Since my boyhood, fuelled by holidays at the bach at Diamond Harbour, I have been fascinated by ships and their liversies as I watched them pass in and out of port. You could hardly regard the majority of ships seen today as very interesting to look at, but to the enthusiast, certain companies’ vessels still hold some appeal.

A newer company operating to New Zealand with bulk cargoes is Pacific Basin Shipping. Its ships are standard utilitarian bulk carriers but the vessel naming structure is far superior to the norm. This growing Hong Kong based company uses names sourced from the areas the ships trade to.

The company normally has four to six ships on order or being built at any one time, so in July 2007 I emailed the company ….

The names of your vessels definitely add interest to the overall shipping through the Port of Lyttelton. I am wondering if you could consider the name ‘Diamond Harbour’ for one of your new ships. Diamond Harbour is basically now a seaside suburb of Christchurch city and lies directly opposite Lyttelton with in Lyttelton Harbour. It has an attractive bay and gets its name by the way the sunlight in suitable conditions glistens on the water creating a sparkling diamond effect. Roughly 2300 people live there and many like myself commute each day into Christchurch.

In August 2007 I received confirmation from the company that they had accepted my suggestion. In May 2008 the bulk carrier Diamond Harbour was completed and in August 2008 commenced carrying cargoes. To date it has visited NZ once, in December 2008 when it loaded logs solely at Gisborne & Whangarei. The ship is a standard vessel of 20,418 gross tonnage, 33,171 deadweight tonnage, length: 179.90 metres; width: 28.40 metres with 4 30.5 ton deck cranes. Pacific Basin Shipping H.K Ltd are the ship’s managers, its official owners being Bright Cove Ltd of Hong Kong. Since this is the company’s only ship, the company name is presumably a play on the sparkling diamonds that give Diamond Harbour its name.

In the past there have been large ships named Port Lyttelton, and smaller craft named Lyttelton and Purau but as far as I am aware this is the first large vessel named after this tranquil place. It is highly likely that Diamond Harbour will call at Lyttelton at some time in the future.

Brian Saunders
Algal Bloom in Church Bay —

Environment Canterbury’s Media Advisor, Frances Adank, advises that ECan was alerted to discoloured water and algal bloom in Church Bay recently by local residents who brought in water samples for testing. The algal bloom has now been confirmed as a non-toxic phytoplankton Gymnodinium and presents no danger to swimmers or dogs.

Under the microscope it was clear that plant plankton (phytoplankton) were abundant in the samples, said ECan coastal water scientist, Lesley Bolton-Ritchie, hence the samples were sent to the Cawthron Institute for the identification of the plankton species.

We encourage people who live by the coast to keep an eye out for algal blooms and to report them to Environment Canterbury, said Lesley Bolton-Ritchie. This is typically the only way that we find out about their existence. If a sample can be collected it is even better because then the sample can be sent away to experts and the plankton species identified. Some blooms can be toxic so it is a relief when we find that a bloom is not toxic.

Elaine

Purau Family Gardens Thief —

Growers at the Family Gardens, formally Community Garden, are dismayed at yet another theft. This time pumpkins and another bed of potatoes grown to feed a family through the winter have been plundered. It is sad to see that the same person, as shown by the footprints, has taken food for the fourth time and left other damage.

A report has again been made to the police. We appreciate the ongoing support from the community and the vigilance of neighbours.

Howard

Purau Properties Update —

An update on progress of the proposed Purau Properties subdivision of land on the east flank of Mt Evans has been received from the City Council. Seven lots for dwellings have been proposed (together with an additional two large lots in order to meet the forty hectare requirement). The first stage of the subdivision will be at the northern end, in full view of many Diamond Harbour residents.

The proposed subdivision is considered to be a controlled activity; permitted under the District Plan, but with certain conditions. It is yet to be determined whether the proposal will be notified prior to a decision (permitting publically discussion). A commissioner is currently determining whether notification is required. It is understood that this notification decision is imminent.

The developer, Mr McPhail, has requested permission to run a reticulated water supply from Diamond Harbour to the new subdivision using a small diameter pipe that is unlikely to provide sufficient water for existing Purau residents.

Purau residents, and especially Uniquely Purau Society Inc., have indicated their concerns over this proposal and continue to push for notification so that a number of effects of the proposal are publically discussed. These include: use of the paper road representing the old road to Port Levy; disposal of wastewater and stormwater; sealing of Camp Bay Road; and the impact on rural landscape values.

For further information, contact Jill Rice in Purau.

Howard

Diamond Yoga
...for the Harbour Community 2009

- Monday evenings 7pm - 8.30pm
  Rugby Clubrooms, Community Centre, Diamond Harbour
- Tuesday mornings 10am - 11.30am
  10 Te Ra Crescent, Diamond Harbour
- Wednesday evenings 7.30pm - 9pm
  Fire Station Hall, Governors Bay

Cost $120 (block 10 classes) or $15 casual
or Negotiable.
Also available for One-on-one and Family Yoga
Contact Adrian or just come along
Ph 029 3395 or at diamondyoga@belingshot.co.nz

Flying somewhere? Store your car with us.
Economical secure outdoor parking
$40 flat rate up to 5 days - $6 per additional day
Free transport to and from Airport.

Waimack Auto Park,
109 Waimakariri Road,
Harewood,
Phone 03 359 3552,
Email waimack@xtra.co.nz
Bookings essential

Learn Spanish * Learn Spanish * Classical guitar lessons * Soccer practice
Some new happenings in our community...

Nestor, the new Youth Worker for the Mt Herbert Under-20 Trust (and his family) are from Venezuela and bring a wealth of culture!

- Susan Thomas Lessons: After a successful first term, lessons are continuing with Term 2 - Wed nights, starting 29th April 7.30pm, Diamond Harbour Community Church Hall.
  No partner necessary. Beginners welcome. Introductory Night $5pp. Sign up for 6 weeks of lessons, 1 hour @ $8pp per night.

- Guitar Lessons: Nestor is an accomplished Classical guitarist and is available for individual lessons. Student rates $10 per half hour / Adult rates $15 per half hour.

- Teaching Spanish: Here’s your opportunity to learn Spanish in a comfortable, fun, giving environment and reasonable cost. Individual lesson $10 per half hour.

- Rowing Practises for under 15’s. Wednesdays 5-6pm at Mill Recreation Ground.
  No fees.

Interested in any of the above? Contact Wendy 329 4483 or Nestor 329 4483
As many Herald readers will know by now, the Purau Bay Holiday Park is to shut on April 30. Ric and Aileen Ginders, who bought the camping ground in 2005, say they can no longer continue running it at a loss. Visitor numbers are down, while running costs, particularly gas and electricity, have sky-rocked.

Was closure inevitable? If there was a good sealed road from Purau across to the southern side of the peninsula, campervans could make a round-trip stopping at Purau on the way to or from Akaroa, boosting visitors, particularly tourists. If the mooted sewerage and water supply systems had gone ahead, overheads would be lower, perhaps making the difference between profit and loss.

What will happen to this beautiful piece of land beside one of the loveliest beaches on the Banks Peninsula? For Ric and Aileen, this is their home, and they plan to stay. One third of the property, which includes their house and vegetable garden, is residential. Around half of this will be subdivided into three or four sections, leaving the bulk of the holiday park, including all the buildings and amenities intact. These are to be preserved in their present state for school and other groups, who will continue to

come. Plus, it keeps future options open.

Ric and Aileen are looking forward to a good rest from the 15/7 demands of running a campsite. They do not intend to put the property on the market; but who knows, when word gets out there might be offers, but it would need to be a very good offer to persuade them to sell their piece of paradise.

Eventually they might re-open in a different, more sustainable format, or perhaps lease it for someone else to run, while they stay in their house and carry on their other business of manufacturing vintage outdoor furniture. Some local residents may not be sad to have this lovely beach more for themselves. Others will regret the loss of excellent nearby accommodation for overflow visitors on those large family occasions. Luckily, there is a plethora of other accommodation possibilities in the area.

Ron

Do you need to fight the flab?

Why not join our slimming and fitness group for a healthy start to your New Year?

* Lose weight.
* Work on your level of fitness.

Diamond Harbour Community Hall
Tuesday and Thursday
7pm to 9pm
$6 per session

Contact Pam or Max O'Neill
Ph 329 4581
or Audrey Hughes
Ph 329 4390

Hi from the team at Godley.

I can't really say things are going well after the article in The Press last week. Times are tough as we all know and we are dreading going into the winter. There are a lot of decisions to be made and I sympathise with the situation at the camping ground. Remember, we are business people and whatever decision is made in the next few weeks here, it is purely business. The future of my tenure at Godley House will be decided by the time the next Herald is out.

Meantime, taking the positive approach, our winter hours, will start at the end of April, as the school holidays go through the Easter period. Remember, Paul Ubara Jones will be here Good Friday, April 10th.

Over and out. Neil.

Amy Adams
MP FOR SELWYN

Constituency Clinic:
Diamond Harbour and Governors Bay

WHEN: Monday 27th April
10am – 1pm

To make an appointment, please
tel 03 344 0418 or email
selwynoffice@parliament.govt.nz

Working Hard for Selwyn

www.national.org.nz
Dave doesn’t believe in buying something new when it can be found in a pile of junk, and he quickly had us all working away coming to grips with terms like thermophilic cultures and modilase rennet. We started by pasteurizing milk and cream and proceeded to preparing feta, camembert, a soft fresh cheese and one large round farmhouse cheese, to later be shared between us.

There was quite a lot of standing round stirring the contents of big containers and checking the temperature. Towards the end of the afternoon, cheesecloth bags of curds were dripping into buckets and the farmhouse was being pressed in a container in a sink. Nine camemberts were in a set of moulds.

The second day was stimulating and very rewarding. We tasted a little of what we had started the day before. The outstanding flavours took us all by surprise and we suddenly became very possessive about what we would end up with, even to some ricotta cheese we were to make from left-over whey. Dave taught us how to wrap our camembert, told us to give it a name, turn it every three days and eventually put it in the fridge for seven weeks. We cut up feta, packed it jars to bring home and put the soft cheese in containers. One person was nominated to look after the farmhouse cheese and with an unveiling to take place in about three months.

I think I will go and have a piece of feta on cumin seed bread with a little tomato and chilli jam for lunch or maybe cherry tomatoes and basil leaves....

Karen Colyer

Purau Market Profile

Glenda Cheesebrough

Glenda’s speciality at the Market is her Vegetable Spaghetti Squash, an unusual and fun dish which is a must for everyone to try. Glenda is studying organic horticulture at Lincoln University, and a key person for information on Heirloom Old Variety organic seeds and Southern Seed Savers. A very busy woman, she helps out with local gardening and keeps our Croquet Club lawn trim.
Having some friends and family to dinner recently gave me an excuse to put on a Moroccan feast. All of the recipes were new to me and came from another of Diamond Harbour Library’s great collection of cookbooks, *Moroccan food and cooking* by Ghillie Basan.

**Tagine of kumera, carrots and prunes**

3 tablespoons olive oil

a large knob of butter

10 small onions or shallots (I used shallots from my garden)

2 kumeras (yams would also be very good)

2-3 carrots, cut into bite sized chunks

1 cup pitted prunes

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

½ teaspoon ground ginger

2 teaspoons runny honey

2 cups vegetable stock or water

small bunch of fresh coriander finely chopped

small bunch of mint, finely chopped

salt and black pepper

Preheat the oven to 200°. Heat olive oil in a large pot or pan with the butter and stir in the peeled onions or shallots. Cook for about 5 minutes until the onions are tender, then remove from the pan.

Add the yam or sweet potatoes and carrots to the pan and cook until lightly browned. Stir in the prunes with the cinnamon, ginger and honey, then pour in the stock. Season well, cover and cook in the oven for 45 minutes. Stir in coriander and mint and serve.

A bowl of Greek yoghurt with lemon juice goes well with this dish.

Karen

**ANZAC Day Service at Diamond Harbour Hall**

25th April at 11 am

Service personnel who would like to participate for parade and briefings should be available on the intersections. Those wishing to march please assemble at the Stone 10:30 am after the service, all are welcome to attend at the Bowling Club for a shared lunch.

Please bring a plate.

Tea and Coffee are available.

**Godzilla Plastering**

Quality Workmanship

Contact Ricky on either 329 4600 or mobile 0274 805 600

**Tree and Garden Services**

Tree Surgery

Hedge Cutting

Garden Clearance

Dave Hammond

ND in Amenity Horticulture

Phone 329 4270
I’d like to share my thoughts on this important area of veterinary service, and how we work it on the Peninsula. The veterinary council’s code of professional conduct requires vets to be available after hours for their existing clients.

If your animal is in distress all you need to do is phone our clinic on 325-1006 (or 304-8648 from Akaroa). If we’re closed you’ll be connected to a lady (yes, a real person) at our phone answering service in Timaru, who’ll page the vet on duty, and he or she will call you back. Remember to keep your phone clear while you wait for the call. In most cases it will be within ten minutes.

Generally with a small animal emergency we will meet you at our clinic in Little River and for large animals we’ll come to you. Although I appreciate it is a long drive from Diamond Harbour to Little River, someone has to do it. Hopefully, for you it’s a once in a lifetime occasion, whereas for the vet it could be several times a week. Also for drips, hospitalisation, or surgery, which emergency cases often require, we need to be at the clinic.

Secondly, what constitutes an emergency, and when should you call us? The short answer is, in any situation that you’d feel uncomfortable leaving until the next working day. If you are not sure, phone anyway, and we can help you decide. However please don’t phone me (Paul) at home or leave messages on my cell phone after hours. Vetlife’s after-hours service is the best way of tracking the on-duty vet down.

Remember, too, that there is an extra cost involved in being seen after hours, so consider this when deciding if we need to see your animal right away. Ask yourself, would I phone my doctor or go to the emergency room with this problem myself.

A good knowledge of first aid can make a big difference, and the principles with animals are no different to those for humans.

Generally, unless I’m on leave, I cover the calls for each weekend, and every second weekend. I live close to the clinic, and because I have a life sentence (sorry, lifestyle) block, I arrange to be working there when I’m on weekend call. Although we don’t get cell phone coverage, and I’m often out of the house, I always carry my pager with me, which gets coverage all over the farmlet. My furthest corner is only ten minutes from the phone at a steady trot! Here’s hoping you won’t need the service, but remember, we are available if you do.

Paul
It seems much too early to be autumn, but the mornings are getting colder, and the leaves are beginning to change colour. We are past the Equinox (March 21), when the nights become longer than the days. Fortunately, ocean temperatures remain relatively constant, so the Harbour should continue to experience milder winter conditions than the city. The downside of warm sea temperatures is that they tend to attract tropical storms.

We have had one of those rollercoaster summers. January and February continued the sunny, warm to hot weather that started in December, punctuated by unpleasant little reminders that the Southern Ocean and the Antarctic are not very far away. NIWA and other forecasters promised a warm March, and there have been some lovely days – like March 10, until a spectacular cold front rolled in over the Harbour, and the temperature dropped sharply. The following day the maximum temperature was 9°C, and the wind cut like a knife.

My records are nowhere near long enough to include a summer with temperatures as continuously high as those we experienced this year. Chatting with some long-established Cantabrians produced anecdotal information of a year in the fifties when haymaking was characterised by a long period of high temperatures, and I recall a radio report of a similar spell of warm weather in the late 1800s. Gardeners will be all too aware of the variability of rainfall through the summer months: a mere 9mm in January followed by 48mm in February (down from 109mm the year before) was not enough to counter the high evaporation rates associated with the high temperatures, and did little more than dampen the soil surface and encourage the weeds.

Jane

**Gardening**

**Tree Dahlia**

Who would have thought such a plant existed? Well it does, and very nicely too, here in the Harbour. This graceful beauty springs from the ground midsummer to well over 4m tall. Its flowers droop down so it is best situated where you can walk beneath and look up at the beautiful blooms. Dahlia Imperialis, its botanical name, produces strong, long, woody stems from tubers and flowers from April to May. Colours range from white, pink, red to purple and the visual impact provides a stunning effect at this time of year. It is easy to grow and is not bothered much by pests. The Tree Dahlia is a true delight.

**Things to do**

Take rose cuttings now. Cut to the length of a pencil with about four leaf nodes. Trim the leaves except for the top two. Dip the cutting in root hormone compound or an aspirin dissolved in water. Using very sharp secateurs cut again from the bottom, just below a leaf node, then re-dip in solution and plant deeply so that only a third is above ground. Keep moist and leave until spring to transplant. Herbs such as sage and rosemary will also strike well now. Use the same method as above and plant out in spring.

Although the April showers will help out, you may still need to water late crops and plants which are still producing flowers. Feed with a liquid feed such as a seaweed-based formula for best results.

Place straw or pine needles under pumpkins and gourds to get them off the ground and reduce the risk of rot. When harvesting, leave a good length of stalk. This also reduces the risk of rotting and they will keep better.

Pest attack such as caterpillars and aphids may be an issue, especially for cabbages and the like. Derris Dust or a strong daily jet blast from the hose will deal with them. An insecticide spray now will remove a lot of heartache later.

Now is the time to plant trees and shrubs. The warm soil will promote root growth and give a good head start for young plants. When planting strawberries, a generous amount of compost and acid, such as pine needles, will boost them along.

Plant broad beans, spinach and late lettuces and winter crops such as silverbeet, carrots, cauliflower, leeks, cabbage and broccoli. Surplus areas of the veggie garden can be improved by fallowing. Turn it over by deep digging, adding in well-rotted nutrients such as seaweed, sawdust, compost, etc. Tidy up garden beds and finish off with a covering of mulch to reduce the growth of weeds.

Happy gardening.

Alison
It seems that not many people know, or perhaps are interested, in the history of cave on the Diamond Harbour headland. Our request for information in the last Herald yielded few responses. Nevertheless, we have now located the cave, and can confirm that the photo published last month is not of Smugglers Cave. At least one troop of Cub Scouts has visited the cave in recent years, led by Cub-mistress Sheryl.

Rumour has it that an underground passage from the cave once ran right across the headland and even provided illicit access to Godley House cellars. It is suggested that the western exit was closed off by the formation of the road down to the wharf. Today the cave consists of a narrow entrance leading to a larger and lower cavern, in which there is some evidence that a rock fall may have sealed off access to a passage beyond.

In the 1950s at least, the cavern was inhabited by a penguin colony. A young resident of that time remembers a rope attached above the entrance and threaded through the narrow gap down into the cavern, to facilitate access for local children. Our informant recalls once capturing several penguins in the cave, and carrying them in a sack around the headland to the wharf where they were released into the water by the excited children, who then watched as the birds swam back around towards the cave.

Elaine

NOMINATIONS CALLED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

The Community Boards of Christchurch City and Banks Peninsula are inviting nominations for Community Service Awards. These awards are given to either individuals or groups and are intended to recognise those who have freely contributed a significant term of service in one or more of the following areas: Physical well-being; Children, youth and education; Physical environment; Social and economic well-being.

Each Community Board in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula area will recognize volunteers for their particular Board area.

People can be nominated for Community Service Awards in the Board area in which the community work was carried out, or where they live, if the work is for a metropolitan organization that covers more than two Board areas.

Nominations for the 2009 Awards close on Thursday 09 April 2009 and should be submitted on an official nomination form.

Nomination forms and guidelines for Community Services Awards are available from any of the Council Service Centres or online at www.ccc.govt.nz/csa. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Christchurch City Council Call Centre on 941 8999.

TEDDINGTON AUTOMOTIVE

Motor vehicle repairs servicing.
Also ATV, Tractor and Farm Bike Servicing

W.O.F.

Courtesy Car Available

Graeme Hamilton
40 years experience

753 Gebbies Pass Road Phone 329 9763 Fax 329 9911
(1.2km from Wheatsheaf) Mobile 0274 331 766

DIAMOND HARBOUR RAMBLERS

For the last 25 years, the Diamond Harbour Ramblers have gone walking each Tuesday, and made an annual trip of 5-6 days to locations all over the South Island. This year it was to Kaikoura, where 15 Ramblers were based at Barnacle Bill’s and another local house. From our ideal accommodation, we made various trips, including bush walks at Mt. Fyfe, Hinau and Puhu Puhu Valley, where the beautiful native reserves and great bird life and song were really enjoyed. Some of us had a boat ride to observe collecting crayfish, while others visited the Maori Leap caves, the historical Fyfe House and the Trash Fashion Show. Following a walk around the peninsula amongst the seals, we were invited to South Bay to view the blue penguins returning to their nesting boxes in the evening. It was great to see the development of this project.

On our last day we were privileged to be invited to an open day at Shearwater Lodge. We joined locals in a party of 30 for a guided three hours walk to the Lodge for a superb lunch and a welcome rest. The walk was undulating, varied and, at around 980m, testing for some of the ageing ramblers. En route we saw the nesting burrows of the endangered Hutton’s shearwater. This seabird is the only one that breeds in a sub-alpine environment and, flying only at night, travels 20kms to the sea to eat fish and feed its young.

Observing wild pig rootings and deer on the two-hour walk back to the vehicles at the Woolshed in Happy Valley ended a superb day and another memorable trip.

We welcome new members to join the Diamond Harbour Ramblers for a Tuesday walk.

Phone: Shirley Ward, 3294116 or John Willis, 3294243.

Ruth Willis

YOUR LOCAL AVON REPRESENTATIVE IS CHRISS CAULFIELD

Call for a free brochure NOW on 329 4727
‘You must remember Old Pete, surely?’
‘Was he the one who was a real bore?’
‘No, he didn’t come from Gore. Somewhere on the West Coast, I think.’
‘I didn’t say he came from Gore. I said…’
‘You must be thinking of Old Ron. He came from Gore. What a character he was. Remember how he did that dance with a glass of Speights balanced on his head?’
‘Yeah, he looked a right idiot’
‘No, that was Old Sid. He was the one what came from Cheviot. Fancy you thinking of Old Sid after all these years.’
‘Listen, I’m not thinking of Old Sid…’
‘You really should do something about your memory. Now what was I saying before? All your chattering about Ron and Sid has got me proper mixed up.’

Tony

Now available from the Diamond Harbour Library

Orton Bradley’s Diary

A valuable insight into the life of a twenty-two year old young man who lived in this area 30 years ago.

This diary was discovered by Neil McGinlay. Inscribed by Orton and Dick Barrett and is now preserved by the Friends of the Diamond Harbour Library.

The proceeds from the sale of this booklet will go to restoring and relocating Orton Bradley’s farmyard (for maidenhead terrain) at Orton Bradley Park.

Price: $10

Late night Saturday services

every Friday and Saturday

Phone: 328 3368
www.blackcat.co.nz

Configure Express

The Gym for Women

You Choose...

• No joining fee • One months free membership • Three half-hour personal training sessions

Offer available until 30th March 2009

Configure Express is New Zealand’s leading gym for women

All ages... all sizes... all women!

Eastgate 389 2900
Westfield 363 2904
Northlands 354 5971
Thank you to the 183 subscribers so far this year, as listed below:
Also special thanks again to the anonymous subscriber who has for three years in a row paid $50 for the Herald.

Colin

---

**ACUPUNCTURE**

- Neck/back pains
- Sports injuries
- Musculo-skeletal problems
- Insomnia & depression
- Digestive problems
- Menstrual/period problems
- Headaches, migraines

**Acupuncture could help these problems**

Enquiries & appointments ring

Vida Watson  Ph. 329 4663

---

**BAYMAN SERVICES**

- Products delivered to your door
  - Compound
  - Crushed dust
  - Bark
  - Lime chips
  - Pea straw
  - Peat
  - Aggregates
  - Soil
  - Decorative stones

**Services**

- Tip truck hire (you find the load we do the rest).
- Rubber tracked ROBCAT compact loader with operator.
- Weekend and holiday work at no additional charge.

---

**PERSONAL SERVICE FROM A LOCAL COMPANY**

**Alexa Fish**

**Homeopathic Practitioner**

87A St DAvids St.
Lytelton,
Christchurch 8082
Phone: 03 328 8004
Email: alexafish@xtra.co.nz

---

**Diamond Harbour Herald - Established 1953**

Page 10
Thank you, Diamond Harbour and friends, for the ongoing support that you give to our group, especially for the recent Relay for Life. Unfortunately the weather didn’t play fair on the weekend of the walk, but we had fun won the best dressed team award. More importantly, with sausage sizzles and the like, we raised nearly $2000 for research to help fight cancer, a disease that seems to affect all families in some way.

Any questions for help or regarding the Group can be answered on 329 3222 or Doctors Surgery 329 4402.

Jean Burford

What If?

It took six hours before Christchurch Civil Defence got themselves sorted out and declared the obvious State of Emergency. This earthquake was a record-breaker. Its effect was exacerbated by the three days of solid rain that preceded it. Not only were rivers up but the continual aftershocks shimmied water up through the shingle that underlay the Canterbury Plains. The earthquake-proofed basements of some multi-storied buildings capitulated to this attack from below and they leaned at threatening angles over the new lake that was Christchurch. Clearly, emergency services were going to have their hands full dealing with the city’s immediate and many problems. Outlying districts would have to fend for themselves.

By 5 a.m. Jim had got things pretty much under control at home. No one had been hurt, except for cut feet as glass from broken windows carpeted the bedroom floors. Structurally, the house had suffered only minor damage. Power was out and there was the sound of running water somewhere. Candles and torches had been found and Emma had calmed the kids down with a hot drink boiled up on the BBQ. They were rummaging through the survival box while Jim checked on his next door neighbours. They were no better or worse off than he. It was one of them who told him that they had heard on their transistor radio that the Mayor had declared a Civil Defence emergency.

Working by torchlight, they got leads from Jim’s car battery into the school office. Once the two-way radio was connected Ossie got through to Civil Defence Lyttelton and reported that the Diamond Harbour Sector was activated but staffed by only three at that moment. The trio, Jim, Beryl and Ossie, set up the post as best they could. The phones were out of course, most lines having been taken out by trees coming down during the initial quake. But they had all remembered to bring cell phones and began using these to contact friends and neighbours. Slowly a grim picture was built up of the quake’s effects on the close-knit community. There were many casualties, some who needed immediate surgery. The mains water supply was brough. Most roads were closed. Live wires were down. One of the nurses had opened up the Health Centre. The Fire Appliance was working to unblock roads. With daylight came the procession of locals to the sector post at the school. Beryl had assumed the job of getting details and comforting the desperate. Jim radioed a fresh situation report to Lyttleton. The post there was not optimistic. Don’t hope for help from Christchurch, and we are full on over here. You may have to wing it for a couple of days. By then Defence and police should be available.

Jim handed the register to Mary Find out where we can get chainsaws, and a generator. Ossie will need stuff like blankets and food. Maybe we can raise some 4-wheel drives, or a tractor…. He silently blessed those who had, months ago, offered to list such items.

Sports Briefs

The Diamond Harbour Bowling Club continues its winning ways, defeating Beckenham in the annual Beckenham Trophy Mixed Fours by four games to nil, while Maureen Scott, Miriam Stace and Carolle Loney recently took the Ellesmere Champion of Champions Ladies Triples.

The Diamond Harbour Cricket Club finished its season with a very close win against Akaroa to claim the Ellesmere Championship.

The Diamond Harbour Club Tennis Club have had a fabulous Junior tennis coach for two six week blocks in the last two terms. She took hour long sessions with the children aged from 5 to 13 and it was amazing to see the progress made and the fun the children had. We are hoping she will return in Term 4 for more coaching. Thanks Shirley for helping with the organisation.

The Diamond Harbour Rugby Club celebrates its 40th birthday this year and is looking forward to another great season in the Ellesmere competition. The club caters for Seniors and Juniors, the latter combining where necessary with other Peninsula Clubs to field age group teams. After a very successful 2008 season, the Senior team is looking for a few new players to expand its squad. Anyone interested should contact Ian Ph. 3293183 or Brett Ph. 3896026.

Daily Deliveries - Cass Bay to Port Levy

Same day delivery from Christchurch if advised by 11am. Household removals weekends only.

Phone Depot
366 9386
(A1 Carriers)

After Hours
338 0440
Church Notices

Services at Diamond Harbour Community Church
85 Marine Drive.
Catholic
Mass every Saturday at 6:15pm
Anglican-Methodist-Presbyterian
Each Sunday, 8am and 10:30 services.
EASTER services
Diamond Harbour
Maundy Thursday April 9, 7:30pm Communion
Good Friday April 10, 2pm “Walk with the Cross” from Diamond Harbour Wharf.
Easter Eve Saturday April 11, 6:15pm Catholic Mass.
Easter Sunday April 12, 8am & 10:30am Communion.

Port Levy
Easter Eve Saturday April 11, 7pm Communion.

Teddington
Easter Day Sunday April 12, 9am Communion.

Growing in Faith on Monday Nights
A new Monday night faith and discussion group has been formed by adults in the district who attend churches here and around town, with singing led by guitarist Nestor Rodriguez, a brief presentation, discussion, and prayer. It has begun as alternate Mondays, 7:30pm at Diamond Harbour church hall, with the possibility of becoming weekly. Anyone interested is welcome to visit or join the group. Contact Bruce Beckett 329 4422.

Church grand opening
An afternoon of celebration will be held this month for the official opening of Diamond Harbour’s new St Andrew’s Community Church.

Years of planning and fundraising will culminate in a Grand Opening on Sunday April 26, at 2pm. The official party is to include representatives of the four denominations formally sharing the site—Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and Catholic. The celebration is open to everyone, and guests are expected to include past and present Diamond Harbour residents, regular users of the existing church complex, and people associated with building the church, including the architect, builders and contractors.

The former fire bell will hang in the bell tower, complete with an attached automated woodpecker-type mechanism to ring it —no bell rope required.

Further financial contributions are sought for the building project to help with the cost of the additional $42,000 3-toilet block unexpectedly required by council, and furnishings such as carpet and additional seating.

Piano Tuning
For skilled sensitive and prompt attention
Ph: Peter 329 4452
Third generation tuner

Community Notices

News from the medical centre
Flu vaccines for the 2009 season are available now. Free for those over 65 or with a chronic medical condition and $22.50 for everyone else. Protect yourselves now. Contact the practice for an appointment with the nurses. Vaccines are only available during medical clinic hours.

We now have Gardasil vaccination against human papilloma virus (HPV) to help to protect against cervical cancer. All those eligible for vaccination should have already been contacted by mail. This course of vaccinations is free to girls between the ages of 12 and 18. Please contact us for details.

On April 1 2009 our consultation fees will rise for the first time in two years. There will be an increase of $1 for those under six and $2 for everyone else.

New email prescription service. If you wish to use this service please email your script requests to nurse@diamondmed.co.nz. You must include the drug name, dose and quantity needed for each item. Scripts will be faxed to Bells Pharmacy and you will be sent a confirmatory email in reply.

You can also email the above address if you wish to know any blood results.

Bridge club chit chat
Our year began February 4 with the AGM and newly elected president, Anna Taylor.

Our major competition “Purau Pairs” is underway with keen competitive play amongst our members. We meet Wednesdays at 7pm t the Bowling Club Rooms. Visitors and new members most welcome.

Contact Bev Cameron, 329 4868 or Anna Taylor 329 4522.

Baby and Toddler Groups
A new toddler group has started at Diamond Harbour Church for children aged from 16-36 months. Facilitator Wendy Coles said parents, including those who had previously been supported by the baby group for 0-16 months, could now enjoy mutual support and encouragement as their children got older. The groups are fortnightly on Tuesdays, with toddlers from 9-10:30am and babies from 10am-noon. Morning tea is shared together in the overlapping half hour from 10:10:30am. Please ring Wendy Coles on 3294483 for dates and other information.
Stoddart's Cottage Trust

A 'Friends of Stoddart's Cottage' scheme will be launched very soon and all the proceeds raised will go to the continued upkeep and restoration of the building. Those interested in becoming Friends of Stoddart’s Cottage can contact Jane Smith on 329 4949 or Maddi Naylor on 329 4419 and once the fine print is finalised, will receive details.

Life was very different for the Stoddarts who lived in the cottage. Here's some of the advice they might have received about choosing the position for their new home. This excerpt is taken from the fascinating 'Brett's Colonist's Guide and Cyclopedia of Useful Knowledge - Being a Compendium of information by Practical Colonists.' Published in 1897.

'It is a somewhat difficult matter to advise a new settler in the bush as to his course of procedure in establishing a new home. So much depends upon the capital at his disposal and the time of year he decides to settle.

Supposing him to be a man of limited means and the season autumn, the first business is shelter. In choosing a site for the house, if there is sufficient open land suitable, select a tolerably level dry, and warm position, with a good view; not too far from the main road, or, if dependant on water communication, convenient to the best landing place. In the majority of cases it is advisable to build first a temporary house. The Maoris are best at this work and in a few days would put up a warm, weatherproof dwelling.'

Stoddart Cottage events

Sunday, April 5, 1-4pm, Diamond Harbour Arts Group
A variety of subject matter and medium inspire our local art society.

Saturday, April 11, 1-4pm. Stoddart's Cottage Group of Artists Exhibition with Annie's Victorian Afternoon Teas
The first group exhibition of the year, with paintings and other arts and crafts by local artists. Spend your Easter Saturday afternoon enjoying this exhibition and partaking in another of Annie’s delicious Victorian Afternoon Teas.

Sunday, April 19, 1-4pm, Anne Fountain and Alison Robertson.
Anne and Alison share with us their latest oils and acrylics.

Sunday, April 26, 1-4pm, Jo Ewing and Paul Brocklebank paintings with Annie's Victorian Afternoon Teas
Jo, a botanical artist, has recently returned from a visit to Europe. Paul’s paintings and pastels are of the harbour area.

Maddi Naylor (329 4419)

Diamond Harbour and Districts Historical Society

Next meeting will be held at 8pm, Tuesday, April 7, in the Stage Room, Community Hall. A talk by Evelyn Robertson: "An introduction to genealogy and family history". All welcome
Youth Group.

Youth Group meets every Friday at Diamond Harbour church hall. Watch the church blackboard for info, check out the Bebo site, or contact Paddy Chriss on 027670711.

Lilystone latest

After some experimenting with hours, we've found that over the cooler months the shop seems to be very quiet on Saturday mornings, and busier in the afternoons – completely the opposite to what it was like on the old site. Therefore, between March and October Lilystone will be regularly open from 1-4pm on Saturdays and 11am-4pm on Sundays. Remember, I'm always happy to open by appointment and if I'm not around there are a few of us about with keys who can open up for that last minute gift, party outfit etc.

The other little cottage finally made it off its site within 24 hours of the deadline the developers' set for it having to be moved. All the guys involved in the move did an amazingly slick job of getting it up and away and cleared up afterwards. Although, it was a great wee shop (and Lynda had it looking fabulous over the summer) the move has been good. The cottage, with some minor additions, will now lead a new life as a B & B guest cottage (not recommended for large groups) at its new home, about 15 minutes down the road in Motukarara. However, not before the three of us live in it, and a caravan, while our house is being built – it could be a long, crowded winter.

Many thanks for all the continued local support, and for making it that bit further down the road.

Trudi

New person required for mulching

Is anyone interested in taking over the chipping round for Diamond Harbour and Governor’s Bay? Please contact Dave on 329 4270 to talk about it and find out how it operates.

Diamond Harbour Community Association

At the recent AGM, the following members were re-elected: Adrian Te Patu (chair), Joy McLeod (minute secretary), David Dearsley (treasurer), Lorrane Morhen, Colin McLeod, Howard Williams, Karen Colyer, Judy Bramham, Dave Hammond (committee members) with the addition of a new person, Richard Suggate. Paula Smith outlined present issues for the Community Board and the Long Term Plan.
Need funds?
- Is your community group struggling for funds?
- Is your school or early education facility accessing necessary funds?
- Does your sports club need someone to apply for a grant?

Call Thea Mickell Consulting. I can apply for grants while your committee focuses on money raising for the day to day running costs. Take the pressure out of fundraising.

***** Thea Mickell Consulting *****

P O Box 41015, Ferry mead, Chch
Email: l.micke@xtra.co.nz
Phone: 0800 224 677
Cell: 027 601 1282

Herald Calendar

Fridays: Preschoolers Rainbow Music, 9.15am, DH Church Hall.
   Youth Group, Evenings, DH Church Hall.
Sundays: April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3:
   Stoddart Cottage events, details Page 11?
   Sunday School, 5-12yrs, 10.30am, DH Church.
   Mondays: alternate weeks, Growing in Faith, 7.30pm, DH Church.
   Tuesdays, Toddlers, 9am, Babies, 10.30am,
   DH Church Hall.
   Wednesdays: April 8,15,22,29: Diamond Harbour singing group.
   Thursday April 9: Nominations for Community Service Awards close. See Page 8
   Friday: April 10: Good Friday
   Monday April 13: Mt Herbert Ladies Probus,
   C. B. Golf Club, 10am.
   Saturday April 11: Purau Market, 9am-12noon.
   Tuesday April 7 and 21, May 5: Green and Red Kerbside rubbish collection
   Tuesday April 14 and 28: Green and Yellow Kerbside rubbish collection
   Monday April 20: DH Community Assn Meeting, 7.30pm, DH Hall Stage room.
   Saturday: April 25: Anzac Day service, Community Hall, Purau Market – 12.30 – 3.30pm (note change of time).
   Sunday: April 26: Opening of the new Church
   Wednesday: April 29: Indian/Asian Cuisine, Godley House.
   Tuesday: April 7: D H and Districts Historical Assn, Stage Room, DH Community Hall, 8pm.