Join the Army and See the World!

While the original song referred to the navy, the words rang true for one career soldier, now retired to Diamond Harbour. Of course there were times of fear, sadness, and horror, but as 83 years-old Bill Johnson reflects on his time as an army engineer, it is his experiences of life and people in different cultures and environments which dominate his memories.

Born in Lancashire, England, Bill was barely a teenager when the threat of a second world war became a reality. He left school at 14 to work in the local ordnance factory, beginning with anti-aircraft shell rings and progressing to tank axles. In his limited spare time he joined a territorial unit of the Lancashire Fusiliers and during air raids often joined his WWI veteran father on fire-watching duties, which involved patrolling the area around their home alerting residents and helping them extinguish fires caused by the bombing. By the time he was old enough at 17 to join the regular army, the infamous German V1 doodlebugs were prevalent in the skies. Their distinctive put-putting sound – just like a two-stroke motor bike – caused everyone to pause and listen, fearfully awaiting the moment when silence signalled the flying bomb was diving down on a random target. Later came the even more lethal V2 rockets which flew silently and struck without warning. Bill remembers being on a London Underground train when a nearby station took a direct hit.

When the war finished, Bill continued his army association as a reservist, but the meagre payment of £4 per quarter was insufficient to support his wife Nina and their baby son. Thus it was while working as an agricultural machine fitter in Cumberland in 1952 that Bill spotted an advertisement for the New Zealand army. He applied and was accepted. With a grin of delight not at all dimmed by the passing of more than a quarter of a century.

The selection process was rigorous and included extensive investigation of his psychological ability to cope with the conditions. Then, after a month’s training in survival techniques at Mt Cook, he climbed aboard a Starlifter, with the other 10 members of the party, one October morning and flew to Antarctica only to find that bad weather prevented their landing and they had to return to Christchurch. Fortunately the weather was better on their second attempt, and the group began to settle in for their year in this very different and very basic environment. Bill’s job description was deceptively simple – to keep everything working – but Bill was well aware that everything meant all amenities for the necessities of life, all the vehicles and machinery and the array of scientific equipment. In addition to their specific duties, everyone was also on the house mouse roster. As well as the usual cleaning routines, housekeeping tasks included firing up the stove in the early hours of the morning, assisting the cook, regularly checking that all equipment was functioning as planned, and disposing of the contents of the honey buckets, known to lesser mortals as toilet containers.

Being summer, the Antarctic sun neither rose nor set, but circled continuously around above the horizon, and the meaning of time of the day was largely insignificant and little accessories such as clocks and watches were for a joy-ride across the ice at 3am were by no means unheard of. And, of course, in the winter that followed, there was continual darkness. For Bill, work was pretty much 24/7 as he was always on call for the inevitable emergency maintenance of equipment in the harsh environment.

Not only was he busy around Scott Base. He visited the South Pole, and the coldest place on Earth, the Russian base at Vostok, in the geographical centre of Antarctica some 9000 ft above sea level. At Cape Bird, in the area that would later become infamous for the Erabus crash, Bill, with two others, was to re-establish the camp. Their first task was to remove the ice which had partially filled the 4m square building. He worked on the generator for two days before finally starting it in the freezing conditions. Despite all the challenges, Bill thoroughly enjoyed life on the ice.

He returned to Burnham at the end of the year to reunite with Nina and then eventually retiring in 1978 after what he describes as a rewarding, interesting and enjoyable army career.

Elaine

Deadline for May issue: Wed, April 27.
Boxes at Diamond Harbour Post Centre and Church Bay Services are provided for subscriptions, pre-arranged payments, ad copy or news etc. up to 12 noon on day of deadline.
Email or delivered copy accepted until 5pm

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the RD1, RD2 and Diamond Harbour Postal Services in delivering the Herald each month.
When I saw Lyttelton, first off I just knew that it will be years until it is was rebuilt. Lovely old brick buildings that won’t be the same or won’t be there. The busy town was just not the same with one coffee stand selling coffees. Even walking down the main street, just seeing the gates saying Do not pass meant something. All the famous buildings that were there were going to fall down or be pulled down.

The Magnitude 6.3 quake at a depth of 5km right under the tunnel was affecting not just Lyttelton. Local businesses in the 3 story buildings or higher were the problem. Around 200 people have sadly died. The Sumner area has had rock slides with houses being evacuated or destroyed. Along with a large number of people evacuated, 70,000 have left to get out of the devastation and some are not coming back. It is amazing to see the whole of NZ helping out. I feel useless here - just writing when there is so much helping to do for our city where we were born and that we love so much. We were at school when it happened. Mum, Josh and me. Dad was holding Jamie at Nana and Granddad's.

**Just One of Those Days**

I felt disinclined to drive into the city, the sun was shining and my garden beckoned, I really felt like staying home. I felt disinclined to drive into the city, the sun was shining and my garden beckoned, I really felt like staying home. I felt disinclined to drive into the city, the sun was shining and my garden beckoned, I really felt like staying home. I felt disinclined to drive into the city, the sun was shining and my garden beckoned, I really felt like staying home. I felt disinclined to drive into the city, the sun was shining and my garden beckoned, I really felt like staying home. I felt disinclined to drive into the city, the sun was shining and my garden beckoned, I really felt like staying home.

There was a strange stillness as we meandered along the drive together, admiring the colourful gardens and the beautifully manicured grounds. I caught sight of a large red flowering plant.

The ground upon which we sat shuddered underneath. I felt strangely calm, surprised, incredulous at what was happening before my eyes. The silence was palpable.

We prayed loudly – different prayers – as the ground trembled beneath. I felt strangely calm, surprised, incredulous at what was happening before my eyes. The silence was palpable.

I stayed the night in the administration block of the retirement villa, where many of the residents watched the unfolding tragedy on the large screen TV, powered by a emergency generator. Communication with family was impossible. I tried to be useful, making cups of tea and comforting the frail and terrified – but to tell the truth, I was glad of the company. It was a long night.

The next morning, as I passed through the cordon, I felt a sense of loss and regret for those who had died, and also for my ruined city, Christchurch. It was so good to be back home, in Diamond Harbour.

Yafe Nolan

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**Quake-wake Website Update**

The Diamond Harbour Community Association website strives to provide local residents with up-to-date, accurate information about everything happening in the communities on the south-side of Lyttelton Harbour, including:

- Events (our electronic bulletin board)
- Community Services
- Clubs and Societies
- Businesses and Accommodation
- Transport and Attractions
- Future Developments and a Photo Gallery

Over time, circumstances change and information needs updating – particularly in the wake of the recent quake.

- Is your Accommodation still available?
- If it is temporarily unavailable we can note that – or remove your listing.
- Has your business closed, relocated, altered the services it offers, or contact details?
- Has your club or society cancelled an event or altered the venue? Have the contact people changed?

If you would like us to update your details (or add a new Club/Society, Business/Accommodation, or Event) please click on the email us link at the top or the relevant website page or phone Ron on 329 3032.

Remember: For the official DH Community Assc website type in the full address: [www.diamondharbour.info](http://www.diamondharbour.info). Make sure it ends with .info as there is a privately-owned website with a similar name.

Ron

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Looking Back On How We Coped

Don Cameron — Fire Chief
Diamond Harbour has an volunteer fire service. The Chief and Deputy have enormous powers under Act of Parliament to act in emergency situations. Only the police have greater powers. In a declared civil emergency, Civil Defence takes over the lead. The two local organisations worked like the merging of a zip in the recent emergency. For the last five years, Diamond Harbour has had a Fire Rescue Service as there is no local ambulance service. Our fire fighters are the first response for medical emergencies. On February 22 their first action was to go up and down all streets between Teddington and Camp Bay. This was to reassure people and locate urgent problems with roads and water.

Two shifts were established at the Fire Station to allow members to also look after their families.

Power was soon restored as there is now a loop system so that if we cannot get power from Islington we can get it from the Akaroa area.

There was 24 hour a day contact with the Coast Guard. Out of 75 incidents 50% related to water tank problems.

Two shifts were established at the Fire Station to allow members to also look after their families.

Introducing the Herald’s New Printer...

Don Cameron

John Barry — Head of Civil Defence
Our CD team on February 22 consisted of about 10 or so volunteers. Because civil emergencies are rare, we train knowing that our efforts may never be needed in our lifetimes. Well, thanks to last September’s wake-up call we had, in the interim, attracted sufficient new members to enable us to roster 3 teams on a daily basis.

After the September quake we decided that, with the Church’s kind permission, we would again operate out of the Church Hall, with its more visible presence to traffic and proximity to the Fire Station – whose assistance we rely on – plus the abundant facilities.

It is impossible to go through the whole history of events, but basically they fall into five categories: liaison, coordination, tasking, welfare, and information.

LIAISON: We liaised with our two local representatives, Claudia Reid and Paula Smith, the Fire Brigade, our Area Coordination Centre (Lyttelton), EOC (City), Navy, Army, Chorus, EQC, City Care, SARS, Red Cross, WINZ, NG, Radio NZ, Coastguard, Black Cat Ferry… and more.

COORDINATING: We married those needing emergency house repairs with local tradesmen; those wanting showers or laundry with those offering facilities; landlords of vacant houses with neighbours who could check and provide information, carpooling, information sharing, etc.

TASKING: We tasked the Fire Brigade with water provisioning and urgent repairs. Volunteers were put to work in the kitchen, as water tanker monitors and runners. The Rural Delivery distributed urgent notices.

WELFARE: Included arranging for a WINZ team to visit and assist with local needs, distributing donations of fresh fruit veggies, bread, and bottled water. Providing meals for those in need, and endless calming cups of tea.

INFORMATION: Collecting information from various agencies and, of course intelligence gathered from local folk. Most encouraging were the offers of assistance and of material resources that flowed in daily from local residents. This was collated into a Resource Folder which became a valuable and well-used tool. If someone needed a volunteer to mind children while they went shopping, help in tidying up after the quake, a lift to town, the use of a trailer – the folder provided assistance. Locals were also helpful in reporting damage to infrastructure.

The public information board at the Church was the main means of sharing information. When it needed to be distributed urgently there was the Neighbourhood Support network plus ringings trees of the many clubs and groups in the community. Other means of communication included Radio NZ, email, the Community Association website, www.diamondharbour.info plus our CD blog. We also held a community meeting to update residents.

So, how well did we do? For a half-trained, untested, bunch of volunteers, I thought we coped pretty well. Could we do better? Of course. But that was the best training we will ever get! At our Sector Post debriefing we identified many areas for improvement. Of course our job was made easier because of our village environment. You are all such a great bunch that we spent more time dealing with extraordinarily generous offers of help than with complaints!

One important lesson was that while useful, our Neighbourhood Support network needs to be further improved and updated. Despite the work done in the past year, there are still areas without a group leader, and group lists that are out-of-date or incomplete. If you would like to volunteer to be a NS group leader please contact John Barry (329 4545; jnbarry@xtra.co.nz) or Wendy Coles (329 4483; colesdhb@xtra.co.nz). John and Wendy would also be very happy to hear from anyone interested in joining DH Civil Defence.

John Barry

Diamond Harbour Herald - Established 1953 Page 3 No 144 April 2011
**What chance an Eruption?**

A question that several people have been asking me in recent days is whether the old volcano on which we live might become active again. Since there is some anxiety about this, it seemed that it might be a good idea to examine the possibility. The short answer is No! There was a time when volcanic action was widespread in the South Island, but it was all a long time ago. Burnt Hill and View Hill, both on the north side of the Waimakariri River, are the remnants of a wide flow of lava. Dashing Rocks at Timaru is the end of a massive lava flow which started somewhere near Mount Misery, overlooking the lower Pareora Gorge. Solander Island, in Foveaux Strait, is another remnant of an old volcano. Then we have Banks and Dunedin peninsulas sticking out on the east coast of the South Island, both formed by volcanic action.

The very solid hill mass that is Banks Peninsula is the remnant of two large volcanoes, one centred roughly at Lyttelton and the other at Akaroa. They were the same type as the Hawaiian volcanoes, and very different from the explosive volcanoes of the North Island. They were active between 5 and 15 million years ago. That means they are very, very extinct. Volcanoes of this type are usually island groups, and develop where the lava that feeds them is basaltic, derived from the rocks under the sea floor. Their eruptions are not usually violent, and they are built by successive lava flows which end in the sea, as is the case on the island of Hawaii at present.

The Hawaiian islands provide an excellent example of how these volcanoes work. Beginning with the build-up of lava flowing from a fissure or vent, or hot spot in the earth's crust, the volcano grows until it emerges from the sea, and carries on growing. However, as time passes it is carried away from its starting point, by the movement of the crustal plate on which it sits. A new volcano forms over the old hot spot. This process can continue for a long time, so that as in the case of the Hawaiian island chain we have a string of former volcanoes, more or less eroded, at one end, while at the other end Hawaii is still active.

In their long history, the Banks Peninsula volcanoes underwent many changes. The Lyttelton volcano developed first, but then the centre of activity shifted to Akaroa. The Lyttelton volcano became extinct, and was eroded by streams which opened out the centre and carved valleys in its flanks. Lyttelton Harbour is possibly the remnant of the caldera of the volcano. In its turn, the Akaroa volcano became extinct, but for some time smaller vents developed. One of these formed the Diamond Harbour flow - the long slope on which Waipapa and Whero Avenues stand - about five million years ago. By the time that flow took place, there was already a deep broad central lowland where Lyttelton Harbour is now located. It may well have been open to the sea, but I know of no evidence that demonstrates this.

Altogether, we on the Peninsula live on a pre-Holocene remnant of the caldera of the volcano. In its turn, the volcano became extinct, and was eroded by streams which opened out the centre and carved valleys in its flanks. Lyttelton Harbour is possibly the remnant of the caldera of the volcano. In its turn, the Akaroa volcano became extinct, but for some time smaller vents developed. One of these formed the Diamond Harbour flow - the long slope on which Waipapa and Whero Avenues stand - about five million years ago. By the time that flow took place, there was already a deep broad central lowland where Lyttelton Harbour is now located. It may well have been open to the sea, but I know of no evidence that demonstrates this.

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**Gaffers’ Gossip**

**The Big Quaker**

Once upon a time there were three little seismologists, called Wibbly, Wobbly, and Clunk, who lived with their mother in a yurt in Outer Mongolia. Like most youngsters they knew that they knew much more than she did and, feeling seismologically unchallenged, they decided one day to leave home and build their own houses. Proper ones. Oh my children, oh my children, their mother cried, Beware the Big Quaker. The one who gobbles up little seismologists...

Yeah, yeah, said Wibbly. Rave on, said Wobbly. Whatever, said Clunk.

I'm going to build a geodesic sphere, which will last a thousand years, said Wibbly, and the Big Quaker, who happened to be chewing on a chunk of magma nearby, just about split his tectonic plates when he thought what had happened to the last little malagolian who'd said that.

I'm going to build my house out of solid bricks, said Wobbly. You can't beat the good old bricks when it comes to solid building. I expect my house to last for two thousand years.

Dream on, said the Big Quaker, under his breath, which shook a few windows five hundred miles away. I'm going to build my house out of straw, said Clunk quietly and BOQ made careful note of the addresses before lippy-toeing away, causing land slides in Uzbekistan. So the three little seismologists set about building their houses and ten years later BOQ came a visiting. First he went to Wibbly’s geodesic sphere and he said, Little seismologist, little seismologist, let me come in.

Get lost, said Wibbly. So BOQ thrashed and he bashed and the house rolled down the hill and landed upside down in a muddy marsh. Wibbly decided that he would go to Wobbly’s house, which, of course, was next on BOQ’s agenda, where he went through the same old heave-rigmarole again.

Built out, said Wobbly, with predictable consequences, and the two little seismologists decided on alternative accommodation with Clunk. After listening to BOQ’s impassioned plea for hospitality, Clunk said, Listen rumble-tummy, let’s cut the crap. You and I both know that you can knock over my bales of straw and I’ll just keep replacing them. Doesn’t that seem a fairly pointless exercise to you? I’m sure you’ve got better things to do with your time.

And the Big Quaker, being a creature of natural law, could see that there was some sense in this so, after kicking a few bales around to show he wasn’t a wimp, he slid quietly back into the earth.

Just don’t try building a second story, he rumbled.  Tony

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**Amy Adams**

**MP for Selwyn**

Constituency clinics held regularly in Akaroa and Diamond Harbour.

If you would like to meet with me please phone my office on 03 344 0418 or email selwynoffice@parliament.govt.nz

To sign up to my newsletter visit www.amyadams.co.nz

A strong voice for our communities

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Jane Soons

*Gaffers’ Gossip*
Korimako love feasting on Karamu

Do you want more bellbirds in your autumn garden? Then plant karamu. Karamu are in the Coprosma genus, and New Zealand is Coprosma Central, with nearly half of all Coprosma species being endemic to the country. The genus ranges from small shrubs to little trees. In the large shrub/small tree category are C. robusta and C. lucida, both known as karamu (as is C. rhamnoides). These shrubs are easily mistaken for each other, as they all have glossy leaves in the same tone of green, and colourful orange-red berries in autumn.

Coprosma are (distantly) related to the coffee bush, and I have read of the early Pakeha settlers attempting to make drinkable coffee from coprosma berries – but I never read that anyone ever said it was any good. In the nineteenth century a variety of Maori medicinal uses for various species of coprosma were recorded (see New Zealand Medicinal Plants by S. Brooker, R. Cambie and R. Cooper). I was told about this myself in 1986 by a Tuhoe tohunga. He was pointing out the different medicinal parts of manono or papaumu (C. australis). I remember him emphasising that it was important to gather bark to be used medicinally from the north side of the trunk.

These days, the main reason anyone would want to give karamu a place in their garden is because it provides such wonderful food for bellbirds. It is a good shrub to plant for low shelter on garden boundaries, especially suitable for a northern boundary as it will not block the sun. It is evergreen, so provides good privacy all year – with the added bonus of happy chortling bellbirds in March and April.

Christine Dann

Colour photos of bellbirds and karamu berries can be viewed on Christine’s blog ecogardenernz.blogspot.com.

Love the Natives

Fit ‘n’ Well

Never look at what you have lost, look at what you have left. (Robert Schuller)

When was the last time you threw a Frisbee? Or climbed a tree? Or carried something heavy? There’s an age old saying: use it or lose it, and this may be why as we age things become harder, we just don’t do them any more. Aging is of course influenced by our years but the larger factor is our degree of activity. That’s great news because we get to decide how active we are. It’s time to focus on what you can do.

Our bodies are incredible; capable of so many different actions and movements and it is up to us to keep them moving in any way that they can. We spend much of our lives performing tasks with little physical movement and stuck in the same position, i.e. sitting for much of the day. Muscles begin to atrophy from lack of use, imbalances around joints are created, and optimal alignment is lost. In other words: stop throwing balls, climbing over fences, walking up hills and you may not be able to any more. Maybe it’s time to start doing a little more. Include things into our daily lives that are a little unusual. Enjoy some more challenging exercise in the outdoors, play catch with the children or grandchildren, walk up that hill, carry the groceries to the car rather then using a trolley.

Using what you have versus focusing on what you don’t, will make a big difference to what your body is capable of and how it feels in the years to come. This applies to life as well. In these challenging times perhaps it is time to remember what we still have and focus on that. We may have lost homes and businesses, but we still have much to smile about.

Mike
Wine speak

Lightning can appear to strike twice after all. Many of you have been personally affected by the devastating February quake and now our hearts go out to the millions affected similarly in Japan. This column staunchly remains as a diversion, or a semblance of what was normal if you like, and this month I’ve gone bargain hunting as money is surely tight. So as you contemplate where to now and endure the ever-drawn out rebuilding and restoration, quaff these gems to take your mind off things.

OK, so I’m not fully over Sauvignon Blanc - especially after trying the 2010 vintage from Pebble Row. I like this because it’s not in your face. Delicate and refreshing with lemongrass and passionfruit, it offers excellent buying at under $13 a bottle. Still available, is the 2009 Dashwood Pinot Gris. This creeps up on you with creamy pear apple then a spice kick. Elegant and beautifully textured it pairs well with Asian food, but bet you won’t find it for under $10 like I did!

Onto reds, and hands down best quaffing red I’ve had of late is the 2009 Stoneleigh Pinot Noir. OK it’s from Marlborough, and not Central Otago, but it slides down beautifully with cherry spice and a hint of earth with a dry finish and all for under $17. At under $12 on special I’ve found the 2009 Mission Estate Syrah. White pepper with cherry and blackberry and a nice herbal edge on the back. It’s designed for drink now in a soft, easy, gimme some more of that style.

Keep strong Diamond Harbour and continue fostering that wonderful community support and spirit which binds us all so well through these tough days ahead. Salute! The Godfather

Recipe

Quake Cake - Ginger Loaf

Tuesday lunchtime on that fateful day I prepared the dough for this great Ginger Loaf. I made enough for two cakes to take on a school camp the following day. They were in the oven 10 minutes, when the quake struck, the power went out, the kitchen pantry emptied itself (again) and all my cook books hit the floor – along with the bookshelf. The following day, when I finally re-entered the kitchen, I remembered the cakes in the oven – they were un-risen, and a most unappetising grey colour. Still, I decided to give them a chance and put them back into a hot oven for the rest of their allotted baking time... and what a surprise! Two perfect Ginger Loaves, which were much enjoyed during our three days tenting outside. They stayed fresh and tasted great.

This Dutch recipe appeared in the Akaroa Mail some years ago. I have altered the ingredients a little, since I love butter and maple syrup (which I used instead of golden syrup). Also, I did not have any ground clove spice at home, so you can make this cake with whatever spices you like. I used three heaped tbsp of ginger instead of one.

Ingredients

- 2 cups of flour
- ½ cup (or less) brown sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ cup maple syrup (or golden syrup)
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 3 (or less) heaped tbsp ground ginger
- 1 tbsp mixed spice
- pinch of ground cloves
- pinch of salt
- 50gm melted butter
- water as needed

Method

Mix all the ingredients carefully without stirring too much, and put it in greased cake tin.

Bake at 175°C for 60min.

Kept it in a tea towel and plastic bag it will stay moist for days.

Franziska
On Saturday March 12, Mark Walton, conducted a 40 piece wind orchestra before a capacity audience in the Diamond Harbour Church Hall. It was a welcome tonic to soothe shaken nerves and a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and share the joy of music and the company of friends and neighbours. The many children were enchanted, particularly with Mark’s newest creation, the narrated musical story of Benny the Beagle.

For Mark and the orchestra, it was a fitting climax to an eight day tour out of Christchurch. Over the previous six months Mark, and his wife, Jo, had assembled an ensemble of mainly Australian players who have experienced and enjoyed the challenge of working with Mark in a wide range of musical settings.

The original plan was for the orchestra to spend a few days in Christchurch rehearsing and playing with members of the Christchurch School of Music, followed by two concerts in Akaroa. But after the February 22 earthquake it was decided to extend the tour.

Using the Gaiety Hall as a base, four days were spent in rehearsal, culminating in a concert for students of the Akaroa school (including many on loan from Christchurch). The ensemble was joined by both adults and younger players from the Christchurch School of Music who relished the opportunity of coming together and engaging in their love of music - particularly in such uncertain times. All valued the friendships made and renewed, and the chance to support each other.

After Akaroa it was on to Lake Tekapo, where an intense morning rehearsal ended with another concert for the local school children (again with numbers enhanced by Christchurch emmigrees).

The next stop was Oxford for a shared concert with the Oxford Singers. Especially appreciated were the instrumental solos played by Mark. As musicians always aspiring to develop our skills, we listened in awe and with deep respect to Mark’s playing. We savoured his playfulness, and the sense of humour that he brings to both his verbal and musical presentations.

And then, to Diamond Harbour on Saturday, March 12. Originally we planned to play for the Diamond Harbour school earlier in the week, but as it was still closed, Mark decided to hold a rehearsal at Diamond Harbour to enable the ensemble members to enjoy the charms his and Jo’s new neighbourhood. During the rehearsal, word arrived that the concert planned for the Saturday in Christchurch had to be cancelled because of quake damage to the venue. Undaunted, the plan was hatched to replace it with a concert in Diamond Harbour.

In glorious fine weather, orchestra members explored the neighbourhood while dropping off notices in letterboxes. For the orchestra, the ensuing concert was a fitting highlight to round off a magic musical and social experience for all.

Richard Leemen

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Letters

Carole and Howard bid a fond farewell to Purau and Diamond Harbour. Many thanks to everyone who helped make our farewell do a success, it was much appreciated.
To all of you who came to the garage sale, many thanks – we raised $350 for the Medical Centre.
Regards, Howard Williams & Carole Donaldson

The Moons have moved too...
Margaret and Bruce Moon, long-time residents of Diamond Harbour, were both injured during the February 22 earthquake while having lunch in a little café opposite Spotlight in Sydenham.
Margaret suffered extensive bruising, a broken right arm, and a cut requiring 12 stitches around her left thumb. Bruce was placed in an induced coma for a period, after having a vertebra broken. They were both treated in Christchurch hospitals before being transferred by helicopter ambulance to Nelson Hospital. Margaret was moved first, followed a little later by Bruce.
Their home in Diamond Harbour had been on the market prior to the earthquake and they are now looking forward to setting up home in Nelson, close to family, in the cottage they had bought recently. Those of us who have got to know Margaret and Bruce over the years would like them to know they will be missed from our midst and to assure them of our very best wishes as they begin their new life in Nelson.
When invited to send a message through the Herald to friends in Diamond Harbour, Margaret responded with enthusiasm and her characteristic sense of humour...
Yes, indeed, I would love to send a message to our friends in Diamond Harbour.

Firstly, I must apologise on behalf of Bruce and myself that, due to unforeseen circumstances, we left the area so abruptly. And secondly, we want to thank everyone for their wonderful support over the past month.

Poets' corner

Well done, Islay
The annual Margaret Mahy children’s poetry competition was held recently, in which children from schools around the harbour basin were invited to participate. The winners were named at the Governors Bay Fete where Margaret Mahy read out the annual Margaret Mahy children’s poetry competition was held recently, in which children from schools around the harbour basin were invited to participate. The winners were named at the Governors Bay Fete where Margaret Mahy read out the winners.

Spirited Sun
Morning light bursts through the canopy, bouncing around the forest floor
Ink stain shadows slip across dead leaves, forced to retreat from blinding brightness
The light is like a man stretching his stiff limbs high above the treetops
Below him silhouettes are surrounded withdrawing backwards they flee from the enemy
The enemy is wise
He pursues them
Knowing they have nowhere to go
Bright rays penetrate the shadows’ strongholds, burning them to nothingness
He laughs, puts his hands on his hips
And cries for the world to hear
“I am the mighty sun god Te Ra, lord of the sky!”

The Rehab Ward at Nelson Public Hospital is excellent. I have now been released and am convalescing with our daughter in Nelson. Bruce, having arrived recently by ambulance helicopter, is now taking his turn in the ward. Clad in an iron splint while his broken vertebra is healing, he looks rather like a gladiator.
Next week I am starting him on some occupational therapy in the form of filling in change of address cards!
We hope, within the month, to be enjoying residency of our little cottage in the heart of Nelson and that life will have returned to some semblance of normality. This will coincide with us celebrating our 55th wedding anniversary on April 28.
Our new address is: Flat 1, 77D Halifax Street East, The Wood, Nelson 7010. Phone: 03 545 6090 or 027 855 5192.
And, of course, the kettle will always be on the boil when friends from Diamond Harbour come by!
Sent in by Ann Thornton

…and a Welsh Pommy has arrived

We moved to Diamond Harbour (4 Tau Crescent) in November and didn’t realise how important the love and kindness of strangers in a new community could be.
I wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the community of Diamond Harbour - in particular Wendy Coles. Like so many others I was in the central CBD on 22nd February while my husband Keith was at home here in Diamond Harbour.
I was traumatised, wet, muddy, and frightened and found myself at the Fire Station where I was comforted, wrapped in warm coats and given the best cup of tea of my life! I doubt very much that I was very coherent, but I do know that the volunteers from the Civil Defence, GP and others surrounded me with love and kindness.
Wendy Coles, in particular, deserves a medal... with patience and calm efficiency I was aware that there was someone in control and that made me feel safe.
I noted several days later that Wendy was still working hard for everyone in the community with no thought for herself.
Thank you also to the reception staff, nurse and Doctor ‘Charlie’ who showed true compassion; the counsellor who patiently sat with me for short periods over a 3 day period reassuring me; Peter and Lynnette Hughan for their constant good wishes and finally Rick and Aileen of the Purau Camp Site for the wonderful hot showers. Diamond Harbour I will never ever forget you or your kindness.
Dawn Jones (an eternally grateful Welsh Pommy)

Well Done to the local youngsters — and supportive parents who spent a morning recently baking lots of gingerbread cookies then braving the rain to distribute them to residents in Church Bay. The polite young man who came to my door said, We are doing it to cheer people up, and I am sure I am not the only one for whom it worked! Jan B

Need funds?
- Is your community group struggling for funds?
- Is your school or early education facility accessing necessary funds?
- Does your sports club need someone to apply for a grant?

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

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ANZAC Service Diamond Harbour Hall
April 25 at 11am
Service personnel who would like to participate in the parade pre-briefing are welcome at the Fire Station at 9.30am. Those wishing to march please assemble at the Diamond Harbour Store at 10.30am.

Woolfun Days at Bergli
The second Saturday of the month is Woolfun Day, for people to gather at Bergli in Teddington between 10am and 4pm to do wool crafts together. Next day is April 9th. For details contact Rowena on 329 9118 or 027 482 9410.

Solo Drama Evening at Bergli
Helen Moulder is performing Playing Miss Havisham at Bergli on April 9 at 7.30 pm. Cost $20 with all money going directly to the performer. If convenient please bring a supper plate. This is the first time we have hosted a dramatic performance at Bergli so we really want to make it a success. We feel the intimate atmosphere of our log house will make it a special evening and we hope to continue with musical evenings etc.
For details contact Rowena on 329 9118 or 027 482 9410.

Tai Chi and Qi Gong Classes
Tai Chi and Qi Gong classes have resumed at the Diamond Harbour Community Hall on Thursdays:
Qi Gong all levels 10.30-11.15am
Tai Chi Beginners 11.15-12.00noon
Advanced Yang    12.00-12.45pm
For further details contact Chris Rudin-Jones on 328 8414.

Diamond Harbour & Districts Historical Association
The next meeting is at 8pm on Tuesday April 12 in the Stage Room. Prof. Keith Woodford’s talk is entitled Reflections on Erebus 1979. All welcome. Jan Studholme

Calling all String Players
Younger and older, with medium skills (even rusty skills) to play together in a chamber orchestra. Shannon and I have been playing together for a year and would love you to join us on Wednesdays at 8pm in DH. For details please call Thomas Proctor on 329 4536.

Our Library is Open
Did you know our Library is now open again... and as good as ever! Come along and borrow something to read... books and magazines are free with your library card. Or perhaps you would prefer a DVD or a Talking Book to listen to? These are available at a small charge. We also have a free Internet service. Perhaps you would just like to come along for a chat. All welcome.

No possession can surpass, or even equal, a good library to the lover of books. JA Langford

Diamond Harbour Library Celebration
Our Library is open again!!! We are celebrating this on Saturday 2nd April at the Library from 11.30am.
Live music, cake, balloons and refreshments. Come along for a catch up and a chat.


Saturday 9th April 2011
Diamond Harbour Rugby Club Rooms
Doors open at 7pm
Show starts at 8.30pm
Cash bar operating.
Tickets available from Diamond Harbour School
Ph 329 4842
Numbers limited
Prizes and raffles...
A great night out...

Light supper included

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Church Notices

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

Easter Services in Diamond Harbour
Maundy Thursday: April 21 at 7:30pm
Good Friday: April 22 at 10am
Easter Sunday: April 24 at 10:30am - Easter Communion

Easter Services in Pt Levy
Good Friday: April 22 at 7pm - Easter Communion

Regular Services
Anglican - Methodist - Presbyterian:
Sunday 8am: Communion, 1st and 3rd Sundays only
Sunday 10:30am: Communion
Catholic Mass every Saturday at 6:30pm

Parish AGM Sunday April 10
Venue: Governor’s Bay Hotel. Lunch at 12:30pm $20 per person - 5 choices plus dessert and coffee or tea. AGM at 1.30pm after lunch. For catering purposes please contact the Parish Office 329 4476, Vivienne Jackson 329 9930, or Rose Eastwood 329 9166 by Thursday April 7.

Home Groups
Two groups meet 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 pre-schoolers are welcome. $3 for one child or $4 per family. Inquiries to the Parish office on 329 4790.
Rainbow Music is now being led by parents/caregivers on a roster basis. There is a single session commencing at 9:30am with morning tea at 10:15am when hospitality is offered by women of the church.
Rainbow Theme on April 15.

Bible Discussion Group
Wednesday afternoon fortnightly at the Diamond Harbour Church Hall. Contact Anne Boyd 329 4444.

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 329 4483 for dates and other information. April 5 & 19; May 3, 17 & 31; June 14 & 28.

City Shopping Van
The fortnightly shopping van to South City mall runs on:
April 6 & 20; May 4 & 18; June 1, 15 & 29
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
Please email contributions for the next issue to mt.herbertparish@xtra.co.nz.
You can read the current issue of the magazine at www.diamondharbour.info/church-notices.aspx.

A Message From the Vicar

The ends of the emotional spectrum seems to draw people together, don’t they? If it is not a huge sporting event or national celebration, it is a tragedy. In the case of Christchurch, the tragedy has affected every person in many different ways and yet in so many ways that are common to us all.

The many communities that make up the Mt. Herbert Parish have been affected at many levels, some with substantial damage, some with no property loss at all. However, the connection through our shared faith and fellowship has created an empathy that has been of great consolation to many people less fortunate than us. At Diamond Harbour we were able to provide the Church hall for the village to have a focal point to receive information and support from the Civil Defence, Fire Brigade, Social Services, the Church and each other.

This proved invaluable keeping people up to date, but also for enabling them to meet each other and have a coffee and a chat, sometimes for the first time. There seems to be connection happening in and around the village today that was begun around those tables in a hall full of people all sharing the same traumatic experience and they were able to support each other in a way they may not have recognized prior to February 22.

There is something very precious and wonderful when the community come together and worship as one. From the difficult situation in Governors Bay and the uncertainty of a worship space, on March 13th the family service relocated to outdoors at the local Village Fete, much to the appreciation of all those attending. The local primary school board have offered the church use of the school library as often and for as long as they would like it. Such a blessing.

Adversity is an uncomfortable time, and I am reminded that as “church” we are not here to be comfortable for ourselves but to be a comfort to all.

Russell Pickersgill-Brown, Vicar designate

Breakfast Goes Down Well

Under the watchful eye of Ruth and Anna a small, but obviously skilled group of males, took over the kitchen at St Andrew’s Church to prepare a delicious breakfast for the 70 ladies who attended the Woman’s Breakfast last month. The juice, cereal and fruit, eggs and tomatoes, toast and coffee or tea and fruit platters were presented on immaculately decorated tables and followed by an interesting insight into the adventures of Marion and Russell Lienert as volunteer aid workers in Kabul and Tajikistan.

Elaine

Streetlights - If you see streetlights out please ring Orion on 363 9898 so they know to fix them.

Roy Burford

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.

Diamond Harbour Herald - Established 1953 No 144 April Page 10
Please Note: Coppers’ Corner Correction

In February’s Herald we printed a letter from Sergeant Gary Manch of Lyttelton and Bays Police, in which the phone number given for non-urgent contact with Lyttelton Police (328 7900) was wrong!

Please note the correct number for non-urgent contact with Lyttelton Police is 378 0200

For urgent matters call 111

Church Bay Services Thank You

We would like to thank our customers for their understanding at our inability to supply goods during these troubled times. To those customers who brought supplies for us from town, a BIG thank you to you all. To all those who brought in bread, fruit, water, etc. to be given away to whoever needed them, thank you from the grateful recipients. To Civil Defence, the Fire Service personnel and everyone else who helped out in the emergency, THANK YOU! 

Elaine and Russell

Nature Burial Site in Sight

Good news at last for those interested in eco-friendly burial! On the morning of February 22 I was speaking with Russell Wedge, who has taken over from Christine Heremia in producing the CCC Draft Cemetery Master Plan. At that time he said that the plan is due to be released for public comment and submissions on May 16 this year. In view of what happened later in the day, that date may now, of course, be revised.

In the plan, not only is eco-burial being acknowledged as a legitimate form of burial but a suggested site is to be announced. Considerations in choosing a suitable site are good soil and drainage, plus proximity to the city and to an existing cemetery. With this in mind the Council has located a site in the northern part of the city. I mentioned to Russell a potentially suitable site in our local area of which he was unaware and that he will now investigate.

Closer to the time, Russell will confirm the likely draft plan release date, and its availability in local libraries.

In the meanwhile, for those new to the idea of natural (or eco) burial, its distinguishing features are that the body is:
- buried in a designated regenerating native forest, area
- at a depth of 1 metre (the optimal depth for decomposition to take place)
- covered with rich soil and planted over with a native tree as part of a landscape plan.

If you would like more information or to be added to my contact list of interested people, please contact me, Ann Thornton, on 329 4943 or thornton@snap.net.nz.

Footnote: Changes to and development of the Diamond Harbour Memorial Gardens are also included in the Draft Master Cemetery Plan. Those who made submissions relating to our cemetery under the Stoddart Point and Coastal Reserves Management Plan will need to resubmit when the Master Cemetery Plan becomes available.

Ann Thornton

Purau Produce Farmers Market

Purau Produce, is a member of the New Zealand Farmers Market Association. This is our sixth year of supplying the local community with quality local produce.

The group wishes to thank all those local residents who helped supply free produce during the weeks after the earthquake. It was heartening to see the closeness of the community with the market becoming a gathering place for sharing conversation and comforting words.

Elaine Ginders
What’s the Future for Stoddart’s Cottage?

The cottage came through the first quake in September last year relatively unscathed and we were attempting to carry on as before, particularly as this was to be the 150th birthday of the cottage.

However the February 22nd quake has changed the situation and there are now issues of considerable concern. The three chimneys have succumbed to internal crumbling which has affected the internal walls, and the cottage cannot be used for the time being. The trustees feel that the damage will be relatively easy to repair, although when that might happen is in the lap of the Council. We do, however, have long term concerns about the future of our cottage - not as a result of the recent earthquakes, but because of the lack of community support.

Our cottage garden is not as well cared for as in the past as we no longer have the necessary funds to employ a gardener. We are attempting to obtain funding from the council to cover at least a part of the cost of its upkeep, but this has been a slow process, which doubtless will be exacerbated by the quake. We feel that the cottage deserves a garden that truly complements its heritage status.

With Annie Baxter soon departing for Oamaru we will be down to five trustees – hardly a bare minimum. As a community we need to ask ourselves what kind of future we see for the cottage.

As a community area? As an art display area? Or a mixture of these functions? If we feel that the cottage is worth keeping and developing, then how do we go about it? Anyone who is prepared to help in any way, or to suggest ways that we might go forward is invited to contact me on 329 3135 or bryan.f@xtra.co.nz.

Bryan Fowler (Secretary Stoddart’s Cottage Trustees)

Diamond Harbour Community Association AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Diamond Harbour Community Association was held on March 21. The standing officers were re-elected: Adrian Te Patu (Chairman), Joy McLeod (Secretary), and Tony Dearsley (Treasurer). Colin McLeod, Richard Suggate, Karen Colyer, Dave Hammond, Dave Turner, and Nan Turner were also elected to the committee. In addition to General Business the meeting heard post-quake reports from John Barry and Don Cameron (see edited excerpts on page 3).

Chairman’s Report

The past twelve months have presented overwhelming challenges for our communities, our city, province, island, and nation. Since our last AGM we have sustained damages that have challenged the way we look at our relationships, our families, our neighbours, and indeed our own mortality. We have so far met these difficulties in a way that we always hope reflects our view of ourselves as New Zealanders.

Fortunately, we in the southern bays of the harbour sustained less damage than many others in Christchurch. Nevertheless, stress and tension exists as we each deal with the devastation in different ways. We have the advantage of living in communities that are able to isolate if necessary and are small enough for people to have a conspicuous connection with their fellow residents. In some ways, ours has been an unremarkable response as we just got on with it.

The Community Association has got on with linking locals as well as dealing with perennial and new issues. Items of note include: The increased readership and importance connection that the Herald provides. This is a vital link to and from the community and has become part of the glue in our area; also the community Website www.diamondharbour.info which has regular updates and presents an informed and insightful view of our communities to both local and fresh eyes; use of our hall has decreased in recent times but its maintenance requires a constant and close relationship with council staff.

We have, as a committee, been conspicuous in providing leadership and support on emergent issues such as submissions on Lyttelton Harbour waste-water management, the Coal Reclamation Stockyard, and Stoddart Point Reserve.

We are very fortunate to have strong and effective elected representation at city council and community board level; and we have a committee that without fuss, reliably gets on with tasks in a respectful, flexible, and effective manner. A recurrent issue for this committee is our thin and thinning ranks. I invite new and not so new folk to join us on the committee.

I am proud to be part of this association and offer warm thanks and appreciation to the outgoing committee and to Paula Smith (Community Board), and Claudia Reid (Council).

Adrian Te Patu

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**House to Let**
Fantastic 4 bedroom house. Warm and sunny with efficient log-burner on a large section. Lots of fruit trees and garden, chooks an option. Close to village. $310 per week. Available from Easter. Ph 03 762 6891.

**Baches to Let**

**Unit to Let**
Beachview Accommodation. Modern self-contained 1-2 bedroom unit in Church Bay. Fully furnished, private access. Available now for long or short term rental. Ph John Allen 329 4112 or 027 453 3307.

**To Give Away**
Yellow Kniphofia (red hot poker), Ready to collect from 32 James Drive (right of way) in buckets by green garage.

**Buchadale Firewood for Sale**
3m3 pine delivered (Purau to Gov Bay) $195. All proceeds from home. If you have mobility problems, I can come to 32 James Drive (right of way) in buckets by green garage.

**Free Lights**
Two modern green standard up-lights. Probably need new bulbs as not working. Ph 329 4119.

**Orton Bradley Firewood for Sale**
3m3 pine delivered (Purau to Gov Bay) $195. All proceeds to Park maintenance. Ph Ian 329 4730 or 027 242 9300

**Recovery Yoga**
Perfect remedy to shake off the quake. Mon 7pm Stage Room. Ph Adrian 329 3395 diamondyoga@slingshot.co.nz.

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

**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.

**Guitar Group**
Are you interested in joining an informal guitar group in the Diamond Harbour area? If so, phone Neville 329 4706.

**Community Association**
The Community Association red rubbish bin disappeared from the Community Hall area sometime after the earthquake. We pay $240 a year for rubbish collection and CCC is not responding to this sort of request just now. If you know of its whereabouts please ph Joy 329 4119.

**End of Year Tidying**
A light touch end of year tidying. A range of services, turn your place into a showplace. Ph Jim 328 8274 or 027 226 4548.

**Firewood**
Firewood a (red hot pokers). Ready to collect from firewood a. Ph 027 226 4548.

**For Sale**
New bulbs as not working. Ph 329 4119.

**Two modern green standard up-lights.**
Probably need new bulbs as not working. Ph 329 4119.

**Insight Meditation**
Tues, 6.30pm, 7A Whero Ave

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Tues, 6.30pm, 7A Whero Ave

**Men’s Probus**
Thu Apr 7, 10am, CB Golf Club

**Library Re-opening Celebration**
Sat Apr 2, 11.30am. See p9

**Quilting Group**
Fris, 1pm Community Hall

**Rugby Club**
Clubroom Bar open Fri & Sat from 5pm

**Shoppers Van**
Wed, Apr 6, 20; May 4, 18; Jun 1, 15, 29 (p10)

**String Players**
Weds, 8pm. Ph 329 4536, See p9

**Tai Chi**
Thurs 10.30, 11.15, 12.50, Com Hall.  See p9

**Tennis Club**
Wed 6.30pm, Sun 9.30am, Waipapa Courts

**Toy Library**
Sats 10am-11am, Community Hall

**Woolfun Day at Bergli**
Sat Apr 9, 10am, Bergli. See p9

**Writers’ Group**
Wed afternoon, Apr 20, Ph 329 4646

**Yoga Classes**
Mon, 7pm, Stage Room. Ph 329 3395

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