A Passion, but Never a Burning Desire

When Don Cameron first moved to Church Bay in 1965 as the owner-operator of Church Bay Services, one of his priorities was to become part of what he describes today as this marvellous community. From an army background and with experience in Boys’ Brigade and St John’s, he was soon a valued member of the school board, the rugby club, and the Merry-Makers. Don was not deterred from being part of the local first-aid group by his being the only male in a bevy of retired nurses. He also joined the Diamond Harbour Volunteer Fire Brigade; and now, with almost 45 years of service there behind him, he is the station’s Chief Fire Officer, having succeeded Charlie Dudley, who retired in 2002. Don’s enthusiasm and pride in the brigade are obvious when he outlines its history.

The Diamond Harbour Volunteer Fire Brigade was founded in 1955, soon after the installation of a water pipe across the harbour. At first, equipment was scarce, often outdated, and not always reliable; so it was frequently as much a battle with equipment as it was with the fires. Amalgamation with the Christchurch Metropolitan Fire Brigade in 1960 brought a steady improvement. The current Fire station was completed late in 1966. Today our brigade is recognised as being on a par with the professional units, with modern equipment and skilled personnel.

This clever room in the station serves as a meeting room, well equipped lecture theatre, and a pleasant social lounge for members and their families.

Don is adamant that anyone of good character with determination and perseverance can become a member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade team, and in doing so not only serves the community, but also gains valuable personal skills and experience. Obviously, safety of all team members is the first priority, and while some people, perhaps because of a disability, may not be able to scale high ladders or man a powerful water hose, they can contribute as, for example, traffic controllers which can be an essential role in the overall team effort. Nor is the service restricted to males. Almost 10% of New Zealand’s fire-fighters are women, and as the fire-fighters and four recruits. Naturally, those who are employed locally are the ones who answer the emergency calls during working hours and if self-employed, this could mean a significant financial sacrifice. Nevertheless, like all their colleagues they give freely to keep the rest of us safe. To quote Mary Stapylton-Smith (Diamond Harbour, Portrait of a Community), The sight of them is enough to stir the blood and bring a lump to the throat. They are present-day knights errant of the big red machine, charging off to tilt with danger.

The Diamond Harbour Volunteer Fire Brigade is fully equipped for 20 volunteers, and at present has seventeen firefighters and four recruits. Naturally, those who are employed are the ones who answer the emergency calls during working hours and if self-employed, this could mean a significant financial sacrifice. Nevertheless, like all their colleagues they give freely to keep the rest of us safe. To quote Mary Stapylton-Smith (Diamond Harbour, Portrait of a Community), The sight of them is enough to stir the blood and bring a lump to the throat. They are present-day knights errant of the big red machine, charging off to tilt with danger.

These days, the chief knight, Don, works at the Lyttelton Port Company, is a member of the bridge club, playing weekly with his wife, Bev, and is as passionate as ever about the Diamond Harbour Volunteer Fire Brigade.

I’ll be around for a while yet, he says with a grin. We certainly hope so, and we look forward to his celebrating 50 years of marvellous community service in the not too distant future.
Earthquake Update

Just as in every affected community, the buildings across the wider Diamond Harbour area sustained inexplicably different degrees of damage, ranging from chipped ornaments to complete devastation. Our older structures, including our treasured heritage buildings, generally fared worst.

GODLEY HOUSE TEETERING ON THE BRINK

Just far enough away was unfortunately still a little too close for Godley House when the earthquake struck. From outside, the iconic building seems not too bad, but the extent of internal damage was such that even the building inspectors would not venture upstairs and the fate of this centrepiece of our community hangs in the balance while internal scaffolding braces it against the aftershocks.

Current proprietors, Richard and Michelle and their three children were all sleeping upstairs when the earthquake struck, and bricks and mortar literally fell around them as they fled. Despite both their home and their business being in tatters, the family are buoyed by the fantastic support and assistance offered them by the community. While the final decision on the future of the building will ultimately be made by the owners, Christchurch City Council, in conjunction with Heritage Places Trust, Michelle and Richard are determined that it should be restored with at least the outer facades retained. Anticipating that their feelings will be shared by many, they have placed a petition in the Diamond Harbour Country Store which people can sign to show their support. To keep up-to-date with developments, you can check out Michelle’s blog on www.godleyhouse.co.nz and add your own comments if you wish.

STODDART’S COTTAGE THREATENED BY DAMAGED CHIMNEY

A chimney at Stoddart’s Cottage, damaged in the quake, threatened to cause more serious damage if it were to crash through the roof of the landmark heritage cottage in an aftershock.

In the rush to ensure public safety this threat was enough to cause the inspectors to declare the building a no-go zone. Locals, however, were concerned that leaving the chimney as it was, invited disaster. So no-one was too surprised when a couple of days later, it had been mysteriously shored up and securely wrapped in plastic, hopefully keeping it intact until restrictions on access are lifted and proper repairs can be undertaken.

FICKLENESS OF EARTHQUAKE EVIDENT IN PURAU HOMESTEAD DAMAGE

For one hundred and sixty years, the Purau Homestead has withstood the ravages of nature, and even amid the violence of the earthquake its solid stone structure held firm. However, three chimneys were dislodged, causing damage as they fell, and interior plaster was cracked in places. The wooden outbuildings were generally undamaged, although The Whare also lost its chimney. It is expected that the property will be fully restored.
Earthquake Update

Getting Thru’ - Report from Our Civil Defence

WOW! That was a biggie! Betcha no one slept through that one! Darkness, noise, the house wracked by bucking and rolling, we cowered in doorways or lay rigidly – or resignedly – abed. Personal survival assured, we checked on neighbours. Torch beams flashed in the early morning streets. Voices – anxious or reassuring – the only sounds. How surreal it seemed that the day dawned sunny and bright while only radio revealed the first inklings of the city’s damage. With power out, we knew less about the extensive building collapses than TV-watching relatives overseas. But as the day wore on it became evident that we had fared relatively well.

The Civil Defence manual identifies four stages of Risk Management: Reduction, Readiness, Response and Recovery. There is little one can do to reduce the risk of an earthquake – but how did we do on the other three?

Readiness: A mixed report here. As it happens, we had been repeatedly advised – through the medium of the Herald – to make preparations for the growing number of natural disasters that climate change and chance are producing. So many residents had a torch nearby, an emergency grab-bag, and a plan to help themselves and neighbours to survive. But many also had never even read the Get Ready, Get Thru pamphlet or the back pages of the Yellow phone book. Just doing so increases one’s chances of being part of a solution rather than a problem. So many streets that had preserved and up-dated their Neighbourhood Support lists of contacts fared best when it came to sharing information. Unfortunately, Nature did not wait upon our efforts to refresh those lists, so the network did not work at all in some places.

Response: It was some time before the Mayor declared a State of Emergency. During the wait, Fire Brigade volunteers were out on the fire appliance checking roads and buildings. Understandably perhaps, the Civil Defence teams in the City, Kaiapoi, and Selwyn, were the only ones activated. Our local team – some of them fresh from a six-week training course – were in Bring It On mode, but were never activated. Accordingly, they offered their services to the overstretched staff at Linwood Welfare Centre and served a couple of night-time shifts.

After a few days, however, it became clear that this event was going to continue for some time, and that Civil Defence could meet a growing need for a One-Stop information centre where locals could drop in to get – and give – information over a cuppa. This was set up in the Fire Station and worked well.

The CD Coordinator (Wendy Coles) organised a morning for pre-schoolers and parents, followed by a light lunch and community get-together in the afternoon at the local Church Hall. Lunch was provided by the ladies of the parish. This assembly allowed all - the stressed and the supportive - to share experiences in a relaxing atmosphere. These were entirely successful and well received.

Generally speaking, the Neighbourhood Support network street clusters got the service that they deserved. Where group lists had been kept up to date, they were used to get feed-back on damage, double-check on the sick, elderly, the over-stressed, and those living alone. Where the lists had died – for various reasons – it became difficult to do that.

Recovery: This is the present stage. Houses that have been damaged have been identified and claims to EQC forwarded. Many are still waiting to have their homes assessed. Anyone needing information on these matters will find a notice posted up at the public notice board in the Diamond Harbour Village Centre, or find guidance in the Christchurch Press. While this is being written, aftershocks still persist. This may go on for weeks.

Let’s add one more R:

Recognition: The miracle of surviving a 7.1 earthquake without any deaths, and without any compounding storms now ravaging the country, warrants some thanks to the Almighty.

Thanks are also due to the Fire Brigade members who worked cheerfully and tirelessly to make broken chimneys safe; to the Civil Defence volunteers for their local initiatives; to the Neighbourhood Support network for extending care to their neighbours; to our nurses for their initiatives; to the Neighbourhood Support network for the out-of-hours checking on the vulnerable; to the ladies who prepared soup and savouries for the lunch, and to the many who came forward and offered help.

A huge Phew! And Thanks.

John Barry

OF PROBABILITIES AND POSSIBILITIES

There has, of course, been one topic of continuing interest in the last fortnight, and we can consider ourselves remarkably lucky when we think of the damage that Haiti, for example, experienced from an earthquake slightly smaller than ours. Not that luck has everything to do with it – all those troublesome regulations on building standards have been important. And timing, in the early morning hours, was fortunate. However, I want to look forward, because that is the next important thing. We have had a major shake, but not The Big One that has been predicted for a long time, which will result from a shift on the Alpine Fault. Kelvin Berryman, in a long and informative article in The Press on September 18, pointed out that movement on that fault could result in a magnitude 8 shake, felt as a 7 in the Christchurch area.

The quake resulted from movement on a previously unsuspected fault, hidden under the gravel of the Kaiapoi Plains. The probability is that there are many other faults also hidden from view, and the aftershocks result from successive adjustments on these to the effects of the first shake. This helps to explain the scatter of epicentres. Apart from the Alpine Fault, there are numerous other faults running through central New Zealand. Some of these have been the subject of detailed study, where dateable materials have been trapped or have accumulated along the fault lines – the visible fault traces. In those cases a fair estimate can be made of the past frequency of movement on the fault, and a reasonable prediction made of when another movement may occur. Even so, the prediction is still based on an assessment of probabilities, and is by no means a certainty. Our knowledge of the earth and the stresses and strains within the crust is growing, but is a long way from complete.

A sensible approach for those of us who are not experts, but do our best to cope with all kinds of natural hazards, is to assume that there will be earthquakes of some severity in future. If your preparations worked well in the recent one, carry on in the same way, as a precaution against possible future events. If you found yourself caught out in some way, do something about it – just in case! The probability of another major earthquake centred near Christchurch is small, but the possibility is always there!

Jane Soons

Civil Defence Team Members Wanted

The earthquake has shown just how vulnerable we are to the awesome forces of nature. Our local Civil Defence Team is very small at present. We have only 11 members, and if we are to respond effectively to a major disaster, we need a lot more – preferably some from each of the bays from Teddington through to Port Levy.

Being a Civil Defence volunteer is ideal for people who do not have a lot of spare time, but still want to help out in the community. We meet once a month at the DH School, which is our sector post. Free training is provided.

If you think you might be interested in joining our team, please call me on 329 4483.

Wendy
COMMUNITY GET-TOGETHER

A hastily arranged community get-together at St Andrews Church hall in the week following the quake was a good chance to catch up with others, compare experiences and relax a little. Many thanks to those who provided and served the tasty soup and other food.

BRICKBATS ...

- People who went sightseeing - how foolish can you get?
- People who did not respond when Neighbourhood Support went to check on them.
- Television journalists who waved their arms and said ... this building behind me ... without saying where they were.

... AND BOUQUETS

- My very good neighbours who checked up on me and others in the neighbourhood within minutes.
- The Social Services people who checked on all the superannuitants who live alone.
- The very many people (radio journalists in particular) who worked tirelessly to keep people informed about what had happened and what we should do.
- The huge number of volunteers who swung into action to ensure the safety of others, when they were quite probably anxious about their own families and homes.
- The friends and family who telephoned or emailed from around the world, expressing their concern about me and my family.
- The spokespeople who dispensed information with clarity when they were besieged by journalists.
- The Press delivery person who brought our papers daily.
- The Posties who brought the mail every day.
- The organisers of the soup lunch at the church.
- The Press delivery person who brought our papers daily.
- The Social Services people who checked on all the superannuitants who live alone.

An elderly man lay anxiously in the blackness in his jolting bed, wondering if his 100+ year-old house could withstand the barrage. Suddenly a heavy weight crashed down on top of him. Flailing wildly, he struggled desperately but unsuccessfully to free himself. He paused, took a deep breath, mustered his composure and seized the obstruction with both hands—and discovered it was his trembling dog.

In pitch darkness the young mother battled through the writhing house to her toddler’s bedside, scooped him up in her arms and retreated to the comparative safety of the doorway. There she cuddled the child close to her and spoke soothing words to reassure him. Only when the violence stopped did she notice she was holding the poor wee tot upside down.

A group of neighbours were comparing experiences on the footpath a few hours after the quake, when another local, known only by sight, walked past with his dog.

Any damage at your place? asked one of the group. Only to our underwear, replied the passerby and continued on his way.

Elaine

THEY’RE THINKING OF US

To all our friends in Diamond Harbour and Purau,

We have been following closely everything that has been happening to our community and want you to know that we send our best wishes to everyone in Diamond Harbour and Purau. It’s been a time when a strong community must have really shown its mettle and support for those of you who have had damage to properties and businesses will have been on hand. Neil, my husband, was on business and staying with friends in Diamond Harbour at the time and we have had friends from Diamond Harbour staying with us in the week after the initial quake to rest and get some sleep, so I have heard firsthand how terrifying it must have been. I am so very glad that there was, amazingly, no loss of life.

Our best wishes to all of you.

Paddy Smart

EMERGENCY RESPONSE REVIEW

Representatives from residents groups in the Diamond Harbour area and Port Levy, Civil Defence, Fire Service volunteers and others met to discuss improvements to our local emergency response following the quake.

Communication issues, and the risk that vulnerable people could be overlooked, were identified as areas needing improvement. The best solution is to ensure complete coverage of all the local communities by a cascade communication system, using the existing Neighbourhood Support framework.

Currently, the Neighbourhood Support network is fragmented. It is hoped that each of the residents groups will appoint a leader to formally re-establish the network in each community.

A formal Neighbourhood Support network would enable effective two-way communication during an emergency, and would help to ensure that no-one in need of help falls through the cracks.

For more information, or to volunteer to coordinate a Neighbourhood Support group, please contact Civil Defence volunteers Wendy Coles 329 4483 or John Barry 329 4545.

Paula Smith
ANIMALS AND EARTHQUAKES

I guess I just have to write about this, don’t I? For a former South African who’s never before felt a quake it made a big impression. Fortunately it was dark so I couldn’t see anything, and it took me a while to work out what was really happening anyway; so by the time I realised it was a serious earthquake, the first big shake was almost over.

I was then presented with my Fathers Day present a day early — a wind up torch/radio/siren/cell phone charger — and using its light we surveyed the damage in the living area of the house. It was a timely gift what with all the broken bottles - Heather does a lot of preserving - as my torch usually lives by the front door, but a bit too real, thanks guys.

I’ve been really impressed with how our city’s buildings stood up to this severe test, and also by the response afterwards — but how have our animals fared? Their owners have been dazed and jumpy, and we had sold out of tranquilizers by the end of the week following the quake. Several cats disappeared for a few days following the big shake up, but I’ve not heard of any that are still missing.

My own little terrier barked at each aftershock until about lunchtime of the Saturday of the quake, then he gave up, and now only barks at aftershocks of about 4 and up — anything strong enough to rattle the house is still worthy of his attention. I’ve also fired one of my cats as an earthquake warning animal — for days afterwards she wasn’t indoors when any of the aftershocks hit, to the point where I started to relax whenever she was inside. Then one morning she was on our bed when 2 real jaw shakers arrived simultaneously, so that put paid to that theory — maybe she was just fed up with the pay!

The best animal story I’ve heard was of a cat that had been missing for 11 months who arrived home the night of the earthquake — fat, healthy and totally unfazed — although a bit put out that his owner now had a new kitten. We have asked that if he ever goes missing again, and suddenly doesn’t return that we be alerted — I for one will be promptly asked that if he ever goes missing again, and suddenly doesn’t return that we be alerted — I for one will be promptly

My first impressions on approaching his house were hardly encouraging. A large pile of bricks lay to one side of the front door, but then I recalled that these were part of a 1983 project when Charlie had decided to build a brick path to the front gate. In 1984 this idea was abandoned in favour of a BBQ area but he had a slight set back when a faulty gas bottle blew out all the windows at the back of the house. At least two of these were repaired before he had an argument with the glass people about the price and he was still waiting for an estimate for the other four. Some of his less kind friends often referred to his house as ‘Smash Palace’.

Well, what d’you think? Blimey, Charlie, I’m surprised they didn’t put a red notice on you.

Yeah, well they did. I used it to jam the front door. Think this should be worth $200,000?

Tony

SECONDARY TEXT

EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

Sewer Not Shook Up

Recent work on the sewer line at the bottom of Waipapa Tce was not necessitated by the earthquake, but by tree roots on the bank. Workmen gained access from either side of the Medical Centre and assure us they will be back to complete the tidy-up when the ground dries out.

Gaffers’ Gossip

Shake, Rattle and Rock

Bearing in mind Charlie’s intrepid confrontation of the dreaded tsunami recently, I was interested to see how he had coped with Mother Nature’s latest manifestation of primal wrath.

My first impressions on approaching his house were hardly encouraging. A large pile of bricks lay to one side of the front door, but then I recalled that these were part of a 1983 project when Charlie had decided to build a brick path to the front gate. In 1984 this idea was abandoned in favour of a BBQ area but he had a slight set back when a faulty gas bottle blew out all the windows at the back of the house. At least two of these were repaired before he had an argument with the glass people about the price and he was still waiting for an estimate for the other four. Some of his less kind friends often referred to his house as ‘Smash Palace’.

Well, what d’you think? Blimey, Charlie, I’m surprised they didn’t put a red notice on you.

Yeah, well they did. I used it to jam the front door. Think this should be worth $200,000?

It’s terrible, Charlie. Especially considering the houses on both sides of you don’t seem to be affected at all.

Well, that’s cos my hanging mobile put the epicentre directly under my mantelpiece. Listen, Fred, I might need a bit of temporary accommodation, if you’ll just hang on a bit while I saw through the water mains.

Hastily I made my excuses and withdrew, sadly reflecting on the unjust blame put on natural events.
One foggy Saturday afternoon last winter, I received a call from a lady in Purau. She said she had lived in Purau for quite a few years but had never seen such a beautiful fog over the Purau Harbour as on that day, and thought the Camera Club might wish to take advantage of this rare opportunity.

Purau, armloads full, were picked, put in bunches and wrapped. This year these daffodils that usually bring such pleasure to one family, spread their colour and cheer to people all over the community. The children gave them to people unknown to them - people who lived alone or just needed checking on - people who did not expect such kindness at their door. They were all surprised and delighted. Many were relieved to be checked on and appreciated offers of support. All involved were reminded of the incredible power of giving freely. A wonderful way to spend a morning - brightening everyone’s day with a simple act of kindness. **Jacinda**

### Pick of the Pics from Diamond Harbour Camera Club

A dilemma! Should I risk the fog lifting while I notify all the club members, or grab the camera and tripod, and rush down to Purau to take some photos that I could, at least, show the other members of the club. I have always been a little reluctant to show these photos because I still feel a little guilty of the decision I made. But what an opportunity it was! With many thanks to the lady from Purau - whose name I cannot remember. **Rouke Bakker**

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**Daffodil Delight from Caring Families**

The week after the Big Shake had most of us feeling fairly unsettled and unsure of what was to come. Children were home from school for the week and people’s resilience was being tested by the constant aftershocks. Thankful for the small wonders that were apparent in those uncertain times, including that all our families had come through intact, a small group of families were spurred to get together and spread a bit of Spring cheer.

Daffodils, armloads full, were picked, put in bunches and wrapped. This year these daffodils that usually bring such pleasure to one family, spread their colour and cheer to people all over the community. The children gave them to people unknown to them - people who lived alone or just needed checking on - people who did not expect such kindness at their door. They were all surprised and delighted. Many were relieved to be checked on and appreciated offers of support. All involved were reminded of the incredible power of giving freely. A wonderful way to spend a morning - brightening everyone’s day with a simple act of kindness. **Jacinda**

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**Daily Deliveries - Cass Bay to Port Levy**

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

- **Diamond Harbour Freight Ltd**
  - Tony Spatcher
  - 027 473 0979
  - 338 0440

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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.
WINE SPEAK

Mother Nature is a powerful and unpredictable beast; but I’ve got to say I’ve been impressed with the kindness, strength of character, and resolve in the community after the big earthquake and endless aftershocks. As you contemplate these things too, rebuilding your chimney, fences (and more), sip on these over the next little while.

One of the better sensibly priced current release savvies I’ve tried is the 2010 Saint Clair Sauvignon Blanc from Marlborough for under $18. It’s more in that typical grassy/herb style with passionfruit and gooseberry featuring, but better with lemon-based dishes. Also dry and a couple of dollars less is the 2009 Durvillea Pinot Grigio. This is Astrolabe’s second label, and Simon Waghorn has produced a beauty here with pear and nutmeg off the nose followed by peach and pear in the palate on a mineral finish, then a mealy complexity through the back end; it’s lovely drinking now with or without food.

Best bargain red out there for under $14 is the 2008 Metala Shiraz Cabernet made by Saltram. A quaffer with black fruit and vanilla oak, the ride on soft tannins beckons you for another glass. At under $20 is the 2009 Majella ‘The Musician’ Cabernet Shiraz. It’s very Coonawarra with blackcurrant, plum, and a minty edge, with chocolatey richness down the back. The big bomb from this region though is the 2008 Leconfield Cabernet Sauvignon for under $27. Rich black fruits and a hint of cedar on an earthy savoury back-bone, this is still a baby and will get better over time, or pair now with a chunk of red meat. Enjoy!

Sweet Comforter...after all.

I found myself making these delicious desserts after the quake. With the ups and downs of adrenalin, insulin levels must also go up and down – so it is natural to crave for comfort food. Why not indulge in this unspectacular looking dessert – and feel better about life. This French recipe is incredibly rich and yummy.

Tourte au chocolat et aux almandes

Ingredients:
- 260g rich dark cooking chocolate
- 200g butter
- 2 tbsp cognac or rum
- 2 tbsp concentrate coffee
- 200g sugar
- 6 eggs
- 200g ground almonds
- pinch of salt

Method:
Preheat oven to 150C.

In a double boiler, melt together chocolate, butter, cognac and coffee. Remove from heat and add sugar and almonds. Separate eggs and add yolks carefully one by one to chocolate mixture. Whisk egg whites with a pinch of salt until they form stiff peaks then gently fold into the chocolate mixture with a rubber spatula.

Grease and flour a 23cm tart tin with removable base (a baking tray with higher sides will do) then line base with baking paper. Pour in the mixture and bake for 45-60 mins.

The torte will be flattish and not very exciting – until you put it in your mouth!

Optionally decorate:
Mix 200ml of very lightly whipped cream with 100ml sour cream and add vanilla sugar or normal sugar to taste. Melt a little chocolate and pour over half the cake with cream mixture over the other half. Rich and full-filling! Bon appetit!
In 1977 the Bradley Estate was gifted to the citizens of New Zealand, fulfilling a promise made by Orton Bradley. Orton Bradley Park now belongs to us, and as we learn more about this amazing man and his family, we appreciate how much he achieved with the little that was available at the time. Orton was a horticulturalist - among other things - and he planted thousands of trees and shrubs around the area of the Park. He established a garden near his house, and in order to keep the plants thriving, he developed a complex irrigation system which watered the oaks, bush area, vegetable garden, rockery, and shade house. The shade house, referred to as The Fernery, had perforated pipes running down the roof from which water sprayed down onto the ferns. It was filled with maidenhair ferns and was probably built around the turn of the century.

Dick Barnett, one of the Orton Bradley Volunteers, remembers watering the ferns every second day. He also recalls seeing the ferns in the morning with droplets of water sitting on the fine little leaves, looking like diamonds in the sunshine. The original Fernery is situated in an area that is no longer accessible to the public, on account of a nearby a private house. Consequently, the trusty Orton Bradley Park Volunteers, led by Barry Bowater, is now building a new Fernery in the heritage style of the original, in a new location so that these beautiful ferns may be enjoyed by all.

On Sunday October 24 there will be a Spring Fair at Orton Bradley Park – come along and share in the day, and visit the White Elephant Stall which will be raising funds for the completion of the new Fernery.

Jan Henderson
Nestor Rodriguez is from Venezuela. He now lives in Diamond Harbour and is working with the youth community, helping locals with music and sport. As well as his work with the Mt Herbert Under 20’s, he teaches classical and contemporary guitar at Diamond Harbour and Governors Bay schools. He sings and plays his guitar on Sundays at the Diamond Harbour Church, and is a part-time pastor at a Cashmere church where he helps and encourages Latin-Americans of all ages. Nestor says that it is awesome to be here in Diamond Harbour and thinks this is a beautiful country with nice people. God bless New Zealand, he says.

Photo and story by Benita Dale McMillen
RUGBY ROUND-UP —
THE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

After recent events it’s a little hard to reflect on a rugby season, but nevertheless, it’s good to look back on what was a great season for the club. The number of teams we had this year was down on previous years but the enthusiasm was as high as ever. Although I would have loved to have got to more games, I saw a good number - at least one of each team. It’s always inspiring to see the passion and dedication that Diamond Harbour players of all grades put into their training and match days—which reflects the quality of our volunteer coaches whose efforts and time is much appreciated. Not being a rugby player myself - apart from the odd run on a Sunday with the oldies - I do not claim to be an expert, but looking at the talent in the junior teams, I am sure this club has a great future and we can look forward to some very strong teams coming through. The seniors must be congratulated for their excellent unbeaten run at the end of the season and in the Rippas, Jonno Henderson scored 64 tries which must be a club record.

I would also like to thank our very active and positive-thinking committee. Once again, their time, given voluntarily, is paramount to the success of the club. We are lucky to have so many dedicated people involved. One of these, James Dixon, has been our Junior Captain for the last few years and is now stepping down. He has done a marvelous job. I’m not sure how he found the time to maintain communications with all involved to make this section of the club a great success. Thank you, James; and thank you to Blue Henderson who has put his hand up to take over this role as of next season.

We appreciate the support we get from those hardy souls - you know who you are - who followed the players around during the season. Thank you; it’s great to see a core of supporters and I urge rugby lovers to come and watch what can be very exciting footy.

We offer what is considered to be the best hospitality in the competition and invite you to experience this for yourselves at our clubrooms. Anyone in a position to help in any way with the club, please contact a committee member. Your input would be most appreciated. Finally, thank you to all those who give their precious time to make this club the success it is.

Peter Jones
Did you know that the Diamond Harbour Library has DVDs?
They are $1 for singles and $2 for sets to borrow for a week.
Children's DVDs are free for a week and free to reserve.
All you need is your library card.
Remember – it costs nothing to join the library.
If there is a DVD that you would like to borrow that we don't have, we can reserve it from town for you for a charge of $2. There may be a waiting list for the popular new ones. Titles include: Mao's last Dancer; Slumdog Millionaire; The Lovely Bones; My Sister's Keeper; The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo. Christine Rochford

Diamond Harbour Rugby Club
Bar Open Friday Evenings
from 5pm at the Rugby Clubrooms.

Following the damage to Godley House, the Diamond Harbour Rugby Club is offering locals and their guests the opportunity to meet for a Friday drink and chat in our pleasant clubrooms.

In keeping with the terms of our licence, people wishing to attend more than once must be members of the club. Social membership for the year ending 30th September 2011 costs only $10. Once-only visitors must sign in at the door or bar on entry.

Closing time is at the discretion of the bar manager. Members and visitors are requested to leave quietly so as not to disturb nearby residents. The Committee. DHRFC

Tai Chi and Qi Gong
Diamond Harbour Tai Chi and Qi Gong Beginners program starts Thursday October 7 at 10.30am in the Community Hall. For details phone Chris 328 8414.

Diamond Harbour Camera Club
This month there is a photographic exhibition in the Lyttelton Information Centre. Most photographs are for sale and a percentage of the proceeds will go to the Info Centre. For further details phone Dale 388 0542.

Orton Bradley Spring Fair
Sunday October 24
10am - 4pm Gold Coin entry
Something for everyone
All day entertainment
Bouncy Castle Pony Rides
Art & Craft
Food, coffee, beer, wine

www.ortonbradley.co.nz

Diamond Harbour & Districts Historical Assn
The next meeting is at 8pm on Tuesday October 12 in the Stage Room. Chris Moore's talk is entitled Pressing on: a history of The Press. All welcome. Jan Studholme

Mt. Herbert Under 20 Trust
Program for Term 3:
Sundays: 5:30-6:30pm: movies, videos or games for all.
Fridays: Primary School: 5:00-6:00pm
High School: 7:30-9:30pm
Activities (Activities in town are for all)
October
Fri 1: Karaoke Fri 8: Laser Strike Fri 15: Party
For further information, please contact: Nestor Rodriguez 329 4403; Emily Watson 332 2048 or 027 841 6219; Katie Fox 329 4660 or 027 747 7199, Ross Fountain 329 4202; or go to: www.diamondharbour.info/u20-trust.aspx

Ralph Ogg Service Station
Tai Tapu
Petrol available again - close to home
Challenge Petrol sales
Open 7 days a week - 7.30am to 6.30pm weekdays
8am to 6pm Sat / 9am to 6pm Sun
Kumho tyres - sales and service
Drinks, icecreams and forecourt services
Tel: 03 329 6834 or Email: rossltd@xtra.co.nz
Post-Quake Pick-me-up & Caring Community Celebration

A Christchurch City Neighbourhood Week Event

The Purau Bay community invites all neighbouring communities on the south side of Lyttelton Harbour to join it for this year’s...

Neighbourhood Week
LONG LUNCH & DANCE

Sunday November 7
11:30am – 4pm
Purau Camp Ground
if wet, Diamond Harbour Hall

11:30  Set up time (help needed!)
1:00  Pot luck shared lunch (BBQ available)
2:00  Dancing; races; games; fun and frivolity
◆ Prizes for Most Creative Table Decorations
◆ Tea and coffee
◆ Free hot chips for the kids
◆ Live music from Bantam of the Opera!

Come aLONG…
with all your neighbours, family and local friends.

Bring aLONG…
food to share; your own chair(s), plates, glasses, cutlery, and drinks and a donation for the band.

Fun aLONG…
join in the games, fun and frivolity – and the Barn Dance with the great band:

Bantam of the Opera!

RSVP/Info/Offers of help: Annie 329 4779

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.
CHURCH NOTICES

For latest details of all church news, visit…
www.diamondharbour.info/church-notices.aspx

Regular Services
Catholic Mass every Saturday at 6:30pm.
Anglican - Methodist - Presbyterian: Sunday 8am and 10:30am Communion (no 8am service in January).

Men’s Breakfast
Saturday October 9, 8-9:30am, Church Hall.
Speaker: Russell Lienert, an Eye Doctor who has worked in Afghanistan and Tajikistan.
Cooked breakfast provided. Koha toward costs welcome. RSVP for catering purposes to John Somerville 329 4713 or church office 329 4790.

Wednesday Study and Discussion Group
Meets in the Church Library 3:30pm to 5:00pm
Contact: Anne Boyd 329 4444

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 9:30am each Friday during term time.
All preschoolers are welcome.
$3 for one child or $4 per family. Inquiries can be made to the Parish office on 329 4790.

City Shopping Van
The fortnightly shopping van to South City mall runs on:
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 329 4341 or Wendy Coles 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.

Mount Herbert Parish Magazine
Read the current issue of the parish magazine at www.diamondharbour.info/church-notices.aspx

**IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH VOTERS IN BANKS PENINSULA**

I AM CONSTANTLY HEARING COMMENTS THAT STRONGLY REFLECT THE NEED FOR CHANGES AT THE CITY COUNCIL SO THAT CITIZENS HAVE MORE SAY IN THE WAY CHRISTCHURCH IS GOVERNED

**KEVIN BLOGG AND BE HEARD!!**

Authorised by Kevin Blogg, R D 1 Western Valley Rd, Little River 7381. Ph (03) 325 1301

**our website**

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Art ~ Badminton ~ Books ~ Bowls ~ Bridge
Cameras ~ Cricket ~ Croquet ~ Dancing
Films ~ Fitness ~ Garden ~ Golf ~ History
Meditation ~ Probus ~ Rambling ~ Rugby
Scouts ~ Tennis ~ Toys ~ Writing ~ Yachts

Find current details of all local Clubs and Societies from Charteris Bay to Pt Levy

additions/updates: clubs@diamondharbour.info

www.diamondharbour.info

Call Geoff Brewer Systems on (03) 329 4083 or (027) 280 7859
**A Plea from the Bowling Club**

The Bowling Club is having problems with uncontrolled dogs running over the green (probably chasing rabbits). After the wet winter, the bowlers have been working hard to get the green into shape for the summer season. This means levelling and spreading fertiliser and topsoil to make a good playing surface. A smooth and level surface is essential for bowls – for example, shoes with heels are not permitted on the green, since they cause depressions which affect the run of the bowl.

Similarly, dogs which chase across the green, defecate and scratch up the surface also cause damage. We have gone to some time and trouble to repair holes in the hedges surrounding the green in the hope that dogs will not find a way through, but there is nothing we can do to prevent dogs from finding other routes in, such as jumping over the gates.

We therefore ask dog owners to take care not to allow their animals into the Bowling Club area. We would point out that dogs being taken for exercise are supposed to remain under control – i.e. on a leash. It’s not that we don’t like dogs – several of our members are caring dog owners – but not even the best-behaved dog is permitted to roam in the Club grounds. Please note also that at times we have to use some rather powerful chemicals to control weeds in the green, and we cannot be responsible for any effects these may have upon wandering dogs. *Jane Soons*

**Stoddart Point Reserve Draft Management Plan**

**Where:** Stage Room, Diamond Community Hall  
**When:** Saturday 16 October  
**Time:** 10am-noon

A public information session is to be held on the Stoddart Point Reserve Draft Management Plan. The purpose of the session is to allow local residents to speak one on one with council officers and get clarity around the project and process prior to making submissions on the plan.

For further details go to the CCC website:  

To view the plan go to:  

**Diamond Bridge Club**

The Diamond Harbour Bridge Club has recently held two club tournaments. The Charteris Bay Pairs was won by Liz Manson and Annette Smale; and the Diamond Harbour Pairs was won by Graham Thiele and Lita Ireland. The club recently enjoyed a day of bridge hosted by the Sumner Bridge Club.

For anyone wishing to play bridge, we meet every Wednesday at 7pm at the Diamond Harbour Bowling Club rooms. *Janice Hopper (Secretary)*

**STODDART’S COTTAGE EVENTS**

[www.stoddarts cottage.co.nz](http://www.stoddarts cottage.co.nz)

**Spring Opening delayed due to Earthquake**

The cottage suffered some minor structural damage to the chimney stack. The Trust and Christchurch City Council are currently arranging for an assessment to be made on the extent of the damage and any action required before the cottage can be reopened. The Trust thanks you for your support and patience and hopes to reopen the cottage very soon. Details of exhibitions and Annie’s Victorian Afternoon Teas will be announced on [www.stoddarts cottage.co.nz](http://www.stoddarts cottage.co.nz) and posters around the village.

**Daffodil Day Thank You**

Many thanks to all the people who supported us during our fundraising efforts in the weeks leading up to and including Daffodil Day – including those who gave so generously, and all the people involved in collecting and supporting the collectors. The Diamond Harbour Cancer Support Group has again been delighted with the response. The combination of raffles ($500) the film evening ($420) donations ($600) and the fund raising at Diamond Harbour School ($131) raised a grand total of $1651, which will be used for the benefit of the community.

Daffodil Day saw collectors at the wharf and around the village; luckily the weather was kind to us. There was a tremendous response to the raffles.

We had an enjoyable film evening – thank you to all who assisted and those who attended. It was enhanced by delicious mulled wine and nibbles – a big thanks to Sarah Till for providing the refreshments.

First prize for the picture, kindly donated by June MacLeod, was won by Peter Davidson. The large grocery basket was won by Russell Ward, and the smaller basket by Gladys Sheehan. We are grateful to those who allowed us to fund raise on their premises, especially Gay Edwards and Elaine McLeod.

We have now exceeded our target for the Medical Centre equipment, and will use purchasing the ambulatory pump as soon as possible. We are so fortunate to live in such a warm and generous community.

*Joy Harding, Secretary DH Cancer Support Group*

**Stall Holders Wanted for Off the Rails Fair**

**When:** Monday October 25 - Labour Weekend  
**Where:** Little River

This is a wonderful community fair and the more stalls the better the fair. Heaps of passing traffic to and from Akaroa, so it is a great chance to sell your wares… even wheelbarrow stalls if you have old toys, clothes, books etc. Ph: Ann Watson 325 1121 or Kaite Hansen 325 1917.

**Thank You**

Fran Macfarlane and her family would like to thank the people of Diamond Harbour for their support and love at the time of Dugald’s illness and death.

Special thanks to Charlie, Pete, Graham, Nicky, Joy, Sue, and Jan at the Medical Centre for your care and concern. Dugald’s funeral was followed the next day by the earthquake; and as someone said, “Dugald made a very memorable resurrection!”

**Help Restore Godley House!**

At this stage no decision has been made on the future of Godley House. You are invited to show your support for the restoration of this centrepiece of Diamond Harbour. Please sign the support sheet at Diamond Harbour Country Store to show the City Council and the Heritage Places Trust how much this means to our community.
**Herald Calendar**

**Art Group:** Weds 9.30am-12noon, Church Hall  
**BECa Heritage Week:** Oct 22-31  
**Bridge Club:** Weds 7pm, DH Bowling Clubrooms  
**Camera Club:** Tues Oct 19, 7.30pm, Stage Rm. Ph 388 0542  
**Christchurch City Council Elections:** Close noon Oct 9  
**Diamond Harbour Singers:** Weds, 7.45pm, Stage Room  
**Film Society:** Thurs, 7.45pm, Stage Room  
**Historical Assn:** Tue Oct 12, 8pm, Stage Room (p11)  
**Insight Meditation:** Tues, 6.30pm, 7A Whero Ave  
**Ladies Probus:** Mon Oct 11, 10am, CB Golf Club  
**Mens Breakfast:** Sat Oct 9, 8-9:30am, Church Hall (p13)  
**Mens Probus:** Thu Oct 7, 10am, CB Golf Club  
**Neighbourhood Week:** Oct 30—Nov 7  
**Off the Rails Fair:** Oct 25, Little River (p14)  
**Orton Bradley Park Spring Fair:** Sun Oct 24, 10am (p11)  
**Plant Swap:** Sun Oct 10, 10.30-noon, 30 Whero Ave (p12)  
**Poems for Herald:** Email to us by Oct 25  
**Post-Quake Pick-me-up:** Sun Nov 7. Long Lunch and Barn Dance - Neighbourhood Week event (p12)  
**Purau Produce Market:** Sat Oct 9 at DH village as usual Sun Oct 24 at Orton Bradley Spring Fair (p12)  
**Stoddart Point Reserve Draft Mgt Plan:** Sat Oct 16  
10am-noon, Stage Room (p14)  
**Tai Chi:** Thurs 10.30, 11.15, 12.50, Community Hall (p11)  
**Toy Library:** Sats, 10am-11am, Community Hall  
**Under 20's Trust:** See page 11  
For updates go to the community electronic bulletin board: [www.diamondharbour.info/events.aspx](http://www.diamondharbour.info/events.aspx)

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

**Accommodation Needed**  
For honest, considerate, single man. Short or long term (long term preferred). Also interested in WOOF-ing. Ph Jim or Ann Thornton 329 4943  
or email thornton@snap.net.nz.  

**Lifestyle Farm Services**  
Shearing, crutching, worm treatment, foot-trimming, fly treatment. Ph Lance Barnes 021 0265 4888.  

**Grazing Wanted/Offered**  
Grazing wanted for quiet ponies. Do you have a paddock/section you want grazed to reduce fire risk over summer or just to keep tidy? Water supply required but I can supply electric fencing, troughs etc. Ph Penny 329 9073.  

**Hairdressing**  
Experienced hairdresser and Reiki practitioner working from home. If you have mobility problems, I can come to you. Ph 329 4224 or 021 152 3937  
or email indigo-barb@hotmail.com.  

**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 03 329 4249 or email mike@getmefit.co.nz.  

**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.  

**Baches to Let**  
Hanmer 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.  

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**Diamond Harbour**  
**Country Store and Café**  
Fresh vegetables and fruit at competitive prices on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.  
Free range eggs, rolls, muffins, pancakes, gourmet pies  
Vivace coffee and sandwiches toasted at the café  

**Winter Hours**  
Mon to Sat: 8.30am - 5.30pm  
Sunday: 9.30am - 5.30pm  
Phone/Fax 329 4854  
Internet facilities available  

**Diamond Harbour**  
**Country Store DVD Hire**  
Pop on down and check out our great new range of DVDs. We now have a new supplier.  

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