

## Controlling pests in Māpua Wetland

Twenty-one years on from the first plantings, Māpua Wetland, adjacent to Aranui Park, is a haven for threatened tree species and native birds but unfortunately, also for pests such as possums, rats, mice and hedgehogs. Which is why Māpua Dawn Chorus volunteer Hamish Ballantyne maintains a trap line there.

"I'm a trapper and enjoy the dawn chorus I hear on our Great Walks. I'd love to hear the same in Māpua, which is why I like catching rats, mice and hedgehogs which threaten our native birds," said Hamish.

The trap line is part of the ongoing swamp forest re-creation project begun by the Beere/Mitchell families in 2005 on one hectare of private land that once carried a few house cows.

"It is part of the Seaton Valley Swamp, which prior to European settlement was one of the largest wetlands in the Moutere and Motueka area," says Judy Mitchell who with husband David, members of the Beere and Mitchell families and friends, are custodians of the wetland.

Hamish's trapline within the wetland is just one of many operated by Māpua Dawn Chorus (MDC) in Aranui Park, Rabbit Island, Dawson Track, McKee Reserve, Mamaku Corridor, Ruby Bay and Walkway tracks. These traplines are supported by the many backyard traps in properties in Māpua Village and Ruby Bay together with surrounding lifestyle properties.

"We'd love to hear from anyone interested in maintaining a trapline," said Clare Kininmonth of MDC which also encourages locals to set backyard traps for mice and rats and record their catches on Trap NZ.

Judy said the rapid loss of up to 90% of New Zealand's wetlands and the important role they play as the "kidneys of the land" filtering, absorbing and taking harmful contaminants out of water before it reaches rivers, lakes,

and estuaries were among the motivations for the re-planting of the Māpua Wetland.

"The area formerly contained a kahikatea forest as well as rimu, matai and other native trees and plants. Dozens of kahikatea have been planted and most are doing well, but as they take 120 years to mature it will be a long time until they dominate the canopy," said Judy.

Since 2005, thousands of trees and swamp-loving plants have been planted by teams of volunteers, including many from Māpua Primary School, Māpua Scouts and local clubs.

These have included threatened species such as narrow-leaf maire tree, the baumea reed and carex geminate (cutty grass). Manuka, kanuka, hebe, kowhai, cabbage tree

and many other natives have also been planted.

So rich are the peat soils within the wetland that QEII covenant status was granted in 2009 due to the exceptional growth of the native plants. The Tasman District Council also granted it Open Space Zoning, and the wetland, with two man-made ponds, complements Tane's Ark in Aranui Park next door.

Public access to the Māpua Wetland is by permission

from the Mitchell Family, because, said Judy, it is taking years to build up a secure understorey and so is not ready to cope with a lot of foot traffic. Apart from pest trapping, the wetland still requires on-going maintenance including removing invasive plants like blackberry, convolvulus, Japanese honeysuckle and banana passionfruit. Extreme weather events such as heavy rain and heat and drought in

summer are also challenges.

Judy and David Mitchell know they will never see the kahikatea they planted reach maturity, but they take pleasure in watching the wetland plants reclaim the swamp and Hamish takes satisfaction in controlling pests, making the environment safer for birds and insects.



*Hamish with a rat in a trap*



*David & Judy Mitchell, 21 years on from the first plantings.*

# Community Association

In August we held our AGM as well as our regular monthly meeting. The AGM saw us farewell and thank Aileen Connell who has served the Association as Treasurer for many years. A special vote of thanks to Aileen. She has left us with a very well organised set of accounts - all ready for another community member to step into this role. **Who do you know for us to shouldertap? Or could it be you?**

Paul McIntosh was also farewelled and thanked. Paul sat in the chair a few years ago and came back for another term last year. Thanks Paul for your calm and reasoned approach - and for compiling our next grant application.

Clare Kininmonth who has been on the committee for two years also did not stand again. Thanks to Clare for her time with the Association - in particular for her work on our archives and on the emergency preparedness team.

The 2026-2027 committee is underway already. Marion Satherley is chair, Henk Vermeer is vice-chair, Lynley Worsley secretary and committee members Deb Crowther, Andrew Stephen, Bruce Struthers and Susie Wendelborn round out the new team. Membership continues at only \$10 per person - see the link on our website to join/renew your membership.

At the monthly meeting we heard from all three of our ward councillors outlining topics ranging from amalgamation to the livestreaming of council workshops.

The meeting drew up a shortlist of projects to forward to Downer in response to their invitation to send an expression of interest to their Tasman Alliance Volunteer Day coordinators.

Photos and a letter showing the flooding in Aranui Park following the recent rainfall has been sent to council and councillors will follow this up with staff. Concern was expressed that runoff from the Mt Hope subdivision may not be as well managed as was planned for.

Council has asked for feedback on the proposed two-hour parking limit zone at the wharf – more information is shared in our meeting correspondence and on our Facebook page.

The technology review project's website survey results have been shared and a recommendation on the best website platform will be shared at the next full meeting.

The meeting agreed that the project team apply to Google-for-Non-Profit to move email and online tools to.

**Next General Meeting - 7pm Monday 14 September**

**Save the Date - 7pm Friday 2 October - Meet the**

**Candidates**

All meeting notices and information: [ourmapua.org](http://ourmapua.org)



# Wellbeing Trust

## District Health Nurse:

Health Nurse clinics are continuing, with sessions twice/week on Tuesdays and Fridays by appointment. The service continues to be popular with Māpua and Tasman locals, providing an essential need in our community.

## 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, parents and volunteers, the latter willingly sharing their skills. Since the programme restarted in February, numbers have had to be capped at 25 and currently there is a waiting list. The Wellbeing Trust continues to support this wonderful initiative, including scouting out opportunities for 2027 youth initiatives.

## 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 from 2 to 3pm. This service aims to help new and existing residents alike; help you get the settings on your phone right, working through issues on your laptop etc.

We also have local information available via the C&C sessions on the online Found Directory. This directory is a great resource for people new to the area or trying to find out if an existing group, club or sport exists locally.

## 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 have facilitated three Talking Cafés: In April the focus topic was "Dicky Ticker" facilitated by Dr Jim Vause. 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 n Koffee group who meet every Wednesday morning. Bridget and Fiona from Māpua School spoke with and answered questions from parents and caregivers.

The most recent Talking Café was "Food and Fitness for Teens," an evening session on Wednesday 19th August facilitated by Dr Jim Vause. Dr Andre Bonny from The Māpua Health Centre was the expert resource person. The young people and their parents that attended appreciated the opportunity to chat openly with Andre.

John Botting



# Māpua Community Hall has a new solar system

It has been a bit of a journey. As you would expect, the Māpua Community Hall has a sizeable power bill each month. Discussions about getting a solar system installed started about two years ago. It was then decided to explore options to get the hall equipped with a solar system and seek grant funding to help fund the expenditure.

We received many proposals to get an indication of the costs of various options (panels and battery). We were just starting to prepare for grant applications about a year ago, when Tasman District Council (TDC) nominated the Māpua Community Hall as one of the ten emergency centres in the region. There was funding available from the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority (EECA) to enable these emergency centres to have solar systems installed. This would allow the centres to remain operational when power from the network is not available.

TDC has been instrumental in getting the funding in place and in supporting the project technically and financially from the start to the delivery. Māpua Hall has funded 20% of the total investment which was about \$94,000 (incl GST).

Our new solar system has 64 panels with a total capacity of 29 kW, an inverter of 25kW and 27 kWh battery storage. It also has a connection for an emergency generator in case it is needed. The payback time is estimated at eight years for the total investment, but less for Māpua Hall with its 20% contribution.

The installation was undertaken by Current Generations Ltd, a local solar system provider. The work was completed in a few weeks and disruption to users was kept to a minimum. The system went live on 30 July.

On a nice day in August, we generated about 135 kWh

and exported about 100 kWh. This will get even better as the days get longer. This obviously changes with weather and internal use.

So, with this solar system we (1) will reduce our costs for power and with that assist in the running of the Hall and (2) be able to function as an emergency centre including when there is no

power from the grid.

*Jan Heijs, Māpua Hall Committee*



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# Māpua Tennis Club – the Countdown to 100

Depending on when you read this – maybe early September 2026 – the Māpua Tennis Club is now about 99.9 years old and officially turning 100 in October. Help us celebrate!

There will be three main parts to this:

## **Fast Fours tournament Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>, from 3pm**

Warm up and kick off with a fast fun social tournament. Places are limited, so please email [mapuatennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:mapuatennisclub@gmail.com) to book a spot. It's open to everyone - members past, present and future, newer players, rusty returners and anyone keen to join in. We'd love to see you on court in your old-fashioned tennis whites!

## **Dinner, Saturday night, October 10<sup>th</sup>, from 6pm**

A night out for members – past, present and future – and anyone else who's interested. This will cost \$70 per person, which includes a 3-course meal at Māpua Bowling Club with live jazz music, memories & fun. For details and bookings, email the Club ([mapuatennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:mapuatennisclub@gmail.com)).

## **Open Day, Sunday October 18th**

This part is intended for anyone at all who is keen or curious. It'll include not-too-serious games, a barbeque and some birthday cake - what's not to like?! More details will be provided in October's *Coastal News*. Or you could contact Bridget Miller on 021 496 153 if you want to know anything before then.

**We look forward to having you join us in October, for any or all of these once-in-a-hundred-years events!**

**Tennis, anyone?**



We tried hard to find a photo of Māpua Tennis Club on Day 1. This isn't it, but it's close. This is Waimea West Tennis Club, just 15 km away and 12 years earlier.

## **A Quick Timeline**

**1926:** The first tennis court was constructed on the north side of Toru Street, Māpua – built by some good keen men over a few weekends in September and October 1926 (the ladies provided refreshments).

This was reported in Nelson Evening Mail (17/09/26). *"This has entailed shifting large quantities of gravel and clay; and as it approaches completion, appears... to be an excellent piece of work... Each Saturday afternoon the ladies, two by two, have provided afternoon tea, which is evidently appreciated by the wielders of shovel, reins and scoop."*

**1927:** The court was top-dressed with "sea mud".

**1929:** The Tennis Club held its annual social: "This was a great success, fully 100 people being present."

**1933:** A second court was built, and there was "a good gathering of players" for the opening of the season.

**1947-ish:** The Tennis Club relocated to Aranui Road – the current location – where 2 new courts were built (see photo of that 1940s working bee in *Coastal News*, June).

**1987-ish:** Two additional courts were added during this period, bringing the total to four.

**1990:** Andrew Earlam became Treasurer (yes, 36 years later he still is!)

**2007:** Vanessa Mairs started coaching in Māpua. (She started with just 4 children; in 2026 "I now get around 75-80". The courts come alive as soon as school's out).

**2011:** An arsonist struck one night in September, tragically burning the Aquarium at Māpua wharf to the ground, and also—on a smaller scale—our old tennis pavilion.

**2011:** Following the arson the Nelson Mail reported (16/09/11) that the Club "has 10 senior members, and more than 60 junior members."

**2013:** 2 courts were upgraded from hard grey cracked concrete to Tiger Turf in green and blue, designed to reflect the coastal setting.

**2014:** A replacement pavilion rose from the ashes (no more ostentatious than its predecessor but it's great for shade & shelter).

**2019:** The club officially became an incorporated society. It also became the first organisation in the region to adopt a macron in the name Māpua, now the norm.

**2021:** With help from Tennis NZ, the Club installed a solar-powered e-gate so courts could be booked online by anyone, including members of the public.

**2023:** With Tasman District Council support, the last two courts were resurfaced with Tiger Turf and a new LED lighting system was installed, extending playing times to 9.00 pm. Network Tasman helped by funding padding around the lighting poles.

**2025:** The Club introduced free membership for Māpua Primary School, giving students access to courts during school hours for teacher-led physical education. And to help make tennis as accessible as possible for the community. Courts 3 and 4 were set aside for free public use on Thursday and Sunday afternoons. Also, some clever Club members turned their talents to off-court comfort and made new seating for the courts.

**2026:** The Club registered under the new Incorporated Societies Act. Membership is now around 90 seniors and 75 juniors.

Future: Anything is possible! First up, we need to plan for resurfacing Courts 1 and 2. And perhaps one day we'll even start dreaming about club rooms. 😊

*Please get in touch with any other questions, interesting memories, photos or ideas: [mapuatennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:mapuatennisclub@gmail.com)*

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## Bill Unwin on court in Māpua

Finding time to have an interview with Bill Unwin is quite a challenge – in my case, it was getting Bill before or after his one-month holiday in Bali which included twelve days on an intrepid journey involving rafting, biking, hiking and more. Not so remarkable, except that Bill has just celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Fortunately we managed to find time on his return to talk before Bill headed to the courts for his second

afternoon of social tennis in a week with the Racket Boys (and Girls) at Māpua Tennis Club.

Don Wylie started the group about fifteen years ago and it has gone from strength to strength with around twenty plus members involved. They meet on Tuesday afternoons for a couple of hours of tennis and then reconvene at Sprig & Fern for after-match refreshments.

While Bill is the oldest of the group, others in their 80s are also enthusiastic participants. Bill and his wife moved to Māpua from their local lifestyle property 2½ years ago and he says, *“having a local tennis club is part of the joy of living in Māpua, so I couldn’t wait to get straight back on the court after our holiday.”*

Incidentally a notable long-term study (the Copenhagen City Heart Study) found that *“playing tennis was associated with a predicted life expectancy gain of up to 9.7 years compared to being inactive, which ranked higher than many other sports like jogging, swimming, or cycling...”* Our local club, about to hit 100, is showing the way!




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# Māpua Health Centre news



New Zealand's primary care capitation funding has just had a major revision of the funding formula which has been in place since 2002. From 1 July 2026, capitation funding is no longer based primarily on age and gender, but now incorporates additional factors such as multimorbidity, socioeconomic deprivation, rurality, and more detailed age bands to better reflect patient complexity and healthcare need.

The intention of these changes is to direct more funding towards practices caring for higher-needs populations and improve equity across the sector.

For our practice, however, the impact has been negative. Changes to our zoning and population weighting have resulted in our enrolled population being assessed differently under the new funding formula. Māpua, previously categorised as decile 3, has now been changed to decile 1, leading to a reduction in the capitation funding we receive.

As a result, maintaining the same level of care and service delivery will become increasingly challenging, and this funding shortfall is likely to contribute to patient fee increases over time as we work to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the practice.

On a more positive note, our patient portal "Well" is proving to be very popular. It offers easy access to your lab test results, recent history of your doctor consultations, 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 on how to join, (03) 540 2211.

This can be a good time to check out options for health and lifestyle. A famous health advocate, Dean Ornish, has shown that the main factors that can improve our risk for heart disease (the #1 cause of death in our society) and help prevent dementia (*Alz Res Therapy* 16, 122 (2024)) are:

- Stress management
- Exercise
- Nutrition
- Social / Spiritual interaction
- Education (including non-smoking, etc)

So what is happening in or around Māpua to help develop our common **SENSE**? You might be surprised to know that the following are some of the activities and classes available:

Pilates    Tennis    Walking groups  
Yoga    Tai chi    Meditation  
Aqua aerobics – Richmond    Stop smoking  
Healthy lifestyles + green prescription Girotonics

The practice nurses at the health centre can help you find out more about any of these. Please let us know if you are aware of other healthy lifestyle activities or groups happening in the area.

Every year more than 4000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in New Zealand and over 700 men will die from it. Overall, the number of men diagnosed in New Zealand is increasing, largely due to increased rates of testing, and the death rate is slowly dropping, largely due to better outcomes from early diagnosis and improved treatments available.

Blue September is about getting the word out about prostate cancer. If you buy a blue ribbon, paint your face blue, donate money to the Prostate Cancer Foundation or even tell people, you will be helping to lower the death rate and reduce the suffering from this disease.

Here are some of the local and world health initiatives for September:

- 1-30 Blue September, prostate cancer awareness  
<https://blueseptember.org.nz>
- 1-30 Cervical Screening Awareness Month    [www.nsu.govt.nz/](http://www.nsu.govt.nz/)
- 1-30 Breathe Better September (asthma)  
[www.breathebetterseptember.co.nz](http://www.breathebetterseptember.co.nz)
- 1-30 World Alzheimer's month    [www.alzheimers.org.nz](http://www.alzheimers.org.nz)
- 1-30 Fetal Alcohol Awareness (FASD) month    [fasdmonth.nz/](http://fasdmonth.nz/)
- 1-30 Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month  
<https://ovariancancerfoundation.org.nz>
- 1-6 Gamble Harm Awareness Week    [www.gamblinghb.co.nz](http://www.gamblinghb.co.nz)
- 1 Random Acts of Kindness Day    <https://rak.co.nz/>
- 1 Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia Day    [bloodcancer.org.nz/](http://bloodcancer.org.nz/)
- 4 World Sexual Health Day    <https://worldsexualhealth.net>
- 7 International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies  
[www.un.org/en/observances/clean-air-day](http://www.un.org/en/observances/clean-air-day)
- 8 World Literacy Day    <http://internationalliteracyday.org>
- 8 World Physiotherapy Day    <https://world.physio/wptday>
- 9 Fetal Alcohol Awareness Day    [www.fan.org.nz](http://www.fan.org.nz)
- 10 Suicide Prevention Day    <http://wspd.org.au>
- 14-20 Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori  
[www.reomaori.co.nz/te-wiki-o-te-reo-maori](http://www.reomaori.co.nz/te-wiki-o-te-reo-maori)
- 15 World Lymphoma Day    [www.leukaemia.org.nz](http://www.leukaemia.org.nz)
- 19 Suffrage Day    [www.womens-health.org.nz](http://www.womens-health.org.nz)
- 18-25 Keep NZ Beautiful Week    [www.knzbcleanupweek.co.nz](http://www.knzbcleanupweek.co.nz)
- 21 International Day of Peace    [unesco.org.nz/homepage.htm](http://unesco.org.nz/homepage.htm)
- 21 World Alzheimer's Day    [www.alzheimers.org.nz](http://www.alzheimers.org.nz)
- 22 World Car-free Day    [www.carfreemetrodc.com](http://www.carfreemetrodc.com)
- 26 World Contraception Day    [www.who.int/life-course](http://www.who.int/life-course)

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## Book Review *by Penny Brown*

### ***Always Home, Always Homesick* by Hannah Kent**

Hannah Kent's deeply personal memoir is a personal love letter to Iceland and her host family during a student exchange programme. It is Kent's first major foray into non-fiction. It functions as both a coming-of-age story and an ultimate literary origin story, tracking how a lonely teenager from Adelaide transformed into an international bestselling novelist.

The memoir unfolds in two distinct parts. The first begins in 2003, when a seventeen-year-old Kent arrives at Keflavík Airport in the dead of the Icelandic winter as a Rotary exchange student. Initially isolated by language barriers and an inhospitable, frozen terrain, Kent brilliantly captures the disorienting, visceral shock of her new reality.

Her descriptions of the landscape are characteristically brilliant. She frames Iceland not merely as a setting, but as a full-blooded entity that she falls for with raw, human infatuation. Through humorous cultural misadventures, like describing her first taste of whale blubber as "biting into a lipstick made of fish", and her eventual move to a chaotic, loving host family in Sauðárkrúkur, she charts a tender path toward profound belonging.

The second half shifts focus toward Kent's intense creative process and her deep obsession with Agnes Magnúsdóttir, the historical figure behind her acclaimed debut novel, *Burial Rites*. Kent's return to Iceland as a doctoral student highlights the symbiotic relationship between place and perspective.

Mastering the notoriously complex Icelandic language grants her "insider status," allowing her to excavate deep historical records and community stories. Kent writes

candidly about the haunting nature of research, detailing visceral dreams and a near-spiritual connection where she felt Agnes whispering to her at night.

At its core, *Always Home, Always Homesick* is a meditation on the twin pangs of belonging and exile. Kent reflects beautifully on how a place so foreign could graft itself onto her bones, leaving her perpetually split between two hemispheres. For fans of her fiction, this memoir provides invaluable context, illustrating how a frozen landscape can forge a dedicated storyteller. Lyrical, candid, and deeply moving, it is a triumph of Australian non-fiction.

### **Recommended**

Two of her better-known books are worth a read too.

### **Burial Rites (2013)**

Hannah Kent's haunting debut novel, *Burial Rites*, reimagines the tragic final months of Agnes Magnúsdóttir, the last woman executed in Iceland. Set against a brutal, atmospheric northern landscape, the prose is remarkably lyrical and intense. Kent delivers a deeply empathetic, tense examination of isolation, community judgment, and human resilience.

### **The Good People (2016)**

Set in the rugged, superstitious valleys of 19th-century Ireland, *The Good People* follows three women desperate to cure a mute, disabled child believed to be a fairy changeling. Kent explores the intersection of religious devotion, folklore, moral desperation, and the scapegoating of vulnerable outsiders.

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# The Not-a-plan

Opinion from Jim Vause

Done your PC81 submissions? Too late, it's all done and dusted. Sure, the process was tortuous and anal, but let us step back and put PC81 into perspective, for it is just one of the Council's myriads of plans, all designed to implement the Council's aim:

*"...to promote and protect the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Tasman communities now and in the future".*

The TRMP is all about "resource management". That's Council newspeak for land development, water and roading and PC81 are the modifications to improve and speed up the subdivision process. For while infill housing is mentioned, reading between the lines highlights that greenfield housing is what this is all about, because, for developers, that is the easiest and cheapest way to build more houses, thus meeting the coalition government's demand for more housing.

The Council plans and provides the roading and three waters that developers, inhabitants and visitors need. It also plans reserves and playgrounds but as for the other needs of the healthy community it promotes, welcome to the Nonplan.

Health, social, educational and economic needs of the local community aren't planned. The Council doesn't even plan for our energy or digital communication needs.

Even in roading, its self-proclaimed responsibility, it only plans the local roads and not the arterial routes and state highways, the roads we need to drive to get to our workplaces, our health services, our social services, our economic centres and the same roads our emergency service need to service all those new houses the Council has planned for "urban centres" like Māpua and Wakefield.

Here's an example. The electricity lines in Seaton Valley Road, an area destined under PC81 for 600-odd new houses, can't cope with an increase in solar generation from the current residents. As for internet, there is fibre running along the road, but current residents seeking better internet than the soon to be defunct copper wire, cannot access the fibre according to the providers. Instead,

they are offered wireless broadband which, because of new subdivisions closer to the nearest cell tower, a mere kilometre away, now slows to less than 1Mbps between 3 and 9pm. That's slower than copper wire.

While the Council can't provide the services critical to a healthy community, it could plan them alongside the service providers. But it doesn't. Health, educational and social services are essential, but to plan to flood a small rural village with double the number of inhabitants without planning for such critical services is simply ludicrous.

This flags the reality that the Council is driven by a desire to meet the needs of developers, for tucked up within PC81, within the TRMP, is the very important deferment lifting process.

It is a clever mechanism for controlling development. If a developer wants to subdivide, then the Council will, once it has provided the roads and three waters needed, lift the "deferred rezoning", thus giving the go-ahead for the scrapers and diggers to roll in.

The trigger for lifting the deferment is not based on population need, not based on housing supply and does not consider if there are sites more suitable for development such as closer to the urban centre of Richmond. It is based on the developer's request and the Council's ability to meet that.

It is certainly not based on the social, health or education services needs of the new subdivision's inhabitants. It is driven by the developer's confidence that they can sell properties based on the old "build and they will come" meme.

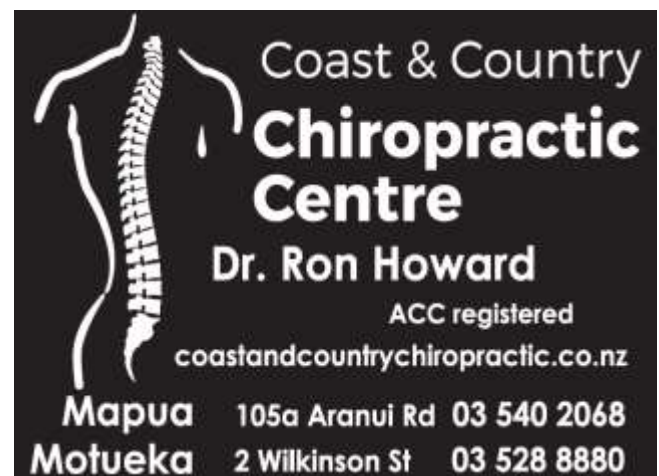
Failing to plan is planning to fail. This is not a plan.



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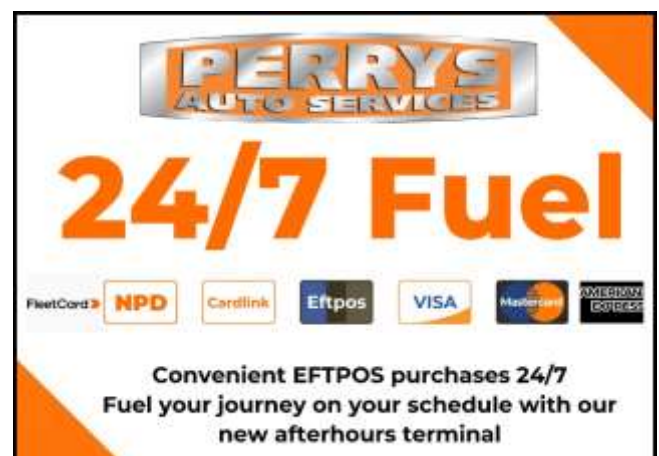
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# Motoring with Frederick

## Tesla 3 – Bought online without a test drive!

Brian went to Christchurch to pick up the Tesla and on arriving the conversation went something like this – “I’ve come to pick up my white Tesla 3”. Answer – “phone this guy”. A quick identity check took place – “hold on a minute, we are downloading to your phone” – next – “OK your good to go, anything you need help with just phone this number again”. Brian went out to his new Tesla 3 waved his cell phone at it, the door unlocked and it was ready to drive!

Brian & wife have done it right with owning his 2021 Tesla 3. The house has full solar panels and a Tesla house battery which can charge the car and run the house during sunny summer days. A second charging plug for the mains power is for winter or cloudy days.

The car has now done 133,000km and at 5yrs old still has a range of 400km. Brian owned a Nissan Leaf previously which he said was great, but the early models just didn’t have enough range for living in the country. The house is carbon neutral bar the ride-on mower.

I must say the Tesla 3 is a smart looking car, very European sports car in styling, full aluminium body, sharp corner on all the body folds. Only 1.7 tonnes with most of that being battery (a Toyota Camry weighs about 1.6 tonnes). Two colours – white body and black wheels and trim.

Interior is a grey/black with nice, bold stitching. A centre console for your bits & pieces, a wrap-around strip of wood grain along doors and dash – very American. Comfortable, plenty of leg room, easy to get in & out.

The centre dash information screen has every option possible for you to personalize the car settings. If you don’t have a cell phone with you Brian has a card with a bar code on it and that will open and “turn on” the car (you don’t start this car its ‘on all ready’). All magic to me.

I am slowly learning not to try and understand technology, just accept & use. It has electric door opening but I did like the bit of safety with also having a mechanical door handle on the armrests, a must have in these smart cars. Very good boot space and a small, sealed luggage

space under the bonnet which Brian uses for wet clothing etc.

Tesla have also put 8 cameras around the car so should there be an accident you’ve got yourself covered. Brian says he doesn’t know where the engine is and hasn’t looked for it.

Driving the Tesla is an easy learning curve for the new driver. 1) Via your cell phone (which has been pre wifi-ed to the car). It knows you’re approaching and will be unlocked by the time your hand goes for the door handle. It will also know who is driving and will have adjusted seats and other dash settings by the time you sit down. 2) Put your foot on the brake. 3) Select forward or back with a lever right side of the steering wheel and you’re away. No gear changing, its just all electric drive.

It has an excellent brake system. The accelerator pedal when released will slow the car gradually to a stop. When I drove it, I did test this by going too fast into a corner, it braked slowly but I chickened out and used the footbrake out of caution. Brian says you get used to it, judging when to release the accelerator and rarely using the brake pedal. Tyres 265x45x18 low profile tyres which did drum on the hard chipseal, but this is common.

Specs on the 2021 Tesla 3, 2WD, fully electric, battery 220kw, weight 1.7tonnes, 4 door, range 440km. Never needed servicing. The car tells you if something is wrong. New price \$63,000

July issue of Coastal News I wrote about Chris’s BYD Sealion 7 Premier, PHEV, AWD, range on battery 90km alone, then the 1.5litre petrol engine takes over and generate electricity to drive the motors. Battery 83kw, weight 2,120kgs, phone entry, dash screen with all the personalization options from your phone or in car, a hybrid same but different. Cost \$69,000

Driving the Tesla, acceleration was better than Ray’s 5 litre new Mustang I drove a while ago. But did I miss the excitement of exhaust rumble on the Mustang?

Final word is, if you want to go fast don’t buy a fancy expensive European sports car, buy a Tesla. It will probably go faster at a fraction of running costs.

PS: Information on the price of a replacement battery for these cars was all over the place and I won’t quote them. Not sure how reliable AI is!

*Frederick Cassin*



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# Southern Sky Roasters

*[Editors's Note: Playing tennis on Sunday there was a strong smell of roasting coffee beans coming from the centre of Māpua. Next day my wife was in the village and discovered a new caravan opposite the 4 Square, and being the inquisitive person that she is, went to find out what was going on. The result follows.]*

We are Martina and John, the owner/operators of Southern Sky Roasters. We're just a two-person operation, although we do get some creative support from our 24-year-old daughter, who is currently spending some time in Germany. She is the creative mind behind Southern Sky Roasters and helps us with our social media.



We have spent the past six years living in Lake Tekapo, where we started our small artisan coffee-roasting business in a purpose-built roastery. Coffee roasting has always been at the heart of what we do, with a focus on organic, Fair trade, specialty coffee.

Over the years, we have built up a great reputation and a wonderful following, selling our freshly roasted coffee locally, through our website to customers all over New Zealand, and to some wholesale customers. We were also recently delighted to be named finalists in the Emerging Business category of the South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards.

After receiving increasing requests from customers who wanted to enjoy a freshly made coffee direct from the roaster, we purchased a coffee cart and began serving takeaway coffee alongside our roasting business.

When we decided to move to the Māpua area with our 16-year-old daughter, we searched for the right property to continue roasting from. With some uncertainty about when we would find a permanent base, we decided to pursue an exciting new direction for the business, selling the smaller cart and purchasing a larger mobile cart that can also house our coffee roaster.



The new cart is a completely new development for Southern Sky Roasters and brings the two sides of our business together in one place, allowing us to roast our coffee in small batches, serve freshly made takeaway coffee, and offer customers our freshly roasted coffee to take home in various bag sizes either as beans or ground to their preference. We're excited about the possibilities it brings and the chance to share more of the roasting process with our customers.

We were particularly drawn to Māpua because we love its creative, artisan feel and strong sense of local community. Part of the reason for moving to the Nelson/Tasman region was also to be closer to family, as Martina's mother and brother both live in Nelson. Māpua feels like the perfect place for Southern Sky Roasters, and we're excited to see where this new chapter takes us.

You'll find us on the Green Space next to the Station House, where we're now settling in and getting to know the Māpua community.

*Martina & John, Southern Sky Roasters*



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# September 2026 Māpua Hall News

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| MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | FRIDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WEIGHTS/PILATES</b><br>WITH LYNDA<br>8:30 – 9:45AM<br><br><b>DELIAS DANCE DIVAS</b><br>OPEN DANCE<br>10AM-11.00AM<br><br><br><br><b>MINDFUL MOVEMENT</b><br>WITH TILLY<br>11:30 – 12:30PM<br><br><b>BROGA</b><br><b>MENS YOGA</b><br>WITH NIKKI<br>5.30-6.45PM<br><br><b>MAPUA &amp; DISTRICTS</b><br><b>COMMUNITY ASSC</b><br><small>MONTHLY ON THE SECOND MONDAY</small><br>18:30 – 21:00pm | <b>SHIUX</b><br><b>LINE DANCING</b><br>9:00AM-12:00<br><br><br><br><br><b>PASTEL ARTISTS OF NZ</b><br>9:00 – 12:00<br><br><b>YOGA</b><br>WITH MARTIN<br>18:00 – 19:00PM<br><br><b>BOARDGAME NIGHT</b><br>WITH RICHARD<br>19.00PM – 23:00PM | <b>NEW Qigong</b><br>WITH CRAIG<br>7.00-8.00am<br><br><b>WEIGHT/AEROBICS/PILATES</b><br>WITH LYNDA<br>8:30 – 11:00AM<br><br><b>YOGA FOR</b><br><b>HEALTHY LIVING</b><br>09:15 – 10:45AM<br><br><b>MINDFUL MOVEMENT</b><br>WITH TILLY<br>11:30 – 12:30PM<br><br><b>CHAIR YOGA</b><br>WITH YVONNE<br>14:00 – 15:00PM<br><br><b>DANCE</b><br>WITH COURTNEY<br>15:30 – 16:30<br><br><b>YOGA</b><br>WITH RACHEL<br>18:30 – 19:45PM | <b>M. A .G</b><br><b>MĀPUA ART GROUP</b><br>9:30-12:30<br><br><br><br><b>PILATES/ YOGA</b><br>WITH KRIS<br>10.00-11.00AM<br><br><br><br><b>choir</b><br><br><b>MĀPUA</b><br><b>COMMUNITY CHOIR</b><br>19.30-21.00PM | <b>CARDIO/WEIGHTS &amp; PILATES</b><br>WITH LYNDA<br>9.00 – 11:00<br><br><br><br><b>YOGA</b><br>WITH MARTIN<br>9.15 – 10.45AM<br><br> |



## THE MĀPUA HALL MAKERS MARKET



September 13<sup>th</sup>  
10-2pm



## Tasman National Art Awards

### The Tasman National Art awards 2026

#### Official opening and presentation of Awards

Saturday 26th September 7.30pm. (Doors open at 7pm).

#### Exhibition open to the public

Sunday 27th Sept 9.30am to 4.30pm daily through to Sat 10th Oct.

Closing of exhibition is Saturday 10th October at 4.30pm.

Māpua Hall office is open: Mon-Friay 9-12pm. Email bookings to :Mapuabookings@gmail.com

# Sip, Savour, Sparkle - Makers Market – a Māpua Hall fundraiser

**Lacebark Larder – Nikki Rogers. 13<sup>th</sup> September 10 – 2pm**

“You should sell this” said the Tasman girlfriends as they nibbled some of Nikki’s dehydrated citrus. “Don’t be silly”, said Nikki, “No-one is going to buy that”. (I’d like to think they were all sitting around having a gin while having this conversation, but I never asked Nikki that.)

Well, ‘they’ did buy that and Lacebark Larder is the result.

Nikki loves cooking, gifting, hates food going to waste and has always had access to her own fruit trees. The Māpua Makers Market was Nikki’s first ever market, and she was very nervous. She worried no one would want to buy her products. Well, ditto, they did!

From there, Nikki bought a gazebo and started selling at some of the bigger markets – The Great Christmas Market at Founders, Beaconhill Market, Hanmer Springs Fete and the Marlborough Garden Fete in Blenheim.

Products have expanded over the years from dehydrated citrus to the vast variety Nikki has today: infused salts and sugars, cocktail mixes, mulled wine spices, GINfusions, and artisanal chocolate – all made by hand. Small batch products, no artificial flavours, with fruit sourced from spray-free orchards including Nikki’s own.

It has all been so successful that Nikki decided she needed to get herself verified, council-checked, and develop professional labelling. All her products now have stock batch numbers with QR codes, and she gets audited under the MPI national programme every two years. She launched her website in April this year and was very nervous about that as well.

Nikki should quit that – self-described – worry habit as she has developed her natural talents into a thriving business. So much so that she is thinking of moving more into wholesale rather than quite so many physical markets.

She will continue to sell at the Māpua Makers Markets though as that is where it all began. In September, look out for some new products: tomato seasoning and two new chocolate flavours, lime zest with coconut and dark chocolate with chilli.

There will also be some other products, especially for Christmas, but Nikki’s keeping those details to herself in the meantime.

And those girlfriends? They’re still there, with a few more fabulous ones joining the crew over the months—all enthusiastic taste-testers, and – as I learnt – gin drinkers.

How else would Nikki create all her flavours...

**Lacebark Larder, Homemade with Love.**

The Māpua 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.

The September Makers Market will be a tad early for Christmas but perfect for those people who loathe the crowds and like to have all their Christmas shopping done and dusted to avoid all that mayhem.

**Māpua Makers Market 13<sup>th</sup> September 2026 10am – 2pm**

*Mary Garner, Māpua Hall Committee*



*Nikki at her stall  
Glasses of Gin*



## Yoga with Martin

Mapua Hall

New! Beginners/Recovery:  
Tuesday, 6.00 – 7.00pm

General: Friday, 9.15 – 10.30am

[yogawithmartin.nz](http://yogawithmartin.nz)

027 614 5936

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

**Classes run in 3-wk blocks with a gap week between.**

There are some variations due to Hall bookings. Please get in touch to be added to the group email for notifications.

**Monday/Wednesday 8.25am 30-minute Dumbbell Weights.** All levels, you choose your weights. Great non-scary intro to weight-lifting techniques.

**Pilates on Steroids Mondays 9.05 - 9.40am.**

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One of the things we're particularly proud of at Vetlife Tasman is the expertise within our team, and Dr Chris Welland, our in-house ultrasound expert, adds something special to the mix. Known for his care, expertise and thoroughness, we're, fittingly, going to take our time with his interview and spend the next couple of months looking beneath the surface to get a clearer picture of the man behind the ultrasound machine.



#### What inspired you to become a Vet?

I went through Nelson College where I was encouraged to become a doctor or engineer, but I wanted to forge my own path. I wasn't hugely interested in human medicine, but I loved the detective work involved in figuring out medical issues and, as a kid, enjoyed wildlife and animals.

#### What do you enjoy most working at Vetlife Tasman?

The staff are amazing. The nursing staff have a level of dedication I really admire, especially with after-hours care. There's always an attitude of, "How many times would you like me to come in and check on a patient during the night?" Very cool.

#### What attracted you to ultrasonography?

My first job after graduating was in Palmerston North. Ultrasound in vet clinics was very limited, but the practice owner had just bought a machine. On my first day, the company rep was there demonstrating it and I was offered the opportunity to take the reins. The timing was perfect. There was a Labrador in the clinic that day with a fever and raised liver enzymes, so we scanned him. His liver looked like it had multiple golf balls throughout.

Using the needle guide, we took a sample and were able to diagnose lymphoma. It was mind-blowing. We could have spent days or weeks getting that diagnosis. It was such a difference-maker.

#### What might pet owners be surprised to learn about veterinary ultrasound?

It can help us reach a diagnosis without putting an animal through unnecessary procedures, which can save the owner money. We often have owners present during the scan too, where you really get to see the love people have for their pets in that moment. Another surprise is that you can't accurately count puppies with ultrasound because they're often stacked like a multi-storey car park! What we can do is assess their heart rates for signs of foetal distress and whether a Caesarean might be needed.

So, we can't tell you exactly how many puppies there are, but we can tell you how well they're doing.

Having Chris's ultrasound expertise at Vetlife Tasman is something we're very fortunate to be able to offer patients and their owners. Next month, we'll get to know more including his connection to an All Blacks captain, his love of Golden Bay and some unexpected Axl Rose impersonations...

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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## Welcome Spring!

It's that time of year when all our indent stock is on its way in readiness for Christmas, the holiday season, and summer.

To make space for these new items, we are offering great deals on our WMF and Silit European cookware, with super discounts on cutlery sets and pot sets.

All bargains apply to existing stock only and are available while stocks last.

We are also offering 25% off all Zsiska jewellery for September - earrings, pendants and necklaces. Our summer collection is on its way and we need the space, so be sure to visit early for the best selection.

Delicious is now a stockist for a fabulous European jigsaw range, new to New Zealand, featuring beautiful designs and artwork, for both adults and children. Stock has just arrived and we have an introductory offer of 25% off all new puzzles for the month of September.

Selected items of our Possum/ Merino wear will also be on special this month - these are always popular for their luxurious warmth and suitability for travel. Again, new season's items will be arriving soon, so please visit and help us clear the decks by grabbing a bargain.

And for our little ones, check out the new Austrian range of First Ride-ons and Scoot and Rides. They are superbly made and very versatile for ages 1 -5. Purchase a scooter and helmet in September and receive a free protector pack of knee and elbow pads.

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**Sat 5th Sept  
Cori Gonzalez**

**Sept 12th  
Black and Gold Party  
with Trilogy**

**Sat Oct 10th  
Sun City Soul Band**

**Fri 30th Oct  
Penny Ashton**

**Christmas Parties:**

**Nov 20th: 80s Night**

**Nov 27th: 80s Night**

**Nov 28th: 70s Disco**

**Dec 4th: 80s Night**

**Dec 5th: The Crayons**

**Dec 11th: Paul Madsen**

**Dec 18th Paul Madsen**

**Dec 19th: 70s Disco**

# Māpua Bowls

*Spring is around the corner  
Our bowling green is looking cool  
Members are dusting off their bowls  
They are all heeding the call*



*Come and have some fun, you can join us too*

19<sup>th</sup> September will see the official opening of Māpua Bowling Club. The roll-ups are held on Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday afternoons. We welcome anyone who would like to come and give bowling a go.

**Vision:** - Sporting Fun for All.

**Mission:** - Be Kind, Be Inclusive, Be Respectful.

Enquires can be made through our email [mapuabowlingclub@gmail.com](mailto:mapuabowlingclub@gmail.com)

## Bowling Club News

Our season runs from September 2026 to April 2027. Over this time the club holds 6 tournaments.

We are open 3 afternoons a week: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 1pm. You are welcome to join us in the Māpua Domain, behind the tennis courts.

We have social twilight bowls Monday evenings, once daylight saving starts, and we hold a Thursday evening Business/Club League bowls event for people who are not members but want to give it a go, with a bit of competition.

A **Para Bowls National Event** is being held in Nelson in November, and Māpua Bowling Club is one of the clubs asked to host. We will see bowlers with all sorts of disabilities, just like the Commonwealth Games, playing some amazing bowls on our green.

Steve Delaney, a member of our club, plays in the Worlds Championships in the New Zealand Blind Bowlers team in January 2027. There is a **raffle** of a trailer load of firewood to help raise funds towards the costs of representing New Zealand. \$5 per ticket drawn at Māpua Bowling Club when all 100 tickets are sold. Contact Debbie 0272712075 for payment details and ticket number.

We have all levels of bowlers; juniors, seniors, and veterans, either playing to compete against other clubs or just wanting social interaction within our club.

**Māpua Bowling Club turns 100 years 2nd July 2027.**

We look forward to celebrating this milestone with several different types of events over the next year's season, starting with a club luncheon on the official day.



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# Ruby Coast Running Club

Recently our runners have taken part in the second and third events in the Sprig & Fern 10km series organised by the Waimea Harriers.

The Richmond event took place on 1 August. This is a very undulating course which starts in Bill Wilkes reserve and after climbing up and around what seems like the hilliest streets of Richmond, finishes very conveniently just around the corner from the Richmond Sprig & Fern. Our runners all enjoyed the event including the socialising at the Sprig & Fern afterwards. It was also a successful event with Karen being placed third female overall and some of our runners winning spot prizes too.

Then there was the Brightwater Sprig & Fern 10km on 22 August. There is no escape from the hills. This event involved a 10km loop course which also included a hill.



Thankfully it was a reasonably gentle one with a corresponding gentle downhill, but it still added to the challenge. Our team all ran well and enjoyed the event. Although none of our runners received placings we had some luck with the spot prizes again.

The next local events our runners are planning for are the Dovedale Hill Race on 5 September and then the Motueka Sprig & Fern 10 km on 26 September. Both of these events are organised by the Waimea Harriers. If you are interested, you can find further information about these events on the Waimea Harriers' website.

If you would like to join our regular Thursday 5km event, we meet each week in front of the playground by the Māpua Hall. We start at 5:15pm for walkers and runners who need more than 30 mins to complete 5km and 5:30pm for everyone else. No need to register in advance and no fee to pay. Just arrive a few minutes beforehand to sign in and to listen to the course briefing. Join us afterwards for refreshments at the Sprig & Fern across the road.

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

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**16<sup>th</sup> September 7.00 p.m.**

at  
**Boat Club rooms - Māpua Wharf**  
Enquiries to Katrina Ballantyne, Secretary  
email [mapuabcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mapuabcsecretary@gmail.com)  
phone 0211393945

# Our latest news & adventures



## New Chair of Whenua Iti Trust

Arthur Graves was recently confirmed as the new Chair of the Whenua Iti Trust. Arthur's work in Outdoor Education has ranged from classroom teaching to leading the Outdoor Education New Zealand (ODENZ) network of schools and chairing the post-Mangatepopo review of the Ministry of Education's EOTC Guidelines, Bringing the Curriculum Alive.

He brings strong experience in secondary and vocational education and system leadership, including executive roles across secondary, vocational and government settings and leading the development of Trades Academies and Vocational Pathways. We're thrilled to have Arthur leading Whenua Iti Outdoors into the fifth decade of our organisation.



## 2027 Trades Academy Applications Now Open

Top of the South Trades Academy and the West Coast Trades Academy are now open for applications for 2027 programmes. These programmes are for those students who want to stay at school but are ready to start training for a real job.

If your application is accepted into the Trades Academy, you'll be able to stay at school completing NCEA, while at the same time working towards a qualification in a trade of your choice. Programmes are fully funded by the Ministry of Education at zero cost to students from TOTSTA and WCTA partner schools. Trades Academy programmes give students a pathway to employment or further academic study.

Limited places are available on: Adventure Tourism Leadership, Manaaki Tāpoi and Uniformed Services. Talk with your trades coordinator at school or head to our website to find out more. Be quick, the funded places are limited and these programmes often fill up quickly.

*We'll see you out there!*

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



## Traffic Report

We sat on the seat outside Four Square in Māpua for about 10 minutes and spent that time just observing the traffic!

You won't believe this, but we counted 18 vehicles where the drivers were **not** wearing seatbelts, three didn't signal turns left or right at the crossroad, and several didn't indicate turning into Four Square from either direction.

All this in just a few minutes of observation.

I think in other countries there is compulsory retesting after a few years. If we did that here, we would have less "drivers" out there and the remaining few would be better (hopefully)!

*We're watching you!—Anon*

Yoga Classes in Mapua/Ruby Bay  
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## PANZ - Pastel Artists NZ

With the weather warming (a little) and members returning from holidays overseas or sickness, our numbers on a Tuesday morning are growing again and it's great to see new works on the easels.

Our hanging space in the front foyer of the Hall is changed regularly so don't forget to have a look and see if there is something that takes your eye. Information regarding each painting is labeled beside. Some will be NFS (not for sale). Just phone the Artist.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September, we are participating in "Adventure in Art" being held at the Greenmeadows Centre, Stoke. We will have paintings for sale, be demonstrating and be available to you for questions. We will also be supplying some pastels and paper for you to "have a go".

Have you tried working with PASTEL as a painting medium?

We would love to encourage you to the wonderful world of pastel art and send you a welcome to join us at the Bill Marris room of Māpua Hall on a Tuesday morning (Feb-Nov) 9 to noon.

We welcome visitors and prospective pastel artists and offer the use of pastels and paper for you to "try before you buy". Teas, coffee and biscuits are provided. For further information, please contact our Nelson Area Rep, **Margie Bramley** on 027-257-1857.

## Māpua Fire Brigade



### July to Aug 26 call outs

- 19 July 14:04 Smoke in area of Pinehill Rd, nothing found.
- 30 July 11:27 Alarm activation Mahana school. Alarm set off by burning food in cooker. No action taken by Upper Moutere. Short crewed
- 31 July 14:45 Power lines down along Stafford Dr. Power pole across one lane. Network Tasman in attendance, help with traffic.
- 3 Aug 12:34 Rural unit to bush on fire Saxton Field, Stoke. Stood down.
- 11 Aug 14:10 Car hit barrier Coastal Highway near Maisey Rd, not needed. Short crewed, Richmond and Appleby in attendance.
- 13 Aug 02:08 Smoke seen from building off Mapua Dr, owner burning in outdoor drum.
- 20 Aug 13:30 Gorse fire Redwood Valley, started from a drum fire. Nearly all fire trucks in the Tasman Bay area attended and a helicopter.

### Call outs for the year = 60

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

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

Make sure drum incinerators have a few metres of clean ground around them, something like gravel, and ensure paper and sparks etc. cannot fly out of the top with a spark arrestor.

## Where the Tarmac Ends —an occasional column

Three never to be forgotten small plane flight experiences.

### BWI Feel the Fear

ZK-BWI was a perky, blue and white little number. A Cessna 150, it was a two-seater and (obviously owing to its modest passenger count), single engined. For anyone interested, it was registered in March 1960 after being imported from Australia. Perhaps the Aussie's didn't like the colour. I thought it was quite pretty.



Hubby had not long obtained his Private Pilot's Licence (PPL for acronym lovers) and one Sunday we decided we would fly to New Plymouth from Whanganui to visit Aunty Dot and Uncle Bill. For afternoon tea.

My first salutary lesson was around the aviation understatement rule. "It won't be a pleasant flight" said the duty instructor. I heard the words but didn't listen and the outcome has been etched into my memory for over 50 years. The worst bit was hubby *did* listen but *took me up there anyway*.

BWI was very snug with just the two of us on board. Barely room for my handbag, hubby's flying case, a map and his circular slide rule (a kind of aviation version of those metal vintage mechanical date finder things that you twisted around to find days of each month for years into

the future. Remember them?) A pilot's slide rule is what they used to use before computers to work out fuel, speed, travel time etc. Clever little gizmos.

We were only about five or ten minutes up when the euphemistic nature of "won't be a pleasant flight" started to dawn on me. But it was too late. There I was, trapped in this tiny little handbag of an aeroplane in a howling gale.

It started with the odd bump but rapidly progressed to small but significant ups and downs in altitude. We lurched around the sky, and I tried not to look up (or down) at changing angles of the wings.

One noisy gust wrenched hubby's headphones off his head. Maps flew around the little cabin, the circular slide rule hit the roof, and I sat there white knuckled, clutching my handbag and my bladder.

Eventually, there, thank God, came the runway approach to New Plymouth airport. I could hear the air traffic controller (ATC) through hubby's headphone. "I kind of have you on final" he said.

That wind was way too strong for little BWI and we approached sideways with hubby straightening us up only right on touch down. Even on the ground, we got blown around sideways and couldn't stop. "There's the aeroclub" said hubby pointing to a little building. "Get out and go in and tell them we need pickets. Walk behind the plane".

I blew across the tarmac and stumbled, totally dishevelled into the building. "We need \*pickets" I gasped. They just looked at me and laughed. It must have been so evident.

*\*Pickets are used to tie a small plane down in strong winds.*

*(Continued on page 21)*



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"Commercial, are you?" asked the Aero Club blokes when hubby finally joined me. They were impressed with his lowly PPL status. Hubby said nothing but he *must* have basked inside. I would have.

We had to buy toothbrushes on the way to Aunty Dot and Uncle Bill's

### Entertaining the Sheep

The BWI experience provided me with an unwelcome if not useful benchmark for future flights in small aeroplanes. "Is this as bad as BWI?" I'd ask myself as I sat in yet another tiny plane, clutching the seat frame and trying to force myself to relax. Sometimes it worked and sometimes it didn't.

After BWI, I developed a very strict pre-flight routine. Don't eat too much. Drink *nothing*. Go to the loo approximately every hour until we were ready to board. Then go to the loo one more time *immediately* before boarding. Always take a book. Something easy to read but with a plot. Not War and Peace.

This flight was in a six-seater Cessna 185 with four friends. Whanganui to Kaikoura. A flight time of 1½ hours. Friend D (who was to go onto a Very Important Job in Air NZ) was pilot in command (PIL for acronym lovers). It was a lovely day. Bit breezy but nowhere near BWI. Not even close.

We were barely five minutes in the air when I felt I needed to go to the loo. I mean, how does that even

work? I hadn't drunk a thing since before dinner the previous night. Strong instructions to self to look out the window, read my book, think about Christmas, did I turn the oven off (actually that's a bad one).

Nothing worked. It just got worse and worse and worse. I was in pain. Actual identifiable pain. No towels in sight. Nothing I could pee into. Hubby finally sensed the desperate nature of the situation. "Can't you wait?" We were about five minutes from Kaikoura, but I'd been in desperate pain for nearly one and a half hours.

Message to D up front. Smart pilot was D. Spotted a rural airstrip at Clarence and down we went. I barely managed to scramble out without an accident. I squatted down beside the plane. Some sheep and my friends looked on in interest. Did I care? Not a jot.

I can still feel the relief decades later.

### Catastrophising the Acronyms

After over 50 years married to an aviation enthusiast, you absorb a lot of useless aviation information. More than you really care to know in fact. That's why I knew about Anvil Clouds. Shaped distinctively like (funnily enough) an anvil, these cumulonimbus incus clouds hide severe thunderstorms and other more dangerous weather-related horrors.

I was flying from Palmerston North to Nelson on a commercial flight with White Knuckle Airlines. Six seats. One pilot. One engine. I had my book. I remember it was Elizabeth George. No disrespect but it did not require huge amounts of brain power; the plot was engaging.

(Continued on page 22)



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I happened to be first on board so was asked to sit up front next to the pilot. OMG. What if other passengers might have liked this position? Should I be so disrespectful as to read my book? "Look interested and engaged" I urged myself. This is not a BWI flight.

The pilot was young – although a bit older than 12. He was very overweight and I idly wondered how he managed to pass his medicals. Still, we took off ok and the flight went along nicely.

Until I looked up and there it was, right in front of us. A giant, black Anvil Cloud. I glanced at the pilot. He seemed unbothered.

I looked over the controls then again at the pilot, this time, assessing his girth and wondering again about his general health.

You know the catastrophising horror that came next.

I'd need to be familiar with the basics so cast my eyes over the instrument panel. A quick sweep through my acronym knowledge. ASI (Air Speed Indicator – clearly useful). AH (Artificial Horizon in case we needed to move from VFR [Visual Flight Rules] to IFR [Instrument Flight Rules] - it would be very black in the middle of that cloud). I will also clearly need a lot of brackets when recounting this.

Altimeter, Ailerons (to create bank i.e. to turn around in the middle of the cloud. If I could turn that is).

But just in case, VSI (Vertical Speed Indicator) in case we lurch up instead of turning – although if we ascended that fast, surely, I'd know without having to look at a VSI. I'd *feel* it. Hope I don't pass out.

Having got in control of all that, I kept an eye on the portly pilot who continued to just sit there and fly the plane *right toward that Anvil cloud*.

I can do this. I can get us out. Another whip through the instruments and a re-familiarisation of the flaps. Remember we needed flaps in BWI.

Positive affirmations to self. We'll emerge from the cloud, on approach to Nelson and I'll need to be talked down by ATC (Air Traffic Control). They will be calm, helpful and very encouraging in a controlled way. In fact, their very calmness might even be a tad scary.

We'll need an ambulance of course, so I'll tell them that. For the pilot.

There'll be fire engines on the ground. Just in case. It will be very crowded down there on the tarmac. All other traffic will be in a holding pattern during this emergency.

On the ground, I'd be shaken, stressed but in control and would calmly receive their amazed congratulations. Hubby would be incredulous. He might even be proud I hoped.

Later, there would be the Press. Certainly, the local paper and possibly even television. What would I wear? How would I present myself so as to appear like *exactly* the sort of save-the-day person – calm, smart but with a touch of humour.....

Closer to the Anvil cloud, the pilot banked to starboard (right), we landed safely, hubby and dog collected me, and we drove home.

I felt a bit denied.

MG



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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** – 1st & 3rd Fridays 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.*

| Sunday Services through the month at HCC.                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Café Church</b><br>An opportunity to worship, learn, and chat in an informal setting – while enjoying croissants and fresh coffee.<br><b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month 9.30 am</b>                                |
|  | <b>Holy Communion</b><br>A traditional Anglican Holy Communion service. Sharing bread and wine together as a church community.<br><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month 9.30 am</b>                                       |
|  | <b>Family Praise and Worship</b><br>Come together to worship God through song, prayer, listening to and hearing the Word of God.<br><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month 9.30 am</b>                                     |
|  | <b>Holy Communion</b><br>Based on the Iona tradition. Sharing bread and wine together as a church community.<br><b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month 9.30 am</b>                                                         |
|  | <b>Celebration Sunday</b><br>Coming together as a church community to celebrate the different themes running throughout the year.<br>Followed by a shared morning tea.<br><b>5<sup>th</sup> Sundays in the year 9.30 am</b> |

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Hills Community Church

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www.hillscommunitychurch.org.nz

A twice monthly get together  
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Mahana Lounge  
Hills Community Church

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and a relaxed space to sit and chat.

**Saturday 12 September, 10am-1pm**

Motueka Library Community Meeting Room

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The deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month with each issue coming out on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

There is no separate January issue.

E: [news@coastalnews.online](mailto:news@coastalnews.online) for more information.

# Noticeboard

**Spring Fair:** Motueka Steiner School. Sunday 20 September 10-4pm. 165 Robinson Rd, Lower Moutere. Gold Coin.

**Boat Club AGM:** 16 September 7pm Boat Club Rooms, Māpua Wharf. Enquiries: Katrina mapuabcsecretary@gmail.com, 0211393945

**Māpua Coastal Stringers** meet Fridays from 1.30-3.45pm at Māpua Bowling Club. All welcome. Just arrive and enjoy the singing. Contact Dianne 021 077 3445

**Book Appreciation Group [BAG]:** Māpua Library, second Wednesdays at 2:15pm. For anyone who enjoys books and talking about what they have read. Friendly and informal. Info: Rachel 027 358 6003 or just come.

**Tasman Talkers:** Develop speaking and communication skills in a friendly supportive environment. Club meets 6.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at St Johns rooms, Jack Inglis Hospital, Motueka. Supper provided. Info: Tristan 020 40994255 / Che 022 3189396

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

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

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

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

**Craft Group:** please check with Barbara 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

**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

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

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

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays. All welcome. Enquiries: Linda 027 447 6435.

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

**Toy Library:** selection of toys, puzzles & videos for children 0-5yrs. Māpua Hall, Saturdays 10.00-noon, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 12.30-2.30pm. 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 Hills Church building. 0-6 year olds. Morning tea provided. Gold coin. Info: Carolyn White 5402682

**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. Seniorsnetmotueka.org.nz

**Coastal Garden Group** meets 1.30pm first Thursdays, Upper Moutere Community Centre. 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.

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