

Māpua waterfront deserves better

Opinion by Sonja Mitchell

Reading the submissions about the mega Māpua boat ramp proposal, which now includes a proposed mega building and carpark, several major community concerns emerge.

The community clearly has serious concerns for health and safety. Time and time again you see experienced, local boaties – including harbourmasters – raising the dangers. Launching and retrieving boats in this area, where the tidal stream runs extremely swiftly, is a risky activity, even for experienced boaties. So too is navigating the Māpua sandbar at low tide. Then there are the risks to those who are swimming, kayaking, and wharf-jumping, who are mainly children. To say these risks can be managed with a few signs telling boaties to be careful is, as local boaties put it, ‘an accident waiting to happen’.

There are also concerns about the impact on Māpua village of up to 60-100 vehicles towing boats each day, travelling to and fro, as the village is currently a relatively safe area for kids to cycle and walk.

building now being proposed as part of the application require excavation of 60-70m³ highly contaminated soil which is potentially toxic to the adjacent estuary’.

The applicants, the ‘Māpua Community Boat Ramp Trust’, claim that the proposed boat ramp is to replace the boat ramp on the other side of the wharf. Yet, that much smaller ramp is one the Sea Scouts continue to have access to in the evenings and weekends. The proposed mega, double-lane, all-tides, 24-hour boat ramp, 800 square metre ‘boat club’ building, and mega parking for up to 78 cars and trailers is not a ‘replacement’ for that small ramp: it is a completely different beast.

As one of many submitters noted, ‘A ramp of this size is not a replacement of the modest ramp that was there before...A boat ramp this size will just create demand from boat users from the wider district. It will attract bigger, powered boats, jet skis and water skiers who will use an otherwise peaceful, pristine marine environment.’

Another submitter, who is a local sailor and kayaker, commented that while he ‘has sympathy with the Māpua



Spoonbills in Waimea Inlet - photo Kim Bowie

Submitters also raise well-evidenced concerns that the application will disturb the soil on this formerly toxic site and cause re-contamination. Scientist Jenny Easton has noted that if you disturb the soil and dig below the 0.5 metre cap that is currently in place, as the application does, you risk re-contaminating the estuary. As Ms Easton states ‘although the boat ramp itself sits over the top of the contaminated land, the stormwater drainage system doesn’t and this placement is entirely inappropriate for a contaminated site containing water soluble pesticide residue’, In addition the service trenches and sumps for the

Boat Club’s need for a replacement wharf, he has grave misgivings about the present proposal which seems out of all proportion to the previous facility. It will adversely dominate the Waterfront Park and the whole waterfront area.’

There are already large boat ramps available just 15 minutes in either direction, at Motueka and Moturoa/Rabbit Island, and limited launching locally. Many local boaties say that they like things the way they are, and they don’t want to see an influx of powerboats to the area.

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The Tasman Council commissioned Regional Boat Ramp study recommended improvements to Motueka boat ramp and stated ‘the analysis in this study does not support use [of a ramp at Māpua] as a general public access ramp, due to navigational safety issues’.

Several parents of Sea Scouts and a former Sea Scout Leader opposed the application, while the Sea Scouts themselves provided a ‘neutral’ submission.

The primary beneficiaries of the application would appear to be those who control access to the pay-to-use ramp and for-hire building, which appears to be the applicants themselves, i.e. the Trust. As submitters point out, there are many unanswered questions, such as ‘Who will own the facility?’ ‘Who will manage the facility?’ ‘Who is responsible if leaks of toxic material occur?’ ‘Who ‘picks up the tab’ if this is abandoned or perhaps damaged beyond repair? How is the Trust accountable back to the community? In the event of the Trust winding up, is there any guidance on the distribution of funds’, and so on.

There appears to be a real risk of privatisation and commercialisation of what is currently public space. As one submitter put it ‘This represents an unjustified and disproportionate expropriation of significant areas of public parkland, for the benefit of relatively small groups of people...’

The land the Trust is seeking to encroach on, Māpua Waterfront Park and Kite Park, are already community assets. Māpua Waterfront Park has a beautiful, peaceful outlook over the estuary, native plantings established, picnic tables, and an amphitheatre. It would benefit from the playground that has long been planned, as well as greater recognition of the relationship of Māori with the area, and recognition of everyone involved in having the

Although many submissions in support cite a need to protect Grossi Point, there is nothing in the Trust’s application that protects Grossi Point. In fact, attracting more boat traffic to the area is likely to result in more boats at Grossi Point. Only the council, together with local iwi and wider community, can decide to close Grossi Point to power boats. The Trust and its supporters are hopefully careful not to promise things they can’t deliver. Māpua Waterfront Park cannot be horse-traded for Grossi Point: both are special, public green spaces worthy of protection. What’s more, the Trust has been spending money (\$169,000 to date; and potentially up to \$700,000) from the Public Reserves Fund that would otherwise fund improvements to reserves like Grossi Point.

The Trust’s application does not properly assess the impact of an influx of motorboats and jet skis to animal and plant life in Waimea Inlet. As the Waimea Inlet Forum notes in their submission: ‘The Waimea Inlet is of international importance for migratory bird species and is of national significance for other endangered or threatened species. These include birds such as kuaka bar-tailed godwit, kōtuku/white heron, taranui/caspian and black-fronted terns, tōrea and tōrea pango / variable oystercatchers... and plants such as coastal peppergrass and grey salt bush. The inlet is important to lifecycle stages of fish species’. They note ‘the most averse and intrusive use of the Inlet is by fast, noisy, motorised... craft...’.

The Forum further notes ‘There are already problems caused by too many boats and jet skis on the Inlet. A large new ramp will attract many more users than there are now. Jet skiers and the wake they create disturb the birds that roost at high tide on very small islands in the inlet. (Spoonbills, oystercatchers, godwits and more)’.



view from Māpua wharf at low tide with view of where the boat ramp would be - photo Sonja Mitchell

land remediated for public use.

As one submitter put it ‘It would be hard to imagine anywhere in NZ, an area of land which could be better described as community owned. Community members have fundraised and donated for its protection... local people, workers and neighbours, sacrificed their health and wellbeing... After its closure, members of the community campaigned for the ‘clean up’ and taxpayers and ratepayers paid for this to be done. It was an incredible victory for the whole community.’

The Trust claims to have community support. But how can a project based on misinformation and one-sided ‘community surveys’ claim genuine community support? The Trust itself concedes its survey was ‘not terribly scientific’ and haven’t released their methodology. The application itself was dense and difficult to understand. One submitter called it a ‘wall of thick fog’. Another said, ‘despite the apparently hefty documentation provided with the application... key information was often quite elusive.’

Continued on page 3

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In fact, one-third of the written submissions are opposed to the Trust's resource application, and of the submitters who requested to speak to their proposal, 70% are opposed and just 30% are in support. This is a remarkable result given the Trust has presented to the community the boat ramp as a done deal - with signs around the village announcing 'Māpua Boat Ramp Coming Soon: New boat ramp to be built by December 2024!'; considering how dense and technical the application was, the misinformation there appears to have been surrounding their application, and the council allocating to the Trust \$700k that's supposed to be spent on reserves.

For anyone seeking to understand the location and sheer, enormous scale of what is proposed, the graphic that appears to best show this is on page three of Appendix C9 of the Trust's resource consent application. Have a look at this, and then have a look at the view from the wharf looking back towards Grossi Point at low tide or walking from Grossi Point towards the wharf at low tide, and you'll get a broad sense of just how dominant this proposed double lane, all tides, 14 metre long and 11 metre wide, mega ramp would be on what is an outstanding natural landscape. Look too at what a large amount of Māpua Waterfront Park would be taken up with the building, not to mention the parking for 78 vehicles and boat-trailers on Kite Park.

As many of the submissions against the application make clear, the proposed mega boat ramp, building and carpark would completely change the character of the Māpua waterfront and of Māpua itself. The Māpua Waterfront Park and Kite Park are special, green, peaceful areas for everyone to enjoy and share in. They were hard won by past generations, and need to be retained, so that future generations can benefit from them, including enjoying swimming and wharf-jumping at the wharf, like the rest of us have.

By Sonja Mitchell

on behalf of the Friends of Māpua Waterfront, a collective of people who oppose the application by the Māpua Boat Ramp Community Trust and who advocate for a better, environmentally and community friendly, and long-term, approach to Māpua waterfront.

For information about joining Friends of Māpua Waterfront, please email sonjalani@outlook.com, and keep an eye on our website.'

Letter to the editor

Today on visiting the Community Church on Aranui Road, I noticed the new cycleway installed at vast ratepayer's expense. An elderly cyclist was observed proceeding from the school corner towards the village centre, riding on the footpath!, not the cycleway which is clearly marked in green paint and symbols everywhere. This is unbelievable. Why does the council bother?

Perhaps the Coastal News could do an article informing the public that they have paid for this, so please use it.

Mike Halse



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The advertisement includes a black and white portrait of Andrew Perzigian, a smiling man with short dark hair, wearing a collared shirt.

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Māpua & Districts Community Association (MDCA)



TDC Home Heating Presentation

Dave Pullen from the Home Heating Association gave an interesting chat on how to keep your house warm, chiefly on the best way to manage your log fire and ways to improve insulation, such as having window curtains that go to the floor rather than just to windowsills.

An interesting motion that the MDCA should lend written support to Mayor Tim King's letter to the Government in opposition to the proposed referendum on Council Māori Wards was put to the vote. After some discussion, the motion was lost by one vote.

The on-going evolution of the proposed new constitution continues. What may appear to be a simple matter is, due to the responsibilities of being an incorporated society, a lot more involved, and thus we hope to present a finalised version for approval at the August MDCA AGM.

Councillors Shallcrass, Kininmonth and MacKenzie outlined the following issues:

- A change to TDC Road cone rules will result in improved usage of these mobile chicanes. However, this does not apply to Waka Kotahi so the state highways will remain with their proliferation of road cones.
- Speed Management Plan – there will be a phased approach to the changes, with speeds in school zones being prioritised.
- With the increase in rates, ratepayers are reminded of the TDC 'Rates Rebates Scheme' which can be found on the TDC website under "Rates Rebate".

Māpua Masterplan discussion revolved around the delay in the plan presentation, resultant from the TDC staff being busy with the review of the Long Term Plan.

Finally it is hoped that an invitation extended to our MP Maureen Pugh will be taken up. Given she recently attended a Māpua Boat Club meeting, hopefully she will see fit to present before the people of Māpua at a Public Meeting.

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Māpua Masterplan next steps

TDC update

We want to say a big thank you to the Māpua community for their ongoing support and contribution to the creation of the Māpua Masterplan. The latest round of engagement closed on 10 March. Thanks to all those who gave their feedback online and in person. A summary of the feedback can be found online at shape.tasman.govt.nz/mapua-masterplan-2023

Staff are currently developing the draft masterplan. The draft masterplan is expected to be released later this year and will go through a Local Government Act consultation process which involves formal submissions, hearings and deliberations. Through this process submitters will have the opportunity to speak to their submission and be heard by councillors at a hearing.

A decision on the final masterplan will be made by full Council and a final masterplan released for implementation. It is intended that this process will be completed by the end of 2024.

We will continue to keep the community updated, including when the draft masterplan is ready for public circulation.

*Tim O'Connell
Communications Officer*

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Vetlife Māpua Clinic now open full time

Expanding access to quality Veterinary Care
We are delighted to announce that Vetlife Māpua is open full time, extending access to our dedicated team of veterinarians, providing convenient, consistent care to the community.

New full-time hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 am - 5:30 pm (closed for lunch between 12 – 1pm).

Our team of experienced veterinarians, fully qualified vet nurses and friendly receptionists are now on hand to offer pets the best possible care in a local, welcoming environment throughout the week.

About Vetlife Māpua:

The clinic building was originally constructed as a family home in 1937 and located across the main road from its current site in Māpua village. After numerous modifications and a recent refurbishment, including a new surgical theatre and a state-of-the-art IDEXX blood and urine laboratory suite, we are now delighted to offer Māpua and surrounding areas greater access to superior services.

Our deep roots in the community guide our mission to provide excellent veterinary care, and we look forward to continuing this tradition with these exciting changes at Vetlife Māpua.

For more intensive or complex cases, the support of our larger sister clinics, Vetlife Motueka and Vetlife Richmond, remains. Ensuring all your pets' needs are met within our trusted network.

Book an appointment today and experience enhanced services and full-time access to our team of diligent Māpua veterinary professionals. Local vets ready to look after much-loved pets.

For more information, please contact:

Ph 03 540 2329 <https://vetlife.co.nz/vet-clinics/mapua/>

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Tasman Miniature Rifle Club secures grant for new shooting jackets

The Tasman Miniature Rifle Club has recently received a generous grant from the **Network Tasman Trust**. The funds have been allocated towards purchasing essential gear in the form of new jackets, as explained by the club's treasurer, Heather Adams. "The new jackets are specifically designed for the sport" Heather says. "They enable a sling to be connected between the jacket and rifle and have padded inserts to help support the body when shooting and keep it stable. They are an integral part of the sport. Notably, the jackets are ambidextrous and cater to children aged 10 to 16 years, ensuring comfort for younger shooters. They will allow school students at the club to participate in a greater range of Inter-Secondary school and Target Shooting NZ events."

Reflecting on the club's history, Heather says, "Some of our jackets are 30 years old now. When I started at the club, those jackets were new. So, it was time for an upgrade as they were a bit past their use-by date!"

The club has experienced a surge in young members recently, with many being the children of experienced shooters and others entirely new to the sport. Currently, the club boasts 20 shooting members from various areas, including Motueka, Moutere, and Māpua.

Situated on Aporo Road, the club serves a broad region, fostering a community spirit among shooting enthusiasts.

While the club actively engages in fundraising to cover its expenses, substantial grants like this one from the Network Tasman Trust are invaluable. "Funding like this is

really good because it enables us to purchase big-ticket items like the jackets. It is great for the future of the club."

The sport of miniature (or smallbore) rifle shooting requires participants to have a keen focus, a steady hand, and above all, enthusiasm but otherwise is a very inclusive activity. The new jackets are set to enhance the shooting experience for the club's members, supporting the growth and development of young talent within the community.

With this new equipment, the Tasman Miniature Rifle Club looks forward to many more years of fostering shooting skills and camaraderie among its members, ensuring the sport's enduring presence in the region.



Some members of the Tasman Miniature Rifle Club showcasing the new purpose made jackets, purchased by a grant from Network Tasman Trust, with Treasurer Heather Adams in the middle of the back row.

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Jacqui's Pre-loved And More: a sustainable fashion journey

Jacqui's venture into the world of preloved clothing began nearly three years ago in her home in Upper Moutere.

What started as a humble endeavour quickly outgrew its initial space, prompting her to seize an opportunity to set up shop in the back rooms of the Old Post Office shop in Upper Moutere Village. After over a year there, Jacqui sought a new location, eventually finding a perfect fit at 5 Iwa Street in Māpua, right next to the fire station, in the former site of Purpose Gallery.

With a background deeply rooted in hair, beauty, and fashion, Jacqui's expertise spans decades. Beginning her career as a hairdresser in the late '70s in the South of the UK, Jacqui's passion for aesthetics took her around the globe.

Alongside her husband and two sons, she explored beauty work in the Caribbean and managed an upscale boutique in a prestigious hotel in the US Virgin Islands. Jacqui's unwavering commitment to fashion and beauty continued when she settled in New Zealand in 2004, where she carved her path in the beauty industry.

In 2011, Jacqui took on the role of managing Stacey's boutique when the original owner fell ill. It was during this time that she became acutely aware of the significant wastage in the fashion industry, particularly in the realm of clothing. This realization fuelled her desire to create a

more sustainable business model centred around selling high-quality clothing on consignment.

Unlike traditional thrift stores, Jacqui's approach doesn't involve purchasing clothing from op shops to resell at a markup. Instead, she provides a platform for individuals to sell their gently used clothing, giving everyone the opportunity to access quality garments at affordable prices.

This consignment model not only offers a sustainable alternative to fast fashion but also fosters a sense of community by providing a space where individuals can buy and sell clothing in a conscious and ethical manner.

Through **Jacqui's Pre-loved And More**, she has successfully created a business that addresses the critical issue of clothing waste. Her shop in Māpua stands as a testament to her commitment to sustainability and her passion for making fashion accessible to all.

As Jacqui continues to grow her business, she remains dedicated to her vision of reducing clothing wastage and promoting a more sustainable and community-oriented approach to fashion.

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Our latest news & adventures



Community grants make a difference

Big thanks to Tasman District Council for their community grants! We were able to purchase manikins that our Uniformed Services trades participants could use while on First Aid training. These simple skills can make all the difference if the unexpected happens! We were also able to provide a day of employment and life skills training to rangatahi at Te Whare Pukeone Motueka High School. They had a great day experiencing the flying kiore, playing adventure-based learning games, and cooking marshmallows around the fire pit!

Pushing boundaries on ATL

Our Adventure Tourism Leadership programmes are designed to build confidence in outdoor leadership. Our participants were recently over in Golden Bay, scaling rock walls, tramping and caving. It's great to see rangatahi pushing their boundaries. There are still FREE places available on the next intake of these programmes in Term 3. Talk to the Trades Coordinator at your school for more information.



Adventure Tourism Leadership participant at Payne's Ford

July holiday programmes

ENROL NOW for the upcoming school holiday programmes. The **Go Wild** programme for 7-10 yr olds is running in both weeks of the July school holidays - ideal for younger children to experience a safe yet fun series of adventures with fully qualified outdoor instructors. We are also running a **Kaitiaki Kids** programme for 10 - 12 yr olds in the second week of the July holidays, to build their confidence, love for the outdoors and nurture their sense of kaitiakitanga and care for the environment.

Supporting staff to support LandSAR


Whenua Iti Outdoors is proud to support staff who volunteer for Land Search & Rescue New Zealand, a national volunteer organisation which provides land search and rescue assistance to the lost, missing and injured. It's a great opportunity for our staff to gain more experience and skills, and a good example of community organisations working together and supporting one another. Visit our website to read our blogpost interview with instructor Rosey, about what this means for her.



Uniformed Services participants visit the Fire Station

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Another Ski Season is nearing - Are you ready -

It won't be long now before the first snow falls and those who go skiing will be heading off to their favourite ski fields.

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Now is also the perfect time to have your vehicle checked over to ensure it is ready to face the climatic extremes and the geographical nature of travelling to and from the slopes.

Rough snow covered roads can test your vehicle to the limit. Your cooling system will be working over time on the journey up to the field, and the tyres, suspension, gearboxes, and vehicle tune will also be put through their paces and then your vehicle will be left to sit in the snow covered car park until you decide to go home. This is when the condition of your battery and your anti-freeze will be put to the test.



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- Tune - checked for smooth running
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PANZ

Have you ever tried using pastel as a painting medium? It's vibrant, direct, you don't have to wait for it to dry, and it has been the choice of artists since time began.

The (*Tasman Area*) of PANZ (Pastel Artists of New Zealand) meets at the Māpua Public Hall each Tuesday morning 9am to noon, Feb to Nov. We welcome visitors and new members at any time. We can supply paper and pastels for a "try before you buy" option and our members are happy to walk you through the initial application of using pastels as a painting medium.

We have guest artists/speakers from time to time and internal challenges, critique sessions and general swapping of techniques and tips. Workshops with overseas and national tutors are also run as and when they are available.

We have a library of books and videos to which you have free access to borrow. Just sign the book or DVD in and out of the register provided.

To cover the costs of hall hire and teas/coffees, we charge a small fee of \$5 per Tuesday session.

The end of year social function is a luncheon on the first Tuesday of December.

We will encourage you to take up membership to the PANZ national body to receive the bi-monthly newsletter and participate in national events, but this is no longer obligatory in order to join our Tuesday group.

Further information may be sourced from PANZ (*Tasman*) Area Members Rep. Margie Bramley, margbramley@gmail.com

Monthly Stoke meeting

Since a lot of our members are working, there is now a monthly meeting at the Greenmeadows Community Centre in Stoke, on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9am – 1pm Feb to Nov. To cover costs, we charge \$10 per Sat session. If you'd like to take advantage of the "try before you buy", speakers and the library, these are only available at the Tuesday sessions. The Saturday Nelson meet is run by Nelson Area Rep. Lyse Beck lyse@lysebeck.com

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Māpua Village Bakery

Staff Update



This is June, and I'm sure most of you will recognize her since she has been with the bakery for almost 2 years.

But this July she'll be leaving us for cooler climates, so make sure to say farewell while you can.

June was born in Melbourne (but we like her anyway), and grew up across Victoria and Queensland.

Prior to moving to NZ and working for us she worked in the kitchens of a coal mining camp. She's currently learning German, likes playing guitar and computer games, and visiting other cafe's when she can.

Here at the bakery her favourite item is the delicious citron tart (strawberry when in season). She has really enjoyed working with all the staff here (especially Leslie) and appreciates the support and camaraderie she has found here.

All the regular customers have always made her feel wanted here.

All the best June.

Pet of the Month



This tiny fella is Jake. He's a Bichon Poodle (also known as a poochon).

While he wasn't born in Māpua, he's spent his entire life here and is a real local.

You can often find him hanging out back of the bakery while his dad gets a coffee.

When not at the bakery he does enjoy a nice day out at the beach. And at home he's just very good natured and cuddly.

You'll often find him sitting next to his family on the couch watching the TV.

If you do every pass by his house you'll find him saying a friendly hello to everyone. It sounds like just barking, but it's really hello! And if he really likes you, he might share his favourite toy duck with you.

New Breads



We're a bakery. We bake bread. But we don't want to be a BBB, a boring bread bakery. We'll always have some of our standards like baguettes, sourdough, ciabatta, and rolls. But we want to start mixing it up a bit more.

Starting in July we'll have a bread schedule that will list the day of the week for our specialty loaves. Simply put, we'll be making an extra bread type each day. So for instance we might have Focaccia Friday. Maybe there will be a Cob Thursday.

We haven't finalized our list yet, and we'll keep playing with it. So if you have a favourite type of bread you'd like to see then please let us know.

Pie Month

July is pie month in bakery-world because that's when the competition for best Pie in NZ occurs. Māpua Village Bakery hasn't entered for a few years, but this year we'll be submitting a few pies.

One interesting note is that all pie entries must be a standard size, and all our pies are too big! We actually make a larger than standard size for all our pies. That makes them a pretty good deal in this economy. So we'll have to make a special one-off batch of smaller pies to enter.

It's a good time to remind people some old favourites like bacon and egg are back, and new ones including a smoked fish pie (fish from the Māpua Smokehouse). There's also a larger selection of mini-pies. Great for a quick bite to go with your coffee.



Māpua Health Centre news

We are fortunate to have a new GP registrar, Martinique, starting with us at the end of July when we will be farewelling Shamini, who we have loved having on the team for the last six months. We also welcome back Dr Sophie Mace who has been on maternity leave.

Our Health Coach, Jess, has a walking group that will now be on Wednesdays at 10.30am instead of Mondays.

There will be a small increase in fees in July which is presently under review by the PHO who regulate GP fees. Due to the high demand for our services, we value every appointment space. As we have had an increasing number of patients cancelling their appointment on the day we have now introduced a cancellation fee for any appointment cancelled with less than 1 hour notice.

Flu vaccines are still available so if you would like to book an appointment, please contact one of our receptionists or alternatively if you already have an appointment with the nurse or doctor the flu vaccine can be done at the same time.

This month is "Dry July". Dry July is a fundraiser that challenges you to go alcohol-free and raise funds for New Zealanders affected by cancer. The funds raised through Dry July will help cancer patients, their families and carers in practical, tangible ways. Dry July aims to improve the comfort, care and wellbeing of people affected by cancer. Since it launched in New Zealand in 2012, the campaign has inspired over 40,000 Kiwis to go dry, raising \$millions for people affected by cancer, and funding more than 170 projects for 15 beneficiary organisations across the country.

Advance Care Planning. We now have staff members who are trained to provide guidance regarding 'advance care planning'. This gives everyone a chance to say what's important to them. It helps people understand what the future might hold and to say what treatment they would and would not want. It helps people, their families and their healthcare teams plan for future and end of life care. It also makes it much easier for families and healthcare providers to know what the person would want - particularly if they can no longer speak for themselves. Please contact the receptionist to book an appointment or speak to Kathryn, our Clinical Lead Nurse for more information.

The patient portal service ManageMyHealth has been up and running for over eight years and we encourage you to make use of it if you are not already familiar with it. Registered patients can now review their medical notes and lab results, request repeat prescriptions and make doctor appointments. If you want to know more, please check with the receptionists.

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

Deadline for copy to news@coastalnews.online is 20th of the month.

Noticeboard items are a gold coin donation in the collection boxes. Club notices are free.

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

- July 1-31 Dry July www.dryjuly.co.nz
- July 6 Term 2 ends - Primary, Intermediate and Secondary schools
- July 11 World Population Day www.un.org/en/events/populationday
- July 22 Term 3 begins - Primary, Intermediate and Secondary schools
- July 28 Hepatitis Awareness Day www.hepfoundation.org.nz
- July 30 International Day of Friendship www.un.org/en/events/friendshipday

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Book review

Shonagh Koea

I first came across Shonagh Koea's writing very many years ago. I can still remember my pleasant surprise and interest in her style of writing. It was refreshing to read stories delivered with that marvellously quirky, offbeat humour, mixed almost always with pathos. Many of her stories are in fact quite bleak and sad, but there is something about the way she views the world and remarks on it which transforms them into something unique, and always delivered with the saving grace of that wry humour of hers. These characteristics of her writing, mixed with her clever and interesting use of language makes for great reading.

The end result is often rather haunting and splendid at the same time. There is a story she tells about the time she told a literary editor she was thinking of attending a writing course. He was horrified and told her she must never do that. He said she wrote very incorrectly. He meant this as a compliment. He said she is an unconventional and highly intuitive writer which sets her work apart from most other writers. Yes indeed.

Shonagh was born in 1943 in Taranaki. According to Michele Hewitson who interviewed her in 2007, she grew up with the people who were supposed to care for her saying dreadful things. For instance, her mother once told her that apart from writing those terrible books she always used too much soap. According to the same interviewer the father casts an ogre-ish shadow over her early life and was surely mad, sadistic, violent, and mean with money, and liked to tell her how ugly she was. 'I quietly and wildly went my own way and became my own self very young' according to Shonagh, and it seems she did exactly that. Climbing out of her bedroom window at night and heading off for adventures rather than staying put listening to the upsets and rows in the house. And at some point, the relationship with a comparatively wealthy neighbour who got her turning pages for piano must have helped her enormously to see the comparison between what was, and what might be possible.

Shonagh worked first as a journalist on daily newspapers and as a teacher. Her stories first appeared in

magazines, mainly The Listener, and her first collection of short stories, *The Woman Who Never Went Home* was published in 1987.

Her first novel, *The Grandiflora Tree* was published in 1989 after which Shonagh moved into writing fiction. Her notable writing career began with the Air NZ Short story award in 1981.

Her novel, *Sing to me Dreamer*, was a finalist in the NZ Book awards 1995, and the *Lonely Margins of the Sea* was runner up for the Deutz medal for fiction 1999.

Shonagh also held the University of Auckland Fellowship in Literature 1993, and the Buddle Findlay Sargeson Fellowship in 1997. She has published numerous short story collections and went on to win many significant prizes for her work.

The Kindness of Strangers [Kitchen Memoirs] by Shonagh Koea is available at Māpua Library and was first published in 2007. It is described as a collection of memories from her various roles as daughter, mother, journalist and novelist and it is clear from the start of the book that her upbringing was painful and difficult.

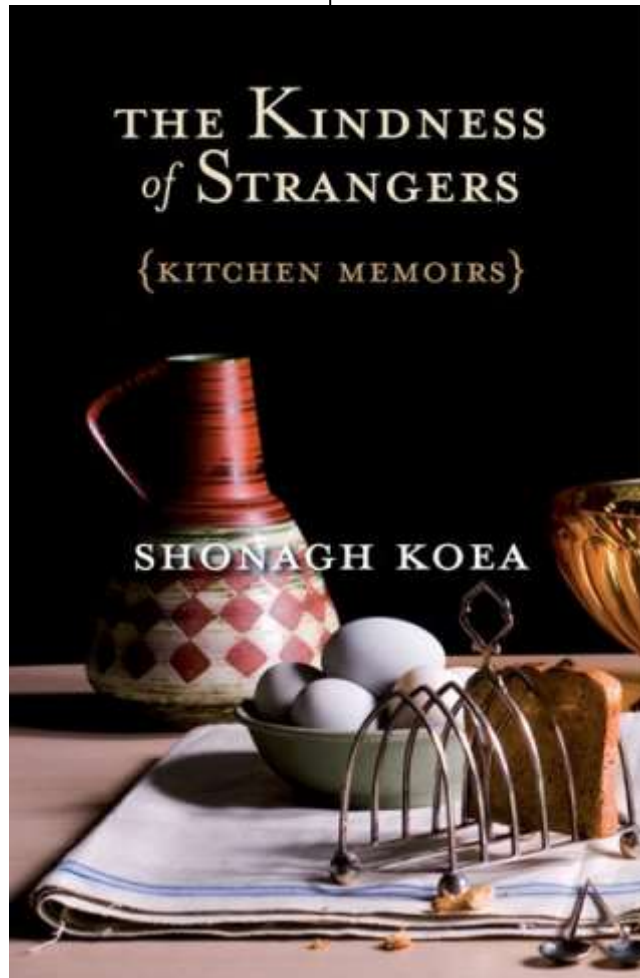
She describes her father as a 'violent man, he was not mannerly or kind' and her mother 'nice but hopeless.' She writes, 'the thought of houses has always fascinated me. Or perhaps it is the idea of a home that does that. When I think of the places I lived when I was a little girl and as an older sort of girl, they were always sad.'

Sandwiched magnificently between the anecdotes about her life, (including her marriage to George Koea which seems to have been very happy), I'm pleased to say is a great collection of recipes, some of which hark back to my own childhood growing up on a farm in the King Country, and I'm having a bit of fun trying some of them out too!

In the NZ Listener August 25, 2007, Graeme Lay called this book a 'truly delectable read'.

Fifteen Rubies by Candlelight also by Shonagh Koea is another gem of a book. Fifteen short stories, worth checking out.

Shona McLean





the playhouse

July August 2024

**Fri July 5th:
Adam McGrath
of the Eastern**

**Winner of the 2024 best folk artist
at the NZ music Awards**

**Sat July 13th:
Red Heavens**

by Martine Baanvinger

**From Stromboli to D'Urville Island
the true story of Angelina Moleta**

**Sat July 26th:
Elevation Hiphop Tour**

Artist from around the Motu

**Sat 3rd August:
Great Gatsby Night**

with the Nelson Big Band

**Sat August 10th:
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Moutere Hills RSA Memorial Library Māpua Community Library

The June/July Exhibition at the library features works from one of our volunteers, Judy Vaughan. Judy says she was encouraged in art by her father and early schoolteachers. As a child, she always knew she was going to be an artist when she grew up. Her learning experiences included teachers and mentors at school and tertiary education courses with various well-known artists.

Judy briefly taught art in various primary schools around Canterbury, and then travelled extensively overseas. On return to New Zealand, she enrolled as a "mature" student to do a Diploma F.A. at Canterbury School of Art majoring in lithography (drawing on stone).

Three years on, married to Barry, and sharing an interest in antiques, they started an importing/retailing



business which lasted for 25 years, indulging their appreciation of beautiful things.

Now living locally, Judy is back into her art and keen to give it more space in her life. She says her exhibition is inspired by a recent, first ever trip to Milford Sound, and personal paintings of family and friends done over a period of 40 years.

Over the past two months the library has purchased many new children's books, so come and check them out.



We also have a lovely display of work by the Oasis Pre School supporting Pink Shirt Day 2024 Workplace Bullying Prevention.

Quiz Night at the Sprig & Fern -

Wednesday 31st July 7pm

You need to get in early, book a table and come along to support the Māpua Community Library.

Helen Jeffery

RUBY BAY STORE What's on in July

Saturday 13 July, 7pm
THE EARLY BOBS

Legendary local Clayton Taylor sings classic Dylan, with Nathan Torvik on mandolin and guitar. Impeccable covers, banter guaranteed \$25

Tuesday 16 July, 7pm
SKIN & BONE Cowboy Lounge Tour

Swing, string and swing, this five-piece band features Dunedin's John Dodd. Let's dance - to fiddle, clarinet, guitar, bass and drums \$25

Saturday 20 July, 7pm
SUNDAY LEMONADE

Loz and Tys, a youthful Ozzie duo who took out Tamworth's People's Choice busking award. A rom-com act on tour to deliver a taste of that fair country's indie-folk scene \$25

Sunday 21 July, 7pm
Classic NZ Movie: COUSINS

2021 drama based on Patricia Grace's novel about the loves and losses of three Maori women, stretching from post-WWII to the '80s. Rated PG. Tickets \$15/\$12 (add pre-booked fish & chips \$10 pp)

Saturday 27 July, 7pm
GYPSY PICKERS

Successful Nelson multi-instrumentalists Lyndy and Ron Valente make music to move you - and move to: rock, popular, reggae, bluegrass, world, latin, jazz, blues, roots, hits and originals \$25

For bookings, more info and new events visit
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Distribution Box

at Māpua Store

Our most popular distribution site was vandalized mid-June - most inconvenient for our readers. But it's ok - the perpetrators have been sent to Boot Camp and are currently marching to Ngatimoti to cut cycle trails on Noel Edmonds' property.

We may have a temporary box in the meantime while a more substantial one is made. Other places to collect an issue are: Health Centre, Library, Village Bakery, Vege Shop, Perry's Auto, Ruby Bay Takeaways - Tasman Store even.

Thank you for your support.





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Workshops held in artists' studios or local venues.

www.nztextileexperiences.com






Māpua Craft Group

Tip - sew a pocket in a waist apron to hold a mobile phone; it is always with you when moving around your home and garden!

Last month we shared magazines, seeds, mandarins, dried figs and many ideas, whilst having a healthy morning tea.

In the depths of winter, it is time to think about Christmas gifts and what we can make for family and friends. We have lots of sewing, knitting and crochet patterns that we can share with you.

Do come and see our extensive craft materials so that you can decide which Christmas items will be your winter challenge!

We will meet on the 5th and 19th of July from 10am till noon at the Hills Community church meeting room and you are most welcome to come and have tea/coffee with us.

Barbara Halse



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Māpua Fire Brigade



May to June 24 call outs

18 May 03:03: House fire Motueka Valley Highway. Only stayed at fire for a short time and then went to Motueka Fire Station as a cover for four more hours.

3 June 17:15: House fire in Motueka. Dryer may have started it. Two in BA to help damping down the fire.

Reminder: Check lint filters often.

7 Jun 12:07: Dogs locked in car on Māpua Drive. Assist owner to unlock car.

11 June 18:30: Backyard fire on Goddard Rd. Left by owner to burn. (thinking they would let it die down).

11 Jun 23:53: Same backyard fire as above. Got owner to put out. No permit.

17 June 15:14: Boat fire in channel. Used a small boat and portable pump to put fire out. Owner was working on fitting a new grate in a fireplace on boat, grinding sparks or hot ashes may have started fire. Owner not on boat when fire started.

Call outs for the year =31

We have two new members who have completed their training to be firefighters.

Well done Kelvin and Hayden.

Safety Tip – Be safe

Did you know ashes can take up to five days to cool completely.

Go to the Check it's alright website to see if you can light a fire, most fires in this area need a permit.

For fire safety info go to -

<https://fireandemergency.nz>

For fire permits go to -

<http://www.checkitsalright.nz/>

Phone - 0800 658 628

Beginner's Weight-Training

Block Course

A 4-week block course for newcomers to Weight-Training. Resistance training is great for everything – especially as we age – & it's *never, ever* too late to start. Learn the basics about equipment, set-up, correct technique & body mechanics, & how to choose the right weight, in a non-scary situation.

Gain the confidence to join a regular class. All welcome – no barriers re age or fitness level.

4 Mondays in August – 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th
Mapua Hall, 11.30am – 12.15pm.

\$40.00 for 4 sessions.

Ph or text Lynda 0272221491,

or email lyndamabin@gmail.com to book.



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Ruby Coast Running Club

Our regular Thursday evening 5km events continue right through the year. In the winter this means we are running (or walking) in the dark. So, as well as wearing extra layers for warmth, we wear or carry lights (a head torch is ideal) – and reflective clothes. This is not just so that we can see where we are going – but also for safety; so that we can be seen by motorists and other road users. This is something to bear in mind if you are thinking of joining us, and a reminder for our regular attendees.

Our runners have been making the most of the events held around the region.

At the end of May we had a group of runners take part in The Bay Trail Run. The event was based in the Cable Bay Adventure Park. There were courses of various distances to choose from. We had runners enter the 24km and 34km events. All the courses were tough and took in the Cable Bay Walkway as well as private farmland. The 34km course also included a loop around Pepin Island! Both courses involved lots of climbing rewarded with stunning views.

The Kaiteriteri Gold was on Saturday 2 June. This is another trail running event with lots of distances to choose from: half marathon, 16km, 8km and (for kids) 3.2km. All of the courses are in the Kaiteriteri Mountain Bike Park. We had excellent representation (and results) from our RCRC runners. We even had two of our younger runners take part in the 3.2km event. We were lucky to have a perfect sunny winter's day for the run. All of our team ran well and enjoyed the event. Special congratulations to Graeme, Christine and Niki who came first in the half marathon in their respective age group categories.

If you would like to join our regular Thursday 5km event, we meet each week in front of the playground by the Māpua Hall. We start at 5:15pm for walkers and runners who need more than 30 mins to complete 5km, and 5:30pm for everyone else. No need to register in advance – just arrive a few minutes beforehand to sign in and to listen to the course briefing.

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



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Lynda's Exercise Classes in the Mapua Hall
Autumn 2024 Classes restart after Easter,
Tuesday 2 April – a 14-week term, maybe longer.
Cardio/Weights Tuesday 6 pm,
Old-fashioned Aerobics Wednesday 9.05 am.
Cardio/Weights Friday 9.05 am.
Pilates Wednesday & Friday 10.05 am.
A few Friday mornings may switch to Thursdays, and there will be pop-up Advanced Pilates sessions on some Monday, Thursday or Saturday mornings.
These will be advertised at the start of the week.
5-trip ticket \$50; 10-trip ticket \$80; 20-trip ticket \$150; 30-trip ticket \$210. Casuals – yes, \$12 per session.
Top-ups for single sessions on your ticket \$10.
Please contact Lynda for details,
lyndamabin@gmail.com 027 222 1491.

The Write Bias

News from Māpua Bowling Club

News from Māpua Bowling Club

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 15th June, well attended as always but could that be due to the added inducement of an afternoon tea afterwards?!

The new Board for the 2024/2025 season was appointed and the members are:-

- President – Debbie Win
- Vice President – Warren Keith
- Secretary – Di Blanchet
- Treasurer – Karen Clark
- Sponsorship – Ian Sullivan
- Bar Manager – Denzil Stephenson
- Greenkeeper – Ian Benbow
- Club Champs & Coach – Sue England

Various other jobs, essential to the smooth running of the Club, were allocated (with very little arm twisting!). Some topics were a little more contentious and resulted in discussion. A survey will be put out to canvas all members of the Club before the Board makes final decisions.

Debbie Win was presented with a gift voucher in recognition of all the work she does over and above the duties of President. She acknowledged the gesture gratefully but did warn the members that this would be her final year in office.

New members will be very welcome when the Club re-opens at the end of September, but for an early taste of the facilities and friendship, please come along to one of the Friday evening socials that start around 5 pm every first and third Friday of each month.

For any information about bowling, coaching, the Friendship Group or booking the Clubhouse and facilities, please contact the secretary, Di Blanchet on 03 540 2627 or check out our website, sporty.co.nz/māpuabowls

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Mid-winter lunch at Hills Community Church

Once again, this was a great success with a delicious feast prepared and served by a willing and enthusiastic group of awesome volunteers.

There were so many compliments from the guests. It was very clear everyone enjoyed the lunch as well as the opportunity to get together and share a meal. Even the children enjoyed the yummy food and the amazing toy selection to play with whilst the “grownups” were still busy chatting!

A huge thank you goes to the team for all their hard work and time spent organising the menu, shopping and cooking for this occasion.

This was also a fundraiser, and we are pleased to say that \$1,000 was raised for Child, Youth and Eldercare work in the community.

Keep your eyes and ears open for more community events coming up.

Thanks for lunch!

It was an enthusiastic gathering of Senior Moments members, several friends and newcomers who enjoyed the delicious three course buffet lunch prepared and served by dedicated cooks and waitresses last month. We were really spoilt so **Thank You** all and please can we book again for next year?!

Barbara Halse



What's on at Hills Community Church?

Sunday

Morning Service - followed by Morning Tea - 9:30am

First and Third Sunday – Family Praise and Worship

Second and Fourth Sunday – Family Communion

Youth Group – 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Food, fun, fellowship, friendship.

Wednesday

Senior Moments – second and last Wednesdays each month. 10:00am to 12:00pm

Friendship, food, events and information.

KidsnKoffee – Community Playgroup – 10am to noon.

A great space for all the whanau

Thursday

Prayer and coffee – 10:00am

An opportunity for prayer, discussion and a chat

Friday

Craft and Coffee – 1st & 3rd Fridays, 10am to noon.

If you love all things crafty then come along and join the group.

Throughout the week

Life Groups: Drop in for coffee, chat or just quiet space.

For more information contact: Hills Community Church

Phone: 03 540 3848, email: office.hcc@xtra.co.nz

Check out our new website which will give you an up-to-date account of all our activities etc.

www.hillscommunitychurch.org

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Noticeboard

Mapua Friendship group is taking a break for July, we will be back ready to go again on August 5th. For information about our activities please call, Val 540 3685.

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

Motueka Tennis Club welcomes new members, all ages & abilities. Social Tues & Thurs 9:30-11:30 am & Sunday 2pm. Junior & Private coaching. Info: Kath 0275800108 or motuekatennisclubinc@gmail.com

Craft Group: please check with Barbara or Val that meetings are going ahead.

Stamp & Coin collections in Māpua/Ruby Bay & the Moutere evaluated & purchased. Nick Ferrier 021 688243

Pastel Artists Nelson: meet Tuesdays 9am-noon, Bill Marris room, Hall. Visitors welcome. Marg: 027 257 1857

Coastal Stringers: Ukulele & guitar group meet Fridays 1-4pm at Bowling Club. All welcome, just arrive & enjoy the singing. Contacts: Colleen 5403010, Diane 5402627.

Māpua Women's Rec Group. Come and join our friendly social walking group. Meet outside Village Mall Thursdays 9.15am. Options for all fitness levels plus activities and social events. mapuarecgroup@gmail.com or just turn up.

Knit & Natter group now at Appleshed: 10am Tuesdays. Contact: Debby 027 327 4055

Motueka Toastmasters: Speak with more confidence? Meet 1st & 3rd Weds, 6.45-8.30pm, St Johns rooms, Jack Inglis hospital. Visitors welcome. Info Peter 027 7468311.

Re-cycle Printer Cartridges at the library. Volunteers are happy to collect printer & photocopier cartridges and transport to recycling centre. Blue bin in our foyer.

Tasman Golf Club: Mixed Social 9 Holes of Golf. Tee off 9.30am Fridays. Friendly group, all levels very welcome. Cost: \$25 for non-members. Ph: Lyndal 03 5266819, teeup@tasmanclub.com or just turn up at Kina

Ruby Coast Newcomers Social Group: meet new people, make new friends. Coffee 10am last Fridays at Tasman Store and occasional social events. Just turn up. Vivien/Richard 526-6707

Māpua Community Choir: 4 part harmony, no audition necessary, small koha, Māpua Hall 7.15pm Thursdays, enquiries Helen: n-h.bibby@actrix.co.nz

Tasman Dippers: A casual collection of people who enjoy connecting with the open water. Year-round dips or swims in the sea at Rabbit Island. Info: www.tasmandippers.nz

Māpua Boat Club welcomes new members. No boat required. Social nights Thursdays 5.30 - 7pm at Club rooms on Māpua Wharf. Raffles, cash bar, snacks, regular guest speakers. To join, contact Secretary, Katrina 0211393945

RSA: Anyone interested in joining Moutere Hills RSA is welcome. No service history required. Catch up & meet new members. Nic Poultney 021 220 3920 or 548-4420

Māpua Art Group meets Bill Marris Room Māpua Hall Thursdays, 9-noon. Paint, draw, help each other in a social environment. All levels, media. \$5 incl morning tea. Tables, chairs, easels provided. mapuaartgroup@gmail.com

MDCA: Māpua & Districts Community Association meets Feb-Dec, 2nd Mondays, 7pm Māpua Hall; info@ourmapua.org

Kids 'n' Koffee Playgroup: Wednesdays 10-noon during term time, at the old church building. 0-6 year olds. Morning tea provided. Gold coin donation. Info: pippie.d@gmail.com

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

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

Fibre Craft Sunday. Birch Hall, Richmond A&P Showgrounds. Last Sundays 1.30-3.30pm. Learn to spin, knit, felt or weave. \$5 includes tea or coffee. All ages welcome. Richmond Creative Fibre Group: Diane 547-6517 or Karyn 544-9709

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

Quakers meet at Family Service Centre, Motueka 10am 2nd Sundays. All welcome. Enquiries: Linda 027 447 6435.

Toy Library: extensive selection of toys, puzzles & videos for children 0-5yrs. Māpua Hall Monday afternoons, 2.30-4pm. mapuatoylibrary@gmail.com

Ruby Coast Walking Group meets 9.30am Wednesdays by Tasman Store. Walk 1½ hrs then coffee & muffins back at the Store. All welcome. Fiona: 021 232 6089 for more info.

Motueka Senior Net. Tech for mature adults. Monthly meetings. Help sessions 2x/month. De-mystify technology in a fun & friendly forum. Clubrooms 42 Pah St, Motueka. Seniornetmotueka.org.nz

Coastal Garden Group meets 1pm first Thursdays, Tasman Bible Hall (opp. Jesters). Men and women most welcome to share their love of gardening. Guest Speakers, Workshops, Garden Visits. Info: coastalgarden.group@gmail.com

Sing Your Lungs Out! Free community singing group for anyone with respiratory issues. Morning tea. Singing improves your lung health! 10am Mondays, Te Awhina Marae, Pah St, Motueka. Pip 0274 282 693

Tasman Area Community Association (TACA) 7.30pm last Thursdays (x Dec) Tasman Bible Church. Residents of Ruby Bluffs to Tasman & Kina welcome. Info: Facebook or www.tasmancommunity.org.nz

Motueka Scottish Country Dance Club: Weds 7.30pm Lower Moutere Hall Scout den. No partner needed, dress casual, wear soft flat shoes, beginners welcome. Good exercise, lively music. Contact Fay 021 039 3559 or Alison 0220 363 891.

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

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