



Looking forward to a 9.9% rate increase?

You must have read or heard about the intended 9.9% rates increase that is currently proposed in the Annual Plan.

As an ex-bureaucrat, I do understand that there is a lot that cannot be changed, that is locked in and caused by historic decisions. However, I would like to offer a few suggestions that could bring down the costs now and in the future. Here it goes:

Defer plan-changes in Seaton Valley

Significant time and financial resources are invested in the preparation and processing of plan changes, such as re-zoning certain areas along Seaton Valley from 'rural' to residential. With the election of the new council late last year, there has been a distinct shift in the approach to planning and managing growth. For instance, the long-term costs associated with greenfield development for ratepayers have been acknowledged and discussed by many councillors.

It is my understanding that the council has agreed to adopt a medium-growth scenario, rather than a high-growth one. As a result, the necessity and urgency of these plan changes have diminished. Placing these plan changes on hold until the new council establishes an updated region-wide growth strategy appears to be a prudent course of action and triggers significant operational cost savings—both for council staff and external consultants.

Stop spinning

Although good communication is important, I often can't help thinking that council is spending too much time spinning facts in good news stories. One example is the 31-page media briefing that was generated for the visit of our Prime Minister Luxon. Does this really need 31 pages? Lots of spinning.

An example is that it stated that the cost escalation for the Waimea dam was caused by the pandemic and geological issues. When I arrived in Māpua ten years ago, the Mayor and CEO gave a presentation to our community about the dam, categorically stating that all risks were costed in the \$90 million budget. I think it is dishonest to blame the pandemic at the very end of the building process for this.

It is also known or rumoured in the engineering world that warnings related to geotechnical risks were ignored.

So, blaming external factors is cheap – is spinning! I suggest that the council scales back the budget-spend on communication and focusses on simple factual information.

Flood relief

How do you fund unexpected and not budgeted costs to pay for flood relief that was caused last year in the winter of last year? The current proposal suggests spreading these costs equally across all ratepayers. Although this is a very complex issue (councillor Timo Neubauer has published some great insights recently on Facebook), I feel that bigger properties benefit more than small properties. So, a more property-based tax would be fairer (user pays), maybe capped to avoid unintended extremes.

Interesting fact is that the previous Labour-Green government had a \$6 billion disaster fund that would have assisted in these types of events. The current government deleted this fund and used that to provide tax relief to higher incomes and rental property owners.

During the disaster our Prime Minister offered a rain radar. Great help, wasn't it?

Need for Central Government funding

In many OECD countries it is very common that central government assists in the funding of councils for various activities. In Aotearoa, only roading works are co-funded by NZTA. Nothing else.

One of the huge future costs is related to disaster responses such as flooding or sea inundation. Events like last year will continue to happen with increased severity and frequency. Be aware that these haven't even be costed in what is now proposed. So, you are in for much, much more. The current Central Government Cabinet has already indicated: don't look at us for funding.

At the same time central government has lumped council with many additional tasks and costs that somehow need to be funded. We need to ask our council to put pressure on central government to change their position and we also need to think very carefully about who we will vote for in the upcoming general elections.

The consultation on the Annual Plan is closing on 3 May 2026 so be quick.

Jan Heijs

Lest we Forget - from the *Diary of an Unknown Aviator*

WWI Aviation

For the past two or three years, my friend Bruce Kingan has flown over Tasman, Māpua and Moutere Anzac services in his WWI replica Sopwith Pup aircraft. Rev Greg here wanted Bruce to speak at the Tasman service, but Bruce prefers to be up there rather than down here speaking.

Bruce's words "I treat flying over the services as an honour because I have had a fair bit to do with Anzacs". Bruce's grandfather served in WWI and Bruce was born two years after his father got home from being in a WWII prison camp for four years. Bruce again, "Dad had his 21st birthday there so I feel quite emotional about these flights. To see the faces looking up and see what it means to people on the ground".

I have based some of this article in part on a little book, *Diary of an Unknown Aviator* first published in 1926. It chronicles the experiences of American aviators training and fighting with the British Royal Air Force (known then as the RFC). The diary gives a first-hand account of the fatalistic lifestyle of the pilots who often knew they would not survive the war.

History and development of aircraft

The very first powered and controlled flight was made by the Wright Brothers in 1903. By the start of WWI in 1914, just 11 years later, there were hundreds of aircraft – some serviceable and some not - across multiple countries.

And consider that by the end of WWI just four years later, a handful of these planes were flying to over 20,000 feet. Bruce clearly remembers a moment when flying at 5000 over Mt Campbell, looking up and trying to imagine what it must have felt like to be 15,000 feet higher which is where those pilots went to work. "It blew my mind" he says.

There were just three main countries with a creditable number of serviceable aircraft: France, Germany and Britain. Germany had Fokkers and Britain had mainly Sopwiths and SE5s, with Snipes later to take the place of Camels at the front

Sopwiths – Pups and Camels were the main ones.

Bruce's replica is a Pup. The Camel was a modified version of a Pup.

These aircraft were no good side-on to the wind which would cause them to tip over. The pilots often needed 'wingtip assistants' when taxiing.

Diary records "Today I saw my first scout machine, a Sopwith Pup. It's the prettiest little thing I ever laid my eyes on. I am going to fly one if I live long enough."

Sopwiths were very tricky to fly and were particularly bad when attempting right-hand spins.

The diary again: *An instructor with 300 hours on Curtiss back in the US, spun a Camel into the ground and killed himself. Dealy spun into the ground the next day and*

before they got him buried, two Englishmen killed themselves. All in Camels and all doing right-hand spins.

Fokkers

Fokker designed one, two and three-decker planes and he introduced the synchronous machine gun – CC gear – which could fire through the propeller blades without hitting them.

Fokker's last creation in German service was the Fokker D-VII, which was so feared by the Allies. Bruce is co-owner of the 80% replica of a Fokker D7.

Every 6 months there would be an upgrade of the engines. They could out-climb all the predecessors. Diary recounts flying at 20,500 to try to outclimb a new brand of Fokkers. Could not go any higher as they were practically stalled, but the new Fokkers went right over their heads.

The newest Fokkers towards the end of the war had BMW motors which surpassed the old Mercedes. They were more conventional rather than the older rotary engines.

Remember the Christmas song, Snoopy's Christmas? The Germans were allowed to paint their aircraft in all sorts of colours. The Red Baron (WWI German flying ace) always painted his aircraft red.

Learning to fly

Many of the WWI pilots went solo with only a very few hours of flying experience. Often as little as 2-5 hours.

About six weeks after he started flying, our diary records: *I am quite good at spinning, but it makes me a little sick and dizzy. I guess I'll get over that, and I think a lot of it is due to the castor oil from the motor.*




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The rotary engine in Sopwiths had a “total loss oil system” which means the oil was pumped out of the spinning engine into the atmosphere because the engines had no sumps like modern aircraft.

This was one of the main reasons airmen carried silk scarves – not to keep them warm but to wipe oil out of their faces. Bruce’s scarf belongs to its other co-owner John, handed down from John’s great uncle, a WWI pilot.

Signals

There was no fancy communication gear in those days so pilots had to memorise a complicated range of signals.

Diary: *We fly pretty close together and have a set of signals. If the pilot in front is going to turn sharp, he drops his wing on that side. If he is going to dive steep, he holds up his arm. If he wants us to come up close or wants to call our attention to something he shakes both wings.*

If it is German, he shakes his wings and points and fires his guns. If he means “yes” he bobs his nose up and down and if he means “no” he shakes his wings. If we see a German and he doesn’t, we fire our guns and fly up in front and point. We fly at 3/4s throttle so we can always pull up.

If he has trouble and wants us to go on, he fires a red light from his Very pistol. If he wants us to follow him out of a fight, he fires a white light. If he wants to signal the other flights, he fires a green light.

Dangers of flying

Planes were capable of flying to 20,000 feet with no oxygen for the pilots. If the pilots passed out, they would either crash or if lucky, would come round part way through the descent and be able to recover.

The diary on altitude flying: *Gosh it is unpleasant fighting at that altitude. The slightest movement exhausts you, your engine has no pip and splutters; it’s hard to keep a decent formation and you lose 500 feet on a turn.*

It was freezing up there; pilots used to slap whale oil on their faces to protect against frostbite.

Many crashed after their own guns hit their propellor. Later planes had CC gear, as mentioned.

Another particular problem for the RFC was they were flying over Europe where the prevailing wind is Westerly. So they had to be very careful they didn’t penetrate too far over the German lines in case they didn’t have enough fuel to get home.

Parachutes

Late in the war, the Germans developed a parachute that could be used from an aeroplane, but even after they were in use, the British pilots were not allowed them. The hierarchy worried the pilots might bottle out prematurely, rather than fight. German pilots were allowed parachutes. Clearly their superiors thought they were made of sterner stuff.

“Archie” - the name used for Anti-aircraft artillery fire.

The diary: *“Archie has a funny sound. A burst near you sounds like a loud cough and as soon as you hear it you start zigzagging. When you hear it, you know that burst won’t hurt you – it’s the one you never hear that does the dirty work. I’ve been out baiting Archie several times and it’s great sport. You can make him waste five thousand dollars’ worth of ammunition on you in no time.”*

Heroism

WWI saw many notable feats of heroism over and above the daily grind of heroism which itself was barely

recognised. One pilot in an out-of-control aircraft, crawled out on to the wing with the intention of jumping off (as an alternative to burning to death). However, once out on the wing, he found the aircraft had stabilised.

He was then able to reach into the cockpit controls and guide the aircraft to the ground whilst still standing on the wing. On landing, the plane turned over and threw him into a clump of bushes. This was NZ pilot “Grid” Caldwell, so named because he referred to all aircraft as “Grids”.

Another NZ WWI Ace was Major Keith Park (later to be knighted). Both Caldwell and Park survived the war.

My reading, research, and chats with Bruce have all given me a very clear picture of the astounding number of deaths from WWI pilots just learning and practising flying in what were an increasingly diverse range of new aircraft being developed. The toll on airmen was enormous and immeasurable.

The Diary: *I can’t write much these days. I’m too nervous. I can hardly hold a pen. I’m alright in the air, as calm as a cucumber, but on the ground I’m a wreck and I get panicky. Nobody in the squadron can get a glass to his mouth with one hand after one of these decoy patrols.*

Some nights we both have nightmares at the same time and Mac has to get up and find his teeth and quiet us. We don’t sleep much at night. But we get tired and sleep all afternoon when there’s nothing to do.

And later....my eyes are so sore that it’s getting hard to write. You can’t wear goggles when you are out hunting and the wind blows your eyelids when you sideslip or skid.

And our ears are ruined forever. The sudden changes of altitude play hell with them. Going up in an elevator a few hundred feet used to affect mine. Now I dive five thousand at a crack and they ache all night.

Back then there was little recognition of the dangers faced by pilots every day. This can’t have been helped by what we’d almost certainly describe today as post-traumatic stress disorder.

In one diary entry from Ira Jones (a prolific SE5 pilot), he describes waking from nightmares 22 times in a night and having to tie the strings of his pyjamas to the bedpost to stop him thrashing around.

We owe a lot to the sacrifice of those WWI pilots. Their bravery and courage flying in aircraft that could only be described as rudimentary with no safety standards should never be forgotten.

Keiwarewaretatau Lest we forget. **Ka mau mahara tonu tātou ki a rātou** We will remember them.

Mary Garner



Travel Update

Why Good Planning Matters More Than Ever

Over the past weeks, I've been keeping a close eye on travel movements and staying in regular contact with industry partners, and the overall picture is clear – travel is continuing to move well.

Flights are operating through key transit points, and feedback from travellers has been consistently positive. People are getting where they need to go, and in most cases, journeys are running smoothly.

Where I've seen the biggest shift is in how people are choosing to travel. There is a greater focus on having things well planned from the outset, with the right connections, timing, and flexibility built in. When this is done properly, travel continues to feel seamless, even when the wider world feels a little uncertain.

This is where having someone managing things behind the scenes becomes particularly valuable. I'm constantly monitoring airline updates, routes, and global events, and working directly with suppliers so that if anything does change, it can be adjusted early and smoothly. It allows my clients to travel knowing everything has been carefully thought through and is being actively looked after along the way.

While shorter, closer to home trips are proving very popular right now, long haul travel is absolutely continuing as normal. Clients are still travelling through Europe, the UK and Asia, and enjoying it just as much as ever. The key difference is not where you go, but how it's planned, choosing the right routes, timing and style of travel so everything flows easily from start to finish.

Closer to home, Fiji and the South Pacific remain a favourite for easy, relaxing escapes, while Australia, particularly Tasmania, Queensland and coastal regions, offers a lovely mix of food, scenery and space to unwind.

Across Asia, destinations such as Japan and Southeast Asia continue to appeal, combining well known highlights with quieter regional experiences and exceptional food.

Further afield, Europe remains as popular as ever, whether it's Spain and Portugal for a slower pace or broader journeys through the UK and beyond.

Not every holiday needs to be a big, long-haul commitment. A thoughtfully planned five-to-ten-night trip can deliver just as much, whether that's a food focused itinerary, a small group journey, a well-paced multi-destination trip, a cruise departing closer to home, or an iconic rail experience.

At the same time, there are some really good opportunities emerging. Cruise lines and touring companies are releasing strong offers for the next 6 to 18 months, particularly across Europe, river cruising, and small group journeys. For those starting to think about travel, it is a great time to secure something well in advance while availability and value are both in your favour.

Whether it's a short escape, a longer journey, or simply the early stages of an idea, travel is still one of the most rewarding things you can plan. With the right structure and support in place, it continues to be something you can look forward to with confidence.

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Loyal Grossi Point Yacht Club Sailing Regatta 2026



The 2026 Regatta was sailed in near perfect conditions with a light shifty north-east breeze, a good tide and a warm sunny day.

The senior fleets started together and did two separate courses. The Cruising fleet was led home by the Sea Scout Cutter 'Tamaha' in both races.

Tamaha Sea Scouts, Emily and Isabelle Gravatt, sailed well, mentored by a couple of experienced sailors in the crew, Neville Bibby and Alison Howitt.

Glenn Stevens sailed his vintage Frostbite, over 70 years old, to second in both races, wishing for a bit more breeze.

The Open fleet of 10 started with a beat to the top mark in Kite Bay with most boats arriving at the same time.



A line of boats 6 abreast went down the run and then on the reach the fleet spread out. After the second lap, Brett Farrell was first home in his Laser. Mike Shirer who had won the Māpua Regatta the previous week was second, and David and Graham Battersby in their Laser II third and the first double-hander.

John Kennedy, a visitor from Lake Mahinapua sailed well for fourth, and third Laser.

The second race was close all the way around the course. The Lasers dominated and Graham Postles made up for his late start in Race One by taking line honours from Neil Clifton and Mike Shirer.

The Battersbys were first double hander just ahead of the 420 with Sandra Williams and Andrew Hunter having their second race in the boat.

Another old boat having its first race for over 20 years was Patrick White's Takapuna Z class 'Zepherus'. Designed originally in the 1920s, Patrick's boat is a plywood version that he and his brother built in 1984. Once the New Zealand Youth Class, they are now pretty scarce.

A welcome addition to the fleet this year was the attendance of the Motueka Yacht Club's learner sailors complete with their trailer load of six Optimist yachts. The impact of this bunch of junior sailors, along with the local Tamaha Sea Scouts, lowered the average age of the competing sailors noticeably!

After a simple course twice to the wing mark and back, the second race for the juniors was around the full course,



and in spite of being overrun at one stage by the senior fleet, the young sailors made the most of the great conditions and sailed well, providing close and exciting finishes for the spectators lining the shore.

Thanks to Jill Reade and Hamish Ballantyne for doing the race management, and Amanda Brett and Jesse Loader for running the course laying and rescue boat. And to the Māpua Four Square for providing the chocolate fish, a tradition of this Regatta!

REGATTA RESULTS 2026

Line Race One		Race Two	
226531	95	95	184
18016	50407	215052	BLUE
9818	70066	18016	167137
167137	91	226531	8
215052	184	9818	70066
BLUE	8	50407	91

Laser Race One		Race Two	
1	Brett Farrell	1	Graham Postles
2	Mike Shirer	2	Neil Clifton
3	John Kennedy	3	Mike Shirer

DOUBLE HANDED Race One and Two

- Graham and David Battersby. Laser II
- Sandra Williams and Andrew .Hunter 420
- Patrick White and John Leydon. Takapua Z Class

CRUISING Race One and Two

- Tamaha Sea Scouts. Scout Cutter
- Glen Stevens. Frostbite
- Brett Glass. Sailing Kayak

OPTIMISTS

Race One		Race Two	
1	Monty. #5	1	Hugo. #2
2	Silvaniais. #3	2	Orrin. #1
3	Malachi. #4	3	Silvaniais. #3

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Māpua Health Centre news

With summer behind us, it's a good time to think about having a full skin check. Skin checks are available with our Nurse Practitioner Irene Minchin here at Māpua Health Centre with prices starting at \$200 for a registered patient.

Kamalesh Lovegrove is our Health Improvement Practitioner who provides a free service to registered patients of Māpua Health Centre. Kamalesh can provide support for people with concerns about mental health, addiction, long-term conditions and general wellbeing. Please contact our reception team to book an appointment with Irene or Kamalesh.

Flu vaccines are available this month and free for those patients that meet the MOH criteria:

- Patients 65yrs and over
- Pregnant women
- Patients with chronic conditions
- Young children with a history of severe respiratory illness

Please book with our receptionists or check with our nursing team if you are uncertain about funding.

A reminder that the standard GP and Nurse appointments are only 15 minutes. Please talk with our receptionists to book a longer appointment if you feel it's necessary.

Examples of the need for longer appointments are complex health concerns, mental health reviews, multiple issues, in-depth examinations. Also, it is important for patients to be on time for appointments and, if late, it may result in their appointment needing to be rescheduled.

This month also includes asthma awareness day and, in addition to routine supportive options and medical treatment, several dietary factors have been recognized as potential contributors to the development and severity of asthma for its inflammatory and oxidative effects.

Some food groups such as fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and healthy fats appear to exert positive effects on asthma disease. In fact, diet can be preventive and a very recent study from Spain showed that those who ate a

Mediterranean diet had a 42% decreased risk of asthma (*Respirology*. 2026 Feb 15;31(4):352–360).

On the other hand, a high consumption of dietary salt, saturated fats, and trans-fat seems to have the opposite effect (*Appl. Sci.* 2023, 13(11), 6398). In fact, children who eat fast-food 3 or more times a week have a much higher likelihood of severe asthma, as well as more hayfever and eczema (*Thorax* 2013) and those taking vitamin D reduced the frequency of acute exacerbations, namely emergency department visits, hospitalizations, or the need to administer corticosteroids, by over 60% (*Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2016).

Avoiding sulfites can be helpful as they can trigger asthma symptoms in some people. They are used as a preservative and can be found in wine, dried fruits, pickles, fresh and frozen shrimp, and some other foods.

This month's health events include:

- 3 World Asthma Day <https://worldasthmaday.org.nz>
- 4-10 Road Safety Week www.roadsafetyweek.org.nz
- 5 International Midwives Day midwiferycouncil.org.nz
- 5 World Hand Hygiene Day www.who.int/campaigns
- 8 World Red Cross Day www.redcross.org.nz
- 10-16 Hospice Awareness Week www.hospice.org.nz
- 11-15 Privacy Awareness Week <https://privacy.org.nz>
- 12 International Nurses Day www.nursingcouncil.org.nz
- 12 ME Awareness Day www.anzmes.org.nz
- 15 International Day of Families www.un.org
- 15 Pink Shirt Day, awareness of bullying www.pinkshirtday.org.nz
- 18-24 Youth Week <https://arataiohi.org.nz/youthweek>
- 19 World IBD Day <https://worldibd.org>
- 22 International Day of Biological Diversity <https://www.unesco.org/en/days/biological-diversity>
- 30 Multiple Sclerosis Day www.msnz.org.nz
- 31 World Smoke Free Day www.smokefree.org.nz

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Book Reviews *by Barrie Walker*

The Space Between

As English settlers wage war on local iwi in colonial Taranaki, two women confront their pasts to survive the present.

Frances is an unmarried Londoner newly landed in colonial Aotearoa at the dawn of the first Taranaki war in 1860. Once well-regarded, her family's fall from grace sees them struggling to learn the strange etiquette of settler life.

Proud and hardy Mataria, who is shunned by her whanau because of events in her past, comes in contact with Frances through a mutual acquaintance.

Conflict between settlers and iwi rises, and the two women must fight for what is right, even if it costs them everything they know. As their lives intersect in surprising, and catastrophic ways, the question remains—will they ever belong, and do their fates lie in the uncomfortable space between.

This novel by Lauren Keenan (Te Atiawa Taranaki) is a story of the transformative power of hope, the unbreakable bonds of whenua and family, and the discovery of love in the least likely of places.



The Last Secret Agent. *The untold story of my life as a spy behind Nazi enemy lines.* By Pippa Latour with Jude Dobson

The extraordinary untold story of Pippa Latour, who parachuted into occupied France in 1944 as an undercover agent. This is the astounding true story of one of the last female special operations agents in France to get out alive after its liberation in WWII.

Born in 1921, Pippa Latour became a covert special operations agent who parachuted into a field in Nazi-occupied Normandy. Trained by the British, Pippa was

lauded for her fluency with languages and her coding ability - attributes she put to remarkable use when she posed as a teenage soap-seller, often selling her wares to the German soldiers and sending back information via code to England.

Incredibly brave - Pippa knew she could be instantly shot if her cover was blown - she concealed her codes on a piece of silk that she threaded through a shoelace and wore as a hair tie. She bicycled around the region, often sleeping rough and foraging for food.



During her time in Normandy, Pippa sent 135 secret messages conveying crucial information on German troop positions in the lead-up to D-Day. Pippa continued her mission until the liberation of Paris in August 1944.

Following the war, Pippa settled in New Zealand where she raised four children. For decades, Pippa told no one - not even her family - of her incredible feats during WWII. Now, for the first time, her story can be told in full.

For seventy years, Pippa's contributions to the war effort were largely unheralded, but she was finally given her due in 2014 when she was awarded France's highest military decoration, the Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour).

Pippa was the last surviving F (French) Section Special Operations (SOE) agent from World War II.

Pippa finally decided to tell her remarkable story, written with the assistance of TV personality and award-winning historical documentary producer and writer Jude Dobson.

Pippa chose Jude to tell her story, and they formed a close bond before Pippa's death in 2023, at the age of 102.

'The most remarkable story of a most courageous woman' - Hon Judith Collins

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Trapping to restore 'melodious' dawn chorus

"The most melodious wild music I have ever heard," is how botanist Joseph Banks described the dawn chorus he woke to on 17 January 1770, while anchored in Tōtaranui (Queen Charlotte Sound) aboard the *Endeavour*.

Two hundred and fifty years ago the dawn chorus in what is now Māpua and Ruby Bay was just as impressive but today it's been muted because of the pressure on birds caused by introduced mammalian predators.

To restore that joyful dawn welcome and help native species thrive is the reason Māpua Dawn Chorus (MDC) was started in 2017 by locals, supported by predator Free New Zealand 2050 (PFNZ) and Tasman Environmental Trust (TET).

Elaine Asquith, Pest Free activator says the project is about supporting nature to thrive in our community.

"What started as a project to trap in backyards in central Māpua/Ruby Bay has extended trapping as far as McKee Reserve and Stagecoach Road, with a stronghold of trapping up along Seaton Valley."

Clare Kinninmonth of MDC says the project is now shifting gear with a new commitment to continue and expand on this work.

"We are planning to extend the trap line on Rabbit Island from the Ferry Landing all the way down the channel, putting more traps in Aranui Park and hoping to set a line along Seddon Valley Stream.

And we need you, our local residents, as it takes all of us to choose a future for Māpua (the name of which means abundance in Te Reo Māori) working together for a vibrant dawn chorus by creating a safe habitat for our native species."

Nick Ferrier of MDC asks anyone interested in caring for a trap line or who wants a trap for their own home to contact MDC.

"We hold a small stock of traps that are available to borrow for up to three months at a time, and can provide advice on placement, baits, etc. We also have traps and tunnels available for sale.

If you are trapping in the area already, please reach out to MDC to let us know so we can record your results. We are stronger together," Nick says.

The focus is on rats, mice, stoats and possums with traps out across the village and numbers are growing. "We love all animals, but sadly our native species are in threat



of extinction, being hammered by introduced mammals that did not evolve within NZ."

The MDC project is bounded by the sea on one side, with Battle for the Banded Rail project protecting it from the estuary side, Dominion Flats and the Mamaku on the south edge and the Kina Bird Song project in the Tasman direction.

Elaine, Clare and Nick say Māpua has an opportunity to create a biodiversity haven, hear more birdsong, connect more with each other and with nature.

We are looking for more people to join us and be part of this movement to protect our native biodiversity and be part of conservation recreation in your community.

So come and join us. Learn and connect for a birdier future in Māpua. MDC is a fun and social crew focused on connecting our community and protecting our native species. Pop in for a coffee morning at Java Hut from 9.30am on the first Tuesday of the month or contact us through our website or by email.

For more information:

To give a trap to MDC go to: <https://giveatrap.org.nz/groups/mapua-dawn-chorus>

Email mapuadawnchorus@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mapua-Dawn-Chorus-1953330434897176/>

Our website page: <https://www.tet.org.nz/projects/mapua-dawn-chorus/>

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Motoring with Frederick

Taking the Rainbow Road

You might like the adventure of driving the St Arnaud to Hanmer Springs road known as the Rainbow Road. It is about a five-hour drive in the mountains with a reward of a swim in the hot pools in Hanmer.

No, you do not need a beast of a 4WD as pictured but a reliable vehicle with about 200mm ground clearance and off-road tyres.

In this remote mountain location with no cell phone coverage for hours, you will have to think safe. For experienced 4x4ers the best time of the year to drive it I reckon, is early Spring with snow still on the tops and sometimes on the track. (Notice I have used the word track which might be a better definition of the road.) In January the potholes and corrugations will still be there, but it should be an easier drive.

Note: Rainbow Road (112km from toll gate) is open to the public 26 Dec to 27th April with a road toll of \$60 per vehicle; cash as there is no cell phone/wifi coverage at the toll gate. See rainbowstation.co.nz before you go as times and dates can change.

From St Arnaud turn onto the Rainbow ski field road and continue along the mostly sealed road until the track up to the ski field. This is signposted but keep straight ahead and you will come to your first creek crossing called Cold Water Creek and believe me it can be cold as. There may be the first locked gate here or a manned gate at the old historic Rainbow homestead further along.

The weather changes everything on this road: creeks can be impassable and rockslides down on the way but

there are bridges when required. At Island Pass, the highest point on the road at 1,340m, I have seen snow falling on Christmas Eve.

All of what I'm saying is not meant to frighten anyone but make people aware. The road is also the pylon service road, and a farm service road so other vehicles are sometimes about.



Past Cold Water Creek you drive through the mountain beech forests and then the vegetation slowly lowers in height as you drive into mountain tussock.

At the Wairau River bridge the river is joined by the Rainbow River, thus the name of the station. It is said to be the name of the first shepherd called Rainbow who worked the valley. I'm told he would not say much as like a lot of the characters of the day he may

have been running away from something.

Past the bridge the road winds its way up a gorge called Hell's Gate but I have no idea where that came from.

Luckily the next stop is Sedgemere Hut where there is a toilet - quite important as there are no trees to hide behind in the tussock country.

Next is a steep drive up to Island Pass at 1,340m, recommend low range 2nd gear. This is where the watershed is north to Blenheim and east to near Kaikoura. It pays to be careful in wet and icy conditions and drive slowly. I would engine brake down the hill in low range 2nd gear, driving hard against the bank. Should you start to slip you can then immediately stop by turning into the bank.

Don't let me put you off, in dry summer conditions just drive slowly and carefully as it is steep.

The next major stop is Lake Tennyson where there are two DOC toilets. Across the lake is the famous St James Station. Lake Tennyson is the source of the Clarence River which flows east to near Kaikoura.

The last part of the road is not well maintained with many potholes and ruts but bridges all the way. Good thing there are hot pools and restaurants in Hanmer Springs. I recommend the Indian restaurant if you like curries!

Common sense: a reliable 4x4, warm clothing (can get bloody cold even in the summer), food and hot drinks, i.e. be prepared.

Safety: full fuel tank, spade, tow rope. Locate your tow hooks on your 4x4 before you leave.

Weather: check the weather, the rivers and creeks have big catchments and creeks can rise amazingly quickly. Only experienced 4x4ers should take on the Rainbow Road in wet or snow conditions. Black clouds mean snow.

Recommendation: Travel in a group of at least three vehicles or tag along with another vehicle if you are on your own.

An interesting drive but keep in mind, "The mountains have no friends".

Frederick Cassin

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Pastel Artists - PANZ

April has been quite contrary with members busy doing their own things, trips away and other commitments. We manage to plod on, with new members rolling in and the cost of fuel not taking too big a toll on attendees. Another new member appeared this morning and it was a pleasure to welcome her.

With so many members away to Orewa for our Annual Convention and Purely Pastel Art Awards, there will be no "end of month" talk this time. It will be just painting as usual.

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. Teas, coffees 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) on the 3rd Saturday of every month. For further information, contact **Lyse Beck**: lyse@lysebeck.com



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The Write Bias

News From Māpua Bowling Club

The final tournament of the season, and definitely the craziest, was Ladies Giggle Day held on Wednesday 25th March. Originally conceived as a day of friendship for ladies from our sister clubs, it has developed over the years to become an opportunity for dressing-up, starting the day with a tittle and playing non-traditional games of bowls throughout the day. The theme this year was all things Easter, which brought out plenty of chicks and bunnies. The games, as always, were bonkers but there were still winners at the end of the day who received cash prizes thanks to the sponsor, Nelson Building Society.

Club members only enjoyed Memorial Day and the Enstone Trophy on Saturday 11th April. This mixed pairs competition provided an opportunity for remembering and acknowledging past members as well as raising funds through a raffle for the Low Vision Foundation. Pairs were drawn from a hat, and the winners were Michael Busby and Wally Duff.

On Saturday 18th April the Champ of Champs 2-4-2 Mixed Pairs was scheduled to take place. Peter Wood and Karen Clark represented Māpua. To allow them to play Champs and attend Club Closing the final day of the season was set for the following day, Sunday 19th.

And unbelievably the season is drawing to an end. The standard of our green has been exceptional this year and as such has been requisitioned on numerous occasions by Nelson Centre for Centre competitions. All credit to our greenkeeper, Ian Benbow for working so hard to maintain a very high standard.

There is plenty of work planned for the off-season and the facilities are always available for booking throughout the 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 or check out our website or Facebook page.

Sue England



Fantastical Creatures—Māpua Makers Market 10th May

Maxene Grewar – Garden Art. 10th May, 10am – 2pm

Maxene Grewar certainly had grandchildren and gardeners in her sights when she started making her Pot Plant Pets, Gourd Chickens, and Farmyard Animals.

These whimsical creatures range from just \$10 - \$20. Handmade from pottery, they are waterproof and painted with safe acrylic paint. (Maxene says that once, a 2-year-old tried to lick a mushroom thinking it was a lollypop. 2-year-old is still perfectly healthy although may have graduated to dragons by now.)



If you want an absorbing activity for your grandkids when they next visit, Maxene suggests you pick up some gnomes, hobbits, wizards and dragons and hide them around your garden for the kids to find. Maxene and husband Geoff moved to NZ seven years ago from Australia where they used to have a gourd business (hence Maxene's gourd chickens).



Gourds are hard to grow in NZ, so Maxene turned her hand to pottery. A hobby to begin with but now, a happy semi-retirement plan for Maxene. "Semi" because she is still on the casual staff list for Tessa Mae in Māpua.

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 When applications open, you will be asked to apply via an application link.

This May Makers Market is timed for Mother's Day. What better opportunity to do some shopping for your garden, the grandkids, early Christmas or – more importantly, yourself!



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**Sat 2nd May:
Altitude Showcase**

**Friday 8th May:
All You Can Eat Ribs Night**

**Saturday 9th May:
Miami Mice Live!**

**Friday 15th May:
Salmonella Dub**

**Saturday May 16th:
Swinging 60s Disco Night**

**Saturday May 23rd:
The Best 80s Night Ever**

**18th and 19th June:
ABBA AND FLEETWOOD
TRIBUTE**

Did You Know.....?

Did you know we carry out surgery right here at Vetlife Māpua?

For many of you, it comes as a surprise. Being able to have procedures done locally means your pet is cared for in a familiar place, by a team who already know them, which can make the experience much less stressful for both pets and their owners.

From the front desk, we often see a mix of nerves and reassurance on surgery mornings. There are usually a few extra cuddles at drop off, and sometimes a slightly reluctant



Sehla having a lump removed by Erin Graham at Vetlife Māpua

goodbye. By the afternoon, those same pets are waking up comfortably and heading back home.

Most Wednesdays we run a dedicated surgery day at the clinic. Our veterinarian, Erin Graham, works alongside one of our experienced veterinary nurses to perform routine procedures such as desexing and lump removals in our purpose-designed surgical suite.

On the day of surgery, patients are admitted in the morning and settled into our hospital area. Where appropriate, we can carry out in-house, pre-anaesthetic blood testing beforehand to check that everything is as it should be before proceeding.

Throughout the procedure, pets are closely monitored, and we take great care to ensure they remain comfortable and well supported at every stage, including appropriate pain relief before, during and after surgery.

Following their procedure, patients recover in our hospital under close supervision before heading home later that afternoon, along with clear instructions to support a smooth recovery.

Follow up care is an important part of the process. We offer complimentary post-operative checks a few days later to ensure everything is healing well, as well as suture removal when needed.



At Vetlife Māpua, we understand that leaving your pet for surgery can feel like a big step. Our aim is to make the experience as calm, safe and straightforward as possible, while providing a high standard of care close to home.

If you have any questions about surgery or would like to talk through what might be right for your pet, our team is always happy to help. Just call Jeannie on 03 540 2329.

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

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www.hillscommunitychurch.org.nz

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.

Come and make some new connections.

We look forward to welcoming you.



Thursday 14th May



Harvest Celebration

Come and join us
Bring a friend or two

Thursday 14th May
11:30am – 1:30pm

Hills Community Church

Delicious Ploughman's Lunch

For catering purposes please contact Sally on:
021 289 9448 or:
Hills Community Church (03) 540 3848
office@hillscommunitychurch.org.nz

If possible, please bring along something which can then be donated to the Community Food Bank

Thursday 28th May

An opportunity to meet, chat, connect and share over another delicious morning tea.

10.00am to 12.00pm



Pentecost Sunday

Come and Celebrate.

Sunday 24th May
9.30 am



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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.
1st Sunday of every month 9.30 am



Holy Communion
A traditional Anglican Holy Communion service. Sharing bread and wine together as a church community.
2nd 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.
3rd Sunday of every month 9.30 am



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



Celebration Sunday
Coming together as a church community to celebrate the different themes running throughout the year.
Followed by a shared morning tea.
5th Sundays in the year 9.30 am

Photo Competition, new categories and prizes

Māpua Maritime Museum Amateur Photographic Competition.

Last year, Hudson French, an entrant in the children's section, won People's Choice in the 2025 Māpua Maritime Museum Amateur Photographic Competition.

Exciting new categories and more prizes from generous local sponsors will be a feature of the 2026 competition. Now is an excellent time to capture stunning images to enter in the categories which include the new Māpua Dawn Chorus Bird category, sponsored by Java Hut and Rabbit Island Coffee Co.

Other categories:

Boats, People, Nature and a new Landscape/Seascape category which includes local vineyards/farms and national parks as well as coastal/marine areas.

The boundaries for where photos for these five categories can be taken is from Golden Bay to Cable Bay and includes inland as well as coastal areas.

A new Travel category, sponsored by Bruce Batty of Summit is for photos taken anywhere in New Zealand.



Coolstore Gallery Māpua is a major new sponsor for the children's Nature and Travel categories, and the Wharf Shack will sponsor the kids' boat's category.

Once again, the major sponsor is CopyArt which not only prints entrants' photos but also provides generous prizes for the competition.

Other sponsors include: Delicious Homewares, The Smokehouse, Jared's Fruit and Veg, Apple Shed and Jellyfish, Split Apple Rock Cruise, Earth & Sea Jewellery, Darby & Joan Māpua, Māpua Ferry, Sprig & Fern, Hamish's Māpua The Indian, Māpua and Māpua Chemist.

Entry is open to children under 15 and to adults. Entries close on Friday 17th July 2026. An exhibition of the photos will be on display at the Port Māpua Maritime Museum from Monday July 20 to Sunday August 2 when prizegiving will take place.

Some of the images will feature in a special 2027 calendar. All proceeds from the competition and calendar are in support of the museum.

Entry forms are available from Delicious Homewares at the Māpua Wharf or by emailing: mapuaboatclubevents@gmail.com

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Ruby Coast Running Club

We have certainly noticed the change of season at our Thursday 5km events. Now that daylight saving has ended and it is getting darker earlier, it will soon be time to start thinking about carrying or wearing lights and reflective gear. The best option is a head torch, and reflective clothing is a good idea too. It is not just about seeing where you are going but making sure you are visible to others for your safety and theirs.

Some of our runners have recently also been enjoying the new Motueka Beach Reserve Parkrun. Parkrun is a free weekly 5 km community event held on Saturday mornings in parks worldwide – and there is a now a Parkrun in Motueka!

The inaugural event took place on Saturday 21 March. We have had runners attend the event most weeks since then. It is a really lovely scenic course. It is an out and back course which follows the gravel track along the sea reserve frontage. Huge thanks to Eileen Beatty who launched the parkrun event in Motueka and also to all the volunteers who make it happen each week. It is really great to have this regular local event.

Next up on the calendar is the Harris Hill Top Challenge on 25 April, which will have taken place by the time this goes to print. This is a fundraising event with all profits going to Stroke Aotearoa NZ this year.

It takes place at The Summer House on the Atawhai hills, a beautiful spot with views across Nelson and Tasman Bay. The event itself is a real challenge. The course is almost entirely on farm tracks which can be uneven and difficult to navigate in places, and there is a lot of elevation gain to test participants too. There are 7km and 10km course options. Good luck to our runners and walkers who tackle this event this year.

If you would like to join our regular Thursday 5km event, just come along. We always welcome new members. 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. Please just arrive a few minutes beforehand to sign in and to listen to the course briefing. Then join us afterwards for well-earned refreshments and socialising at the Māpua Sprig & Fern.

You can also find us on Facebook: Ruby Coast Running Club.

RCRC runners at the inaugural Motueka Beach Reserve Parkrun.



Māpua Craft Group

With fantastic help and enthusiasm from volunteers at the Māpua Library, we made many knitted poppies including those attached to cards, and a wreath to adorn the library door on Anzac morning.



It has been a pleasure to meet enthusiastic people with most helpful ideas. Several people used their mobile phones to take photos of the poppy patterns and were keen to make them at home.

One mother was going home to look on YouTube to find a crocheted poppy pattern for her enthusiastic son to make some!

We welcomed a new Janet to our Group whilst farewelling another Janet who is moving South.

Meetings for May are on the 1st and 15th of the month, so if you are keen to knit, sew, crochet or just chat over coffee and cakes, do join us at the Hills Community Church supper room between 10am and noon. There is a \$3 koha to cover the hire of the room.

To appreciate the attached photo in colour, view our report at www.coastalnews.online

For inquiries, please phone Barbara on 03 5403901, who will return your call if she's out!

Pottery Workshops

Create colourful pots from clay in a supportive environment in my Mapua pottery workshop.



Hand building using slab, pinch, coil and slip casting techniques.
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Our latest news & adventures



Programme Highlight - Ignite & Activate

Year 11 participants from Motueka High School (MHS) on our Ignite and Activate programmes paddled the Buller River recently as part of their final adventure together. These two programmes are an ongoing collaboration between MHS and WIO and are made possible by local donors, Pitt & Moore Lawyers and Port Nelson who all believe strongly in the power of experiential outdoor education.

The programmes are designed to run over a three-year period. The group stays together and develops long-term bonds over many different trips. The programmes are designed to foster teamwork, empathy, communication, self-confidence and resilience. These skills translate directly into the workforce and empower Ignite and Activate graduates to become emerging community leaders in the future.

We'd like to congratulate the Ignite and Activate programme graduates for their tenacity and hard work. We wish them well in their next adventures!



Ignite participants brave the rapids on the Buller River

Announcing New 'Summit Sessions'

Summit Sessions are no-cost, 1.5 hour climbing blocks designed for people who want to enjoy the unique experience of climbing in a purpose-built facility. Each session is run by qualified instructors who will guide participants through the fundamentals of climbing, including safety systems, equipment use and movement on the wall. Whenua Iti Outdoors operates strict instructor-to-climber ratios in line with our operational policies. Because of this, Summit Sessions have limited spaces and must be booked in advance - full info at wio.org.nz

Upcoming dates:

15 May - 12:30-2:00 pm, 2:30-4:00 pm

29 May - 12:30-2:00 pm, 2:30-4:00 pm


Summit Sessions are suitable for a wide range of participants over 5 years of age. Participants aged 5-16 years old require adult to accompany them.



WIO's Climbing Centre in action

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Māpua Fire Brigade



March to April 2026 call outs

- 21 Mar 00:35 Beach fire at end of Kina Beach Rd. about 2.5 metres, put out with help from Motueka's tanker. Short crewed.
- 24 Mar 07:10 Beach fire Pine Hill Reserve. Put fire out.
- 26 Mar 15:53 Fire seen in area of Harley Rd, A small fire in rain. Stood down by another officer.
- 27 Mar 14:28 Alarm activation at Māpua School. Small Burner set alarm off, no fire action, suggested do not do that again. Short crewed.
- 30 Mar 17:13 Medical off Iwa St. Delay in ambulance. Patient to hospital.
- Apr 12:31 To smell of burning on Tahi St, no smoke or burning found.
- 2 Apr 10:16 Log smouldering at the end of Kina Beach Rd. Used hose reel to put out. Short crewed.
- 3 Apr 22:12 smell of smoke in area of Maisey Rd, no smoke found.
- 6 Apr 00:44 to Fire in Bus shelter on Westdale Rd, small fire on floor, put out with hose reel.
- 8 Apr 10:01 Rural unit to a Burn off out of control in Dovedale, left with Ngatimoti fire.
- 17 Apr 07:46 Gas leak at restaurant at Kaiteriteri, a crew turned gas off.
- 17 Apr 20:03 Power line on fire Stafford Dr, Left for power company.

Call outs for the year = 35

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

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

We are in a prohibited fire season, need a permit.

Check and clean chimneys

Unexpected Generosity

It was so unexpected, which somehow made the generosity even more special. The thought that people were silently thinking of you without your knowledge.

Māpua Hall has experienced two significant plumbing failures recently. Caused in part by old water pipes functioning perfectly well until they were not.

The fallout was immediate and had a particularly profound effect on Lynda Mabin's exercise storage area. But let's not dwell on those details except to say that Lynda was gracious.

The expected consequence also reached into the Hall's bank account which is where our surprise comes in.

Out of nowhere, Thursday's Art Class had a group Koha to help with the plumbing bill in case we weren't covered by insurance.

As we have had cover accepted by our insurance, the group have kindly offered to give the hall the \$500 to cover our excess from the event.

We on the hall committee were so very surprised and overwhelmed at their generosity.

Thank you Thursday Art Class!

Mary Garner

Yoga with Martin
Mapua Hall
New! Beginners/Recovery:
Tuesday, 6.00 – 7.00pm
General: Friday, 9.15 – 10.30am
yogawithmartin.nz
027 614 5936

Chelle the Seamstress
Clothing alterations, dressmaking
Repairs, cushion covers / squabs
Curtain shortening
by appointment
11 Korepo Rd, Ruby Bay
021 2086 286
chelle.evanson@gmail.com

Gavin Lambert
Master Painter
CRAFTSMAN PAINTERS & DECORATORS
GAVIN LAMBERT (OWNER)
Ph: 03 540 2748 Cell: 021 476 318
Email painter@scorch.co.nz / 26D Jessie St, Mapua, 7005
www.lambertdecorators.co.nz

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Having grown up in this fantastic little village and seeing it blossom and thrive, I truly believe that my team and the passion and knowledge I have for the area will get you the very best results.
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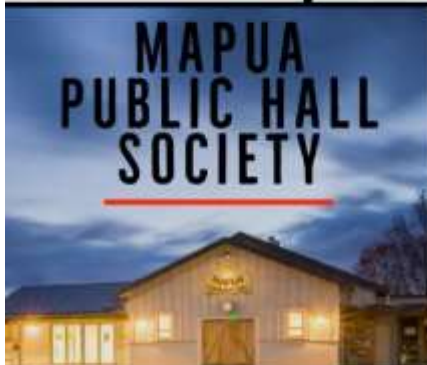
MAY 2026

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	



AGM -JUNE 22ND 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.

Māpua Hall Makers Market



Mothers day

May 10th 10-2pm

SAVE THE DATE

Pechakucha 2026
July 3rd

Members ticket pre-sales
June 1st

Public sales- 15th June



QUIZ NIGHT

WED 20TH MAY

7pm sharp

Great prizes and a fun night for all ages.
Book a table now!!

All Money raised tonight supports our Mapua Community Hall



Noticeboard

Book Appreciation Group [BAG]: Māpua Library, first Wednesdays at 2:30pm. For anyone who enjoys books and talking about what they have read. Friendly and informal. Info: Rachel 027 358 6003 or just come.

PowerTalk Tasman: Develop speaking and communication skills in a friendly supportive environment. Club meets 6.30pm 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at St Johns rooms, Jack Inglis Hospital, 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 2nd 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 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

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

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

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

Quakers meet at Family Service Centre, Motueka 10am 2nd 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

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

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 1.30pm 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.

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

Check out www.coastalnews.online