

# The Grapevine

MOUTERE HILLS COMMUNITY NEWS

## Inside this issue:

- 2 Grapevine Information  
Grapevine Says
- 5 Community Noticeboard
- 7 Shell Shock - Turtles
- 9 Upper Moutere Playgroup
- 11 Road National Championship
- 12 Tasman View Road  
Upper Moutere Indoor Bowls
- 13 Moutere Hills Community Cntr.
- 14 Seed Collecting
- 15 Around the Traps
- 17 Māpua Bowls
- 19 Travel with Becks
- 21 Vet Helpline
- 22 Local Trade & Professional  
Service DIRECTORY

## Special points of interest:

Short story entertainment for kids  
on page 9 from Aesops Fables

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## Hands up if you have heard of the Rural Support Trust

*After a natural disaster (of which there have been an increasing number in recent years), we read about agencies and groups that assist those affected, both immediately and over a longer period. After the floods in July last year, Glenys, an Upper Moutere resident, spoke to me about the help she received from the Rural Support Trust, a group hitherto unknown to her, and possibly not to many of our Grapevine readers.*

*Below is Glenys' story, followed by a description of the role and functions of Rural Support, as described to me by Sarah White, co-ordinator of the Top of the South Rural Support Trust.*

### **Glenys' story**

I live on my own on a rural property in Upper Moutere. During the first and second weather events, parts of my house were flooded (a huge thanks to Chem Dry for drying out the affected

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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. The Grapevine circulation is approximately 1400 copies. This issue has been constructed by volunteers: Jenny Leith, Sharon Beuke, Bessie Adie, Kirsty Vanderwerff, Sue McGregor and Glenys Johnston.

### Disclaimer

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*Hello, Grapevine readers! Welcome to the very first edition of 2026 – we hope your summer was as fantastic as ours! Your editorial team is buzzing with excitement as we plan for the year ahead, and with your help, we're ready to make this monthly community newsletter better than ever. Got a story to share about your group or activities? Send it our way, and we'll do our best to feature it! This month, we're shining the spotlight on the Upper Moutere Playgroup and diving into the latest happenings on Tasman View Road, along with all your favourite columns. But first, let's give a warm welcome to Fi Johnstone, the newest member of our editorial team – we're thrilled to have you on board, Fi!*

*A huge shoutout to our amazing RD1 & RD2 mail deliverers who ensure the Grapevine lands in your letterbox for free every month – unless you've got a 'no junk mail' sign, in which case you can grab your copy from MHCC, the Upper or Lower Moutere Shops or the Garage. Big thanks to these local businesses for stocking our newsletter! And don't forget, we always appreciate your support to keep the ink flowing. Donations can be made to: 03 1354 0229034 016 or dropped off at one of the shops. Every bit helps, as the Grapevine is powered by volunteers, advertisers, and your generous contributions. Here's to an amazing 2026 – let's make it a year to remember!*

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areas). In the second deluge, several trees came down, one across my drive blocking my access. I felt overwhelmed, vulnerable, isolated, and very aware of the powerful forces of nature. My insurer, FMG, along with some friends, very kindly gave me a day's free labour to clear the drive. FMG also referred me to the Rural Support Trust who gave me a "comfort bag", a thoughtful and compassionate gift, which included treats such as bath salts, a hot water bottle, a crossword book, and some food. I was very touched to think that someone cared and understood the stress I was under. The help I received really showed the importance of acts of kindness.

**Sarah White, Rural Support co-ordinator**

*I talked with Sarah about her involvement with Rural Support Trust and the support that the Rural Support Trust can provide.*

*What attracted you to working for the Rural Support Trust?*

I've always been interested in rural life: after completing a Diploma in Rural Management at Lincoln University, I worked in the equine and horticultural fields. I was living in Dunsan-

del, a small rural community, when the earthquakes struck. Our community rallied together, and we supported each other.

After this, I returned to Marlborough where I did my teacher training and got involved in the Red Cross disaster welfare support teams, which offer psychological first aid when needed.

As a result of the above experiences, I developed an interest in working in the adverse events area, such as floods and earthquakes, and in liaising with groups such as Civil Defence.

*How long have you been working for the Rural Support Trust, and what kinds of support does it give?*

I've been working for Rural Support for six years now. An important part of my work is liaising with groups such as Federated Farmers, Rural Women and FMG. You could say that Rural Support is another spoke in the wheel of supporting and giving information to people in rural areas. For example, I may refer people with financial problems to the Business Advice Fund or organise a fun social night (there will be one in Takaka at the end of March). As a gesture of appreciation, we gave gift bags to Task Force Green teams

who helped clean up after the floods. We also support people suffering from long-term stress such as from the cumulative effects of a drought. Referrals for support come from a variety of people including spouses, neighbours or the person needing support themselves.

*In essence then, it seems that your work is quite diverse, and that you can be a useful starting point for someone needing help in whatever form.*

Yes. I enjoy the role because I feel that I am helping to solve problems and make life a little easier for people.

*Can you tell me a little about The Rural Support Trust at the national level?*

There are fourteen Rural Support Trusts throughout New Zealand and a National Council. The co-ordinators have regular zoom meetings, and we have on-going training.

Promotion is important too, and in the Top of the South, our chair Richard Kempthorne (former TDC mayor), is good on the media side of things. Funding comes mostly from the Ministry of Primary Industries, fund raising and donations.

To sum up, I like learning. The job can be challenging at times as when a farmer is crying over the phone to me, but it is also rewarding to match that person with someone who can help him. I am a big fan of "The Five ways to Well-being." (Connect, Be Active, Take notice, Keep Learning and Give)

*To contact Rural Support, call 0800 787 254 or check out*

**[www.rural-support.org.nz](http://www.rural-support.org.nz)**



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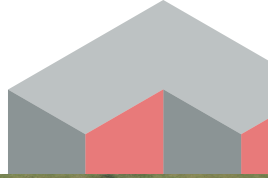
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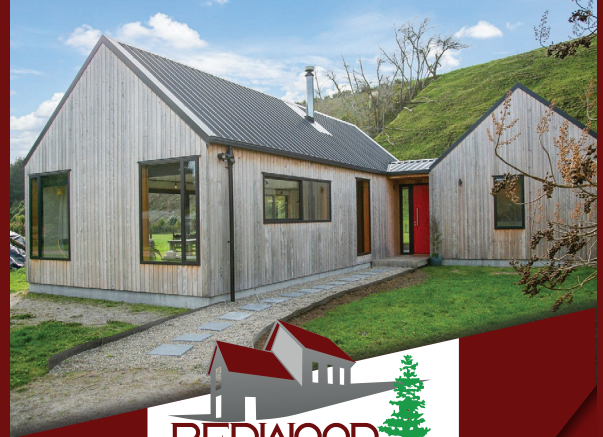
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# Community Noticeboard

**UPPER MOUTERE PLAYGROUP** we meet every Friday 10am - 12pm, Moutere Hills Community Centre, all families welcome. Contact Hannah 027 451 3695, email: moutereplaygroup@gmail.com

**NEED A LIFT?** Māpua Willing Wheels Volunteer Drivers, transport around Māpua, Motueka, Richmond, Nelson (no airport runs). Ph 022 6822 373 to book/mapuawheels@gmail.com, 24hrs notice.

**MOUTERE BIRDSONG** have both wooden and corflute traps available for sale and for hire. Also free bait thanks to Pics Peanut Butter. Ph 021 231 3947

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

**DOVEDALE COMMUNITY MARKET** Buy, sell, swap, giveaway. 10am-1pm every 2nd Sunday monthly. Enquires: margi@redmagpie.co.nz

**POWERTALK TASMAN** Develop your speaking & communication skills in a friendly and supportive environment. Meet 6.30pm 1st & 3rd Wed each month. St Johns rooms, Jack Inglis Hospital

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**TRAPPING COURSES 2026**

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**THE MOUTERE KAI COLLECTIVE** is linked to the Motueka Food Network. If you want information about which foodbanks are open and on which days – check out the poster on the wall in the MHCC foyer.

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**Sarau Winter Sale**



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**WANTED:**  
 A volunteer to manage the Clothing sale section of the Sarau Winter Sale. After 9 years of creating the much-loved Clothing section of the Sarau Winter Sale, Anna and her team are having to move on from this. We thank them hugely for their major contribution both to the Sale weekend, and to the Sarau Community Trust funds as a result of their huge mahi.

**Contact:** Jenny 021 2313947

The Sarau Winter Sale weekend is **25-26 July 2026**

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# Shell Shock:

## The Hidden Environmental Cost of Released Pet Turtles

Recent sightings of Red-eared slider turtles (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) within the Moutere community have raised the alarm for concern as to the extent of invasive turtles' true population size. While they make charming pets at face value, if they are released or escape into our local ponds and waterways, they can cause serious harm to our environment. Originally from North America, these turtles are now one of the most widespread invasive species in the world, largely because unwanted pets are often released into the wild.

While cute these turtles are listed on our Regional Pest Management Plan list as an eradication species in the wild because they can cause immense environmental damage through eating a vast amount of organisms including fish, plants, aquatic insects, koura, and small birds including ducklings. A mating pair of turtles could result in 2-8 clutches per year leading to a potential of 200 eggs being



produced making urgency our priority to prevent the establishment of these pests.

Preventing their spread protects our native wildlife and keeps our ecosystems in balance. You can help by never releasing pet turtles, reporting any sightings of these turtles in local ponds to the Tasman District Council Biosecurity team at 03 543 8400 or email [biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz), and by choosing pets responsibly.

(captured turtles will be rehomed)  Te Kaunihera o **te tai o Aorere**

Nathan Greenough  
Summer Student  
– Biosecurity & Biodiversity Environmental Data

*Manaaki whenua, Manaaki tangata, haere whakamua  
Care for the land, care for people, go forward.*

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# Upper Moutere Playgroup

**Monday and Friday Mornings**



Upper Moutere Playgroup is well loved and well attended every Friday morning at the Moutere Hills community centre hall. We are excited to announce, due to popular demand, playgroup will now be running every Monday as well. You can find us from 10am - 1pm, Mondays and Fridays during term time.

We have loads of toys, books, games and fun to be enjoyed by children aged 0-6 years. Often we have a theme or a special event happening. Last year we enjoyed a visit from the local fire brigade, bouncy castle, face painting, clothes swaps, music sessions, soft play and more. Find us on Facebook to find out what we are up to.

If you can, bring a plate for shared Kai for the tamariki and we supply hot drinks for caregivers. Free entry, new whānau always welcome. We'd love to see there!

Email Anna or Kaitlin the playgroup coordinators:  
moutereplaygroup@gmail.com

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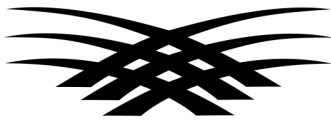
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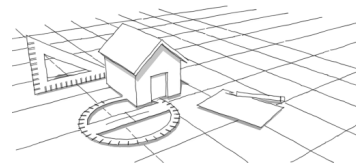
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# 2026 New Zealand Age Group Road National Championship

Hosted in Tasman 10-12 April

Nelson and the surrounding Tasman region will host the 2026 New Zealand Age Group Road National Championships, bringing together riders of all ages and abilities for three days of competitive road racing in April — and anchoring much of the event at the **Moutere Hills Community Hall**.

Running from 10–12 April 2026, the championships form one of the most important fixtures on New Zealand’s domestic cycling calendar, attracting masters, age-group and from across the country to contest national honours on open roads.

The Moutere Hills Community Hall and nearby grounds on the Moutere Highway serve as the heart of the event, acting as Race Headquarters where riders collect race numbers, attend briefings, and begin their time trials and road races. Registration and number pick-up take place there on all three competition days, giving the Moutere community centre a central role in the smooth running of the championships.

The surrounding Upper Moutere and Nelson countryside provide a stunning and challenging backdrop for the competitions, with courses winding through rural landscapes and rolling hills that test riders’ fitness, tactics and bike-handling skills.



Cyclists compete in a broad range of age categories — from Under-15 through Senior and into Masters grades — each vying for national titles and medals.

The event also features a road-bike-only time trial category, allowing riders to race on traditional road setups for separate honours.

Beyond racing, the championships are a celebration of community and cycling culture, bringing volunteers, supporters and local businesses together around Nelson’s vibrant cycling scene. The use of the Moutere Hills Community Hall underlines the grassroots spirit of the event, as competitors and spectators alike enjoy camaraderie alongside fierce competition on some of the South Island’s most scenic roads.

The event has been brought to the region by Waikato-based Dynamo Events, with invaluable support from the local cycling club, Tasman Wheelers. The club is providing volunteers and local expertise to assist in delivering the event. Ana Cox of Dynamo Events said it has been a pleasure working with Tasman Wheelers, noting that without their support the event would not have been able to take place in the region.

**Come down and see all the action!**

For more information go to:

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# What are they doing...

## On Tasman View Road

Big things are happening on Tasman View Road! The Tasman District Council (TDC) is hard at work sourcing soil for phase 2 of the Motueka River Stopbank Refurbishment project. They're also giving a section of the road a much-needed upgrade to make it better for future use.

This isn't the first time the road has been closed for a while—it's actually the third! The team is extracting clay to raise the stopbank's crest in areas where it's too low or has weak spots that could fail during a major flood. Safety first, right?

The closure does mean some inconvenience for residents and recreational users, but TDC is asking everyone to follow the signs and instructions from the

project team to stay safe. The work between Harley Road and Te Mamaku Drive is expected to continue until May 2026, so you can expect plenty of truck activity on Harley Road in the meantime.

But don't worry—there's still a way to enjoy the area! You're welcome to walk, bike, or ride your horse through Moore Road (Weka Walk) starting at the Moore/Harley Road intersection – walking alongside the wetland and native plantings. Just remember, it's a working farm, so keep your dogs under control. Heads up, though—you won't be able to exit onto Tasman View Road, so you'll need to head back the way you came. Happy exploring!

## Indoor Bowls *a game for every age*

**WHERE:** Moutere Hills Community Centre.

**WHEN:** Friday afternoons 3.15 – 5.15pm

**WHO:** Anyone from 8-88, or maybe older

**EQUIPMENT:** Soft flat soled shoes (or socks). Everything else is provided.

**COST:** first 2 afternoons free, then \$3 per session.

**WHY:** Indoor bowls is truly a game for all ages, where young and old, male and female, firm and infirm can compete on an even footing. Grandchildren, parents, and grandparents are all able to play together, building intergenerational bonds, and developing patience, concentration, and hand- eye coordination.

It can be a casual afternoon's entertainment, or can lead to regional, national or even international hon-

ours. (Last year's Nelson singles champion was 12years old where he beat a 72 year old in the final)

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# MOUTERE HILLS COMMUNITY CENTRE



## Fitness Class Timetable

Cost: \$12 casual, \$80 for 10 class concession or free for Fitness Centre Members

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Strength & Fitness Circuit 6:00am – 6:45am					
		Pilates 8:00am – 8:45am	Re-activate 8:30am – 9:15am	MetaFit 8:15am – 9:00am	Strength & Fitness Circuit 8:00am – 8:45am
Re-activate Circuit 9:00am – 9:45am	Stretch & Flex 9:30am – 10:15am	Pilates 9:00am – 9:45am		Pilates 9:00am – 9:45am	
Sit & Be Fit 10:30am – 11:30am			Sit & Be Fit 10:30am – 11:30am		
Pilates 5:00pm – 5:45pm		Core Focus 5:30pm – 6:15pm			
Pilates 6:00pm – 6:45pm					

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- Barefoot Ballet I & II (8 - 10 years)
- Contemporary Ballet (11+ years)

Moutere Hills Community Centre  
Mondays from 3.30pm

MOUTERE HILLS COMMUNITY CENTRE

**SOCIAL NETBALL**

**MONDAYS**  
6:45PM - 8:00PM

ALL AGES / ABILITIES WELCOME

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**INDOOR BOWLS**

**FRIDAY 3:15-5:15PM**

**\$3 PER PERSON**

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MOUTERE HILLS COMMUNITY CENTRE



Phone: 543 2516

Email: [enquiries@mouterehills.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@mouterehills.org.nz)

Website: [www.mouterehills.org.nz](http://www.mouterehills.org.nz)





**Te Uru Rākau**  
Forestry New Zealand

# Calendar for seed collecting – trees

## Introduction

Find the best time of year and what to look for when collecting native seeds of trees and shrubs.

Use this table to check for the optimal time of year for collection, as well as what to look for when collecting native seeds of trees and shrubs. Read this in conjunction with the [Seed collection and propagation guide for native trees and shrubs](#).

Botanical name	Common name	Colour of ripe fruit/ seed case	Feb	Mar April	May June	July- Oct	Nov- Jan
<i>Agathis australis</i>	kauri	brown cone		y			
<i>Alectryon excelus</i>	titoki	red-black fruit	y				y
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	makomako/ wineberry	red-black fruit		y			
<i>Beilschmiedia taraire</i>	taraire	purple drupe		y			
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa	purple drupe	y	y			
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora	dry brown seed					y
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta	red-black fruit			y		
<i>Coprosma arborea</i>	mamangi	white fruit	y	y	y	y	y
<i>Coprosma areolata</i>		dark blue fruit		y			
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	kanono	red fruit	y	y			
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	shining karamu	red fruit		y			
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	mingimingi	blue fruit		y	y		
<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>		ruby red fruit		y	y		
<i>Coprosma rigida</i>		yellow fruit		y	y		
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu	orange fruit	y	y	y		
<i>Coprosma rotundifolia</i>		red/two-lobed fruit	y				y
<i>Coprosma spathulata</i>		red/orange/ black fruit		y	y		
<i>Coprosma tenuicaulis</i>	swamp coprosma	black fruit		y	y		
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree/ti kouka	cream fruit	y	y			
<i>Cordyline banksii</i>	bush cabbage tree	cream-blue fruit	y	y			
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	kahikatea	orange-red fruit	y	y			
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu	red fruit	y	y	y		
<i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>	kohekohe	orange fruit			y		
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hinau	dark brown fruit		y	y		
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	kotukutuku	red-purple fruit	y				y
<i>Elaeocarpus hookerianus</i>	pokaka	purple-black drupe		y			
<i>Hebe stricta</i>	koromiko	brown capsule		y	y		

New Zealand Government

# Around the Traps

## March edition

*A series focused on predator control in the Moutere*

### Autumn activity begins

March marks the shift from late summer into early autumn. Rats, mice, stoats, and hedgehogs remain active as natural food supplies begin to tighten.

### Protecting late-season birds

Several species still have fledglings or late nests in March:

- Kererū – late chicks remain vulnerable to rats
- Tūi and bellbird/korimako – juveniles are easy prey for ship rats
- Fantail/pīwakawaka – often attempt late nests and remain exposed to stoats and cats
- Grey warbler/riroriro – young birds are still at risk from mice and rats
- Ruru/morepork – vulnerable young birds can be taken by climbing predators

### Tips for March

Refresh baits often – warm days and cool nights can spoil bait quickly. Peanut butter, dried fruit, eggs, or fresh rabbit remain effective options.

Watch for mice – if bait is disappearing without catches, switch rat traps to a soft trigger setting or add a secondary mouse trap. High mouse activity often signals mustelids nearby.

Stay on hedgehog duty – they remain active through early autumn and continue to threaten lizards, skinks, and ground-nesting birds.

Use scent-rich baits for stoats – eggs and fresh meat work well as natural prey becomes less abundant.



*Photo: trail cam in Upper Moutere, Feb 2026*

### Ferrets on the rise

We're seeing a noticeable rise in ferret activity locally. Ferrets range widely across farmland and lifestyle blocks, and they pose a serious threat to chickens, ducks, and ground-nesting birds. If you're trapping at home, keep DOC-series traps firmly anchored and watch for larger footprints or a strong musky scent.

### Get Started

Visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/view/moutere-birdsong/> for information on our project and how to join in. If you're new to trapping, local volunteers can provide guidance – just use the contact form to let us know how we can help.

### Commercial support for Moutere Birdsong

If you are a local business wanting to support the Moutere Birdsong project, please contact us using the website. Every little helps!

### Beuke's Bush trapping volunteering

Beuke's Bush would like to expand its trapping lines. Please get in touch if you are interested in helping – even a few hours once a month would make a big difference. We are still looking for more volunteers to help protect this important local asset.

### Contact:

Moutere Birdsong <https://sites.google.com/view/moutere-birdsong/>  
[mouterebirdsong@gmail.com](mailto:mouterebirdsong@gmail.com) / 021 231 3947  
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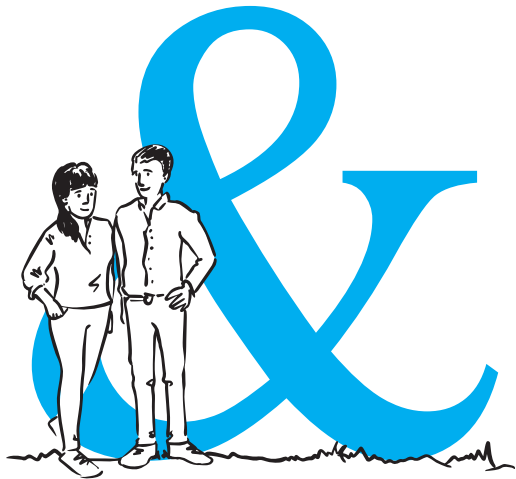
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UPPER MOUTERE

# THE WRITE BIAS

## News from the Māpua Bowling Club

The Club has hosted two tournaments in fairly rapid succession. On Sunday 25th January, the first one of its kind at Māpua, an open short form singles sponsored by the Stihl Shop, Motueka. Monday 9th February saw the ever popular open roast triples sponsored by Bowater Toyota. The Club is indebted to these sponsors for making the tournaments possible.

Although the day was overcast for the singles tournament the green was perfect after all the rain and 18 players arrived to try to win the first, but hopefully not the last, tournament of its kind at Māpua.

Entrants were divided randomly into groups of three all playing two games up to 11 points and marking one before the lunch break.

Another innovation at Māpua is the electronic scoring system. Results were entered as each game finished but the final outcome remained a secret until the end of the day.

During the lunch break bowlers were split into two sections dependent on the results of the morning.

The same format was played after lunch in the two sections with everyone playing two games and marking one. There were some very close matches but by the last round it was clear to see the winners emerging,

With play concluded and the final results being collated, players enjoyed the customary hospitality at Māpua with tea, drinks, sausage rolls, sandwiches, crackers and biscuits.

*The winners were as follows:*

### Top Section

- 1st Barbara McGregor, United
- 2nd Mark Connor, Wakefield
- 3rd Ian Benbow, Māpua

### Plate Section


- 1st Arthur Win, Māpua
- 2nd Peter Wood, Māpua
- 3rd Barbara Adcock, Māpua

**The Bowater Toyota** triples was a sell-out – could it be due to the roast lunch? – and was highly competitive. The winners were:


- 1st United – Kevin Willson, Nora Harvey and Russell Downie
- 2nd Māpua – Warren Keith, Ian Benbow and Bob Foster
- 3rd Motueka – Phil Soper, Lyn Soper and Peter Cromwell

For information about bowling, coaching or booking the Clubhouse and facilities please call Secretary Di Blanchet (021 0773 445), email [blanchet.tadmor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:blanchet.tadmor@xtra.co.nz) or check out our website or Facebook page.

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# Travel with Becks

## Travel with Becks Perspective

*March is often when travel ideas begin to take shape.*

*A destination sparks your interest, a conversation with friends brings back memories, or you begin thinking about where next.*

Many Nelson and Tasman travellers I work with are looking for journeys that feel comfortable, well paced, and genuinely rewarding, combining meaningful experiences with the ease of knowing everything has been thoughtfully arranged.

### **Northern Spain and Portugal with time to enjoy it**

Northern Spain offers elegant cities, beautiful coastline, and a food culture that encourages you to slow down and enjoy each day. Combining a small group tour with time to explore independently allows space to settle into local cafés, coastal villages, and everyday life.

Continuing into Portugal, a river cruise along the Douro Valley provides a gentle and scenic extension. Vineyards, historic estates, and riverside villages unfold at a relaxed pace, with each day offering a balance of exploration and time to simply enjoy the journey.

### **Sailing into the South Pacific from Auckland**

One of the simplest and most enjoyable holidays available to New Zealanders is sailing directly from Auckland into the South Pacific. With no long haul flights, your holiday begins the moment you step onboard.

Over the following days, destinations such as the Bay of Islands, Fiji, and Samoa offer a wonderful mix of scenery, culture, and relaxation. Having experienced this voyage myself, what stands out most is the ease. You unpack once, settle in, and enjoy each destination as it arrives.

### **Norway and the Arctic Coast**

Cruising the Norwegian coastline offers spectacular scenery, from fjords and fishing villages to vibrant northern cities. It is a destination that feels adventurous yet remains incredibly comfortable, allowing you to explore ashore while enjoying the ease of returning to your ship each evening.

### **Thoughtful planning makes all the difference**

Many travellers begin their research online, but bringing everything together in the right way makes the experience far more enjoyable. Flights, timing, accommodation, and overall



flow all play an important role.

When everything is thoughtfully planned, you can simply relax and enjoy the journey.

If travel has been on your mind lately, a conversation is often the easiest place to begin.

∞ Yours in travel,  
Rebecca



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# Vet Helpline

## Fly Strike!

*Just a reminder the risk of flystrike will continue into autumn while it's warm and wet.*

Sheep farmers are well aware of fly-strike but it also affects camellids, pet rabbits and dogs. This is a serious problem that can occur within hours and can be fatal. Flies are attracted to fur/fleece that is damp or smelly from urine, faeces or skin disease and they lay their eggs in the area. Maggots will hatch within hours and quickly eat into and through the skin and flesh. This is painful and animals rapidly become ill from toxins released.

### Prevention of fly strike varies between species:

**Rabbits** - check 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.

**Sheep** - Shearing and use of chemicals are two important strategies. After shearing sheep are usually safe for 2-4 weeks. They need around 2 weeks wool cover to hold fly prevention chemicals to the fleece. Ensure adequate coverage and application rate of the treatment. Common products we recommend are Cyrex Spray-on (need to mix with water and saturate the animal) or Zapp Encore (a low dose, ready to use pour on).

**Camellids** – also need a protective shear (which helps prevent overheating and skin issues as well) and chemical prevention to keep flies away.

**Dogs** – make sure long fur is kept clean and dry and cut it short if necessary. Flystrike is usually seen around the back end where urine or poo remains on the fur. But we also see it along the spine if fur remains wet after rain and anywhere there is weepy or smelly skin disease.

### Facial eczema

January to May is the high risk period for Facial Eczema. This is a disease of cattle, sheep, deer, goats, llamas and alpacas (but not horses). After parasites, it is considered the most serious production-limiting disease of New Zealand farm animals – the problem is it's not always obvious. It is estimated that for every case with visible crusty skin lesions, there will be ten cases with unseen liver disease. The name “facial eczema” makes it sound like a skin disease but liver damage is the main problem.

Facial eczema is caused by a fungus in pasture that stock eat while grazing. It causes liver damage which affects everything – growth, production, reproduction, general health and if severe enough will result in death. The eczema that is seen is also a result of this liver damage.

There is no cure for facial eczema. Prevention is key. There are various options available so phone us for more



advice and the best options for your stock and property.

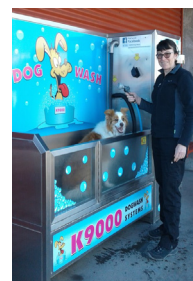
Follow our website to keep track of the spore counts on our monitor farms, when the levels start to rise above 10,000 on any property you should start sampling your own pastures to determine the level of risk.

And Happy Easter! Remember to keep your chocolate out of your dog's reach (and anyone else you want to keep it safe from!)

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Agricultural incl. Hay and Baleage Production	AgWorks Tasman - Heath	022 648 5436
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Play Group	Hannah <a href="mailto:moutereplaygroup@gmail.com">moutereplaygroup@gmail.com</a>	027 451 3695
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Real Estate	PGG Wrightson - Doug Smith	027 543 2280
Recreation Centre	Moutere Hills Community Centre	03 543 2516
Rural Supplies Hub	Red Magpie Supplies <a href="mailto:supplies@redmagpie.co.nz">supplies@redmagpie.co.nz</a>	027 737 3774
Scaffolding	Tasman Bay Scaffolding Ltd	021 436 832
Storage	Mariri Storage and Best Island yards - Sam Leith	027 355 9316
Swimming Pools - new and maintenance	Bay Pools - Craig - <a href="mailto:info@baypoolsnelson.co.nz">info@baypoolsnelson.co.nz</a>	021 569 040
Travel	Rebecca MacFadyen <a href="mailto:rebecca@travelwithbecks.co.nz">rebecca@travelwithbecks.co.nz</a>	021 0260 7333
Travel	World Travellers, Silvana Gottini <a href="mailto:silvana@wtmot.co.nz">silvana@wtmot.co.nz</a>	03 528 1550
Upholstery	Adventure Canvas, Auto / Marine - Caleb Hill	027 362 0048
Vet and Dog Wash	Town & Country Vet	03 544 1200
Vineyard	Flaxmore, 24 Flaxmore Rd, UMO. <a href="mailto:wine@flaxmore.co.nz">wine@flaxmore.co.nz</a>	027 527 8284
Water Filtration & Pumps	Frans van de Loo	0275 281 366
Youth Group	Tessa Werner	022 101 2276