



## Māpua & Districts Community Association (MDCA)

The Public Meeting was held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November at the Māpua Hall.

**Alastair Clement**, Team Leader – Natural Hazards & Geomorphology at the TDC, gave a very interesting and timely presentation given the impact of this past year's extreme weather events.

The role of his team includes maintaining a comprehensive database on natural hazards and geomorphology, and modelling of historic and potential future flooding events, sea level change, coastal inundation/erosion/subsidence and wave heights within Tasman Bay.

To achieve this, Alastair described how his team undertake event reconnaissance and post-event surveying and mapping to maintain up-to-date monitoring of our region's river and coastal environments.

He noted how historical photos and imagery have been useful to calibrate/validate TDC's flood models. Digital rain gauges across the region will also provide real time feedback on actual rainfall rates/amounts to better calibrate the new weather radar that will be installed within the next few years.

Alastair discussed a few of the recent and ongoing studies being conducted on the Waimea and Moutere rivers/inlets, and provided insights on why flooding patterns differ across these two main catchment areas, with river mouth width/depth and access of storm surge into the inlets being major factors.

Residents who want to know more can view Hazard Maps/Reports on TDC's Environmental Map Viewer website.

Our Ward Councillors were present, with **Mike Kininmonth**, **Dave Woods** and **Dean McNamarra** currently being inducted and Council roles being assigned. Dave, a Ruby Bay resident, will be the MDCA's primary contact, with Mike covering Brightwater/Wakefield and Dean Ngatimoti/Dovedale.

Mike reminded members that the Leisure Park has a dog free area marked off for pied stilt nesting. Mike also noted that a request to TDC and NZTA for speed reduction signage at the SH60/Mapua Rise intersection had been declined, and that now that the Boat Ramp is not proceeding Council is awaiting a Cultural Impact



Assessment on Grossi Point prior to any decision on future works.

Regarding **Roads and Pathways**, based on updated Geotech advice, plans are underway to re-open the Ruby Bay Bluffs Rd to two-way traffic before Xmas.

On Māpua Drive the recent relocation of the **Radar Speed Sign** was based on feedback from the Police Liaison Officer on increased speeding on upper Māpua Drive. The original location mounting remains and Police intend to move signs as needed based on driver behaviour.

Regarding **parking on Māpua Drive**, outside Aranui Park, the new signage combined with enforcement activities has had the desired effect, with cars-for-sale no longer present within this area.

The **Community Emergency Preparedness Plan (CEPP)** has now been completed and was formally launched at the Community Emergency Preparedness Day at Māpua Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

The CEP Team's focus will now be on working with the Māpua Hall Committee on setting up the Hall to be our Community Emergency Centre and encouraging a wider network of Neighbourhood Groups. Any queries regarding the CEP team activities can be addressed to mapuacepp@gmail.com.

MDCA's final Public Meeting for 2025 will be held at the Māpua Community Hall on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm when our guest speaker will be Luke Kilworth from property developer Brookfield, who will introduce his company and seek feedback on what housing options are desired by our community.

Finally, MDCA is planning a refresh of our website – so stayed tuned for updates.

Annual membership subscription can be paid by direct credit – see [www.ourMāpua.org](http://www.ourMāpua.org) for details.

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# Māpua Boat Club—2025 Kids Fishing Competition

November 23rd started out gloomy but then the sun shone on the 61 kids fishing down at Māpua Wharf.

Three age categories, under 6 years, 6-9 years and 10-12 years were all kept busy during the one hour competition hauling up a variety of fish including herring,



Joshua Colton

spotties, kahawai, a couple of starfish

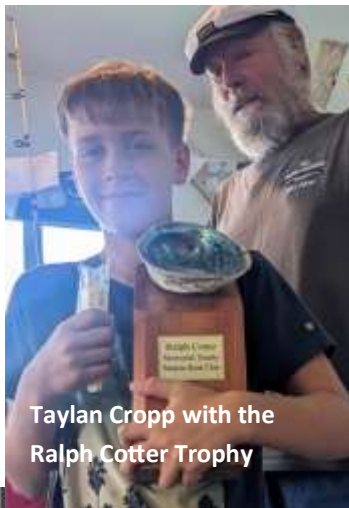
and the winner of the "most unusual catch", a rock cod caught by Joshua Colton which earned him a new fishing rod sponsored by Jimmy's Bait.

Jimmy also awarded "the most patient angler" prize to Connor Allison which was a day out fishing on Jimmy's boat with a

parent.

All who participated were winners, but the grand prize of the biggest fish caught was awarded to Taylan Cropp, who will have his name added to the Ralph Cotter trophy and a fishing lesson from Jimmy. The fish he caught was a 547gm kahawai, 335cm long.

Taylan received a new fishing rod from Nelson



Taylan Cropp with the Ralph Cotter Trophy



The Outstanding Sportsmanship award sponsored by Nelson Hunting & Fishing went to Isobel Hunter from the 6 - 9 years age group who assisted her mum clearing seaweed from her line.



Isobel Hunter

The Māpua Boat Club had many members on the wharf assisting in running the competition, manning the sausage sizzle and handing out Juicies.

The encouragement in getting young ones into fishing and the glee they exhibited was lovely to see for the many spectators.

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Alex Denson

Hunting and Fishing for also winning his age category 10 - 12 years.

The 6 - 9 years age category was won by



Baylin Rako

Alex Denson with a 194gm kahawai, 262cm long, who also received a new fishing rod from Nelson Hunting and Fishing as did the Under 6 years winner Baylin Rako who caught a 132gm herring 228 cm long.

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# Māpua Community Wellbeing Trust (MCWT)

2025 has been a very positive year for the Trust, starting in January when Trust and Working Group members workshopped our Strategic Plan.

Three clearly stated objectives ensued:

- 1) Clarify the role of the MCWT
- 2) Expand MCWT's reach in the community
- 3) Ensure MCWT becomes sustainable

Within these objectives were clearly defined goals and actions. One such goal was that MCWT add value to the work of external groups by addressing information gaps and improving access to services. A specific action stemming from this was the setup of services as described below.

## Click and Connect service

The Trustees identified a need for technical support in the community and started a free help session one afternoon a week in the Library - called Click & Connect. A number of volunteers have joined to share the load, and we hope to expand this to include Saturdays in the New Year.

## Drop-In Centre - six month trial period in Māpua Hall.

The trial period ended in October with the numbers who visited very small and infrequent. A brainstorming session with volunteers, post the trial, highlighted the need to more specifically target wellbeing needs in the community.

As a result, the Trust will look at setting up Wellbeing discussion groups/talking cafes and plan a year's worth of sessions in advance. These might involve a short presentation followed by discussion/chat sessions targeted at different sectors of the community (e.g. youth, aged care, young parents, etc).

## District Health Nurses

The District Nurses clinic continues in the front office of the Hills Community Church. The Trust continues to explore potential avenues to expand this type of service, but current economic conditions dictate that no further medical outreach arrangements with Health NZ (Te Whatu Ora) have been put in place this year.

## Youth Initiative

The Hills Community Church have appointed a new part time Minister with a strong children and young family focus. Rev. Emily Holmes and Robyn Weller (a member of the congregation) have set up a community wide Kid's Club

in Term 4 which has received strong interest including from the MCWT.

Discussions with Rev. Emily are looking forward to the senior members of the Kid's club moving on to College/High School from next year and hopefully becoming the foundation of a youth programme. Rev. Emily's husband Greg has a youth focus and is keen to pursue this. The Trust have partnered with HCC around these youth initiatives and indicated a willingness to contribute financially toward costs.

## Plant Sale

Jan Patterson, Lyn McCulloch and Liz McPherson coordinated and ran another very successful Plant Sale in September. Over \$3,000 was raised and the Trust agreed that profits from this year's Plant Sale be donated toward establishment costs for the Kid's Club.

Jan, Lyn and Liz have indicated that they are retiring this year but will be available to mentor the next group of Plant Sale organisers. The Trust are actively seeking interested volunteers keen to continue this very worthwhile and popular fundraising project.

All the Trustees sincerely thank Jan, Lyn and Liz for their sterling work running the annual Plant Sale – it has become a community event thanks to their determination and hard work.

*John Botting, Chair MCWT*



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If you have a boat, caravan or trailer with your camping gear, don't forget to have the tyres and brakes checked so they are in sound condition and their WOF is also current prior to heading away.

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## People, places and personalities of Māpua.

**Concludes a 3-part series on Protected Trees of Mapua.**

[see next page] If you have any suggestions for articles and/or interviews, please contact:

[storytimemapua@gmail.com](mailto:storytimemapua@gmail.com) Thank you!

**A brief note on Aranui Park:**

Aranui Park was gifted to New Zealand in 1977 by Dorothy and Bernard Wells who owned the parkland and modified wetland.

The owner after WW1 was Arnold Wells, Bernard's father, who was an orchardist. He lived on his orchard that he called Mt Hope, currently being developed for housing. Originating from Taranaki he claims he could see Mt Taranaki from his veranda, hence the name of Mt Hope.

Arnold was a keen botanist as well as a gifted musician. He used to sing hymns to his cows as he milked them in the milking shed. The shed was rebuilt as a hay barn by his son Bernard, a building in the centre of Aranui Park as a reminder of the Wells family. The huge variety of large exotic trees in Aranui Park is another legacy of the family. (David Mitchell 2014)

More recent plantings are predominantly native species. The function of the land is to serve as a remnant of our natural heritage, permanently free from urban sprawl.

The land was officially gifted to the Lands and Survey Dept to our nation in 2003.

*Annette Le Cren*

## Birds Nesting in Māpua Estuary

**Variable Oystercatcher - Torea-Pango**

There are two pairs of birds nesting in the Māpua estuary just off the causeway near the Leisure Park.

Please keep your dogs on a lead and stay well clear of the nesting area. The best observation of the nesting area is from the Leisure Park causeway.

Variable Oystercatchers are mostly black with long



bright orange bill and coral pink legs, their eyes have a red iris, and the eye ring is orange.

They are often highly aggressive towards people close to their nest or chicks, dive

bombing, and screeching so please keep clear.

They also undertake fake distraction displays on the ground in defence of eggs or chicks. They breed in monogamous pairs and defend territories vigorously against neighbours.

Nests are normally simple scrapes in the sand, and two or three eggs are laid in November. Incubation is shared and takes about 28 days. The chicks fly at about seven weeks [February].

*Raewyn Wood*



# Protected Trees of Māpua

## Part 3 of 3

Thank you to a keen reader who pointed out that the project to identify trees of historical, scientific or cultural value in our area started back in the 1970s (50 years ago). Part One of this article (September 2025 Issue) stands corrected on this point.

The most recent 2021 Tasman District Council report authored by Matt Heale on this work is online here, [QR code] referring to 'Notable Trees', rather than 'Protected Trees'. The Council now consults with Iwi to recognize Te mana o te Taiao, or the mana (power) of the natural world in making development decisions involving Notable Trees.

The main threat to Notable Trees in Tasman is development of land for housing and infrastructure. While most of these trees are specimens imported to New Zealand, they now provide valuable habitat for wildlife, oxygen in exchange for carbon dioxide and protection from UV exposure for all of us.

Twelve of the 575 Notable Trees in the Tasman District Council are in Māpua. You can see their physical locations on this map here. [QR code]

Parts One and Two of this article (September and November Issues of the Coastal News) described the first ten trees.

The last two trees are a mystery to me as I have not seen them in person.

T867, a Fraxinus or Ash tree is on private land in Ruby Bay. This tree is in the same genus as olive trees and lilac bushes, known for longevity and large size. It would have been planted in a homestead location by early orchardists.

The last tree is hiding in plain sight – see if you can find it! T648 is a Quercus ilex or Holm Oak, located at the Southeastern edge of Aranui Park (on the Aranui Road side). You will see a small white ceramic plaque with its number on it.

Originally from the Mediterranean region, Holm Oaks are known for tolerance to salt winds, their leaves don't fall off in winter and they can be used to grow truffles.

We have other magnificent specimen trees in Māpua that are not officially on the TDC Notable Tree register. Here are a few that are personal favorites, easily visible to the public:

Gum trees at the lower end of Pomona Road.



## Giant Sequoias in Aranui Park



Sequoia trunks (bicycle for size reference)

Sequoia crowns in Aranui Park (for skyline perspective)

What are your favorite trees in Māpua? We'd love to hear about these and why they are important to you.

For example, there was a community effort to save the Ngaio tree at the wharf which is ever popular with people of all ages for climbing and shade.

Also, the blue flowering (Jacaranda?) tree by the tennis courts is very well looked after and provides us all with year-round beauty. We'd love to hear more about it.

## References

Heale, M. (2021) Notable Trees, Tasman Environment Plan Issues and Options Report. Tasman District Council, 33 pp.

Tasman GeoHUB TDC Planning: TRMP : Land-Areas: Protected Trees. Online Resource [Transact.nzta.govt.nz/transactions/changeofaddress/UpdateDetails](https://transact.nzta.govt.nz/transactions/changeofaddress/UpdateDetails)

Reviewing the complete list of Notable Trees in Māpua:

T581 at 120 Higgs Road      T909 at 86 Higgs Road  
T910 at 86 Higgs Road      T627 at 54 Higgs Road  
T613 at Aranui Road (private, not visible from the road)  
T614 at Aranui Road (private, not visible from the road)  
T615 at Aranui Road (private, not visible from the road)  
T650, T651 at Māpua Domain, Aranui Road  
T580 on Highway 6  
T867 Ruby Bay (private, not visible from the road)  
T868 Aranui Park, Aranui Road

Lou Gallagher



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# Māpua Community Hall- Dec news

## Thank You for a Wonderful 2025!

As the year comes to a close, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone in our community for your incredible support throughout 2025.

From local events and classes to community projects, it's been another fantastic year at the hall and it's all thanks to you!

## DECEMBER EVENTS

### Annual Māpua Art Group Exhibition

We're delighted to host the Māpua Art Group's Annual Exhibition again this summer!

28th December – 4th January

10:00am – 5:00pm daily

**Free entry** — come along, bring your friends and whānau, and enjoy some amazing local art, eftpos is available.



Our regular class schedule will have some changes over the Christmas and New Year period.

Please check our website for updated class times, event details.

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### Wishing You All a Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

From everyone at the Māpua Community Hall, thank you for being part of our vibrant community. We look forward to seeing you in 2026 for another exciting year!

Warmest wishes,

The Māpua Community Hall Team



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- Counselling
- Mindful Movement
- African/Belly Dance
- Creative Fibre
- Meetings
- Weights

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timetable is  
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# Book Review

## My favourite reads of 2025 from the Māpua Library.

### **The Mires by Tina Makereti (Aotearoa fiction, 2024)**

This is one of those books I did not want to end. The characters are so real - some you grow to love, and those you don't love you certainly recognise.

The story is set in a block of council flats on the Kāpiti Coast, on land that was once a wetland - only a small part of the wetland is left now (hence the title).

It is set in the near future and centres on three women who live in those flats.

Keri is a Māori mother with two children who has fled Australia because of domestic violence.

Sera has arrived with her husband and daughter as refugees from an unnamed country that has become uninhabitable because of climate change.

Janet is an older Pākehā woman who has an adult son exhibiting extreme views and behaviours.

These are three mothers in the story, but there is also a fourth - the 'swamp mother'. Makereti gives a beautiful voice to the nearby swamp, drawing on its wisdom, memory, and Māori ancestral knowledge. Because of this fourth voice you feel as if you become part of the landscape itself, the misty wetlands with all its secrets, power, and history - beautiful writing.

The narrative blends environmental, cultural, and social tensions into a haunting story about belonging, connection, and the unseen forces that shape our lives.

I would also recommend another of this author's books available in the library, *Where the Rēkohu Bone Sings*.



Some effort was required to get into it at first, but it was absolutely worth it. And the cleverness at the end takes the book to a whole new level of impact!

The story centres on the island of Makatea in French Polynesia, an island scarred by the mining of phosphorus over many years. The area has now been chosen for humanity's next experiment: the building of a floating, independent city in international waters (known as seasteading - there is interesting reading online about this).

There are four main characters: Evie (an oceanographer), Ina (an artist), Rafi (a storyteller and literature expert), and Todd (whose work leads to a major AI breakthrough). Each embodies a different response to the tension that arises between technology and nature.

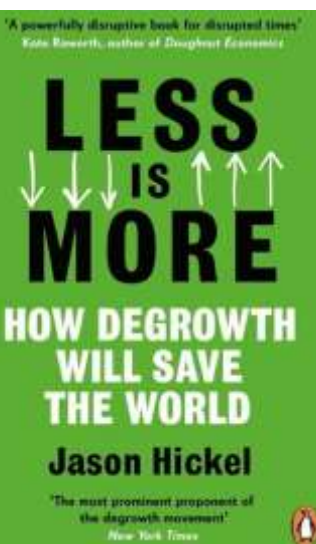
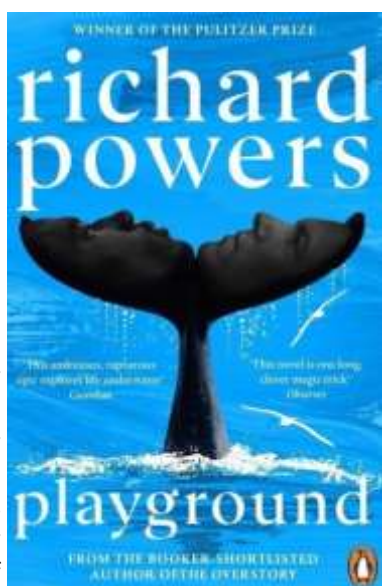
The author wanted to be an oceanographer when he was young. He then worked as a computer programmer before becoming a writer, so he knows his themes well.

The writing around the ocean is stunningly beautiful, and the writing around the ever-growing influence of AI and social networks is very scary.

### **Playground by Richard Powers (fiction, 2024)**

Playground is Richard Powers's latest thought-provoking work. I will definitely read it again because it is such a clever novel, brilliantly weaving together multiple storylines and themes.

It is simultaneously an environmental story (with the focus on the ocean), a tech story (exploring the possibilities and dangers of AI), and a human story (with a cast of wonderfully diverse characters).



### **Less is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World by Jason Hickel**

I was very grateful to find this clear and hopeful book in times when it is all too easy to live with a sense of doom around ecological breakdowns, global inequality, etc.

Most people now realise, on some level, that the economy we are part of is destructive, unsustainable, and a driver of extreme inequalities.

We know the Earth cannot endlessly support our growth-driven and extractive model of capitalism.

Yet we continue in this pursuit of growth, and in doing so, seemingly lose some ability to imagine anything different. Here is a book that gives back that ability to dream of an alternative and to visualise a realistic path to a more sustainable, fairer, and thriving future.

Jason Hickel, an economic anthropologist and leading voice in the degrowth movement, provides an intriguing history of capitalism—what it really is and where it has brought us—and makes a compelling case for degrowth.

He then offers multiple ideas and solutions for moving forward in a post-growth world. The title of the book doesn't really capture the breadth and depth of the insights and challenges contained in it.

And neither can this review; suffice it to say that it is one of the most important, eye opening, and common-sense books I have read.

Diane Sutherland



the playhouse

**Summer 2025/26**

**Dec 11th**

**The Science of getting  
2 high: Stand Up Comdey**

**27th December**

**SUNCITY SOUL**

**at our 15th BIRTHDAY**

**28th December**

**Fleetwood Mac and  
Billy Joel Tribute**

**30th December**

**2025 Quiz Night**

**31st December**

**The Best 80s NYE Ever!**

**3rd Jan**

**Paul Ubana Jones**

**Heads up: We are away to Switzerland for  
January. Back in Feb for lots of Weddings  
and some cool events**





## Elder Care & Senior Moments Coordinator

Hills Community Church Trust Board are looking for an experienced, caring leader to coordinate the Elder Care ministry in Māpua. This is an 8hrs/week paid part-time role and community facing, with attention to care for the elderly within the church and the wider community.

Senior Moments program meets twice a month. A good number of our local elderly connect to enjoy morning tea together, share experiences, celebrate one another and discuss helpful health/support information.

Our coordinator leads this program alongside keeping in regular touch with participants.

Find out more at: <https://www.nelsonanglican.nz/vacancies/elder-care-mapua> [or scan QR code]

All enquiries to:

Rev Emily Holmes 027 8688 752  
minister@hillscommunitychurch.org.nz



## Afterschool Kids Club!

We are halfway through our first term of kite-making, crafting, cheese toasties, knitting, baking, drawing & painting, not to mention the board games and general fun!

We will finish this term **Thursday Dec 18<sup>th</sup>** with a free sausage sizzle for the whānau at pick up time. The kids will be displaying any of their creations that haven't already been taken home and families are invited to pause a moment, check out the games and take home some Christmas bikkies.

The Kids Club team wish you a very Merry Christmas and lots of fun these holidays.

We will begin Term 1 2026 **Thursday Feb 12<sup>th</sup>** so book this in your diaries and tell your friends. Our local volunteers will provide a range of crafts, activities & games each Thursday during term time.

Contact Emily at any time with enquiries or feedback: minister@hillscommunitychurch.org.nz or 0278688752



## What's on at HCC for December

**Each Sunday: Morning Service 9:30am**

followed by Morning Tea

**Community Carols** 6pm Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December

*At Waterfront Park and coming to a street near you!*

**Advent Season - "Come to the Quiet"**

7pm to 7:30pm December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

*An opportunity for stillness and quiet reflection*

**Christmas Eve December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Creative Christmas Family Fun Time, 5:00pm.

*An opportunity for families/people of all ages to celebrate Christmas in a fun, relaxed and "crafty" way.*

Carols by Candlelight, 9:00pm

*A celebration of carols and readings*

**Christmas Day 9:30am December 25<sup>th</sup>**

*A Christmas Celebration and Holy Communion*

**December 28<sup>th</sup>**

*Please note. There will be no service this Sunday*

**January - Each Sunday**

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

For info: 03 540 3848, [office@hillscommunitychurch.org.nz](mailto:office@hillscommunitychurch.org.nz)  
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# The Write Bias

## News From Māpua Bowling Club

Of all the days to choose for the first tournament of the season, the Club picked Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November, a cold, windy and ultimately rainy day squashed between endless days of sunshine.

Despite the weather, the green was full with sixteen teams from around the area and the bowls were played in good spirit with some very close games. It was heartening to hear accolades about the green and the Club itself.

We were indebted to Mike Greer for sponsoring the tournament. The winning team came from Richmond; in second place, Riwaka; and third place went to a team from Motueka.

The Club has received some generous grants this year. The first was from Māpua Community Trust, which went towards the purchase of two sets of club bowls. The second was from Pub Charity to install a heat pump, which is now up and running thanks to M R Electrical. We have also been successful with a grant from Network Tasman Trust and have on order bowling arms, which will benefit bowlers who can no longer stoop down low enough to deliver a bowl.

Club Championships are progressing, events organised by Nelson Centre are underway and both Leisure Bowls on Monday evenings and League Bowls on Thursday evenings have started.

Hard to believe we are now focussing on December activities, the Club Christmas party and the season to make

merry and be jolly. On behalf of all the members of Māpua Bowling Club I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

For information about bowling, coaching or booking the Clubhouse and facilities please call Secretary Di Blanchet (021 0773 445), email [blanchet.tadmor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:blanchet.tadmor@xtra.co.nz) or check out our website or Facebook page.

*Sue England*



*Di James, Melva Forrest, Julie Hall plus two Mike Greer representatives.*



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# Ruby Coast Running Club

It is starting to feel like summer at our regular Thursday 5km events. The warmer temperatures have brought a higher number of participants, which is great to see.

We always welcome new walkers and runners, so if you are a local or a holiday maker who would like to join us, we would love to see you. Details of how to join our weekly 5km or longer weekend runs are at the end of this article.

Recent events our runners have participated in include the Māpua Sprig & Fern 10km. This was the last event in the Sprig & Fern 10km series for the season. We had a good group of runners take part in this enjoyable local event. The scenic course involves a double loop along the Great Taste Trail beside the beach at Ruby Bay. As with all these events, there are well deserved refreshments and socialising afterwards at the prizegiving at the Sprig & Fern.

We also had a group of runners travel to Kaikoura to take part in the Kaikoura Mountains to Sea Marathon and Half Marathon. Both courses were very scenic trail runs which involved a loop of the Kaikoura peninsula and then followed along the coast and up the mountain bike track towards Mt Fyffe, with the full marathon event going all the way to the Mt Fyffe carpark and back.

All our runners did really well. Christine and Graeme came first in their respective age categories in the marathon, and Faye and Karen were placed first in their age categories in the half marathon.

We were lucky to have near perfect weather for the event so we could make the most of the stunning scenery. We felt particularly fortunate as in the days leading up to the event it was far from certain that it would even be going ahead due to the recent severe winds and devastating fires in Kaikoura.

More recently, Steven took part in the Queenstown marathon, which was very scenic, but also very cold this year. However, the inclement weather did not hamper his performance. Steven had a great run, achieving an impressive time and a personal best as well. Well done!

We have also been continuing with our regular Saturday morning training runs. These are more informal than our regular Thursday 5km events. We usually meet by Java Hut and enjoy a coffee there afterwards.

The distance and meeting time, which varies each week, are posted on our Facebook page which is: Ruby Coast Running Club. Generally, we run anywhere from 10km up to around a half marathon distance (and very occasionally longer than that), and we start earlier in summer to avoid the heat.

For our regular Thursday 5km event, we 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. There is no need to register in advance and no fees to pay – just arrive a few minutes beforehand to sign in and to listen to the course briefing. Then join us for well-earned refreshments at the Māpua Sprig & Fern afterwards.



RCRC runners at the Kaikoura Mountains to Sea Marathon.

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# Our latest news & adventures



## NBS Sponsors Environmental Programme

Typically, students only read about pest-trapping or native habitat protection. Thanks to NBS' support, Upper Moutere School and Motueka High School students can step into the ngahere and put that theory into action.

They received training on the safe use of common pest traps and checked our on-site pest traps. They've also been identifying pests in the tracking tunnels and learned about guardianship of our precious whenua.

This generous sponsorship opens a door for students who otherwise wouldn't get this experience during their regular curriculum. The goal of this initiative is to inspire a lifelong connection to Te Taiao and also so they understand their responsibility as the kaitiaki of the future. Our heartfelt thanks to NBS for backing this kaupapa and believing in our young guardians.



Upper Moutere School students identifying pest tracks

## Summer Holiday Programmes

Summer holidays are just around the corner. We have a wide range of programmes to suit all ages. They range from 7 - 18 y/o and everything from day programmes all the way to nine-day journeys. You'll need to book your spot soon as they fill up quickly. To make things easy for busy parents, transport is available from Nelson and Richmond each day (additional cost). Head to our website for more information.

## Ignite Graduates Continue To Impress

WIO has been running a leadership programme called *Ignite* in partnership with Motueka High School since 2019. Participants start the programme in year nine and continue each year for three years. The longitudinal nature of the programme allows for deeper connections and for WIO staff to mentor the participants through formative years. Congratulations to this years graduates!



Ignite graduation at WIO

We'll see you out there!

[wio.org.nz](http://wio.org.nz)



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Email [lifestylefarms@tcvet.co.nz](mailto:lifestylefarms@tcvet.co.nz) for more info.

### Lynda's Exercise Classes in the Mapua Hall

Christmas break starts on December 19<sup>th</sup>;  
classes recommence in 2026 on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Summer 2025. Classes run in 3-week blocks with a gap week in between. Contact Lynda for start dates.

Cardio/Weights Tuesday 6 pm.

30min Dumbbell Weights Wednesdays 8.25am

\$5.00 at the door

Old-fashioned Aerobics Wednesday 9.05 am.

Cardio/Weights Friday 9.05 am.

Pilates Wednesday & Friday 10.05 am.

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## Vetlife Paws for Thought

Animal Health Partners

**Merry Christmas & Thank you!!!**

As we wrap up another busy year at Vetlife Māpua, we've been reflecting on just how much has happened within our small but hardworking clinic.



One of our biggest focuses this year has been surgery, something we're proud to offer right here in the village.

Across our Wednesday surgical days, we performed more than 50 procedures, from routine desexing and lump removal to more complex cases.

A real milestone was taking part in our very first SPCA Snip & Chip campaign, helping support local pets and their families with affordable care.

We didn't stop at surgery either. Each week, our surgical nurse Kay Bishall provided orthopaedic rehab, helping pets regain mobility, strength, and confidence.

This service has made a real difference for many of our patients, especially those recovering from injuries or age-related challenges.

Of course, the heartbeat of the clinic is you, the community that walks through our doors. This year we enjoyed a wonderful mix of dogs, cats, puppies, kittens and lambs plus the occasional surprise addition, ran lots of great promotions, and shared plenty of advice, laughter, and stories with pet owners.

We also had the privilege of sharing in some very sad goodbyes to much loved pets, moments that always remind us how deeply our animals shape our lives.

Through the highs and the hard days, we've grown even more connected with the amazing place we get to work in and call home. Your trust, your conversations, and your patience on the busy days mean more to us than we can say. Thank you.

From all of us at Vetlife Māpua: Jeannie, Erin, Megan, Kay, Mark, and Olivia, we wish you a very Merry Christmas, a relaxing New Year and a safe, happy holiday season.

*(And a friendly reminder to keep the chocolate coins, mince pies, and Christmas cake well out of paw's reach!)*

PS: The Māpua clinic will be closed between Christmas and New Year, but our 24-hour on-call vet service will be available throughout the break should you need us.

To make an appointment at Vetlife Māpua phone 03 540 2329  
We are open Monday - Friday 8.30am - 12pm + 1pm - 5.30pm

# Māpua Health Centre news

**2**025 has been another busy year for Māpua Health Centre and we would like to say thank you to all our patients for your support during this time.

Fortunately, we now have a full complement of highly skilled and caring staff, including doctors, nurse practitioner, nurses, receptionists, administrators and supportive health practitioners. We will be having a registrar GP starting in the New Year.

This means that we are usually able to provide appointments at short notice and that patients can maintain consults with their own doctors in terms of continuity of care.

Our nurses also provide a range of services, including answering and making phone calls. There are charges for longer calls with our nurses as these can take up a considerable part of their nursing time.

We also have a Health Improvement Practitioner (HIP) working at Māpua Health on a Thursday. An appointment with Kamalesh Lovegrove is free and available to anyone of any age who would like support with:

- Managing stress
- Making healthy lifestyle changes
- Learning strategies to improve your wellbeing

Please talk to one of our clinical team if you think this may be of assistance.

Over the holiday period we are open as usual except for the statutory holidays. If you require healthcare on the days that we are closed the team at Medical and Injury Centre will be open for urgent care. You can contact them directly on 5468881 or if you phone our practice during this time your call will be diverted directly to the Medical and Injury team (MIC).

Please consider that if you are taking regular medication this is a good time to think about stocking up so that you do not run out over the holiday period. Don't forget that enrolled patients can use the Well portal to request medications online. If you are unsure, please phone the health centre, 5402211.

You can also get your test results on Well or contact our staff if needed. However, we do not give results from tests that have been ordered outside the practice or from specialists. You will need to contact the specialist who ordered the test to get those results.

With summer approaching, don't forget:

- **Slip** into the shade
- **Slip** on a shirt
- **Slop** on some sunscreen
- **Slap** on a hat
- **& Wrap** on some sunnies.

The *SunSmart*, [www.sunsmart.org.nz](http://www.sunsmart.org.nz), has some valuable information and resources to help protect skin and eyes from UV radiation, as well as warning signs of skin cancer.


We all hope to enjoy quality time with whanau and friends over the festive season. However, this can sometimes put added financial and social pressure on people and can lead to difficulty coping or affect someone's mental health. It is important if this happens to seek help, which is freely available with the following resources:

- Lifeline 0800 543 354 (0800 LIFELINE) or free text 4357 (HELP) - here to help.
- Samaritans 0800 726 666 – for confidential support for anyone who is lonely or in emotional distress.
- Depression Helpline 0800 111 757 or free text 4202 – to talk to a trained counsellor about how you are feeling or to ask any questions [www.depression.org.nz](http://www.depression.org.nz)
- Healthline 0800 611 116 – for advice from experienced health staff.

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

- 1 World Aids Day [www.who.org](http://www.who.org)
- 3 International Day of Disabled Persons [www.un.org/disabilities](http://www.un.org/disabilities)
- 5 International Volunteers Day [www.worldvolunteerweb.org](http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org)
- 10 World Human Rights Day [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)
- 18 International Migrants Day [www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday](http://www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday)
- 19 Term 4 ends for schools

Finally, on behalf of the team at Mapua Health Centre we wish you all a very Meri Kirihimete. Stay safe, enjoy quality time with family and friends and take care of each other. We look forward to working with you again in 2026.



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# Council's Development Bias

Dear Ratepayer

Congratulations on the rezoning of your property from rural residential to residential. This enables you to benefit from a substantial increase in the capital value of your property, for it allows you to subdivide your land into approximately 30 sections or to sell it to developers.

However, should you decide to stay, you will be rewarded with substantial rates increase in addition to noise, dust and other disturbances resultant of the development of other subdivisions around you as we have kindly rezoned the whole valley.

In reply to accusations that this development will destroy the village character of Māpua, we are very very sorry.

However, you will be able to apply for a rates remission as per our rates remission policy. Good luck with that because any decision will be solely at our, the Council's, behest and any remission will only be for 3 years anyway.

Yours sincerely

Tasman District Council's rates remission policy is a beautiful example of bureaucratic control. It starts with a series of reasonable conditions for ratepayers to qualify, such as being resident at the property and having owned it prior to the rezoning. However, the Council then gives itself total power:

*"The Council may refuse to remit rates even where the conditions set out in this Policy are met by a ratepayer."*

And then, even if it allows a remittance of rates, the Council puts on a time limit on its benevolence.

*"The Council prefers to allow a transition period before affected ratepayers are required to pay the increased rates in full."*

That "transition period" is four years, a time not in the policy, but one hidden from ratepayers, tucked up in the Council operating procedures:

*"The remission (based on the policy) is applied for a maximum of 4 years after the rezoning takes place"*

And just to add to the control, the amount of remission drops by 25% per year over those four years, being in money equivalent, just 2.5 years.

The result is that once your land is rezoned, no matter what, your rates are likely to go up very significantly within three years, reflecting the capital value increase. That will, in many circumstances, force ratepayers off their land. If that doesn't work, the Council can fall back on the undertaker to rescind its kindness. That's in the policy too.

*"The remission of rates on a rating unit will cease upon the happening of any of the following events:*

*a) the death of the ratepayer..."*

Subjective decisions made by bureaucracies such as councils, government departments, banks, in fact all large organisations, will always be subjected to all the biases of both the individual bureaucrats and the organisation's group think.

The very existence of this policy is an acknowledgement by the Council of the injustice and unfairness of its long-term planning and rezoning process. It is also an unspoken declaration that it is in bed with developers and that by comparison, ratepayers matter little.

This patsy and pathetic policy should focus on fairness and appropriate judicial process, not on what the bureaucracy wants. Policy setting is the duty of our Councillors, just like it is for all governors of organisations. Monitoring of policy implementation is also their duty.

That requires not just reading and accepting Council staff reports but verifying any such reports by seeking out what is actually happening on the ground, at the coal face, in this case the ratepayers affected by development.

As anyone who has been in governance knows, more often than not, management reports are filtered by the very biases that cause the bureaucratic injustices and what bureaucrat ever reports their mistakes?

Trust in our public institutions is dwindling rapidly, evidenced for the TDC in its own surveys. The fact that this policy's aforementioned four-year time criteria is hidden, like a lot of Council operating procedures, is yet another example of their flawed method of engendering public trust.

Little wonder that there is a widespread belief among Māpua residents that the Council is only interested in development and that the rezoning of Māpua in plan change 81 is only to placate developers.

With our nation's economic downturn, high unemployment rate and mass migration to Aussie, the out-of-date population growth predictions put forward to justify the development are now on flaky ground.

Jim Vause

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# Motoring with Frederick

## Cristian definitely likes Mercedes Benz!

There is only one make of car on Cristian's mind – Mercedes Benz. When I was working with Cristian, apart from his music he had some interesting memories about his Mercedes cars.

Cristian, a New Zealander, is originally from Romania, where he spent time in their military working with navigational electronics. After one attempt to escape the Ceausescu dictatorship he was detained as a political activist, but he finally made it to Germany (I think looking for Mercedes!)

These are the cars he has owned:

1974 250 Mercedes Benz, Germany: The car had been used as a chicken coop and was purchased after finally making it to Germany.

This was the first car the 35-year-old Cristian had owned. He said it needed deep cleaning! Didn't matter, it was a Mercedes.

1978 200D, Germany: Diesel motor, was next and was used for driving country roads, but it was not a sports car.

1976 280SE V6, Germany: which he drove on the autobahn

at 220kph, and someone passed him!

1986 300D, diesel, Germany/South Africa: Shipped to South Africa, in 1993 because of a quirky opportunity. While part-time working as an interpreter for the South Africa Consulate in Munich, they asked Cristian if he would like to go there himself. An instant visa in his passport saw him off to South Africa, taking his much-loved 300D with him.

Cristian says, "I was like a beginner driver, driving a left-hand drive car in a right-hand drive country". Near Rondebosch, Capetown, on a wet slippery road he lost it and rolled the 300D, surviving with a few scratches. The 300D was repaired and later sold before moving to NZ.

2004 S280, Auckland, NZ: Cristian's words "I loved every moment of it for a few years, but I couldn't justify owning it as I had a company car and so I sold it after a few glorious years."

1998 LSK 2300 Kompressor, Māpua: A local owner offered it to Cristian as it wasn't being driven much, and again he couldn't let the chance go by.

The car is a striking royal blue colour of the 2300 with its matching blue panels on seats & doors. The convertible roof folds down into the boot, which is magic to watch with the superb efficiency of a Mercedes. It has a clear screen between the two seat back rests, which lessens the blow-back air while travelling with the top down.

Front dome headlights and taillights, both typical of Mercedes styling of the 1990s. The instruments are not hidden by the steering wheel like many modern cars. Again, the royal blue colour, so Californian (i.e. bright, strong), a contrast with the usual black, white and silver we get in NZ. A smart looking sports car.



Driving, the car gave a quiet start, but accelerating along Ruby Bay you started to get a nice grizzle sound out the back and sometimes a wheeze of the turbo not quite open. I gun it up to 80km up the Bluff and there was no hesitation going up the hill.

Despite the wind noise from the convertible, you could still converse.

Maybe that glass partition between the seats works. Past Tasman and on to the by-pass I floored it. There was a slight delay before the turbo kicked in, but then we were motoring. Steering very positive, visibility good, you can see the perimeters of the car which is what you need to drive a car fast. Overall driving smooth, not lazy luxury smooth but sports car smooth.

I am a man used to those V8 engines and a lot of noise. Cristian's LSK 2300 (2.3litre) Kompressor (means supercharged in reference to the turbo) matched the noise & acceleration of some of the big engines. It might not be seen as a big muscle car but a great choice for a drive on a fine day with the top down.

From Cristian "I enjoy now summers, with the roof tucked away in the boot and the wind blowing freely, while driving our beautiful South Island roads".

Cristian talked a lot about an SL500 coupe – maybe that's next!

*Frederick Cassin*

## Celebrant Services



Hi I'm Lynne Cribb and I have lived locally in Mapua for nearly 12 years.

I have recently retired as a Reliever Primary School Teacher and a Bed and Breakfast Owner. I now have more time to spend on my Celebrant skills.

Please contact me if you would like to inquire about any marriage/ funeral or naming services. I can offer friendly, warm, personal ceremonies written just for you.

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# RUBY BAY STORE

## What's On Dec/Jan

### THE EARLY BOBS

**Saturday 6 December, 7.30pm, \$25**

The sensational Clayton Taylor and Nathan Torvik bring us their take on *Blood on the Tracks*, a taste of Dylan in the Seventies

### CHRIS PRIESTLEY with CRAIG DENHAM

**Friday 12 December, 7.30pm, \$25**

Priestley is an intriguing song-catcher, a singer-songwriter and a Kiwi historian

### TASTES OF PALESTINE: FOOD, FILM & FUNDRAISER

**Saturday 13 December, 6pm dinner with film at 7pm, \$40**

Third time around, Nelson caterer Fadia al Hussein talks about and serves three courses of Palestinian food. Followed by the Zandland documentary for ITV *Breaking Ranks: Inside Israel's War*. Proceeds to the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund

### KIERAN McKAY, CAVER, FILMMAKER Sunday 14 December, 7.30pm, \$25

Kieran presents his caving docos, some filmed in Tasman. He's been caving for 30 years, cave-diving, mountaineering and rock-climbing for 20 of them – he's an outdoors guide, a teacher and a treasure

### RENNIE PEARSON with KUSHLA KOZELUH Saturday 20 December, 7.30pm, \$25

A cross-cultural journey of wooden flute, guitar, fiddle, Bodhran and voices. Celtic tunes, Indian ragas, new originals

### THE EARLY BOBS Saturday 17 January, 7.30pm, \$25

The Store's all-time favourites Clayton Taylor and Nathan Torvik celebrate Dylan

### DAISY CHAIN Saturday 24 January, 7.30pm, \$25

A new indie Celtic folk-flavoured musical collaboration featuring Tina Mortensen and friends

### RUFOUS WHISTLER

**Thursday 29 January, 7.30pm, \$25**

Back in NZ after touring and winning plaudits all over, this alt-country folk group is on a roll

### CAFE FOR LEASE

Ruby Bay Store has a fully equipped commercial kitchen. BUT the store is crying out for a talented operator/ chef/ barista to bring it all to life. Contact us if you're interested.

For bookings, new events and more info:

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## PANZ Pastel Artists of NZ

Not a lot of news this month as members have been coping with illness and travel.

As a result, our Tuesdays have been lightly attended but we have welcomed two new members.

November the 25<sup>th</sup> will be our last meeting for the year at the Māpua Hall, but our Xmas lunch is well underway, and this will take place at noon on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at the home of Michael and Margaret Busby.

Our 2026 programme will begin at the Māpua Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 9am to noon.

Our pastel group meets every Tuesday morning (Feb-Nov) from 9am to noon at Māpua Hall and we welcome visitors and prospective pastel artists.

We offer the use of pastels and paper for you to "try before you buy" in order for you to find out if you would enjoy using pastels as a painting medium. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

For further information, please contact our Nelson Area Rep, **Margie Bramley** on 027-257-1857

Or if you cannot attend the Tuesday morning group and would like to try painting with pastel, we have a Saturday morning at Greenmeadows (Stoke) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month.

For further information, contact **Lyse Beck** [lyse@lysebeck.com](mailto:lyse@lysebeck.com)

## Māpua Craft Group

Our last gathering will be on 5th December, and the next one will be on January 30th, 2026, as our usual meeting day falls on Waitangi Day, so we have changed the date.

We have made Christmas cards for the families at Kids and Koffee.

One member has created a JOY Christmas decoration (see photo). This will be added to the raffle in aid of the Māpua Senior Moments at the Sprig & Fern quiz night on 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.

Here's wishing you a Very Happy Christmas with Good Health and friendships in 2026.

*Val 5403931 or Barbara 5403901*



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### Sharon Bailey PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Sharon is an experienced Physiotherapist & Credentialed McKenzie therapist with strengths in communication, manual therapies and refining self-management programmes.



### Leah Bullock-Lindegger PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Leah is experienced with musculoskeletal conditions and has a keen focus on acute sports injuries, soft tissue work and rehab exercise.



### Julie Gibbs ADMINISTRATION

Nelson born and bred, Julie has 10 years' experience running her own small business and enjoys an active outdoor lifestyle.

BOOK  
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# The Douro River

## Portugal's Foodie Wonderland Afloat

Flowing through terraced vineyards and picturesque valleys, the Douro River in northern Portugal offers a feast for both the eyes and the palate. Widely regarded as one of Europe's most scenic river journeys, it holds a special appeal for food lovers and wine enthusiasts eager to immerse themselves in authentic Portuguese culture.



Having travelled extensively throughout Portugal, including many parts of the Douro Valley wine region, it's easy to appreciate the layers of history and tradition that come alive along this river.

The UNESCO-listed terraces – some of the oldest demarcated vineyards in the world – and the charming quintas that produce celebrated Ports and robust reds invite a deep connection with the land and its heritage. Many travellers note how these landscapes reveal themselves slowly, rewarding those willing to embrace a thoughtful pace.

Travelling along the riverbanks, visits to historic estates offer a chance to engage with local winemakers who generously share their craft and passion – from complex Ports to crisp whites and delicate dessert wines. Traditional

Portuguese dishes complement these taste experiences perfectly, with regional specialities such as octopus salad, hearty bacalhau (salted cod), and slow-cooked stews like cozido à portuguesa featuring prominently.

These moments often become highlights remembered long after the journey ends.

The riverside towns enhance the journey's charm. Places like Lamego, with baroque architecture and steep pilgrimage stairways, or Peso da Régua, known for its lively markets, provide enriching stops full of history and warmth. These glimpses of local life offer a valuable context, turning a scenic journey into a truly immersive cultural experience.

What distinguishes the Douro experience is its celebration of "slow travel" – allowing travellers to savour scenery, flavours, and stories without rush.

Expert guides often reveal fascinating details about the valley's origins, from Roman times through Portugal's Age of Discovery, adding meaningful context to every vineyard visited and every meal enjoyed. Such insights deepen appreciation and invite a connection beyond surface sightseeing.

Whether it's the shifting light casting golden hues over vineyard slopes or the warmth of genuine hospitality, the Douro Valley enchants in ways that resonate long after departure.

The harmonious blend of spectacular landscapes, cultural richness, and memorable cuisine ensures this region remains a standout highlight within Portugal's tapestry of travel experiences.

Travellers frequently reflect on how this journey unfolds uniquely for each person, shaped by personal curiosity and the attentive flexibility of those who craft and guide these experiences.

This subtle, layered approach – embracing history, culture, and local expertise – makes the Douro River journey not just a passage through stunning scenery but a meaningful exploration that lingers in the heart.

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## Thanks to the TDC

I greatly appreciate coverage in the November *Coastal News* about rates notices sent to me for our historic cob cottage at Mahana. But I also wish to thank a raft of people at Tasman District Council for brainstorming on ways to address this issue since I submitted the article to you.

Council staff have identified an alternative non-rateability clause and advised us to ignore rates notices that have been issued. This allows us to use our donations for previously planned minor maintenance - staining, painting etc - before Christmas.

Thanks go to Mayor Tim King, Mouere-Waimea Councillor Mike Kininmonth and various council staff members.

An old advertising slogan "it's the putting right that counts"

certainly applies here and our committee is grateful the council has stepped up to help with so much urgency.

*Paul Bensemann, Secretary  
Somerset Farm Settlers Cottage Trust*



*Somerset Cottage at Mahana*



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# Māpua Fire Brigade



## Oct to Nov 25 call outs

- 19 Oct 10:51 House fire at Riwaka, one crew helped with fire.
- 21 Oct 00:38 Shed fire Moutere highway. Assisted with putting fire out.
- 24 Oct 21:26 Beach fire at Kina Peninsula, Baigent reserve. Put fire out, Police in attendance.
- 3 Nov 19:43 Battery charger smoking, disconnect and put outside. Short crewed
- 6 Nov 17:33 Medical Stafford Dr, stood down, patient breathing.
- 8 Nov 07:03 To a bonfire at Pine hill Reserve, fire not put out, a log still burning, brigade put out.
- 9 Nov 13:27 Medical Aranui Rd, left with ambulance.
- 11 Nov 17:08 Fire reignite Kina Peninsula. Put fire out with help from digger driver.
- 14 Nov 06:27 Medical Stafford Dr, stood down patient beathing.
- 14 Nov 10:35 Car crash SH60, only found some broken glass and damage barrier. Short crewed.
- 16 Nov 12:54 Hazardous gas, Old Coach Rd, stood down by Police.
- 16 Nov 22:49 Shed fire Moana Rd, help Motueka brigade. Shed totally destroyed.
- 21 Nov 15:50 House fire West Bank Rd. Help Motueka brigade. Fire in roof space.

## Call outs for the year =84

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

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

## Check smoke alarms are working, clean yearly.

We have 3 vacancies at the Fire Brigade. We will have been responding short crewed to some call outs. If you are available day time and have the time to help your community, we would like to hear from you.

Come and see us on any Thursday night after 7pm at 3 Iwa St Māpua. Or call the Chief Fire Office (CFO) Aaron Thawley on 0274 275 813

**Upcoming Workshops: Dec '25 to Jan '26**  
nztextileexperiences.com






<b>Screen Printing - Create Fabulous Screen Prints</b> with Judith Ritchie 2 Days: 06 to 07 December '25 Location: Takaka, Golden Bay \$300pp	<b>Harakeke Weaving - Traditional Māori Kete</b> with Evelyn Wintery 2 Days: 20 to 21 January 2026 Location: Inangahua Hall \$300pp	<b>Artisan Workshop - Preserving Garden Produce Made Easy</b> with Judith Ritchie 1 Day: 31 January 2026 Location: Takaka, Golden Bay \$450pp
<b>Recycle &amp; Create - Creative Textiles</b> with Maggie 2 Days: 13 to 14 December '25 Location: Richmond, Tairāhiti \$275pp	<b>Artisan Workshop - Jams in a Jiffy!</b> with Judith Ritchie 1 Day: 17 January 2026 Location: Takaka, Golden Bay \$450pp	<b>Spinning Workshop - Beyond the Basics</b> with Anne Grosvenor 1 Day: 31 January 2026 Location: Wakefield, Tairāhiti \$450pp
<b>Artisan Workshop - Jams in a Jiffy!</b> with Judith Ritchie 1 Day: 13 December 2025 Location: Takaka, Golden Bay \$450pp	<b>Screen Printing - Create Fabulous Screen Prints</b> with Judith Ritchie 2 Days: 24 to 25 January 2026 Location: Takaka, Golden Bay \$300pp	
<b>Harakeke (NZ Flax) Weaving - Beginner Journey</b> with Evelyn Wintery 2 Days: 13 to 14 December '25 Location: Inangahua Hall \$300pp	<b>Spinning Workshop - Sheep to Skirt: Learn to Spin</b> with Anne Grosvenor 1 Day: 30 January 2026 Location: Wakefield, Tairāhiti \$450pp	

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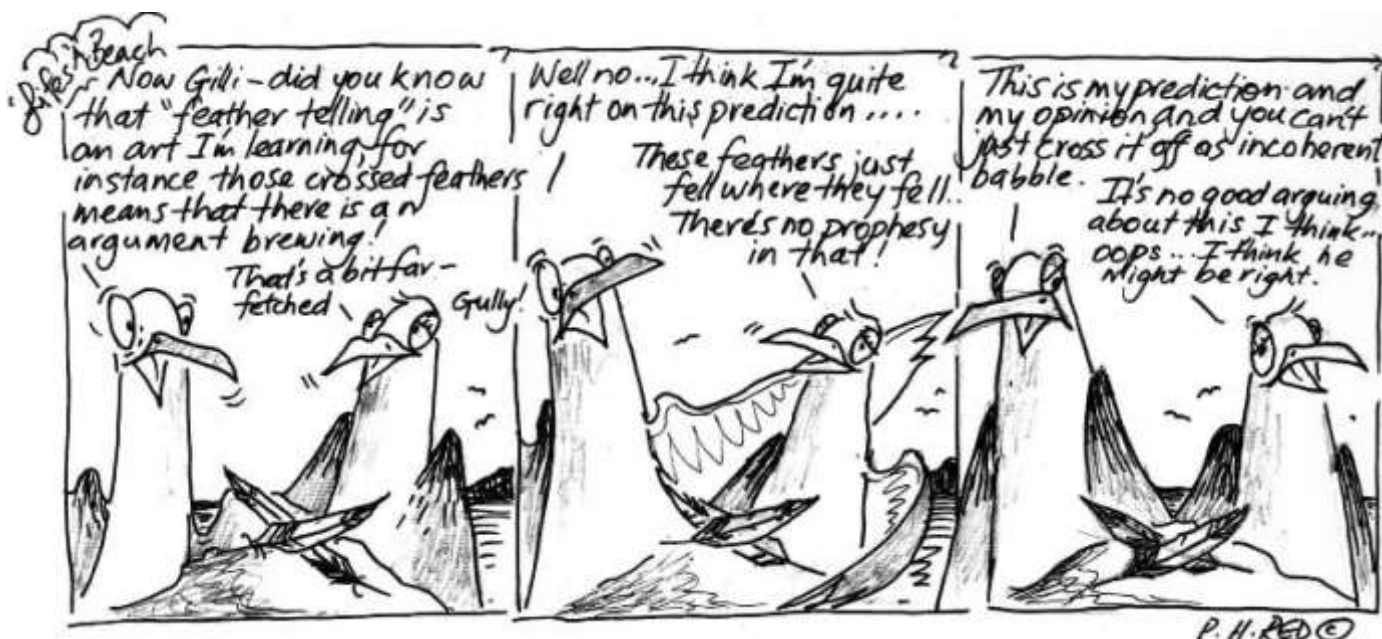
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# Introducing the Māpua Gallery

After vacating the gallery space at Gravity Winery the group of artists found a perfect spot on the ground floor of the Sprig & Fern in Māpua.

The artists come from all corners of the globe adding to the variety of viewpoints, cultural perspectives and sense of humour.

The gallery opened its doors on Saturday 18 October. Owned and operated by 10 local Tasman and Nelson artists it is run as a collective.

You can expect an ever-changing gallery, where new works are regularly added to keep the experience fresh and inspiring. Far from static, the gallery thrives on movement, creativity and evolution. This continual rotation ensures that the space remains vibrant and engaging, allowing our artists to showcase their latest work throughout the year.

A rich variety of mediums are represented, creating a truly immersive and diverse visual experience. From the deep textures and bold expressions of oil paintings to the translucent lightness of watercolours, each medium tells its own unique story.

Encaustic art is luminous and textured, creating rich, multidimensional works. Acrylic works bring a modern, vibrant energy, while pastel art offers softness and subtlety that evokes deep emotional responses. These two-dimensional pieces are complemented by three-

dimensional works that bring the space to life in unexpected ways.

The gallery features a selection of finely crafted ceramics, where function meets art in beautifully tactile forms. Adding another layer of artistic expression, handcrafted jewellery is also displayed. These small-scale artworks combine beauty and craftsmanship, making art wearable and deeply personal.

With such a broad spectrum of creative disciplines on show, the gallery appeals to art lovers of all tastes. Whether you are a seasoned collector or a curious first-time visitor, this ever-evolving space invites you to explore, reflect, and return - again and again. When you visit the gallery you will be able to interact with the artists themselves, as one of them is always on hand to inform and enlighten.

**Māpua Gallery** opening hours:

December-March: Monday - Sunday, 10am - 4pm

email: [mapuagallery@gmail.com](mailto:mapuagallery@gmail.com)

web: [mapuagallery.co.nz](http://mapuagallery.co.nz)



## Māpua Community Library

### Moutere Hills RSA Memorial Library

The library will be closed 25th, 26th December 2025 and 1st and 2nd January 2026. We wish all members and their families a safe and happy holiday season.

**DIARY NOTE: Annual Book Sale**, 2nd January 9.00am - 1.00pm outside on the library lawn at 60 Aranui Rd.

Drop any donated books off at the library.



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## Christmas Market

Friday 12th December  
4-7pm

At the Mapua Wharf  
Sunday Market Space

50 market stalls and Food stalls  
Christmas Carols with Community Choir

We are hosting over 50 stalls at this stage with a vast array of local makers. The Māpua community choir are coming along for 2 wonderful sets of Christmas calls and we have a wonderful selection of food stalls to keep hungry tummies full.

*The market runs from 4 -7 pm at 14 Aranui Rd.*

### From the Editors desk

The problem when you put together a newsletter like this is how to fill in the last bit of space when there hasn't been quite enough content. So here are some ramblings.

I was surprised yesterday to see a tui aggressively flying at a patch of agapanthus. Several times it flew at the patch brushing the tops of the leaves even and squawking unmusically. After several such attacks a weka appeared, wings outstretched, running at the tui, giving it some cheek back.

Then early this morning my wife witnessed a similar event, a weka minding its own business strolling across the lawn when seemingly out of the blue two tui dive-bombed it. The weka hightailed it to the bushes. They must be old enemies. Same weka, same tui? Could be.

In collecting **coins** for donations for your copy of the Coastal News we often get some rubbish coins presumably from under the car seat. Some foreign, some out of date.

I have quite a bagful now. A couple of years go I offered them to anyone for \$5 and I did get a response. Sadly I lost that chap's number on losing my land line and messages. There are some coins with value if you happen to go to Oz or China, Europe or USA. Maybe enough all told for an international coffee—though a friend told me that would set you back \$12 in Switzerland. So I am offering them again, and maybe an ongoing deal. Email us.

**Subscriptions.** Lately I have been delivering these by bike—since I got an e-bike. It seemed silly that they were going to Christchurch to be delivered to houses nearby. One or two still go by post.

Trees has decided she needs more time in the garden so is hanging up her keyboard and laying-up skills. She has been a key helper with the News for the last few years, setting out the final copy. We are very grateful for her input. [Are you reading this?]

So we are looking for someone else to fill her shoes. We currently use Publisher, but Microsoft have decided to discontinue this software next year, saying we should use Word, but I don't look forward to that. Applications can be sent to our email. Be quick or you might miss out!

Now I've said too much and will have to squash things up again! Wishing all our readers a Happy 2026. Andrew Earlam

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# Noticeboard

**PowerTalk Tasman:** Develop speaking and communication skills in a friendly supportive environment. Club meets 6.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at St Johns rooms, Jack Inglis Hospital grounds, Courtney St, Motueka. Supper provided. Info: Tristan 020 40994255 / Sue 021 533350

**Justice of the Peace:** Mary Garner, The Bluffs, 0210469626

**Yoga [hatha]:** Tuesdays 7.30-8.30pm, Appleby School Hall; Fridays 7.45-8.45am, Richmond Town Hall. Contact Janey, 021 979 244

**Vinyasa Flow Yoga Classes.** Tuesdays & Fridays 9.30-10.45am. Riverside community centre, Lower Moutere. \$15 drop-in. Contact Jo 0211709495

**Death Café** Open discussion about death and dying. 2nd Wednesdays 10-11am. Elevation Café, 218 High St, Motueka. Email nickydodwell@protonmail.com or margaret@margaretmccallum.com

**Tasman Area Social Walking Group:** welcomes all to our Wednesday 9.30am walks. 60-90 mins walk & then coffee. Walks vary & support local cafés. Info: Fiona 021 232 6089

**Nelson Branch RNZAF** meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays at Phils Restaurant, Club Waimea, Richmond. ex RAF, RNZAF or others with interest in aviation. Contact: John Bethwaite, 035476634 or Trevor Squires, 039706644. Meal \$25.

**Craft Group:** please check with Barbara or Val that meetings are going ahead. 03 5403901

**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 Village Mall 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 Appleshed: 10am Tuesdays. Contact: Debbi 027 327 4055

**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.

**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 021 526 6707 / 021 526 6700

**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

**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

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

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

**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

**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

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

**Toy Library:** extensive selection of toys, puzzles & videos for children 0-5yrs. Māpua Hall Monday afternoons 2.30-4pm. mapuatoylibrary@gmail.com

**Māpua Art Group** meets Bill Marris Room Māpua Hall Thursdays, 9.30am-12.30pm. Paint, draw, in a social environment. All levels, media. \$5 incl morning tea. Tables, chairs, easels provided. mapuaartgroup@gmail.com

**Māpua Community Choir:** 4 part harmony, no audition necessary, small koha, Māpua Hall 7.15pm Thursdays, contact: Rachel Boon, 027 358 6003, rboonnz0@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

**Ruby Coast Running Club:** 5k run Thursday nights 5:30pm. Also runs most mornings. Find us on Facebook or contact Debby 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

**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). All most welcome to share their love of gardening. Guest Speakers, Workshops, Garden Visits. Info: coastalgarden.group@gmail.com

**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

**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.

**Club Notices** are free. Others by gold coin donation to one of the distribution boxes. **Advertising costs**—see p1.

**Your details:** Please make sure contact details on this page are up to date. Send us an email.