

# The Grapevine

MOUTERE HILLS COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Special points of interest:

Want to take an Art, Textile or Fibre Craft workshop? see Pg 7.

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# International award for talented local jewellery-maker

*Yet again, a local person has shown the depth of talent in our area: a few months ago (in October 2023), Stacey Whale won the Lorenzo il Magnifico award (first place) in the XIV Florence biennale exhibition, an international exhibition and competition in contemporary art and design. I had the privilege of interviewing Stacey at "The Old Post Office" in Sarau Village where she both makes and sells jewellery. To have her entry accepted for the competition, Stacey submitted a rendered CAD (computer*

*aided design) of the necklace that she was proposing to make, using diamonds and 18 carat gold. She then had to crowd-fund to pay for the expensive trip to Florence and is very grateful for the support she received, both from individuals within the national and international community, as well as from the Sarau Trust and Network Tasman. Such an achievement doesn't come without a huge dollop of talent and years of hard work, so I asked Stacey to describe the path to the award. Below is her story...*

*cont. pg3*

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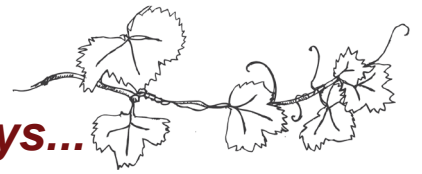
### Sending us articles of interest

We warmly welcome contributions to The Grapevine from all residents in the Moutere and Tasman regions. You make the newsletter an interesting read! There is no cost for having your articles published if you are telling the community about a fundraising venture. However we do appreciate a donation from commercial ventures to help us cover our printing costs—see email address above to get bank details.

Archived coloured copies of the Grapevine are available at [www.mouterehills.org.nz/community/the-grapevine](http://www.mouterehills.org.nz/community/the-grapevine) courtesy of the Moutere Hills Community Centre staff. Grapevine circulation is approximately 1400 copies. This issue has been constructed by volunteers: Jenny Leith, Sharon Beuke, Bessie Adie, Kirsty Vanderwerff and Sue McGregor.

### Disclaimer

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## Grapevine Says...

Welcome back to 2024 and more local news.

As the year begins it is good to see the advertisements for sports groups and activities starting up - get out there and join in!

We in the Grapevine team also send our energy and best wishes to Tasman and Mahana Schools with their big fundraising events scheduled for March - good luck and once more - thank you to all those volunteers who turn out to make these a success.

To you all – keep those interesting articles coming in and have a fun-filled 2024.

If you're hunting for an old Grapevine issue, back copies can be found on the Moutere Hills Community Centre website: <https://www.mouterehills.org.nz/community/>

**Enquiries: [umograpevine@protonmail.com](mailto:umograpevine@protonmail.com)**

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## Moutere Volunteer Fire Brigade

*A message from the Grapevine team:*

We acknowledge the huge pressure our men and women of the UMVFB have been under with so many fires and accidents in the last few months. Our huge thank you for the hours you put into your volunteering.

We hope to print their statistics next month.

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“I grew up in a home of talented craftspeople: my mother loved sewing and was a potter, my nana a tailor and pattern-maker and my poppa a metal worker. My sister (talented in textiles and drawing) and I were always encouraged in creative endeavors. Art was my passion at Aotea College (Porirua, Wellington) and in year 11, I achieved an Excellence award in the external exams for my portfolio. Unfortunately, I never received my portfolio back as it was lost in the mail. I was totally gutted: my confidence disappeared and I lost myself as an artist. Consequently, my work slumped too. I didn’t get a Bursary and so dropped my aim of getting a Fine Arts degree. Instead, I pursued a foundation course in textile design and visual communication, eventually focusing on art & craft design at Whitireia, with a major in jewellery. I established a craft workshop in Plimmerton, worked at a local café during the evenings, and in 2001, embarked on a journey to London with my husband.

We lived there for 10 years instead of the two years that we had planned to do! I continued to develop my jewellery-making skills, with a workshop at Cockpit Arts, an incubator for creative arts. There were 80 artists under one roof, providing me with invaluable business support and opportunities to develop and refine my craft into what it is today. Conveniently, Hatton Garden, London’s jewellery quarter, was just around the corner. After three years, I moved to Hertfordshire and



set up a home workshop. Throughout these years, I entered design competitions, winning four awards in one year at the Goldsmiths Craftsmanship & Design awards. I also became a finalist in the UK Jewellery Awards for Jewellery Designer of the Year. This was an exciting, amazing time but the financial crash in 2008 suddenly made life much tougher.

In 2010, I became pregnant and we decided to return to Plimmerton where Tyler was born, followed two years later by Levi. I had 10 years off jewellery-making, and ventured into a business in organic home and body products – a change that I loved.

In 2018 we shifted to Dovedale where we started life afresh: I resumed jewellery-making and Craig (my husband) worked as a building officer. In 2020, I jumped at the chance to have a base

at the Old Post Office where I continue to work today.”

*To conclude, I asked Stacey about her future hopes and goals.*

“I am totally committed to my family and to my work. Craig is a wonderful supporter of my work, and both my boys show artistic talent. My mind is always buzzing with new ideas, for example, using a wider range of precious metals, larger gemstones and modern technology. I also intend to get into drawing, painting and printmaking. The purchase of new machinery will allow me to extend the range of things I make, more quickly and efficiently.”

*It was wonderful to see Stacey’s enthusiasm and passion. To find out more about her, check out her website: [www.staceywhale.com](http://www.staceywhale.com) And, of course, pop in to “The Old Post office” and see her work for yourself.*

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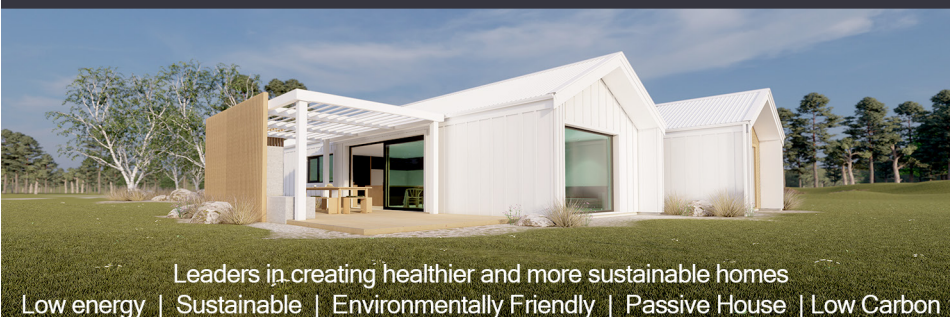
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# Jim Ewers

(1946 – 2023)

Jim was born, the youngest child of Ferd Ewers and Vida (née Gardener) and lived all his life in the Moutere. He could be a grumpy old man, but had a heart of gold. Jim loved animals - all kinds - and you would always find stray animals at his house. Jim went to Neudorf School along with his two sisters, and then on to Motueka High School. He started working at the age of 15 and tried his hand at many jobs before settling into farming.

Jim married Helen Heine, the daughter of a local family, and they had two daughters and a son. For many years Jim played rugby for Rangers Rugby Club and in time, he played, alongside his son, Fred, not something that many dads could say, but he was a stalwart of the club!

Perhaps Jim was best known for his role as a founding member of the Upper Moutere Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1975, who went on to serve in what is now Fire Emergency New Zealand (FENZ), for 39 years. For much of his time with the brigade, Jim held the rank of Chief Fire Officer and terrified many new recruits into ensuring they passed their training and behaved and performed as they needed to – to keep this community as safe as was possible.

Jim loved his four grandchildren and enjoyed spending time with them on his farm during his later years. Jim was remembered by many at a service held at MHCC on 3 January 2024 attended not only by hundreds of local folk, but by many past and present firemen and women from throughout the province and beyond.



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# Community Noticeboard

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE** Upper Moutere.  
Contact Cathy Ellis 021 158 2890

**UPPER MOUTERE PLAYGROUP** we meet every Friday 10am - 12pm at the Moutere Hills Community Centre, all families welcome.  
Contact Karen 021 252 2657

**DOVEDALE COMMUNITY MARKET** Buy, sell, swap, giveaway. 10am-12noon every 2nd Sunday monthly. Enquires: margicreed@gmail.com

**MOUTERE BIRDSONG** have both wooden and corflute traps available for sale and for hire. Also Free bait thanks to Pics Peanut Butter.  
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**NEED A LIFT?** Māpua Willing Wheels Volunteer Drivers, transport around Māpua, Motueka, Richmond, Nelson (no airport runs). Tel 022 6822 373 to book/mapuawheels@gmail.com, 24hrs notice.

## CRAFT & CONNECT

Would you like to join our group for a social afternoon?

Crafting is not obligatory, you can enjoy a cuppa/glass with lovely ladies at the Moutere Pub where we meet every Thursday from 1.30 – 3.30 pm.

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- Slow Fashion
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- Small Loom Weaving
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# MOUTERE HILLS COMMUNITY CENTRE



**Dear Community**

It is great to have so many activities on offer here at the Community Centre. We have a full schedule of activities advertised on our website, so check them out at [www.mouterehills.org.nz](http://www.mouterehills.org.nz)

A huge congratulations to Miles, Shane, Graeme and their team for another amazing Moutere Hop. What a fantastic event with all money raised going back to support various local groups and organisations. Back by popular demand is our Bingo night on the 12th April, check out the details below. Rangers Rugby are getting organized for the upcoming season with Registration Day on the 17th of March and the senior Valley Stags team have begun their trainings on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Looking forward to seeing you at Moutere Hills Community Centre soon.

Kind Regards Katrina, Josh, Keith, Cindus, Vicki and Kris.



**FROM THE MHCC BOARD .....**

It has proven to be a busy start to 2024 with several projects under way. We are excited to announce that the BBQ is now available for use. We wish to thank the groups and organisations that have supported this project: Network Tasman Trust, Moutere Hop, Tasman District Council Grants from Rates. We still have plans to put in some additional seating, shade sails and planting over the next few months to make it a relaxing space for all to enjoy.

Tim Greenhough  
MHCC Chair



**Fitness Classes**

- Re-activate** Monday 11:15 am & Thursday 8:30am
- Youth Bootcamp** Monday 4:30pm
- Box n Burn** Monday 6:15pm
- Stretch & Flex** Tuesday 9:30am & Thursday 9:30am
- Pilates** Monday 6:00pm, Wednesday 9:00am & Friday 9:00am
- Metafit** Wednesday 6:30pm and Friday 8:15am

Included with Fitness Centre membership,  
\$60 for a 10 class concession card or \$10 for casual.

**BINGO NIGHT**

**Friday 12th April**

**Doors open at 6pm / Bingo starts at 7pm  
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# Community Connection

*The Nelson Tasman Community Transport Trust are on a mission to provide efficient, accessible and sustainable passenger services in the Nelson / Tasman regions particularly benefiting people in outlying settlements.*

Thanks to a group of community focussed trustees and volunteer drivers NTCTT has to date been instrumental in introducing the following services to our community. A bus route between Wakefield and Richmond, via Brightwater and Hope on a Tuesday (Tapawera connection trial coming soon!)

- A car on demand service running in Māpua “Willing Wheels”
- A coastal bus via Tasman and Mapua from Motueka to Richmond and return on a Saturday.
- A Moutere Bus from Motueka to Richmond via Lower and Upper Moutere and return on a Tuesday and Thursday
- Private Charters for school, community and business groups and events.

For more on how to use these services, please go to our website or facebook page or email our coordinator Anita Parkes: [marketing.ntctt@gmail.com](mailto:marketing.ntctt@gmail.com)

**Motueka -Richmond Bus**

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**Saturdays**  
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For group and charter bookings please email [marketing.ntctt@gmail.com](mailto:marketing.ntctt@gmail.com)



**Wakefield Community Bus**

**Tuesdays :Wakefield-Richmond \$5 return**  
**leaves Wakefield by 10am -returns by 1.30. Pickup from home available. Booking essential by phoning 0226822373**

**Mapua Willing Wheels**

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# THE WRITE BIAS

## News from Māpua Bowling Club

Christmas and all the festivities are a fading memory but there was one particular highlight that took place on December 21st when club member, Alfie Linn took on ex-world champion, Shannon McIlroy. We were indebted to Shannon and his wife, Amy for joining us at Māpua for this bowling fundraising event. The match had been organised to try to raise some money for Alfie to represent New Zealand in table tennis in the forthcoming SU-DS Trisome Games in Turkey. The audience participation was voluble (to say the least) and the match was played in tremendous spirit. The final result, 10 points to Shannon and 8 points to Alfie, really didn't matter. It was all about taking part and raising awareness. If you would like to help Alfie get to Turkey donations can be made at the give a little page.



[givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-alfie-get-to-turkey-to-play-table-tennis-at](http://givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-alfie-get-to-turkey-to-play-table-tennis-at)

More fun happened on Saturday 6 January when club members joined friends and family of Colin Pryke to celebrate his 90th birthday. All arrangements had been made in secret, but was Colin fazed when he entered the Clubroom? He was not! He took it all in his stride as if it was just another birthday and we all enjoyed drinks, nibbles, a fabulous chocolate cake and the usual birthday sing-song.

Now we are into the second half of the season with lots of bowling to look forward to and club championships drawing to their conclusion. The Club is still happy to welcome any new bowlers; please come along, borrow equipment and give it a go. The Friendship Group will recommence indoor carpet bowls on Monday 4th March and again, new players are always welcome. Val Roche is the contact for this on 03 540 3685.



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For any information about bowling, coaching, 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](http://sporty.co.nz/māpuabowls)

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# Our latest news & adventures



## School Camps at Whenua Iti

We have loved welcoming schools back and hearing the excited yelps from tamariki on site as they take part in their school camp to kick the year off with fun activities in the outdoors that encourage whanaungatanga - the building of good relationships - across their peers and with their teachers. Our camps weave adventure activities, cultural understanding and nature connection opportunities together for a unique experience based at our site. We will be running more school camps in Term 4. If you are keen to find out more head to [www.wio.org.nz](http://www.wio.org.nz).

## Opportunities for Primary Schools

In the coming terms we will be running our **Mini Environmental Adventurers Programmes (Years 1-4)** and a **Whenua Day (Years 5-8)** at \$15pp thanks to available funding. There are set dates available and Mo will be taking enquiries for any schools interested - you can email her to find out more: [mo@wio.org.nz](mailto:mo@wio.org.nz)



Garin College Year 13 students at Lake Rotoiti for their camp

## ExpedNZ Programme \$\$ to be reinvested

We kicked off the year welcoming The Bush School in January from Seattle who explored Te Taiuhi with us to enhance their global perspectives and worldview and hopefully take away important learnings to inform their decision-making in an ever-changing world. The profit from our ExpedNZ programmes is to be reinvested to support the delivery of programmes for our local community so that we are a more sustainable organisation.

## Connecting with nature to uplift our hauora

As a team, connecting with nature isn't just what we talk about and teach, it's a part of who we are. Over the summer our team spent time underground exploring caves, visiting remote tarns in the Kahurangi national park, watched sunsets at the beach, cooked over open fires with our families and cooled off by swimming at the local awa, or walking through our beautiful native bush. And we all feel refreshed & ready for 2024!



Students from The Bush School in Seattle in the Abel Tasman

We'll see you out there!

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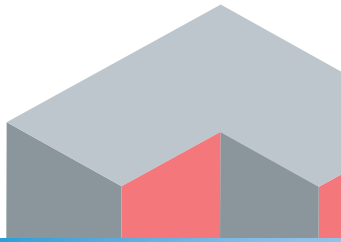
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# Steiner School Native Tree Nursery



Last year, the Steiner Farm School took on a new initiative in addition to its other projects.

The NZ Landcare Trust as well as the Tasman Environmental Trust have supported a native tree nursery with a big shade house on the school premises. A watering system has been installed, and many seeds have now grown and root trainers are now needed to help them grow a sizable root system. They can then be planted into the soil later in the year and become established in a long-term spot.

During the summer holidays the early morning hours were used to trans-fer young seedlings from their sow-

ing space into packaged root trainers before the sun turned into relentless heat, making it impossible to work in the green house. Fortunately, the watering system took over and picked up care of the root trainers several times per day.

With approx 500 seedlings left to be planted, the NZ Landcare Trust organised a working bee which was held on Friday 16th February at the school nursery; 1.5 hours later the potting job was finished (for now!).

A call goes out for a small group to form and take on further manage-ment of this project which is part of

the school environmental curriculum together with an outdoor classroom, a school garden and orchard and an outdoor kitchen. Volunteers are needed to collaborate with other planting initiatives in the Nelson Tasman area - a great opportunity to take the school children along to experience joint efforts for future improvements in environmental challenges.

If you are interested, contact the Landcare Group c/o Edith Bulle: 022 5628571.

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# Vet Helpline

## Getting pet-prepared for summer!

*It seems to be a good time of year to think about rabbits! Real ones as well as chocolate ones :0)*

Rabbits are popular pets and preventative health care is very important. If you get the diet and environment right, many common and potentially serious problems can be avoided.

Flystrike can still be a problem for bunnies at this time of year due to flies loving the warm and wet conditions and definitely if a bunny is unwell with diarrhoea or urine issues.

Flies are attracted to rabbit's damp fur, urine, faeces and they lay eggs usually around the rabbit's bottom. Maggots will hatch and this will become a serious often fatal problem within hours.

Avoid fly strike by checking your rabbit twice daily to ensure its bottom is clean and dry. Remove soiled bedding as soon as possible and keep the surrounding environment clean. Ensure your rabbit is not being overfed or fed incorrectly which can lead to diarrhoea and soiled fur. If you find maggots on or around your rabbit's bottom, phone us immediately. We urgently need to remove eggs and maggots and prevent pain, infection and shock.

**DIET** Rabbits need a very high fibre diet to keep their teeth and gut healthy. Their teeth grow throughout their lives so the high fibre diet prevents teeth overgrowing and uneven wear. Rabbits with overgrown teeth can't chew effectively so can lose weight, have diarrhoea and develop tooth root abscesses which are difficult to treat. Lots of fibre helps their digestive tract to work properly - a low fibre diet such as lots of pellets and bread increases the chances of diarrhoea and flystrike. The diet should consist of:

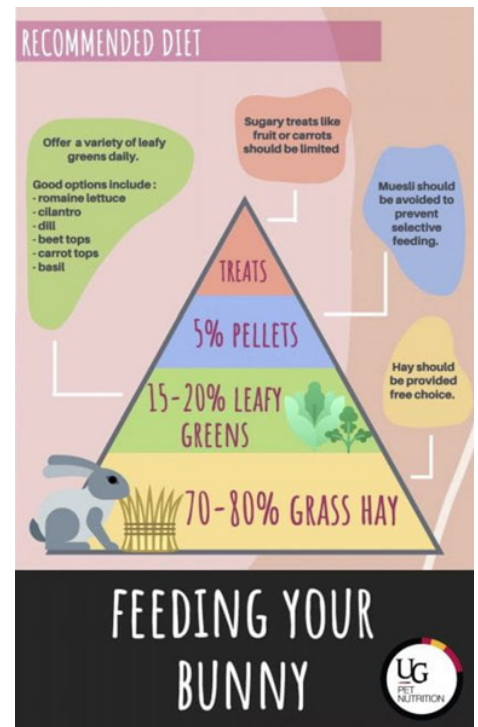
- Good quality hay available all the time

- Grass and grass clippings
- Green, leafy veges – about 1 cup/kg/day e.g. dandelions, parsley, silverbeet, carrot tops
- Branches from trees such as willow, apple, poplar or other untreated wood for chewing on
- Clean, fresh water all the time preferably from a sippy bottle
- Treats such as carrots and apple should be no more than 1 teaspoon/kg/day
- Rabbits should not be offered cereals, grains, bread, biscuits, crackers etc
- Pellets are not essential and should only be about 1/8th cup/kg/day.

**ENVIRONMENT** Ideally rabbits should be free-range within a rabbit-proofed area so they can live and behave like rabbits! They are social, busy animals that do well the more interaction they get. Pet rabbits can be house-trained, litter-tray trained and cat-flap trained. Just make sure wires and cables are rabbit-proofed!

But if you want to keep your rabbit outside in a hutch, bigger is better for mental and physical health. Rabbits need to be able to stand up and stretch and hop about. Entertainment should be provided e.g. treat balls, a digging area, cardboard or old newspaper for shredding, wood for chewing. Allow your rabbit supervised time out of the hutch and handle them a lot.

**GROOMING** Rabbits should be checked daily and have a full hands-on checkover once or twice a week. Long-haired/fluffy rabbits need to be groomed several times a week and this should start at an early age. If the fur is left to become badly knotted, we can shave them under sedation which is an



expensive and often fairly ugly haircut! Sometimes rabbits need to have their nails clipped.

**VACCINATION** Rabbit calicivirus disease is also known as haemorrhagic viral disease. There are several strains of this virus in NZ. Calicivirus is highly infectious and spread by ingestion or breathing in virus from infected faeces or urine. Insects can also carry the virus, so do your shoes or clothing so isolation from other rabbits is not enough to prevent your rabbit from the disease. It's best to vaccinate. If you have any bunny questions, phone us on 544 1200.

Also remember to keep your chocolatey easter treats out of your dog's reach!

Brenda Halliwell, T & C Vet

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