NEW LOOK FOR GODLEY HOUSE

We have always admired Godley House and often talked about possible ways of developing its potential, replied Michelle Anderton, when asked what prompted her and husband Richard Hawes to take over the lease of Godley House. We love the grandeur of the building and the magnificent outlook it offers.

Then this year things just seemed to fall into place. The time was right and it was meant to be, added Richard. Both know of course that it takes more than good timing and a twist of fate to run a successful business. Their first step was to formulate a sound business plan. This meant everything from itemising all the contents of the house to studying demographic statistics of the area and identifying goals and researching them to ensure they were achievable and set in a viable time frame. Priority was given to establishing a good working relationship with the landlord, Christchurch City Council. Councillors were impressed by the couple’s enthusiasm and thorough planning and a number of them took up the offer to visit Godley House. The end result is excellent rapport, an eighteen years lease agreement, and a commitment from the Council to assist with some interior improvements in the building over time.

In just two months Richard and Michelle have already stamped their mark on the premises. While most people appreciate the historical value of Godley House, many still think of it as just the local pub. We hope to make it a welcoming and relaxing place for a wider group, says Michelle. Various rooms in the house are being set up with specific types of clientele in mind. An expanded takeaway selection now offers the old-fashioned, genuine fish and chips, and the new display cabinet in the café offers delicious home-made items including paninis, vegetable frittata, filo parcels, cakes and biscuits which can be eaten in the grounds or taken home to be enjoyed. The new all-day dining menu features gluten-free and vegetarian dishes in addition to more traditional ones. The seafood chowder is extremely popular!

Diners can order a drink from the comfort of their table and a small ladies’ lounge gives the girls the option of enjoying a drink and a chat away from the noisier hustle and bustle of the bar. That said, the new proprietors realise that the bar is a key part of the business, so an extensive face-lift is already underway in that area. Lion Nathan Breweries have come on board and will provide more than 100 wines as well as the usual spirits and the ever-popular Speight’s ales. Local wines will also feature, along with a range of quality fresh non-alcoholic organic juices.

Michelle and Richard are delighted with the positive response from locals. Most people know us from our time in the district and our involvement with the school and rugby club, as well as Richard’s building business. I think we are recognised as doers, not just talkers. The couple are certainly planning to do a lot more, including upgrading the accommodation facilities and promoting the business beyond the immediate district. It’s a brilliant place for a memorable wedding, birthday or family reunion, or maybe just a group trip on the ferry and a week-day afternoon Devonshire tea; transport up and down the hill provided by our courtesy van.

Godley House will be closed on Mondays, public holidays excepted, and during summer open Tuesday to Sunday from 11am. The first Sunday of each month will feature Music in the Garden and a DJ will be on hand on New Year’s Eve. Christmas Eve however is definitely a time to be with family, so Godley will close at 7.30pm.

Our thanks to Christchurch City Council, this month’s sponsor of the Diamond Harbour Herald

Elaine
The Diamond Harbour Community Association has launched its own website to provide accurate, up-to-date information for and about our community. A picture, they say, is worth a thousand words, so rather than reading a description you can see it for yourself at: www.diamondharbour.info.

Felicia Forbes designed the new website assisted by David Rice who did the technical development. Felicia would like to acknowledge the generous donation of the domain name by Kristian Morgan. If you have any comments or suggestions about the website, or content of community interest that you would like to see on it, please contact Felicia at webmaster@diamondharbour.info.

This is just the beginning; further information will be added as it is provided by the community.

If any of the details for your club, society, local group, or business are missing, or if you would like them altered or additional information added, please contact the appropriate content manager:

- Community Services (Karen Colyer): services@diamondharbour.info
- Clubs and Societies (Colin McLeod): clubs@diamondharbour.info
- Attractions (Robyn Hedges): attractions@diamondharbour.info
- Events (Jane Smith): events@diamondharbour.info
- Business Directory (Felicia Forbes): business@diamondharbour.info
- Accommodation (Karen Colyer): accommodation@diamondharbour.info
- Transport and Ride Sharing (Ron Dubin): transport@diamondharbour.info
- Future Developments (Jill Rice): future@diamondharbour.info
- Photos (David Rice): photos@diamondharbour.info

If you would like your club, society, local group, or business to be added to the website, please contact the appropriate content manager:

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Governors Bay Preschool is open 9.00am until 1.00pm Monday – Friday during school terms.
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Parents of children under 2½ are most welcome to come and stay with their children to get to know other parents and the staff.

Feel free to contact Cathy and Jenine on 03 329 9801 after 1.00pm.

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 Theo Mitchell 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.

****Theo Mitchell Consulting****
In the wider Diamond Harbour area are many people whose contribution to the community and its development is outstanding; but probably few can match the achievements of Barry Bowater, who has not only served as a volunteer in several local fields, but who can also truthfully claim to have built a considerable proportion of the district.

Although he is the fourth generation of his family to live in our area, Barry Bowater was born an Aucklander, the only son of a marine ship surveyor. Barry had little opportunity to know his father, who had been away at sea on sail or steam ships until he was struck by illness and died in 1934. His death prompted the family to move to Diamond Harbour, where they lived next door to Barry’s grandmother, Mary Sinclair, on Marine Drive just west of Whero Avenue for two years before shifting to Sumner. Mary had developed a close relationship with her grandson and as soon as he was old enough, Barry frequently rode his old push bike over Evans Pass and caught the ferry across to visit her. The pair would often walk, Mary carrying a billy of water on her arm, to the base of Mt Herbert near where today’s walking track begins its climb. Here they would light a fire to boil up the billy at the Clay House which had been built by her parents a few years after they arrived from the Shetland Islands in early 1870s. It had been Mary’s childhood home, and its remains are still visible today.

At the age of 18, Barry built a little bach on property his mother owned above the wharf in Church Bay, and lived there for a number of years after completing his carpentry apprenticeship.

Barry Bowater Building Contractors Ltd was formed in 1953 and continues today as Bowater Builders, under the management of son, Gregor. Barry has been responsible for the construction of around sixty homes and buildings in the greater Diamond Harbour area, and has modified or repaired a number of others. The Ranui Crescent house which he built, and moved into, soon after his first marriage in 1957, was where Gregor and his sister Leslie grew up; and it was not until earlier this year that Barry and wife Wisha made the understandably emotional transition to a more modern home in Church Bay.

Testament to the importance of the Bowater firm in the community is the fact that a surprising number of today’s local identities are listed among its many apprentices, although not all continued in that trade. Barry’s first employee was also the local milkman, so initially worked only in the afternoons. Barry remembers with a grin, some of the tales he told about transporting the milk can on the back of his truck, and ladling the milk into customers’ receptacles - and at times quenching his own thirst - with the dipper which hung on the outside of the can as the truck trundled around the dusty gravel roads.

A number of employees also became local Scout leaders after their boss volunteered to assist with the Diamond Harbour Cub group in the late 1950s. Barry had himself been a scout in Sumner and greatly enjoyed the challenges and comradeship, so was well versed in the movement. After training as a leader, his sailing competency led to his appointment as the Canterbury Area Water Activities Advisor, and he continued with the Rapanui scout district until after the turn of the century.

His interest in sailing began in 1948 at the Charteris Bay Yacht Club, where he first crewed in an Idlalong, before building a Rapanui scout district until after the turn of the century.

Back then, he reminisces, I used to know everyone in the district, but I’ve slowed down a bit now. Nevertheless Barry, we can certainly see where you have been!

Elaine

Amy Adams

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A strong voice for our communities

National
This term at Diamond Harbour School has been very busy with some fun activities.

After Technology on Wednesday October 21, Room Kotuku and Governors Bay School went to the Science Road Show at Cobham Intermediate. We saw lots of interactive activities but first we listened to some people talk about sound and sound waves. Then we went off to look at the activities. Some had yellow flags which meant you had to figure out how they worked. If your answers were correct you got a hole in your card next to the name of the activity you did; for example, if you got the Sailing Away answer correct that meant you went into the draw to win 3D glasses and a picture.

We listened to another conference on global warming and when they announced the competition winners, I won one of the sets of 3D glasses and a picture.

On Monday November 2 we had our school athletics day. Students who did well went to the zones at QEII on November 10. Emma Veltman, Talor Fleet, Matthew Rice, Sam Caulfield, Matt Neilson, Casey Harrison, and Islay Fowler will represent the school at the inter-zone athletics on December 1.

On November 5 Kotuku went sailing on the Fox II. In the morning we walked around Quail Island and then had lunch on the beach. In the afternoon the Fox II picked us up from the wharf and we sailed around Lyttelton Harbour. At the school pet day, we had everything from lambs to a pet balloon. We had a parade. It was a great day.

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INTRODUCING .......

Jill Kennedy came over to Diamond Harbour a few years ago to help her ailing mother and forgot to go back to the city. Instead she set up a fitness studio at a house in the village centre and soon had a wide range of clients seeking improved well-being. Now, five years later, about sixty locals aged between fourteen and eighty with many differing personal fitness needs regularly attend.

For Jill, however, it is time to move on as a new challenge beckons, so from Monday December 7, she will hand over to Dave Heath, one of her most enthusiastic clients.

Dave, formerly a member of the RAF, has long been passionate about fitness, and on Jill’s suggestion, began studying for qualification as a personal trainer at the Max College of Fitness in Christchurch. His graduation takes place as the Herald goes to print.

HAND-CASTING ON DISPLAY

If you are near Church Bay Services on Marine Drive between 11am and 4pm on any fine weekend, be sure to take time to see what Mary Corbishley, of Urban Artz, is creating in the forecourt. At other times you’ll find a display of some of her attractive and unusual decorative pieces in the lounge area at the west end of the building.

Church Bay Services proprietors, Elaine and Russell McLeod, have generously made these two areas available to local artists, and Mary challenges others to take advantage of this offer and join her there on Saturdays and Sundays to share their talents and their creations in an open air setting with the neighbourhood residents and the many visitors who pass by on a summer weekend.

Mary, a qualified interior designer, professional artist, and life-caster who lives in Purau, combines all her talents to produce unique original pieces to enhance home and garden. All are on sale at surprisingly reasonable prices, and Mary also works to order.

While every sculpture is a stunning original, Mary’s speciality is hand-casting, an art which is probably a mystery to many people, but one which creates a wonderland gift or memento of a special relationship. When you and someone you love visit Mary, it will take less than 15 minutes for her to create a mould of your joined hands, and from this she will create for you a unique solid sculpture so detailed and lifelike that every line on your skin, a scar, and even your fingerprints can be clearly identified.

You can contact Mary on Ph. 329 3234 or visit her website: www.nobutze.co.nz or catch her at Church Bay Services, 11am to 4pm any fine weekend.

Disclaimer – 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.
Watson Family Reunion

The descendants of James and Mary Watson gathered in the Diamond Harbour Rugby Clubrooms recently to mark 100 years since Mary Watson, with her five children, stepped ashore at Lyttelton after travelling by train, ship and ferry steamer from Biggar in the Scottish Lowlands in 1909. James had come out eighteen months earlier at the suggestion of his good friend Dr Thomas Pairman, also from Biggar, who was already settled in Governors Bay. James prepared for his family to follow by leasing a small cottage on Dr Pairman’s property that had been built by John Dyer in the 1860’s. It survived a subdivision in the 1920’s but was destroyed by fire in 1933.

130 members of the Watson Family of Governors Bay outside Stoddart’s Cottage during their reunion.

The children, Belle, Peggy, Bob, Jock, Bert, and Stuart have all passed on, but 130 of their descendants representing four generations, gathered for the reunion; some travelling from as far afield as Switzerland, Cyprus and Australia, so there was a lot of catching up to do. Mary and James’ two oldest grandchildren, Lois Morrison of Geraldine and Margaret MacFarlane of Mt Pleasant, cut the celebratory cake and several speakers representing the various family branches spoke of their forebears’ courage and determination to succeed in their new country, and of their strong Presbyterian ethic of hard work and faith in God.

Ross Watson, son of Jock Watson

Letter

Dear Editor,

On November 3 I was travelling behind two other white vehicles when, to my amazement, a red van, sign-written and rego Bke Bz, overtook us. This vehicle was on the wrong side of the road around four blind bends before eventually pulling back to the correct side.

How this lady never got hit, and in fact got away with this performance, I will never know. Come on, locals, set the example for the out-of-towners.

J Bennett

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Happy Birthday

Ben Hawkins, former Diamond Harbour community stalwart, celebrating his 70th birthday with family and friends at Ferry peat in November.

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Servicing the Diamond Harbour Area

Diamond Harbour Herald - Established 1953
Christmas time: Ice cream and gluttony
I have been thinking about a recipe to share for Christmas, as it is very important food wise for me. Christmas meals never mean gluttony, but rather enjoyment and challenges to our taste buds. I started doing stuffed juicy turkey when I married a Canadian - who cannot live without his Christmas turkey! In Switzerland we have simpler meals, which in fact suit our NZ summer Christmas climate much better.

Chicken Breast a la Orange
This is a simple recipe - but looks and tastes like haute cuisine.
Ingredients for 4:
4 oranges (preferably unsprayed)
4 chicken breasts (150g each)
2 tbsp oil
2 tsp butter
sugar
100ml orange juice
100ml good chicken stock
pinch of cayenne pepper and ginger
4 tbsp sesame seeds (dry roasted in a small pan)
Remove fine zest from orange peel with a potato peeler, and cut in thin slices, called julienne, blanch in hot water for a moment.
Fillet the oranges, (slice into wedges, remove skin between wedges with a sharp knife).
Rub salt mixture (salt, thyme, curry, paprika and pepper from the mill) onto breasts and fry on a medium heat for 6 minutes each, then put aside on a warm plate.

Wine Speak
It’s that time of year again folks, so to ease the angst of how to impress at that flash Christmas do, or what to quaff at the bach over summer - or even if you need some last minute stocking stuffers, it’s all here in the Festive Season! Dozen for 2009! Given money’s always tight before Christmas, everything in the main list is under $20 (except the Pinot Noir at under $22), including a best value white and red that are often well under $15. The wines in brackets are for those of you that want to splurge, impress, or simply spend your Lotto winnings. Keep safe and warmest regards of the season to you and yours. Till the new year, Salute!
Best value wines
2008 Yalumba Y series Viognier
2007 Vidal Estate Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon
Whites (with bubbly to start!)
2005 Yellowglen Vintage Perle (Veuve Clicquot Brut NV Champagne)
2009 Eradus Sauvignon Blanc
2008 Blackenbrook Riesling
2008 Astrolabe Voyage Pinot Gris (2007 Villa Maria Seddon Vineyard Pinot Gris)
2008 Coopers Creek The Limeworks Chardonnay (2008 Clearview Estate Reserve Chardonnay)
Reds
2008 Juliher Estate 99 Rows Pinot Noir (2007 Wild Earth Pinot Noir)
2007 Croaggy Range Te Kahu (2007 Alluviale)
2007 Ringbolt Cabernet Sauvignon (2007 Clearview Estate Old Olive Block)
2007 Wolf Blass Gold Label Shiraz (2006 Domaine Chandon Shiraz)

Empty oil from pan, then add butter and good pinch of sugar and caramelise.
Pour orange juice over, reduce it, add stock and on high heat add a chunk of cold butter, mixing well so it becomes a smooth textured sauce.
Add cayenne and ginger to spice.
Put orange fillets and julienne back into sauce and keep warm.
Slice chicken breasts and arrange like a fan on serving plate, pour over sauce and sprinkle with sesame seeds.

Dessert: Strawberry ice cream with berry coulis (sauce)
(The ice cream is called parfait, French for half frozen)
250ml cream
400gm strawberries
4 egg yolks
100gm sugar
Icing sugar, a little lemon juice
Whip cream (by hand it makes half more than a machine)
Blend berries in a blender and push through a sieve to remove the seeds.
Whisk egg yolks with sugar to a fluffy consistency and add berries and cream carefully. Pour into a 500ml cake tin or similar (best lined with Gladwrap) and freeze for at least 6 hours.
Depending upon how sweet your berries are, add a bit of icing sugar and lemon juice. Before serving, put the tin in hot water for a moment to make cutting the parfait easier. Slice and pour a little of the berry sauce over, adding a strawberry for decoration.
Bon appetite and enjoy a good tasty Christmas time!

Franziska
Poll Vaulting

At my age I think it's only fair that I should be allowed some innocent amusement, so I’ve taken up the art of Telephone Interviewer Baiting. When I hear those dulcet tones from Wellington or Mumbai graciously enquiring my preference with regard to soap powders or political parties, I immediately give them my full attention. As I only hear a third of what they say this gives me considerable scope for interpretation.

Good evening sir. Am I speaking to Mr Platt?

‘No. I haven’t got a cat. Is that the SPCA?’

No sir. This is the Cokebar Brinton agency here. We are conducting a survey on people’s preference for toilet paper…. ‘I get The Press. It gives me all the coverage I need.’

No sir, I don’t think you understand. I was talking about ‘toilet’…

‘Look, I’m sorry. I think you’ve got the wrong number. This house is not To Let. Are you from Harcourts?’

No sir. This is the Cokebar Brinton…

‘I think the chap you need is Sid Blatt, next door. He keeps cats and wants to sell his house. I’m pretty sure he’s got a toilet as well. If you just hang on a minute I’ll get his number.’

Of course at this point I leave the phone hanging in space and go back to Coro St. My ambition is to hear mad maniacal laughter coming down the line as the interviewer’s nerve finally snaps and they quietly take him/her away to a comfortable padded cell.

Have a nice day.  

Tony

Lock Up Your Car!

On Saturday night, November 21, there were a number of thefts from cars in our area. Police crime statistics for the week show five incidents in Diamond Harbour (Otomahua Lane, Koromiko, Te Ara and Ranui Crescents) and two incidents in Purau. Paula Smith, from the Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Community Board, who passed on this information to the Hamz, has heard of a number of other local car thefts that do not appear on the police list, suggesting that the victims did not report them to the police.

If your vehicle has been interfered with, or if you heard or saw anything suspicious on that (or any other) night, please contact the police, as it helps them build up a better picture (if it isn’t reported - it never happened) and remember to lock up your car!

Ron

Halloween Tricks No Treat for Some Residents

It is the way of the world, I suppose, that necessitates our copying this weird American tradition. A bit of clean fun for the littlies is always good, and those local groups and individuals who organised Halloween parties are to be congratulated, as are the responsible parents who accompanied their youngsters on their trick-or-treat. The emphasis there was definitely on the treat; a group I met didn’t even understand about the trick part.

But, as too often happens, a few idiots deliberately set out to spoil the good times. On October 31, a couple of these gangs – they need to be in a gang to be brave – concentrated only on evil tricks. One lot actively targeted some of our more vulnerable residents in an unpleasant and intimidating way. The other – or were they the same ones? – went looking for unlocked cars in driveways. From the information in the article above, it appears that this trick was quite lucrative, since they have recently revisited the same area.

It all makes me sorry that I don’t possess a few (more?) witch’s attributes – boy, would I ever zap ‘em!

Elaine

Memories of Mafikeng

Firstly, a very happy Christmas. I hope that 2010 treats you and your pets well, and thank you for your support this year. It has been great getting to know the people and animals of Diamond Harbour.

Recently, watching The Number One Ladies Detective Agency set in Gabarone, Botswana, brought back many happy memories of the year I spent in Mafikeng, Bophuthatswana as a young army vet a long time ago. Back then National Service was compulsory in South Africa, but you could choose where you would like to be sent; and having heard that Mafikeng was a good place to gain experience, I asked to go there.

Mafikeng is on the South African-Botswana border. They say you only cry twice in the Kalahari: when you arrive and when you leave! When I arrived, I couldn’t get over how flat and desolate it was. There was a bridge over the railway line about 4m high, from where you could see about 60km in any direction! The heat was oppressive, hitting the low 40s in February.

But the Tswana people more than made up for it. They are very courteous and friendly and probably the only African tribe I know of that has never been involved in a war. The local white people are also very outgoing. It was my first real taste of a multicultural society, as back then South Africa was still segregated. The wild life was also pretty special – as you travelled west into the deep Kalahari there were many kudu, a spectacular antelope with magnificent horns that could jump game fences as if they were only waist high, and I saw several black mambas - one of the deadliest snakes in the world. Because of the wide open skies the cloud formations, sunsets and thunderstorms were spectacular.

As well as running a clinic in Mafikeng I also travelled to the surrounding villages. The villagers were grateful to us just for turning up, even if it was sometimes a day or two after their phone call! Any operations or interesting procedures would draw a whole crowd of fascinated school children, even in the middle of nowhere.

The environment here is entirely different to Bophuthatswana, but it was a unique and special place, and I feel privileged to have experienced it.

Paul

VETERINARY SERVICES

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.

Purau Honey

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MARY’S NEW BOOK

Mary Stapylton-Smith has just completed her updated and extended version of Diamond Harbour Portrait of a Community. The new book, titled Adderley to Bradley, has been expanded to cover the history of the southern side of Lyttelton Harbour from Little Port Cooper to Charteris Bay. Numerous local people have supplied stories and photographs which are included in the new enlarged version (of 312 A4 sized pages).

Mary was keen to complete an update of this history for the community before leaving the area, and this has now been achieved. The book is published by the Friends of the Diamond Harbour Library, assisted by a loan from the Diamond Harbour Community Association (which published her earlier work, Diamond Harbour Portrait of a Community).

Copies are available from the Diamond Harbour Library for $40 each.

A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFT

Herald readers may be aware of the threatened closure of Aorangi School (find out more here: www.aorangi.ac.nz). Denis visited the school and was moved by the state of its facilities but especially the staff and students, who have been left in a state of limbo.

As a result of that visit, Living Springs has offered to hold a camp for all 90 students from Aorangi School at no cost to the school. We plan to help fund the camp ourselves and through support from the community. Our aim is to show the school, and especially its young students, that we care about what happens to them and support them 100%.

As individuals we can’t do a lot to influence the closure of Aorangi School, but we are asking you to show your support for the school by sponsoring a child to come on the camp at a cost of about $150 per child. Many of these children are from under-privileged families and will never have had the opportunity to visit somewhere as magical as Living Springs. We think $150 is a small price to make this camp a reality. Help Living Springs give these children an amazing life experience and end their school year at Aorangi on a positive note.

Please phone Elly or Rebecca on 329 9788 or email admin@livingsprings.co.nz to find out how you can contribute. We will keep you updated with progress on our website.

Elly & Rebecca
A letter was received from the Diamond Harbour Community Association requesting that a paper road beginning on the corner of Te Papau and Tau Crescents and joining Bay View Road be turned into a walking track and also requesting a response to a previous request regarding the planting of natives above Morgan’s Gully and Sam’s Gully in Diamond Harbour. It was decided to refer the correspondence to staff for advice and comment and an update on the Morgan’s Gully and Sam’s Gully planting of natives.

Birdsafe Whakaraupo
Tony Edney addressed the Board in support of the funding application from Birdsafe Whakaraupo. The Board was informed that this community group supports the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy published by the Council and have the goal of making the Port Hills possum free. The group believe this is possible and would result in an increased number of native birds in the area. The funding requested would be used to purchase a number of possum traps at the discounted rate of $40 each for use in the community by groups and individuals in small settlements around the Harbour. Suitable promotion of the project would be undertaken in the Lyttelton Harbour area. It was suggested that Birdsafe Whakaraupo could liaise with the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust for assistance and further suggested that an annual report on the year’s activities and results would be of interest to the community. The Board considered a request presenting a report regarding the planting of natives above Morgan’s Gully and Sam’s Gully in Diamond Harbour. It was decided to refer the correspondence to staff for advice and comment and an update on the Morgan’s Gully and Sam’s Gully planting of natives.

Diamond Harbour Ferry Access
A reply had been received from Environment Canterbury to a previous query regarding disabled ferry access at the Diamond Harbour jetty, advising that as the jetty was in the ownership of the Christchurch City Council, it was the Council’s responsibility to install disabled access. The Board decided to request staff to provide information on why the B Jetty at Lyttelton is thought to belong to Lyttelton Port Company when Diamond Harbour Jetty is owned by the Council, taking into consideration the Port Companies Act 1989.

Church Bay Platform Construction
The Board decided to request staff to investigate why the Council has built platforms for residents’ wheelie bins in the area approximately 30 metres beyond Black Point without consulting the Board and contrary to the Council rules that had been applied for other building platforms requested in that area.

DH Community Association
A case was made at the Public Forum for pursuing access to Church Bay from Athol Place. The committee declined to support expensive legal attempts but urged everyone to make submissions to the draft National Strategy for Walking Access (www.walkingaccess.co.nz) and to the Open Spaces Strategy at the CCC website. Both close in December.

The Port Company intend to go ahead with moving the jetty to the west end of the port in the next year or two. This is despite vigorous efforts by our representative and others to push for it’s present position. The Stoddart Point landscape plan will be out in March 2010 and will bring a welcome resolution to landscaping around the Community Centre etc. The walkway to Purau is to go ahead after negotiations with Maori about the urupa in the foreshore area.
Stoddart’s Cottage Events

Sunday December 6, 1-4pm
John Rentoul (Paintings)
Annie’s Victorian Afternoon Teas
We are very pleased that this local artist is exhibiting for the first time at Stoddart’s Cottage. His beautifully arranged landscapes in oil are not to be missed. Come and meet John and view his work, then treat yourself to one of Annie’s Victorian Afternoon Teas.

Sunday December 13, 1-4pm
Emerging Artists exhibition
Annie’s Victorian Afternoon Teas
Exhibiting with us for the first time is a very talented group of students (aged 16-22) from the Diamond Harbour area and Christchurch. They work in a variety of 2D media and on a selection of subject matter making their works fresh and appealing. Come and spend a lovely afternoon down at Stoddart’s Cottage enjoying the exhibition and cottage; then finish it off with a Victorian Afternoon Tea in the cottage garden.

Sunday December 20 from 6pm
Carols at Stoddart’s Cottage – a Christmas community celebration
Very popular last year, this is a Christmas celebration not to be missed! Bring your picnic tea to eat on the lawn at 6pm, see the cottage decorated in Victorian Christmas style, and then take part in the carol service. Tea and coffee provided.
The cottage closes after the carol service and reopens on January 24, 2010.
The Trustees of Stoddart’s Cottage would like to thank all the locals for supporting the cottage over the past year and we look forward to seeing you again in 2010. We wish you all a very Happy & Healthy Christmas and New Year.

Maddi

DH Bridge Club Results 2009 —

Punau Pairs: Shirley Beal & Kevin Holland 1st,
Carole Steele & Graham Thiele 2nd
Individual competition - Bill Gebbie trophy: Kevin Holland 1st,
Carolyn Craw 2nd
Diamond Harbour Pairs - Agnus Paine trophy: Maurice Smale & Kevin Holland 1st, Lesley Barnett & Ken Mclelland 2nd
Charteris Bay Pairs: Don Cameron & Lesley Barnett 1st,
Kevin Holland & Ann Schrader 2nd
Church Bay Pairs: Ann Schrader & Geoff Walker 1st,
Norma de Kort & Lesley Barnett 2nd
Port Levy Pairs: Lita Ireland & Graham Thiele 1st,
Sylvia Gimblett & Bruce McKenzie 2nd
The most improved player - Thiele Rose Bowl: Anna Taylor
AGM Feb 3, 2010 at 7pm.
Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all.

Our Library

A room without books is like a body without a soul according to Cicero; and if the same can be said of a community, then we in Diamond Harbour are fortunate indeed to have our own little library.

Those for whom the word library conjures up images of dusty old book worms hunched over dusty old tomes, cannot have visited the Diamond Harbour library.

How old do you need to be to join? Answer: zero years!

Every baby is entitled to their own library card, and the library has a wonderful collection of books for all ages, beginning with cardboard picture books, large-print books for beginning readers, books for children of all ages, and sections just for teens and young adults.

But the library has more than just books: you can borrow music CDs, DVDs, and Audiobooks. There is a public computer where you can surf the net, as well as search for books in any of the Christchurch City Libraries. You can place a request to have them sent to the Diamond Harbour library for you. All you need is a library card.

How much does that cost? Answer: zero dollars!

Your library card can be used at any Christchurch City Library, and you can also login on the internet at home, using your card number to search for books and other items. Not only can you place requests, but you get free access to Premium Sites, where you can do things like:

• Read today’s NZ and world newspapers
• Listen to thousands of classical, jazz, and world music tracks online
• Search the complete online Encyclopaedia Britannica
• Browse the world’s most trusted reference collection: The Oxford Reference Online
• Download audio books to your computer

Diamond Harbour is fortunate to have its first permanent, fully-qualified librarian, Christine Rochford. Christine is a local with some wonderful ideas for what the library could provide (such as children’s story time) with sufficient support from the community. We are also fortunate in having a dedicated team of volunteer librarians to help Christine and provide backup.

So at this time of the year when money is often tight, how much will you need to spend on your holiday reading? Answer: zero dollars!

Ron

Diamond Harbour Ferry

Black Cat Update

1. The Quail Island Treasure Hunt begins 1st December through to the end of March. Explore the island and take home some 'treasure'!! Take a picnic and some good walking shoes, the beaches are fabulous for swimming and relaxing too.

2. Welcome to Simon our new crew member, you will see Simon on the Ferry as well as the Canterbury Cat.

3. Don't forget our Christmas Day cruise. A wonderful activity on Christmas Day the family will never forget.

4. Something for those interested in going to Akaroa over the summer, book a 3.40pm cruise with us and get FREE fish & chips to have after the cruise from the famous Akaroa fish & chip shop! Fresh and delicious.

Phone 328 9078  www.blackcat.co.nz
**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Diamond Harbour Cancer Support Group**

Thank you so much for the support given to our Christmas Raffle to raise funds for urgent medical equipment needed for the Diamond Harbour Surgery. The Village really excelled themselves - this shows what a caring Community we live in - but I guess we all realise this. The raffle winners are as follows:

1. June MacLeod’s painting: Rob Cretney
2. Christmas Hamper: Jacques Geerts
3. Audrey Hughes Work box: Neville Alexander
4. Decorative jewellery holder: Maria Lukan
5. Wine: B. Hakerss

**Cyclists Racing around the Harbour**

Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Community Board reminds residents the Festival of Cycling will be a busy weekend on our local roads on December 5 and 6, especially the Saturday morning. Cyclists in the Long Bay Classic (elite riders) and the Harbour Ride (recreational riders) will come from Gebbies Pass, through Governors Bay, Rapaki, Cass Bay and Lyttelton and back to Sumner over Evans Pass between about 9.00am and 11.30am. For more information you can pick up the organisers’ brochure at the Lyttelton Service Centre or go to www.festivalofcycling.co.nz

**Transition Harbour Pot luck tea and Planning meeting**

All those interested in the Transition Harbour project are invited to a pot luck tea followed by a planning meeting on Thursday, December 10, 7pm at Stoddart’s Cottage. A draft programme of possible activities for 2010 will be presented for discussion and amendment. Please email christine@horomaka.org for the 2010 draft schedule to be discussed or contact Christine on 329 4588.

**Diamond Harbour Film Society Summer Season**

The summer season begins at 7pm Wednesday, December 9 in the Stage Room with a screening of *The Great Gatsby*. The full season’s list will be displayed on notice boards at both shops. A children’s matinee season will begin in late December. For further information, movie suggestions, offers of help, or to be added to our email list, please contact Fiona: 329 4581 or fiona_k4@hotmail.com.

**A Park for Purau – Progress Report**

The initiative to create a park on the Purau headland is progressing. At the Lyttelton Harbour Landscape Protection Association (LHLPA) AGM held on November 10, a sub-committee convened by Christine Dann was established to work on progressing the establishment of the park.

Initial activities will include:

- Stalls on Saturday mornings at the Purau Valley Produce Market to publicise the Public Open Space Strategy submission process and publicise the change to the city plan which allows subdivisions on the Peninsula down to 4 ha in size.
- A workshop will be held on making submissions on the Public Open Space Strategy in the Committee Room at 8pm on Monday, December 7 (see below).

**Open Spaces Submission Workshop**

Everyone interested in the creation of a park on the Purau headland is invited to attend a workshop in the Committee Room at 8pm on Monday, December 7. The workshop will cover the process for making submissions on the Public Open Space Strategy. For further information please contact Christine on 329 4588 or christine@horomaka.org.
**Herald Calendar**

- **Art Group**: Wednesdays 9.30am-12noon, Church Hall
- **Bowls**: Business House tournament, Mon evenings
- **Roll Up**: Tues, Thurs & Sats, 1.15pm
- **Bridge Club AGM**: Wed Feb 3, 7pm
- **Camera Club**: Tue Dec 15, Stage Room
- **Insight Meditation**: Tuesdays 6.30pm, 7A Whero Ave
- **Community Carols**: Sun Dec 20, picnic 5.30pm, carols 6.30pm, Stoddart’s Cottage. See p12
- **Film Society**: Great Gatsby, Wed Dec 9, 7pm, CB Golf Club
- **Orchestra/Symphonia**: Sat Dec 5, 4pm, DH Hall
- **Purau Produce Market**: Sat Dec 12 & 19, 9-12. See p7
- **Rainbow Music**: Fri 9.15am & 10.30am, Church Hall
- **Insight Meditation**: Tuesdays 6.30pm, 7A Whero Ave
- **Ladies Probus**: Mon Dec 7, 10am, CB Golf Club
- **Submissions Workshop**: Mon Dec 7, 8pm, Committee Room. See p12
- **Touch Rugby**: Fridays 6.45pm, DH Sports Field.
- **Toy Library**: Saturdays 10am-11am, Community Hall
- **Toy Library Kidsfest**: Sat Jan 23. See p4
- **Transition Harbour Pot luck tea**: Thu Dec 10, 7pm, Stoddart’s Cottage
- **Yoga**: Mon 7pm, Stage Room; Dec 7 & 14; Jan 11, 18 & 25

**Classifieds**

- **Firewood delivered**: Ready to burn next winter. Pine, 6 cu metre $310; old man pine, 6 cu metre $360. Ph Joel or Donna 324 8296.
- **House cleaning**: Super-clean or Simple-clean? Spring clean, pre-Xmas clean, regular clean, occasional or one off clean? Need it? We can do it. Ph Kate 386 1174.
- **For sale**: Soda bed in good condition, metal frame. $100. Ph Joan on 329 3107.
- **For sale**: If you are looking for a gift that is both practical and beautiful I have a selection of French market baskets priced between $35 and $60. Ph Karen on 329 3006.
- **Outdoor boot camp training**: Four week fun program starting soon. For details visit www.bootcampfitness.co.nz or contact Mike on 329 4249 or mike@getmefit.co.nz.

- **Batches to let**: Hamper and Diamond Harbour holiday homes. Sleep 6-8. All mod cons. $70 per night. Ph Euan Godfrey 0800 212 272, ah 328 7556, fax 328 7569 or email casapropertymanagement@xtra.co.nz.

- **Found on cliff track**: A digital watch was found on Sat Nov 21. Ph 329 3356 if you think it is yours.

- **Services offered**: Handyman home services are offered on the sunny side of the harbour. Home maintenance, building repairs, painting, fencing and some plumbing as well as section tidying. Affordable rates. Ph Jim 328 8274 or 027 226 4548.

- **Home help wanted**: Approx 10 hours help a week needed with home care (incl garden) and possible childcare. Ph Katie 329 4579.

- **Loving home wanted for puppy**: Black lab cross puppy (8 months). She is very gentle, calm, and loves children. Ph Katie 329 4579.

- **Landrover for sale**: 4WD diesel Landrover. Runs great, seats 10-12. Ph Ben or Katie 329 4579.


- **Missing Book**: Could whoever borrowed Gallipoli by Christopher Pugsley please return it to me. Thank you, Bruce Moon, 329 4578.

- **Give Away**: Boxes of small blue and bronze grasses. Ph. 329 4788.
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