Mary Stapylton-Smith’s mother must have been a very astute woman. It was she who prompted Mary to study horticulture at the then Lincoln College. Considering the prevailing perceptions of a woman’s role in the mid 1900’s and the fact that Mary was a city girl raised in Fendalton, this might have seemed an unusual decision. While a cynic might suggest that a major influencing factor would have been that the ratio of males to females in the college was sixty to one, it was much more probable that Mother recognised her daughter’s potential to thrive in a rural environment.

As it happened, although many good friendships developed among the students, neither of the two girls in the group was romantically inspired, Mary eventually finding her Prince Charming in form of the very handsome brother of a riding companion - and so his family’s property at Camp Bay became her home.

Just as her mother foresaw, Mary loved the life and in the ensuing years, she and Paul worked together, taking over the farm when Paul’s father retired; enlarging it and improving its facilities to the excellent state in which they are today. Mary pitched in at all levels, and now lists among her many skills such things as plastering, laying concrete, and painting roofs; although on one occasion, remaining on the roof proved a problem, resulting in a lacerated knee, and fractured ribs and elbow.

Despite her very busy life, Mary’s love of books also led her to contribute to the community. She helped in setting up the Diamond Harbour library where she was the librarian for many years. The Community Association, quizzes, the badminton club are but some of the many groups she has been involved in. She also played a key role in the establishment of our very attractive cemetery.

Mary attributes her motivation to write her first book to her inability to play golf, but one suspects that she initially saw the need to record her father-in-law’s vast knowledge of this locality as simply another job that needed doing, and so, typically, she just did it… and very well.

Recently, Mary and son Martin decided to put the Camp Bay property up for sale, and, although their plans are flexible, they expect to move out of the district. Leaving the farm, the garden, and the beautiful view across the bay will be difficult. Even the many storms, the inconsiderate walkers on the property, and the treacherous winding narrow road from Purau will be fondly remembered, but Mary is philosophical as she reflects on more than fifty years of what she describes as a very satisfying life whose trials and tribulations generally pale in comparison to the good times - the one exception of course, being Paul’s death in 2004.

While her books will always be part of the history of our area, for the greater Diamond Harbour area she will leave a much wider legacy, and it will be a long time before any of us can mention Camp Bay without thinking Mary Stapylton-Smith.

Above: A favourite place to enjoy a favourite view - Mary single-handedly built this enormous garden seat with rocks she carried one by one from an outcrop on the peninsula several hundred meters away.
On Monday the 8th of February Korimako went to Woodend for a class camp. We had a swim at QEI first. We were in two groups and when we first got there both groups did two things before we finished for the day. While we were on camp we got to do activities. They were: Orienteering, go-karts, initiatives, air rifles, archery, pony rides, plus ten and seven metre climbing walls. We had three days to do the activities before we had to say goodbye to Woodend. On the second day we did three activities in groups. In between the activities we had free time. There was a maypole, which was a tall pole that had chains hanging off it. You had to run round the pole hanging on to the chain and if you ran fast enough you would lift off the ground. There was also a mini golf course and a playground. Overall Korimako loved our camp.

On the 8th of March 2010 Diamond Harbour School had a swimming display; it was about what we had been doing in swimming time. At the end there was a house relay; the places were: 1st Adderly, 2nd Bradley, 3rd Godley, and 4th Stoddart.

The next day was the zone swimming competition, 10 people from our school went. Out of the 10 only Emma got through to the inter-zones. She came 1st in freestyle and 2nd in breaststroke. Both Isabella and Kim came very close with a 3rd.

Piwakawaka and Pukeko had a great time at Paradise Beach last Friday. We walked in the squidgy mud and found lots of crabs and seaweed; and in the rock pools we found shells and snails. Then we had a swim with the grownups. It was good fun and we all loved our trip to the beach. The best thing was building sandcastles and swimming.

On the 11th of March, four of us from Kotuku went to QEI to compete in the BlueLight PCT challenge. First your team had to push a trailer then get a wheel out and place it on a mat. Then you had to run about 200 meters to a beam which you had to walk along and then you jumped off a wall about 1 metre high. We then slalomed through some cones and dived under some hurdles. After that it was up to the window which you had to climb through, and then we helped each other over a 6ft wall. We then dragged a dead weight about two metres and climbed over a fence, sprinted to the end and we were done! Some of the other challenges included eating Weetbix as fast as we could and identifying a criminal by the description we were given.

Angus Finlay lining up the target.
A presentation about local efforts to have the Christchurch City Council purchase most of the Purau headland adjacent to Ripapa Island for a public reserve was given at the recent Diamond Harbour Community Association AGM. The presentation panel consisted of three people who have been most active in the campaign: Christine Dann (Transition Harbour Project), Richard Suggate (DH Community Association), and Jill Rice (Uniquely Purau).

They reported that in August 2009 a 278 signature petition was presented to the Lyttleton Mt Herbert Community Board, which urged the Council to purchase the property for several reasons, including landscape and biodiversity protection, heritage values, recreational opportunities, and beach access. The Board supported the petition, and last month Councillor Claudia Reid was successful in getting the purchase of a 31 ha property on the headland put into the Council’s draft annual plan and budget for 2010. A conditional offer has been made to purchase the property - but it is not yet a done deal! It is conditional upon Council knowing that there is widespread public support for the purchase.

So NOW is the time to show support by making a submission on the plan - and getting your friends and family to do likewise (wherever they live in Christchurch, because the reserve will be an asset to the whole city).

Submissions close on Monday April 19, so pick up a copy of the draft plan and a submission form at a public library or council office, or go to www.ccc.govt.nz/thecouncil/policiesreportsstrategies/annualplan/index.aspx to read the plan, then make your submission on-line at www.ccc.govt.nz/HaveYourSay/LTCCP.

Just saying briefly that you strongly support the purchase is enough, but if you want to give reasons why a public reserve on the Purau headland would be a great asset for Christchurch, here are some of the reasons presented at the Community Association meeting:

- Outstanding recreational and outdoor education opportunities, accessible by public transport.
- Ripapa Island access. The bridge to the island could be restored, providing land access to this historic site.
- Biodiversity protection and restoration, with re-vegetation providing more habitats for land and marine birds. Penguin nesting boxes could be provided for these special sea birds.
- Cultural heritage protection of old pa and other sites.
- Iconic landscape value - a natural view from many parts of the harbour, which must not be covered in buildings and driveways.

Make a submission NOW!

Ron

Reminder! Deadline for submissions to the CCC on the Purau headland is 5pm Monday 19 April 2010
Once again ANZAC Day will be commemorated by services throughout New Zealand. It is the day that we remember the fallen from the Gallipoli Campaign and all conflicts to the present day. However, not many people are aware of the role played by the merchant navy during these times. It is only in recent years that ex-members of the Merchant Navy have been admitted into the RSA and the cynic in me thinks that this may be attributable to falling RSA numbers.

Wherever battles were being fought, the Merchant Navy struggled to deliver supplies and troops to ports close to the front line, and food and fuel to Britain from the colonies and elsewhere. The first casualties of both World Wars were merchant seaman. In World War II the Athenia was sunk just eight hours after the declaration of hostilities with Germany and at the end of the European conflict, Merchant Navy men were killed three days after hostilities ended when their ship was torpedoed by a U Boat whose commander was unaware that peace had been declared.

Merchant Navy personnel manned hospital ships, Royal Fleet auxiliaries, armed merchant cruisers and Woolworth Carriers – aircraft carriers which also carried cargo. They mainly sailed under the Red Ensign, but also under the Blue and sometimes under the White Ensign, when, under the T124 and T124X Agreements, the Admiralty replaced the ship owner as the employer while still honouring certain merchant naval rights. Nearly all shipping movements in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Northern Russian waters were by a convoy system controlled by the Admiralty. These convoys – over 300 of them – consisted generally of forty to fifty ships in a block of about nine by five ships each separated by half a mile with vessels carrying armaments, fuel and munitions travelled in the centre for some protection. Each convoy was accompanied by naval destroyers, corvettes and rescue vessels which were also anti-submarine ships, but this did not deter U Boats from joining them at periscope depth in the hours of darkness and attacking at will, vapourising munitions ships and leaving tankers ablaze in a sea of fire.

One such convoy was PQ17, in which 35 merchant navy ships assembled and departed from Iceland. Seven days into the voyage, the Admiralty, through false information that the German battleship Tirpitz was in the offing, ordered the convoy to scatter. In the next few days the lone ships were hunted down by the Luftwaffe and U Boats with a loss of 24 vessels, 100,000 tons of supplies, 3350 vehicles, 430 army tanks, 240 aircraft and hundreds of lives.

When a ship was attacked, the most vulnerable were the men in the stokeholds and the engine rooms, where, as well as the tremendous damage caused by the torpedoes, there were also explosions of coal dust and fuel with ruptured boilers producing vast amounts of super-heated steam, which alone was enough to wipe out most of those on duty below decks. Crewmembers who survived were likely to succumb to exposure in the lifeboats. Just two minutes submerged in the freezing waters of the North Atlantic and Northern Russia waters were enough to send a survivor to his maker.

Nevertheless, many seamen survived several sinkings, one of these being my cousin, Harry Pearson. He was on the sailing ship Invercald in 1917, bound for the UK with a cargo of railway sleepers from Gulfport, USA. When nearly home, they were accosted by a U Boat and the ship was torpedoed and sunk after the crew were allowed to take to the lifeboats. Harry and the chief mate had the difficult job of getting an apprentice who had a broken femur from an earlier fall from aloft, into one of the boats. The submarine lieutenant boarded the Invercald and took the chronometer and sextants, for which the captain requested and received a receipt, which he was eventually able to hand to the ship’s owner.

Harry stayed at sea, and in WWII was chief officer on the SS Tregenna when it was torpedoed in 1940. The ship sank immediately, with only Harry and three others surviving. In March 1941 his ship, Llanover, was in ballast when torpedoed during the night. This time all hands survived. Four years later, he was serving on the Zouave with a cargo of iron ore, when it was torpedoed and sunk within four minutes taking 14 men down with her. Harry survived to continue sailing in Court Line ships until his retirement.

My elder brother, Ralph, who joined the merchant service in 1942, also experienced a torpedo attack. In 1944 his ship, laden with army tanks and trucks bound from America to the UK, was struck in the mid-Atlantic. The crew managed to get into the lifeboats. The noise of the vehicles tearing from their lashings as the ship went down stern first, was a vivid lifelong memory for Ralph.

Many New Zealanders served in both the British and our own merchant services and were among the 48,500 men killed, 4,000 wounded and 5,000 taken prisoner from the 4,996 ships sunk in WWII. In the Atlantic alone, 13.5 million tons of shipping and 175 allied vessels were lost. Despite their great contribution to our war effort, it is only in very recent times that the men of the Merchant Navy have been officially included in ANZAC Day commemorations.

Malcolm Pearson
SHOCKING ACTS OF GOD

The month of March marks the beginning of autumn, which in turn gets some of us seniors thinking about flu vaccinations and battening down the hatches for the chills of winter. Jane, our own weather guru, (page 7) says that this March was a bit unusual for us weather-wise, and certainly there have been several acts of god which made it a month to remember, or to forget, depending on your point of view.

Sure, the tsunami was outside March, but only just, and it arrived at the best possible time, so to speak, coinciding with low tide. Less than a week later high winds replaced high waters to give us a not so gentle reminder about the powers of nature – and of man. Falling trees brought down electric power lines in both Teddington and on Bay View Road causing a fire at each site. However it was the flow-on effect of the latter which snowballed into a disaster for many Charteris Bay residents.

The power poles along Bay View Rd carry two different voltages. A 33,000v transmission line is one of the two carrying electricity to the whole peninsular. The other is the more common 11,000v line connecting to the distribution transformers where the voltage is reduced for delivery to users, 230v being the domestic rate. In the high winds of March 4 and 5, a large branch from a tree on the opposite side of the road was blown onto the lines, causing both to break and contact each other. The result was a massive power surge affecting homes in Charteris Bay. So powerful was it, that neither the protective circuit breakers in the Hunter’s Road substation nor the individual surge protectors in many homes could cope. Consequently all household appliances which were not switched off at the wall were vulnerable. Since more and more of our modern electrical gadgets have electronic controls (touch-pads etc) the damage was enormous. All heat pumps were destroyed, microwave ovens exploded, faxes, computers, fridges, dishwashers, TVs and decoders were ruined.

At least one main switchboard was blown off the wall, and many power points were blackened. Amazingly, there were no fires or injuries.

Then on March 13, on Church Bay headland, the heavy rain of the previous day is thought to have been responsible for shorting an electrical cable which had been exposed, we understand, when a passing pump truck en route from the sewerage plant fractured the concrete on the edge of the access road. A potentially dangerous fire started below Koromiko Crescent houses but was quickly contained by, of course, our very efficient fire brigade. The sewerage plant and about fourteen homes were without electricity for up to eight hours.

Orion’s Network Quality Report 2009 assures us that our area is not as prone to these acts of god as some of the 80 others around Canterbury. Orion spokesperson, Angela Lamont, confirmed that it is quite unusual for separate weather-related outages to occur in such a short space of time, and that the Bay View Road incident was an extremely rare sequence of events. When asked about safety measures, she said that it would never be practical to install safety devices to prevent such freak events, and that the installed circuit breakers were perfectly adequate for almost all outages, as were household surge-protectors. Similarly, we were assured, it is not at all unusual to have two different lines on one set of poles in rural areas. And, yes, of course it is possible that these events could be repeated in the foreseeable future.

All this seems to indicate that we all need to take sensible precautions when dealing with both electric power and the power of nature. While it may also have been an act of god which spared our community from even greater disaster in these recent events, it is also comforting to know we can rely on various community aid groups in times of crisis – but they also rely on us for support, as noted in the Tsunami Report (page 7).

Elaine

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LYTTELTON HARBOUR BASIN MIDWINTER BIODIVERSITY FORUM

People working for native plants and animals around Lyttelton Harbour and in Port Levy are to gather for a day in midwinter to exchange tips and ideas. Return of the Native: working together to support our recovering native ecology is the title of the one day forum planned for Diamond Harbour on Sunday, June 27.

“We have over 20 community groups and many individual landowners in the Lyttelton Mt Herbert Ward working away on native planting projects or habitat restoration, but often they are unaware of what others are doing,” says Community Board Chairperson, Paula Smith. “We saw a need for them all to meet and build up a picture of what is being achieved overall and also to get an idea of where their own work fits into the big picture.”

The idea for the forum came from the Governors Bay Landcare Group which fosters regeneration of native forest around Governors Bay by planting and caring for native plants and controlling weeds, particularly the invasive climber old man’s beard, which threatens to smother native bush. A small organising committee made up of volunteers from this and several other local groups is planning the event, with support from Christchurch City Council biodiversity staff.

As well as providing an opportunity to network and learn, organisers are hoping the forum might come up with a vision for biodiversity in and around the Lyttelton Harbour basin to guide future efforts and ensure they are coordinated and effective.

Entertaining keynote speaker, Banks Peninsula ecologist Hugh Wilson of Hinewai, will set the scene with an overview of our local ecology, the particular challenges and opportunities faced in Lyttelton Harbour and Port Levy, and highlighting the special things about our part of the district. “Hugh is always an entertaining speaker and we hope his talk will inspire volunteers and landowners and help people better understand how their efforts are contributing,” says Ms Smith.

More details will be available next month and bookings open in April.

OBITUARY—BOB THOMPSON

Bob Thompson, an enthusiastic member of the Diamond Harbour Bowling Club, sadly passed away on March 6. Bob was one of the club’s top bowlers and also a very hard worker for the club. He joined in the early 1990s and was club president in 2004. He won eleven club championships in the pairs, triples and fours, and last year was a member of the Diamond Harbour Mixed Triples team which was runner-up in the South Island Masters Bowls Championship.

Bob will be greatly missed by all members of the club and is remembered for his generosity and hard work, and as a true gentleman.

We extend our very deepest sympathy to Francis and the family.

Ian Boyd, President, D.H. Bowling Club

Francis would also like to thank everyone who sent cards and letters of sympathy and helped with baking and supply of food. She very much appreciated your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Lyttelton Harbour Herald - Established 1953 Page 6 No. 133 April 2010
An earthquake, fire or flood might be more serious.

Training into practice.

We worked well together, putting some of our regular accurate and timely information.

Neighbourhood Support (ph John 329 4545). Civil Defence (ph Wendy 329 4483) and one or more of these organisations: Fire Brigade (ph Don 329 4868), Civil Defence and Emergency Management in Christchurch had tasked us, along with our volunteer Fire Brigade, with alerting all residents on low-lying ground that a tsunami generated in Chile was on its way. At that time of day, we had no information on its size. Environment Canterbury had developed a useful and informative webpage overnight that we used to inform an anxious public of what they should prepare for and what to have with them. We used a printed copy of that webpage in Purau as basic information, adding an updated arrival time and instructions of when evacuation might take place and advice to listen to Radio New Zealand for further developments.

All went to plan. Residents prepared to evacuate, or actually did so, boats left their moorings and the harbour basin; jetties were officially closed. Was it? It was an over-reaction? No, we were lucky that low tide coincided with the largest surges. What is more, the positive and negative surges were not of a large amplitude. But had the timing been six hours different, residents in low-lying homes would be faced with a costly clean up.

Lessons learnt from this event are:

- We need to continue to improve and update our Neighbourhood Support telephone tree to develop a more efficient way of quickly transmitting information to potentially affected residents. To do this we need more of you to step up and be counted on to act in the interests of the community when disaster strikes.

- For our community to be prepared, we need YOU to join one or more of these organisations: Fire Brigade (ph Don 329 4868), Civil Defence (ph Wendy 329 4483) and Neighbourhood Support (ph John 329 4545).

- The ECAN webpage will be used in future as a source of accurate and timely information.

- The local voluntary Fire Brigade and Civil Defence team worked well together, putting some of their regular training into practice.

- We were lucky this time. Next time, the consequences of an earthquake, fire or flood might be more serious.

Carole Donaldson

**WEATHER**

An indecisive sort of month

The past month has been notable for its changeability. One day beautiful canoeing weather, the next so chilly that the heaters go on and the woollies come out. Snow on the Alps, but not much rain in the Harbour. One or two really typical warm nor’westers, but other times when the Met Office forecast temperatures around 25°C, a thick cloud cover and a northeast breeze kept them in the high teens.

Perhaps the most notable climate event in the Harbour was on March 14, when the temperature rose to 30°C, and humidity was also higher than we are used to. What made this particularly interesting and unusual was that it was associated with a southwest wind. Generally, high temperatures in Canterbury result from a nor’wester, flowing over the Alps, drying and warming as it comes across the Plains. Southwesterns we expect to come from the Antarctic, and to bring a sharp drop in temperature. So how was this departure from the norm to be explained?

A visit to the Australian Bureau of Meteorology website provided an answer. A southwest airflow was indeed covering New Zealand, but it had an unusual source, a large cyclone originating over the Tasman Sea and eastern Australia, with air originating from the warm centre of Australia. It crossed the Tasman as a westerly flow, picking up moisture as it went, and then turned north-eastwards and moved up New Zealand as a south-westerly flow, still warm and humid. It was followed a couple of days later by a real southerly from the Antarctic. Temperatures dropped to 12°C during the day and to 5-8°C for three or four nights.

March has continued the trend of low rainfall, the total to date (March 23) is only 13mm, following 21mm for February. Mean temperatures, despite the variations, have been about normal for March; evaporation rates have also been normal, and soil moisture levels are low. We may hope for more significant rainfall, but there is no guarantee! At the time of writing, we are enjoying a typical warm nor’wester, with temperatures up to 25-27°C, and wind gusts to 35-55km/hr; and consequently more drying out of the soil.

An interesting observation with regard to the variability of rainfall in a hilly location such as ours: We had a decent fall on March 12. Down the hill from my place Richard Coop registered 16mm; a short distance up from Marine Drive Lois Butcher measured 14mm, while further up still I got only 12mm! You can either accept these figures as a reasonable picture of rain with a southerly, moving upwards from the Harbour, or consider them an indication of the unreliability of non-standard installations!

Jane Soons

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Because we live in a rural environment, or at least on the fringes of farmland, I’d like to point out some of the effects our doggy friends can have on meat hygiene, specifically by spreading sheep measles (Cysticercus Ovis). All working dogs, and others having regular contact with sheep should be dewormed with a tape wormer every month. This is especially important when they are fed on farm kill. These tablets are a lot cheaper than broad spectrum wormers.

At one stage New Zealand had a compulsory dog dosing scheme to control hydatids (Echinococcus granulosus) because of its serious human health implications. All the dogs in the district were dosed monthly. The dosing also killed other varieties of tape worms, including sheep measles. But with the eradication of hydatids, many dogs are no longer dosed as regularly as they should be.

The lifecycle of sheep measles is relatively simple. Dogs are the final host, in other words the adult worms live in their intestines. These shed proglottids, or segments that contain the eggs, in their faeces which can contaminate pasture. One tapeworm can produce 250,000 eggs daily, and some dogs carry 3-4 worms! The eggs hatch, develop into larvae and are eaten by the sheep, the intermediate host. The larvae become encysted in the sheep’s muscles, and develop into adults after the sheep is eaten or scavenged by dogs.

The practical implication of this lifecycle is that if your dog scavenges dead sheep, or is fed farm kill, and then defecates on pasture grazed by sheep, it can spread the parasite. Mutton or lamb with sheep measles is viewed as inferior, with possible financial penalties for the farmer. You should never let your dog into a sheep paddock or farm without permission, and if you are in the habit of walking your dog over sheep farmland, make sure it is dosed each month with a tape wormer.

For farmers, besides dosing their dogs, other important control measures are freezing mutton to -10°C for at least 7 days or cooking it thoroughly to kill the larvae, and also having a securely fenced killing shed and offal pit, to prevent uncontrolled scavenging. Any dog coming onto the farm needs to be dosed at least 48 hours beforehand.

Paul
Still plenty of bargains out there…
I can see you gazing seemingly gobsmacked at the overwhelming choice of discount wines on offer in supermarkets these days. To take out some of the guess work here’s a few I’m picking up.
Looking around that $15 mark (or less!) it’s hard to go past this trio of whites. The 2009 Mud House Sauvignon Blanc opens with passionfruit and lime then tropical fruit in the palate and a long juicy finish out the back. A bit sweeter but lower alcohol (a good thing I hear!) and beautifully balanced by the thread of acidity throughout is Forrest Estate’s The Doctors Riesling. The 2009 is easier to find but I like the hint of age of the 2008 which is lovely quaffing on its own when served chilled or a perfect accompaniment to cheese platters also. Still drinking Chardonnay? Then try the 2008 vintage from Crossroads Winery. From Hawkes Bay this is all peach and pineapple with creamy oak in the palate then a mineral kick at the back that invites white meat or fish for matching.
Just the single red this month as I’m holding out for the cooler months. At under $20 (which is probably near half of what they’re paying for it in Oz) it’s nigh impossible to go past Penfolds Bin 128 Shiraz from the Coonawarra region. I’m regularly coming across the 2007 which shows good dark berry fruit depth couched in pepper, florals and spice with plenty life in it yet. I’m yet to indulge the 2008 but hear it’s even more concentrated… so sear a steak and tuck in. Enjoy!

The Godfather

Easter Treat
Well, St Patrick’s Day passed without the planned Irish dinner recipe. But in the May Herald I will give you a special Irish stew recipe.
At the moment I am into Easter baking. In Switzerland we do not have hot cross buns, but we eat Easter rice tarts which are one of my favourite Easter treats (aside from Swiss chocolate Easter Bunnies). They are sweet, but not too sweet; light, but not too light; different but not too different! This delightful dessert has a delicate ricy-milky-eggy-lemony flavour.
Bernese Easter Rice Tart (or Tartlets)
125g rice (not Uncle Ben’s, this is glazed) best Arborio or ordinary/sticky rice.
750ml milk 60g butter
125g ground almonds 1 lemon ( zest and juice)
120g sugar 100g sultanas (if you like them)
4 egg yolks and whites 1 pinch salt
150g puff pastry butter for cake tin
flour to dust icing sugar to decorate
Cook rice in lightly-salted water then drain.
Bring milk to boil, add rice and butter, and stir on low heat then leave to cool.
Add lemon zest, sugar, almonds, sultanas, and lemon juice to rice.
Add egg yolk while stirring vigorously (important!)
Whip egg white with a pinch of salt, and fold it carefully into rice mix.
Preheat oven to 180 degrees.
Bake a round cake tin (for tart) and dust with flour. For tartlets use a muffin tin filled to 15mm only.
Roll the pastry 3mm thick and lay it in tin and punch well with a fork.
Fill in pastry with rice mix and bake for 50-60 min (tart) or 20 min (tartlets).
Allow to cool then dust with icing sugar, preferably with a bunny stencil in the middle of the tart.
Enjoy a peaceful sweet but not too sweet Easter.  Franziska
Parish Consultation
To be held on Saturday April 17 from 9.45am to 3pm. This will be an opportunity to allow all parishioner to express their views and gather data in the appointment of a new vicar.

Home Groups
Two home groups meet on alternate Monday evenings at 7.30pm.
Group 1: in the Church (contact Ross Fountain 329 4202).
Group 2: in the home of John and Margaret Somerville (contact the Somervilles 329 4713).

Rainbow Music
Weekly sessions at 9:15am and 10:30am each Friday. All preschoolers are welcome. $3 for one child or $4 per family. Inquiries can be made to the Parish office on 329 4790 or to Debbie Falla on 365 8880.

Rainbow Music is seeking a new leader
Debbie Falla who has led Rainbow Music for preschoolers on Fridays in the Diamond Harbour Church Hall, will be unable to continue after the close of term one. We would be most grateful if there is someone musical, who loves children and would be available to take over at the commencement of term two on Friday 23 April. Please phone Jan Noonan 329 4476 or the Parish Office 329 4790.

Baby Group
A baby group meets regularly at Diamond Harbour Church for parents' mutual support and encouragement. The groups are fortnightly on Tuesdays from 10am-noon for parents with a child aged between 0 and 16 months. Please ring Wendy Coles on 329 4483 for dates and other information.

Returns on Your Time
It is the connections between people that make a community a warm and friendly place to live. The more we do for each other, and the more we help and look out for each other the richer our lives become. This is the type of community in which most of us want to live.

Timebanking, where members share their skills with other members and receive time credits for the time they put in, is a very effective way to help build and maintain this type of connected community.

Timebanking brings wealth into our lives through building friendships across social groups, getting jobs done that we cannot do ourselves and getting our needs met by others in our own community.

In the Timebank everyone's time is valued equally, no matter what type of work is undertaken: one hour = one time credit. With this time credit, the recipient can get something done which they need.

Community groups, like Plunket and Plavcentre, can also join the Timebank and benefit from time credits donated by Timebank members who wish to support them.

The Timebank database lists offers and requests placed by all the members. Skills range from gardening and cooking to sailing trips, help with your computer, feeding the cat or walking the dog.

The Lyttelton Timebank was the first established in New Zealand, and was opened up to our side of the harbour last year. We are looking to increase our membership and stimulate trading around Diamond Harbour.

To find out more about the Timebank and how to join, go to www.lyttelton.net.nz/timebank or call Jacinda 329 4424.

City Shopping Van
The fortnightly shopping van to South City mall will be running on April 14 and 28. The van does pick-ups from home around 9:30am and drops people back home around 1pm. A contribution towards fuel of $10 per shopping day is expected. To book an occasional or regular ride to South City, ring Nicky Palmer on 329 4341 or Wendy Coles on 329 4483.

City Mission Basket
The church has a basket for non-perishable food and grocery items for the City Mission. Many families are dependent on the support of agencies like the City Mission as jobs dwindle and money fails to stretch to meet basic outgoings. We also collect Small Change for the Small Room, with the coins being spent on toiletries and personal hygiene items which are distributed by the City Mission and St Vincent de Paul.

SERVICES
Regular Services
Catholic Mass every Saturday at 6:30pm.
Anglican-Methodist-Presbyterian: Sunday 8am communion and 10:30am church service.

Easter Services
1 April Maundy Thursday
7:30 pm Diamond Harbour Communion
2 April Good Friday
10:00 am Governors Bay
10:00 am Diamond Harbour
11:00 am Little River
3 April Saturday Easter Eve
7:00 pm Gebbies Valley Easter Communion
4 April Easter Day
8:00 am Diamond Harbour Easter Communion
9:00 am Governors Bay Easter Communion
9:00 am Teddington Easter Communion
9:30 am Kaituna Easter Communion
10:00 am Port Levy Easter Communion
10:30 am Diamond Harbour Easter Communion
11:00 am Little River Easter Communion

Orton Bradley Park: Firewood for sale
Proceeds go towards maintenance of the park
1.5 m² bins - $100
Gum - $100
Pine and park windfalls - $75
Phone 027 242 9300 - please phone prior to pick-up.
Delivery in the Harbour Basin can be arranged.
GAFFERS’ GOSSIP

Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye

I find it most encouraging in this day of political correctness and subservience to authority, that there are still those brave individualists who are prepared to thumb their noses at the so called experts. Of course you will realize at once that I am talking about Charlie.

Take the recent tsunami scare that sent many pusillanimous souls fleeing to higher ground. Not Charlie. He considered it was his plain duty to science to wrap up in a plaid blanket, put on his bally, grab a bottle of Johnny Walker and camp out on Purau beach for the night. As a concession to creeping damp he donned his duck shooting waders. Since I was one of those pusillanimous souls, I decided to keep in touch with him by cell phone in case he needed anything, like a pair of water wings or a periscope.

The phone rang at 9.00pm.
‘Hey Fred, could you feed the cat?’
‘Yeah, sure. Anything happening?’
‘Nah, not much. Geese made a hell of a noise and took off 5 minutes ago. Crabs skipped across the beach and headed up the Port Levy Road. Think I might get my head down for a bit.’

The phone rang at 9.03pm.
‘Hey Fred, what’s all those sirens blowing for? Not St Patrick’s Day is it?’
‘No, that’s the 17th.’
‘Oh that’s alright then. Blimey! Couple of orcas just passed heading for the motor camp. Think it must be high tide…glug…glug…glug.’

At this point I lost contact and it wasn’t until the following morning that a very waterlogged Charlie arrived on the doorstep. Apparently he’d been fished out of a monkey puzzle tree by Search & Rescue but he’d lost all his scientific notes. He reckoned that the whole thing was a bit of a damp squid actually.

Tony

Submission fever -
Open Space, Climate Change, Annual Plan

Hard on the heels of the City Council’s Public Open Space Strategy consultation document, comes its Climate Change Strategy. The Transition Harbour Project wrote a submission on the Open Space Strategy, and helped others to do so, because we see that protecting more public open space around the harbour is vital to making it a more beautiful and ecologically diverse and sustainable place to live, as well as a wonderful playground for locals and visitors. We’ll be submitting on the Climate Change Strategy too, and assisting others, because this is also vital for a healthy future for us all. Plus we are encouraging everyone to submit on the CCC’s annual plan to support the Council’s conditional purchase of a public reserve on the Purau headland. Come and talk over what needs to be said and done on these issues at our monthly stall at the Purau Valley Produce market (details below) or email transitionharbour@gmail.com for suggestions on what to say in your submission.

Transition Harbour Project at the Market

We’ll be holding a monthly stall beside the Purau Valley Produce market from April onwards as a first stop shop for engagement in community issues - we hope to see you there some time.

Native Plants workshop - Saturday April 10

Would you like to know more about growing native plants to make your garden and the neighbourhood more beautiful - and more attractive to native birds? Then keep the afternoon of Saturday April 10 free and come and learn from local experts. The workshop will be held at Martin Oelderink’s forest restoration project in Port Levy - you’ll see how he created a forest, from bare paddock to real bush, in just ten years. Plus, he and Richard Suggate will teach you how to grow natives plants cheaply from wild-gathered seed and seedlings, and how to keep them alive and healthy when they are planted out. Plus - a free native tree for every participant. Call Richard now on 329 3177 to enrol for the workshop. (Oh - did I say it’s free?) Everyone welcome!

Christine Dann

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Flu Vaccinations
The 2010 flu season vaccinations are now available. These are free to those aged 65 and over and also those with certain medical conditions; otherwise the cost is $25. For details contact the Medical Centre 329 4402.

Community Association News
The Diamond Harbour Community Association AGM was held on Monday 22 March. Adrian Te Patu was elected Chair, Joy McLeod Secretary, and David Dearsley Treasurer. Richard Suggate, Colin McLeod, Karen Colyer, Felicia Forbes, Judy Bramham and Dave Hammond were also elected to the committee.
The Chairperson’s Report was read, outlining the committee’s work over the past year. The most important project was setting up the Diamond Harbour Community Association website, www.diamondharbour.info. Richard Suggate’s wonderful contribution in putting together important submissions to the CCC on Public Spaces and Port Company developments was acknowledged. Claudia Reid successfully put the case to the CCC for the purchase of the Purau Headland and a panel discussion on this important issue followed the formal part of the meeting (see page 3).

Charteris Bay Golf Club
The Charteris Bay Ladies Golf Opening Day got off to a perfect start on Wednesday March 3. Aprilla Jacometti played the perfect shot with a hole in one on Bull Gully. Using an 8 iron, the ball hit the green and just kept rolling, hit the flag and dropped in the hole.
Much jubilation followed, yet despite a grand total of 41 stable fords to her credit, Aprilla’s team still did not win the Opening Day Combined stable ford game; this honour went to Jan Barkle, Penny Bradley, and Ginny Gardiner with 106 combined points.
With a hole in one shout and shared lunch, the season got off to a fine start.

Orton Bradley Park Spring Fair
Following the success of last year’s Spring Fair at Orton Bradley Park, the fair will be held again this year on Sunday October 24. Those wishing to have a stall, or have any form of entertainment they would like to discuss, should contact Robyn Hedges on 329 4005 or email robyn.hedges@actrix.co.nz.
Bell, Lamb & Trotter have generously agreed to continue their sponsorship of the fair, however if anyone would like to assist with further sponsorship I would love to talk to you.

Diamond Harbour & Districts Historical Assn
The next meeting is at 8pm on Tuesday April 13 in the Stage Room. The speakers will be Martin and Lois Griffiths and their topic is Palestine: yesterday, today and tomorrow. All welcome.

Diamond Harbour Cancer Support Group
Ambulatory Pump
The Medical Centre is still unable to purchase the new ambulatory pump as there has been some delay in the supply from the company. As you will all know we have been fundraising for some time and believe the target has been reached, although until it finally arrives we will not know the exact amount. The money donated by you all is quite safe and we will keep you informed as soon as we hear more.

Sausage Sizzle and Cake Stall
The recent sausage sizzle and cake stall we held was to generate a donation to the Cancer Society in lieu of entering a team in the recent Relay For Life. Thank you to all who came to enjoy our lovely sausages, cakes, jams, fruit and vegetables, which enabled us to donate $338.

Phyl Heal & Joy Harding

Friends of the Diamond Harbour Library
The latest of our publications, Adderley to Bradley: a history of the southern bays of Lyttelton Harbour compiled by Mary Stapynton-Smith, has sold well. (Copies are available from the Post Centre or Church Bay Services.)
The loan to help with printing book, from the Diamond Harbour Community Association, has been repaid enabling us to consider further local publications. One possibility is a reprint of the small book on Oliver Hunter, The Magnostic Philosopher of Church Bay. This book brings together all of his published poems, his Herald and Press articles on local history, information about his planting of Hunters Gully, and a summary of his life and works in our area. The decision to proceed depends on whether enough people want a copy. If you would like to purchase a copy, please email me at colin.joy@slingshot.co.nz or ring 329 4119.
The other Friends publication, A Sort of a Diary by Orton Bradley, is still available with all proceeds going to Orton Bradley Park.

Colin McLeod

STODDART’S COTTAGE EVENTS

At the request of Stoddart’s Cottage Trust this section has been removed in the Herald web edition and replaced by the following notice:
Open most Sundays 1-4pm, for forthcoming exhibitions at Stoddart’s Cottage, please visit:
www.stoddartscottage.co.nz/exhibitionsandevents/

Phyl Heal & Joy Harding
CLASSIFIEDS

Classified adverts in the Herald are now free for subscribers and non-profit organisations. Please email your advert to dhherald@gmail.com or drop it in a Herald box at the Post Office and Church Bay Services.

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Two Strong Men

Required to shift some large rocks. About 2-3 hours work. Hourly rate to be negotiated. Phone 329 4005.

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.

Outdoor Boot Camp Training

Great outdoor physical training program for Diamond Harbour and Church Bay. Join us for 4 weeks of fun! For details visit www.bootcampfitness.co.nz or contact Mike on 03 3294249 or mike@getmefit.co.nz.

Firewood Delivered

Ready to burn next winter. Pine 6cu $310; old man pine 6cu $360. Ph Joel or Donna 324 8296.

Herald Calendar

Annie’s Victorian Tea: Sun Apr 11 & 25, Stod Cotg. See p7
ANZAC Service: Sun Apr 25, 11am Comm Hall. See p3
Art Group: Weds 9.30am-12noon, Church Hall
Biodiversity Forum: June 27, DH. See p6
BOT Election: Sun Apr 25, Nominations close. See p13
Camera Club: Tue Apr 20, 7.30pm, Stage Room
Concert: Sat Apr 17, 2pm, Church Hall. See p6
Community Association: Mon Apr 19, 7.30pm, Com Rom
Diamond Harbour Singers: Weds, 7.45pm Stage Room
Easter Church Services: See p10
Historical Assn: Tue Apr 13, 8pm Stage Room. See p12
Insight Meditation: Tues, 6.30pm, 7A Whero Ave
Ladies Probus: Mon Apr 12, 10am, CB Golf Club
Native Plants Workshop/Field Trip: Apr 10. See p11
Parish Consultation: Sat Apr 17 9.45am-3pm. See p10
Philosophy Course: Mon Apr 26, 7.30pm Stg Rm. See p6
Purau Headland: Mon Apr 19, 5pm, subm’ns close. See p3
Purau Produce Market: Sat, Apr 10 & 24. See p9
Shopping Van: Wed Apr 14 and 28. See p 10
Timebank Demo: Tue Apr 13, 2-4pm, library. See p 10
Toy Library: Sats 10-11am, Community Hall
Yoga: Mon Apr 19 & 26, 7pm, 10 Te Ra Cr; 10am from 19th
Zuma Fitness: Fri Apr 16, 7-9pm, Community Hall

Diamond Harbour School

Board of Trustees Election

Nominations are invited for the election of 3 parent representatives to the Board of Trustees.

A nomination form and a copy of this notice will be posted to all eligible voters.

Additional nomination forms can be obtained from the school office.

Nominations close at noon on 23 April 2010 and may be accompanied by a candidate’s statement.

The voting roll is open for inspection at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours.

There will also be a list of candidates’ names, as they come to hand, for inspection at the school.

The poll closes at noon on 7 May 2010.

Lynn Fisher
Returning Officer

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