukraine.

Searches in Richmond and Mapua libraries have given us more ideas, notably "Cable Knits from Nordic Lands" and "Egg Art" (see photo) the latter detailing 50 designs to



paint, dye and draw, by Katya Trischuk. These designs would make striking cards for Easter, or they would keep artistic pupils happy for hours during the school holidays. It may be possible to see the egg art in colour on the Coastal News web site.

Do join us when you can - we meet at Hills Community Church supper room at 10am to noon on the 1st and 15th of March.

Wishing all our readers a Happy Easter!

Barbara Halse, Ph: 5403901.

*The Coastal News is edited by Andrew Earlam, Mary Garner and Trees van Ruth. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editors. Distributed 1st of the month.
Deadline for copy to news@coastalnews.online is 20th of the month.
Noticeboard items are a gold coin donation in the collection boxes. Club notices are free.*

Community Hub welcomes District Nurses

Community welcomes the opening of a Māpua base for local District Health Nurse Clinics.

After many months of negotiation between the DHB, Māpua Community Wellbeing Trust and Hub Working Group, the new nursing base located in the front office space of the Hills Community Church, Aranui Road Māpua was officially opened on 20 February.




Raewyn Kaihe was warmly welcomed as the first resident District Health Nurse by John Botting – Chair of the Trust along with Vicky Stocker and Elena Meredith from the Māpua Community Hub Working Group.

Raewyn expressed her delight in now having an accessible clinic for local community residents, noting that her first clients were coming in shortly after on the first day of operations.

She encouraged residents to ensure that their GPs now made referrals for them to the local clinics – current hours being Tuesdays and Fridays 9am-1pm. These hours are expected to increase in future.

John, Vicky, and Elena as representatives of the community also expressed their delight at this result (after a long period of negotiation) celebrating the tangible beginnings of the long-planned Māpua Community Wellbeing Hub offering a range of community services and programmes complementing those already operating in the Māpua Community Hall.

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Thank you for Little Penguin rescue



A hearty thank-you to the observant locals on Stafford Drive who recently rescued a poorly little penguin from the beach. They observed it in the afternoon, sitting near the waters' edge and rightly concluded that things weren't right.

Indeed, they weren't. If a little penguin is seen onshore during the day, it's a sure sign that it's in a bit of bother.

This little blue fledgling was cold, wet, exhausted, dehydrated and starving. Its

body weight was about 50% of what it should be. We can never be 100% sure of its circumstances but it most likely fledged from its burrow a little early and then struggled to successfully forage for food. Weak and hungry, it was stranded on the shore.

The Ruby Bay locals contacted us at the Tasman Bay Blue Penguin Trust after uplifting the wee blue from the beach and popping it safely in a warm box. This ensured it was protected from predation. We transferred it to our rehab vet who immediately hydrated it, cleared its ears and neck/head area of ticks, generally gave it a thorough once over and snuggled it into a warm bed.

Sadly, this little blue didn't make it and passed away the following morning. Its weight loss had simply gone too far. Yes, a sad ending, but because these Ruby Bay locals acted on their instincts, made some calls, and kept the penguin safe, it at least had a chance. It was safe, warm, and well cared for in its last hours.

So, our sincere thanks to its rescuers.

Ruby Bay is acknowledged as little penguin habitat. They are a protected native species with a DOC conservation status of "at risk, declining" so they need all the support we can give them. Please look out for them on the local beaches, keep your dog on a lead and if you see one in trouble call the DOC Emergency Hotline 800 362 468 or the Tasman Bay Blue Penguin Trust 021 797 267. With thanks.

Linda Jenkins, Trustee

Tasman Bay Blue Penguin Trust / Love Our Little Blues

P O Box 6026, Riwaka, RD3, Motueka 7146

M: 021 797 267 : tasmanbaypenguins@gmail.com

W: www.tasmanbaypenguins.org.nz

F: [facebook.com/loveourlittleblueskorora](https://www.facebook.com/loveourlittleblueskorora)

Applications for Funds

Voluntary organisations and clubs are invited to apply for grants from the Māpua Community Trust, with all applications to be received by 8 April. Grants are usually \$500 or less, depending on demand. A copy of the application form can be downloaded from <https://mapuacommunitytrust.wordpress.com>

Please return it as an attachment by email to mapuarubybaycommunitytrust@gmail.com

The Trust, The Māpua/Ruby Bay & Districts Community Trust, to give it its full name, is funded by the Coastal News, but also welcomes other donations. The capital is invested and the profits from interest are available for grants.

Guilt free reading.

Many people don't have cash in their pocket when they want to pick up a copy of the Coastal News, and maybe feel a little guilty at not donating a dollar or two.

Here is a solution. You could pay by internet banking once a year the equivalent of \$1 or \$2 per copy - \$11 or \$22 (or more) per year. Here is the account number: 38-9005-0849514-00 with sub as a reference.

Then when you pick up a copy without paying and someone looks at you askance, you can sing "I'm a subscriber" to that Monkees tune. We could give out badges.

We would like to thank our regular contributors and readers for your support.

Coastal News team

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Māpua Fire Brigade



January to February 24 call outs

17 Jan 14:37: A car v motorcycle at the intersection of Mapua Dr and SH60, road closed. Police investigating.

17 Jan 18:46: Called by police following the above incident.

23 Jan 13:27: Alarm activation at Shed 4 Māpua wharf. Subsequently stood down. The activation was by the alarm person on site.

28 Jan 19:41: A BBQ on fire on Mahana Ridge, threatening a house. An Upper Moutere Fire controlled fire so turned Māpua back.

5 Feb 10:46: Shed fire Sunrise Valley Rd. Helped put the fire out, helped with water supply. May have been started with a hot ride-on mower that had just finished mowing and been parked in shed.

10 Feb 13:54: Alarm activation at Mahana School. Nothing found.

13 Feb 13:25: Fire at a cool store in Motueka. Stood down. Did you know that two fire engines respond to any property fire, e.g. house, shed, school, any building? This is regardless of whether there is an actual fire or just a threat.

Call outs for the year =10

Safety Tip – Be safe.

No fires to be lit. Prohibited fire season. Fire ban in our area.

Be careful with hot machinery, grinders, mowers etc.

Go to the Check it's Alright web site to see if you can light a fire; most fires in this area need a permit.

For fire safety info go to - <https://fireandemergency.nz/>

For fire permits go to - <http://www.checkitsalright.nz/>

We have had a few members who have left recently and are looking for some new members with daytime availability to join the Brigade.

If interested come and see us at 3 Iwa St after 7pm on a Thursday evening.

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What's on at Hills Community Church?

Sunday

Morning Service - followed by Morning Tea - 9:30am

Youth Group – 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Food, fun, fellowship, friendship.

Wednesday

Senior Moments – second and last Wednesdays each month. 10:00am to 12:00pm

Friendship, food, events and information.

KidsnKoffee – Community Playgroup -

10:00am to 12:00pm

A great space for all the whanau

Thursday

Prayer and coffee – 10:00am

An opportunity for prayer, discussion and a chat

Friday

Craft and Coffee – first and third Friday each month

10:00am to 12:00 pm

Throughout the week

Life Groups

Drop in for coffee, chat or just a quiet space.

For more information contact:

Hills Community Church: Phone 03 540 3848

office.hcc@xtra.co.nz

www.hillscommunitychurch.org

Easter

Sunday 24th March

Palm Sunday – Worship Service 9.30am

Followed by morning tea.

Thursday 28th March

Maundy Thursday – 6.00pm

Join us for a shared meal, conversation and fellowship.

Friday 29th March

Good Friday – 9.30am

A time of reflection, song and prayer

Followed by morning tea.

Sunday 31st March

Easter Sunday – Worship Service 9.30am

Followed by morning tea and Hot Cross Buns.

Come to the Quiet
A time for quiet and reflection
during the season of Lent

Wednesday Evening: 14th February
- Ash Wednesday to 27th March
7pm to 7:30pm
An opportunity for coffee and chat
7:30pm to 8:00pm
Hills Community Church



For further information contact: Hills Community Church - 03 540 3848, Sally Williams - 021 288 9448

Ruby Coast Running Club

We have had some record numbers at our Thursday night 5km events this month. It has been great to see lots of new faces, as well as some familiar faces that we have not seen for a while. Perhaps it is those new year's resolutions being turned into action. It is unlikely to be the weather, as we have faced some pretty hot evenings recently which has made for some challenging runs. Although having said that, running in the heat does mean the refreshments afterwards are all the more well deserved. Whatever the reason, well done to everyone, including all of our regular walkers and runners, for coming along and getting it done.

Our usual Saturday morning longer runs have also been well attended this month. These have generally had earlier than usual start times to avoid the heat of the day.

We have also been venturing further afield with some trail runs, and some hikes, around the region.

Earlier in the month a group organised an overnight hike to summit Mt Owen. By all accounts this was a strenuous hike. This is not surprising given that Mt Owen is the highest peak in the Kahurangi National Park. Our hikers were fortunate to have had perfect weather, so the views were amazing.

As well, we had a group run the trail around Lake Rotoiti in the Nelson Lakes National Park. This generally followed the course of the "Loop the Lake" event, but it was not a race, just an informal group run.

Lake Rotoiti also featured in the recent organised event some of our members took part in, namely the Mt Robert Fell Run, on February 18th. This popular annual trail run in the Nelson Lakes National Park starts by Lake Rotoiti and goes up and around the Mt Robert Circuit. With a distance of over 18km and more than 800m elevation to climb, it is a challenging event. However, participants' efforts were again rewarded with some stunning views.

If you would like to join us, our regular Thursday 5km runs meet each week in front of the playground by the Māpua Hall. We start at 5:15pm for walkers and runners who need more than 30 mins to complete 5km, and 5:30pm for everyone else. No need to register in advance – just come along a few minutes beforehand to sign in and to listen to the course briefing.

You can also find us on Facebook: Ruby Coast Running Club. There is more information there about our weekend runs and upcoming events.



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Moutere Hills RSA Memorial Library

Māpua Community Library

Boy is it hot and dry out there. Perfect weather for grabbing a book to read in the shade. Our book buying team is doing a fantastic job researching and buying a wide selection of books. Come into the Library to see the latest purchases.

Our fund-raising efforts continue in 2024 as we endeavour to raise funds for all those new books and our next fund raiser is a Quiz night at the Spring and Fern, Māpua on the 27th of March. Book a table well in advance.

We also need to acknowledge all our sponsors who have helped fund new book purchases during the 2023/24 year including Rata Foundation, Tasman District Council, OneFortyOne Forestry, Top of the South, and members of the community.

We will be holding our Annual general meeting on Wednesday 8th of May at 7pm at the library and welcome anyone who would like to hear about what we have been doing and plan to do in 2024. We do have several committee members stepping down this year and we are looking for willing people to join the committee. You don't need to be a current member or volunteer. If you think you would like to contribute to the running of our great little library and would like more information, please email the library at mapualibrary@gmail.com.

Do you know of anyone who needs some extra support in reading, writing or math? We offer free and private lessons with trained tutors. If this is something you or someone you know may be interested in, please contact Judy Vaughan at the library.

The library will be closed for the Easter public holidays; Friday 29th of March, Sunday 31st of March and Monday 1st of April but we are open on Saturday 30th of March.



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Wildlife Corridors in Māpua

Meeting on 23 March from 9 to 11 am

Higgs Reserve is a forest and wetland reserve that connects the Waimea Inlet with Dominion Flats. It is yet another example of a broken corridor where once fish and birds could move freely between the sea and inland forests. Bordered by State Highway 60 and Māpua Drive and partly having been used as a highway construction site, it is gradually being recovered by local volunteers to a coastal forest and wildlife sanctuary.

For wildlife, crossing our highways and roads is often impossible. This means that many species who would normally survive by using both side of the corridor are declining both here in Māpua and around the world. Galaxiids (freshwater native fish) such as the giant kōkopu can live for up to 20 years. Kōkopu can be seen along streambeds during dark hours with a flashlight, especially during the full moon. They need shaded freshwater pools for staying cool and eating bugs. Īnanga, another galaxiid species needs access to saltwater marshes (such as those at Higgs Reserve) to lay their eggs in early autumn.



Come along to our March gathering of the Wildlife Corridors where the Tasman Bay Guardians and the Friends of Higgs Reserve will be talking about Giant kōkopu and Īnanga lifecycles and TDC efforts to install fish ladders under Māpua Drive. Our hope is that at least some of these species will be able to make the journey from the safety of the streambed to their saltwater spawning grounds and for the young to return.

Vehicle parking is available on both sides of the road. Please take care on this high-speed road. Volunteers will be onsite on Māpua Drive to help us humans to safely cross Māpua Drive. The big silver sculpture (with its amazing Māpua School children's fish art) will be our meeting point.

Noticeboard

NZ Textile Experiences have art textile and fibre workshops available in the local Nelson/Tasman area www.nztextileexperiences.com

Craft Group: please check with Barbara or Val that meetings are going ahead.

Stamp & Coin collections in Māpua/Ruby Bay & the Moutere evaluated & purchased. Nick Ferrier 021 688243

Pastel Artists Nelson: meet Tuesdays 9am-noon, Bill Marris room, Hall. Visitors welcome. Marg: 027 257 1857

Coastal Stringers: Ukulele & guitar group meet Fridays 1-4pm at Bowling Club. All welcome, just arrive & enjoy the singing. Contacts: Colleen 5403010, Diane 5402627.

Māpua Women's Rec Group. Come and join our friendly social walking group. Meet outside Tessa Mae's Thursdays 9.15am. Options for all fitness levels plus activities and social events. mapuarecgroup@gmail.com or just turn up.

Knit & Natter group now at Applshed: 10am Tuesdays. Contact: Debbi 027 327 4055

Local Women's Walking Group - all welcome to our Tuesday morning walk of 5-7km leaving 9am - call Lynley 03 540 2292 for more information.

Motueka Toastmasters: Like to speak with more confidence? Meet 1st & 3rd Weds, 6.45-8.30pm, St Johns rooms, Jack Inglis hospital. Visitors welcome. Info Sierra 027 8444765 or Peter 027 7468311.

Re-cycle Printer Cartridges at the library. Volunteers are happy to collect printer & photocopier cartridges and transport to recycling centre. Blue bin in our foyer.

Tasman Golf Club: Mixed Social 9 Holes of Golf. Tee off 9.30am Fridays. Friendly group, all levels very welcome. Cost: \$25 for non-members. Ph: Lyndal 03 5266819, teeup@tasmangolfclub.com or just turn up at Kina

Ruby Coast Newcomers Social Group: meet new people, make new friends. Coffee 10am last Fridays at Tasman Store and occasional social events. Just turn up. Vivien/Richard 526-6707

Māpua Community Choir: 4 part harmony, no audition necessary, small koha, Māpua Hall 7.15pm Thursdays, enquiries Helen: n-h.bibby@actrix.co.nz

Tasman Dippers: A casual collection of people who enjoy connecting with the open water. Year-round dips or swims in the sea at Rabbit Island. Info: www.tasmandippers.nz

Māpua Boat Club welcomes new members. No boat required. Social nights Thursdays 5.30 - 7pm at Club rooms on Māpua Wharf. Raffles, cash bar, snacks, regular guest speakers. To join, contact Secretary, Katrina 0211393945

RSA: Anyone interested in joining Moutere Hills RSA is welcome. No service history required. Catch up & meet new members. Nic Poultney 021 220 3920 or 548-4420

Māpua Friendship Club indoor bowls, first & third Mondays. Now at Māpua Bowling Club rooms. Bowls at 2pm, followed by "bring a plate" afternoon tea. \$3 door fee. We are not a competitive bunch and have lots of laughs. For more information contact Val 540 3685

Māpua Art Group meets Bill Marris Room Māpua Hall Thursdays, 9-noon. Paint, draw, help each other in a social environment. All levels, media. \$5 incl morning tea. Tables, chairs, easels provided. mapuaartgroup@gmail.com

MDCA: Māpua & Districts Community Association meets Feb-Dec, 2nd Mondays, 7pm Māpua Hall; info@ourmapua.org

Kids 'n' Koffee Playgroup: Wednesdays 10-noon during term time, at the old church building. 0-6 year olds. Morning tea provided. Gold coin donation. Info: pippie.d@gmail.com

Playcentre: behind the tennis courts at 84 Aranui Rd. Come & play – Mondays & Thursdays 9.30-noon during term time. mapua@playcentre.org.nz

Ruby Coast Running Club: 5k run Thursday nights 5:30pm. Also runs most mornings. Find us on Facebook or contact Debbi 027 327 4055.

Fibre Craft Sunday. Birch Hall, Richmond A&P Showgrounds. Last Sundays 1.30-3.30pm. Learn to spin, knit, felt or weave. \$5 includes tea or coffee. All ages welcome. Richmond Creative Fibre Group: Diane 547-6517 or Karyn 544-9709

Spinners, Knitters, Weavers: Creative Fibre Group, Māpua Hall, second Tuesdays 10am. All welcome.

Quakers meet at Family Service Centre, Motueka 10am 2nd Sundays. All welcome. Enquiries: Linda 027 447 6435.

Toy Library: extensive selection of toys, puzzles & videos for children 0-5yrs. Māpua Hall every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 10-11am & 6.30-7.30pm, 1st & 3rd Friday 3-4pm. mapuatoylibrary@gmail.com

Ruby Coast Walking Group meets 9.30am Wednesdays by Tasman Store. Walk 1½ hrs then coffee & muffins back at the Store. All welcome. Fiona: 021 232 6089 for more info.

Motueka Senior Net. Tech for mature adults. Monthly meetings. Help sessions 2x/month. De-mystify technology in a fun & friendly forum. Clubrooms 42 Pah St, Motueka. Seniornetmotueka.org.nz

Coastal Garden Group meets 1pm first Thursdays, Tasman Bible Hall (opp. Jesters). Men and women most welcome to share their love of gardening. Guest Speakers, Workshops, Garden Visits. Ph 03 265 1842

Sing Your Lungs Out! Free community singing group for anyone with respiratory issues. Morning tea. Singing improves your lung health! 10am Mondays, Te Awhina Marae, Pah St, Motueka. Pip 0274 282 693

Tasman Area Community Association (TACA) 7.30pm last Thursdays (x Dec) Tasman Bible Church. Residents of Ruby Bluffs to Tasman & Kina welcome. Info: Facebook or www.tasmancommunity.org.nz

Motueka Scottish Country Dance Club: Weds 7.30pm Lower Moutere Hall Scout den. No partner needed, dress casual, wear soft flat shoes, beginners welcome. Good exercise, lively music. Contact Fay 021 039 3559 or Alison 0220 363 891.

Nelson Trout Fishing Club: 7pm 3rd Wednesdays, Fish & Game Rooms, 66/74 Champion Rd, Stoke. Beginner or expert. Courses, field trips, speakers. Open to all ages. Info: 03 5476432, secretary@nelsontroutfishingclub.com

Club Notices are free. Others by gold coin donation to one of the distribution boxes. Please make sure they are up to date. Check out www.coastalnews.online to see the issue in colour.