



## An Opinion piece from Timo Neubauer

### Listening to our community - and the case for refocusing on the basics

It was a long but valuable day hearing directly from our community on the Draft Annual Plan.

We heard a wide range of views – thoughtful, passionate, and often contrasting. Submitters spoke both in support of and against proposed community facilities, our approach to river and coastal management, depreciation settings, the management framework for commercial forestry, and a range of matters specific to Motueka.

One issue that stood out for me was the abandoned commitment to upgrade Motueka High Street. There was also significant discussion around funding options for the weather event recovery rate. Many submitters favoured a capital value-based approach over the currently proposed uniform rate, while others focused on whether those with greater risk or responsibility should carry more of the burden, or whether that creates inequities of its own.

At first glance, these debates can seem technical or disconnected. But taken together, they point to something much more fundamental.

Across many of the submissions, a consistent theme emerged: concern about the growing unaffordability of rates and debt. That concern isn't isolated – it sits at the centre of questions about how much we invest, what we invest in, and whether we continue to expand or focus on improving what we already have.

In that sense, affordability is directly linked to our capital programme. Decisions about new projects, growth, and infrastructure expansion play a significant role in shaping the long-term cost pressures on ratepayers. Efficiency within the organisation matters - and I fully support the need for robust processes and financial discipline – but it is our investment choices that ultimately have the greatest impact on the financial burden carried by our communities.

This is where other concerns raised by submitters come into sharper focus.

Debates about fairness in rating models and cross-subsidies reflect a deeper question about how we share costs as a community. Concerns about trust and transparency speak to whether people feel those decisions are clearly explained, well-justified, and made in the community's best interests.

These threads all point in a similar direction: the need for a financially sustainable approach to growth.

Several submitters called for a pause – or at least a reset – with a stronger focus on renewals, maintenance, and making better use of the assets we already have. That message deserves careful consideration.

Hearing directly from people – especially when views differ – is an essential part of good decision-making. But listening also means responding.

For me, that means continuing to focus on, and advocate for, a more financially sustainable growth model: one that carefully weighs affordability, prioritises core infrastructure and renewals, and ensures that decisions are transparent and grounded in the long-term interests of our communities.

*Timo Neubauer is a Tasman District Councillor. This article reflects his personal views and does not necessarily represent the position of Tasman District Council.*

## MDCA

**Māpua and Districts Community**

**Association** meets monthly at the *Māpua Community Hall*, 7-9pm on the 2nd Monday of each month from February through December.



There is significant growth underway in our greater village area impacting our schools, reserves, roading and water infrastructure. How this plays out could be impacted by the possibility of local government consolidation and no doubt by national elections later this year.

Now is a good time to engage with other civic-minded residents with the goal of ensuring any growth is well-managed and sustainable, in-line with MDCA's goal of maintaining the look and feel of our seaside community and making it a better place for both current and future generations.

MDCA is seeking interested residents to join, as well as candidates for both **Treasurer** and **Secretary** committee positions.

If you're interested, details of these roles are posted on our website ([ourmapua.org](http://ourmapua.org)) and on the Community Noticeboard located at the entrance to Māpua Waterfront Park. Also keep an eye out for upcoming meet-&-greet events at the Community Hall and opportunities to volunteer for community-focused projects.

If you want to know more, visit our webpages and/or email [chairperson@ourmapua.org](mailto:chairperson@ourmapua.org) or [secretary@ourmapua.org](mailto:secretary@ourmapua.org)

*The Coastal News is edited by Andrew Earlam, Mary Garner and others. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editors. Distributed 1st of the month.*

# Māpua Fire Brigade



## Apr to May 2026 call outs

- 17 Apr 20:03 Power line on fire Stafford Dr. Left for power company.
- 19 Apr 16:01 Truck on fire SH60, nothing found.
- 29 Apr 02:19 Alarm activation Village Mall, no sign of fire.
- 13 May 16:51 SUV in ditch off Aporo Rd, no action taken by brigade.

## Call outs for the year = 38

For fire safety info go to - <https://fireandemergency.nz/>  
For rural fire go to - <http://www.checkitsalright.nz/>

We are in an open fire season

Make sure you have clear windows in your car on frosty mornings. Clear frost off windscreen before driving off.

## Māpua Community Library

**Quiz Evening:** Thank you to everyone who supported the library quiz night held last month, \$917 was raised and these funds will go toward our book purchasing budget.

**Opening Hours:** Wintertime - for the months of June, July, August we will be closing the library at 4pm.

**Book Sale:** Our mid-year book sale will take place on **Sunday 5th July** from 10am to 1.00pm on the lawn in front of the library.

**Statistics:** Recent statistics show that the use of the library is up on 2025 figures by all categories. By the end of April, we were already 500 items ahead of last year. This is a very pleasing trend and in part thanks to the stream of new books that we are offering our membership.

## Poet's Corner

I was thinking that the Coastal News could have a 'Poet's page'. I have a poem to contribute, and we could ask if there are any other poets who would like to contribute next month or in the future.

This could even include students' poems, adding a creative element to the Coastal News. A possibility?

*My poem: by Fred Robertson*

### Māpua Ocean Beach.

At the end of the isthmus,  
momentarily standing on the ocean floor,  
where two currents cross  
one wave subjecting the other,  
I touch the channel marker pole  
encrusted with a metropolis of mussels.  
This hemisphere is all mine!

Cloud whitewashes Nelson city  
I feel the presence of the southern Alps.  
Black oystercatcher tiptoes by  
with ambiguous orange beak.  
A Blackback gull eyes me suspiciously.

I'm surrounded by undulates of sand and stingray pits.  
A pale wraith of a full moon  
sets over Motueka mountains.  
Abel Tasman tails on the horizon.

The rising tide now visibly floods the sand valleys.  
My time caught between the cross currents is up!  
I am a stranger. A foreigner. A solitary journeyman.  
I revel in this moment of vulnerability,  
it drowns my ego. I am on the verge of oneness.

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### LKR BUILDING DESIGN

# Opinion - Bruce Struthers

## Consultation: Feudin' and Fightin'

Any major policy initiative by Tasman District Council has a ritualistic cadence:

1. Publish a draft policy.
2. Offer the draft for consultation and "hype" the democratic process with expensive graphics.
3. Take the incoming fire from the disgruntled residents.
4. Make the same pronouncement that the issue is "complex" and "the community has a wide range of views".
5. Hold deliberations, presumably after councillors have all read all submissions completely.
6. Adopt the draft plan, with only the word "draft" removed from the original.
7. Wring hands and moan about the complexity of the issue to be addressed, and unbearable external pressures.

We got to see the entertaining part of this solemn ritual play out for the Draft Annual Plan on Thursday 15 May. The patience of our elected officials was taxed as they sat through 5:38:30 (as measured in YouTube time) of oral submissions complementing the iceberg of written submissions. The proceedings were covered on the front page of the Nelson Mail of 18 May.

As Nelson Bays is a port community, the language sometimes got a tad salty. A few breaks in the proceedings were taken in deference to biological processes. These pauses presented opportunities for the likely targets of upcoming testimonials to excuse themselves from Chambers, to avoid awkward encounters between responsible staff and their critics.

There was some difference in the subject of grievances aired by the Hill People of Māpua / Tasman and the Flatlanders of Richmond, Hope, Wakefield and Appleby. Yet, common themes could clearly be heard from the majority of the speakers and submitters:

- We can't afford a runaway train of yearly rate increases.
- Do more with less, the way the economy is forcing us to do at home.
- Focus on delivering reliable infrastructure, not aspirational pet projects.

The Executive Leadership heard us and immediately took decisive action on valued community feedback. I checked the Careers Vacancy Page on the TDC website during the hearing and the following weekend. Five

positions were advertised during the meeting and six over the weekend. The newest position was for a Community Policy Advisor. The position description contains this important job requirement:

"You'll deliver timely, high-quality policy guidance to councillors, managers and colleagues and lead the development of key strategic and community planning documents. To inform this work, you'll engage with our communities to **understand their views**".

I was confused. 55 minutes into the full Council meeting of 7 May, one of my ward councillors benefited from a public performance review from the Mayor, stating that he was "underdelivering" by not listening to the 60,000 or so residents who did NOT offer a submission.

The guidance was offered with the sensitivity of a drill sergeant orienting a new shaven-head recruit into military discipline. Isn't **THIS** consultation process the mechanism the District offers to understand our views?

A review of the remaining vacant positions left me with an uneasy feeling about who is delivering the critical services that a 9.9% rate increase is supposed to fund. In particular, these roles:

### Head of Finance/CFO

Reporting to the Group Manager - Strategy & Finance, the Head of Finance/CFO leads the stewardship of Council's financial sustainability, providing clear, strategic insight to support confident decision-making.

### Principal Hydrologist


We are seeking a Principal Hydrologist to provide leadership in hydrology domain supporting Council's flood warning programme, water resources and compliance.

### Marine Scientist

This is a new role and brings an opportunity to establish and lead the council's marine science programme.

What are the members of the Executive Leadership Team doing to earn their remuneration, other than writing job descriptions for new or unfilled positions? Maybe the Honourable Mayor Nick Smith will provide an answer upon implementation of his manifest destiny in the three months to come.

[Title reference: 1947, Bing Crosby and the Jesters: *Feudin' and Fightin'* ]



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# Māpua Community Wellbeing Trust

**Talking Cafés:** Our Talking Cafés are based around a discussion session with a focus topic. Topics are advertised in advance, and we always welcome suggestions from the wider community. The Talking Cafés are targeting community members of all ages, with a focus on health and wellbeing topics. Please get in touch using our email: [mapuawellbeing@gmail.com](mailto:mapuawellbeing@gmail.com) if you have any suggestions.

The Wellbeing Trust has facilitated two discussions so far: The first, in April, saw Dr. Jim Vause facilitating with the focus topic: “dicky ticker.” This was to a gathering of the Senior Moments group based at Hills Community Church and was very well received.

The second, was a focus on starting school for the Kids and Koffee group who meet every Wednesday morning, with Bridget and Fiona from Māpua School.

Next up in our Talking Café series will be a topic for the younger members of the community – focussed on teenagers and healthy eating: helping them to filter all the advice on their social media, with feedback and input from local specialists. Teens and their parents will both be welcome.

**District Health Nurse:** Health Nurse clinics are continuing this year, with sessions twice/week on Tuesdays and Fridays by appointment. Health NZ renewed this contract late last year which the Trust are very happy about as the service continues to be well attended and it provides an essential need in our community.

**Click & Connect:** Our technical support sessions at the Māpua Library continue to be popular. We have a number of volunteers helping with the various mobile phone or computer issues which come in. It currently runs on Thursday afternoons from 3 to 4pm as well as every Saturday between 2 to 3pm.

This service aims to help new and existing residents alike; helping you get the settings on your phone right, working through issues on your laptop etc. We have developed a local services directory (listing all available clubs, services, etc) and this information will be available via the C&C sessions or the online Found Directory. A great resource for people new to the area or trying to find out if an existing group, club or sport exists locally.

**Youth Initiatives:** The Kid’s Club Programme, begun in term 4 last year by Hills Community Church Minister Rev Emily Holmes and Governance member Robyn Weller, is proving very popular with students and parents as well as volunteers willing to share their skills. Since the Thursday after school programme restarted in February numbers have been capped at 25 and there is now a waiting list. The Wellbeing Trust will continue to support this wonderful initiative as it gradually leads into connecting and supporting youth of all ages.

*John Botting, Chair MCWT*



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# RUBY BAY STORE

## What's On June & July

### **RD1**

**Sunday 7 June, 7pm, \$25**

A new trio of multi-instrumentalists – Denham, Torvik and Crider – world music genre-busters all

### **PORTABLE PANIC PLUS**

**Friday 12 June, 7pm, \$25**

Jenny Kilpatrick and Tony Ricketts plus violinist/vocalist Jude Douglas

### **DAISY CHAIN**

**Saturday 20 June, 7pm, \$25**

Original indie folk Celtic fusion sounds from singer-songwriter Tina Mortensen, Helen Mayhew and Damara Sylvester

### **THE EARLY BOBS**

**Saturday 27 June, 7pm, \$25**

It's Clayton Taylor's and Chrissie Small's joint birthday bash!

**ELISHA HOBBS Saturday 4 July,**

**7pm, \$25** Local indie folksinger-songwriter

**THE EARLY BOBS – THE LAST BLAST Saturday 18 July, 7pm, \$25**

Clayton Taylor, with his supremely Dylanesque sounds, his wit and insightful chat, along with bandmates Nathan Torvik and Craig Denham, have long been the Store's sell-out entertainment heroes



### **THE FINALE**

Four years of Ruby Bay Store music gigs come to an end on July 18. A new era begins with the spring opening of Babagatto Italian restaurant, a welcome addition to our community. Thank you all for your support.

To book and for more info, go to  
[www.rubybaystore.co.nz](http://www.rubybaystore.co.nz)

174 Stafford Drive, Ruby Bay • 027 417 1713

The Store is licensed & opens one hour before each show

# Māpua Health Centre news

The evening clinics are continuing Thursdays and are designed with those in mind who find it difficult, or are unable, to get to the Health Centre during the day. They are for booked appointments only.

We welcome a new trainee intern (final year medical student), Wesley Tam, who will be with us from the end of May for 3 weeks. This is a great opportunity for students to get a small taste of general practice and learn more about community health services.

We have been getting great feedback from our patient portal "Well". It offers easy access to your lab test results, recent history of your consultations with your doctor, immunisation history, prescribed medications, recorded allergies, any diagnosed conditions you are managing, the ability to book appointments for you and your family, and to submit your repeat script request. Please contact Reception for details, 03 540 2211.

This month, Men's Health Week aims to help you get right on top of your biggest and most important asset – your health. Why have Men's Health Week? Men are on the back foot from the start. A boy born today will live nearly four years less than a girl born in the room next door.

He will be over 20% more likely to die of a heart attack than the girl, and almost 30% more likely to get diabetes. Worse, he is three times more likely to die by suicide or in a motor car crash. 8 Kiwi families every day lose a loved partner, father or tupuna to a *PREVENTABLE* illness, one they didn't need to die from.

Māori and Pasifika men live significantly shorter lives on average than other races in NZ. Almost one Kiwi man in four will die before they reach retirement age. We can do something to change these numbers by making small changes to things we eat, drink and do.

Also, it's "Move Your Butt month" which is all about supporting awareness and helping to prevent bowel cancer. Your diet is one way to lessen the likelihood by enjoying a wide variety of nutritious foods:

- Eat plenty of vegetables, legumes (dried beans, peas or lentils), fruits & cereals (breads, rice, pasta & noodles), preferably wholegrain.
- Include lean meat, fish and poultry.
- Include milks, yoghurts and cheeses. Reduced fat varieties should be chosen where possible.
- Drink plenty of water.

Take care to:

- Limit saturated fat and moderate total fat intake.
- Limit your intake of red meat and processed meat.
- Choose foods low in salt.
- Limit your alcohol intake if you choose to drink.
- Consume only moderate amounts of sugars and foods containing added sugars.

And:

- Quit Smoking.

**There are a number of important national and global health promotion events for the month, including:**

1-30 Move Your Butt Month

<https://bowelcancernz.org.nz/move-your-butt>

5 World Environment Day [worldenvironmentday.global](http://worldenvironmentday.global)

6 Safe Sleep Day [sudinationalcoordination.co.nz/events](http://sudinationalcoordination.co.nz/events)

14 World Blood Donor Day [www.nzblood.co.nz](http://www.nzblood.co.nz)

14-20 National Volunteer Week [nationalvolunteerweek.nz/](http://nationalvolunteerweek.nz/)

15-21 Coeliac Awareness Week

<https://coeliac.org.nz/coeliac-awareness-week>

15-21 Men's Health Week [www.menshealthweek.co.nz/](http://www.menshealthweek.co.nz/)

15 Elder Abuse Awareness Day [www.ageconcern.org.nz](http://www.ageconcern.org.nz)

15-21 World Continence Week [www.continence.org.nz](http://www.continence.org.nz)

20 World Refugee Day [www.un.org/depts/dhl/refugee](http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/refugee)

26 International Day Against Drug Abuse [www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)



An advertisement for Tuffnell Plumbing Drainage &amp; Gas. The logo features the name "Tuffnell" in green and black, with "Plumbing Drainage &amp; Gas" below it. The text "Servicing Mapua, Ruby Bay &amp; Moutere Hills areas daily" is underlined. Below that, it lists services: "Plumbing - Gasfitting - Drainlaying Wastewater Servicing". Contact information includes "03 543 8090 or 0800 129 683" and "info@tuffnell.co.nz". A quote reads "We thank all our clients for their continued support". At the bottom, there is a logo for "Master Plumbers Representing Excellence".

# Book Reviews *by Rachel Boon*

## *A Sting in the Tale* and *A Buzz in the Meadow*

by Dave Goulson

Have you ever wondered where bumble bees live? And do they store honey like honey bees?

Following the decision to share our back garden with a hive of honey bees (courtesy of Backyard Bees) our awareness of their busy industry and increased visibility in our garden and neighbours' flowers and plants, helped me realise that we also had quite a lot of bumble bees around.

Hence my realisation that I knew nothing about them.

A chance 'bee type' conversation with a fellow library volunteer led me to these two wonderful little books nestled in the non-fiction section of the Māpua Library.

Dave Goulson is an Englishman and a Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Sussex. In his first book, *A Sting in the Tale*, he tells stories of growing up in rural Shropshire and being obsessed with all forms of wildlife resulting in a variable menagerie of pets, failed experiments of care as well as taxidermy experimentation.

I can't help admiring his parents' tolerance.

But as he grew into adulthood and followed his interests supported by academia - it was bumble bees he became most fascinated with, to the point of establishing the Bumblebee Conservation Trust in 2006. This was in response to the fact that a number of English strains had become extinct due to the change in farming practices and resulting predominance of intensive monocultural farms.

His studies and experiments to seek further information spread to New Zealand as it seems that there were no endemic bumble bees in Australia, Africa south of the Sahara and New Zealand due to the fact that they overheat in warm climates so had not naturally spread south of the equator.

But New Zealand has bumble bees. Apparently, these were imported from England at the instigation of early settler farmers who needed them to pollinate the red clover paddocks as they had been used to in the UK. Fortunately they thrived in NZ although at the same time were dying out in the UK.

In order to be able to study populations of bumble bees and other insects that live in wildflower gardens over a period of time, Dave purchased a derelict farm with 33 acres in rural France and set about letting it return to its wild state; much to the puzzlement of his French farming neighbours.

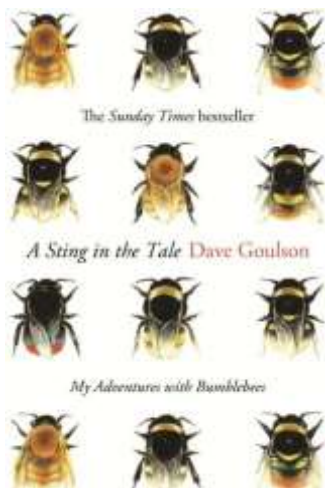
But in his second book *A Buzz in the Meadow* he writes of this project and goes into more detail about many of the other critters and insects that populated his patch along with the many wildflowers (or weeds as others would call them) that were essential to sustain the insects.

I found these books very readable and very informative - did you know for instance that all types of bees evolved originally from a strain of wasp?

Prof Goulson writes for the lay person despite being an academic and particularly in the first book I found him to be very humorous with quite a number of chuckle out loud moments - usually at his own expense when describing his attempts at research or experimentation.

Reading these books has greatly increased my awareness and valuing of wildflowers and appreciation of their importance in sustaining bee and insect populations.

An ideal read for anyone who has a curiosity of things around them or reading aloud to a curious child.



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# Mahitahi Colab 18 Stafford Drive

## Launch of Dual-Location Plan to combat commute costs and connect regional professionals, Nelson/Māpua.

As fuel prices continue to challenge household budgets across New Zealand, Mahitahi Colab is offering Nelson Tasman professionals a practical solution: work closer to home without sacrificing connection or professional facilities.

The not-for-profit co-working organisation has launched a dual-location plan promoting flexible workspace access across both its Nelson CBD hub and the newly opened custom-built Māpua facility—allowing members to choose where they work to save time and fuel.

With Tasman topping the nation for the highest proportion of people working from home (20.8% according to the 2023 census), and many professionals still making the regular commute into Nelson, Mahitahi's dual-location model addresses both the isolation of home working and the rising cost of travel.

"We're seeing more businesses embrace flexible work, but people still need connection, collaboration and professional spaces to meet clients," says Ali Boswijk, Chief Executive of Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce, a founding partner of Mahitahi Colab. "The dual-location plan is a smart solution for our region—it gives professionals the flexibility to work locally when it suits them and access Nelson's facilities when they need to. It's about making work sustainable, both professionally and financially."



## Fuel Calculator Shows Plans Pay for Themselves

To help members understand the financial benefit, Mahitahi has launched a fuel calculator on its website showing potential savings from reducing weekly commutes. For someone travelling from Motueka to Nelson regularly, the fuel savings alone can more than cover the cost of a co-working plan - making the dual-location offer not just convenient, but financially smart.

The dual-location plan is available across all membership types—full-time collaborators, part-time users, and hot deskers can all access both Nelson and Māpua facilities without needing separate memberships.

## Purpose-Built Space Brings Professional Hub to Tasman

The Māpua facility, which officially opened in February 2026, was custom-built to serve the growing community of remote workers, entrepreneurs and small business owners living in Tasman. Featuring flexible co-working areas, casual hot desks, bookable meeting rooms and a welcoming environment designed for connection and collaboration, the space has already attracted a diverse mix of users—from tradies needing a desk once a month for accounts, to CEOs running international businesses from the region.

## Local Business Sees the Benefit

Zeb Lovell, Client Success Manager at Digitella, lives in Motueka and was previously making the daily commute to Mahitahi's Nelson space. Now, he primarily works from Māpua but uses the Nelson hub flexibly when client meetings require it.



"The dual-location plan has been a gamechanger for me," says Lovell. "I'm saving time and money by working from Māpua most of the week, but I still have access to professional meeting rooms and the Nelson community when I need it. It's exactly the flexibility I needed."

## Connection Without the Commute

Mahitahi is encouraging Nelson Tasman professionals to explore how dual-location flexibility could work for them. Whether you need a hot desk a few days a week, a regular workspace close to home, or the option to move between locations as your schedule demands, the dual-location plan makes it possible. Community managers are available at both locations to show people around, introduce them to current members, and help them find the setup that works best.



Members can also drop in any Wednesday to tour the spaces and meet the team. The fuel calculator is available online for anyone curious about potential savings.

Mahitahi operates in partnership with Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT), Nelson Regional Development Agency (NRDA) and Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce, connecting members to training, business support and regional networks.

"Work patterns have fundamentally changed," says Boswijk. "More people are working remotely or running independent businesses, but they still want connection. Mahitahi exists to bring people together—and now we're making it easier and more affordable to do exactly that. In addition, Chamber members can now access 10% off all Mahitahi Colab plans as well."

For more information, visit: [mahitahicolab.nz/drop-the-commute](http://mahitahicolab.nz/drop-the-commute)

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# Motoring with Frederick

## Two e-bikes and a Cupra

When I look for adventure, it always seems to involve gravel roads and tracks. This adventure was an e-bike ride from Lake Tekapo to Oamaru, 300km with only 4 overnight stops. Most of the Alps2Ocean Cycle Trail. Plus a spirited ride in the go-fast Cupra Ateca as our support vehicle.

## The Car

Amanda's Cupra Ateca with a 2.0 litre petrol turbo. The paint is a nice blood red with contrasting dark grey sporty interior. Lots of gauges, lights and an information screen up high, easy to see, which Amanda could easily operate.



Far better than Tesla information screen which is too low and out of driver vision. Passing with the Cupra was a breeze, down a gear on the auto, turbo kicks in and we flew past anything.

Cupra is a Spanish designed car in cooperation with Volkswagen Group, also produced in Mexico and South America. I must say what looks like a small car accommodated all our luggage, golf clubs and equipment, plus a bike rack and two heavy e-bikes. A nice sporty car with all leather interior to match any luxury brands.

We did get a warning come on the information screen, but after some debate Amanda worked out it was spray from the tyres deflecting from the bike rack. A quick wipe of the parking sensors and the warning disappeared.

## The Ride

**Tekapo to Twizel - 54km.** The start from Lake Tekapo with a cold 2°C and light rain had us wondering how long we would last on the first day. But once out of the lakeside basin and down the Ohau canal, the temperature improved. Surprisingly the track was on sealed and easy gravel service roads. A nice easy ride with cool mountain air. Views of the lakes and the barren South Island high country.

**Twizel to Omarama - 88km.** The ride started easy but uphill from Lake Ohau Lodge but became a lot rougher as we got higher. The fines had been washed away from the track, exposing boot size rocks which had me bouncing around. Basic rule of thumb: watch the track, keep a bit of speed up and hang on tightly to the handlebars, which were often nearly knocked out of my hands.

At the top of the track at 860m, it improved with long zigzags down. We were heading into the wind along gravel

roads when Kelvin's battery died, and believe me, riding an e-bike with a flat battery is hard work. Battery range for an e-bike quoted by manufactures does not apply riding NZ trails - 70% or less is more accurate.

**Omarama to Otamatata - 37km.** A short day after the previous one, we continued along an easy trail beside Lake Benmore where a sign warned of Grade 3 track ahead. 'No worries for us' we thought. But as the track got higher and rockier above the lake, it had me worried. If you went over the bank on some parts of this track you were a gonner, knocked out by the rocky shingle on the way down, to drown in the lake below.

Don't let me put you off. The track was wide enough, and you could walk your bike if worried. It was an easy but steep descent down to the back of Benmore Dam. Dropping down from the dam to Otamatata on the sealed road I achieved 63kph on the bike.

**Otamatata to Duntroon - 68km.** Back across the Benmore Dam, down a shady sealed road on the North side of the lake, bloody cold under the hill. Hard to believe



but a wallaby which was big enough to take me out bounced across the road not two meters in front of me. By the time I worked out what it was I didn't have time to brake. Across the Aviemore Dam then a nice ride down the Waitaki River valley, all down hill!

Farms in the area had plenty of hay baled, and a massive dairy farm with rotary irrigators all fenced and partitioned. I don't think we will run out of milk in NZ. Lunch at Kurow, then swampy through a lot of gorse & creek crossings to Duntroon.

**Duntroon to Oamaru - 53km.** An easy ride on farm side tracks with a few ups and a long down. A stop at Elephant Rocks, weathered rocks which did look like elephants. Then we got to the old Waitaki rail tunnel with no sign of any light down the other end. I banged into the sides a couple of times as I had taken the light off my bike – bad idea! Kelvin saved the day with new technology – the light on his cell phone. I had forgotten to charge my 500w battery, so using the spare 400w battery I carefully rode into the finish in Oamaru with 1% of battery left. I blamed it on the Scott's Rattling Rock lager.

## The Bikes

Kelvin's – Giant Trance 750w with suspension made for tough tracks and true mountain bike riding. Mine – Giant Talone, mountain bike, 500w and 400w spare. I did buy a suspension seat for this adventure though.

## The Best

Best accommodation, Alpine Motels Twizel. Best coffee, Lake Ohau Lodge with warm fire and views across the lake. Best pie was at Rakia bakery. Best beer, Scott's Brewery 'Rattling Rock' lager, Oamaru. Best part of the ride, the track into Benmore Dam. Best easy ride was Duntroon to Oamaru a nice road through rural NZ. Best of all, the gravel!

I challenged Kelvin to come back when he was 75yrs and ride it again. Amanda to play more than 6 golf courses on route.

*Frederick Cassin*



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## PANZ - Pastel Artists NZ

May has been very busy with seven members attending the annual conference and "Purely Pastel" National Art Awards being held in Orewa (Auckland) this year, five of whom had work accepted. The quality of work being hung is getting higher and higher each and every year, resulting in it getting harder to get work accepted to be hung. Nelson Area members do really well. Mary-Jane Steffens won the General section for the second year and graduated to "Artist Member" signature status. Congratulations Mary-Jane.



*Nelson member Mary Jane Steffens with her winning painting.*

We have two members on the National Committee now. Julie Nicol (President) and Lyse Beck (Secretary) two hard working members who will help to grow the appreciation of pastel as a painting medium.

Susan Kuznitsky – visiting Tutor from the US – will be conducting a two-day workshop at the Māpua Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May. Susan was guest Tutor and Presenter at Orewa; we are looking forward her visit here.

Our pastel group meets every Tuesday morning (Feb-Nov) 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 session at Greenmeadows (Stoke) 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month. Further info: **Lyse Beck** lyse@lysebeck.com

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## The Write Bias

### News From Māpua Bowling Club

The 25/26 season closed on a high for the Bowling Club. Six successful tournaments, plenty of individual successes, visitors to the Club, many members bowling at other clubs in the area and at events organised by the Nelson Centre. The Board has managed all the Club events throughout the year, but it will soon be time for the AGM with the possibility of committee member changes to the running of the ship.

Congratulations go to all the players in championship matches but the overall winners are as follows:-

JUNIOR SINGLES Peter Wood – Barbara Adcock

SENIOR SINGLES Arthur Win – Jane Linn

VETERAN SINGLES Bill McKinlay – Di Blanchet

JUNIOR PAIRS Lance Straker & Peter Lawrence; Jane Linn & Sal Randall

SENIOR PAIRS Ian Benbow & Warren Keith; Di Blanchet & Di McBride

VETERAN PAIRS Bob Foster & Bill McKinlay, Di Blanchet & Di McBride

TRIPLES Steve Delaney, Peter Wood & Peter Lawrence; Sal Randall, Jane Linn & Margaret Busby

FOURS Ian Benbow, Warren Keith, Arthur Win & Paul Drogemuller; Di Blanchet, Karen Clark, Debbie Win & Di McBride

MIXED 2-4-2 Peter Wood & Karen Clark

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*

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# Māpua Tennis Club



## Guess how old we (almost) are!

How old will Māpua Tennis Club be in 2026? OK, here are some clues.

We're currently 5 months younger than Sir David Attenborough (in fact, we always have been).

Next clue: If we count our age using the tennis scoring system (i.e. love, fifteen, thirty, forty, deuce etc.) we would now be... nah, that one's too hard.

Anyway, here's our news... and we're very excited. In October this year we'll be **100 years old!** We're going to be celebrating our first century. And you're invited!

## How did we get here?

It all started in 1926, when the first court was built on the north side of Toru Street. It involved some Saturday afternoon working bees, some horses and carts for transport... even a local launch service which delivered posts for the fence for free. The surface, apparently, was clay which was top-dressed with "sea mud" the following year.

And it must've been an instant hit... in 1929 a tennis club social event attracted "fully 100 people". A second court was built and there was "a good gathering of players" for the opening of the season in 1933.

Then some years later, around 1945, the club moved to its present location in Aranui Road. For some time the courts were shared with the Basket-ball Club, with that club having priority in the "basket-ball season" and the Tennis Club using them the rest of the time.

[OK, at this stage it'd be great to hear from anyone who knows more about those times: we assume "basket-ball" means the current-day "netball", correct? And a description of the surface suggests it was initially in grass, but in a photo of a working bee in the 1940s it looks as if it's being sealed. Does anyone know? The above

information is mainly from "The Fruits of Labour" by the late Bernard Wells – an amazing resource! Please do contact us, [b.gilkison@xtra.co.nz](mailto:b.gilkison@xtra.co.nz), if you have any fascinating local tennis snippets from these past 100 years.]

The final two courts were added and sealed in the 1980s. These were upgraded to Tiger Turf in 2011 and 2023. And in 2019 we became a real, official, incorporated club. Yay!

## How will we celebrate?

We're still hatching a plan. Essential ingredients will be some tennis, a big birthday cake and some refreshments. And if you have any old wooden racquets or 1920s tennis clothes that would enjoy an outing, please keep this event in mind. We'll tell you more in the next few months.

And meanwhile, please mark it in your calendar now: **October 18<sup>th</sup> 2026.** Tennis (or birthday cake) anyone?



Working bee 1940s



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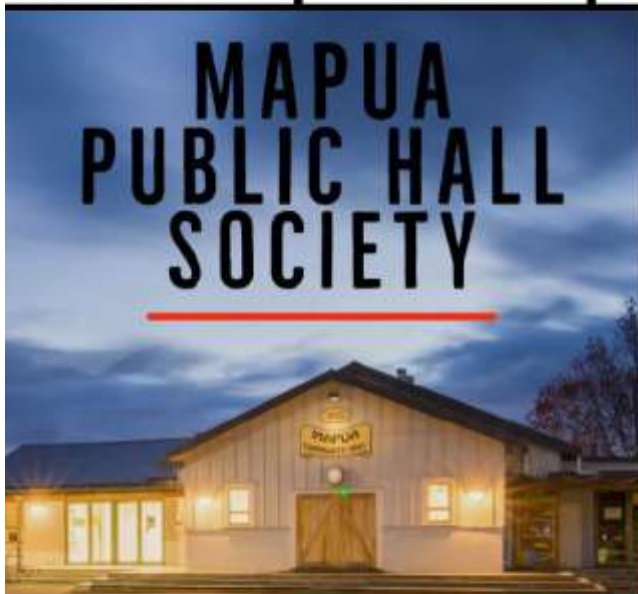
JUNE 2026

# Māpua Hall News

72 Aranui Road Māpua

Mapuabookings@gmail.com

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEIGHT/PILATES CLASS WITH LYNDA 08:30 - 9:45AM	SIoux LINE DANCING 9:00AM - 12:00	WEIGHT/AEROBICS/PILATES CLASSES WITH LYNDA 08:30 - 11:00AM	M.A.G MAPUA ART GROUP 09:30 - 12:30	CARDIO/WEIGHTS & PILATES WITH LYNDA 9 - 11:00
DELIAS DANCE DIVAS OPEN DANCE 10AM-11.00AM	PANZ - PASTEL ARTISTS OF NEW ZEALAND 9:00 - 12:00	YOGA FOR HEALTHY LIVING 09:15 - 10:45AM	PILATES/ YOGA WITH KRIS 10.00-11.00AM	YOGA WITH MARTIN 9.15 - 10.45AM
MINDFUL MOVEMENT WITH TILLY 11:30 - 12:30PM	DANCE WITH COURTNEY 15:45 - 16:45	MINDFUL MOVEMENT WITH TILLY 11:30 - 12:30PM		
BROGA MENS YOGA 5.30-6.45PM	STRENGTH/CARDIO WITH LYNDA 18:00 - 19:00PM	CHAIR YOGA WITH YVONNE 14:00 - 15:00PM		
	YOGA WITH MARTIN 18:00 - 19:00PM	YOGA WITH RACHEL 18:30 - 19:45PM	MAPUA COMMUNITY CHOIR 19.30-21.00PM	
MAPUA & DISTRICTS COMMUNITY ASSC MONTHLY ON THE SECOND MONDAY 18:30 - 21:00	BOARDGAME NIGHT WITH RICHARD 19.00PM- 23:00PM		BOARDGAME NIGHT WITH CHARLIE 19.00PM- 23:00PM	



## MAPUA PUBLIC HALL SOCIETY

AGM

7PM JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> 2026

We're looking for new committee members to help support and guide the Mapua Community Hall.

As a locally owned, community run, and community funded space, the hall relies on people who care about keeping it active, welcoming, and sustainable for everyone.

Joining the committee is a great way to contribute to the community and be part of decisions that shape how the hall is used and maintained.

We are also seeking a Treasurer. If you have experience (or an interest) in finances, budgeting, or administration, we'd love to hear from you.

If you're keen to get involved or would like to learn more, please reach out. Your support helps keep this important community space thriving.

## PechaKucha

20 X 20  
IMAGES SECONDS



Mapua Community Hall presents



## PechaKucha

July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026

Tickets  
\$30

MEMBERS ONLY  
TICKETS ON SALE  
1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE

PUBLIC SALES  
15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

- Door and bar open at 5pm.
- Curry service begins from 5.30pm - 6.45pm.
- PechaKucha starts promptly at 7pm.
- Your entry ticket includes a curry.
- A selection of curries are available.

Please bring your ticket on either paper or mobile device with your barcode showing for scanning at the door.

Each person must have their own ticket and bar code.

*Thank you for your support, we look forward to another fantastic evening.*

# Makers Market – a Māpua Hall fundraiser

The Māpua Makers Markets are important fundraisers for Māpua Hall. Stall holders are charged a modest fee, Koha is accepted by people visiting the market and the hall committee provides morning tea – again for a modest fee.

We are keen to promote these events as they raise valuable funds to help maintain our fabulous community hall.

Over the next few months, we will be profiling some of the wonderful craftspeople who are part of our Makers Market. This month, we are introducing Lisa Ross.

*Mary Garner, hall committee member*

## Lisa's Crochet – A Garden of Colour

Two and a half years ago, Lisa Ross's son's fiancée purchased a crocheted dinosaur. "I could do that" thought Lisa "and probably better". And so she did.

Except Lisa wasn't much into dinosaurs but she *is* into gardening. So while 'the list' says "Lisa's Crochet", her burgeoning business could equally be called 'Lisa's Garden'.



Favourites are sunflowers, daisies and tulips with the best seller being a little sunflower in a terracotta pot. However, Lisa is trialling bunches of flowers.

Someone contacted her recently, wanting to give a bunch of flowers to her grandmother with the individual flowers representing all three of Granny's three great grandchildren.

Based on the month they were born, the bunch comprised daisies, a daffodil and a chrysanthemum. Lisa couldn't quite remember off the top of her head but we're guessing the grandchildren were born in April, March and November.

Lisa has also expanded into hats. She bought a hat for herself and decorated it with crocheted flowers. Many complementary comments later, and Lisa has added floral hats to her repertoire. She buys the hats in, makes the flowers which are glued onto ribbon to decorate the hat.



You can do a lot with crochet. Lisa also makes the occasional drink bottle holder. And colourful, hard-to-lose flowers to attach to keyrings.

A sunflower takes approximately 1-1/2 hours to make but it is hard to judge as Lisa makes her flowers in stages then constructs all the separate parts later. She uses a cotton yarn which she sources from Auckland.

Lisa goes with themes for her market tables. Easter and Christmas obviously and she is hoping her flowers will go down well for the Mother's Day Makers Market. For the November one, she plans to make some Christmas wreaths with poinsettias.



Although Lisa does most of her craftwork from home, you might see her out and about as she crochets everywhere. While out for coffee, at the doctor's surgery, anywhere where she has some time for her hands to keep busy.

What started as a hobby, has slowly turned into a value-added pastime and Lisa is busier than ever. It is just as well that this creative activity is very portable.

The Makers' Market is an eclectic mix of professional and amateur makers. Some new to the market scene and some old hands. As a fundraiser for the Māpua Hall, the committee tries to ensure a good mix of crafts – textiles, jewellery, woodwork, homeware, clothing, toys – always something different to choose from. Each of the makers is selected on the quality and individuality of their products.

The very popular hall-run café overlooking the Domain, serves cakes, mini rolls and sandwiches along with Pomeroy's coffee. Perfect for a relaxing sit down and a break from the rigors of shopping.

All profits from the market stall hire, the cafe and the koha (gift) on entry go towards the upkeep of the Māpua Hall which is owned, operated and funded by the local community.

Makers in the wider area who make contemporary, quality products are welcome to apply for a place at our markets and can register their interest anytime at [mapuamakersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:mapuamakersmarket@gmail.com) When applications open, you will be asked to apply via an application link.

**Next Māpua Makers Market:**  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 10am – 2pm**

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## What's on during the week at HCC?

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

*Worship and fellowship followed by morning tea.*

**Wednesday: KidsnKoffee** – Community Playgroup

10am to 12pm. *A great space for all the whanau*

**Thursday: Pray and Chat** – 10:00am.

*An opportunity for prayer, discussion & a chat over coffee.*

**Senior Moments** – 10:00am to 12:00pm – second and last Thursday of the month.

*A place to connect. Friendship, food, events and relevant information.*

**Kids Club** – Every Thursday after school until 5pm.

*A multigenerational fun afternoon of learning and sharing for primary school kids. Arts & crafts, drawing, painting, knitting, music, cooking & more.*

**Friday: Craft and Coffee** – first and third Friday each month 10am to 12pm. *If you love all things “crafty” come along & join the group.*

**Throughout the week:** Life Groups

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



**Harvest Celebration and Lunch hosted by the Senior Moments group in Māpua**  
What a great time we had on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May with conversation, laughter, connection and a fun Harvest Quiz.



Over 40 people attended and enjoyed a delicious Ploughman's Lunch which any farmer would have enjoyed!

And ... just a heads up for your diary: Our **Midwinter Feast** is planned for July. Stay tuned for the date.

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**Sunday Services through the month at Hills Community Church.**

**Café Church**  
An opportunity to worship, learn, and chat in an informal setting - while enjoying croissants and fresh coffee.  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month 9.30 am**

**Holy Communion**  
A traditional Anglican Holy Communion service. Sharing bread and wine together as a church community.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month 9.30 am**

**Family Praise and Worship**  
Come together to worship God through song, prayer, listening to and hearing the Word of God.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month 9.30 am**

**Holy Communion**  
Based on the Iona tradition. Sharing bread and wine together as a church community.  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month 9.30 am**

Coming together as a church community to celebrate the different themes running throughout the year.  
Followed by a shared morning tea.  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sundays in the year 9.30 am**

**Senior Moments**  
Come and make some new connections. We look forward to welcoming you.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June**  
Morning Tea at:  
Summerset Retirement Village Café,  
1 Hill Street North, Richmond  
**10:30am** (*Own transport to the venue please*)

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June**  
Senior Moments Connect Café. An opportunity to meet, chat, connect, share over a delicious morning tea.  
**10 am to 12 pm, Hills Community Church Lounge**



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# The Quiz

It was Māpua Hall's turn at the Sprig, and our organizer was unable to attend. Ditto our bean counter and three others from the committee. That left me, H & B holding the raffle and entry-fee fort.

My first misstep was to think the quiz started at 7pm so I had hubby, H, H's hubby and B (straight from work) at the Sprig smartly by 5.30pm. An hour for dinner I reasoned, then a half hour to talk the punters into raffle tickets.

There we all were at 6.30pm, dinner done and dusted but no sales as the only customers on site were not staying for the quiz thank you very much. "We've just come for so and so's birthday" one large group guiltily explained. Hubby sighed in the corner, noting that for the next quiz, he would be having a sore foot.

That, however, was all just a minor embarrassment. Easily mitigated by another glass of wine. The real shame and humiliation came with the raffle tickets. I was in charge of the money and H handed out the tickets. I won't be making *that* mistake again.

So it's \$3 entry fee, \$2 a ticket or three tickets for \$5. I was kind of ok for the three for \$5 with an extra \$2 to round it all up. It was the entry fee of an awkward \$3 that did me in. Don't get me wrong; everyone was really friendly; all had their money/wallets out ready. Some waved actual cash at us.

So if someone gives me \$20 for their entry fee – say for two people, that's \$6, which requires complicated maths when combined with the three for \$5. So six tickets (2x three for \$5), \$10, the entry fee \$6 = \$16. Two extra tickets to use up the \$20 and I'd already forgotten how many tickets.

\$15 was actually bad as well. Entry \$3 x2 = \$6. One three for \$5, that's \$11 they'd say kindly handing over a \$20 note and to be helpful, a \$1 coin. "You owe me \$10" they'd say, clearly totally bewildered at the magnitude of my incompetence.

The worst were the \$50 notes. Two entry fees, 4 x three for \$5 (\$20 and 12 tickets). "We'll round it up" they'd say buying another two tickets at \$2 each. "You owe me \$20 change" they'd say.

I barely survived. Possibly hampered by the two getting -there-too-early wines. In the end, people were telling me a) how many entry fees, b) how many tickets they wanted and c) how much change I had to give them. Sigh. I rummaged round in the ice cream container overflowing with cash like a dog searching for an old, buried bone.

**Quiz time.** Finally. Our team muddled through as best we could. Why would Henry VIII marry someone from France? Of course he wouldn't; a German woman was far more likely. Got that wrong but only by a third of the wives.

Why would puffer fish turn themselves into beach balls by swallowing water? I've never met one inflated or deflated.

It just went on and on and on. The good news is that our team did *not* earn the jet planes. GP & RB's team got them. We got the jet planes last year. Nice to spread the losses around.

And the really good news? We made over \$800 for the hall. That will go towards the \$23,000 we pay annually for our insurance. Truly. Thank you SO MUCH Māpua!

And I am left wondering quite how I manage to function at all on a day-to-day basis when I know so little.

*Mary Garner (not a bean counter)*

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**Fri 12th June  
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**Sat 13th June  
1970s Disco Party**

**Fri 19th + Sat 20th June  
Fleetwood Mac and  
ABBA Tribute**

**Sat 18th July  
Paul Madsen's  
Queen and Beegees Show**

**Fri 24th July  
The Carnivorous Plant  
Society (Jazzfest)**

**Sat 25th July  
The Best 80s Night Ever**

**Sat 1st August  
Fondue Night**

# Our latest news & adventures



## Free places on Trades Programmes

Limited free places are available for Kaitiaki Leadership and Adventure Skills Development. These programmes are specifically designed to create employment pathways in conservation and tourism. They also offer enjoyable experiences visiting incredible locations with the group. Programmes include 13-15 NCEA Level 3 credits. Open to 16-18 year olds. More info on our website.

### Upcoming programme dates

- Kaitiaki Leadership: 29 Sept - 7 Oct
- Adventure Skills Development: 29 Sept - 7 Oct

## IHC provides vital recreation opportunities

The amazing team at IHC provided funding for a range of programmes designed to help members and their family get more active in the outdoors. Kaiterere was the perfect spot for kayaking and raft building. The Flying Kiore at our base was also a hit, as always. Our tutors raved about how much fun everyone had. We hope to see you guys again soon!



Participants from IHC about to enjoy kayaking at Kaiterere

## Summit Sessions Rock!



'Summit Sessions' are our no-cost, 1.5 hour climbing blocks designed for people who want to enjoy the unique experience of climbing in a purpose-built facility.

The first four sessions ran in May and were a great success. We look forward to hosting more Summit Sessions later in the year. Stay tuned to our social media pages for more details.

## Volunteers wanted

We're building a community of local volunteers to support our mahi and care for this special place. Volunteer opportunities include gardening & fruit tree care, developing our vegetable garden and general maintenance like painting and light repair work. This is a chance to stay active, connect with others, and be part of the positive change we create at Whenua Iki. Flexible hours of involvement. Contact us at [info@whenuaiti.org.nz](mailto:info@whenuaiti.org.nz) for more information.

We'll see you out there!

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



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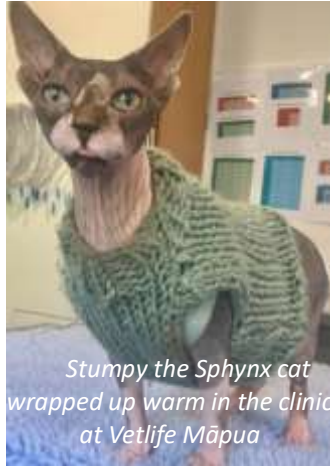
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### Winter Wellness for our Four-legged Friends

As winter settles across Tasman, the fires are lit, the mornings are darker, and many of us naturally spend more time indoors. Our pets feel the seasonal change too, and at Vetlife we often see an increase in pets needing a little extra care during the colder months.

Cold, wet weather can make some cats reluctant to head outside, meaning they may hold on longer or drink less water. This can lead to bladder inflammation, crystals, or even urinary blockages, especially dangerous in male cats. If your pet is straining to urinate, toileting in unusual places, or visiting the litter tray more often, it's worth getting them checked promptly. Fresh water and an indoor litter tray can make a big difference.



*Stumpy the Sphynx cat wrapped up warm in the clinic at Vetlife Māpua*

Older pets can also feel winter more, with arthritis and stiff joints often worsening in the cold. If your dog seems slower on walks, your cat hesitates before jumping, or your pet appears stiff after resting, warmer bedding, gentle exercise, and a proactive pain management plan can help keep them comfortable.

Winter weight gain is another common challenge. Shorter days and wet weather often mean less exercise, while extra treats and leftovers can quickly add up. Even a small amount of extra weight can put added pressure on joints and increase the risk of other health problems.

Indoor games, food puzzles, and short training sessions can help keep pets active, while avoiding rich scraps can help prevent digestive upsets like pancreatitis.

Winter can bring extra risks on the roads too. Wet roads and darker conditions can make cats harder for drivers to spot, so keeping them indoors on particularly wet or stormy nights is worth considering. Dogs on early morning or evening walks can benefit from reflective gear to help keep them visible.

A few extra winter tips for pets:

- Watch out for wet, icy, or slippery surfaces, especially if your older pet is unsteady.
- Make sure they have somewhere warm and comfortable to sleep, away from cold draughts.
- If your pet is less active over winter, talk to us about weight management diets and portion control.



Winter is a wonderful season for cosy cuddles, muddy adventures, and extra time with our furry companions. With a little extra awareness, we can help keep them safe, warm, and healthy until spring.

From all of us at Vetlife Māpua, stay warm, and give your pets an extra cuddle from us.

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

## Concert - Sounds of Solstice

### A winter Celebration of Music and Song

It's time for another concert to show what Māpua residents get up to in their spare time - from school age to over eighties.

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June at the Māpua Community Hall, starting at 6.30pm, we will bring a variety of items for your entertainment. There is limited seating so be sure to arrive early and for a koha (suggested \$5) you can secure your place.

Each year the concert is different so come along and see what this year brings.

## Māpua Craft Group

Last month we assisted with the harvest display at Māpua church and enjoyed a fabulous Ploughman's Lunch the next day at the community Church Hall.

Our focus is on helping other people by sharing, caring and often problem solving. We enjoy sharing produce, preserves, recipes, magazines and up-cycling bargain shopping.

If you would like a coffee, tea, shared morning treats and a warm welcome, please come and join us from 10 till noon on the 5th and/or 19th of June. There is a \$3 Koha donation which pays towards the hire of the warm supper room at the Hills Community church.

We plan to try preserving flowers and leaves by the following methods: with silica jell, microwaving, using glycerine and air drying. Useful items to bring are cardboard (used cereal packets), baking paper, fine paper tissues, small leaves, violets, marigolds, lavender, or any other small flowers. Dried flowers can be used for gift cards or a dried herb "tussie mussie".

Phone Barbara Halse 5403901 for more information. If I'm out, there is an answerphone for leaving a message, to which I will call back!



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# Travel with Becks: Vietnam & Cambodia: What Great Travel Actually Feels Like

After recently escorting another small group through Vietnam and Cambodia, one thing became very clear again. The moments people remember most are rarely just the famous landmarks.

Of course, Angkor Wat was incredible. Ha Long Bay was stunning. The Golden Hands Bridge sat high above the clouds.

But interestingly, many of the standout memories were the smaller moments that happen when a journey is designed with atmosphere, pacing and local experiences in mind rather than simply rushing between attractions.

Having now travelled and escorted groups through Vietnam and Cambodia multiple times, I've refined these journeys around the balance many travellers seem to be looking for now. Enough structure that everything runs smoothly, but enough freedom that the experience still feels spontaneous, immersive and personal.

For some, it was sitting outside with cocktails overlooking glowing rice paddies in northern Vietnam after a day exploring mountain villages.

For others, it was the complete sensory overload of Hanoi. Mopeds weaving through tiny alleyways, smoky street food stalls, local beer and jumping on the back of scooters for an unforgettable street-eats tour through the city.

Hoi An quickly became another favourite. Lantern lit evenings, riverside cocktails, tailor made clothes, hidden bars and warm nights wandering through the old town with no real agenda except enjoying the atmosphere.

Cambodia shifted the feeling of the trip all over again.

Tuk-tuk rides through Siem Reap became a group favourite, while several guests said the biggest surprise of the journey was visiting Tonlé Sap Lake and the floating villages where everyday life unfolds entirely on the water.

What people seemed to enjoy most overall though was the balance of the journey itself.



Small group travel with a relaxed social atmosphere. Organised experiences balanced with genuine downtime. Great local food, markets, rooftop drinks, pools and enough breathing room to actually absorb where you are rather than being constantly moved from one attraction to the next.

What many guests seem to love most about my tours is that the journey still feels independent and adventurous. There is space to wander, discover hidden little spots, sit somewhere longer if you love the atmosphere, or head off during free time knowing all the difficult logistics, transport and planning have already been thoughtfully handled behind the scenes.

I love creating a far more personal style of travel than traditional tightly structured touring, while still offering the reassurance and ease people increasingly appreciate now.

There's already strong interest registered for future 2027 journeys including a France River Cruise paired with an Italy Food Experience, further Vietnam & Cambodia departures, Spain/Morocco, China, and more through Travel with Becks.

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What happened to the Noticeboard you might be asking? Well rather than go to 24 pages and have to find more content I thought I would suspend the Notices for the month and put the paying adverts in their place. You can

look at last month's notices. There are a couple of changes but you'll have to see them next month. Here's a new one: **Motueka Repair Cafe** Saturday June 20, 10am-1pm at Motueka Library. Refreshments provided. - Editor