

Coastal News

email: coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz

covering Mapua & Ruby Bay
run by volunteers

Gateway' Planting to Start Next Year

First planting of a native forest area opposite Higgs Reserve to form a 'gateway' entrance to Mapua is expected to begin next year.

This has become possible after two grants to the Mapua and District Community Association for the project. One was for \$500 from the Mapua and District Community Trust and the other an allocation of \$1000 for the project from the Tasman District Council Grants from Rates scheme. The council grant is to be used for weed control, primarily for broom, which is very visible on the proposed planting site.

The Mapua Trust's \$500 grant was one of a number of grants allocated for community use at the board's November meeting.

The council's grant followed strong support for the project from the Tasman District Council and our three ward councillors, Crs Tim King, Trevor Norriss and Brian Ensor.

The council in July this year acquired about 3ha of land for the project. This section of surplus by-pass land was bought from the New Zealand Transport Agency for about \$50,000. This is shown as Section 7A on the accompanying map and it complements Section 7, which was earlier bought by the TDC for a cycle-walkway route.

The Community Association has had its estuary subcommittee working on the project for the past five years, with much of the effort involved in publicising the opportunity for a significant reserve on the surplus bypass land. This has included lobbying decision-makers on the merits of the Community Association case.

In addition to help from our councillors, significant help has come from the Department of Conservation and from Tasman-West MP Damien O'Connor, who

lobbied the Transport Agency in Wellington over the proposal.

What began as a community association effort to heal some of the wounds in the landscape created by the more than \$30 million by-pass construction is now starting to come together as a coherent plan.

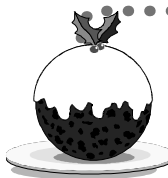
The proposal is to create an attractive native forest 'gateway' to Mapua-Ruby Bay. The 'gateway' will also protect native fish in the Dominion and Chaytor streams and will form part of the favoured route for the "Great Taste Tasman" regional cycle trail. It will also provide opportunities for other potential trail links to Mahana and Upper Moutere area.

Estuary subcommittee members recently assessed the site to identify the priority planting areas and to start drawing up a planting plan that included species and numbers that could be planted in autumn 2013.

Although parts of the land bought by the council have been covered with infertile clay and gravel from the by-pass construction, a significant area of highly fertile wet peatland remains that is ideal for tall native podocarp trees. Main trees in the forest are likely to be kahikatea, rimu and pukatea. Hardy species like manuka, kanuka and akeake are likely to be planted in the areas of infertile soil.

A principal objective of the project will be protection and enhancement of the Chaytor-Dominion Stream system from its source in the Chaytor Wetland all the way to the Waimea Estuary.

In the view of the association's subcommittee, this is a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity". It was first identified as a significant conservation opportunity more than 20 years ago by the Department of Conservation. In 1989, national wetlands authority John



The team at The Coastal News would like to wish all our readers, contributors and advertisers a joyful Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year



Preece reported for the department on what he called “a rare opportunity for a sequence of native vegetation from the Waimea Estuary shore to tall forest” in the Dominion Stream area opposite Higgs Reserve.

He regarded the potential project as one of the few opportunities to have such a vegetation sequence on the Waimea Estuary. He also said it was probably the only one where travellers could see such a vegetation sequence from their cars on a state highway.

Replanting native forest on the surrounding land is expected to improve water quality, shade the streams and provide improved habitat for the eight species of native fish there, including the two species of threatened native fish.

The streams have already had enhancement work done by NZTA under the supervision of Nelson-based freshwater fisheries consultant Tom Kroos. These include resting pools and variations in the current in different places to make the stream more attractive for fish. The underpass beneath Mamaku Drive near

Dominion Road also features a ribbed concrete “ladder” for fish migrating upstream to breed.

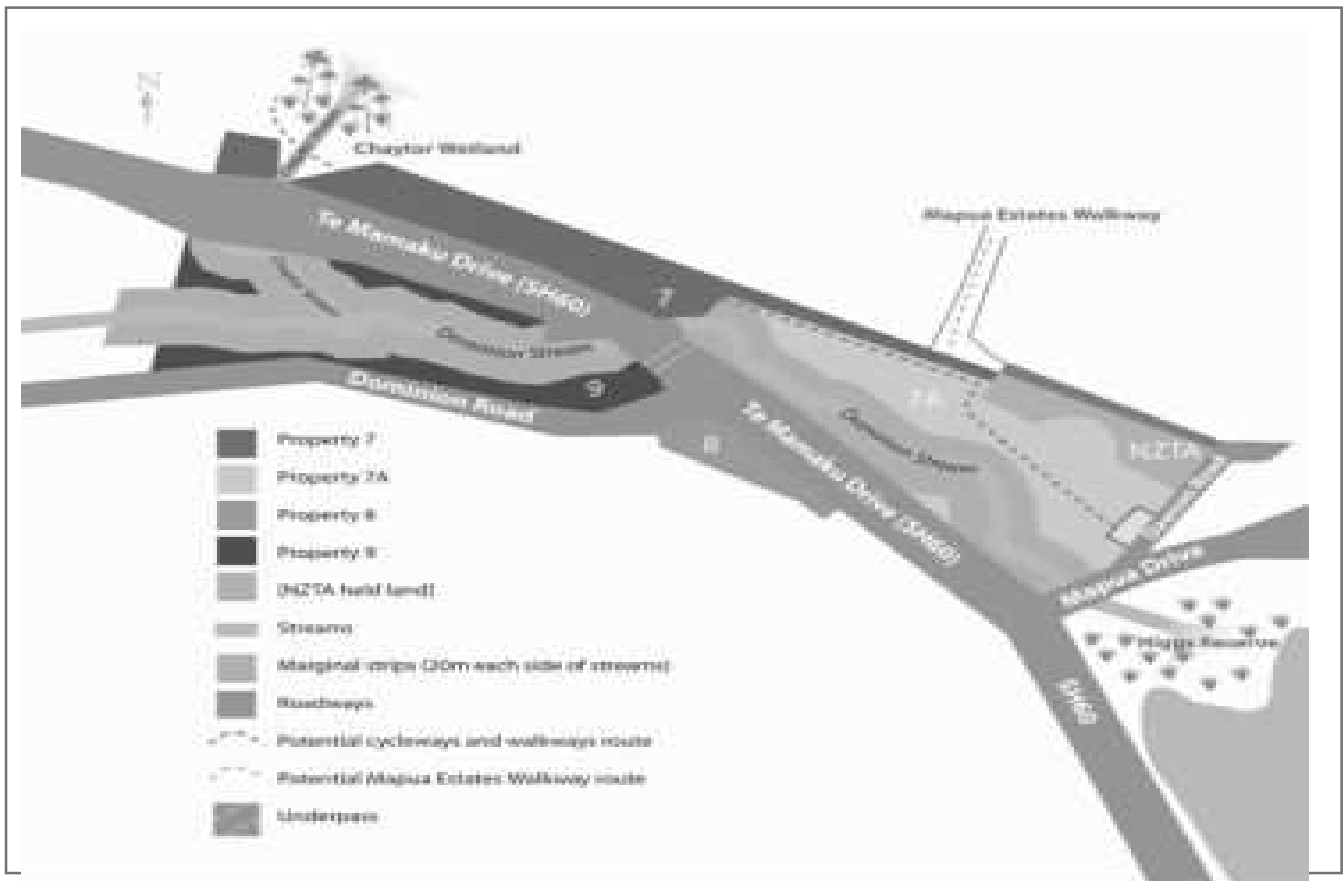
Meanwhile the Estuary Subcommittee and the Department of Conservation, supported by Mahana residents, have been continuing efforts to secure a further 3ha area of former by-pass land beside Dominion Road, known as Section 9, in an effort to give greater protection for a fish spawning area.

The proposal for the further reserve area near Dominion Road has recently attracted support from Nelson MP, former Tasman MP and former Environment Minister Nick Smith. He has called a current DoC proposal to purchase Section 9 for a community restoration project a “common-sense resolution” for the by-pass surplus land disposal.

After reviewing the issue, Dr Smith wrote to his Transport Minister colleague, Mr Brownlee, to say that “the public interest will be best served by moving as quickly as possible to set the area as a reserve”.

The Community Association’s subcommittee is starting work on planting plans and hopes to hold a public presentation of the proposals next year.

David Mitchell



The diagram shows areas surplus bypass land acquired by the TDC, Sections 7 and 7A and planned cycle/walkways. Section 9 has been considered for possible acquisition as a conservation reserve.

Under The Bonnet with Fred

A Motoring Adventure in Bangkok

Bangkok is a busy place going on the number of cars passing the hotel and one thing is for sure, Bangkok never sleeps. Could I say they were all late model and the tuk-tuks seem to have been replaced by Toyota Corolla taxis. There are no sad-looking second-hand Japanese imports in Thailand—they were new and shiny.

One morning before an appointment I decided to go into the city to the real shops to buy gifts for the family. So being a country boy all I needed was a map and the tourist map would do, available at the hotel. It didn't look far and I had some time to kill so I walked. One hour later there was no sign of Thanon Rama Road and it was getting hot. I stopped several times to ask for directions and they all pointed "that way" but then I realised what was wrong. My tourist map was in English and the Thais couldn't read it. I was running out of time but was I nearly there? I stopped to ask one of the scooter-taxi boys directions but again he could not read the map but he did offer to take me there for 150 baht, about \$6. So after a quick equation of, lost x hot x have to get back x risk, my reply was OK. From my experience you say OK anywhere in the world and they understand.

As I straddled the scooter the engine started and we glided down the footpath, weaving our way amongst the pedestrians until we found the road. With full acceleration to get up to road speed the no-helmet thrill/danger of riding a scooter-taxi came to me. You can't help trying to sort of drive the scooter yourself by leaning to the turns but the driver soon corrected me by saying something in Thai which I didn't understand but I got the message. I behaved after that.

A left turn took us down a crowded, narrow street used by all modes of transport. There seemed to be a passive co-operation to what appeared initially as chaos. The first rule was go slow and second rule was make a space for the scooter-taxis.

We turned in to a quiet residential street and a late-model Maserati four-door pulled out but braked quietly to let us zip around. Again the passive co-operation on the road was better than a scooter-taxi and a tourist across the bonnet of your new Maserati, and he might have been late for work.

As we approached the city centre the scooter was faster than all other traffic, sneaking between buses and ducking under their mirrors. I noted the taxi cars pulling aside to allow the scooter-taxi past, but best of all as we approached the big mall we were up on the pavement, across the concrete forecourt and walking to the front door. What a blast. All for \$6.

After the shopping I was running out of time so I tried a tuk-tuk but he only wanted to take me shopping. Then I tried a taxi but the driver could not understand



me. He gave me a list written in English and they were all tourist destinations. Next it was the subway but it meant changing three times to get back near the hotel. I used the subway a few days later and it was great, modern, efficient, clean and the staff helpful.

I still needed to get back to the hotel pronto and there was a group of scooter-taxis near the subway entrance. I asked if anyone spoke English and one said yes, he understood where Ratchadaphisek Road was. I was given a crash helmet (must have been for the tourists), again we were off along the footpath, across a pedestrian crossing and then weaving through back streets and out on a main street surrounded by buses and trucks and the breath of hot Bangkok air. Ahead I saw some familiar buildings—the Robinson shopping mall. A relief, I was going the right way; I had 15 minutes to that next appointment.

At the lights was like being in a bike gang: when the lights went green there were about 50 taxi-scooters all taking off at the same time and you got that feeling of being in the pack. We arrived at the hotel, much to the doorman's surprise, and I paid and tipped driver 100 baht and rushed to my appointment. The scooter-taxis were most efficient in Bangkok's city traffic, very affordable and the drivers are friendly. Put it on your bucket list.

To kill the time between appointments I also watched a lot of international TV like the Voice of America, Australia World and Asia national TV. I think the only winner in all these wars is Toyota—every vehicle is a Land Cruiser or every vehicle blown up is a Land Cruiser and cars all Toyota something. All the UN troops are driving Land Cruisers. I pick Obama to be President as he's the only one talking to all the people.

Sitting in the hotel restaurant I watched all the late-model Japanese and Korean cars passing, some were top-of-the-range Continental vehicles like Mercedes Benz or Range Rovers for 4.9 million baht. New Zealanders should not be too quick to judge Thailand but Thailand should judge us.

Fred Cassin

Out and About with Hugh

Anniversary: A day that commemorates or celebrates a past event that occurred on the same day of the year or month as the initial event. Birthdays are the most common type. Events of one sort or another are celebrated in the same manner and calendars are littered with anniversary dates of one sort or another. All of which reminds of the English proverb: "What goes around, comes around." Which quickly reminds us that we are growing older (birth days) or that gossip can come back and bite you (Oh! Did I really say that?). Anyway, English proverbs abound. One site on the Web lists 1000, and in alphabetical order; No. 1 starting with "A bad beginning makes a bad ending" and No. 999, "You made your bed, now lie in it." No. 1000 has something about zeal in it. I suspect just so they could round out the alphabet with a "zed."

Why all this preliminary carry on? Because, "Out & About" is one year old and I'm celebrating its anniversary. You might ask, "So what?" You also might ask, "How is it going?" And I'd say, "OK" and facetiously tell you that "Out & About" has assumed its own personality, and that we, "It and I," have a love/hate relationship. My love being commenting and reporting on community affairs, and making the occasional poke at bureaucracy. But, since I'm an at-the-last-minute person, I hate the "copy deadline."

Celia Lashley and Nigel Latta say "waiting to the last minute" is a male trait. While I accept that may be true, it doesn't work too well with copy deadlines, even with leeway from an understanding and at times indulgent editor. By the way, "facetiously" meaning "playfully jocular or flippant." Take your pick.

Community Matters:

Most of the things that were of interest to our community in December 2011 are still of interest in December 2012 plus a bit more.

Mapua Wharf: From 20 December 7 February next year the Mapua wharf area will be "pedestrians only," ie, no casual vehicle parking, but boat-launching and commercial delivery vehicles will be allowed.

At its 15 November meeting the Mapua Waterfront Precinct Advisory Group decided to trial this "no-parking" initiative over the summer period. Pedestrian safety and vehicular traffic management are finally going to have their day. I say, "Not before time". It's up to us to make it work. See the "Wharf Pedestrian Only" notice elsewhere in this issue of the *Coastal News*. Some won't like it. Walk? We all love to drive right up to the front door. Most of us, if we think about it, will accept it. The bottom line? It's about people safety. Ours and others.

Aquarium Site: Not only a happy and sad memory of the aquarium that once occupied the area but what to do with it? The TDC's call for "expressions of interest" in the site has largely gone unanswered in terms of something commercially viable. To date, nobody has proposed another aquarium. The one proposal which is "viable" was to be considered at the TDC Engineering Services Committee meeting on 22 November. More on this in February.

At the "service" that was held on the site after the fire, \$1815 was donated by members of the community, young and old, to build a new aquarium. That isn't going to happen. The money is being held in a trust account. What should be done with it?

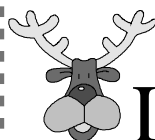
Waterfront Park Amenities: The toilet block, the paths, the ramps, some picnic tables etc. Are all promised to be in place by Christmas. Hooray! Slowly but surely our park is taking shape and becoming more user-friendly.

Commercial Sub-Committee: The TDC has now approved the formation of this committee to monitor and improve the performance of the council's commercial portfolio. This will include the property at Port Mapua. Better property management decisions coming up? Let's hope so. Deputy Mayor Tim King will chair the new committee. The selection of other members to be announced early next year.

Mapua Ferry: Under new ownership and management. No longer the "Flat Bottom Ferry" but the "Mapua Ferry." Welcome to Andrew Schwass, the new owner/operator. www.mapuaferry.co.nz Thanks to John Ward and Paul Nankivell for building the ferry, establishing the service and running it all last year. It is the cycling and walking "water bridge" across the Mapua Channel.

Other Community Stuff: Aranui Road streetscaping, Dominion Flats, the Waimea River cycle bridge and a few other items will have to wait until next year. That's "Out & About" until next February.

Hugh Gordon



Let me see if I've got this Santa business straight. You say he wears a beard, has no discernible source of income and flies to cities all over the world under cover of darkness? You sure this guy isn't laundering illegal drug money?

Tom Armstrong

Animal Health File

Dr. Paula Short, Tasman Bay Vets, 69 Aranui Road, Mapua, ph 540-2329

It's All in the Genes

The canine gene pool is quite amazing. There is no other species on Earth with the range of shapes and sizes that you find in dogs. In our practice in any one day we can see a 1.5kg Miniature Pinscher followed by a 100kg Mastiff! In achieving this startling array of phenotypic variation a few unwanted genes have crept into the canine gene pool.

Unfortunately a great many of these diseases show up later in life in the dog, by which stage a dog may already have many offspring, who may then go on to develop the disease. For some diseases there have been screening tests, such as eye tests and X-rays, that have gone some way to helping to identify affected individuals before they can have too many puppies. Unfortunately these are only partially effective.

In last few years there has been a lot of research effort go into developing genetic tests for dogs and we now have access to a wide variety through one of our New Zealand veterinary laboratories. Unfortunately the holy grail of a genetic test for hip and elbow dysplasia has not been found, but many other diseases can now be tested for.

What does this mean for the average dog owner? For a start, many reputable dog breeders will now be

testing for specific diseases prior to breeding from their dogs. This should reduce the frequency of these diseases in the canine population, which is good news for those who love pedigree dogs. If you are looking at buying a pedigree dog in the future you should do some research into the particular diseases that can affect that breed (or come and talk to us) and talk to the breeder about what they are doing about testing for them. Of particular importance are von Willebrand's disease, a blood-clotting disorder, progressive retinal atrophy, a degenerative eye disease and degenerative myelopathy, which results in slow paralysis of the hind limbs in the older dog.

Genetic testing also offers us another diagnostic tool where there is suspicion of a particular disease or genetic variation. A good example of the practical use of the tests is for the MDR 1 gene. This gene causes a sensitivity to many commonly used drugs. Australian shepherds, rough collies, Old English sheepdogs and Shetland sheepdogs may be affected. Obviously if we can determine which dogs have this gene we can increase the safety of drug use in these breeds.

If you are thinking about breeding from your pedigree dog come and have a chat to us first and we can discuss whether there is any value in genetic testing prior to breeding for your particular breed.

Mapua Hall – Playing the Waiting Game

Hopefully this is the last such *Coastal News* article before the actual hall rebuild begins! We are waiting for a variety of important applications to be processed and, we hope, approved and then it is all on!

Building consent

The application for building consent has been submitted to the Tasman District Council and the committee and our building project manager, Colin Anderson, are optimistic that consent will be granted by mid-December. Tendering work began in the last week of November and Colin expects that the total cost for the project will be available by Christmas. Actual work on the building may not start until early January.

Funding projects

The committee is now awaiting (positive!) news from the several significant applications made to funding bodies in the past few months. If these are successful, they will provide a major boost to the funds already raised by the community.

We gratefully acknowledge the grants from:

- Network Tasman of \$4000 which will ensure some warmth in the hall via a heat pump, and
- Mapua Community Trust of \$766 for kitchen cutlery

We would also like to thank Vivienne Fox and her team at the Apple Shed for the fund-raising cocktail party she organised which resulted in a generous donation of \$2000. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by the 90 people who attended. Delicious wine and canapés were served, Richard Griffen spoke of his experiences as political reporter for Radio New Zealand over the decades and had very amusing and insightful stories to tell of reporting the various political parties as they came and went. We have had many requests for a repeat of this format.

Hall users and availability

To ensure that hall users are fully informed of building timelines, a well-attended meeting was held on 16 November to offer some clearer indications of the hall availability for the foreseeable future.

The preferred option of both the committee and project manager is for there to be a cleared building site over the duration of the build rather than to work around user groups staying in and dealing with the issues of barriers, safety, access to power and toilets as well as noise.

At present the intention is for the whole complex to be:



Tom and Vivienne Fox of the Apple Shed

Closed from 21 December 2012 until (probably) the end of May 2013. We hope to have a blessing ceremony to mark this closing and the new beginning.

Groups have been asked to ensure that their equipment and resources are removed by 21 December and to let the committee know if they need assistance to move these.

A number of other community facilities have been approached by committee members regarding the possibility of providing alternative space for activities and possibly storage during this period and we greatly appreciate their openness to the request. Hall users have been asked to identify their specific needs and every effort will be made to assist them to find a suitable alternative while the hall complex is closed.

No further bookings will be taken for this period and groups will be contacted in the new year when it is appropriate to begin taking bookings for the re-opening of the complex.

Information

As previously noted, the website www.mapuahall.org.nz will provide a photographic update over the duration of the build. The committee would like to provide information on the website about the regular hall users for interested readers and potential members to access. User groups have been asked to provide a short description of their group's focus and members as well as a contact –send to elena.meredith@xtra.co.nz

Planned fund-raising events

The fund-raising committee is busy planning events for the new year. Any offers of support and/or ideas for other possibilities, please contact: Margaret Cotter at rmcotter@ts.net

Mapua Hall

The Hall Committee would like to express its great appreciation to all those who have organised, contributed to and supported the events to date and looks forward to your ongoing support for this wonderful community facility.

To all our community residents and supporters, we wish you a happy, healthy and restorative holiday period and look forward to being able to provide a significant update on progress in the February 2013 issue of the *Coastal News*.

Elena Meredith, Information and Liaison Sub-Committee

PANZ

Suddenly it is the end of the year! Last month was a lot of fun with two challenges in it. We had a record 21 members for the 1st challenge which involved having a piece of paper with a few lines on it, each different. We had two minutes to start a picture, stop, pass to the next person and so it went for about 40 minutes when everyone had to stop. The results were so far-fetched, creative and lots of colour. There was much hilarity during the critique afterwards.

Glenn Davenport hosted a group of artists in her beautiful, tranquil gardens at Doone Cottage where they had wonderful vistas, many different animals and a variety of poultry to draw or paint.

Due to the renovations at Mapua Hall, there will be no "Top of the South" pastel art exhibition this coming February (2013). We apologise to all the enthusiastic followers of our art journey and while we thank you for your support in previous years, we also look forward to seeing you all again in 2014.

Our last session for the year in the hall will be another challenge and Glenys has something up her sleeve to make the day memorable.

The year will end with a lunch BBQ at Anny De Groot's home.

Jill Reid

BOOK REVIEW

The Day She Cradled Me, by Sacha De Bazin, Reviewed by Janey Clark. This book is available in the Mapua Community Library

The Day She Cradled Me is a fascinating novel based on the life of the infamous baby farmer Minnie Deane, the only woman in New Zealand history to be hanged.

The story began in court with the final verdict and description of Minnie's emotional reaction. Already the reader feels empathy for the supposed criminal.

It then takes us back to her childhood in Scotland where she is abused by her father and bought up in a religious family of the scary kind, where she was made to feel that she was a terrible sinner. Her two beloved sisters died overnight and she watched her mother die a long painful death. Battling against her nasty school teacher and evil step-mother, Minnie then fell pregnant to Freddie, her only friend in the world. Rejected by the world she knows, she boarded the ship for Van Diemen's Land then New Zealand, eventually making a life for herself in Southland.

Life for Minnie in 1890s New Zealand was full of hardship and desperation, as it was for many women of this era. Those who had a child out of wedlock were forced to get rid of the child or face a lifetime of

spurning and probable spinsterhood. As a means of survival and way of providing these woman with an alternative, Minnie began baby farming. She would take them into her home permanently or until such time as they found a new home. Although this was a money-making process, the reader is led to believe that Minnie in fact loved many of these children and treated them as well as her meagre means allowed.

One of her few pleasures in life were her travels around the South Island collecting and delivering babies. However, it was in this setting, the comfortable seat of the old steam train, that things began to go terribly wrong for Minnie and the infants in her care.

Once tried, she remained in prison to face her impending execution. Reverend Lindsay became her unlikely ally, fighting to prevent her paying the ultimate price for murders that it seems she did not commit.

By the end of this carefully researched book, I felt Minnie was a victim of circumstance and social hypocrisy of that time. Please read it yourself and come to your own verdict. It is well worth your while.

MAPUA LIBRARY



This month 30 new tilted lower shelves were installed by volunteers. This has freed up much-needed space on the shelves.

We thank SWAP for the donation of four interesting books for our collection.

In December please watch out for our monster Christmas Hamper Raffle from Monday 10 December to Saturday 15 December, outside the Mapua 4 Square store. Tickets are \$1 each or three for \$2. A bargain! This is the main source of untagged funds for the day-to-day running of our local library.

In January we will be holding a book sale in the morning on Friday 4 January outside on the lawn in front of the library. Do come and stock up on reading for the more leisurely part of the holidays.

Once again at the end of the school holidays for two weeks on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 14 January to 25 January we will be running the BEAR (Be Excited About Reading) programme. This is a recreational fun reading time aimed at children aged five to ten mostly. Please register an interest or make inquiries at the desk at the library.

Eileen Dobbie

Library Hours:

Monday	2-4.30pm	Thursday	10am-12.30pm,
Tuesday	2-4.30pm		2pm-4.30pm
Wednesday	2-6.30pm	Friday	2-4.30pm
Saturday	2-4.30pm		

Mapua School

Can you believe it is December? The sun is finally shining and more and more visitors are arriving to enjoy our community. It is the time of year when we look forward to slowing down, relaxing with friends and family and most importantly, not worrying about school lunches!

In a few weeks our children will bring home a bag with all their exercise books, projects, paintings, and stories. There will be the cases of worn pencils and rubbers which have been used to create and correct. The collection represents a year's worth of learning and growth. It represents the planning, the collaboration and partnering with teachers and staff.

And it represents a specific moment in each child's life – their classroom buddies, games on the field, lost teeth, an inch in growth and an added confidence.

This year has been a great year for the Mapua School community and we look forward to next year. But until then we look forward to having the confidence to jump off the wharf, have a go on the flying fox, put our face in the water, try a new food, explore a corner of the world, make a new friend.

Take care, travel safe, live with confidence and celebrate the holiday season.

Lisa Dunn, Trustee



Mapua School's 2012 donation to the Mapua Hall restoration fund

Tasman School



Summer is rolling on into the Christmas month and the end of term is nearly upon us, and we wonder if we can fit everything in. At least the Athletics day is over; another hot and active day where all the students put their best feet forward running, jumping, and cheering on their schools. Great success for Tasman School again winning the Peace Shield for the fourth year in a row. Our new yellow fluoro T-shirts standing out like sunlight flashing on the grass.

The 'Tasman Touring Troupe' (Room 3 students) are off again giving, eight concerts to the community, including pre-schools, rest homes and hospitals. They are performing with ukulele, recorder and puppet shows written by the students.

We are finishing the term with the biggest roll we have had in several years only to be farewelling ten Year 8 students, who will leave a senior gap, but we have some newbie's to fill the gaps. We also have to farewell Margo Decker, our beloved receptionist, who

has become a school living treasure having worked here for 22 years, but her grandchildren call.

Yes, 2013 is our Centenary, and as the kids say, "We will be one 100 years old". We will be celebrating this event on 15-17 March. If you know someone who has been to our school please tell them all about it. People can register online.

'Muddy Buddies' will also be part of our Centenary weekend, where we are hoping for past pupils and teachers to join in the muddy fun race. We also are holding an ART AUCTION with a variety of adult and student work for sale. It has already attracted several well-known artists.

From Tasman School we wish you all a joyful summer-filled Christmas.

Fred Robertson, teacher, Tasman School.

Police Report

Suddenly it is almost summer. There are a lot of visitors arriving in the district now, both tourists and new people looking for seasonal work. There will also be more people moving around on warmer summer nights. Make sure you keep your vehicles and sheds locked and if you have house windows open at night open only those on security latches.

There will be a few parties no doubt and if you have any issues with noise in the first instance you need to contact the council after hours and a noise control person will come and make an assessment of the noise and issue an abatement notice. If they get a second complaint the police normally attend with the noise control officer and seize the stereo.

Have a safe and relaxing time over the festive season. Plan your driving times and be safe out there.

Grant Heney, Community Constable

Mapua Occurrences:

Sep 25: Local female trespassed from a Mapua address

Sep 26: Domestic argument, Aranui Road

Sep 28: Domestic argument, Toru Street. Intoxicated people spoken to

Nov 5: Damage to fence on Stafford Drive

Nov 6: Mapua male took item from local shop. Trespassed.

Domestic incident Aranui Road

Nov 8: Minor accident Mapua Drive

Nov 12: Domestic incident and assault. Nelson male aged 25 arrested.

MAPUA COMBINED PROBUS

The guest speaker at the November meeting of Probus was Glen Stevens of the Tasman District Council. His subject was the major flood of parts of Golden Bay and Tasman areas in December 2011. He showed a variety of photos and information on the event. Adrian Humphries, the recovery manager for the TDC, prepared the slide show, but was unable to give the talk.

Large photos of the Pohara Valley showed the massive slips of slurry, logs and other debris up—to two metres—surrounding a number of houses in the area. One photo showed only the top of a large water storage tank attached to the house. Another photo showed a map of the Nelson, Tasman, and Golden Bay area of the intense rainfall on the 11th of December. The Pohara to Totaranui area had up to 650mm of rain, while the lower Richmond Ranges had up to 450mm over the same period. As Glen pointed out it was a very unusual weather pattern with many areas, such as Mapua, that had just an average rainfall.

Glen spoke about his involvement and that of the recovery staff. There are four staff members from the Nelson and Tasman councils that are trained for cases of emergency. On the day of the intense rain Glen was in Richmond. He had difficulty communicating with Golden Bay, and getting access to the area over the Takaka Hill. Other key staff, such as Civil Defense, worked together from one room for the first few days. Civil Defense declared a “State of Emergency” from the 16th to the 26th of December.

Other specialised staff became involved. The first priority was saving lives but fortunately there were no fatalities. Other priorities were public health and welfare. Greg spoke about people’s reaction to the flood. One ratepayer was very emotional because part of his vegetable garden was covered in silt; another ratepayer with an arm injury had a more courteous attitude to council staff even though his house was badly damaged.

The estimated cost of the flood is \$10.1 million. The event was a big learning curve to the various

departments involved. Since the flood five portable generators have been put in storage around the Nelson and Tasman districts.

The mini speaker was club member David Evans, his subject being “Mistakes, Mishaps, and Misdemeanors,” relating to a variety of events in his life. He was born in Reefton in 1920, and was able to compare the old mining village of 1928 to today after a recent Probus club trip to Reefton.

. As a young boy living 3km out of Reefton, he got frustrated at having to listen to a noisy rooster. One day he picked up an old scrubbing brush and threw it at the bird. The rooster disappeared under the house never to be seen again. His parents held a “family inquest” about the missing bird.

Another time David and his cousin found a hand-operated rail trolley. They decided to take it for a ride. In the distance they saw a train approaching from Reefton so they quickly jettisoned the trolley by jamming a large stick in the wheels and jumping off to pull the trolley off the track.

During an early hunting trip at the age of 16, David and his brother found an easy target by shooting a three-legged deer and skinning it during a tramp along one of the Reefton tracks.

After leaving school in 1939, David’s uncle gave him a clerical job in the bank he was working at Lyell Bay, Wellington. He remembered one day being unable to open the bank as he had lost the key.

In 1940 he went to Australia to join the Army for training in the signals unit. He recalled falling from a ladder while trying to throw a hand grenade. Fortunately the grenade did not explode. In 1941 David was transferred to the Navy on draft to Britain. He trained at Gosforth near Portsmouth with the Fleet Air Arm and his group was posted to Gibraltar with the aim of moving on to Italy. This did not eventuate so they had to return to Britain.

The club’s Christmas social lunch will be on Friday, 7th of December at the TAP in Mapua at 12.30pm.

David Higgs

Edited by Andrew Earlam (advertising) 540-2845, Terry Smith (editorial) 540-3203, and compiled by Barbara Mercer, 540-3022. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editors. We aim to have the newsletter out by the 1st of the month. Deadline for paper copy at the Mapua Store and e-mailed items (preferred) to coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz is the 20th of the month. Small ads are by gold coin donation in the collection boxes, club notices free. Printed by the Tasman District Council.

A Recycled Three-Wheeler Vehicles Excluded from Wharf Area



Some of our readers have been in South-east Asian countries recently where rickshaws are common. Now even Mapua has a rickshaw.

The owner of the Mapua Trading Company, Heather Cole, said she and her helper Geraldine Stones were looking at the Nelson Recycling Centre for something they could use for short trips, and they came across a rusty old rickshaw a few months ago.

After being cleaned and repainted it didn't look too bad. It is fairly heavy and far from having the 18 or 21 gears of a modern bike it has none—just a straight chain drive to the back axle. It does have a free-wheeling hub but there is no pedal brake or the usual brake levers on the handlebars. Braking is done by releasing and pulling on a heavy lever on the front bar.

The tyres are off a racing sulky and Geraldine made a canopy for it, incorporating a piece of embroidery a customer had.

It is a handy means of carrying goods and parcels from the local store, but it is unlikely to be used for taking passengers for rides.

“Health and safety regulations would be too difficult to comply with,” said Geraldine. “We would have to have a supply of different sized helmets and even that would be a problem.”

The photo shows Geraldine on the rickshaw outside the Trading Company. Honey the golden labrador is an interested observer.

From 20 December this year through to 7 February the Mapua Wharf area will become pedestrian-only.

The extremely popular zone will be closed to vehicles during this time except for service vehicles and those using the boat ramp to launch and retrieve boats.

The Mapua Waterfront Precinct Advisory Group decided at last week's meeting to trial the initiative over the summer period in an effort to make the area more attractive to visitors.

The chair of the committee, Cr Brian Ensor, said the wharf precinct became extremely popular over the Christmas period and the closure was about enhancing the experience within a safer environment for visitors to the area. The opportunity had certainly been made easier with development of parking nearby with the new waterfront park and additional parking to be opened up in Tahī Street.

“It was felt that with alternative parking available to cater for visitors and locals alike, the pedestrian only zoning can only be of benefit. This benefit is reinforced when you add in the increasing number of cyclists coming across on the Mapua Ferry from Rabbit Island.”

The trial would not be feasible without the support of the local community and retailers. The trial will be monitored over the period with a decision regarding its permanence or otherwise being made early next year.

The Mapua Waterfront Precinct Advisory Group is made up of shops representatives, Mapua and Districts Community Association, Mapua and Districts Business Association, Coastal Initiative Group, Mapua Boat Club and residents' representatives from Tahī and Iwa streets.

Trust Chairman Steps Down

The founder of the Mapua, Ruby Bay and District Community Trust and chairman since its inception, Bill Williams, has resigned as chairman but will remain as a trustee.

Bill instigated the Trust in 2005 as a means of giving grants to local non-profit clubs and groups and put in his own money to start it off. The fund has grown slowly and now has \$79,000 in a bank account which earns interest. Twice a year the trustees meet and make grants from the accrued interest; the principle is not broken into.

Most of the money comes from advertising in the *Coastal News* and donations, but other gifts have been made and are always welcome. The aim is to generate a sizeable fund that contributes to the wellbeing of the community. Amounts over \$5 are tax-deductible as the trust is registered as a charity.

So far the Trust has made grants totalling \$12,523. The Mapua Hall has been the biggest beneficiary, getting \$2730; the Mapua Library has had \$1350, Tamaha Scouts \$1350, Football Club \$1300, Tennis Club \$948, Spring Fling \$891 and the Toy Library \$500. Grants have also been made to Kids & Coffee, Mapua Show, PANZ, Coastal Garden Group, Playcentre, Friends of the Wetland, Fire Brigade, Friends of Aranui Park, Mapua Art Group, St John Youth Mapua and the Estuary subcommittee.

The other members of the Trust are Andrew Earlam (treasurer), Barbara Mercer, Robin Peck, Terry Smith (secretary), and three new members appointed at the November meeting—Hugh Gordon, Neville Bibby and Ali McDougall. Hugh agreed to be chairman for the next year.

Clothing Swap a Success.

Mapua's third clothes swap was held on 10 November with a 40-strong bunch of women turning out for a great social night swapping good quality clothing, shoes and accessories.

As there were many clothes on offer there were a lot of different ensembles put together during the evening and a great supportive atmosphere with everyone giving each other great feedback on outfits! Thank you to those people who donated clothes even though they couldn't attend on the night.

The racks for the clothes were once again provided by Fred Cassin of Fred Cassin Scaffolding and the design and layout this year was fantastic, allowing good access to all the clothes. Tickets were once again sold by Tessa Mae's and we would like to thank the wonderful staff there for their hard work selling tickets. As the clothes-swappers left they were treated to a home-made chocolate to round out the night made by the team at Corru Gate Accommodation. There were also many other helpers on the night including bar people, clothing receivers and displayers, door people,

ushers, cleaners, kitchen helpers and tidy-up crew who deserve a big thank you for helping make this community event such a big success.

So, what was it all about? The main objective was to give women from Mapua and environs a social opportunity that encouraged community participation and recycling. We also wanted to fund-raise to add to our trust fund for future community environmental projects.

Four environmentally themed books have now been donated to the Mapua library using profits from previous clothes swaps. These are available in the library now and their titles are:

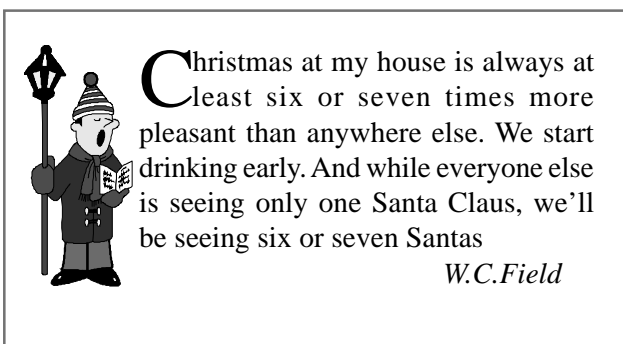
Organic gardening, by New Zealand landscape gardener Xanthe White; *Go Wild: Guiding native restoration in the Tasman District*, which features our very own Mapua wetlands; *Eco chic home: rethink, reuse and remake your way a sustainable style*; and *A Deeper Shade of Green*, a New Zealand book on sustainable building.

Mapua Health Centre

We are very pleased to welcome Jill to our receptionist team this month. Jill will be covering for Caroline who is on maternity leave. We are also delighted to welcome Katie Maver as a locum doctor. Katie will be covering our doctors over the busy season and throughout 2013.

After a coolish and wet spring it's great to be moving into summer and it could be a good time to check out some healthy options. This includes a diet with not too much meat and dairy fats but with plenty of plant foods, fruit and fish (diet sheets available at the Health Centre). Also, consider adding some regular aerobic exercise (eg, brisk 40-minute walk, 4-5/week, gym programme or swimming, riding, etc) and the chance to lose some weight for those whose kg's are bit on the generous side. You may want to look at getting a green prescription which is a government-funded scheme where a programme can be specifically tailored for you. Free consultations are also available to help quit smoking which include free/subsidised nicotine patches, gum and lozenges which can reduce nicotine craving. For more detailed information please contact one of our practice nurses on 540-2211.

It looks as if we could be in for some sunny weather which means that there is likely to be plenty of UV light to zap our skin and potentially lead to skin cancer if we get over exposed. So please don't forget the sunsmart slogan of *slip under some shade, slip into some clothing, slop on some sunscreen and slap on a hat*. This is especially important between 11am to 3pm,



although getting some sunlight exposure outside those hours can be helpful for vitamin D production.

A reminder to younger patients and teenagers that there is a fully confidential medical service available throughout the working week and that medical costs may be covered by a special PHO fund. You can check this out by simply turning up at the practice or phoning 540-2211 or email info@mapuahealth.com. Healthline is also available for everyone. It is a free telephone health information service where calls are looked after by registered nurses using a computer programme that specifies the recommendations. The telephone triage may include symptom assessment, counselling, home treatment advice, referral, information provision, disease management and crisis intervention. To call Healthline phone **0800 611 116**.

We, as a practice would like to showcase some of the amazing art work that our local artists do. If you would like to display your art work on the walls of our waiting room please give Leanne a call to discuss. On behalf of the team at Mapua Health we would like to wish you all a safe, healthy and happy Christmas, and all the best for 2013.

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

- 1 Dec World Aids Day www.who.org
- 3 Dec International Day of Disabled Persons www.un.org/disabilities
- 5 Dec International Volunteers Day www.worldvolunteerweb.org
- 10 Dec World Human Rights Day www.un.org
- 14 Dec Term 4 ends, secondary schools
- 20 Dec Term 4 ends, primary/intermediate schools



What a busy month we've been having at Harakeke. Children and teachers alike have been enjoying a variety of excursions.

Last month we all had a great day at the Theatre Royal in Nelson experiencing the excitement of Capital E's production of *Around the World and Buck Again*. Our children were enthralled by the antics of the dog characters in this performance. Afterwards we enjoyed a picnic lunch and a play at the Tahunanui playground. With the summery weather we all relished the opportunity to cool off by paddling in the sea. Ah, what a wonderful antidote to all that rain we've had over the last few months!

The next evening our teaching team flew to Rotorua to attend an early childhood conference with the theme of Nurture in Nature. With keynote speakers and workshop facilitators from all over the globe we were inspired to hear how essential interaction with nature is in supporting children's holistic learning and development. As one speaker shared with us, "If we really want children to thrive we need to let their connection to nature nurture them."

At Harakeke, we feel privileged to educate children in a natural environment that allows these connections to happen on an everyday basis. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the community who supported our fund-raising effort enabling all our teachers to attend such a valuable conference. One of our teachers who attended the earth oven-making workshop is wondering if anyone in the community has access to fire bricks; we are looking forward to having a go at building one at Harakeke.

Last week we also enjoyed a visit to Upper Moutere School as part of our transitioning children to school.

Ka kite ano. Your Harakeke team

Recycling Old Spectacles

Share our vision; help us build a spectacular Christmas tree.

Here at the Design House in Aranui Road we want to be active about giving for Christmas. Do you have old spectacles unused in your drawer? Or old sunglasses that could benefit someone in need?



Bring them to us at the Design House and help us build a Christmas tree of recycled spectacles during December. These will then be delivered through Lions to VOSO (Volunteer Ophthalmic Services Overseas) for use in the Pacific or other places of need. Sunglasses or new off-the-shelf pairs as a donation are needed and would be grateful additions to the tree.

Call in business hours any day from 1-31 December and add to our tree. We are at the Design House at 136A Aranui Road, Mapua. (The former Furniture Studio by the school).

Once again we find ourselves enmeshed in the Holiday Season, that very special time of year when we join with our loved ones in sharing centuries-old traditions such as trying to find a parking space at the mall. We traditionally do this in my family by driving around the parking lot until we see a shopper emerge from the mall, then we follow her, in very much the same spirit as the Three Wise Men, who 2,000 years ago followed a star, week after week, until it led them to a parking space.



Spring Fling ‘Absolutely the Best’

The Mapua Domain was buzzing with our biggest crowd ever last month and the weather was on our side. The wind dropped and it was a perfect night for our twilight event. Everyone got together with community spirit. It was a fantastic opportunity to socialise, play games and enjoy that free sausage, home-made lemonade and an ice-cream. Our aim is to make community connections and bridge the town’s generation gap. It is planned as an event for everyone in the community regardless of age to come and mix and form links with other community members.

Paul McConnochie with the Tasman District Council’s Way-2-Go trailer is always a hit. He just opened the doors and the kids hooked into the gear and created their own games. The introduction of a bike course challenged the skills of a few youngsters. It was a delight to see all sizes of kids, their parents and neighbourhood friends join in. An additional activity was a huge game of Snakes and Ladders and the ever popular local fire engine was on hand. The field got a good watering and there were lots of happy, very wet children!

A bit of background on the event for newcomers...The inaugural “Spring Fling” in 2007” and subsequent ones have been largely supported by donations and volunteers. This group began from work with author and educator Celia Lashlie in 2001 when there were concerns expressed about disaffected youth in the community and we looked at the African proverb, “It takes a village to raise a child”. For two years regular community meetings were held using Celia’s insight and experience. The Mapua Strengthening Our Village group evolved. The Spring Fling event was a product of a few people getting together and making it happen. We are now in our 6th year which is something we are very proud of.

Our great big thanks have to go to the organisations that believe in what we are doing and allow it to happen with their donations. These are: Mapua/Ruby Bay & District Community Trust, Club Mapua, Hamish’s, Talleys, New World in Motueka, Couplands and Mapua Auto Centre.

Thanks everyone for making this a success.

Tina Johansson

Aquarium Site Put to Use

If you see a teenaged male loitering around the wharf area over summer, don’t be alarmed. Hi Mapua, my name is Rowan Smith-Waddell. I am 19 and I have been awarded a scholarship which will help fund my architecture course at Wellington next year. The scholarship scheme, provided by BayerBoost and the Royal Society of New Zealand, promotes environmental development. The Tasman District Council has kindly granted me permission to go ahead with this great opportunity.

I will be working on the aquarium site, alongside the Mapua Districts Business Association and Robin Simpson Design, creating temporary and sustainable street furniture, including cycle stands, and gardens, out of apple pallets and crates, to support the influx of cyclists expected in Mapua with the Great Taste Trail progressing as well as locals and other visitors.

I aim to provide a space for visitors and locals to park their bikes, rest, and enjoy Mapua wharf. This is an investigation into public domain improvement in times of local government fiscal constraint. In addition to providing needed furniture and researching responses to public space, it will be a great project that will have us all learning about sustainable

development, low cost but effective designs and how they can reflect the character and add colour to the village.

I will also be surveying the public about a variety of things – their perception of the public space, awareness of Mapua’s history in apple themed furniture, how people make use of the installation, the effects of having the wharf plaza area shut off from vehicles for a trial period over the summer, and much more.

My project and the development of the site where our beloved aquarium once stood, will only be temporary, as an innovative way to fill the space until more permanent plans begin to be put in place. I look forward to working with Robin Simpson throughout the summer, and I hope this will be a great contribution to my home town.

Feel free to pop over for a chat if you see me working down there, your design ideas would be thoughtfully considered and appreciated!

See you down there,

Rowan

Sam's Spam

Hi readers. As this is the last column for the year, I thought I would give you some links to free websites for your summer reading. These can be accessed from your computers, or tablets such as Kindle, iPads, iPhones, kobo etc. Enjoy! See you next year.

www.free-ebooks.net

This is an excellent website where you can download free 'e-books' from a whole range of categories e.g. fiction, food / recipes, health and beauty, parenting, psychology, travel and so on. Even more interesting is that any budding authors can submit their own eBooks to the site.

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Instalments arrive in your Inbox according to the schedule you set (e.g. 7am every weekday). You can read each instalment in less than five minutes and, if you have more time to read, you can receive additional instalments immediately on demand. Titles include bestselling and award winning titles, from literary fiction and romance to language learning and science fiction. You can browse either by Author, Titles or Categories to find something you like. The site also features forums where you can discuss your favourite books and authors.



Pictured is a proposed use of the Mapua wharf site formerly occupied by the aquarium and other businesses. The proposal was considered by the Tasman District Council Engineering Services Committee in November.

Fire Brigade

August-November call-outs



Aug 3: Car fire Aranui Road. Owner put fire out with own extinguisher. Electrical wiring short. Brigade removed a headlamp that was burning.

Aug 20: Four flooding calls on Toru Street. Assisted with pumping water away.

Aug 31; Vehicle overturned, fuel spilt. Trailer broke coupling. Assisted with traffic control and clean up. On SH60 near Trafalgar Road.

Sep 14: SH60 and Trafalgar Road, car v car, no action by brigade.

Sep 15: Caravan fire Kina Beach, out on arrival. A candle was knocked over and caught a couch on fire, Brigade talked to people about candles and fire safety.

Sep 8: Assist police with person in the channel. Found later by Coastguard.

Nov 7: Vegetation fire Stagecoach Road, put fire out assisted by Upper Moutere & Appleby.

34 calls year to date.

Safety Tip – Install smoke alarms and check monthly that they work. Change batteries yearly

Last month we held our awards night. Mike Stephenson was awarded a 5-year medal for five years service. Two-year bars for the 5-year medal went to Aaron Thawley, nine years; Emma Peel, 11 years; Mark Theobald, 19 years; Alistair Hill, 7 years, and Jochen Lenfert, 7 years. We also acknowledge Alby Wyatt's 25-year service, only the second one in this brigade after Ted Perry. We will celebrate this award next May.

Postal Service Change

After many years looking after the postal delivery of the *Coastal News*, Mike and Barbara Halse have licked their last stamps and handed over the job to Angela Holbrook.

Every month for several years Mike and Barbara have folded the *Coastal News* and put it in envelopes for posting. That has got more difficult with the newsletter being 30 pages or more, compared with six or eight pages 15 years ago. They go out mostly to people in nearby districts but some go as far as Christchurch.

Mike set up a database and addressing system which ran efficiently. Angela is happy to continue the task so ably done by Mike and Barbara.

MAPUA Bowling Club

The Write Bias

Despite a sprinkling of rain League Bowls started on Monday 5 November and will continue on Monday evenings until Christmas and again during next February and March. Several regular Monday evening bowlers have now joined the club as Social League bowlers and it is a pleasure to welcome them on board.

The season has started well on many levels, all made possible by an influx of new members. It is wonderful to see so many new faces enjoying the bowling and facilities that the Mapua Club has to offer. Two successful tournaments supported by local sponsors have been and gone. Club championships are under way and the club is represented by a mixed triples team on Saturdays in the area President's Trophy. Roll-up days on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays have been made a little more purposeful (but not too serious!) by the 'Captain's Challenge'.

We are now looking forward to two fun events during December. Some of the men have decided to cook lunch for all members and their guests on Saturday 8 December – more of this later! It will be followed by game of drawn pairs with prizes sponsored by the Smokehouse.

On Saturday 22 December it is party time where we play our traditional tournament, 'Kiwis' versus 'The Rest of the World'. National dress is encouraged – loosely – and it is always great fun and almost competitive! For the past three years the result has always been a diplomatic draw but whatever the outcome this year, the camaraderie over the barbecue will be as strong as ever.

For information about bowling please call the secretary Jean Daubney (543-2765) or president Dave

England (540-2934) or email s1ad2as3@xtra.co.nz

Sue England

Advertising Costs

Ads go by the size in column cms, columns are 8.5cm wide and costs are as follows:

\$2.50 per cm up to 6cm

\$3 per cm up to 10cm

\$4 per cm over 10cm

with 20% discount for long term advertising (3+ months) and prompt payment.

The deadline is the 20th of each month with each issue coming out on the 1st. Email coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz for full terms and conditions

Ruby Coast Arts Weekend a Great Success

The 2012 Ruby Coast Arts Weekend ran over 28-30 October in conjunction with the Nelson Arts Festival and offered a series of creative workshops and open studios.

The event was organised by six local professional artists with the support of Janet Taylor from the Mapua and District Business Associations, the Tasman District Council and Creative Communities funding.

Creative workshops ran over two days. Participants dripped and splashed paint, rubbed charcoal into paper with their fingertips, carved Oamaru stone, got messy with plaster of paris, surprised themselves with their drawing skills and used plastic bottles to create beautiful jewellery. Through these hands on workshops run by experience artists participants learnt new skills and created stunning artworks.

Nelson artist Blanche Hallstrom said of Lisa Chandler's workshop: "I came away energised and full of ideas. Thank you for being so generous in passing on your knowledge and running an excellent workshop. You created a wonderful atmosphere for creativity."

The event is also an important promotional tool for local artists. One of the RCA's goals is to provide value to local artists through the power of group promotions. Oamaru stone tutor Jo Heatherbell said: "For me the workshops were a big success. I have had people emailing me saying they had such a great time and could they put their name down for future workshops"

As well as workshops a number of artists opened their studios to the public. This Open Studios event saw visitors from all over the Top of the South and as far away as Christchurch descending on Mapua, Ruby Bay and Tasman to take a sneaky peek into 14 artistic work spaces. Pam, a visitor from Christchurch, commented, "I had a wonderful day visiting all the



Participants engrossed in the delicate work of making jewellery at Marijke Lup's workshop

open studios and feel very inspired by the wide variety of creative work on display. I'm looking forward to the next RCA Weekend and will definitely be back".

A post-event get-together at a local café also provided a great opportunity for artists, tutors and workshop participants to share their creative experiences. The RCA aims to support and develop a vibrant, supportive and collaborative local arts community.

RCA intends to develop this event each year and promote the Ruby Coast as a top creative destination. As the event grows it is envisaged that other local businesses such as cafés, accommodation and shops will become involved and benefit.

Thank you to all the local art lovers who took part in the event.

For more information go to our facebook page at: www.facebook.com/RubyCoastArtsWeekend

A Creative 2012 for the Mapua Art Group

The Mapua Art Group meets once a week at the Mapua Hall to paint and draw in a creative and supportive environment. Members range from absolute beginners through to full-time working artists. This year we have welcomed a number of new members to the group, including Yvonne, Wayne, Judy, Mary-Jean and Lois.

MAG has enjoyed many interesting events this year. Our monthly workshops have been popular and tutors have included Lloyd Harwood, Johanna Ward and Sally Burton.

A highlight was our weekend escape held in conjunction with the Tasman Visual Art Group. Escaping to Teapot Valley Camp for the weekend participants enjoyed two full days of tutored workshops, networking, guest speaker, library of art books and not having to cook for two days! Thanks to the TDC and 'Creative Communities' funding for their support.

Another highlight was our recent exhibition at the opening of the Icon Centre for Contemporary Art in Upper Moutere. Members enjoyed the opportunity to display works and share their art with the public. Thanks to owner Neville Parker for inviting us.

MAG turns five next year and we will be celebrating with an exhibition and social event. Many inaugural members are still active within the group and it is exciting to see the progress they have made in their artistic endeavours.

Over the last five years members have forged strong networks and partnerships and these have evolved into new creative initiatives for the region. Some developments include the Ruby Coast Arts Weekend, the Mapua Makers Market, the 'Art for Kids' fundraiser for the Upper Moutere School and the Kahurangi Online Art Gallery.

Our last meeting for 2012 will be on Thursday 13th December and we will resume on Thursday 14th February 2013. Due to the Mapua Hall renovations MAG's weekly meetings will be relocating from February through to end of May 2013. Details of the new venue are being sorted. Please contact Lisa Chandler in the new year for details.

The Mapua Art Group wishes everyone a very creative Christmas and Happy New Year!

Lisa Chandler. 540-3933, lisa@lisachandler.co.nz

Aranui Road Streetscape

The Tasman District Council is intending to seek comments from the public on the Draft Aranui Road Streetscape Masterplan. The consultation is intended to begin in December 2012.

Copies of the plan will be displayed at the Mapua Community Library, Mapua Hall (if construction allows), TDC Offices in Richmond and online at www.tasman.govt.nz.

The Draft Plan has been developed during 2012 with input from representatives of different community groups. This is a further opportunity for comment and we look forward to any feedback. The promotion of the draft plan and date by which submissions close by will be notified closer to the date of consultation.



Noticeboard

Desperately seeking Susan, Sid, or Someone! Mapua Boat Club is desperately seeking a secretary. Someone with a few computer & organisational skills for a few hours each week. Honorarium negotiable. Contact Annette Walker, Pres MBC, 540 2850

Wanted: College student, fit and strong, for outside work. Westdale Rd area. Txt 027 544 9878.

For Sale: Mobility Scooter. Invercare Auriga 4 wheel with basket and panniers. Excellent condition. \$2000 ono. Phone Sarah 540 2698

Coastal Connections Social Group. Venue for Christmas lunch-time gathering is "Fossil Ridge Cafe", 72 Hart Road, Richmond. Thursday 13 December. Hope you can all make it for the end of year celebrations. Julie

Rangers Rugby Pre-Season Boot Camp starts Saturday mornings at Moutere Hills Community Centre at 8:30am (starting 5 Jan) and Tuesdays mornings at Mapua Wharf at 6:20am (starting 8 Jan). Details: Mark 027 422 9949

Storage Room and/or Artist Studio available, dry and secure, light and pleasant environment, for reasonable rates, shared facilities, up to 130m² for 5 months with possibility of longer in Mapua. Contact Robin 0274 403 405 or Simone 0211 049 039 or 540 3282.

HARD FILL – required at Mapua Leisure Park, 33 Toru St. 540 2666

Zoom Salon hours: Mon through Sat, late nights Tue & Thur. www.zoomhair.co.nz 540 2333

RSA Meetings: 10 Dec: Christmas Lunch at The Tap 1230; 28 Jan: Committee meeting RSA room; 11 Feb: meeting RSA room 1400.

Fair Exchange: We meet the second & fourth Wednesdays of the month. 9am at Jellyfish to exchange homemade or homegrown items. Info: Debbi, 540-2942 or DLBamfield@gmail.com.

Ruby Coast Newcomers Coffee Group: meet new people, make new friends. 10am last Friday of month, Tasman Store. Info: Richard & Viv, 526 6707, rsclément@xtra.co.nz or just turn up. Everyone welcome.

Mapua Art Group: Painting/Drawing Thursdays 9-12.30, Supper Room, Mapua Hall. Like-minded artists get together to paint and help each other in a fun, social environment. All levels & media welcome. \$4 session includes morning tea. Tables, chairs provided. Lisa Chandler, 540 3933

Women's Recreation Group - meets outside Mapua Mall Thursday mornings. Leaves 9.15am for 1½ hour walk. Route varies. Join us whenever you can. Some members may cycle. Info Lynley 540 2292.

Recycling: Printer & Photocopier cartridges can be left at Tasman Bay Vets, 69 Aranui Rd, 8am-noon & 3-6pm.

Consider reducing landfill and support fundraising. Managed by MDBA with thanks to Tasman Bay Vets.

Toy Library: extensive selection of toys, puzzles & videos for children 0-5yrs. Behind Mapua Hall every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 10-11.30am & 6.30-7.30pm. Phone Anja, 544 8733, about membership or casual hire.

Spinners, Knitters, Weavers – Wool Gatherers meet at Mapua Hall, second Tuesdays, 10am. All welcome.

PANZ (pastel artists of NZ) meet Tuesdays, Mapua Hall, 9am-noon. If interested in trying pastels as a painting medium, please join us. Glenys Forbes 540-3388.

Friendship Club meets third Thursdays 2pm, Supper room at the Hall. Indoor bowls, afternoon tea (please bring a plate). \$2 door charge, 20¢ raffle. We are a group of friendly people who enjoy a good laugh (some of us are not good bowlers). We welcome new members. Val Roche 540-3685

Writers Group, Mapua, meeting monthly, third Thursdays. 540 3058 for info

Coastal Garden Group meet first Thursdays, 1.15pm, Supper Room, Mapua Hall. Members, guests & visitors welcome.

Probus Club meets first Fridays, Mapua Hall 1.30pm. All retirees most welcome. Enquiries to Pres. John Sharman; 540 3642, Secr. Margaret Butchart 5402686

Need technical help? Can't connect your DVD player? Don't know how to download photos from your digital camera? Computer running slowly? Local help is at hand! Average job price only \$20! Basic web design also available - pages start from just \$35. Call Sam, 544 0737. – sambennett@live.jp

Mapua Hills Rose Society (est 1949) meets 1st Mondays (except J months) 7.45pm, Supper Room, Mapua Hall. Rose lovers, growers, visitors and guests very welcome. Enquiries: Letty Thawley, 540 2876, Margaret Sinclair 03 528 8477.

Kidz 'n' Koffee playgroup: 10am – noon, Wednesdays during school term at Old Church Hall, Aranui Rd. All parents and caregivers welcome, we cater for 0-6 yrs. Gold coin donation for a delicious morning tea. Come and make some new friends. Info: Debbie, 5432915

YOGA with Robin - Classes weekly. All levels welcome. Call 540 2113 for class times & information. www.rubybayyoga.com

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