ANSWERING THE CALL

Taking care of other people is something of a passion for Bob Palmer. Not only has it been his hobby as well as his profession, but after his retirement he has taken on another full time job in a similar field. It could even be suggested that his passion might have influenced some of his important lifestyle decisions. His like-minded wife, Nicky, is of course renowned in our community as a district nurse and longstanding member of the Diamond Harbour Medical team.

Bob joined the New Zealand Police in 1973, serving in Auckland, Christchurch and Nelson before being posted to Lyttelton. He and Nicky bought their present Diamond Harbour home in 1981, soon after their marriage. It was a couple of years later when they needed assistance to remove a large tree from the property, that Charlie Dudley invited Bob to join the Diamond Harbour Volunteer Fire Brigade. Not surprisingly, Bob did not need much coaxing. One of the first fires he attended was the massive blaze at the Teddington Hotel. As the Diamond Harbour fire-engine raced towards the scene those on board could see the flames from the hill above Traffic Cop Bay. Despite some 13 engines attending, the wooden building was destroyed and only a concrete block toilet block remained.

Bob’s fire service was interrupted when he was posted to Timaru Police for a year, but he rejoined on his return and has served continuously since then. In the early days, the Diamond Harbour Brigade was regularly called to fires across the Port Hills in Cashmere and above Sumner and on occasions as far away as Bottle Lake Forest. These days, apart from members helping out in the city and Lyttelton following the earthquakes, the service is focused on the south side of the harbour between Governors Bay and Little River, both of which have their own volunteer brigades. A poignant incident for Bob occurred about 15 years ago when a local person suffered a massive heart attack and the local firemen in attendance were unable to save him. This spurred Bob to liaise with St John’s Ambulance Service in an effort to improve the training and equipment available to the Fire Brigade, and eventually led to his joining St John’s. The end result of this was that the Diamond Harbour Volunteer Fire Brigade, with Bob as its Training Officer, is one of only eight Canterbury units of the New Zealand Fire Service designated as a first response emergency unit. Although some members were initially diffident about the added responsibility entailed in medical emergencies, they have all worked hard to improve their skills and to assemble a range of vital equipment for the unit. Bob is quick to acknowledge too, the work of nurses like Nicky, the doctors and midwife who live in the community and who are always willing, as are many others, to go the extra mile to assist. With the additional benefits of the now more frequently used Air Rescue helicopters, lives have been saved and serious injuries minimised. Bob is justly proud of the fact that the professional paramedics who follow up, regularly commend the high standards achieved by the team.

Similarly the Diamond Harbour Volunteer Fire Brigade is justly proud of Bob, who has also been their Deputy Chief Fire Officer for the last ten years, and they all joined in honouring him at Show Weekend last month when he was presented with the Brigade’s Gold Star for twenty-five years continuous service. The celebrations kicked off on Friday evening with a soiree for friends and families at the fire station, which was also the venue for the barbeque on Saturday night at the Rugby Club was the formal presentation to Bob, attended by the mayor of Christchurch, officers of the United Fire Brigade Association and various dignitaries. Also in attendance were a large group of colleagues from the Brigade, Police and St John’s, friends, including members of the fishing and tramping groups with which are Bob’s other hobbies, and most importantly his entire family. The gathering also served as the Diamond Harbour Volunteer Fire Brigade’s Annual Awards Night. Presentations there included New Zealand Fire Brigade’s Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Les Hogbin and the Long Service and Good Conduct Bar to Barry Craw for fourteen and twenty-one years service respectively.

Beside his commitment to the Fire Service, Bob, now retired from the Police Force, is also a volunteer ambulance driver and has a full time position installing personal safety alarms for St John’s. He somehow still manages a bit of fishing and tramping, while making sure he always has time for his family, especially as Granddad.

Elaine
Although some of our most senior citizens would have grown up in a home without any sort of telephone, today the ability to communicate with the whole world from our living rooms – or with our cell phones from anywhere at all – is something we tend to take for granted. The value of a telephone in an emergency has been proven many times over in all sorts of situations, including, of course, our earthquakes. These events have also reminded us of the wisdom of keeping our cell phones charged, and of having at least one old style non-mains-powered landline phone on hand to keep communications open – unless, that is, you happen to live in Port Levy.

Firstly, there is no cell phone coverage there, and secondly, despite every household having at least one non-mains-powered telephone, the community’s entire landline phone connection is dependant on the electricity grid, backed up by batteries whose power supply lasts only up to four hours. We asked Telecom a week ago to tell us why this system was necessary for Port Levy, but we have not yet received their reply.

Meantime, the resilient Port Levy residents have taken steps to ensure continuous telephone services during prolonged power outages and, as from last month, they now have their own generator specifically to maintain the telephone service during extended power outages. Victoria Howden, Chairperson of the Port Levy Residents’ Association, says that residents are extremely grateful to the Godley House Snow Relief fund and the Rapaki Maori Women’s Welfare League for their funding of the generator, which means they can be confident of access to emergency services and to the wider community at all times.

The handing over of the Port Levy generator also marked the final chapter for the Godley House Snow Relief Trust. Chairman, Gordon Edwards announced that the Trust will now be wound up as all its funds have now been distributed in accordance with its rules, within our wider community.

Call Port Levy - Anytime——

Sara Coop, Secretary/Treasurer of Port Levy Residents Association
Gordon Edwards, and Victoria Howden with the new generator

Victoria Howden, Chairperson of the Port Levy Residents’ Association, says that residents are extremely grateful to the Godley House Snow Relief fund and the Rapaki Maori Women’s Welfare League for their funding of the generator, which means they can be confident of access to emergency services and to the wider community at all times.
A Tidal Pool for DH?

In 1998/9 a small group, of which I was a member, thought that it would be fun to have a Diamond Harbour Millennial Project. We canvassed the community for ideas with a foot-path from the jetty to the Diamond Harbour beach emerging as one of the favourites.

Examination of the terrain at first suggested that this would be impracticable but the idea of a walkway on top of a stone wall that would double as the bund of a tidally-flushed swimming pool evolved and got a lot of support. I was delegated to investigate the idea. The scheme itself is technically feasible with sluice gates in the wall providing the tidal access for flushing the pool. The difficulties arose when we looked at the costs. First there would be a requirement for an Environmental Impact Report – the Geography Dept at Canterbury University expressed a willingness to do this – for a price. Then there are the RMA processes to get approval. We ended up with a guesstimate of costs in the region of $200,000 and as we had no access to that sort of money, the idea was dropped.

Very recently a parent with a boy at the DH School approached me to learn about that project as the DH School pool is presently closed due to earthquake damage [the school advises that its future is uncertain - Ed]. She was familiar with the popular Motueka tidal pool while many Herald readers will know of other, well-used tidal pools in Sydney and elsewhere. The costs will not have gone down and money like that is very unlikely to be given priority in the earthquake aftermath. However, think what an attraction it would be to bring visitors by ferry to this side of the Harbour as well as an amenity for school children and other residents, including the mid-winter swimmers.

Something to consider and plan for in the long term?

Footnote: We never did get a specific Millennial Project, even though the Banks Peninsula DC met the cost of an architectural concept plan for a stand-alone Library. Still, thanks largely to the energy of Mary and Paul Stapylton-Smith and a team of volunteers, the Library did get a major makeover.

John Riminton
Progress on updating group lists has slowed somewhat, but I am still hoping that the task can be completed before Christmas. Those group leaders who have not yet returned their lists—originally requested by June 30—are urged to do so as soon as possible. While it can be difficult to contact owners of holiday homes and newly purchased properties, missing details, and any other changes can be updated at any time in the future and new lists will be issued to all group members whenever there are significant changes. Any leaders who need assistance in collecting information or who are for any reason unable to continue in their leadership role should also contact me so that suitable arrangements can be made.

From the new year onward, I plan to remind leaders annually of the need to check information, but will not be following up these so vigorously as ultimately the effectiveness of Neighbourhood Support must lie with members of the community. Ideally, every household will always have a group list which is not more than 12 months old. Individuals should initially contact their group leader if the list is out of date, but everyone can update or add their own information on the database at any time by contacting me and the updates will be forwarded to the leader, and new lists will be issued to all group members whenever there are significant changes.

Efficient Neighbourhood Support requires just a little effort from each household, but it can work only if we all participate.

Meantime, take a moment to wish your neighbours a Merry Christmas, and to advise them if you are going away for more than one night, or if other people will be using your house. For information on how to keep your home safe while it is empty, go to www.ns.org.nz/index.html/Factsheets/Factsheets contact me on 329 4512 or email dhnshq@gmail.com for a copy of the factsheet.

Have a safe and happy festive season, everyone.

Elaine

**Beauty and the Beast?**

Adrian Te Patu, chairman of the Diamond Harbour Community Association emceed a spirited meeting with the three candidates standing in the Selwyn electorate in the community hall on November 17.

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**Have Your Say**

Diamond Harbour residents should all have recently received a summary of the draft Lyttelton Master Plan. The full draft document is available online at www.ccc.govt.nz/haveyoursay or may be read locally at the Diamond Harbour library or the Diamond Harbour Country Store in the village. Submissions may be submitted online (at the above website) or in writing until 5pm December 19.

The draft plan seems somewhat vague about two of the most contentious issues raised at the public meeting in Lyttelton on October 17. These are the relocation of heavy traffic from Norwich Quay and giving the public access to the inner harbour.

The draft plan appears to be attempting to satisfy the desire for public access by proposing development at Naval Point, rather than the inner harbour. This may ring alarm bells for Diamond Harbour residents who have been campaigning to keep the ferry terminal at its present convenient inner harbour location – rather than having it moved westwards towards Naval Point. No mention is made of the ferry terminal in the draft plan. So, if you want to keep the terminal in its present location... now is the time to Have Your Say.

Ron

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Starting New Year’s Day 12-3pm
As some of you may know, a group of local folk is starting to come together (all are welcome!) who have an interest in supporting the post-earthquake recovery of our community. The group has been established as a sub-committee of the Diamond Harbour Community Association and is known as SPRIG (Stoddart Point Regeneration Ideas Group).
While we await deconstruction developments at the Godley House site, SPRIG thought it might be good to get a little more happening here in Diamond Harbour, and to that end is proposing Sunday afternoon live music on Summer weekends.
We hope to start the series off on Sunday 1st January from 12-3pm. Then if there’s sufficient interest and support, the rest of the Sundays through January.
We’re still very much in the planning stage right now, and there’s much to do. So if you have any ideas, suggestions, objections or would like to help us with this exciting project please get in touch with SPRIG asap – we can be contacted via Fiona O’Neill on 329 4581 or 021 033 7157, or email fiona_k4@hotmail.com. Also, www.sprig.org.nz will be up and running on December 1.
Exactly where the bands will be sited is a little up for grabs at this point, but watch out for notices and check at www.diamondharbour.info as the time draws nearer – and come and join us for chilled out, lazy summer Sundays (almost) like they used to be!
Lou Warren

What’s Changed?
Oliver Hunter, a notable Diamond Harbour resident early last century, recorded this impression of an impending national election in his poem At the Rainbow’s End.
Again, on the eve of Election,
From North Cape to Bluff will abound
With candidates staking selection
On gesticulation and sound.
Again, in the battle unstrong,
‘Neath smoke-screens of red, green and blue,
Will be heard battle cries that were hoary
When Adam’s green rompers were new.

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WINE SPEAK

Festive Season Dozen (plus!)

Welcome to the Festive Season Dozen (plus!) for 2011. It was hard to whittle down this list but I’ve gone more for current availability than those often hard to find gems. Everything in the main list is around $20 or less, while most in brackets are over $25 for those of you with money to burn or looking to impress!

I haven’t had enough bubbles or stickies to warrant inclusion this year so it’s strictly wine, but I can recommend the NV Chandon Brut, 2006 Seppelts Original Sparkling Shiraz and Pegasus Bay Aria as safe bets.

Best value wines
2010 Stoneleigh Riesling
(2009 Ata Rangi Petrie Chardonnay)
2010 Mission Estate Hawke’s Bay Syrah
(2009 Villa Maria Cellar Selection Syrah)

Whites
2011 Two Rivers Convergence Sauvignon Blanc (2011 Villa Maria Reserve Wairau Valley Sauvignon Blanc)
2010 Hunter’s Riesling
(2009 Pegasus Bay Bel Canto Dry Riesling)
2011 Vavasour Pinot Gris
(2010 Church Road Reserve Viognier)
2010 Mission Reserve Chardonnay
(2009 Ata Rangi Craighall Chardonnay)

Reds
2010 Akarua Rua Pinot Noir (2010 Akarua Pinot Noir)
2009 Te Mata Awatea (2008 Trinity Hill The Gimblett)
2009 Yalumba The Scribbler
(2009 Wynns Coonawarra Estate Cabernet Sauvignon)
2009 Coopers Creek Chalk Ridge Syrah
(2008 Church Road Reserve Syrah)
2009 Saltram Pepperjack Shiraz
(2008 Domaine Chandon Shiraz)

Take care over the festive season, and season’s greetings to you and yours over the holiday period.

Buon natale e felice anno nuovo!

The Godfather

RECIPE

Christmas Dessert

For this year’s Christmas Special I was asked for a yummy, spicy sweet dessert which can be prepared beforehand and impress everyone... and their taste-buds!
It contains my favourite ingredient, ground almonds, which makes any cake moist and tasty. I found it in an old cake and pastry cooking book - it never fails to get comments from guests!

Dutch Chocolate Cake with filling

Ingredients
180g butter - softened
8 eggs, yolks separated from whites (stiffly beaten)
120g bitter chocolate, in chunks
2 tbsp Cointreau or Grand Marnier
2 tsp ground cinnamon
1 pinch (or more) chilli powder
1 lemon - rind grated, juice strained
250g ground blanched almonds

Filling
350ml milk
80g sugar
3 egg yolks
50g cocoa powder
45g butter, cut into small pieces

Chocolate glaze
90g dark chocolate
175g sugar
125ml water

Method
Beat butter, sugar and egg yolks in blender for 20 mins or until foamy.
Melt the chocolate with the liqueur (or water), allow to cool slightly and spoon into the butter/egg mixture.
Mix well and add spices, lemon rind and juice and almonds carefully.
Fold in the stiffly beaten egg whites.
Fill it into buttered cake/baking tin (round is best) and bake it in a preheated oven (180˚C) for about 1 hour or until the edges shrink slightly from the sides of the tin and a skewer inserted comes out clean.
Leave the cake to cool and cut it into three horizontal rounds. (Best done with a cotton thread pulled through the cake)

Filling: Put the milk, sugar, egg yolks and cocoa powder and butter in a double saucepan or in a bowl standing in a saucepan of water, and stir until you have a thick cream.
Spread it between the three layers of cake and put one layer on top of the other.

Glaze: Melt the chocolate in a bowl set over a pan of hot water. In a small saucepan, boil the sugar and water together, until the syrup reaches the soft ball stage. Cool slightly, then stir the syrup into the chocolate. When the glaze is still warm, but beginning to thicken, spread it on top and sides of the cake. (I prefer this cake with just icing sugar decoration and no glazing.)
Leave it for one day in the fridge before cutting. It gets better the older it is. You can also freeze the cake, without the filling.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year... with loads of good food on your table.

Franziska
Living Well

Thriving in the Festive Season
Christmas is coming - an enjoyable time of year, but also busy, and sometimes stressful. Finances, juggling extra commitments, and the added pressures of children at home can all create a bit of stress at this time of year. Here are a few tips to help minimise stress and increase your enjoyment this Christmas.

Firstly, it is important to keep finances in check as you go about your Christmas shopping so as to avoid a big credit card bill in the New Year. Decide on an overall budget and the maximum you’ll spend on each person, then stick to it. If finances are tight – get creative. Home baking and homemade cards always go down a treat and cost very little to create. Framed photos or photo collages made on the computer also make great, inexpensive, personalised gifts. Also, consider your skills and talents – what are you great at doing and how can you turn that into gifts for people?

With regard to all those extra commitments, being organised really helps. For Christmas shopping, make a list of people you need to buy for, then brainstorm gift ideas for each person, so that when you arrive at the shops you already know where you’re headed. This will save you time, and stop you wandering aimlessly around malls wondering what on earth you’re going to get. Plan ahead, and wherever possible, combine jobs to do on outings so you are achieving more in each trip.

For Christmas Day itself, it is sometimes challenging to juggle visits with friends and relatives, and you can end up racing from one place to another, finding yourself exhausted at the end of the day. If this is how your Christmas is usually spent, it is a good idea to set some time reminders, for example, We’ll be leaving in 10 minutes so please gather up your toys and say goodbye to everyone.

Finally, draw on previous successful experiences. What has worked well for you in the past? Remember times in the past where you were able to deal with situations well and draw strength from those experiences.

Christmas comes only once a year. However you choose to spend it, remember, it’s a time for rejoicing and enjoying your friends and family. It’s a time to be grateful for all that’s good in your life. Have a wonderful festive season and all the best!

Robyn Woodham

Positive Prospects for Natural Burial Site for Christchurch
After all the devastation and distress of the past year, nature has finally relented and rewarded us with a glorious display of spring blossom. One of the most spectacular displays in our garden has been a luxuriant and prolonged flowering of our native clematis paniculata. A recent conversation with the two Christchurch City Council staff members responsible for formulating the Draft Cemetery Plan and the Cemeteries Terms and Conditions Handbook has encouraged me to imagine a time when native clematis will drape the branches of trees in a regenerating native forest resulting from the development of a natural or eco burial site within the Christchurch area.

The Council staff members were able to assure me that the Master Plan will acknowledge a commitment to providing such a site, that a possible parcel of land is under negotiation and that the Draft Plan and Handbook will be submitted to the Council early next year. Following Council approval of these draft documents they will then be released for public comment and submissions.

Meanwhile a number of Councils nationwide are moving with the times and have either established, or are in the process of establishing, natural burial sites. Some of these are doing so in consultation and/or partnership with Natural Burials New Zealand. In this category an update from Mark Blackburn, founder of that organisation, mentions Makara Cemetery which opened in 2008; consultation regarding New Plymouth Natural Cemetery, which opened this year; consultations regarding Taita and Palmeston North Natural Cemeteries – both will open 2012; and supplying data to Marlborough Council. For those hearing about natural burial for the first time, the aim of this type of burial is to create a regenerating native forest. To achieve this goal bodies are buried unembalmed, in a biodegradable shroud or coffin, in good soil at a depth of one metre to encourage rapid decomposition and eventually overplanted with a native tree in accordance with an appropriate landscape plan.

If you would like to be added to the list of those interested in natural burial please contact Tui Scott: 027 657 4483.

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A Good Email Address
You may be surprised to learn that some email addresses are better than others.

To connect to the internet you need an Internet Service Provider (ISP) such as Xtra, TelstraClear, Slingshot, Snap etc. When you sign up with them, the ISP provides a free email address (eg mary.smith@xtra.co.nz or fred.dagg@snap.net.nz). The problem with using this ISP-provided email address is that it locks you in to the ISP - which is good for them, but bad for you!

Some ISPs do not have national coverage so if you move, you may need to switch to a different ISP, for whatever reason, will be a big problem.

Let's say Fred heads north (where Snap do not operate) and signs up with Xtra. He gets a new email address – fred.dagg@xtra.co.nz – and sends it to all his friends, relations, banks, agencies, EQC, insurance and other companies, and everyone else he can think of who has his old Snap address.

Unfortunately, there are many he will miss; plus when some has informed type fred.dagg into an email to him, they may not notice that their auto-complete function inserts the old Snap address it has stored.

Despite Fred's best efforts, many emails will continue to be sent to his old Snap address – for months and even years. What will happen to them? Nothing, because when he closed his account with them, Snap removed Fred's old address – unless he chose the expensive option of paying to keep his old account open.

To avoid a situation like this, get yourself a free ISP-independent email address from GMail, Hotmail or Yahoo (eg fred.dagg@gmail.com). Unless you use Webmail, you will need to add it to your Email program (Outlook, Windows Mail, Windows Live Mail, Thunderbird, etc.) so that it downloads messages for your new email address as well as the old one.

It's a good idea to email your new address to everyone you can think of. You can also include the new address as part of your signature that is automatically inserted at the bottom of every message you send, with a request to use it instead of the old one. If your ISP supports it, set up an automatic reply so that every time a message arrives at your old address, a reply is sent advising the sender of your new address.

Once you have an ISP-independent email address, you will never need to change your address again. When messages stop arriving at the old address, you will be able to safely switch ISPs without losing emails.  Ron

Human-Animal Bond
Last night I had the sad task of putting my own cat to sleep. While I rarely get emotional when doing this for others, it's a different story when your own pet is involved. So in memory of Jade, whom we adopted when we first moved to New Zealand, I'd like to celebrate the human-animal bond, and look at some of the many ways in which animals enrich our lives.

We read in Genesis that Adam was shown all the different animals, but that no suitable helper was found for him, until God created Eve. So while not wanting (or daring!) to detract from this most important bond, we can nevertheless derive a huge amount of enjoyment, support and companionship from our pets, and even to a lesser extent our livestock.

My family has just become the proud owners of 4 goats (although 2 are only temporary - they need a home!) and we have been amazed at how affectionate they are, and how much they seem to enjoy human company.

Dogs are always happy to see us, and are just the tonic at the end of a hard day. They can't talk back, and demand little. Pets are an excellent way of teaching children responsibility, and have many health benefits by stimulating our immune systems and decreasing our susceptibility to allergies. Walking dogs keeps us and them fit, and helps combat depression by getting us out and about. You are also more likely to meet other people when walking a dog, as they serve as a focal point to facilitate conversation.

Institutions such as old age homes, prisons and even hospitals have long recognised the benefit of having animals around - they improve people's quality of life both physically and psychologically. They also, as any pet owner knows, make great companions, especially to those who are lonely and can even serve as substitutes for children for those who are childless or whose children have left home - that is if they didn't already leave their pets with Mum and Dad while they head off to see the world!

Getting back to Jade. I’ll never forget and will always miss being walked on in the morning before getting out of bed, her loud greeting meows, and how she’d pop out of the bushes to say hello, often unexpectedly. She loved ice cream, and would often lick our empty bowls if she could get to them. Although Jade, and most of our pets don’t live as long as we do, they bring a lot of happiness to us during the short period our lives connect. Any home with animals is a richer place!

Paul

Diamond Harbour Herald - Established 1953               Page 8                                           No 152 December 2011
**Love the Natives**

**Rauhuia – the other New Zealand flax**

For most people New Zealand flax means the magnificent harakeke, or *Phormium tenax*.

This is indeed a wonderful plant, both dramatically beautiful and extremely useful. Its fibre can be used to make rope and sails, as well as clothing, bags and other useful items. It was therefore of potential interest to those who financed Captain James Cook’s exploratory voyages of the southern oceans, because home-grown British supplies of linen flax for these purposes were insufficient by the late eighteenth century, and substitute fibres were being sought.

Cook saw that Maori had many uses for harakeke, and reported back that there was good flax to be had in New Zealand. The first people who actually came looking for flax, though, could not find anything they recognised as linen flax, *Linum usitatissimum*. (This European plant also produces linseed, a source of valuable oils.)

Yet New Zealand does have its own endemic member of the Linum genus, *L. monogynum*, or rauhuia. It is a neat little plant with a pure white flower, which blooms in November and December. It can grow in inhospitable sites, such as dry banks and clif-f-sides near the sea. It can even cope with introduced grasses, which are normally death to indigenous plants.

Its sky-blue European cousin, *L. perenne*, is the flax most often grown as a border plant in New Zealand gardens. It is well worth giving space, both for its colour and for the way that the whole plant sways gracefully in the wind. But rauhuia also deserves a place in the flower border. This is recognised in the UK, where the BBC gardening website can tell you more about the plant and growing it than any New Zealand site I have seen. Rauhuia is not a long-lived plant, but it is easy to grow from seed and keep replenishing that way. I had very good germination recently from two year old seed which I collected from plants growing on roadside banks on the Purau-Port Levy road, and one of the plants I grew this way makes a perfect plant to cover the feet of a pink rose bush.


Christine Dann

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**BEACH WATCH**

**Recreational Water Quality**

The ECAN status indicates whether locations are generally suitable for swimming, based on risk of faecal contamination.

**Current Status of local beaches (as at November 27)**

- Charteris Bay: Good
- Purau: Good
- Church Bay: Good
- Pt Levy: Good
- Diamond Harbour: Good

Latest updates on the status of local beaches can be found on the DH website, www.diamondharbour.info. Look for the Recreational Water Status box on the right side of the home page.

**Harbour and Beach Status**

The report on the results of testing carried out in August by Cawthron marine scientists has now been released and is available for download from the Reclamation page on the LPC website www.lpc.co.nz.

Water samples, marine sediment in the vicinity of the reclamation and shellfish tissue were tested for a range of heavy metals including mercury, arsenic, chromium, copper, lead and zinc. Concentrations of these metals were measured against trigger values listed by ANZECC (2000) for the protection of 95% of species, which is recommended for slightly to moderately disturbed systems, a category considered appropriate for Lyttelton Harbour. There is no explanation for why this was considered more appropriate than the more stringent ANZECC (2000) category which is for the protection of 99% of species.

None of the heavy metals tested exceeded the trigger levels although, for a single sample, this criterion was exceeded for mercury concentration. All metals were also within benchmark ranges established for the harbour prior to the commencement of reclamation activities. Treated timber incorporated in the rubble fill material was considered unlikely to add any significant source of contamination relative to the existing treated wood structures at the port and inputs of copper from vessel anti-fouling coatings.

While the report concludes that contamination of the Harbour environment from the reclamation is not occurring at detectable levels, it includes the caveat that testing was relatively limited in nature, both temporally and spatially – the test results apply to a single day in August 2011 when the area reclaimed was still a fraction of what will be its eventual size.

Given the heterogeneous nature of the rubble coming from the CBD, there are no guarantees that its composition will be consistent over time So while these results are reassuring, it is essential that testing is repeated on a regular basis.

Meanwhile, rubbish continues to escape from the reclamation site into the harbour. ECAN have released details of further damage sustained to the boom from sea surges in mid November. The boom is again being strengthened and LPC crews are cleaning up the resultant mess from the beaches.

It would appear that we are not the only ones who are suffering. The reclamation debris floating in the harbour is eventually being washed out to sea, where the currents take some of it to other beaches. A resident of South New Brighton reports picking up two shopping bags of demolition junk daily from their beach.

Anyone encountering debris in the harbour should report it to the LPC on 328 8198. A web album of rubbish that has washed up on local beaches may be viewed at: picasaweb.google.com/DHHerald.

Ron
Our Library

Photocopying
The Library has a brand new impressive photocopier which can print in colour! It can also scan documents, fax, and print in an A3 size. An A4 black and white copy is 20c and colour is $2.

Jigsaw Swap
We have recently set up a jigsaw swap at the Library. If you like doing jigsaw puzzles just bring in one of yours and swap it for one of ours.

Pre-School Storytime
This month’s Storytime, on Tuesday December 20 at 2pm, will have a special Christmas theme. January Storytime will be on Tuesday January 17 at 2pm. All welcome.

On behalf of the Diamond Harbour Library staff I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Remember us if you need some holiday reading or a DVD to watch. Christine Rochford

Diamond Harbour Rugby Football Club
INVITES MEMBERS TO JOIN US
AT
2.00pm SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER
FOR
FAMILY TOUCH RUGBY
FOLLOWED BY
CHRISTMAS BBQ (OUR TREAT)

Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS HOURS
FRIDAY 23RD DECEMBER – from 5pm
SATURDAY 24TH DECEMBER – Closed
FRIDAY 30TH DECEMBER – from 5pm
SATURDAY 31ST DECEMBER – Closed

Touch Rugby
Fridays
at Diamond Harbour Domain

Preschoolers and those new to touch rugby: 4-5pm
Older kids and adults: 5.30-7.30pm
Relaxed, social fitness for the whole family, so rock up, join a team and have a few laughs.

Summer Golf at Charteris Bay

Charteris Bay Golf Club is a small friendly Country Club catering for golfers of all capabilities and is presently looking for new members.

Our Summer membership of only $150 allows unlimited golf until the end of February.

The Men’s section of the club is offering an opportunity for potential new members who wish to learn the game of an introduction with some basic lessons to help them get started. These will take place on Saturdays at 10am if there is sufficient interest.

Please contact Mark Bohan 027 291 3831 or 329 9208; or John Gimblett 329 4853.

The club also welcomes green fee players and during the summer they can play at all times including Saturday afternoons when there is a club match. If a green fee player wishes to join in a Saturday game with the members they are welcome to do so providing they are at the club before 12 noon.

The course is situated at Orton Bradley Park and offers outstanding views, great facilities, friendly atmosphere and good fun.

Further information may be viewed on our website www.charterisbay.co.nz.

A Musical Evening with

Mark Walton and Friends
Saturday December 3rd at 7pm
St Augustine’s Church
Cracroft Terrace, Cashmere

Fundraiser Concert for the Christchurch School of Music Support Trust
Music for everyone to enjoy
Tickets at the door $15
Concession $10, Children $5, Family $35

How Did That Happen?

Mark Walton tells of his unique musical journey
Give a friend a good read for Christmas
and support Mark’s old music school
All proceeds go to the CSM Support Trust
$29.95 available from 329 4555

Mark Bohan
Church Notices

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

Regular Services
Anglican - Methodist - Presbyterian:
Sunday 10:30am Communion.
Wednesday 9am Communion and Healing Service.
Catholic Mass every Saturday at 6:30pm.

Christmas Services
24th Dec (Christmas Eve) 11:30pm
25th Dec (Christmas Day) 9:30am (note time)

Christmas Services at St Pauls in Pt Levy
24th Dec (Christmas Eve) 7pm

Wednesday @ 9
Wednesday mornings 9-9:30am
This new service is relaxed and reflective. A great place to drop into after the kids are at school or for you have had your morning walk.

We would love to see you and offer a time of friendly fellowship and a mid-week breathing space.

Sunday School
Primary School age children welcome.
Sunday 10.30am till 11.30am.

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.

Rainbow Music is now being led by parents/caretakers 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.

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

Home Groups
Two home groups meet at 7:30pm on alternate Mondays:
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).

Baby and Toddler Group
A baby and toddler 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 36 months. Please ring, Wendy Coles 329 4483 (Babies), Kate Leech 329 4924 (Toddlers)

Dec 13 - End of year picnic, 10am at Orton Bradley Park
Jan 24; Feb 7 & 21; Mar 6 & 20

City Shopping Van
The fortnightly shopping van to Barrington Mall will be running on:
Dec 14 & 28; Jan 11 & 25; Feb 8 & 22

The van does pick-ups from home around 9am and drops people back home around 1:30pm. A contribution towards fuel of $10 per shopping day is expected. To book an occasional or regular ride 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 goings. 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 and back copies at www.diamondharbour.info/church-notices.aspx.

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Ph.3669 386 Fax.3660 565 Email: a1carriers@xtra.co.nz

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We now have a new supplier.

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Therapies provided: Acupuncture
Cupping Therapy
Massage Therapy
Acupoint

Michelle Crawford
Dip. Acupuncture NZCCM
Reg. Member NZRA
AACC Treatment Provider

Phone 329 4018
Mobile 027 339 0731

Diamond Harbour Herald - Established 1953 Page 11 No 152 December 2011
Community Notices

Tai Chi Group farewells Chris Rudin-Jones
At the end of October the group members were very sorry to farewell our tutor, Chris Rudin-Jones. We blame the ‘quakes, as Chris and her husband lost their home above No 1 London Street in Lyttelton and they have moved south to be closer to family.
But we are still active and have been pleased to accept guidance from Peter Fischer and his wife Michiko Kurimoto. Peter is a keen exponent of various forms of Tai Chi, and has already introduced us to some new movements. Paddy Smart

Tai Chi Group welcomes new members
The Diamond Harbour Tai Chi group meets every Thursday morning at 11am at the Community Hall. We start with Chi Gong exercise, then a modified form of Sun style for health, flexibility and relaxation. From 12.15 pm we practice traditional Yang style for advanced members. Sessions will continue over the school holidays. The cost is $25 per term, with $3 per session for casuals.
This group is for all ages! New members are welcome!
I am considering running an evening class for Yang style Tai Chi and ask people who are interested to please call or email me to advise the days/times that best suit them. Once I have this information we can make a more detailed plan.
Peter Fischer 329 4835 daruma@clear.net.nz

Thank You
I would like to thank the young man who offered to help me and my husband when I fell down the garden steps at our property in Diamond Harbour on Tuesday November 1. I did not see him but only heard his voice and could not say thank you at the time; but a big thank you to him for his concern. Thanks also to the staff at the Medical Centre for their care. I am now home from hospital and on the mend. Once again thank you.
Ann Macdonald

Baby and Toddlers Group - End of Year Picnic
Sunday December 13, 10am at Orton Bradley Park (by the playground). All present and past baby group members are warmly invited. Bring a drink and also a plate to share.
Wendy Coles

Diamond Harbour Croquet Club
Christmas raffle results:
1st Prize: Christmas Hamper - Benita Dale
2nd Prize: Diamond harbour Lodge - Jan Stephenson
3rd Prize: Christmas goodies - Sarah Till
Our club members appreciate all your support for our fund raiser.
Ruth Willis

Community Christmas Carols & Picnic
Sunday December 18 on lawn in front of Community Hall
* Picnic Tea at 5.30pm
* Carol singing at 6.30pm
* Diamond Harbour Singers * Ukulele Band
* Fish ‘n Chip van open from 4.30pm
All Welcome! Ph 329 471 for details.
John Sommerville

DH Community Association

Meeting held November 21
Godley House
SPRIG (Stoddart Point Renewal Ideas Group) is the name of the group formed to achieve post earthquake renewal on the Godley House site.
This group will operate as a subcommittee of the DHCA, like the Herald and the DH Community Website.
A member of the DHCA committee will attend SPRIG meetings and SPRIG will report to the association.
Johnsons of Purau have been awarded the contract to deconstruct Godley House.
Money from the Merrymakers is held by the Community Association and it was agreed this would be suitable for supporting summer music activities as applications to the Community Board discretionary fund will not arrive in time to support the sessions. It was agreed to provide up to $600.
There is concern about security of the Godley House area. We advise anyone seeing people within the barrier to report it to the Police.

Jetty Structures
Damage by vandals to windows and worn paintwork at the jetty was raised. It was decided that the windows will be replaced with perspex. Paint will be supplied to have the jetty railing repainted by volunteers. The Council will carry out the preparation work.

Treasurer’s Report
There has been a slowdown in payments for rent this year, partly caused by the earthquake closing the hall.

Membership
An envelope will be distributed early next year for combined subs for Community Association and the Herald. Information requested will include email addresses.

Service Directory and Phone Book
A lot of work has been done updating the directory and it should be available soon.

Draft Lyttelton Master Plan
The Draft Lyttelton Master Plan has been released for submissions. We need to stress the importance of ferry access and easy access to the town which is the service centre for many in Diamond Harbour. Moving heavy transport from Norwich Quay is another important issue.

Other Matters
A Give Way sign has been approved for the corner of James Drive and Marine Drive. There will be a conference for Residents’ Associations next year.

Next meeting December 19.

Karen

VETERINARY SERVICES

NOW IN DIAMOND HARBOUR

Vetlife will be holding weekly clinics in the Community Center from 2pm on Wednesday afternoons.
We look forward to seeing you and your pet!

Large animal calls and house calls can also be arranged.

Please phone 3251006 to book an appointment.
Mailing dates for Christmas 2011
Make sure you send your mail by the dates below so your
cards and gifts arrive in time for Christmas!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard Post</td>
<td>Tue 20 Dec</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcel Post</td>
<td>Tue 20 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parcel Post Tracked</td>
<td>Tue 20 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fast Post</td>
<td>Thu 22 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parcel Post Fast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parcel Post PO Box Priority</td>
<td>Thu 22 Dec</td>
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International

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<tr>
<th>Zone A</th>
<th>Zone B, C, D</th>
<th>Zone E</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>South Pacific</td>
<td>Rest of East Asia an the world</td>
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<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>UK and Europe</td>
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International

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economy*</th>
<th>Fri 2 Dec</th>
<th>Fri 25 Nov</th>
<th>Mon 21 Nov</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air</td>
<td>Fri 9 Dec</td>
<td>Fri 2 Dec</td>
<td>Mon 28 Nov</td>
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</table>

*NB International Economy is only available for parcels.

We have a selection of Christmas cards, wrapping and labels, NZPost handibags, brown wrap and boxes.

We now have a selection of printed Diamond Harbour T-shirts, sizes sm children - XXXL, which are already very popular for Christmas gifts. Made to order.

If you are unsure of the best way to send your Christmas gifts, come down to the DH Postcentre - we can help you.

Christmas and New Year PO Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 2011</th>
<th>January 2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 24 9-11</td>
<td>Sun 1 - Wed 4 Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 25 - Wed 28 Closed</td>
<td>Thu 5 9-12.30</td>
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<td>Thu 29 9-12.30</td>
<td>Fri 6 9-12.30</td>
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<td>Fri 30 9-12.30</td>
<td>Sat 7 9-11</td>
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<td>Sat 31 9-11</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

We thank you for your support this year and wish you all a Happy Relaxing Christmas and New Year.

Wendy and Vicki

Classifieds

Queen Size Bed for sale
Good condition. Offers Ph 329 4488.

Free Fill
Up to 50 cu metres of clay and dirt mix available by the truck load (free delivery). Ph 329 3295 or 021 253 8405.

Pak n Save Pickup
We are seeking someone who could pickup up groceries (10-15 items) for us from Pak n Save (any store) on a weekly basis. Ph 329 4706.

Concrete Mixer for sale

Outdoor Fitness
Outdoor Boot Camp Fitness with Mike at 6:30am Mon, Wed & Fri, all year. Ph 329 4647 or mikecatton@macc.com

Yoga Classes
Contact Adrian 329 3395 or email diamondyoga@slingshot.co.nz.

Hairdressing
Experienced hairdresser and Reiki practitioner working from home. If you have mobility problems, I can come to you. 329 4224, 021 152 3937 or 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.

Baches to Let
Hanmer and Diamond Harbour holiday homes. Sleep 6-8. All mod cons. $80 per night. Ph Euan Godfrey 0800 212 272, ah 328 7556, fax 328 7569 or email casapropertymanagement@xtra.co.nz.

Small Greenstone Koro lost
Set on a leather strop. Lost in vicinity of Muriwai Dr, Hanmer and Diamond Harbour holiday homes. Sleep 6-8. 329 4224, 021 152 3937 or indigo-barb@hotmail.com.

电混凝土搅拌机
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瑜伽课程
联系 Adria 329 3395 或电子邮件 diamondyoga@slingshot.co.nz。

美发
经验丰富美发师和灵气治疗师在家工作。如果您有移动问题，我可以来您家。329 4224, 021 152 3937 或 indigo-barb@hotmail.com。

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假期出租
汉默和钻石港度假屋。睡眠6-8人。所有现代设施。$80 每晚。Ph Euan Godfrey 0800 212 272, ah 328 7556，fax 328 7569 或 email casapropertymanagement@xtra.co.nz。

小型绿石koro丢失
设在皮带皮带。在 vicinity of Muriwai Dr, Hanmer and Diamond Harbour holiday homes. Sleep 6-8。329 4224, 021 152 3937 或 indigo-barb@hotmail.com。

For latest event updates go to www.diamondharbour.info

Diamond Harbour Herald - Established 1953
Page 13
No 152 December 2011
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