

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!

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Restoring and regenerating: a quest to enhance the environment

Alert readers of "The Grapevine" will have noticed that we regularly feature articles about the environment, whether it be trapping, information on our native trees or walks through native bush in the Moutere area. So, it is with much pleasure that in this month's edition, we feature Tony Lavo and Susan Moore-Lavo who have been clearing away weeds and planting native trees on their 5.5 hectare piece of land since their arrival here 12 years ago from Upper Hutt.

What drew you away from a city lifestyle to a rural area?

We often used to come to the Tasman area on tramping trips and thought we would do many more if we lived here. We put our house on the market and went to Europe for 8-9 months. Fortui-

tously, our plans fell into place: shortly after our return, our house sold and Susan secured a job at the Nelson City Council (working in the environmental area). Then, we were lucky enough to find just the property we wanted, with views of both the Richmond and Kahurangi mountain ranges, and a self-contained flat for Tony's mother, and other family members to stay in.

Describe your property when you shifted there and how you have developed it.

There were some patches of native bush, but it was impenetrable in places because of infestation by a multitude of weeds - hawthorn, gorse, blackberry, broom and barberry. We spent a year, sometimes on our hands and

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Sending us articles of interest

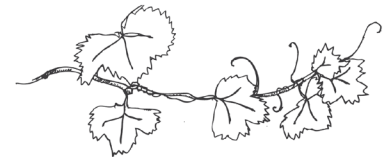
We warmly welcome contributions to The Grapevine from all residents in the Moutere and Tasman regions. You make the newsletter an interesting read! There is no cost for having your articles published if you are telling the community about a fundraising venture. However we do appreciate a donation from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

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Grapevine Says...

As many readers will know, The Grapevine has been produced in one form or another since the early 1980s. Our best estimate is that this is issue 341!

We were therefore delighted to hear recently that several readers keep a copy by their phone for easy access to the directory on the back page. We have an amazingly diverse range of goods and services available right on our doorstep and it is wonderful to see these businesses supported.

Finally, with mid-Winter Christmas just around the corner, we thought that perhaps an easy, low-cost recipe for mulled wine might be appreciated so one is included on page 9.

photo: rare winter snow in Moutere Runge, 2011



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knees, cutting weeds and pasting the stumps with weed killer. We became a little obsessive and didn't do too much hiking! The hard work paid off though and around six years ago we had QEII covenants put on two pieces of our bush.

As well as clearing the land, I guess you have also been planting trees?

We have, indeed! When we first arrived there was some remnant funding from the DOC Community Fund, which we used to plant our first 1000 nurse plants to buffer the remnant forest, plants such as kanuka, manuka, Coprosma robusta and pseudopanax. Two years ago, we planted second generation trees, mostly podocarps: rimu, matai, kahikatea and totara, as well as pigeonwood and titoki. We are trying to keep our plantings to species that were originally endemic to the area. We are also gradually replacing exotic trees with natives (but retaining some for firewood).

Susan, can you explain how your paid work complements what you and Tony have been accomplishing on your property?

For the last three years, I have been employed as Regional Advisor for

Top of the South at Te Uru Raakau – New Zealand Forest Service (Ministry of Primary Industries). The work is wide-ranging but includes organising workshops and giving advice on native plantings. Last year for example, 45 people attended a workshop I initiated on "Growing a Native Forest" at the Moutere Hills Community Centre. I have recently been submitting some articles into the Grapevine about our special native tall trees, and native establishment.

Interest in planting native trees has increased hugely in the past few years, partly because of government funding projects such as the "One Billion Trees Programme" and "Jobs for Nature". This has been accompanied by an increased awareness of the need "to hold on to what we have got." The Nelson-Marlborough area stands out for its huge commitment to native tree regeneration. The challenge now is to maintain what has been established to enable young plantings to grow into mature forests.

So, where to from here for you both in your regeneration and restoration journey?

We are still propagating (Susan), spray-

ing (Tony) and planting (together), but the project feels more manageable now. It is immensely satisfying to see the young plantings transitioning to a forest. The QEII Covenant means that the trees will be there for posterity, protecting everything we have done to now. There are particular pleasures too, such as observing our rimu, some of the few fruiting ones in the local district. The trees are on their way now; we can sit on our deck and watch them grow. We feel a closer connection to the land seeing parts of it being restored to its natural state. The native New Zealand bush is part of our cultural and national identity.

Thanks very much for your work in improving and enhancing our environment and, hopefully, by your example, encouraging other people to do likewise.

Readers might like to check out "Kotahitanga mo te taio" which has a lowlands restoration focused in the Riwaka, Moutere and Motueka catchment areas <https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/about-us/media-centre/news-and-notice/river-catchment-study-could-accelerate-new-zealands-climate-response>



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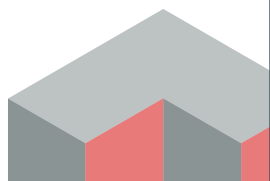
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Community Noticeboard

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

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.

BACH TO RENT IN GOLDEN BAY

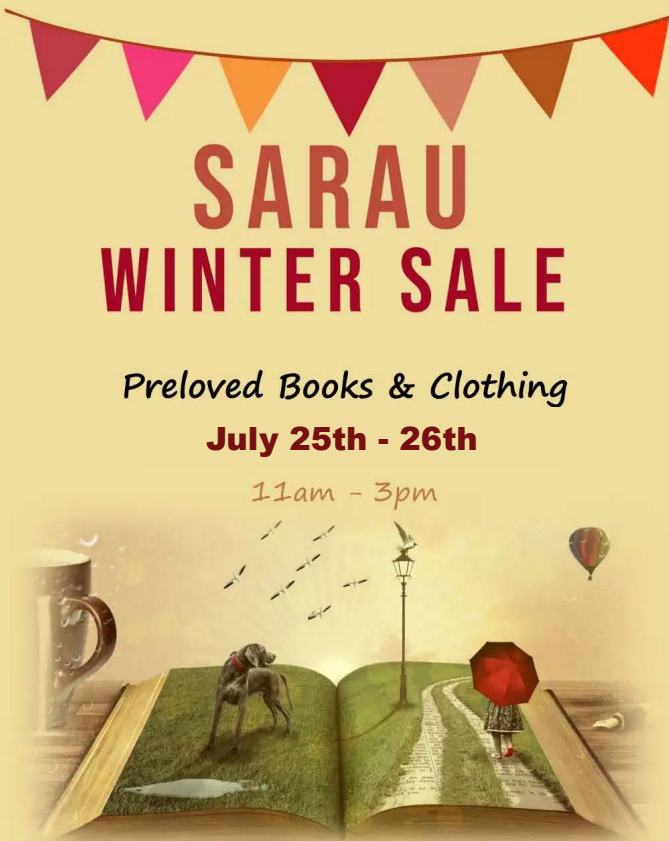
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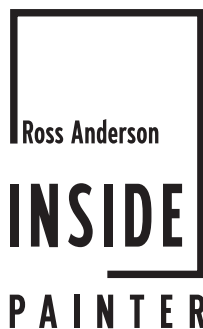
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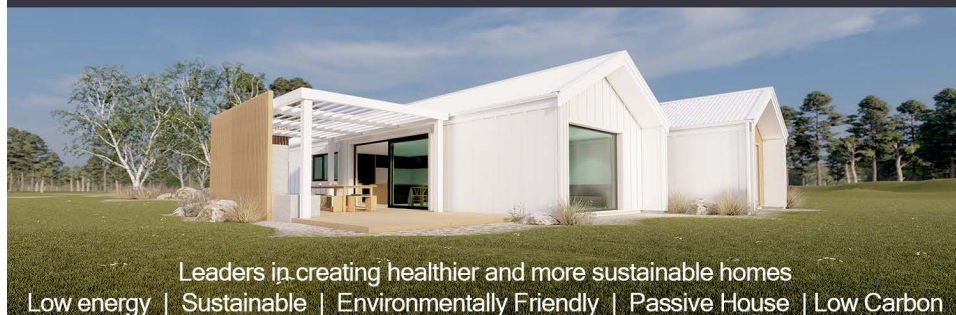
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Community Noticeboard ...cont'd

Malice in Autumn

I have been thinking about autumn, and reflecting on neighbourliness after reading the thankful, introspective editorial note offered last month. Autumn for many becomes an extra activity: living rurally can require a last minute plunge of preserving the harvests before they fall, rot and return to the soil (or to feed possums and rats or perhaps more welcomingly, to boost hungry teenage pheasants).

This week it was the time of crab-apple and feijoa. Feijoa sauce, feijoa pickles, fermented feijoa. For crab-apples it had to be jelly. Ours is a young tree called Malus Profusion. I had always coveted one since learning of its name when I moved to the Moutere in 2001. Mistaking the name as Malice Profusion, I imagined a poetic turn of acidic malevolence linked to a mythical female deity - perhaps a cross between a Queen of Hearts and a Snow Queen of incarnate female power. Nevertheless, when the fruit was



brightly crimson this month I thought - can I cook with it? I asked google and learnt straight away, yes, Malus is a good fruit for preserves. I made my four jars of jelly and placed them on the table so I could see the light glowing through the dark peachy-pink stuff stored in glass. Beautiful. And I wondered - why did I ask google about the usefulness of the fruit? Why didn't I ring a neighbour, or go visit them to ask? I could have taken a jar of peach chutney and we could exchange friendship as well as knowledge.



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

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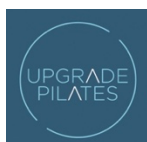
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- want to give back to the community

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The Mudcastle's Mulled Wine Recipe

3 cups white sugar
2 L water
1 cinnamon stick
3 tsp whole cloves
1 L orange juice*
3 L red wine*
1 – 2 oranges to serve

* supermarket juice is fine, cask wine is fine

Put the sugar, water, cinnamon stick and cloves in a medium size stock-pot and bring to the boil to dissolve the sugar and infuse the spices.

Simmer 5 minutes then remove the stick and cloves with a sieve and set aside. (The cinnamon stick can be used again but dry it out thoroughly before storing it.)

Add the orange juice and red wine and reheat.

While you are waiting, slice the orange(s), then halve and stud the pith layer with the whole cloves. Float one of these on the top of each glass when serving. That's it!

- *If you are not so worried about cost, you can jazz this recipe up with the addition of an orange/mandarin liqueur eg. Cointreau, Grand Marnier etc.*
- *This isn't a highly alcoholic version but if you want to reduce the alcohol content further, bring to the boil before serving.*
- *Finally, if you don't manage to drink it all, it freezes! Just remember to leave a good few inches of space in a plastic bottle for expansion.*



Letters to the Editor

To the wonderful team at The Grapevine, I have a question: Whatever happened to the Sarau festival? This is now the second year with it not featuring on Upper Moutere's calendar. It seems a pity that this popular and well-attended event has just been dropped without an explanation. I'm not out to complain – such a large event takes a huge amount of organisation and that load will often fall on one person in particular, and I quite understand if the organisers need a break. But a short note of explanation in the Grapevine, I'm sure, would be appreciated. And any plans for the future of this event. Regards, Colin Wratt

Thank you Colin for your enquiry – it is wonderful to know that others too miss the iconic Sarau Festival. Sadly, after 13 festivals the original volunteer team were becoming tired (and older), and we passed the information and our support on to a new convenor. After one Festival she relocated to Christchurch. The original team did one

more Sarau Festival and then passed their support onto 3 (younger) women. They too did one event and then with the difficulties covid and the time commitment presented, they too wound down. A couple of others have shown interest, and we have encouraged this, but it is a rather daunting task for volunteers.

Our hope is that one day someone else will have the drive, energy and time to get the summer Sarau Festival up and running, but in the meantime many of the original volunteers remain committed to the Sarau Winter Sale as a means to raise at least some funds annually for the Sarau Community Trust, and to offer a fun event for the community.

And now for a plug – we need your help in running this Sale weekend – especially at the beginning (4pm Friday) to bring in the books, and at the end to tidy up (3.30pm Sunday). Please think about offering your time and energy. Jenny (for the Sarau Community Trust)



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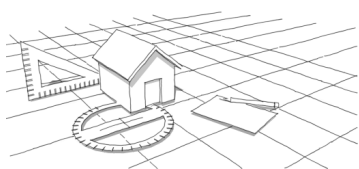




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Travel with Becks

Vietnam & Cambodia: What Great Travel Actually Feels Like

After recently escorting another small group through Vietnam and Cambodia, one thing became very clear again. The moments people remember most are rarely just the famous landmarks.

Of course, Angkor Wat was incredible. Ha Long Bay was stunning. The Golden Hands Bridge sat high above the clouds.

But interestingly, many of the stand-out memories were the smaller moments that happen when a journey is designed with atmosphere, pacing and local experiences in mind rather than simply rushing between attractions. Having now travelled through and escorted groups through Vietnam and Cambodia multiple times, I've refined these journeys around the balance many travellers seem to be looking for now. Enough structure that everything runs smoothly, but enough freedom that the experience still feels spontaneous, immersive and personal.

For some, it was sitting outside with cocktails overlooking glowing rice paddies in northern Vietnam after a day exploring mountain villages.

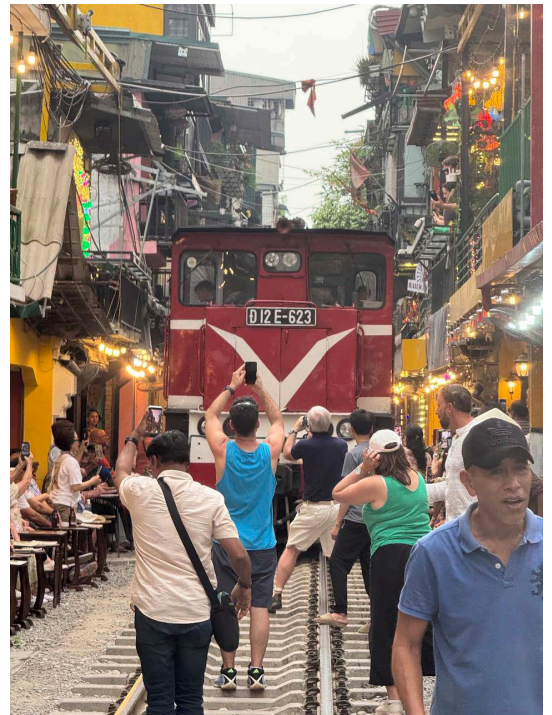
For others, it was the complete sensory overload of Hanoi. Mopeds weaving through tiny alleyways, smoky street food stalls, local beer and jumping on the back of scooters for an unforgettable street-eats tour through the city. Hoi An quickly became another favourite. Lantern lit evenings, riverside

cocktails, tailor made clothes, hidden bars and warm nights wandering through the old town with no real agenda except enjoying the atmosphere.

Cambodia shifted the feeling of the trip all over again. Tuk tuk rides through Siem Reap became a group favourite, while several guests said the biggest surprise of the journey was visiting Tonlé Sap Lake and the floating villages where everyday life unfolds entirely on the water.

What people seemed to enjoy most overall though was the balance of the journey itself. Small group travel with a relaxed social atmosphere. Organised experiences balanced with genuine downtime. Great local food, markets, rooftop drinks, pools and enough breathing room to actually absorb where you are rather than being constantly moved from one attraction to the next.

What many guests seem to love most about my tours is that the journey still feels independent and adventurous. There is space to wander, discover hidden little spots, sit somewhere longer if



you love the atmosphere, or head off during free time knowing all the difficult logistics, transport and planning have already been thoughtfully handled behind the scenes.

I love creating a far more personal style of travel than traditional tightly structured touring, while still offering the reassurance and ease people increasingly appreciate now.

There's already strong interest registered for future 2027 journeys including a France River Cruise paired with an Italy Food Experience, further Vietnam & Cambodia departures, Spain/Morocco, China, and more through

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Travel with Becks

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What's on at Moutere Hills Community Centre

Schedule: Term 2 2026



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Strength & Fitness Circuit 6:00am – 6:45am Re-Activate 9:00am – 9:45am Playgroup 10:00 – 1:00pm Sit & Be Fit 10:30 – 11:30am \$5 or free for FC members Kids Ballroom / Latin Dance For 6 – 9 yrs 1:30pm – 2:30pm Private Lesson 2:30pm – 3:15pm Creative Barefoot & Ballet Classes 3:30pm – 7:00pm Pilates with Kris 5:00pm – 5:45pm 6:00pm – 6:45pm Yoga with Kris 7:00 – 8:15pm Social Netball 7:15pm – 8:30pm For all ages/ abilities	Energise Group Fitness 5:30 – 6:30am Pilates with Bex 8:00 – 8:45am Stretch & Flex 9:00 – 9:45am Tennis Coaching 9:00 – 10:30am Quirky Quilters 9:00am – 3:00pm Dungeons n Dragons 9:30am – 11:30am Pickleball 10:00am – 11:30am For all ages/abilities, \$3 Aerial Silks 3:30pm – 4:30pm 4:30pm – 5:30pm Dance Classes Ballroom / Latin 5:30 – 6:30pm private 6:30 – 7:15pm Beginner 7:15 – 8:00pm Improver 8pm – 9pm private	Pilates with Kris 8:00 – 8:45am Powerhooping 8:45 – 9:45am Pilates with Kris 9:00 – 9:45am Yoga with Kris 10:00 – 11:15am Legacy Dance Classes from 3:45pm – 7:00pm Core Focus 5:30 – 6:15pm Walking Football 6:00 – 7:00pm Adults Social Table Tennis 7:15 – 9:00pm Cost: \$3	Energise Group Fitness 5:30 – 6:30am Tennis Coaching 9:00 – 10:30am Re-Activate 8:30 – 9:15am Sit & Be Fit 10:30 – 11:30am \$5 or free for FC members Ballroom Homeschool class 10:30am – 12:00pm Private Lesson 10:00am – 10:30am 12:00pm – 1:00pm Aerial Silks 3:30pm – 4:30pm 4:30pm – 5:30pm 5:30pm – 6:30pm Junior Tennis Coaching 3:00 – 6:30pm Adults Volleyball Competitive Grade 7:00 – 9:30pm Cost: \$3	Metafit 8:15 – 9:00am Pilates with Kris 9:00 – 9:45am Playgroup 10:00 – 1:00pm Yoga with Kris 10:00 – 11:15am Indoor Bowls 3:15pm – 5:15pm For all ages from 8 yrs + All abilities welcome. Cost \$3	Strength & Fitness Circuit 8:00am – 8:45am Youth Social Basketball 1:30 – 3:00pm All abilities welcome. Cost: \$3 Ballroom / Latin Dance Becks 021482263 Creative Barefoot / Ballet Bex 021 0271 8035 Studiobex.co.nz Playgroup moutereplaygroup@gmail.com Social Touch Mark 027 4229949 Tennis Coaching Vanessa 0224600320 Yoga with Kris / Pilates Kris 0275252814 All other activities, contact MHCC 03 543 2516	Club Tennis Session 9:30am – 11:00am Upper Moutere Tennis All welcome Dance Classes Ballroom / Latin 6:00 – 8:00pm Contact Becks for info. LAST Sunday each month Private Lessons 3pm – 7pm Weekly Energise Group Fitness Cindus 0273587233 Legacy Dance- Annie legacydancenz@gmail.com Powerhooping Sara 0210697522 Tasman Aerial Silks Ilka 022 085 5970 Walking Football clarky.walkingfootball@gmail.com

Fitness classes (in grey) are free for members, \$12 casual or \$80 for a concession card (10 class).

To book visit <https://www.mouterehills.org.nz/fitness-centre-calendar/>



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UPDATE ON THE BUILD

MHCC is currently still negotiating with council to get a workable agreement that protects our organisation and allows us to develop a quality facility for our community. We have our building consent, still require some funding but are ready to go as soon as this agreement is in place.

DONATIONS

We are still looking for donations to help us reach our fundraising target. If you are able to help with cash or in kind donations then we would love to hear from you. Please contact Katrina@mouterehills.org.nz or phone 0275118825. Thankyou.

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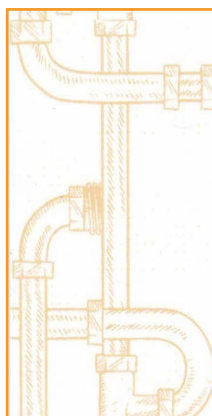
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Listening to our community - and the case for refocusing on the basics

It was a long but valuable day hearing directly from our community on the Draft Annual Plan.

We heard a wide range of views - thoughtful, passionate, and often contrasting. Submitters spoke both in support of and against proposed community facilities, our approach to river and coastal management, depreciation settings, the management framework for commercial forestry, and a range of matters specific to Motueka. One issue that stood out for me was the abandoned commitment to upgrade Motueka High Street. There was also significant discussion around funding options for the weather event recovery rate. Many submitters favoured a capital value-based approach over the currently proposed uniform rate, while others focused on whether those with greater risk or responsibility should carry more of the burden, or whether that creates inequities of its own.

At first glance, these debates can seem technical or disconnected. But taken together, they point to something much more fundamental.

Across many of the submissions, a

consistent theme emerged: concern about the growing unaffordability of rates and debt. That concern isn't isolated - it sits at the centre of questions about how much we invest, what we invest in, and whether we continue to expand or focus on improving what we already have.

In that sense, affordability is directly linked to our capital programme. Decisions about new projects, growth, and infrastructure expansion play a significant role in shaping the long-term cost pressures on ratepayers. Efficiency within the organisation matters - and I fully support the need for robust processes and financial discipline - but it is our investment choices that ultimately have the greatest impact on the financial burden carried by our communities.

This is where other concerns raised by submitters come into sharper focus.

Debates about fairness in rating models and cross-subsidies reflect a deeper question about how we share costs as a community. Concerns about trust and transparency speak to whether people feel those decisions are clearly explained, well-justified, and made in

the community's best interests.

All of these threads point in a similar direction: the need for a financially sustainable approach to growth.

Several submitters called for a pause - or at least a reset - with a stronger focus on renewals, maintenance, and making better use of the assets we already have. That message deserves careful consideration.

Hearing directly from people - especially when views differ - is an essential part of good decision-making. But listening also means responding.

For me, that means continuing to focus on, and advocate for, a more financially sustainable growth model: one that carefully weighs affordability, prioritises core infrastructure and renewals, and ensures that decisions are transparent and grounded in the long-term interests of our communities.

Timo Neubauer is a Tasman District Councillor. This article reflects his personal views and does not necessarily represent the position of Tasman District Council.



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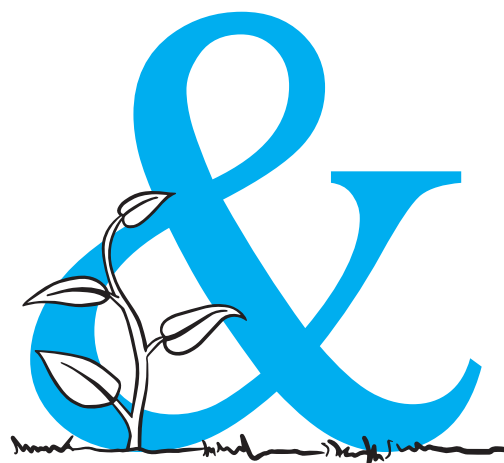
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Our latest news & adventures



Free places on Trades Programmes

Limited free places are available for Kaitiaki Leadership and Adventure Skills Development. These programmes are specifically designed to create employment pathways in conservation and tourism. They also offer enjoyable experiences visiting incredible locations with the group. Programmes include 13-15 NCEA Level 3 credits. Open to 16-18 year olds. More info on our website.

Upcoming programme dates

- Kaitiaki Leadership: 29 Sept - 7 Oct
- Adventure Skills Development: 29 Sept - 7 Oct

IHC provides vital recreation opportunities

The amazing team at IHC provided funding for a range of programmes designed to help members and their family get more active in the outdoors. Kaiterere was the perfect spot for kayaking and raft building. The Flying Kiore at our base was also a hit, as always. Our tutors raved about how much fun everyone had. We hope to see you guys again soon!



Participants from IHC about to enjoy kayaking at Kaiterere

Summit Sessions Rock!



'Summit Sessions' are our no-cost, 1.5 hour climbing blocks designed for people who want to enjoy the unique experience of climbing in a purpose-built facility.

The first four sessions ran in May and were a great success. We look forward to hosting more Summit Sessions later in the year. Stay tuned to our social media pages for more details.

Volunteers wanted

We're building a community of local volunteers to support our mahi and care for this special place. Volunteer opportunities include gardening & fruit tree care, developing our vegetable garden and general maintenance like painting and light repair work. This is a chance to stay active, connect with others, and be part of the positive change we create at Whenua Iti. Flexible hours of involvement. Contact us at info@whenuaiti.org.nz for more information.

We'll see you out there!

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THE WRITE BIAS

News from the Mapua Bowling Club

The 25/26 season closed on a high for the Bowling Club. Six successful tournaments, plenty of individual successes, visitors to the Club, many members bowling at other clubs in the area and at events organised by the Nelson Centre. The Board has managed all the Club events throughout the year, but it will soon be time for the AGM with the possibility of personality changes to the running of the ship.

Congratulations go to all the players in championship matches but the overall winners are as follows:-

JUNIOR SINGLES

Peter Wood – Barbara Adcock

SENIOR SINGLES

Arthur Win – Jane Linn

VETERAN SINGLES

Bill McKinlay – Di Blanchet

JUNIOR PAIRS

Lance Straker & Peter Lawrence
Jane Linn & Sal Randall

SENIOR PAIRS Ian Benbow & Warren Keith
Di Blanchet & Di McBride

VETERAN PAIRS Bob Foster & Bill McKinlay
Di Blanchet & Di McBride

TRIPLES

Steve Delaney, Peter Wood & Peter Lawrence
Sal Randall, Jane Linn & Margaret Busby

FOURS

Ian Benbow, Warren Keith, Arthur Win & Paul
Drogemuller

Di Blanchet, Karen Clark, Debbie Win & Di
McBride

MIXED 2-4-2

Peter Wood & Karen Clark

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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Vet Helpline

*One whole year ...
our anniversary*



It's amazing that one whole year has passed since we moved into our new clinic in Richmond!

We are all really enjoying working in a purpose-built building that enables our team to provide great care for all creatures great and small. There have been challenges as we navigate a new building, a new layout and new systems but the team has worked well together ironing out the bumps and figuring out how to do things better.

On any given day, we now have the space and flow to have multiple teams working:

- several vets will be consulting
- several vets will be doing surgery (anything from routine ops to more complicated procedures and dentistry and radiology)
- another vet manages hospital inpatients

Our amazing nurses also work in teams - in surgery and anaesthesia, helping the consulting vets, managing the pharmacy, looking after inpatients, running nurse clinics and the hydrotherapy room.

Meanwhile our reception team do a great job of answering all sorts of questions on the phone and at the front desk, and looking after everyone who comes into the clinic

Our support staff manage all the admin and keep things running smoothly.

Kathy is kept busy grooming out all the tangles in her **Tangled** pet grooming room and Ruby runs **Therapaw** which is the equivalent of physiotherapy for our pets. We have seen many pets regain full function and quality of life thanks to Ruby's skills.

Our cat-only feline-friendly area has recently become gold standard accredited by iCatCare, an international charity that aims to improve cat welfare through sharing research and knowledge about all things feline. Increasingly we aim to work with cats when they come into the clinic rather than forcing them to fit in with us. Our cat ward is such a nice calm place to be that we all want to be in there!

And there's still more to do...the hyperbaric oxygen chamber is close to being back in action. We are looking forward to having an outdoor dog exercise/walk area so our inpatients can stretch their legs and sit out in the sun (when appropriate!). And the waiting-room coffee machine still has to be cranked into life (fortunately the staff coffee machine was fully functional early on!!!!!!)

So we say thank you to our lovely clients who have moved with us. We appreciate your enthusiasm, support and patience through this big change! And look forward to helping you and your furry friends into the future.

Town and Country Vet Richmond is at 3 Brock Way and is open 7 days with a vet available on-call after hours.

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