

The Grapevine

MOUTERE HILLS COMMUNITY NEWS

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Special points of interest:

Be sure to read everything - you may discover something that suits you to volunteer for!

Thank you for reading the Grapevine and for supporting the advertisers.

Gold coin donation to Moutere Motors, The Old Post Office, Moutere Store or Lower Moutere Store appreciated. FREE DELIVERY



Long-term, unsung contributor to the Moutere Community

Phil Hyatt was “born and bred” as the saying goes, in Sunrise Valley. Now semi-retired, Phil was a long-term farmer of many talents, growing blackcurrants and tobacco, and involved in forestry. Phil and his wife Raewyn have three children (two of whom live locally).

“Community” is a term I often refer to in my interviews, because it is that sense of mutual care, of making our area a “better” one, which is important to our sense of well-being, both individually and collectively. What struck me most in my chat with Phil, was the depth and range of his community activities over many years; his help in making Upper Moutere the vibrant area that it is: in other words, helping to build a community where, for example, we can gather at a community centre

(MHCC) for a whole range of activities, and in which we have a local fire brigade which provides community support and safety in a range of emergency situations.

When and how did you get involved in community activities, Phil?

After leaving school, I worked on the family farm, and in my spare time, I played rugby. This led to my being involved in the administrative side of rugby too. During this time (mid-1970’s), there were several house fires in the Moutere area and a public meeting was held to discuss the establishment of a local fire brigade. Along with a number of other, mostly young, men in the area, I got involved. For the following nineteen years, the fire

cont. pg3

PLACING AN ADVERTISEMENT

Thank you for advertising in The Grapevine—you help us cover the cost of producing and delivering this free community newsletter each month.

The deadline for each issue is the **15th of the month**. Please email your print-ready advert (JPG, PDF or PNG preferable) to: umograpevine@protonmail.com

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Sending us articles of interest

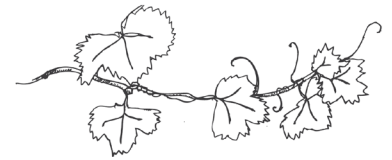
We warmly welcome contributions to The Grapevine from all residents in the Moutere and Tasman regions. You make the newsletter an interesting read! There is no cost for having your articles published if you are telling the community about a fundraising venture. However we do appreciate a donation from 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 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, Glenys Johnston and Fi Johnstone.

Disclaimer

Views expressed in articles in The Grapevine are not necessarily those of The Grapevine team or its editor. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information included in this publication, The Grapevine takes no responsibility for errors or omissions or for any consequences of reliance on this information. All adverts are required to present a name or contact details so that people can respond directly should they have any queries or concerns. Publication of advertising material implies no endorsement of either a product or a service.



Grapevine Says...

Autumn is one of the most beautiful seasons in the Moutere area and this year is no exception: calm, mild, stunning days in which it is wonderful to "soak it all up" - the mountains, the red evening skies and the autumn-coloured trees. Our environment can make us appreciate how fortunate we are and, at least temporarily, provide respite from a troubled, uncertain world.

Keep on emailing us: umograpevine@protonmail.com



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brigade was an important part of my life, one which required a high degree of commitment and time from all its members. We built the brigade from scratch: a station, vehicles, weekly training, fund-raising and equipment. In the early days, most members were young, newly married (or about to be so!) and running their own businesses, mostly on the land. I enjoyed the role of deputy fire chief, but not the increasingly bureaucratic aspect of it. We developed an efficient, supportive and sociable group. I have fond memories of my time in the brigade and am proud of our achievements: the brigade was, and continues to be, a great asset to our community.

I believe you also contributed hugely to the planning and building of the Moutere Hills Community Centre (MHCC), another integral part of our community?

Yes. This was a new challenge after my time with the fire brigade. I was on the Upper Moutere Domain Board which administered the local community hall (located where Country Kids is now) and the Memorial Domain. A bold, forward-thinking plan was devised to replace the old, small hall, with a big, bright, multi-purpose community

centre. I was elected chairman of a very forward-thinking, capable group of trustees. This ambitious project involved a huge amount of planning and work to bring it to fruition. It was a cool project, with fantastic support from many people and also from the Tasman District Council. Our leap of faith paid off as our efforts resulted in an attractive functional, widely-used community centre.

Any other groups you were or are still involved in?

A few: for example, Tim Finn and I set up a local Ratepayers' group, primarily to construct a walkway/cycleway from the Moutere village to the MHCC, a goal which we failed to achieve, but it is fantastic that the present group has managed to do so. I'm also on the Sarau Trust, and involved in the administration of the Tasman Golf Club.

Many people have shifted into the Moutere Hills area in recent years and so are unaware of the changes that have occurred in the last 50-60 years. What have you noticed?


Clearly, it is much busier than it used to be! There are more things happen-

ing, especially at our local "hub", the MHCC, where there is a range of many interesting activities. The pub has changed too: from a male domain to a family-friendly, country pub, with community attractions such as quiz evenings and folk-singing nights. There are also losses, such as the local Post Office, but the building itself is now home to several small businesses and a coffee machine!

Activities in your "spare" time?

I have been a keen golfer and cyclist for many years (I've cycled the Heaphy Track ten times, and the Ghost Trail four times!). Another activity which has given me great pleasure in the last 8-10 years, has been working with my children (and grandchildren) continuing the development of our forestry blocks and also reinstating a wetland with extensive riparian native planting.

A big thanks, Phil, for all the work you have done, and continue to do, to build and strengthen our community. Hopefully, readers will be inspired to initiate or join community groups and by helping others, feel the sense of quiet satisfaction that can come through helping others.



Vinyasa Flow
Yoga Classes

Breath - Movement - Flow

.....

Tuesdays & Fridays
9.30am - 10.45am

At Riverside Community Hall,
289 Main Road, Lower Moutere

.....

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e: breatheyogaNZ@gmail.com



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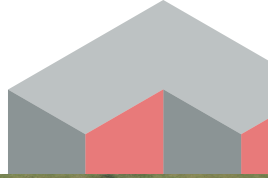
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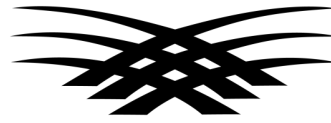
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Community Noticeboard

UPPER MOUTERE PLAYGROUP We meet every Monday and Friday 10am - 1pm, Moutere Hills Community Centre, all families welcome. Contact Anna/Kaitlin: Moutereplaygroup@gmail.com

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

PATTERN MAKERS 10 Lessons. Courses starting mid-April & mid-July 2026. Marlene - 021 051 2424

LOOKING FOR USED CLOTHING in good condition for the Sarau winter sale. Please put it aside and next month we will tell you how to get it to us. Motueka High yr12 Fabrics Class.

TRAPPING COURSE 2026 Richmond: 17-18 June, NMIT Richmond. NMIT Course, delivered with DOC, provides the skills to manage effective pest control programmes. Ph: 0800 422 733 www.nmit.ac.nz/study/short-courses/

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

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.

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.

SARAU WINTER SALE

Preloved Books & Clothing

July 25th - 26th

11am - 3pm

MOUTERE HILLS COMMUNITY CENTRE

A fundraiser for Sarau Community Trust

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Community Noticeboard

...cont'd

Moutere Birdsong



Moutere Birdsong have recently received a supply of DOC 200 and wooden rat traps from the Waimea Menzshed. These have been partially funded by World Wildlife Fund and DOC and we are therefore able to sell them at a reduced rate. We also have a fresh stock of ERAYZ and plenty of Pics trapping peanut butter. Contact us if we can help you out: mouterebirdsong@gmail.com

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WE ARE CRITICALLY SHORT ON VOLUNTEERS

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Thank you! ♥



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Flood risk in the Motueka Catchment

A practical
community
workshop



Thursday 28 May
11:00am - 2:30pm

Shedwood Hall, Tapawera



Join us for this free,
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covering:

- latest flood science from Dr Emily Lane (NIWA)
- local experiences and perspectives
- flood risk management approaches
- practical next steps for households, communities, and decision-makers

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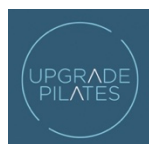
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Moutere Kai Collective

For those new to the Kai Collective concept, we're a group of locals who get together every few weeks, to produce nourishing meals. We then encourage locals to come and collect the meals and gift them on to their neighbour, friend, or a family member who may be in need of a little support and love. As always, our frozen meals can be collected by anyone, from the public-access freezer located in the foyer of the Moutere Hills Community Centre.

We also supply the Motueka Maternity Unit and various other community out-reach locations with our frozen meals. We're entirely volunteer co-ordinated and run.



2026 is off to a busy start for the Moutere Kai Collective. We've recently restocked the freezers for the 5th time this year.

We would like to acknowledge a couple of our supporters who recently made the trip to Rangiora and back to collect 300kg frozen venison donated to the Motueka area food banks by Hunters4Hope. We use this in our cottage pies, and it has been hugely valuable to those who make weekly food parcels available in Motueka.

How do I use the Kai Collective?

1. Identify someone in need of love and support
2. Collect a meal or two from MHCC (also available from the Church Hall)
3. Deliver the meal to your friend and make the world a little kinder...

How can I help the Kai Collective?

- By gifting our meals out into our community.
- Donate to help support our food costs: NBS 03-1354-0423793-00
- Volunteer your time

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers and generous donors.



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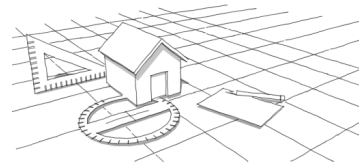
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Travel with Becks

Why good planning matters more than ever...

Over the past weeks, I've been keeping a close eye on travel movements and staying in regular contact with industry partners, and the overall picture is clear - travel is continuing to move well.

Flights are operating through key transit points, and feedback from travellers has been consistently positive. People are getting where they need to go, and in most cases, journeys are running smoothly.

Where I've seen the biggest shift is in how people are choosing to travel. There is a greater focus on having things well planned from the outset, with the right connections, timing, and flexibility built in. When this is done properly, travel continues to feel seamless, even when the wider world feels a little uncertain.

This is where having someone managing things behind the scenes becomes particularly valuable. I'm constantly monitoring airline updates, routes, and global events, and working directly with suppliers so that if anything does change, it can be adjusted early and smoothly. It allows my clients to travel knowing everything has been carefully thought through and is being actively looked after along the way.

While shorter, closer to home trips are proving very popular right now, long haul travel is absolutely continuing as normal. Clients are still travelling through Europe, the UK and Asia, and enjoying it just as much as ever. The key difference is not where you

go, but how it's planned, choosing the right routes, timing and style of travel so everything flows easily from start to finish.

Closer to home, Fiji and the South Pacific remain a favourite for easy, relaxing escapes, while Australia, particularly Tasmania, Queensland and coastal regions, offers a lovely mix of food, scenery and space to unwind.

Across Asia, destinations such as Japan and SouthEast Asia continue to appeal, combining well known highlights with quieter regional experiences and exceptional food. Further afield, Europe remains as popular as ever, whether it's Spain and Portugal for a slower pace or broader journeys through the UK and beyond.

Not every holiday needs to be a big, long-haul commitment. A thoughtfully planned five-to-ten-night trip can deliver just as much, whether that's a food focused itinerary, a small group journey, a well-paced multi destination trip, a cruise departing closer to home, or an iconic rail experience.

At the same time, there are some really good opportunities emerging. Cruise lines and



touring companies are releasing strong offers for the next 6 to 18 months, particularly across Europe, river cruising, and small group journeys. For those starting to think about travel, it is a great time to secure something well in advance while availability and value are both in your favour.

Whether it's a short escape, a longer journey, or simply the early stages of an idea, travel is still one of the most rewarding things you can plan. With the right structure and support in place, it continues to be something you can look forward to with confidence.

Travel with Becks

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Travel with Becks

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FITNESS CENTRE EXPANSION COMING SOON

• PROGRESS

Building consent has been secured so the project is going out for tender.

• FUNDRAISING

We still require \$177,000 to get this project over the line so please support our fundraising initiatives:

APRIL - Raffle, Sold during April and drawn in May

JUNE - Cabaret Evening with dancing and casino

SEPTEMBER - Quiz Night

PRIZE DONATIONS WELCOMED!



• SPONSORSHIP

Are you able to donate to the expansion of the fitness centre. We welcome cash or in-kind donations. Please get in contact if you can help.

MOUTERE HILLS COMMUNITY CENTRE, 1539 MOUTERE HIGHWAY

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MOUTERE HILLS COMMUNITY CENTRE



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Monday & Thursday
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\$5 per person



FITNESS CENTRE EXPANSION

We are excited to inform you that we have now received our building consent and are moving forward with this project. Please support our current fundraiser:

May Raffle

Only \$20 per ticket

Be in to win one prize each day of May

To purchase a ticket please email fitness@mouterehills.org.nz,
phone (03) 5432516 or pop into the office.



INDOOR BOWLS

FRIDAY 3:15-5:15PM

\$3 PER PERSON

We welcome anyone from 8 years old and all abilities.
All gear provided just wear soft flat soled shoes.

MOUTERE HILLS COMMUNITY CENTRE



Ballet & Contemporary Dance Classes

with Bex

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Designed to develop confidence and build knowledge through musicality, body awareness and self-expression.

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- Structured Barefoot Ballet (7-10years)
- Contemporary Dance for Teens (11+)
- Teen & Adult Ballet

Mondays

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from 3.30pm

Contact Bex to come and try a class



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PICKLEBALL

FOR ALL AGES/ABILITIES

TUESDAYS

10:30AM-12:30PM

COST \$3 / Player per session

Moutere Hills Community Centre

COUNTRY

Christmas Market

5th December 10:30am—3:00pm

STALL BOOKINGS

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Indoor and outdoor sites available.

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Phone: 543 2516

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Preparing land for planting native trees

With recent rain and late autumn planting in mind, has your land been prepared for planting your native trees?

The current vegetation cover will determine whether you need to clear the land, and how you clear it. You may need to clear pest plants that will make it difficult for your native plants to thrive, for example shade tolerant weeds, vine weeds, blackberry and invasive trees species such as sycamore. Other weed species such as gorse, may help your plants to grow by providing shelter.

If you are planting into pasture, then reducing the competition from the grass will be important. Grazing the planting site within three months of planting will reduce the grass cover, or you can mow the site where accessible to do so.

If using herbicide, spot spraying is best for wide-spaced planting over 1.5 m apart, whereas blanket spraying is required for high-density planting of less than 1.5 m plant spacing.



Other tasks might include:

- Putting in tracks to provide access to the site and to make future maintenance easier
- Controlling pest animals such as possums, goats or hares
- Fencing to exclude stock from planted site – almost all native plants are palatable to browsing animals

Good land preparation improves site conditions

Getting your land preparation right at the start will help improve the conditions of your site to:

- accelerate tree growth, and support establishment and survival
- protect existing desirable vegetation on the site such as native bush
- reduce competition from weeds

There are many examples of successful planted sites in the Moutere area, so if you are unsure of where to start, talk to a neighbour or join a restoration group already doing great work. There are a number of guides available including the Preparing Land for Native Planting Guide available for downloading at www.canopy.govt.nz or Site Preparation for Planting Natives available on the Tāne’s Trust website at Tāne’s Tree Trust Documents • Establishing Native Forests You can request a hard copy of both of these guides by contacting forestrysupport@mpi.govt.nz

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Around the Traps

May edition - Hedgehogs



Hedgehog in the forest at night. Image credit: Paul Williams

Hedgehogs were first introduced in New Zealand in the 1870s to make British settlers feel more at home. Now, 150 years later, the impact hedgehogs have on our native species has earned them the title of “the most underrated predator”.

With our childhood memories of feeding them milk on saucers, many New Zealanders struggle to reconcile the fact that hedgehogs impact our native species, so below are **four** interesting facts so you can learn more about them.

1. The hedgehog population in New Zealand is more numerous than in their native homeland, the United Kingdom

New Zealand has one of the world’s largest introduced hedgehog populations. In many parts of the country there are an estimated two to four hedgehogs per hectare (a hectare is approximately the size of a rugby field) and in some areas there may be as many as eight!

You can find them in grassland, braided riverbeds and drier forest habitat.

In Europe, they are hunted by pine martens, foxes and badgers, but here in New Zealand they have few predators, instead themselves enjoying a banquet of food including lizards, bird eggs and wētā.

2. Hedgehogs are mountain climbers

A hedgehog was spotted nearly 2,000 metres up a mountain in the Mackenzie Basin during summer, to researchers’ surprise. They then attached small transmitting “back-

packs” onto 30 hedgehogs to track their movements to see if they move to lower elevations during winter. The researchers thought the hedgehogs would move short distances downhill, avoiding the harsh conditions of alpine zones. However, they were found to hibernate and even rear young in high-elevation areas, proving hedgehogs aren’t just visitors to these zones, they are residents.

3. One hedgehog was found with 283 wētā legs in its stomach

The hedgehog was found while research was being done in the upper Waitaki basin area.

Wētā have six legs which means approximately 47 wētā were eaten in a single night’s foraging.

Researchers were looking into the diets of hedgehogs and the implications for conservation.

In the same study, 22% of hedgehogs were found to have wētā remains in their stomachs.

4. Hedgehogs prey on birds and eggs

Hedgehogs are a major threat to river birds, particularly breeding ones like banded dotterel, black-fronted terns and pied oystercatchers. They eat their eggs and kill the chicks.



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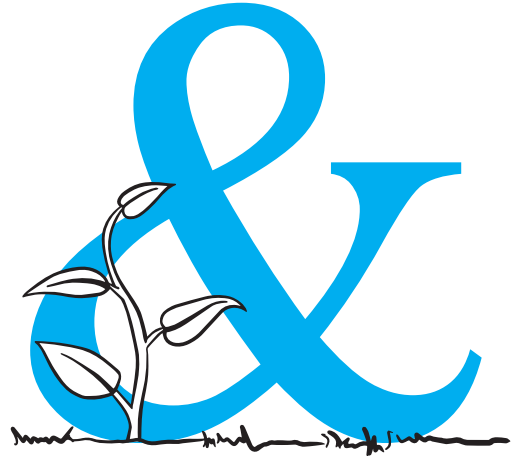
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Our latest news & adventures



Programme Highlight - Ignite & Activate

Year 11 participants from Motueka High School (MHS) on our Ignite and Activate programmes paddled the Buller River recently as part of their final adventure together. These two programmes are an ongoing collaboration between MHS and WIO and are made possible by local donors, Pitt & Moore Lawyers and Port Nelson who all believe strongly in the power of experiential outdoor education. The programmes are designed to run over a three-year period. The group stays together and develops long-term bonds over many different trips. The programmes are designed to foster teamwork, empathy, communication, self-confidence and resilience. These skills translate directly into the workforce and empower Ignite and Activate graduates to become emerging community leaders in the future.

We'd like to congratulate the Ignite and Activate programme graduates for their tenacity and hard work. We wish them well in their next adventures!



Ignite participants brave the rapids on the Buller River

Announcing New 'Summit Sessions'

Summit Sessions are **no-cost**, 1.5 hour climbing blocks designed for people who want to enjoy the unique experience of climbing in a purpose-built facility. Each session is run by qualified instructors who will guide participants through the fundamentals of climbing, including safety systems, equipment use and movement on the wall. Whenua Iti Outdoors operates strict instructor-to-climber ratios in line with our operational policies. Because of this, Summit Sessions have limited spaces and must be booked in advance - full info at wio.org.nz

Upcoming dates:

15 May - 12:30-2:00 pm, 2:30-4:00 pm

29 May - 12:30-2:00 pm, 2:30-4:00 pm

Summit Sessions are suitable for a wide range of participants over 5 years of age. Participants aged 5-16 years old require adult to accompany them.



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THE WRITE BIAS

News from the Mapua Bowling Club

The final tournament of the season, and definitely the craziest, was Ladies Giggle Day held on Wednesday 25th March. Originally conceived as a day of friendship for ladies from our sister clubs, it has developed over the years to become an opportunity for dressing-up, starting the day with a tippie and playing non-traditional games of bowls throughout the day. The theme this year was all things Easter, which brought out plenty of chicks and bunnies. The games, as always, were bonkers but there were still winners at the end of the day who received cash prizes thanks to the sponsor, Nelson Building Society.

Club members only enjoyed Memorial Day and the Enstone Trophy on Saturday 11th April. This mixed pairs competition provided an opportunity for remembering and acknowledging past members as well as raising funds through a raffle for the Low Vision Foundation. Pairs were drawn from a hat and the winners were Michael Busby and Wally Duff.

Unbelievably the season is drawing to an end. The standard of our green has been exceptional this year and as such has been requisitioned on numerous occasions by Nelson Centre for Centre competitions. This is still happening and our green will be in use on Saturday 18th April for the Champ of Champs 2-4-2 Mixed Pairs forcing Club Closing Day to Sunday 19th.



Michael Busby & Wally Duff with the Enstone Trophy

There is plenty of work planned for the off-season and the facilities are always available for booking throughout the year.

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 or check out our website or Facebook page.

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Lumps and Bumps...and new Cat Bylaws for June 2026



A reminder that cat owners have until June 2026 to comply with the Cat Management Bylaws implemented by Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council last year.

In Tasman the new requirements are for all domestic cats to be microchipped, be registered on the NZ Companion Animal Register and be de-sexed by the time they are six months old.

The purpose of the bylaws is to permanently identify cats as owned pets and protect them from future stray/feral cat population controls.

Microchipping is a straightforward procedure that can be done quickly without sedation. The microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and we place it just under the skin on the back of the neck.

As well as identifying your cat as being owned, microchips are the fastest way to reunite cats with their families and nowadays can be used with really cool technology like pet doors and cat feeders. So no more worrying about losing your cat and other cats using your cat's door to get in and eat your cat's food!

Remember:

- Being microchipped doesn't automatically register your cat on NZCAR. To check if your cat is

registered, go directly to NZCAR's website and enter your cat's microchip number.

- If you don't know if your cat is microchipped or its number, you might be able to find it in vaccination records, vet paperwork or by phoning your vet or bringing your cat in to be scanned.

Lumps and bumps

Animals often get lumps, especially as they get older. Some lumps are temporary such as enlarged glands. But some lumps are permanent and may be benign or malignant.

Benign lumps tend to grow slowly by pushing other types of cells out of the way and don't spread to other parts of the body. Malignant lumps are the ones we worry about as they invade into neighbouring organs and/or spread in the blood stream. Malignant tumours are what we refer to as cancer.

A lump should definitely be checked out if:

- It is growing rapidly
- It suddenly gets bigger after being the same size for a long time
- It goes up and down in size
- It changes in appearance e.g. was smooth but is now knobbly, or was soft and is now hard



- There is bleeding or discharge
- It annoys the animal

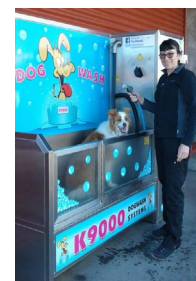
Usually a needle biopsy is the first step to diagnose what sort of lump your pet has. Sometimes follow-up surgery is needed to remove it, sometimes they are completely ok to leave alone.

If a lump needs to be removed for whatever reason, it is better for the animal (and for your wallet!) to do it earlier/when it is small.

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