

Coastal News

email: coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz

covering Mapua & Ruby Bay
run by volunteers

New hall for Mapua finds favour

An impressive number of residents attended a public meeting and were given a good opportunity to voice their opinions, concerns and visions for the future of the Mapua Hall.

To put everyone on the same page, the chairman of the hall committee, Mike Harvey, gave a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the history of the hall and its transformation from packing shed to community hall 64 years ago.

He then presented two scenarios for the future: First, what would be involved in upgrading the building to at least meet the minimum health and safety requirements for a village hall. Second, what would be involved in moving forward and building a new hall, designed to serve the present and future needs of the community. The cost of both projects was weighed up, and after a thorough discussion, with opinions voiced on both renovation and rebuild, the meeting concluded with a clear endorsement of a new hall.

This project did not just suddenly jump into the community arena; it started quite a few years ago, and has been on the agenda of the last three hall committees and in January this year a group of committee members went on a day-long trip to visit other community halls, some as far away as Murchison and St Arnaud.

Since being elected, the present committee has spent endless hours discussing the pros and cons of a renovation versus a rebuild. A recent community survey, the projected growth of Mapua, and the growing number of community needs that are not currently being met, were all taken into consideration.

The sheer amount of data that had to be evaluated meant that the committee meetings went from monthly to weekly, plus additional hours for the chairman and secretary to assemble the information into a PowerPoint presentation for the public meeting.

At the beginning of this committee's discussion about the future of the hall, some members were

strongly in favour of a renovation, and had actually joined the committee solely to ensure that the present building remained. But eventually, as all facts and economies were evaluated, everyone came to the conclusion that it will make far more sense to build a new hall than to renovate the present hall. A renovation, although cheaper, would present restrictions that future generations would have to cope with due to compromises that would have to be made, and in the end the unanimous decision was: Let us do it once, and do it right! It was this decision that was endorsed by the meeting.

The Mapua Hall belongs to the community, it is one of the very few halls in the Tasman District that does, and it will continue in full community ownership. The community of 1945 created the hall from a relocated packing shed, and in so doing, gave a precious gift to the generations that have followed. It is gratifying to see that this community spirit is still alive and well in Mapua and that once again, our community is prepared to put a shoulder to the wheel and build a new hall. What better way to honour those that came before us than to follow their example.

The Hall Committee is committed to keeping the community fully informed throughout all stages of the development process, as well as offering repeated opportunities to have a say. Anyone who missed the meeting and would like to voice their opinion or offer their support is encouraged to do so via email to the committee secretary: m.garner@xtra.co.nz or by post to PO Box 19, Mapua 7048. All written communication is kept on file and will be duly considered.

A special support group, Friends of the Mapua Hall, has been established, and anyone joining by making a minimum yearly donation of \$10 will receive a special quarterly update and they, as well as all other contributors, will be recognised in the new building.

Opinions from residents on this topic in 'Letters to the Editor' - pages 12-15.

Update on FCC clean-up site

A short history

The FCC factory, which was on Tahi Street next to the estuary and Mapua wharf, closed in 1988, leaving the site soil contaminated with persistent agrichemicals DDT and dieldrin. The site passed into council ownership. After many investigations into the soil, groundwater and beach sediments, consultation and a resource consent hearing the site was remediated with funding assistance from the government and the council. The intention was to make the soil fit for future use (after the zoning had been changed) for housing on the western part of the site, and open space and commercial land use on the east, with the reserve in the western corner remaining as open space.

The remediation was done over four years (2003-07) using technology that significantly reduced the concentration of the pesticides in the treated soil (about 90% efficiency), and also redistributing the untreated piles of soil to obtain the correct Soil Acceptance Criteria for the different proposed land uses. The Ministry for the Environment was the consent holder for most of this period. An independent site auditor's report in July 2009 said that the site was fit for the proposed land uses, and recommended that the MfE undertake some further monitoring.

Surplus commercial grade soil

Unfortunately, towards the very end of the consent period the council was informed that there was double the earlier quantity and now a surplus 8000 cubic metres of commercial grade soil that needed to be placed somewhere on the east side. The site had been more contaminated than the preliminary site soil testing had predicted. In consultation with the contract engineer, MfE, council staff and the immediate neighbour the council agreed to placing this material in the mounds on the eastern side of the site and the reserve area on the west. This agreement effectively made the mounds a council responsibility, not the Ministry's. It is intended to use planting to landscape the site but this awaits decisions on the overall park design. .

The mounded commercial grade soil is safe for limited exposure to people, and it is capped with half a metre of residential grade soil and top soil. The resulting area is safe for a recreational use. The capping is to protect the estuarine ecosystem which is particularly sensitive to the residual pesticides. There is a procedure

set out in the Site Management Plan which controls how earthworks are to be undertaken in the event that the cap is penetrated, to protect the estuary.

Eves Valley landfill consent

It is not easy to move the surplus soil off-site because the consent condition for the council landfill at Eves Valley restricts the concentration of residual pesticides to 50mg/kg, which is a quarter of the DDT concentration in the FCC commercial soil. The leachate from the commercial grade soil has been tested and would not adversely affect the landfill's groundwater consent condition, and therefore council is seeking to amend this standard. Once it has been altered it makes it possible to move some of the commercial soil for disposal to the landfill, but this would be at a cost to the Waterfront Park development, which has limited funding.

Monitoring well under way.

The eleven new groundwater monitoring bores are in place, and will be sampled in late October/early November depending on the weather. The ammonia gas concentrations in some of the eastern side soil will be sampled about the same time. The monitoring for the benchmarking study of the estuary sediment, snails, cockles and algae has already started and should be completed by late October. The MfE is paying and the council is supervising the consultants. The extra soil samples from the west side have been taken for laboratory quality control and assurance. We will provide the results of the monitoring to the community when they are available.

Progress on the Waterfront Park

The development of the waterfront park will be in stages, and with this financial year's funding it is proposed to complete the car park, undertake some planting and develop the amphitheatre and promenade by the waterfront. There will be minimal soil removed during this work.

The wind cloth fencing along Aranui Road will be removed, and pedestrian access encouraged onto the park area. When the waterfront development is taking place part of the area will be fenced off.

Jenny Easton, Resource Scientist, Tasman District Council

Coastal Garden Group

Our speaker for the October meeting was Keith Egerton, who gave an interesting talk on tomatoes. Keith grows over 300 types of heritage tomatoes. For those who don't know (like me!) a heritage tomato is one that has been round for more than 50 years.

Keith sells his tomato plants at the Founders Park farmers' market on Friday afternoons. He grows all his tomatoes in size 28 plastic plant bags. This is because the black bags absorb the heat and so get the plant warmer earlier than planting in the ground. I'll definitely give that a go this year.

He listed many varieties in his talk, including his six favourites. His tomato bags are watered every day and every two weeks he feeds with Nitrophoska, or worm casts. If the leaves are getting light green add potash. Max initiated the tomato-growing competition to see who could grow the biggest single tomato by the February meeting. He had seed packets for sale for \$1 containing two varieties of tomato.

The Asiatic and oriental lilies were available for collection, as were the hanging baskets, liners and compost that we'd ordered from Nelmac. Barry spoke also of the 'Moutere Death'. No it's not the latest health scare that afflicts local gardeners, but a soil pathogen called phytophthora which attacks the roots of plants, and which may be the cause of many of our rhododendrons dying off.

After tea Barry and Margaret went through the interesting plants that members had brought in, there were some real beauties. We concluded with had a lively plant sale.

The next meeting is on 5 November, meeting at 1pm in the supper room at Mapua Hall for a 1.15pm start. Our guest speaker, Richard Snethurst, will speak on the topic of landscape garden design. If you'd like to join us, please call Barry Highsted, 540-3139.

Richard Bamfield, secretary

Garden Notes

Well, November has arrived and hopefully the wet weather is in the last stages. Summer is not too far away and that usually means warm to hot days requiring us all to start the watering programme. To help lessen this often tiresome necessity of hanging on to the end of a hose, it is a good time to mulch, mulch, mulch, trees, shrubs, vegetables and ornamentals. It is essential if growth is to be encouraged and a successful crop enjoyed. But remember always to make sure soil is well soaked before applying mulch.

Now recently transplanted vegies and ornamentals should have the highest priority of watering during dry periods. Regular watering will help fruit develop on citrus and set on other fruit trees.

Tasks for November—raise the blades up a notch on the mower when the weather becomes hotter. Feed the grass to strengthen it for the coming dry months. Dead-head the rhododendrons once they have flowered. Keep up the spray programme on the roses. Watch out for slug and snail damage, they are out and about. Hoe and hand weed as required; growth is huge right now. Mulch to conserve water as much

as possible. Mold those potatoes to keep them growing.

Thinning of fruit trees—apples, peaches, pears and nectarines—leave only enough fruit that the tree can cope with to give a quality crop.

The feature this month is rhododendron.

Not exactly easy to grow well here in this area, but we all want one or two. Requirements are an acid soil, very good drainage, cool aspect, cold winters and shade in summer. A little acid feed and mulch in summer. Rhododendrons have masses of fine roots very near the surface; they make up the entire ball, unlike other shrubs which have thick roots. These must be able to breathe, so not too heavy with the mulch please. Also they must be kept damp all year round, but not waterlogged as the roots easily rot.

Summer is not too far off, so watch those vegies planned for the Christmas table, they always taste better straight from the garden. Feed and water until ready.

November is a lovely month so go and enjoy.

Barry Highsted

Coastal Connections

How lucky are we—our October luncheon saw our group of ladies partaking in the perfect lunch—great friendships, and the venue, the Wharfside overlooking the very scenic Mapua Inlet. Great food and service, too. We had two guests, country ladies from the deep south who live on farms in the Geraldine district. I am sure they enjoyed our “top of the south” hospitality.

On a sadder note, we said farewell to Verena, who has now sold up and is returning with hubby to their beloved Geraldine. Verena has regularly attended our lunches and been involved in local activities. We wish them both all the very best.

Hopefully we will see the return of Netta this month in our company as she has been kept indoors with a cold. Dot showed us recent photos of Netta’s knitting for under-privileged children. Such an amazing effort, well done.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Riverside Cafe for November’s lunch.

Julie Haliday

Rangers Rugby

The Rangers Rugby Club plans to have its Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 29th November at 2pm at Upper Moutere. The club is looking for a number of positions to be filled including treasurer, Senior B assistant manager, Senior B forward coach, and a publicity Officer. Anyone interested in helping please come along to the meeting or contact Anne or Mark.

Thanks to the sponsors for the help over the 2009 season—Moutere Inn; Moutere F’N Chippa, Upper Moutere Store, George Perry; Acclaim Finance; Superliquor Richmond; Speights; Perry’s Auto, and Redwood Cellars. Without their help we wouldn’t be able to function. We will welcome any support offered for the 2010 season.

Social touch rugby is being played at the Moutere Hills Community Centre, 6pm Tuesday evenings for anyone that wants to turn up for a run around. There are three games played, 1: Competitive, 2: Mixed Social and 3: Children/beginners.

Rangers are entering a team in a regional Men’s Sevens competition at Huia on Saturday 24th November. Any queries give Mark a call on 0274 229 949.

Police Update

Hope this finds you all well and enjoying the longer days. I have a few things to make you aware of. Recently there was an attempted daylight burglary of a house in Dawson Road. Thankfully the house was alarmed and it scared off the offenders—this happened at 1.10pm so is a bit of a concern as to who was snooping around in the early afternoon.

Many of you will have noticed several large black wheel skids around the village. We apprehended a Motueka youth for one lot last month and a local man for some on Aranui Road earlier this month,. He has had his car impounded and will be appearing in court. If you see the vehicles responsible for these skids let me know. It is a growing trend unfortunately.

Thirdly a recent theft from a car at the Mapua School shows again how an opportunist can strike. A camera was left in an unlocked car for a short period and was stolen. A real shame but shows that if given a chance it doesn’t take long for someone to strike.

Keep me up to date with anything that you think I should be aware of. I appreciate your calls.

Grant Heney, Rural Community Constable, Motueka.

Ph direct 03) 528-1226

Mapua Occurrences:

- Oct 11: Female drink driver at Tasman
- Oct 10: Boat windows smashed at Mapua wharf
- Oct 9: Damage to house at Iwa Street
- Oct 1: Attempted house burglary Dawson Road
- Sept 30: Neighbourhood dispute Korepo Road
- Sept 25: Domestic dispute Coastal Highway
- Sept 20: Vehicle impounded for a sustained loss of traction on Aranui Road
- Sept 19: Theft of sign “Flaxhouse” on Seaton Valley Road. Accident at Ruby Bay, no injury
- Sept 18: Damage at the Tap bar/restaurant

Coast Care advocated, rock walls opposed

Speakers at a day-long Nelson workshop on coastal protection had little confidence in rock walls as a protective measure.

“Get people to stop thinking about rocks,” was the message from Jim Dahm, from the Coromandel, a trustee of the Dunes Restoration Trust which ran the seminar. It is part of a national series of seminars designed to alert coastal communities to the fact that we are on a “collision course” because of projected sea level rises.

Mr Dahm told about 50 people at the Tahunanui Conference Centre on October 17 that persuading communities that rock walls were not the answer was a first step to better protective systems for communities like Mapua-Ruby Bay which had followed that pathway.

In the past, measures to stop coastal erosion had been dominated by “an engineering approach”, Mr Dahm said. This emphasised “holding the line” with walls, mostly built with big rocks.

It was an expensive option, costing more than ten times the price of dune protection using planting and natural methods. Walls also had an impact on the beaches they were aimed to protect, flattening out the beach sand and causing more aggressive beach and dune erosion at each end of a wall.

Mr Dahm also said that use of sea walls for coastal protection reinforced inappropriate use of coastal land and encouraged inappropriate development.

Communities like Mapua-Ruby Bay which had resorted to rock wall protection would almost certainly have to reconsider the option at some stage, he said. Local politicians and some people liked rock walls because they looked solid, but that was seldom the case. Walls had a high rate of failure and they were expensive to maintain.



After a series of swells, the rock wall was partially demolished by the force of the sea. This photo was taken in mid-August 2009. Dune Trust member Jim Dahm said that dune areas close to large estuaries like this are often subject to greater movement of sand and erosion than dune areas on ordinary beachfronts.

Mr Dahm suggested that communities that had installed rock walls should develop a second line of defence further back so that there could be what he called a “dynamic fore-dune area”.

A “second line” of defence for a shoreline could be much less obtrusive and damaging than the hard rock walls that engineers favoured. One solution was sand-filled geotextile bags designed for the harsh conditions of a coast. They looked better than the walls, and could provide beach walkers with a convenient place to sit.

Mr Dahm was passionate about the need to “work with nature rather against it”. He said he had worked for more than 30 years as a civil engineer dealing with coastal erosion issues before he “finally saw the light”. He now urges communities to avoid engineering solutions and instead to use natural processes for coastal protection.

Mr Dahm and other members of the trust told those at the seminar that sea level rise and climate change would almost certainly exacerbate hazard risks for coastal communities. The desire of New Zealanders to live and holiday on the coast had resulted in extensive coastal subdivision and development, often located in shore areas vulnerable to hazards including erosion and flooding.

“There will be more frequent and serious flooding of low-lying coastal margins by extreme tides, storm surges and wave effects,” the



workshop was told. "Sea level rise will increase extreme sea levels and markedly increase the probability of present flooding levels resulting in more severe hazard problems for many coastal communities if mitigation or adaptive plans were not implemented."

The challenge for coastal communities was to manage coming sea level rise in a more cost-effective way while also maintaining the natural, cultural and recreational values of the coastline.

Speakers from the trust said that shoreline erosion in New Zealand was, in almost all cases, cyclical. They showed pictures of a range of other beaches, where high tides, or sudden swells had removed much of the sand. On sandy beaches, planting of coastal "sand-binding" plants helped a natural self-healing mechanism to occur.

New Zealand was fortunate to have two very good "sand-binding" coastal grasses, spinifex and pingao. Spinifex grows here as a native but also grows in Australia, India and the Pacific Islands, while pingao was native only to New Zealand and also a significant to plant for Maori because of its beautiful golden weaving fibre.

The trust has as its goal "to see the majority of sand dunes restored and sustainably managed using indigenous species by 2050". For coastal communities the trust advocates two main steps to recovery of a natural coastline:

- To restore and maintain a protective natural dune buffer between coastal development and the sea, and
- To maintain a good cover of appropriate native sand-binding vegetation, especially spinifex or pingao on the seaward face of front dunes".

It supports the Coast Care movement, a community-based approach to coastal protection which has been adopted by many communities and regional councils

The workshop was opened by Tasman Mayor Richard Kempthorne, who said the trust's message was especially relevant because there were big areas in Nelson-Tasman which could be adversely affected by sea level rise.

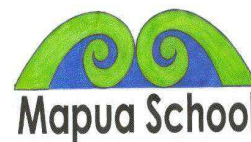
He said he had been impressed by Coast Care dune planting at Rabbit Island.

Cr Brian Ensor was the only other Tasman District Council member to attend the workshop. He said he was very impressed by the trust message and he hoped that Mr Dahm or another of the trust's speakers could return to speak to the Tasman council on the issue.

Those attending the conference walked round Coast Care planting on the Tahunanui sandspit and beach, which Mr Dahm described as "outstanding" and "world class".

David Mitchell

Mapua School



On Friday evening, October 16, the Masked Parade, the curtain-raiser for this year's Arts Festival, took place and some 200 plus Mapua School students paraded through Nelson City displaying the culmination of a their focus on global unity, and the arts. All the hard work paid huge dividends as people cheered and applauded their efforts and the visual feast they provided. Winning the school's section Creative Unison Award provided the icing on the cake for all concerned.

The builders (Trubet Ltd) arrived during the holidays after Aaron Dunlop of Central Mini Excavator Hire completed preparation work. With the site cleared foundation work is under way and we look forward to having a new classroom up and running by year's end. In the meantime builder Ian Twin has continued work on our toilet block upgrade so that our students are provided with clean and fresh conveniences.

The term ahead is an exciting one as we look forward to the beginning of summer sport activities, the possible opening of the school swimming pool, our school choir and rock band performing at Red Square, athletics and especially the Armistice Sports Day Event on November 14th, an Aquatics Day, the annual school talent quest, hosting 150 plus Year 7 & 8 students from neighbouring schools for a combined sports and social event, and a school-wide integrated topic around personal health and safety.

Neil Chalmers, Principal

MAPUA COMBINED PROBUS

The guest speaker for the Mapua and District Probus Club was John Talby who is the site engineer for the Opus Construction Company. His subject was his company's construction of the Ruby Bay by-pass. John was able to show some 40 photos giving details of the by-pass development. The project is administered by the NZ Transport Agency, Opus Construction and Downer EDI Works.

It was the Labour government in 1998 that initiated the concept of a by-pass. The funding for the work was accepted in April 2008, and the construction began in October 2008. The project is expected to be completed by December 2010. This date is very dependent on the weather. The by-pass is 10.7km long and will reduce the distance between Motueka and Richmond by 2.5km. The project has a staff of 40; some staff being transferred up from Christchurch. The main advantage of the by-pass is that it will be a safer road with no intersections, and the majority of heavy traffic will by-pass the coastal road up as far as Tasman.

Some of the photos showed the construction of small dams along the by-pass that collect the rain water run-off. The dam water is treated before being discharged into natural waterways. Where the by-pass will take over natural streams there were photos of children from the Tasman School with nets catching fish and reptiles that were relocated to other streams. It was a good lesson for them in conservation.

During the by-pass construction the company had to avoid an early migrant walkway close to Tasman. The local iwi has been involved in checking for any Maori artifacts during construction work in swampy ground. So far nothing has been found. John's interesting talk finished with a wide variety of questions.

Club member Frank Gibbison gave the mini talk. His subject was his recent 21-day tour, with wife Joan to, several African countries. They had a 14-hour flight

from Sydney to Johannesburg. Their conducted tour, along with eight other tourists, started from Namibia, the 6th largest country in Africa, with a population of around 2 million people. Their first tour went through a national park in the desert; though not a lot of game was to be seen. The number and variety of wild life was more obvious during their tours of other game parks in Botswana and Zambia, They ended their tour in Zimbabwe, with a memorable helicopter flight over the Victoria Falls.

David Higgs

Fire Brigade



September-October call-outs

- Sept 7: Beach fires Pine Hill reserve. A group of Scouts from Nelson had a series of small fires. No action by brigade. Told they needed to have a permit.
- Sept 19: Car v bank SH60 Ruby Bay. Action taken.
- Sept 22: Chimney fire Brabant Drive. Checked chimney.
- Sept 26: Small bonfire with flare-up Pomona Rd. No action taken.
- Oct 6: Alarm activation Nile Rd, Defective unit – needed cleaning.
- Oct 10: Hay barn fire Motueka. Tanker assisted Motueka.

Safety Tip – Check that LPG barbeque units are safe, pipes are not cracked, fitting are tight and cylinders are in test.

One of our firefighters Tony Baker has resigned from the brigade left to do other things. Tony has been a part of the brigade for three years.

BOOK REVIEWS

Wolf Hall (2009) by Hilary Mantel. Available at the Mapua Library

Wolf Hall is set in early 16th century England in the reign of Henry VIII.

You may think you have read and seen all you wish know about this period in history, but think again. Wolf Hall is a weighty volume, but pick it up and begin to read, and you will find it hard to put down.

Thomas Cromwell has been portrayed in contemporary fiction and drama as a dark and shadowy character; a small and unattractive man who furthered his own ruthless ambition by devious means, promoting the wilful desires of a fickle king in the face of seemingly insurmountable opposition from church, parliament and people.

Mantel's Cromwell, the low born son of a brutal blacksmith, and devoted protégée of the ill fated Cardinal Wolsey, rises to his position of great influence by virtue of his political genius, supreme craft and diplomacy. Cromwell's plain spoken honesty and loyalty also inspires the king's trust in a court rife with power struggles and plots. His elevation to the status of Henry's main confidante and adviser, makes him the second most powerful man in the Realm. Because of his humble birth, there is incredulity at his achievements and open resentment from many members of the establishment. Unaffected by the blatant insults and surprisingly devoid of arrogance Cromwell's career advances through the treacherous mire of Tudor politics, but one always feels that his main priorities are his home and family which are the mainstay of his life.

Amidst the brutality and intrigue Cromwell is a man of his time, hard and unmoved by the cruelty of the period, yet his severity is tempered with a sense of justice and humanity.

So richly drawn are the many characters, so meticulously researched the facts and so authentic and laced with humour the dialogue, that the reader is transported back into the 16th century and becomes deeply involved in the intrigue and incident of the Tudor court. The narrative is so totally convincing that it is hard to believe that that Wolf Hall is a work of fiction.

Hilary Mantel's Wolf Hall is an absolute gem. A truly masterful novel, beautifully written and a worthy winner of the Man Booker Prize.

Barbara Mercer

Tomorrow All Will Be Beautiful (2007) by Brigid Lowry

This is not newly published nor a new book on the shelves of the library so why have I chosen this moment in time to review it? First reason. Sometimes the mood is just right to cast aside the involving 500-page blockbuster and swap it instead for a collection of short stories. And that is what this book is—an amazing collection of short stories, some fictional, some memoir, and snippets of poetry. Second reason. I'll tell you that at the end.

The language that Brigid Lowry uses in this collection has a rare quality. It is on the edge of wackiness but the fun and humour shine out and I found myself savouring every word. She covers many issues relevant to life in our modern world with sensitivity, frankness and honesty. Divorce, loss, leaving home, drugs, teenage pregnancies, mental health, love, lust and coffee. It is all in here, all our flaws, failings and wobbles, our spirit, resilience and joy. There is no bias and that is why teenagers will revel in it and every parent will recognise their own adolescence and identify with the difficulties of raising children in 2010.

"I dream of marrying Finn. His skin will never be entirely smooth but he has kind eyes and accepts my thick ankles and changeable moods."

Perceptive and poignant, this truly is a beautiful and quirky book enhanced by the artistic talent of Beci Orpin. It is full of hope.

So one to add to your book queue and something for you to note. Reason number two: Brigid Lowry will be a guest speaker at the grand finale of our very first Literary Festival next March. If this book is anything to go by, an opportunity to hear her speak should not be missed.

Sue England



An open letter to the Mapua Hall Committee.

Thank you for the time and energy you have put into the hall project. Your enthusiasm and community spirit are great. It was, however, a little disappointing to realise early in the meeting on Wednesday 14th that the flyer asking the public to “have a say in the future of your hall” was misleading; the committee had made up its mind on a rebuild prior to the meeting. What we got was a PowerPoint sales pitch, kicked off with an hour-long speech from the chair, not a “have-a-say” forum.

I’ve avoided meetings about the future of the hall, lest it be perceived that I have a vested interest in the outcome. I went to this one under some pressure from Mr Bryse. So it needs to be said from the outset that even though I use the hall for business, my business isn’t dependent on it. I don’t have strong personal opinions on what happens, but what happens needs to be what the community wants, not just what the current committee wants.

What I do have is information based on my long association with the hall. I began teaching aerobics there in 1991-92. I returned in 1995 and have been there ever since. That’s 15 years plus. Fees from classes have paid the bills over the years especially when usage dipped. I have a good idea about its ups and downs, served on the committee for several years, and have done my share of urinal-scrubbing.

Also, although classes are some of my work, they are not hugely profitable; it is partly a community service. Retirement is an option. People who attend value the low fees, which is helped by the cheap venue. As well as the exercise benefits, classes have provided a valuable social/community network over the years. Ask anyone who comes.

Apart from the Mapua Hall, I know quite a bit about venues from other work. Here are my views.

1. A Captive Market.

The rebuild option is predicated upon increased usage at “market rates.” They may not coincide. Right now the hall has a “captive market”. It’s a village hall with cheap rates, in line with facilities offered. Usage is high because it is affordable for a village-based market that finds the facilities OK.

You may find after a rebuild that present users who don’t need or want facilities other than “village hall” ones will in turn go elsewhere, because of the increased costs associated with new facilities. It was repeated at the meeting that it will remain a “village hall”. But it won’t, if the intention is to attract new users—and you

will need them, to pay increased costs like power, maintenance, and commercial cleaning—all part of the territory in a modern facility..

Will there be an employee to handle bookings and enquiries? Business users seeking venues, anticipated by the chair in his speech, won’t wait for volunteers to check messages. They want answers today.

Will there be a website where potential users can view facilities and contact someone to check availability? Who will maintain and update a website and clear emails? A volunteer? This is skilled and time-consuming work.

GST registration will be necessary as users will want to claim venue hire. That is a commercial reality. Accountancy costs will increase accordingly.

2. Potential business users.

I find the chair’s idea of the Mapua Hall as a venue for national events far-fetched. I know the vision is a 50-100-year one, but is there a plan for new accommodation in Mapua in the near future? Apart from issues with bookings, internet searches and getting enough profile on Google to attract enquiry, why would event planners consider a village, however charming, with only one limited year-round accommodation facility? Apart from this, I don’t feel outside/business/conference uses were what the founders of the Hall Society intended. It steps way outside what would be considered appropriate usage for a “Village Hall.”

2. Market rates.

I’m not sure what the committee thinks “market rates” for a village hall are. But they are cheap, because “the market” is villagers. If you inflate rates in a competitive arena to “modern up-market facility” levels, village users will be priced out. Keep a village hall, and you are competing only with other village halls. The Town Hall in Richmond, by the way, is \$15 an hour plus GST.

After a rebuild the Mapua Hall may have amenities similar to the Moutere Hills Community Centre; a manager, website, quarterly newsletters, carpet, professional cleaning, smart toilet facilities with hot water and disposal units, commercial kitchen, loads of parking, instant infra-red heat, disabled facilities, and storage. This is the market you enter; you need to match them on price. Perhaps you should check their rates, and their occupancy.

3. While you were away...

During a rebuild, users will obviously have to go elsewhere (or retire). There is any number of venues



keen to increase usage. Once business is gone, it's hard to claw it back, because the user has generated a market elsewhere. This is an economic reality.

4. Costings.

I found the whole money-thing at the meeting a bit gung-ho. It was interesting that the TDC chap said in response to the chair's comment that the community wouldn't need to fund-raise, that in fact the community would need to find between \$500,000 and \$600,000. Which is not quite the same as nothing.

I also noted that a valuer at the meeting, who might know a bit about it, said quietly that you would not rebuild for \$2,400,000. Can the community see some actual numbers, even perhaps just an estimated per-square-metre cost? It would be a shame if the old hall got bowled, then the new plan got shelved because of a cost blow-out.

The school needs a sports hall. The Mapua Health Centre wants a rebuild. You will have competition for community-based funding.

5. Facilities that matter in a Village Hall. Personal view:

A fabulous floor. A stage, a proper one, with a "stage left" and "stage right". Subsidiary rooms. Location, location, location. Chairs and tables. A high community profile. A tick for all these, all good so far.

What needs changing? The list includes;

a) a tidy up/facelift; b) some new kitchen facilities; c) a complete rebuild of the ablutions, possibly out the back with separate access via where the lobby exists between kitchen, main hall and supper room; d) a long-ish new room with a deck facing out to the Domain that also accesses the ablutions. e) anything that's clearly unsafe.

What isn't needed in a village hall:

a) A sound system. People having parties or funerals hire them. Schools bring their own. If you provide one, someone has to maintain it, repair it, secure it, show people how to use it. b) Carpet. It's a bugger to clean, and you can't dance on it. c) Expensive kitchen fittings. Unless every user is going to have out-caterers, you need idiot-proof unbreakable stuff. d) White boards, screens, high-tech PowerPoint gear. People bring their own, (as the committee did to the meeting) or go somewhere that already has it. Who is going to maintain it, secure it, insure it, pay for it when it gets broken/stolen/mis-used?

That's pretty much as I see it. It's not vested interest or nostalgia, it's common sense and market reality. Why use a sledgehammer to break an acorn? And if it ain't broke, why fix it?

I see in the *Nelson Mail* that the "community" has decided on a rebuild. I ran a straw poll in class, and can report that most people I asked were either against a rebuild (given the proposed costs), felt they didn't know enough, or hadn't been asked. There was considerable misgiving, to put it mildly. There seems to be a gap between what the community wants and what the committee wants. Surely the only way to actually determine this is by a local referendum? It would be an easy, cheap and democratic way to make sure that the 2009 version of the Mapua Hall Society Committee actually does what the wider community wants.

Yours sincerely, Lynda Mabin.



The future of Mapua Hall

My name is Andreas and I have been living in Mapua for five years now. I am actively and passionately involved in the community and engage myself in the Mapua community meetings, waterfront issues, Business Association, etc.

In general, many people in Mapua are afraid that Mapua's "village style character" will change to a "small town development" over the next 10 to 20 years. I am one of these people and I would like to share my thoughts on the redevelopment of the hall.

Every old building has a story to tell in Mapua and that is what most of the local residents enjoy because it reminds them of how life used to be. It reminds them of the older generations. It reminds them of the achievements of these people. It reminds them that time has stood still but life is still progressing.

These buildings give our Mapua residents a sense of responsibility and pride for what has gone on before and continued appreciation which will be inherited by our children.

Being from Germany I have a great admiration for the inherited buildings there. As you will know, most of them were destroyed in the war and we chose to rebuild them as close to the original as possible. Obviously this was the most expensive option but when we look back, most Europeans can proudly say that

the effort was worth while. It is beneficial not only for the local residents but for tourism also. Many visitors enjoy that strong traditional feeling apparent in these towns. Progress is important but it is more important to be connected and to value our heritage.

I restored many buildings in Germany and in my opinion, when done properly the restoration really enhances the value and heritage of the village which a post-modern glass and aluminium building can never do. These types of modernist buildings always seem to look cold and industrial. If an old building is not practical anymore because of its size or facilities then in Germany we build additions in the same style while the inside may be completely re-modernised to suit the growing needs of the community. Yes it is more expensive to approach a rebuild like this—but I personally believe this is what we owe to our older residents to appreciate this historic landmark they have left in our ownership. I believe this is the approach we need to take in Mapua.

If there are residents who feel that a complete restoration and extension of the hall is possible, than I would love to hear from them.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Andreas Niemann, Rare Creations, 540-2225

(Mike Harvey, the chairman of the hall committee, will respond to these two letters in the December issue of the Coastal News. Editors)

Roads & Many Things

Some of you may recall the wonderful poem by Lewis Carroll in *Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There* titled "The Walrus and The Carpenter". Let me jog your memory a bit. Here is the whole verse for you to contemplate:

*The time has come" the Walrus said
To talk of many things:
Of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax—
Of cabbages—and kings—
And why the sea is boiling hot—
And whether pigs have wings."*

Lewis Carroll wrote that in 1872. To my mind it still applies. Perhaps even more so today. Particularly if you read the whole poem and get to the part about the oysters. Google it. Don't have internet? My phone is 540-3858. I'll send you a copy.

Roads:

The weather has not been kind to the prime by-pass contractor Downer EDI Works. Frustrating though the delays have been from continuing wet weather, the project is not behind schedule. For a detailed report, Transport NZ's issue No. 4 of the Ruby Bay By-pass newsletter are now available at the Mapua library. The Bypass Stakeholders met again on 14 October for a report and discussion of community-related issues. The fate of the Coastal Highway from Tasman to Dominion Road was discussed (see below). Andrew Adams, the NZ Transport Agency project engineer, announced a proposed open "Public Day" for next February. Let's hope that happens.

Highway Status:

Of major concern to the Mapua and Tasman communities and everybody in between is the future



status of that portion of State Highway 60 that will become a secondary road and will be maintained and administered by the Tasman District Council.

The membership of the recently formed Coastal Initiative Group is well balanced to represent all interests regarding this important community issue. The Group seeks input from the wider community and has scheduled a public meeting on 6 November in the Mapua Boat Club rooms at 4.30pm.

Coastal Highway Addresses:

There is concern by some residents along SH60 that their present street addresses will be changed when the TDC takes over the road from the NZ Transport Agency. Rumour has it that all addresses will be changed along with a name change to the road. That is a nasty and upsetting rumour. Be assured that both the TDC and NZ Post are aware of this issue and have it in hand.

Dangerous corner:

The intersection of Aranui Road and SH60 is to be re-examined by the TDC and Transport NZ. It is a dangerous intersection with near-accidents frequently occurring. Constable Grant Heney is very concerned with this important road safety issue.

Mapua Hall:

The ageing heart of Mapua community meetings, events, activities etc. It has more than reached its use-by date. The public meeting on 14 October gave the issue a good airing. The Hall Committee is to be congratulated on their careful analysis of the issue, to renovate or rebuild? I am very much in favour of rebuilding. I hope that the Mapua Domain Sub-Committee of the Mapua & Districts Community Association will be closely involved in this matter. I also favour an architectural design which endeavours to reflect the "village" image.

Mapua Waterfront Park:

The Ministry of the Environment finally replied to the Community Association's letter. Paul Reynolds, the secretary for the Ministry, carefully worked his way around the issues which were raised. Well done Paul. Regretfully, the report which is long overdue from the

Ministry of Health will not be to hand until before Christmas.

However, the good news is that all concerned on the local scene are approaching the matter in a positive and manner, starting with Community Association Waterfront Park Sub-Committee, and the Mayor, Richard Kempthorne, and Crs Tim King, Trevor Norris and Brian Ensor plus TDC Staff. All concerned intend to work cooperatively to address the issues and to end up with our Waterfront Park. That is really what the residents of Mapua truly want. Now, let us all participate in our own way and help to make it happen. We have waited long enough.

Hugh Gordon

Mask Parade success

What a fantastic effort by the children, staff and parents of Mapua School in the Nelson Festival Mask Parade. We congratulate everyone involved for their prize-winning effort.

What we liked about the Mapua School entry was:

- The theme of one world with many people linked together.
- The striking masks, each one carefully made by the pupil wearing it.
- The way the display was organised, with pupils and staff all playing a part.
- The fact that this was our Mapua School, showing the wider community how good it is.
- The organisation, teamwork and pride of the school pupils.

We are sorry that a planned parade down Aranui Rd had to be postponed because of the weather. What an event that would have been! We would have loved to have been there to cheer the school on.

Well done everyone. You make us very proud of our school.

David and Judy Mitchell

Sam's Spam

November 2009

This month I have some advice about web browsers. Web browsers are the software on your computer that let's you view web pages. For example, my web browser is Firefox 3 but there are several different options. Below is a list of five different free browsers – I have summarised the main points about them from: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/technology/digital-living/2949908/Which-web-browser-is-right-for-you>

Chrome

Chrome is Google's new web browser. It is designed to make it quick and easy to upload web pages, and to search and navigate pages from the same box. It is currently only compatible with Windows operating systems but Google plans to soon release test versions for Mac.

Good points: The search and address bars are rolled into one. Chrome operates each window you open separately, so if one crashes, the others will not be affected.

Bad: Chrome doesn't support all web standards so can't display all websites, e.g. Facebook pages, properly. Chrome also doesn't block ads.

Firefox 3

The Firefox browser is compatible with Windows, Linux and Mac operating systems.

Good points: It has a built-in spell-checker for when you're emailing or posting comments on the web, and scrolls through your history and bookmarks when you enter a search term and presents a list of recently-accessed pages with that same search term.

Bad points: Firefox doesn't run tabs separately, so if a site in one tab crashes it's likely the whole browser will fail.

Internet Explorer 8

Internet Explorer is installed on all computers with Microsoft Windows and is compatible with Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7 operating systems.

Good points: Users can highlight a piece of text e.g. an address or an unknown a word, "accelerators" feature will give information depending on what the text is e.g. directions to the address or a definition of the word etc.

Bad points: Reviewers say it is slower than Chrome, Firefox and Opera browsers and uses more processing power and memory. It also attracts more hackers and cyber criminals.

Safari 4

Safari is Apple's version of Internet Explorer, it is pre-installed on Mac computers and is compatible with Mac operating systems and Windows XP and Vista.

Good points: Users say it's a speedy browser with a clean interface and suggests favourite websites when you open a new tab.

Bad points: There are very few customisation options and it uses quite a lot of processing power and memory.

Flock: (V2.5)

Flock is good for those who use social networking and blog sites. It is compatible with Windows, Linux and Mac operating systems.

Good points: A large sidebar keeps lets you connect instantly with your favourite social networking and photo sites and you can upload photos through the browser to major photo-sharing sites.

Bad points: Commentators say all the activity on the browser can be a bit distracting.

Refreshing our systems

For the past 18 months a team of library volunteers has been planning to move the library systems from manual-based to computer-based. This planning has been guided by the experienced advice of Ged Stephens who is the library's IT consultant.

Why are we doing this? Well, for a number of reasons:

1) Most libraries are now computer-based. Because of this, we are no longer able to source the customised stationery that supports now obsolete card-based systems. It would be a great cost to have these cards specially printed.

2) The present systems we use are labour-intensive and often involve duplicating our work. So we are less efficient in our internal processes than we could be; a little less effective for our members than we want to be.

3) We wish to simplify the way we do things for our volunteer staff. Our present system requires multiple records; computerised systems capture data about books and readers once and use that information flexibly and repetitively. And modern technology, properly applied, can ensure that we have both simple, easy-to-follow processes, and highly accurate records.

4) We want to provide a smarter service to our readers. Computerised systems offer readers better enquiry facilities and give us the potential to expand our services over time, as we wish.

5) The library membership is growing; computer-based systems manage growth with ease.

6) Looking ahead, we believe that we will need to encourage our younger readers to use the library by providing the kind of links they use, by harnessing the technology they use daily.

7) Last, there now exist proven, widely-used technologies that are built for libraries, according to world-class best practice.

Receiving the gift

After researching a number of library systems, and taking specialist advice from Ged, the committee has decided to install the software application 'Koha'.

Koha means 'the gift', and it is indeed a gift as we are not required to pay licence fees for its use. This is a huge benefit to our volunteer-based library, where we have to fund-raise and apply for grants to function. It is an open-source integrated library system, developed in New Zealand but now used (as 'free-ware') world-wide. Koha is extremely user-friendly and will provide enhanced services for all our members.

How will it work?

Members will be issued with library cards which will display an identifying barcode. All our books will also bear a barcode which fully identifies it. So, two simple swipes of a hand-held scanner will immediately match the book and borrower within our system. Issued books will still have the 'due date for return' stamped on the sheet in the back of the book. It's that simple.

It's not about systems....

I know some folk are concerned that the library will lose its friendly image, with 'the advent of the computer age'.

Let me assure you all that you will still see the same volunteers' friendly faces and enjoy their usual welcoming chat when you come to the library. However, we will now be freed from repetitive work to offer you an even better service: in time you will be able to use the internet to check on recent publications, check if you have already read a particular book; search by title and author and so on. There are a range of enhancements available as we gradually introduce all the facilities Koha has to offer.

Right now, we will focus on just implementing the core system, to give us a stable base for growth.

These are exciting times! We're looking forward to using modern tools and to sharing these benefits with all our loyal readers.

Dot Moriarty

Library Hours:

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday	2pm – 4.30pm
Wednesday	5pm – 6.50pm
Thursday	10am – 12.30pm

Animal Health File

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

'Tis the season' to be stressed

With reports of shops playing Christmas carols as early as September this year I have a feeling that many of us humans are starting to get a little stressed. With presents to buy and holidays to organise it is natural to feel the pressure. While we might express our stress by being angry, grumpy or annoying, spare a thought for our feline friends who sometimes have some different ways of expressing to us that their stress levels are high.

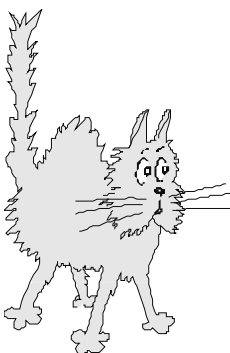
A very common presentation in our clinic is the cat that wanders around the house peeing small puddles of urine. We call this periuria. Some cats are more picky and will do it in specific areas, the bathtub being a common one! Sometimes the urine is bloody as well. This is called Haematuria. These symptoms together are known as Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease or FLUTD.

While there can be many and varied causes of FLUTD in cats including urinary tract infections (particularly in older cats), bladder stones, bladder or urethral trauma or bladder cancer, by far the most common cause is stress. Generally speaking when we work up a case with the above symptoms we rule out all of these causes and if none of these are present we call it idiopathic cystitis. Cystitis being inflammation of the bladder and idiopathic meaning "of unknown cause."

It turns out that idiopathic cystitis in cats is remarkably similar to idiopathic cystitis in women. Humans with idiopathic cystitis show an increase in sensory nerve numbers in their bladders and a loss of the mucous layer that should be protecting their bladder tissues from the irritants in urine. Similar findings hold true for cats. In both humans and cats the condition

comes and goes recurrently. Critically in both species stress is a major factor in recurrence.

In fact cats respond reasonably well to some of the same treatments that are used in women. These include pentosan polysulphate, which is a substance called a glycosaminoglycan. This is the substance that makes up the mucous bladder lining and injecting this into cats seems to help. Amitryptilline is also helpful in cats. This is an anti-anxiety medication that also has anti-inflammatory properties. However we do tend to reserve this for cats with recurrent symptoms of idiopathic cystitis. Commonly we also recommend the use of Feliway which is a replica of a feline pheromone which helps reduce anxiety in cats.



So what is it that's making all these kitties so stressed out? After all they're not the ones out there fighting the crowds to do their Christmas shopping! Well, unfortunately being the unusual creatures that cats are it can be just about anything. Commonly it is things like a new cat moving in next door or a stray cat on their territory, a new piece of furniture that they don't like the smell of, their family taking a holiday or, as I have personally experienced, introducing a dog to the family.

Whenever you notice the symptoms of FLUTD in your cat it pays to phone your vet immediately. FLUTD can progress into a bladder obstruction which becomes life threatening very quickly. And that is one stress we can all live without.

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.

Obituary

Ian Radnor Stephens

Ian Radnor Stephens served with RAF Bomber Command throughout World War Two, completing some 90 operational tours, rising to the rank of squadron leader and being twice decorated, gaining the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar. After the war he transferred to British Overseas Airways Corporation, flying multi-engined planes and flying boats.

Ian's autobiography in the Mapua library indicates that, in his younger days he was a less than dedicated student, but in his late teens he developed a keen interest in flying. The cost of formal flying lessons was prohibitive but, in the late 1930s, with England becoming concerned for the need for re-armament after the defence cuts of the previous decade, he discovered a practical alternative in joining the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, nicknamed "the weekend pilots". This paid his travel costs for training as well as attendance money of 1s 6d (15c) per hour for the two-hour lecture sessions held three times a week. A further commitment was to attend a 14-day camp each year.

His first flight was on 21 January 1939, 30 minutes in horrible weather. If a trainee was airsick he was 'chucked out'. Ian was airsick, frequently, but managed to conceal the fact from the instructors and gradually overcame the problem. He 'went solo' on 11 June, just after his 20th birthday and was ready for his wings test when Hitler invaded Poland. War was declared and a week later Ian was given "some big boots and a prickly uniform" and invited to report to No. 1 Training Wing in Selwyn College, Cambridge with the rank of sergeant. He attended an Officer Selection Board at this time and was granted a commission as a pilot officer with the comment that it was not because it was thought that he would make a good officer but because he made such a b.....y awful sergeant!

Operational flying for him began during the Battle of Britain in Wellington bombers, as a co-pilot for the first half of a tour of 30 operations, then taking over as captain of a newly arrived crew. By November 1940 'things had quietened down' in England and Ian was posted to Egypt, flying in support of General Wavell's advance into Cyrenaica. This involved attacking enemy shipping harbours and airfields. On 10, 13, 16 and 19 December he records bombing raids on targets in the vicinity of Tobruk and Benghazi.

The advance continued and on 10 March 1941 Ian's 30th operational flight was directed at a squadron of German aircraft on a dried up salt pan

in Tripolitania. The task was to locate the aircraft and do what damage they could. Visibility was not good with moonlight shining on the mist but suddenly the enemy aircraft were below them. The whole stick of bombs was dropped and they set off for base through fire from Bofors anti-aircraft guns. While being congratulated by his CO on the success of the operation (five enemy aircraft destroyed and others damaged) he was interrupted by the engineering officer who showed a bucket full of bomb fragments which had been recovered from the underside of the aircraft. They were from his own bombs and Ian was then severely criticized for flying too low! A week later he received notification of the immediate award of the Distinguished Flying Cross for this operation!

Various tasks covering a wide range of different aircraft types followed and in March 1943 Ian, now promoted to squadron leader, was given a task which involved him with his Wellington bomber and a crew of 'boffins' acting as a decoy to attract a German night fighter equipped with a new type of airborne radar in order to establish its radio frequency. Earlier attempts to effect this had resulted in our aircraft being shot down. Although his aircraft was badly damaged and his rear gunner killed, the mission was successful and Ian was awarded an immediate Bar to his Distinguished Flying Cross.

In 1944 Ian met Third Officer Mary Hansford, a WREN cypher officer working in Cairo, and they were married in the English Church at Heliopolis on 16 December, 1944. After the war he transferred to BOAC, flying land-based aircraft and flying boats and eventually the "Jumbot" 747-100. During this period there was a stint as Chief of Flight Operations but, after a re-structuring, Ian was able to 'get back into the cockpit'.

At his retirement in 1955 he had crossed the Atlantic 709 times, spent 20,674 hours in the air and covered 7,675,000 miles over a period of 35 years.

Retirement for Ian and Mary was a busy time with property development, golf, sailing, gardening, and in 1997 they emigrated to New Zealand, first to Christchurch where their son John was living. When John and family moved to Tasman, Ian and Mary bought in Mapua and moved here in 2006.

Ian and Mary have been active members of the Moutere Hills RSA and Ian will be missed. We hope Mary will be able to continue her association with us.

F H Gibbison

Under The Bonnet with Fred

Cobra makes Roger feel 25 again

We have all seen that neat, modern black Mustang convertible about Mapua and wonder a little. So I tracked down the owner, Roger Olds, to get the gossip on his 1999 SVT Mustang Cobra convertible with a perfect right-hand-drive conversion. My first question to Roger was, “What’s the experience you get from the car?” Reply: “Makes me feel 25 again, Fred.” Men have an emotional link with their special cars as they bring back a memory or an old wish list that is finally fulfilled.

The history of the car is interesting and getting it here and converting it was not cheap. It was bought new from Evergreen Ford, Issaquah, Seattle, and imported into New Zealand by Bunce Motors and converted to RHD by Road & Track in Rotorua. The RHD conversion is mint—everything on the right and in the right place. I have seen some shockers over the years. Costs are interesting: car \$67,775; freight, duty, GST \$14,931; RHD conversion \$31,000; stereo system \$2399—a total of \$115,000. Be careful importing late model cars as import costs plus conversion to RHD can be like this—75% of the value of the car!

The first New Zealand owner was Brent Gilcrest, then a lady who had it for only six months, Carol McAter and George Rankin who had the car the longest, all Aucklanders.

Roger saw it on Trade Me in 2007 and flew up that afternoon but on arrival was told it was provisionally sold to a couple from Perth on their way to buy it. Some clever thinking and the price was negotiated up to \$45,000 and Roger drove back to Mapua that night. Note: \$70 on fuel from Auckland to Levin, 543km, 10.1 litres/100 or 28mpg, excellent fuel consumption for 4.6 litre V8 316hp American sports car.

SVT designation makes this Mustang very special as this means the car has been to the Ford Special Vehicle Team who tweak the engine, suspension and body to cater for driving enthusiasts. This car has a manual 5-speed gear change, special racing clutch, additional instrumentation, ASB anti-lock brakes, engine cooler, fog lamps, sports seats, stainless steel exhaust system—all the tricks. Ford SVT hot your car up for you and do it properly.

Under the bonnet there’s not much space left. North/south V8 engine, 4601cc, 316hp or 238kw at 6000rpm, sequential fuel injected.

Seated in the car is very spaceship like with all you need to operate the car right there. Short hand movements to steering wheel, gear stick and hand brake. Instrumentation was clustered, white-faced

lighted numbering and no need to look out of driving vision to look for information. Leather beige interior with tight but adjustable

sports bucket seats. No chrome! I like the hand brake just below the gear stick. Very handy if you want to do a 180 in a hurry.

The body on a 1999 Mustang is a real purpose-built sports car—low, chrome now replaced with the one-colour look of the late 90s, nice long bonnet and the boot nice and tight. Lights front and back large and functional. Deep polished black paintwork, Rodger only likes them if they’re black, with a matching convertible top which even has a heated rear window. I thought the car’s look hinted of the Australian Fords but the same as other manufactures carry a design through all their range. A nice silver cobra snake emblem on the front side guard to remind us the car’s status.

There was only one thing left to do—go for a spin. Wrap around sunglasses and the stone-face look as we seated ourselves in the Mustang SVT. The car drove with an instant response to the clutch and we headed down Higgs Rd into Aranui Rd past the 4 Square. I saw my wife so I gave her the cool nod you give when you’re in cool cars but to my disappointment she did not notice; she was looking at the car! Right at the Mapua Tavern and the car was instantly up to the speed limit. With the growl from the exhaust and instant speed I felt nervous anticipation swell within. Soon as we left Ruby Bay, Roger floored it as we approached the first right but apart from a few bumps the 17" tyres held the car rigid. Around the lazy left and up the hill holding speed and acceleration like a big motorcycle. I must say a contrast to the nostalgic rattling gear stick hill climb with the Morris Minor last month. Apart from the exhaust growl and the rush of air the car was silent as the tyres squealed a little around the hard left at the top of the hill. We cruised on to Motueka and for the return journey the car was quiet apart from the stereo system belting out some driving music.

Ford have made a car that is a motoring experience. For me I would add a little chrome. Fuel at 28mpg, this is a modern car. Not an American muscle car but an American sports car. Nice one Roger.



Fred Cassin

Hills Community Church

Being Human

Most of you are familiar with Rick Warren, author of the popular book *The Purpose-Driven Life*. In light of recent events here at Hills Community Church in which we gathered with the wider community to say farewell and Godspeed to Ross Wilson (who was totally into being and not doing) I think these words of Rick Warren bear repeating:

In an interview by Paul Bradshaw Rick had said: “People ask me: What is the purpose of life? And I respond: In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity. We were not made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in Heaven.

One day my heart is going to stop, and that will be the end of my body—but not the end of me. I may live 60 to 100 years on earth, but I am going to spend trillions of years in eternity. This is the warm-up act—the dress-rehearsal. God wants us to practice on earth what we will do forever in eternity.

We were made by God and for God, and until you figure that out, life isn’t going to make sense. Life is a series of problems: you are in one now, you’re just coming out of one, or you’re getting ready to go into another one.

The reason for this is that God is more interested in your character than your comfort; God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy. We can be reasonably happy here on earth, but that’s not the goal of life. The goal is to grow in character, in Christ likeness...

I used to think that life was hills and valleys—you go through a dark time, then you go to the mountaintop, back and forth. I don’t believe that anymore. Rather than life being hills and valleys, I believe that it’s kind of like two rails on a railroad track, and at all times you have something good and something bad in your life. No matter how good things are in your life, there is always something bad that needs to be worked on. And no matter how bad things are in your life, there is always something good you can thank God for.

You can focus on your purposes, or you can focus on your problems. If you focus on your problems, you’re going into self-centeredness, which is ‘my problem, my issues, my pain.’ But one of the easiest ways to get rid of pain is to get your focus off yourself and onto God and others... You have to learn to deal with both the good and the bad of life....

We need to ask ourselves: Am I going to live for possessions? Popularity? Am I going to be driven by pressures? Guilt? Bitterness? Materialism? Or am I going to be driven by God’s purposes for my life?

When I get up in the morning, I sit on the side of my bed and say, God, if I don’t get anything else done today, I want to know You more and love You better.

God didn’t put me on earth just to fulfill a to-do list. He’s more interested in what I am than what I do. That’s why we’re called human beings, not human doings. Happy moments—praise God; difficult moments—seek God; quiet moments—worship God; painful moments—trust God; every moment—thank God.”

Ross Wilson understood this perfectly—he believed it—he lived it and so can we.

Just being, Marilyn Loken, Minister Hills Community Church

Happening @ Hills—we are a community-based, multi-denominational church with historical roots in the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and Pentecostal traditions. We offer both traditional and contemporary worship in an informal and relaxed style. Visitors and newcomers are most welcome. For more information call: 540-3848.

Sunday Worship: Traditional service 9am, Contemporary service & “God’s Garden” for Kids 10:30am; Holy Communion celebrated at both services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays with morning tea between services. First Sunday of each month: one service @ 10:30am followed by a shared lunch.

1st & 3rd Tuesdays: 12:15pm—NZ Prayer Book Communion service followed by intercessory prayer

Wednesdays: 10am-noon—Kidz n Koffee. Open to parents-caregivers-pre-K kids—a great way to make new friends!

Fridays: 10am-noon—Craft n Coffee—learn a craft & share a laugh! Open to all, crèche provided

Coming Up on Thursday, 5 November. An evening with Laurence Epp (& wife Peggy), International Director of ReachAcross (www.reachacross.net) a Christian ministry to Muslims in Islamic countries. The mission of this organisation is to provide loving service to Muslim people in need and by doing so provide a representation of what it means to be a Christian. Laurence and Peggy have been doing this for over 23 years and should prove to be a wealth of knowledge. Location: 297 George Harvey Rd (A/H Cook). For directions contact the church or call 543-2110.



**Magical
Mapua
Show 2009**
A celebration of arts, crafts,
food and flowers
Mapua Hall
14th & 15th November,
10 am to 4.30 pm
Entry by gold coin donation

The month of the Mapua Show has at last arrived with many hands very busy preparing for the event. In addition to the efforts of event organisers much work is being done by local artists and other contributors to the show.

This year's show will celebrate art, crafts and the colours of nature in our community at this time of the year under the theme, "Rainbows." In the main hall you will see among others, work by fibre artist Rowena Lukomska, cloth dolls by Farm Studio, very special copper jewellery created by Sonya Lloyd, mosaic work by Artbreak Mosaics, intricate quilting from Mapua Village Quilters, amazing wooden furniture by Pegleg and colourful displays by the Moutere Hills Rose Society, Tasman Bay Roses and Motueka Floral Art. Expect a hall transformation.

Move through to the supper room to find exhibits by local artist Betty Salter, a variety of work by PANZ, our very own group of talented pastel artists, plus paintings in oils, acrylics and water colours as well as mixed media work by the Mapua Art group. Both groups will feature artists at work. Add to this displays by Jo Heatherbell who works in Oamaru stone, fused art work by Lynn Price, local wines from Ruby Bay Wines and fine work from Sealevel Studio. The total package is quite outstanding and our show well worth a visit.

You are welcome to just come and browse but remember that most items will also be available for purchase. With Christmas just around the corner, this may be an early opportunity to find something different and special for someone you care about. Tea, coffee and finger food will be available on site and we will ask you to nominate the exhibit that you have most enjoyed.

Please find some time on Saturday or Sunday the 14th and 15th of November to visit our show being held in the Mapua Hall. To help cover costs, entry is by gold coin donation. We look forward to seeing

Richard Bullock, chairman

Moutere Hills RSA

The monthly meeting on Monday 12 October was opened by the president, Norm Thawley, reciting the Ode. He made special mention of the death of one of our older members, Ian Stephens, ex RAF Bomber Command WW2. Ian had served throughout the war in operational roles, winning two DFCs.

The new cabinet for the RSA records has been installed in our room at the library. Our thanks to Ruby Bay Joinery Ltd who supplied the cabinet free of charge. A much appreciated gesture.

The club's Christmas lunch will be held at the Mapua Bowling Club rooms on Wednesday, 9 December. Thank you Nancy Coeland for agreeing to cater for us once again.

Our project of helping local young people to join the Motueka Cadet Unit has not progressed. At this time none has shown interest. Peter Butchart suggested that if the unit were to hold one of its regular weekly parades in Mapua this could help. Peter now has talked to the cadet unit people to find their reaction to this idea. They were enthusiastic and this will happen soon.

It was suggested that the RSA should place a notice in the Noticeboard section of the *Coastal News*. This was agreed.

Meetings are held in the RSA room at the Library at 2pm on the second Tuesday of each month and refreshments are served at the close.

F H Gibbison

Ruby Bay By-pass Progress

Unfortunately the spring showers (or at times torrential downpours) have hit Nelson this last month causing a slowdown at the Ruby Bay By-pass and much frustration among the team who are chomping at the bit to continue! However, we have made the most of the dry spells in between to progress and are still on time with the programme. Total earthworks shifted to date on the project has now passed 1.04 million cubic metres and work has either begun or been completed on six of the seven major culverts.

Major milestones last month were: Earthworks continued at the Tasman end of the job including trimming batters and cutting to final grade in preparation for sub-base (pavement) laying;

Established a separate AP40 laying crew and began placement base course;

Began preparation for the construction of the Reinforced Soil Slope (RSS) beside Chaytor Road;

Kidson Construction completed construction of Dominion major single box culvert which will contain a raised platform for pedestrian access;

Began work on Higgs major single box culvert;

Completed Rush's Orchard pond reshaping and Enkamat (Turf Reinforced Matting) installation;

Completed the stream diversion of Field Creek at Tasman 1 box culvert outlet including fish and eel transfer;

Began riparian planting along the stream diversions at Dominion Road and Field Creek;



Completed installing riprap stilling basin at Tasman 1 and 2 box culverts.

Looking forward this month:

Earthworks will continue on the north end of the project including backfilling around structures and preparatory earthworks so that pavement laying can advance.

The pavement crews will continue laying AP65 and AP40 pavement heading north towards Tasman.

Construction of a walkway between Harley Road and the Tasman pedestrian underpass will begin.

A temporary by-pass adjacent to Trafalgar Road will be constructed to allow two-lane traffic flow while the new highway alignment is being constructed in this area.

Higgs Reserve box culvert construction will be completed including riprap lined stilling basin.

Dominion Culvert will have riprap lined stilling basins installed and will be back-filled.

Tasman 1 and 2 culverts will be backfilled to allow for access and continuation of earthworks in these areas.

Work will begin on the Gardner Valley pedestrian crossing, the 7th and final major structure

*Jo Orr, Environmental Manager,
Downer EDI Works*



Early work on the Higgs single box culvert

Mapua Health Centre

Unfortunately, our health centre website has taken a bit longer to get finalised that we had expected and was not ready to go live at the beginning of last month. It should, however, be up and running for November once we've sorted out some cyberspace glitches. You can (hopefully) check it out on www.mapuhealth.com.

The committee that looks after the health centre building for the community is keen to find out if there are ways that we can offer more services that might be needed by those living in the local area. One idea that we would welcome feedback on is the concept of providing meals-on-wheels for people who are sufficiently incapacitated to need meals delivered to their homes. If you think this would be a good idea and know of people who genuinely could benefit or have experience in providing this service please get in touch with Colin on 540-2040.

Nelson Bays Primary Health has set up a DUMP campaign for November. It stands for Disposal of Unwanted Medicines through Pharmacies and is a great way for anyone with unwanted or unused/out of date medicines to get rid of them by using specific DUMP bags that will be available at health centres and pharmacies. The medicines can then be disposed of safely by the pharmacies.

Just a quick reminder about healthy living, especially now that summer is pretty well here and it's time to consider shaking off some of those slothful habits of winter. 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 loss of weight for those who are overweight. You may also want to consider getting a Green Prescription which is a government-funded scheme where a programme can be specifically tailored for you. For more detailed information please contact the practice nurse on 540-2211.

There has been an increase in cases of conjunctivitis over the last few weeks. The symptoms are redness, irritation and watering of the eyes. There are various versions of conjunctivitis. In the allergic variety there is often itchiness or gritty feeling as well and it may

relate to the high pollen count. The other common one, especially in children, is due to viral infections usually associated with a cold or sore throat. Bacteria can cause infection and there is often yellowish mucopurulent discharge ('goop'). It can also be due to irritants (make-up) and chemicals. Treatment depends on the cause. For the common viral type cool compresses and artificial tears can help until it naturally disappears. There are special drops for the allergic type and occasionally antibiotic drops are needed if it could be a bacterial infection.

MAPUA PLAYCENTRE

We have started term four with many inside days due to the apparent rainy season. The children have been busy exploring activities under cover, baking, carpentry, music and blocks have been popular on the wet days. On the fine days the sandpit is always a busy place along with lots of climbing and sliding.

We are fortunate to have quite a cluster of four to five-year-olds at present who are enjoying extending themselves at Playcentre, by finding leadership roles in group play and in accomplishing independent tasks such as baking scones and building wooden creations. After an enjoyable trip to Mapua School last term we are looking forward to the new entrant class returning to Playcentre this term for a visit.

If you would like to take a look at what Playcentre can offer your family please call in during either of our sessions, Monday or Friday. We cater for all ages, birth to six years in those sessions.

If you have a baby and are interested in joining our SPACE sessions on Thursdays please contact Michal on 540-3460 or visit www.space.org.nz for more information.

Waterfront Park plans move on

While consideration by the Tasman District Council of excess fill and other issues has made slow progress, other matters have moved ahead quickly. Discussions with TDC have confirmed intentions for delivery to start with the two perimeter precincts—the waterfront amphitheatre and the car park.

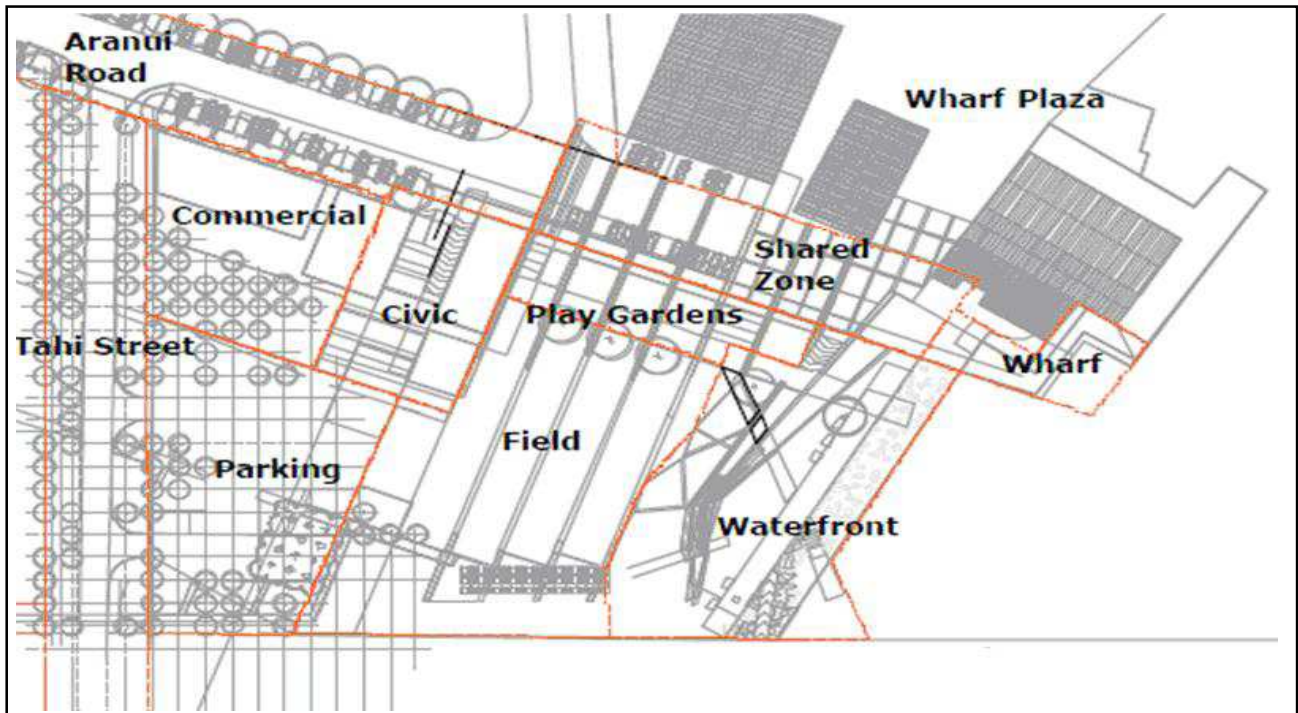
The amphitheatre, with its seating steps for sitting and watching the tide push in and the godwits fly by, has always captivated the community's imagination. During Performance Focus Group meetings we had performers itching to set the amphitheatre alive with music. Levels here are designed so it is essentially built over the existing landform. Because of this, this precinct can be detailed and constructed independently of further consideration of site conditions.

The parking precinct car park is sited on the existing gravel pad to minimise excavation. During consultation the requests were for parking for boat trailers, cars, coaches, buses and cycles. All these are accommodated as well as can be achieved but it is not possible to fulfill

all parking needs for the increasingly busy wharf activities. As per the concept, the parking area needs to be multipurpose so will be developed with varied surfaces, unobstructed areas that can be used as back-of-house for events or to host events. A car park may not be the most glamorous start for park construction, however, the advantages to proceeding with this first are: more parking is necessary now, investigation into excess fill can continue in the meantime, and it uses infrastructure funds which are only available this financial year.

It is important to keep hold of the overall goal that has been, and still is, conveyed so strongly by this community; to transform this part of the former FCC site to a vibrant and wonderful park. Thanks to those who have given feedback into the development process from the consultation focus groups. Watch for exhibition of Developed Concepts for these precincts.

Robin Simpson, Project Landscape Architect



Third annual “Spring Fling”

Despite the unsettled weather, Mapua Domain was once again abuzz. On Thursday 22nd October, volunteers in the NBS marquee were serving free sausages, home-made lemonade and Talley's ice-cream. A group of children was playing an inventive game across the Domain with a selection of balls and hoops, others were swinging and sliding on the playground, skaters and BMX riders were making maximum use of the skatepark, and teams were battling out games of rippa rugby with Kahu Marfell (Tasman Rugby Development Officer) and t-ball. Younger children were enjoying the ground parachute, hoops, cones and slalom course and other wonderful play equipment that arrived with Paul McConachie and the TDC Way2Go activities trailer.

Once again, children (of all ages) had a great time fulfilling their dreams of being a firefighter with the local Fire Brigade in attendance and the highlight for many of the younger attendees (to the horror of their parents!) was to have a shower under the fire hose. Hopefully, with this level of interest, the Fire Brigade may have picked up a few new recruits for the years to come!

The happy noise of the community having fun and socialising was loudly interrupted by John Miller starting up the 1955 Ford Customline owned by Robbie Frankevic. John has rebuilt this car that won the NZ Saloon Car 1967 Championship series. Not only did the mechanically-minded enjoy the car and its story, but lots of children loved admiring the oversized Ford Galaxy 427 cubic inch engine!

The occasion was the “Spring Fling” and it was organised for all Mapua residents by a group that



Youngsters take a keen interest in the winner of the 1967 saloon car championship

previously worked with Celia Lashlie on the “Strengthening Our Community” project. This project involved exploring the challenge of how to ensure that the existing Mapua lifestyle is preserved, built on and offers something for all.

As the “Spring Fling” wound down the rain that had been threatening all evening arrived. While the organisers packed up, there was comment on how once again, people were very generous with their time, what a wonderful resource the Domain is for everyone in the village, and how comfortably and easily new and old locals of all ages came together and joined in. Attendance numbers were not affected by the inclement weather and all agreed that the event is now a fixture on the Mapua calendar.

Mapua Strengthening Our Community Group acknowledges the generous support of Mapua Ruby Bay and Districts Community Trust, New World Motueka, Talley's, Mapua Volunteer Fire Brigade, Couplands, John Miller, Mapua Auto Centre, TDC, Kahu Marfell, Hamish's Ice-cream Parlour and Café and NBS. Huge thanks to everyone else who was involved in any way, big or small, in making this such a successful event.



Mapua firemen hose down brave children.

Noticeboard

Fair Exchange @ Mapua Wharf: Meeting 11th November from 9 am on the patio at the Smokehouse. A friendly opportunity to swap and share excess home produced food and items. The atmosphere we intend to encourage is generous sharing with plenty of ideas, recipes and handy hints to be bartered over a cup of tea or coffee. Look forward to seeing you there! For more information contact: Debbi 540 2942 or Mary 540 2992

StarBurst Theatre: Childrens Amateur Dramatics beginning in Mapua. Emphasis is on children gaining confidence, self esteem and participation in performance at their own pace. Includes, acting, music/dance. Groups of 12, ages 5-7 and 8-12, 1½ hours a week. For more information and/or to register your child, email Julie Smith at starbursttheatre@hotmail.com or phone 5403121 or text 021944459 or keep a look out in the coastal news for dates and times of sessions.

SPACE : Supporting Parents Alongside Children's Education. A programme for first time parents and their babies is blasting off soon at Mapua Playcentre. Weekly sessions include discussions, guest speakers and infant play, music and stories. Contact: Louise Busby on 544 9525: email loubuzz@xtra.co.nz or Michal Gray on 540 3460 email richardandmichal@xnet.co.nz

Skye Harvest Extra Virgin Olive Oil available. Ph 540 2698. Orders delivered, or call in 113 Seaton Valley Rd Mapua. 2009 harvest Frantoio now available at the all new Dido's in Ruby Bay.

Garden/Section clean-up, trees trimmed, bushes pruned, weeds removed (registered user of selective herbicides) do it now! phone Keith 540 2540

Wanted to Rent: small car shed in Mapua to store small car. Ph 540 2554

Rooms to rent for counselling, massage, health practitioners in Mapua village. tel Julie on 5402705 or email julie@inhealth.co.nz

Shop or offices for small business to let on Aranui Rd, Mapua (village centre). Julie, 5402705, julie@inhealth.co.nz

Accommodation wanted in the New Year for professional mature couple on longish term rental, non- smokers and pet free. Telephone connection essential Please contact 03 545 2261 or ct789@hotmail.com

It's a Girl! Shane and Lisa would like to announce the arrival of Sofia Lily Laurence born 8 October weighing 7lb 15oz. After answering phones at Zoom, having a Decaf at the Bun and a rushed ride to the hospital, Sofia was patient enough to delay her arrival until 10.50am! We now have a gorgeous little girl, a wee sister for Jordan & Maddy.

Mapua Village Quilters meet each Wednesday evening. We are a small group, anyone interested to join us, please contact Rinny, 540 2117

Mapua Art Group: Painting/Drawing mornings every Thursday 9am-12.30pm, Supper Room, Mapua Hall. A group of like-minded artists get together to paint and help each other in a fun and social environment. All levels and media

most welcome. \$4 session includes morning tea. Tables and chairs provided. Lisa Chandler, 540 3933.

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

Coastal Garden Group meet first Thursdays, 1.15pm, Supper Room, Mapua Hall. Members, guests & visitors welcome. Barry Highsted 540 3139.

Kidz'n'Koffee Playgroup, every Wednesday (in school term), 10am-noon at Hills Community Church. Ages 0-5yrs. All parents & caregivers are welcome to attend, no cost, donation for morning tea. Come & relax & meet some neighbours. Lisa Gant 543 2530, Tressa Waynan 540 2632.

Toy Library: check out our extensive selection of toys, puzzles & videos for children 0-5yrs. Located behind the Mapua Hall every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 10-11.30am & 6.30-7.30pm. Phone Kerri 540 3386 or Gill 543 2195 about membership or casual hire.

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 on 03 540 2804. – sambennett@live.jp

Probus Club meets first Fridays, Mapua Hall 1.30pm. All retirees most welcome. Enquiries to Pres. Rosalie Wattereus, 03 582 9486, Secr. Margaret Butchart 5402686

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

RSA Meetings are held in the RSA room at the Mapua Library at 2.00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month and refreshments are served at the close.

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.

Friendship Club meets 3rd Thursdays, supper room at the Hall. Indoor bowls, Euchre & Crib, etc, afternoon tea (please bring a plate). \$1 donation and 20¢ raffle. We are a group of friendly people who enjoy a good laugh (some of us are not good bowlers!) We welcome old and new members. Val Roche 540 3685

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. For more info Lynley 540 2292.

Genealogy Computer Discussion Group: This year our bimonthly meetings will be 1.30pm on Saturdays on the following dates: Dec 12. For information: Val 540 3931 or Peter 540 2686.

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

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