My name is Lucky and I have recently moved to Diamond Harbour from my rural birthplace near Oxford, away across the Canterbury plains. I was very worried when my owner started packing everything into boxes. I knew I was about to be uprooted from my own beloved patch and all my favourite walks along country back-roads and riverbeds.

Diamond Harbour was a great disappointment at first. All I could see were lots of houses, cheek by jowl, without the wide open spaces of my lost country home; and it was full people, instead of sheep. What kind of place was this for an old country dog, too old to learn new tricks, I wondered? Then I discovered the cliff walk.

Rambling along the cliff track takes me back to when I was a little puppy and all the world was new and surprising and full of wonder. My senses are awash with all the wonderful new sights and sounds and smells.

Whenever I come through the bush upon the open expanse of water all my restless thoughts are suddenly stilled and I feel wonderfully at peace, enchanted by the magic.

The sea is astonishing. Every day it is different: emerald green or deep blue in the sunshine; murky green-grey when it’s cloudy; sometimes an endless flow of ripples; sometimes wind-lashed and wild; and other times as smooth as glass, reflecting the dazzling molten rays of the setting sun.

I love listening to the sound of sea: its gentle relaxing lapping on the stones of the little beach on a calm day or the crashing of the waves against the cliff in stormy weather when the wind howls through the great pine trees and wild clouds dance and swirl up over the hills across the harbour.

On a still day in the native bush I listen for the familiar song of the bellbirds and am always on the lookout for those lovely wood pigeons with their graceful undulating flight. My favourite birds are the cormorant and shag. I love the way they fly just above the water and how they unexpectedly pop up out of nowhere, float for a while, as still and silent as a statue, and then suddenly disappear.

The forest is full of wonderful smells that only a true connoisseur of aromas like a dog can really appreciate, so there’s probably no point trying to describe them to nasally-impaired humans. When I smell a rabbit I am off like a shot, and often at dusk I catch sight of one – but that’s all I ever catch; these Diamond Harbour bunnies are way faster than the ones I remember chasing when I was a young puppy. It must be the sea air.

Lucky
Hot news from across the harbour: Not only is London Street, in the heart of Lyttelton, being upgraded, but a whole swag of new shops are set to open. The old supermarket building is to receive a new lease of life with a Four Square supermarket, a greengrocer, and baker; and a second bakery, Trocadero, will open in the old bakery building.

On the corner of Norwich Quay and Oxford Street, in the recently sold Canterbury Hotel, three new shops will liven up your walk from the ferry: Red Fish Blue Fish, a toy and gift shop, presently in Sumner; an antique/interior design shop; and a jeweller.

And good news if you design/make beautiful, funky, whimsical, unusual, or quirky objects: Carolyn at Pocket would like to hear from you. She will open on London Street soon. Phone 328 7728 or 027 251 5375, or email pocket.lyttelton@gmail.com.

Judging from the enthusiastic turnout of about 40 people at the Making a Graceful Transition workshop on Saturday, March 28, there is a genuine awareness in the communities on the south side of the harbour that our idyllic corner of the world is not immune from serious global and local problems such as pollution, degradation of the environment, looming energy shortages, economic stress and social disruption.

The workshop was organised by Christine Dann on behalf of the Diamond Harbour Community Association, and facilitated by Margaret Jefferies, chair of Project Lyttelton, which is one of a growing number of community-based initiatives worldwide, taking the lead in finding local solutions to global problems, rather than waiting for central or local governments to find the right answers - or impose the wrong ones.

Identifying the problems was the easy part. We do not need television or newspapers to be aware of them; they are becoming increasingly evident in our daily lives: changing weather patterns, our climate becoming hotter, dryer, and less predictable; pollution in the air, waterways, and sea; soaring energy prices as dwindling resources begin to bite. In addition to these concerns, we are experiencing the negative impact of sprawling cities and semi-rural suburbs which are destroying the beauty of our unique environment and disrupting natural ecosystems that work for us.

Thus the workshop turned with a sense of urgency to discuss what we could do as a community to avoid contributing to these problems and to mitigate their negative effects. Some of the ideas put forward included:

- More ferries to reduce car use and road traffic.
- A local shuttle service connecting to the ferry.
- Better footpaths to encourage pedestrians, and wide enough for prams.
- Safe cycle ways for children and to encourage cycling.
- Limits on urban growth to protect our natural heritage and amenities.
- Protecting and enhancing the environment with community tree-planting.
- Increased energy efficiency in the home such as insulation and solar panels.
- More local produce grown in community gardens, commercially, and by households.
- Better opportunities to buy locally: more shops, produce markets, etc.

It was soon apparent that success would depend upon good organisation and the whole community working together. Some suggestions for nurturing a sense of community were:

- Establishing a community-run early childhood centre.
- Teaching school children - and anyone else interested how to grow vegetables.
- Rewarding those who contribute to the community.
- Creating a dedicated community centre space such as a market square.
- Providing meals on wheels to those in need.
- Providing retirement cottages, so older members of the community do not need to leave.

To keep the momentum going, several action groups were established and further meetings are planned. A summary report on what the workshop achieved and the next steps is available from Christine Dann: 329 4588 or christine@horomaka.org.

Hot news from across the harbour: Not only is London Street, in the heart of Lyttelton, being upgraded, but a whole swag of new shops are set to open. The old supermarket building is to receive a new lease of life with a Four Square supermarket, a greengrocer, and bakery; and a second bakery, Trocadero, will open in the old bakery building.

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Karen

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While on his customary morning walk a few months ago, Norm Parratt, 81, was dismayed come upon Chris Shiel dismantling the low fence on his Marine Drive frontage. “That last post,” lamented Norm, “has been a very welcome rest spot for me every morning.”

Chris’s response was immediate. Not only did the solitary post remain, but, after watching Norm perched precariously on it, Chris put in a second post, right beside the first and of exactly the same diameter and height, so that Norm can now securely take the load off his feet.

**Letter**

Dear Sir,

Today Neil Blunden at Godley House made me proud to be a Diamond Harbour resident. I help manage a small support group, called the St Luke’s Centre, for people living with Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities in Christchurch. I organised an outing to Diamond Harbour for our people today and Neil agreed to cater for us. He met us down at the wharf and shuttled all 36 of us up to Godley House. Neil and his fantastic staff cooked up gorgeous meals of fish and chips for us and bent some of his rules to allow us to have a picnic on the sun-drenched lawn. Neil and his team were warm and empathetic towards our group which includes some quite high-needs people.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the food, ambience, and service; and some even commented that the fish and chips are the best they have ever tasted! I want to publicly thank Neil and the rest of the Godley House team for making our day very memorable for one and all. Thanks also Neil, for the very generous discount you gave us. It was a pleasant surprise and further strengthened my faith in human nature.

**But, sadly, not always**

The minds of those who take pleasure in vexing their fellow man are small indeed. On the night of Good Friday one or more of these sad individuals found amusement in pulling letters out of the post box in front of the post office.

Upon opening the post office on Saturday morning, Vicki discovered a handful of letters, a few of them opened, lying around the post box. The police were notified and the NZ Post security team took the extracted letters, presumably for finger-printing, before reposting.

Although it appears that only few letters were removed, and apparently left on the ground, anyone concerned about mail they posted between 12:30 pm Thursday, 9 May 9 and 9:00 am Saturday, May 11 may wish to check that it arrived safely. Vicki and Wendy would be happy to hear from anyone with further information. Ph 329 4800.

As for those strawberry plants along the pavement edge? They are there so children passing to and from school can enjoy a seasonal treat – provided they share, of course. Well done, Chris.

Elaine

Chris with Norm on his more comfortable and stable rest spot with Chris outside Chris’s Bayman Services property.

**Do you need to fight the flab?**

*Why not join a small friendly group for 10 weeks?
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$4 per session
*Contact Fiona or Mike O’Neill
Ph: 329 4881
or Audrey Hughes
Ph: 329 4360

**Hi from the team at Godley.**

Winter hours are as follows, CLOSED- Mondays and Tuesdays. OPEN Wednesday 4pm-9pm, bar light meals and takeaways. Thursday to Sunday open 11am. Renovations are nearly finished and the exterior looks stunning. We now have a pool table in the function room, so come on down and play pool watch rugby, listen to music and while away the winter.

The council, after 3 years, are slowly coming to the party - this business will be marketed for sale with a new lease for the new owner. Maybe locals who have the knowledge of running a hotel could pitch in and pick up a bargain!

Meantime, we are doing a roast and soup special on Thursdays, $15, day and evening; bookings essential at night please. Look forward as always to seeing you at our place.

Over and out. Neil.
PURAU MARKET PEOPLE

In the final of our series about those who make the fortnightly Purau Market the great success that it is, Jo profiles four more key people.

Richard Swatton:
Richard began his association with the Market by providing herbs, but this soon progressed to a large variety of vegetable seedlings, spice and raspberry and black currant bushes. His property in Purau boasts three hundred cherry trees that thrive undercover, providing superior fruit which is prized by the several shops to which Richard supplies.

Colleen Alison:
Colleen brings to the Market fruit, vegetables, jams, sauces, preserves and eggs. She also enjoys rearing pheasants and a rare breed of bantams originating from Poland in the 16th century. Colleen also maintains a bird sanctuary where orphaned and injured birds, such as wax-eyes, are hand reared. Who else of us can boast a goldfinch tame enough to happily sit on our shoulder?

Annie Baxter:
Along with vegetables, fruit and eggs, Annie makes wonderful chocolate cupcakes that are a real treat. She is renowned, of course, for her popular Victorian Teas in association with the Stodart Cottage Trust. Annie is also a wedding co-ordinator and a florist. As well, she makes wedding cakes to order. And then there is the flock of white doves which live in Annie’s garden.

Karen Colyer:
Karen’s home garden supplies all her needs plus an abundance of produce for the Market. In addition, if your taste buds want to experience some new flavours, Karen’s unique breads, roast pumpkin hummus, mini pizzas and fruit loaves and crumbles are particularly special, and, along with her other dishes, generally come in foil containers suitable for freezing – a very handy addition to your larder!  Jo

FUNKY HOT MAMA TAKES CENTRE STAGE

Louise Days, one half of the successful Funky Hot Mamas song and dance team, and recent arrival to Diamond Harbour, has opened the Centre Stage Performing Arts School for young people.

A quick Google for Funky Hot Mamas reveals just how fortunate we are to have such an accomplished professional in our midst. Lou, as she prefers to be called, and friend Leigh, the other Mama, perform at festivals, weddings, birthdays, and corporate events around the country. Lou has also performed in musicals like Hair, Westend to Broadway, Little Shop of Horrors, Big City Blues, Footrot Flats, 42nd Street, and Guys and Dolls. She toured the North Island with Michael Barrymore and Tina Cross in the guise of Mama Morton in the musical Chicago.

Aside from her professional life as a Mama, and her home life as a mother, to sons Oscar and Harvey, Lou is also an experienced singing and drama teacher, having taught in Christchurch schools and even produced high school musicals. It’s not just about developing music and drama skills, says Lou. Learning to sing correctly improves a child’s speech and increases their self-confidence. Theatre sports and drama games are great for team building.

Children learn to support each other and to trust themselves and others.

Diamond Harbour residents will have the good fortune to appreciate Lou’s work for themselves, as plans are afoot for public performances by her young charges, including a Christmas concert/pantomime.  Ron

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Wine Speak

Back to reality! Like you, the global recession means I’m cooking more at home and drinking something in that $15-20 bracket rather than paying exorbitant restaurant prices. Try these with your next culinary creation as you hunker down for the next little while...

Buy of the year so far is the 2007 Selaks The Favourite Chardonnay. A refined, French-oak number, meaning it’s mealy and complex with citrus and mineral core but sings like a $30+ chardonnay with food, where you get oaked butterscotch and layers of flavour. It deserved its gold at the 2009 Easter Show.

A couple of aromatics and the dual trophy-winning 2008 Forrest Estate Doctor’s Riesling is a great quaffer. A low alcohol wine and purposely medium-sweet it’s all limes and Granny Smith apple with tang and citrus in the palate, the sugar balancing the sweetness perfectly. Also sweetish is the 2008 Torlesse Gewürztraminer. Gold also and Cuisine’s numero uno, I liked its oily texture in the palate along with the rose petal, lychee, pear, and spice. Match carefully with food, such as spicy Asian or cheeses. I can attest it worked a treat with Lamb Rogan Josh.

Finally a red, once again from the emerging reliable Selaks The Favourite brand. This time it’s their 2007 Merlot Cabernet (and their 2006 is no slouch either) and it’s right up there with Hawkes Bay reds at twice the price. This one is RIPE with blackberry and plum and some cedar notes coming through the palate. Sweetish mouth-feel from the fruit balanced by savoury French oak and it got the trophy at the 2008 Air NZ show. Tannins are still firm so clear a spot in your cellar or pair with red meat dishes if, like me, you can’t keep your hands off it. Enjoy!

The Godfather

Recipe

Potatoes don’t feature on my dinner plate as often as they used to but every now and then I think it is time to dig another shaw. A recent dinner guest enjoyed this potato cake which I served with tomato and chilli jam made a year ago and they combined very well. The cake would also be good with your favourite chutney or a bowl of yoghurt, lemon juice and chopped mint.

You may prefer to make individual sized cakes about the size of a pikelet.

**Potato and chickpea cake**

600g waxy potatoes
1 small onion
3 tablespoons chopped coriander
2 spring onions, finely sliced
4 tablespoons chickpea flour
2 teaspoons harissa (I used crushed chilli instead. There is always a jar in the fridge)
⅓ teaspoon salt
freshly ground pepper
1 egg beaten
vegetable oil for frying
1 teaspoon ground coriander
¼ teaspoon ground turmeric
¼ teaspoon cumin seeds

Grate potatoes and onion, place in a bowl and cover with cold water.

Put fresh coriander, spring onion, chickpea flour, chilli, salt and pepper into another bowl. Mix together and stir in the egg. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a large non-stick frying pan and fry the ground coriander, turmeric, and cumin seeds over a medium-high heat, stirring for 25-30 seconds. Add to bowl.

Drain the potato and onion and wring out in a tea towel to extract the liquid. Add the other ingredients and mix together with your hands. Cover and set aside for 30 minutes.

Heat some oil in the same pan the spices were cooked in and pour mixture into the pan. Flatten the top. Cook for up to 20 minutes at a moderate temperature. Place dinner plate upside down on top of the potato cake and turn the pan over. Slide the cake back into the pan and cook the other side.

Cut into wedges along with one of the suggestions above. Serves four.

We had roast cauliflower and a coleslaw with ours and they combined well.

Karen

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**Disclaimer** – The views expressed in the Diamond Harbour Herald are not necessarily those of the Editor. While due care is taken to ensure the contents of the Herald are accurate the Editor and printer cannot accept liability for omissions and errors.

Diamond Harbour Herald - Established 1953
There is a definite change in the weather. April has given us some beautiful sunny days, with at most the light winds that are typical of autumn. The mornings and evenings, however, have frequently been cool enough that we start thinking of frosts, heaters and electric blankets. Early in the month, a nor’wester brought a warm day, with a temperature of 21°C. Typically at this time of year, it was followed by a sharp southerly change. The next day the temperature had dropped, the wind blew, rained, and was just about as unpleasant as anything we could expect in winter. We had the greater part of the rainfall that has fallen to date on those two days - about 35 mm. Since then there have been a couple of light falls, but essentially it’s been a dry month. The city missed out on most of that, getting only about half of what we received.

The weather generally is what can be expected for the changeover season, when the settled conditions associated with anticyclones sitting over the Tasman and extending onto New Zealand break down, and fronts related to depressions to the south of the country become more significant. Consequently we tend to get an alternation of north and northwesterly wind flows with abrupt changes to cooler southerlies. Here in the Harbour we have not always experienced the nor’wester flows, but in the sky above the Port Hills, the typical lens shaped clouds were visible, while easterly cloud moved up the Harbour. Although the national forecast promised warm sunshine, we had two or three days of low cloud and mist, dense enough to be described as fog, and much lower temperatures than were promised. Low cloud/mist conditions like this are the rationale behind the well-known description of autumn as season of mists and mellow fruitfulness! In spring, the contrast between sea and land temperature is stronger, and the changeover from winter is not marked by the kind of mild, windless days that we can enjoy in autumn.

The relatively warm sea temperatures around New Zealand will, for a while, continue to moderate the cold blasts from the south, which we can expect from now on. Meanwhile, decaying tropical cyclones are likely to bring rain to the far north, and we should hope that the still warm southern waters don’t attract them to wander further south!

Jane Soons

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Give Meditation a Try

An Insight Meditation group is beginning in Diamond Harbour. The first sitting will be on Tuesday May 12 from 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m., at 7A Whero Ave. The group is intended for both novice and experienced meditator alike. There is no cost, other than your time.

If you have not tried meditation before you probably have a couple questions at this point: What is insight meditation; and Why meditate?

Insight or vipassana meditation is a form of silent meditation which involves developing inner calmness and concentration as the basis for insightful self-inquiry and compassionate action in the world. It was first taught over two and a half thousand years ago, by the man who became known as the Buddha and has been passed on to the present time by an unbroken line of teachers. The fact that it has worked so well, and for so long, suggests that insight meditation is a valuable treasure indeed.

Those who practise it discover a range of benefits. There may be personal, inner benefits such as less worry and stress, greater psychological health and stability, better physical health and better ways of coping with pain and illness, and an improved capacity to overcome negative emotions and the experience of greater happiness and joy in our lives.

There may also be social benefits such as improved achievement at work, happier relationships, a greater capacity to care for others, and more effective involvement in community and benevolent activities.

Insight meditation does not involve religious belief, but its practise leads to a strong spiritual ethic of kindness, honesty, generosity, love, and compassion, which is another benefit of the practice, both for the individual and society.

Interested? Then come along to the first session, where we will listen to recorded instructions on how to meditate by an experienced teacher, and then sit together quietly. If you are comfortable sitting cross-legged, please bring a meditation cushion. Chairs will be available for those who prefer them. More questions? Please call/email Christine – 329 4588 or christine@horomaka.org.

Christine

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Need funds?

- Is your community group struggling for funds?
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- Does your sports club need someone to apply for a grant?

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**BECOMING A VET**

I am often approached by young people asking what is required to become a vet. The New Zealand veterinary school is at Massey University in Palmerston North; however the first semester subjects of chemistry, physics, cell biology, and animal biology can be studied at any NZ university. Only the top 75 New Zealand students (plus 25 international students) from the first semester go on to the professional phase (semesters 2 to 10) of the five year BVSc degree. So besides having an affinity to animals, the prospective vet student must be academically gifted. Important school subjects are maths, science, and biology. Those not making the cut after the first semester can use their credits towards other science-related degrees.

It is a good idea to spend some time working with a vet, and many schools allow students to do a few days work of experience in a job that interests them. Massey requires its veterinary students to spend 10 days working with a vet before enrolment.

There are many different types of veterinary practice: companion animal practice (mostly in cities), mixed (like ours), equine practice, or production animal practice (generally rural). MAF offers employment in areas such as food safety and bio security. There are also job opportunities in industry (pet food and pharmaceutical companies), academia (lecturing and research), consultancy services, welfare services (SPCA etc) and more exotic occupations such as zoo vet or game capture. The possibilities are endless.

For those who wish to work in the veterinary field without qualifying as a vet there are several pathways. Veterinary nursing is a traditional career, although courses in veterinary technology are now being offered using distance learning, with occasional block courses and regular work at an accredited vet practice. Training is given in areas such as pregnancy scanning, blood collection and TB testing.

A veterinary career is always rewarding; but it is hard work, and requires mental, physical, and emotional strength. No two days are ever the same, and you will continue to learn until you retire! It is not a career to consider if money is your main priority.

Breaking news: The government is introducing a voluntary bonding scheme in certain parts of the country where vets are in short supply. New graduates will be paid $11,000 annually for 5 years in addition to their salary. Presently the scheme applies to Southland, the West Coast and parts of the east coast of the North Island (but unfortunately not Banks Peninsula)!

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**GAFFERS’ GOSSIP**

**Brave New World**

My mate Charlie is not just a pretty face, in fact you’d have to say he’s downright ugly. But when it comes to knowing a thing or two, he’s right up there with Russell Crowe. Without the blue eyes and the vacant look.

Take all this hoo-ha about climate change and melting ice caps and carbon footprints and all that rubbish. Charlie and I decided that we’d had enough of these so called experts rabbiting on about things, so we decided to form our own Think-tank and forward our conclusions to Helen Clarke or Madonna. I posed the questions and Charlie came out snap with the answers.

‘Climate change? Listen, the climate changes every day and it always has done and it always will and people ought to get used to that. I put on my long johns this morning and what happens but we get a howling Norwester, so I takes them off and along comes a freezing Southerly…….’

‘Yeah alright, but what about carbon footprints’?

‘Look, any idiot could fix that. All you got to do is get the shoemakers to mark the boots and shoes two sizes larger than they are.’

‘How’s that going to help then?’

‘Stands to reason. No one’s going to go around saying “Oh I used to take a size fourteen and now I can’t get into a sixteen,” are they? So what are they going to do?’

‘What?’

‘Well they gets fed up with having sore feet and starts going around on their hands and knees then you don’t have no footprints at all. No problem.’

‘You’re brilliant Charlie. What do you reckon about the ice caps?’

‘Well I ain’t never worn one meself but I reckon its no wonder they’re all melting what with folks trying to work out their Lotto combinations.’

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**VETERINARY SERVICES**

**Vetlife Banks Peninsula**

**NOW IN DIAMOND HARBOUR**

Vetlife will be holding weekly clinics in the Community Center from 2pm on Wednesday afternoons.

We look forward to seeing you and your pet!

Large animal calls and house calls can also be arranged.

Please phone 3251006 to book an appointment.

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MINI GOLF IN ASHLEY RESERVE

Fancy a game of mini-golf? Don't waste time and money travelling into town, there is a challenging public 18-hole mini-golf course in the centre of Diamond Harbour – and it's free.

Ashley Reserve is tucked away in the valley between Te Ara and Ranui Crescents, and is accessible from Te Ara, Marine Drive and the Cliff Track. While it is an official council reserve, it has, for many years, been generally managed and maintained by local residents, formerly Ron Arnold and now Dennis Collins. It was Ron who, with the Council's blessing, initially developed the area, planting and tending a great variety of plants. Although today some sources refer to it as the Ron Arnold Reserve, his preference, as can be seen on the plaque he erected, was Ashley Reserve, Ashley being a family name. Dennis, whose house now overlooks the park, often assisted the aging Ron with more demanding tasks, and since Ron’s death, has continued the development, cultivating lawns and establishing the mini-golf course, and much more. While the course is always open to casuals as a BYO (putter, ball and score card, that is), for more formal groups, a phone call to Dennis on 3293069 two to three weeks in advance, will ensure the course is booked and in pristine condition for your visit. He can even assist with a variety of equipment to complete your event and encourages local clubs and corporates to use the venue for social occasions with a difference. It is also a great place to entertain visiting grandchildren, hold a birthday party, or even stage a mini Music-in-the-Park occasion. There is no charge for use of the area.

In addition, of course, you are always welcome to stroll through the reserve, to sit for a while in the gazebo and to admire the plants, the wishing well and the pleasant surroundings.

AUTUMN TAI CHI WORKSHOPS

Tai Chi instructor Chris Rudin-Jones has been running Tai Chi and Qi Gong classes in Diamond Harbour for the last three years with the support of the Rural Canterbury Primary Health Organisation. This autumn Chris intends running two one-off workshops to encourage those who would like to try Tai Chi, but are too busy to attend every week.

If you are curious about Tai Chi or surprised to learn that it is endorsed by ACC for fall prevention then read on.

Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese exercise practiced by millions of people around the world. Some call it a moving meditation, as it is so relaxing, and it has powerful health benefits. These include improving balance, strengthening muscles and bones, reducing stress, and improving general wellbeing.

Tai Chi benefits the body as a whole by exercising the physical body with gentle movements, using all the joints and muscles, increasing leg strength and whole-body flexibility. At the same time, it also exercises the mind by focusing it on body movement and breath control. You do not need a lot of space, a change of clothes, or to shower afterwards; and five, ten or fifteen minutes can relax your body and mind to be fresh and productive for the rest of the day – or to clear it at the end of a busy stressful day. People suffering from arthritis, joint or muscle pain will especially benefit.

ACC support Tai Chi because of its proven ability to reduce falls, which cost New Zealand millions of healthcare dollars annually. Several recent studies, including one by the Dunedin Medical School, have found that Tai Chi is one of the most effective exercise regimes for fall prevention. Tai Chi has many other health benefits… but more importantly, it improves the quality of life!

Chris Rudin-Jones

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Diamond Harbour Herald - Established 1953
MOTHERS’ DAY TREAT - MAY 10

The majority of countries that celebrate Mother’s Day do so on the second Sunday of May. On this day, it is customary for mothers to be lavished with presents and special attention from their families, friends, and loved ones. But it has not always been this way.

Only recently dubbed Mother’s Day, the traditional practice of honouring motherhood is rooted in antiquity, and past rites typically had strong symbolic and spiritual overtones. Some cultures tended to celebrate goddesses and symbols rather than actual mothers. In fact, the personal, human touch to Mother’s Day is a relatively new phenomenon. Only in the past few centuries did celebrations of motherhood develop a decidedly human focus.

In England in the 1600’s a clerical decree broadened the celebration to include real mothers, earning it the name Mothering Day. Mothering Sunday (the fourth Sunday of Lent) became a compassionate holiday especially for the working classes of England; servants and trade workers were permitted to travel back to their towns of origin to visit their families. Mothering Day also provided a one-day reprieve from the fasting and penance of Lent, allowing families across England to enjoy a sumptuous family feast where mother was the guest of honour.

Mothers were presented with cakes and flowers, as well as receiving visits from beloved and distant children. This Mother’s Day, why not treat Mum to a Victorian Tea at Stoddart’s Cottage? Annie Baxter will be offering her usual array of mouth-watering cakes to tempt the whole family - and what a great excuse to forget the diet! There will be proper strong leaf tea, delicious morsels and masses of Mother’s Day brownie points as well.

It may well be a busy day, so please book to avoid disappointment (phone 329 4779). Annie is offering special Mother’s Day Vouchers for A Victorian Afternoon Tea to anyone wishing to treat their Mum. Please contact her on 329 4779.

MINIATURE EXHIBITION - MAY 31

When Audrey Hughes retired from her position as a bookbinder with Christchurch Libraries, she did not stop her work, she simply scaled it down. Her miniature book creations are often authentic, copies of larger tomes, complete with gold embossed leather covers, and - with a dollar coin.

Audrey’s interest in miniatures is not restricted to only books. It was while tidying up after putting the finishing touches to a minute Father Christmas, that a small discarded fragment of clay caught Audrey’s eye. Since bird watching is her other passion, she recognised the scrap as being the shape of a bird’s body, and from that small beginning, she now creates a variety of birds ranging from 15mm seagulls and parrots to sparrows and finches of 6 or 7 mm, complete with eyes, beaks, clawed feet, and feathers, every individual bird being unique but stunningly characteristic of its species. Australian birds are her current project.

Although financial gain is not a major factor in her hobby, Audrey’s expertise and attention to detail means that her books and birds are very saleable, and she admits to at times combining work and pleasure as she is often able to cover her travelling expenses with her sales at miniature shows both around NZ and in Australia. She is also very willing to share her skills, inspiring, among others, Barbara Pickering, who began working in miniature at the age of eighty. Under Audrey’s guidance she has developed her forte, room boxes. The pictured example below has tiny hand-painted pictures on the wall, and ornaments and furniture cleverly crafted from unlikely materials such as ear-rings, buttons and toothpicks. The striking fireplace is mostly cardboard, with real coal in the hearth.

Audrey and Barbara are certainly not the only Diamond Harbour residents to be involved with miniatures. More than half a dozen local talents will exhibit their varied and exquisite projects at Stoddart’s Cottage on May 31st, and any other miniaturists in the area are welcome to join them – just contact Audrey, Ph. 329 4350 for details.

This exhibition will be a must-see for people of all ages, who will be spell-bound by the variety on display and the intricate realism of each item and the incredible attention to detail which is a hallmark of all who indulge in this finer and smaller art.

Elaine
**Stoddart’s Cottage Events**

**Sunday May 3, 1-4pm**
**Artist in Residence and cottage viewing**
Maddi Naylor will be working on one of her latest paintings at the cottage. Come and see her in action and talk to her about her work. You can also tour the cottage including the upstairs bedroom where the Stoddart children slept.
This room is only opened up occasionally.

**MOTHERS DAY WEEKEND**
**Sunday May 10, 1-4pm**
Marijke Lupps (Arts and crafts)
Annie’s Victorian Afternoon Teas
Proceeds of sales of Marijke’s arts and crafts will go towards funding her trip to a Cambodian orphanage later this year where she will be helping out and teaching the children new skills with the hope that they, in turn will be able to make and sell their own arts and crafts.

**Saturday May 16 and Sunday May 17, 1-4pm**
Diamond Harbour Photographic Society
Annie’s Victorian Afternoon Teas (Sunday only)
The Photographic Group create some wonderful photos which should not be missed. Come and view and enjoy them for yourself. They make ideal presents if you are looking for that special gift.

**Sunday May 24, 1-4pm**
John Barry (Painter and pastellist)
John is a very popular local artist showing landscapes in various mediums. Don’t miss out on his latest exhibition at the Cottage – you’ll be in for a treat.

**QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND (Two exhibitions)**
**Sunday May 31, 1-4pm**
Miniatures
A display of miniatures, skillfully crafted by a group of talented locals has never before been exhibited at the Cottage. Come and admire their detailed and amazing handicraft for yourself.

**Monday June 1, 1-4pm**
Jacky Morton (Mosaics)
Annie’s Victorian Afternoon Teas
Jacky is exhibiting with us for the first time. Her beautiful handmade mosaic pieces sell nationwide. We are really lucky that she has found time in her busy diary to join us for the afternoon.

**Sunday June 7, 1-4pm**
Ruth Willis (Ceramicist)
Another talented local artist, Ruth shares with us her beautiful ceramic craft. Both large and small items, there’s always something special to appeal.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend of Stoddart’s Cottage please contact Jane Smith on 329 4949 for details.

**Life and Death Matters**

Why do issues like abortion and euthanasia give rise to such heated controversy? Jim Thornton argues that part of the reason lies with a failure to understand what is meant by a *person*. As a follow-up to last winter’s course on morality, Jim (a retired Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at Canterbury University) is offering another course this year on some ethical issues relating to life and death. He will also tackle questions like: Is life after death a possibility? Can life be said to have any meaning? And if so, what is it? All the above issues are of course controversial and a rational discussion of them necessarily makes some demands on our thinking.

However, Jim has the reputation of being a clear lecturer who can communicate effectively with those who have no philosophical background. Questions and critical comments from those attending will be encouraged.

Six sessions will be held in the Stage Room at the Diamond Harbour Community Hall on Monday evenings from 7.30 to 9pm, beginning on May 25. (No meeting on June 15.)

**Course outline:**
May 25: What does it mean to be a person?
June 1: The ethics of abortion
June 8: The ethics of euthanasia
June 22: The nature of personal identity
June 29: Could we survive our bodily death?
July 6: Death and the meaning of life

To cover the cost of hiring the room and the supply of handouts there will be a charge of $6 for the whole course. If you are interested in attending, or require further information, please contact Jim. Phone 329 4943 or email Thornton@snap.net.nz
Desperately seeking neighbourhood support

To date, sadly, no one has put their hand up to help me restructure our Neighbourhood Support data. I am still wearing the hat but the group isn’t functioning as well as I would like.

Please, if you think you could give a hand, give me a ring on 329 4235 so we can have a chat. It would be sad to lose it through lack of support. Thanks, Trish Waters.

Keep active this winter

Aspiring indoor sports people are invited to join old hands at table tennis, badminton and indoor bowls, as the 2009 season begins. The three sports work together under the Diamond Harbour Indoor Sports Association, with one sub of $30 per person or $50 per family covering 20 weeks of one, two or all three sports.

Table tennis will be on Thursday nights from April 16 at St Andrew’s Community Church Hall. Contact person: Indrea Alexander 329 4876.

Badminton begins on Wednesdays from April 29, 7:30pm at the Diamond Harbour Community Hall. Contact person: John Sims 329 4521.

Indoor bowls has moved to daytime on Thursdays, 2–4pm at the Diamond Harbour Community Hall. Contact person: Maureen Scott 329 4070.

Men’s breakfast

Another delicious, social Men’s Breakfast is being offered on Saturday May 9, 7:45–9:30am at St Andrew’s Community Church Hall. Guest speaker Bill Harrington has been involved in large scale farming, livestock finishing under spray irrigation, and wind farm development in Central Otago. Please RSVP for catering purposes to Neville Alexander 329 4876 or John Somerville 329 4713. Koha toward breakfast costs is welcome.

Camera Club

Diamond Harbour Camera Club meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Next meeting, Tuesday May 19, 7.30pm in the Stage Room will be the AGM plus Photoshop hints. Bring an In Your Face photo for display. Visitors $2 donation.

Camera Club members will exhibit some of their work at the Stoddart Cottage on May 16 and 17 from 1–4 pm. With tea on Sunday.

Public cemeteries workshops

Although considerable research into the future development and management of cemeteries has been carried out, an action plan needs to be prepared. Christchurch City Council is holding two workshops to gain public input into this process.

Workshop 1

Tuesday May 19 at 5.30 – 7.30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Offices, Tuam Street.

Workshop 2

Thursday May 21 at 5.30–7.30pm at the Service Centre Meeting Room, Main Road, Little River.

If you wish to attend either of these workshops, please contact Michelle Stanley 941 8537 or email michelle.stanley@ccc.govt.nz.

Golfing fun

Diamond Harbour Rugby Club’s annual fundraising golf tournament will be held at Charteris Bay course on Sunday May 10. This is an Ambrose match with teams of four players; men, women and mixed. Entry fee $25 per player. Registration at the course 8am. Tee off from 8.30am. Make up your own team or join one on the day. Great prizes, great atmosphere. Be there. Phone 329 4512 for more information.

Historical Society AGM

Diamond Harbour and Districts Historical Society will hold their AGM at 7.30 pm, Tuesday May 12 in the Stage Room, Community Hall. The meeting will be followed by a talk by John Riminton entitled What it was like to be a tea planter in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in the 1950s and 1960s. All welcome.
Uniquely Purau Society Incorporated AGM
This meeting will be held on Tuesday June 23 in the Stage Room, Community Hall.

Toy Library AGM
Will be held Thursday May 21 at 7.30pm in the Stage Room, Community Hall. The committee is keen to share their ideas about the future of toy library with you at this meeting.
Brand new toys on show and supper provided.

Mulching time again
The chipping round will be held on May 23 and 24. Please contact Dave Hammond to get your name on the list. Phone 329 4270.

Dust off your brains – it’s Quiz Time again
Another great Diamond Harbour Quiz is upon you, Friday May 29, 7.45pm for an 8pm start at the Community Hall. The quiz will be hosted by Mt Herbert Parish, so book a team of five by ringing the Parish office and leaving a message ($15 per team on the night). If you can donate raffle prizes we would love to hear from you – chocolates, wine, cakes, vouchers, etc. Parish office 3294790.

Preschool Music Resumes
Another term of Rainbow Music starts at the Church Hall on Friday May 1, with sessions at 9:15am and 10:30am, with a cuppa together from 10 to 10:29. Preschoolers (0–5 years) and their caregivers are really welcome. Suggested weekly donation of $3 for one child, or $4 for a family. Contact Indrea 329 4790 for more info.

Deliciously Social Women’s Breakfast
All women are welcome at Mt Herbert Parish’s second Women’s Breakfast, Saturday May 23, 8:15–10am at St Andrew’s Community Church Hall. Around 70 women attended the first women’s breakfast, and we can cater for up to 80, so RSVP to the Parish office 329 4790 by Monday May 18 to book a place. There’s no set charge, just make a donation on the day. Our speaker this time is Heather Fear, a former National Heart Foundation president, Rotary District 9970 Governor-elect, and summer guide for Over-50s walking and adventure tours.

Chat from the Bridge Club
The Diamond Harbour Bridge Club extends a warm invitation to all Bridge players to join us on Wednesday May 13, 7pm in the Bowling Club rooms for a social night of bridge play. Please phone Lesley Barnett 329 4062 if a partner is required. We look forward to your company. Anna Taylor, president Phone 329 4522

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- Rugby Clubrooms, Community Centre, Diamond Harbour
- Tuesday mornings 10am - 11.30am
- 10 Te Re Crescent, Diamond Harbour
- Wednesday evenings 7.30pm - 8pm
- Fire Station Hall, Governors Bay

Cost: $120 (block 10 classes) or $15 casual
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Term 2 Programme 2009

Diamond Harbour:

Computing Skills – Beginner and intermediate levels – tell us what you want to learn.

Time: Tuesdays, 6.15–8.15pm for 6 weeks: May 5, 19 and June 2, 16, 23, 30

Venue: Diamond Harbour Community Church Hall; Tutor: Elaine Bryson; Fee: $40

Senior Net – Computing for people 55yrs +. Getting started, email, documents, filing etc.

Time: Mon 10–12am. Venue: Diamond Harbour Community Church Hall; Fee: $25–30

Call senior net on 385 0902 or 358 3298 for more details.

Lyttelton:

Love Your Look – Revamp and organize your wardrobe – no more What am I going to wear?

Times: 6.15–8.15pm, Tues 5–26 May, Wed 3–24 June or 10am–4pm, Sun 28 June

Venue: Central Lyttelton; Tutor: Debbie Lawson; Fee: $20

Sewing – Manage your machine, sew different fabrics, read and change patterns and much more. Bring your own machine if you have one.

Time: Wed 6.30–8.30 pm, 6 May–24 June

Venue: Lyttelton Main School; Tutor: Louise Galloway; Fee: $40

Massage – Learn the rules, benefits, and techniques of massage and dealing with stress effects.

Time: Thurs 6.15–8.15pm, 14–18 May

Venue: Lyttelton Information Centre; Tutor: Kathy Cornford; Fee: $40; 6 weeks (total 12 hours)

Parenting 0–5yrs – Toolbox course: covers rules, routine and charm, creating a childhood to remember. Subsidised by Safer Banks Peninsula.

Time: Mon 7–9pm, 25 May–29 June

Venue: Lyttelton Kindergarten, 33 Winchester Street, Facilitator: Kirsten Wyllie, Fee $10

Using Your Digital Camera and Computer – composing, storing, and manipulating images. Bring your camera and laptop if you have one. Learn how to use it.


Venue: Lyttelton Main School Library; Tutor: Lynda Harper; Fee: $40

To discuss classes, contact Roz Jenkins on 328 8552 or communitylearning@lyttelton.net.nz.

To enrol in any of these courses contact Sue–Ellen Sandilands: Phone 328 9243 (Tuesday to Friday) or email office@lyttelton.net.nz Please enrol early. Enrolments cut off one week before the classes begin. Fees to be paid when you enrol. Sue–Ellen will tell you how.

Possum trapping

Dave Hammond has traps to deal to those pesky possums. He will also dispose of them for you. Phone 329 4270.

GET READY GET THRU

Over the next 3 issues of The Herald, DH Civil Defence will be giving information on ways to be ready for a civil defence emergency. We should all have:

A Household Emergency Plan; An Emergency Survival Kit; A Getaway Kit if you need to be evacuated.

A Household Emergency Plan

Many disasters will affect essential services and possibly disrupt your ability to travel or communicate with each other. Get your family to agree on a plan. You should work out: Where to shelter in an earthquake, flood or storm; How and where to meet up during and after a disaster; Best place to store emergency survival items; How to turn off the water, gas and electricity in your home; What you will have in your getaway kit and where you will keep it; How to contact your local Civil Defence during an emergency.

Wendy Coles

ACUPUNCTURE

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1st Saturday of month in winter - 6th June
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T: 03 329 4779
At the meeting on April 20, Christine Dann presented feedback on the well-attended Transition Harbour workshop. An update was given on the working groups and the food group presented a report of their brainstorming meeting. The next gathering will be on Sunday 21 June at 5:30pm. The possibility of joining the Lyttelton Time Bank was discussed.

The Historical Association's request to place another filing cabinet in the Committee Room, to hold the mounted material from Bundy's on houses over many years in the Diamond Harbour area, was agreed.

Paula reported that the consultation group recommendations on the ferry terminal did not meet with agreement among members of the technical group so the bus contract will probably be let for another five years in the present position and a decision on the move delayed. She suggested that the matter is really part of a larger challenge to do with the Norwich Quay changes. It used to be the main road for Lyttelton rather than a heavy transport route and there is a desire to have it returned to this role.

The vet asked whether the committee would agree to the placement of a permanent sign on the front of the Hall. This was declined.

A long discussion took place trying to resolve the issue of dealing with rubbish from functions at the Community Centre. The issue remains unresolved.

The Directory should be finalized within two weeks. The treasurer reported a balance of $6581. The Financial Report has been sent to the authorities for charitable status. Next meeting: Monday May 18 at 7:30.

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**Quiz Night Bonanza**

On March 27 there was a fundraiser for the Room 4 camp in Wellington. The great turnout of 35 teams was the best in 19 years! Diamond Harbour School raised $1,581 towards the Wellington trip on May 18-20. There were a lot of raffle prizes to be won and a lot of chocolate cake to be eaten. Thanks heaps to the community for supporting Diamond Harbour School, it was a great night!

Special thanks to the following businesses for their tremendous generosity:

Avon – Chris Caulfield; Crater Rim Ceramic Art; Schott Commercial; Godley House; Christina Dower Jewellery; Diamond Light; Brumbys of Barrington; Barry’s Bay Cheese Factory; Black Cat Cruises; Satchmos Restaurant; The Wheatsheaf Tavern; Science Alive; The Court Theatre;

**Diamond Harbour Community Association**

The Directory should be finalized within two weeks. The treasurer reported a balance of $6581. The Financial Report has been sent to the authorities for charitable status. Next meeting: Monday May 18 at 7:30.

**Centre Stage Performing Arts School**

Musical Theatre, Singing and Drama Lessons

Louise Days is a professional performer now offering musical theatre style singing and drama classes in Diamond Harbour.

Classes are designed to improve confidence and singing and dramatic ability - but most of all are fun!

Places are available in Junior classes 3.30-4.30pm Mondays and Seniors 4.30-5.30pm Mondays

Singing class also available subject to enrollment numbers

Private singing lessons also available

For more information please call 021 329 4633 or 021 215 1912 or by email at fhm1@xtra.co.nz

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Diamond Harbour Herald - Established 1953

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Issue 123
May Church Services
St Andrew’s Community Church, 85 Marine Drive, Diamond Harbour
Catholic Mass
6:15pm every Saturday
Anglican-Methodist-Presbyterian (and all!)
8am every Sunday except May 31
10:30am Sunday School and Communion except May 31
May 31: Full Parish Family-Friendly service 10:30am at Little River, followed by shared lunch.
St Peter’s, Teddington
May 10, 9am Family-Friendly worship.

Life Journeys, Spiritual Journeys
At different times in our lives we bump up against something remarkable, an amazing person or situation, and we get a glimpse of the spiritual dimension of life.
St Andrew’s Community Church is about to host a Journeys course which uses TV interviews by Rob Harley as a springboard for discussion about our own experiences and insights.
An evening course will run on five Mondays from May 11 (excluding Queen’s Birthday on June 1) at 7:30-8:45pm; and an afternoon course will run on Tuesdays from May 19 at 1:30-2:45pm (childcare if requested).
If you would like to come along, or want more information, ring Indrea Alexander on 329 4790 or Bruce Beckett on 329 4422.

Herald calendar
Badminton: Wednesdays 7.30pm, Community Hall
Bridge club: Wednesday May 23, Bowling Club rooms
Camera club: Tuesday May 19, Stage Room
Cemeteries workshops:
   Tuesday May 19, 7.30pm, City Council Chambers and
   Thursday May 21, 5.30pm, Little River
Community Association (includes public forum):
   Monday May 18, 7.30pm, Committee Room
Computing skills: Tuesdays 6.15pm, starting May 5
Diamond Harbour Singers: Wed 7.30pm, Stage Room
Historical Society AGM: Tues May 12, 7.30pm, Stage Rm
Indoor bowls: Tuesdays 2-4pm, Community Hall
Life and death matters: Mon May 25, 7.30pm, Stage Room
Men’s breakfast: Saturday May 23, 7.30pm, Church Hall
Mulching weekend: Saturday and Sunday, May 23-24
Preschool music: Fridays 9.15am, Church Hall
Purau Produce Market: Saturday 9 and 23 May, 9am, Village Centre
Quiz night: Friday May 29, 7.30pm, Community Hall
Stoddart Cottage events: May 3, 10, 16, 17, 24, 31 and June, 1 and 7. See P9&10 for details
Table tennis: Thursday nights, Church Hall
Tai chi: Thurs 10-11am, April 30, May 7,14, 21;
   Beginners: May 28, 9.30-12am; Intermediate: Thurs June 25, 9.30-12 and Thurs July 2, 9.30-10.30
Toy Library AGM: Thursday May 21, 7.30pm, Stage Rm
Senior net: Mondays 10am-12, Church Hall
Uniquely Purau AGM: Tuesday June 23, Community Hall

Classified
Wanted Highchair(s) no longer required, needed for local Playcentre. Phone 329 4450
