DIAMOND HARBOUR GIRL NOW WORKS IN CAIRO WITH UNITED NATIONS

Hester Moore is a born and bred Diamond Harbourite. She attended Diamond Harbour School from start to finish, before heading to Christchurch Girls’ High. After graduating in law from Canterbury University and subsequently being admitted to the Bar, she went to Cairo in July last year, with the support of a NZ government Peace and Disarmament grant.

Hester interns with the United Nations in Cairo, working to safeguard the rights of asylum seekers and refugees.

In this article she muses on the hidden communities of Cairo’s concrete maze, the challenges of working in the flows of conflict, and unexpected reminders of home.

I arrived in Cairo as a fresh graduate from Canterbury University, embarking on a six-month legal internship at an NGO specialising in refugee resettlement. I don’t think I’d ever spoken to a refugee – something that I’m sure I obfuscated in my Skype interview – but I knew that it was a direction that I wanted to pursue. I was buzzing with enthusiasm, optimism, and a healthy dose of trepidation.

Two weeks after my arrival, I sat with a middle-aged Eritrean woman in a cramped prefabricated office. She had gentle, warm features; eyes that glittered with genuine happiness when she smiled, and a remarkable sense of humility. It was the height of summer, and an archaic air-conditioner clung to the wall spluttering miserably against the heat. Both this woman and the interpreter were panting breathlessly (something that experience taught me is not a sign of exhaustion, but an endearing characteristic of Eritreans when signaling agreement). We shared pleasantries, I offered her a cup of tea, and then we spent the following two hours documenting her and her young daughter’s experiences as victims of human trafficking.

It’s July 2014, and I have been in Cairo for one week. I see a girl being carried through the heat of the night to her marital bed. Her black skin has been painted porcelain, betrayed by several layers of ungainly white foundation. Her Barbie-doll dress explodes outwards, distorting the shape of her body. Shrii, alien cries are being strangled from the throats of ecstatic women; regal men are clicking their fingers gracefully against a strained electric keyboard; rogue children are tearing their way across the length of a decorated hall; and I have two unknown Sudanese children on either arm who are addressing me as their mother.

The air is thick with the polluted sounds of traffic and pedestrians, the heat of street life positively bursting through the flimsy walls encasing our celebration. It all comes together in one riotous, massed chorus; it’s a brilliant union of colour and noise. My first Sudanese wedding, under an oppressive Saharan night.

My colleagues and I are drawn to this work out of an optimism we place in the human character. It’s easy to invest faith in lofty ideals from a distance. Although, when your values are challenged on a daily basis, through harrowing first-hand accounts of human suffering, it becomes harder to retain faith in them. In response, one begins to seek out more subtle exchanges of humanity – becoming a sort of emotional receptor – to plug the doubts that inevitably arise through work.

Luckily, Cairo is a mosaic of colourful exchanges, so one needn’t look far.

I find the majority of these exchanges in taxis. Cairene taxi drivers are unique. I have seen men do things with taxis that $75 at the Cirque du Soleil would never show you. Chain-smoking drivers, balancing a mobile in one hand and the wheel in the other, intermittently offering you mandarins that you have to take.

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Deadline for May issue: Wed April 22, 2015
Boxes at Diamond Harbour Post Centre and Church Bay Store are provided for subscriptions, pre-arranged payments, ad copy or news etc. up to 12 noon on day of deadline.
Emailed (preferred) or delivered copy accepted till 5pm

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Diamond Harbour Herald • Established 1952

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Drivers who refuse to take you anywhere because they can’t be bothered. Drivers who will take you anywhere, but actually have no idea where the destination is. This involves screaming desperately out the window at pedestrians for directions, who’ll happily administer horribly misguided advice. I often find myself at 3am, soaring home along the Nile, junkie-like in the haunted early morning light listening to the Qu’ran on a crackling radio. A soothing breeze whispers across my face, and life is suddenly simple – just a cosmic dance of happiness and sadness that threads in and out, interminably, along the seams of our experience.

Five months after I sat down with the Eritrean woman, she reappeared in the office. She’d come to tell me that she and her daughter were being resettled to Canada. She left with a smile on her face that was buried in the prospect of a new start. I watched her disappear into the indistinguishable sea of faces, and her story ebbed away from mine.

I began working at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in February 2015. The work is immense, challenging, and highly stimulating. At the same time, however, the prospect of tackling the enormity of what lies in front of us is daunting, especially in the absence of collective global assistance. I fear it’s already become a tired rhetoric, but New Zealand must review its refugee policies. In a changing global society that is presenting new challenges to peace and stability, uncompromising reliance on our outdated 1987 quota will not suffice. The only means of achieving meaningful outcomes is through collective action.

The day before I left New Zealand, I drove to the Sign of the Kiwi and looked over the peninsula to Diamond Harbour. I was unsure when I would see it again. Mt Herbert, the stoic guardian over my childhood and those of many others, was perched protectively in the sky. As I sat in the backseat of a taxi last week, gridlocked in endless piles of cars, I noticed a line of clouds on the horizon that gave the illusion of distant peaks. Sitting silent on the skyline like that, I felt a sudden sense of familiarity. Moments come and go. The wind blew resiliently against me, and those great peaks moved quickly east, gliding home.

We’d especially like to thank the following people for their contributions: Wayne Eddington at Egghead Design for his wonderful graphic design work and to the following businesses for their donations: Deccan, Dave Hughey Builders, Tracey Ower, Godley Café, The Beauty Room, Black Cat Cruises, Rushani, Orton Bradley Park, Little River Vet, Sue Holt, Shunyata, Sweet As, Chalfont Café, Studio Red, Oderings, Lyttelton Bakery, Lyttelton Supervalue, Lyttelton Pharmacy, Lyttelton Service Station, Civil and Naval, Fat Tony’s, Storm Hair, Carmen Niccol, Mark Warren, The Makers, Hair Port, Crazy Campers, the Laird-Green Family, Henry Trading, Christina Dower, Freemans, God Save the Queen.

Thanks also to Bruce the postie for delivering our fliers for free, to Tony Bain for running the bathtubbing event and to Dennis Collins for loan of equipment.

Apologies to anyone we have inadvertently left off this list. We really appreciated all the help we received.

Diamond Harbour School PTA
PLAYCENTRE NEWS

Ki Ora Tatou, Hello Everyone,

It’s been a busy end to the term for us, lots of making and creating and good learning regarding sharing and turn-taking. Wednesdays group had a visit to the Sensory Centre. Thursday's group went to school and met Mrs Stephenson and the Pukeko Class children.

We wave goodbye to Jackanory Foster (featured in our story right) and also Tayla Leech who both started at Diamond Harbour School this month. They will be sadly missed, and all their buddies from playcentre wish them well on this next big step in life. Don’t forget to come back for a visit!

Playcentre is an early childhood education centre where we document children’s learning. We notice things they can do, or where their interests lie, then help them become more proficient in those areas.

Annya does most of the stories and we hope that parents will also have a go, once they have settled themselves in.

Have a read of this comic style story Annabelle made below, with iPad received from the Whakaraupo cluster. Several of the parents now know how to do this fun, easy documentation. Please note we stop for two weeks during school holidays, so sessions resume on Monday April 20.

Unfortunately, we have had to close our Thursday sessions, so come along on Mondays or Wednesdays.

Playcentre is a parent run early childhood education centre with a paid supervisor for 0 - 6 year olds. This means you need to stay with your child until they are 2 and a half years old, after which it’s fine to leave them. It also means you get to play a bigger part in your child’s development while they are little. We welcome grandparents and nannies to bring their little ones too. Pop in for a visit! Please note visits are free and then once enrolled it is only $35 per term per family.

FAIR COMMENT! WE APOLOGISE...

The following letter refers to last month’s article on the New KidsFirst Early Learning Centre. The Herald apologises to Playcentre for not spotting the incorrect comment in the story which was written and sent to us by KidsFirst staff.

Dear Editor

While it’s wonderful to have a new ECE in Diamond Harbour, it is inaccurate to state that local children in the past would have had to travel to Lyttelton or into the city to attend an early learning centre or kindergarten. As most people will be aware Diamond Harbour Playcentre has been in the community for over 40 years and still caters for 0-6 year olds three mornings a week.

Playcentres are classed as early childhood centres with the difference between them and other ECEs being that they are parent-run and parents are given the opportunity to do free early childhood education training, which helps develop parenting skills as well as helping run the centre.

Many playcentre families use both the playcentre and another early childhood centre to meet their needs. They stay involved with playcentre because it builds relationships with other families and allows their child to interact with other children with the reassuring presence of a caregiver close by. From the age of 2.5 onwards children can be left at playcentre without a caregiver. Many of our tamariki who attended DH playcentre have forged their first friendships that last a lifetime and many family friendships have evolved from it too, so there is a strong case for playcentre in our community.

Annya Boyd, Annabelle Wear and Sarah Pritchett (past and present playcentre parents)
Major improvements are in progress at DH Tennis Courts. The resurfacing of both courts using near new astrograss is about to take place. With the valuable help of two local tractors, we have had 5 working bees so far to remove sand from the astrograss so that it is ready to be laid. To accomplish our task we have had to employ the local senior rugby team, Lincoln University students and have also been fortunate to have FD workers to help on two occasions.

We thank our members for the support given in work on the courts and food supplied for all working bees. Special grateful thanks to Brian Keenan for donating his time and the use of his tractor and Andrew Davison for the use of his tractor. 

John Sims

WHERE ARE THE PURAU EELS?
The Keenan family and their visitors have enjoyed hand-feeding the eels in Purau Stream from the crossing on their property for several years, so they were understandably devastated to find that all but a couple of young ones have suddenly disappeared. They voice their disappointment in this letter to the Herald:

To the mean spirited people/person who removed/killed the hand fed pet eels from the Purau Stream at the Keenan’s crossing:

We have been hand-feeding these eels for a very long time. They have given a great deal of pleasure to many. We were also hopefully helping to conserve a N.Z species.

We find it a little hard to believe that someone would stoop so low as to remove these eels. They would have known these were hand-fed and very trusting. We are now very reluctant to continue to feed the remaining few eels because we would be making them a very easy target for the low lives who committed this heartless act and who will no doubt be back.

The Keenan Family

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IHAIA: Ihaia comes from Banks Peninsula Christchurch, and is trained in Tikanga (cultural/spiritual) counselling, Facilitator/trainer, groups and men’s support group. I am passionate about people’s well being, and spiritual growth.

DELLAINA: Teacher and trainer of various courses in Metaphysics, meditation, Channel for spirit, Visionary therapist, well being counsellor, past life therapist and Contributing author in the best selling “Adventures In Manifesting series.”

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ENTENTE CORDIALE — A TASTY NEW SERVICE AVAILABLE AT YOUR DOOR

At Entente Cordiale we’re focused on providing delicious food based on traditional French and British regional cuisine. Although we work out of premises in Sockburn, we’re run by a Church Bay couple and on Friday nights we provide a delivery service to households from Governors Bay through to Purau. Which means you no longer have to miss out on products such as our Tarts au Citron, Eccles Cakes, Quiches Alsacienne, Cumberland Sausage Rolls, Pork Pies and much more — delivered to your door in Diamond Harbour each Friday.

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Email reception@diamondmed.co.nz for all other enquiries and Internet banking details
Doctors: Peter Davies Bronwyn Graham
Nurses: Nicky Anna Petria
Reception/Admin: Jan Hogbin

Updated Hours
Monday 9am to 12noon Dr Bronwyn Graham
4.30pm to 6.30pm Dr Bronwyn Graham
Tuesday 3pm to 7pm Dr Peter Davies
Wednesday 8.15am to 12noon Dr Peter Davies
Thursday 8.30am to 11.30am Dr Bronwyn Graham
Friday 8.15am to 12noon Dr Peter Davies
New Patients Welcome
The rebuild of Lyttelton Port will come one step closer in April. Environment Canterbury’s preliminary draft Lyttelton Port Recovery Plan is due to go out for public consultation from mid-April.

The Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery directed the Lyttelton Port Company Limited to provide information to Environment Canterbury to help it prepare a Lyttelton Port Recovery Plan to aid the Port’s recovery and rebuild.

The Plan will be available on Ecan’s website at www.ecan.govt.nz/port from early April, with public consultation due to run from mid-April to mid-May.

During this time you can drop into Environment Canterbury’s portacabin at Port Talk on Thursdays between 10am-2pm or Saturdays 10am-12:30pm to ask any questions you have about the Plan or find out more about it.

Environment Canterbury staff will be at the Diamond Harbour Community Association meeting on Monday April 20 at 7.30pm to do a presentation on what’s in the Plan, answer any questions you have about it and provide some assistance with the submission process.

Allanah James and Fiona Russell (above) have recently joined Lyttelton Port of Christchurch (LPC) as respectively the Strategic Communications Manager and the Communications Advisor, taking over from independent consultants who previously provided communications for the Port. Being LPC staff gives them the opportunity for a greater depth of engagement inside the Company and with the community. Among their objectives is to communicate how LPC, as the biggest contributor to Lyttelton’s economy, plans to rebuild and enhance the Port to allow it to cater for Canterbury’s freight demands, provide better community connection to the waterfront, better recreational marine facilities and care for the harbour.

Allanah and Fiona are at Port Talk, LPC’s information spot corner of London and Oxford Streets, on Fridays (11am-1pm) for anyone to pop in and have a chat.

They can discuss what’s happening in LPC and talk about the latest developments. For example, LPC now has two Inland Ports in the Christchurch area. One is at Rolleston where LPC bought 27 hectares of land in December to complement its existing site at Woolston, known as CityDepot which is in Chapmans Road alongside the temporary LPC Company Offices, and has 57 staff who provide container handling to road and rail, container repairs and container storage.

The Rolleston Inland Port is a convenient and strategically placed site which will provide container transfer, repair and storage services. The first stage at Rolleston is expected to be operational in August this year.

Meanwhile, the Woolston CityDepot site has just added three top-of-the line empty container handlers (forkhoists) to its fleet, an investment of $1.5 million. The new container handlers complement four others that arrived last year, taking the total fleet to 15.

The robust Swedish machines are amongst the latest models in New Zealand with the newest technology. The hydraulic and pressure systems throughout the machines are automatically monitored improving safety and reducing dust, noise and downtime for maintenance.

LPC are also currently making improvements to the log storage in front of Norwich Quay. The project will be completed in three stages. The middle of the yard will be upgraded first, followed by the eastern end and finally the western area. The project is expected to be finished in late May but it could take longer depending on weather. The logging yard at the Port is an area of high archaeological value and the construction is subject to an Archaeological Authority issued by Heritage New Zealand.

The community can also access LPC’s Information Package in hard copy at local libraries, the Lyttelton Information Centre, and at Port Talk as well as online.

Elaine
CCC INFO ON SUMNER ROAD WORK

CCC hope the following is helpful for people who live in or work in the Lyttelton Harbour area and that it clarifies some of the information circulating in the community.

Timing of the temporary work
As part of our work to remove or relocate loose rock, and protect nearby trails using Sumner Road in future, we anticipate several days (we estimate up to six days) of blasting within the Urumau Reserve Area over two to three months. Temporary fencing on the edge of the reserve closest to the work zone may be set up while the work is taking place. The work and the temporarily affected areas of the reserve, including any temporary storage, will be on the other side of the ridge above the closed road, not above Lyttelton Township. This work is not intended to be permanent and once the geotechnical work is completed the reserve will return to normal.

Effect on Urumau Reserve
On days when blasting is taking place, small sections of Urumau Reserve may be closed for several hours to create an exclusion zone to protect the health and safety of recreational users. We plan to carry out this work in autumn/winter when the reserve is less busy.

Temporary storage
As part of the resource consent process, we have applied for a temporary storage area for explosives - this would likely be a shipping container. However, our preference is for specially trained contractors to bring in the explosives each day by light truck under the supervision of a suitably qualified geotechnical engineer. Strict safety protocols will be in place. A works notice will be put in residents’ mailboxes several days ahead of each planned blast.

Traffic
Traffic to and from the construction site is expected to take the form of utes and light trucks rather than heavy vehicles, with the exception of transporting a container to the site if necessary. The only change planned to the 4WD track is a layer of gravel to improve grip when muddy.

More about the consent and project
The consent application is prepared on the concept design and tries to cover every eventuality. The project team will work with the Council parks team and the reserves committee to plan the works further. When a contractor is appointed, and the details are developed, we will have more details for residents, reserves committee and users of the Urumau Reserve area about the timing and duration of any interruptions.

This work is part of the Council’s wider ongoing programme of geotechnical work in the Port Hills. Similar activity has taken place above Mount Pleasant, Sumner and Heathcote Valley over the last few years.

If you have any further questions, please contact:
Christine Toner, Consultation Leader, Public Information and Participation Unit, Christchurch City Council, PO Box 73011 Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8154
Ph 03 941 8355 and 0274339598;
Email christine.toner@ccc.govt.nz

FROM THE WRITERS’ GROUP

A recent challenge for members was ...
Write a message to go into a Time Capsule to be opened in 250 years from now.

An Apology to the Future
by John Riminton

Hi, whoever you are.
If you can read this, I guess that you must have managed to survive on the messed-up world that we left you but it can’t have been easy for we really did our best to make it unfit for humans.
Or maybe you are people from some other world paying a brief visit to our hot little planet who have been able to find a means of reading this. How would I know?
Firstly, there were far too many of us, about nine billion, but, hey, you can’t stop everyone doing what comes so naturally. It had, in fact been calculated that we really needed 2½ more worlds like ours to have enough space to feed us all as we wanted – but there was only this one so we burned a lot of fossil fuel like oil and coal to give us enough usable energy to try to grow more food and to make all the things that we were told we needed. That heated the place up but whether we made it too hot only you will know. Still, it was fun while it lasted.
Then we had a bunch of people called politicians to organise us but apart from the odd one now and then, they were a pretty hopeless lot, greatly influenced by so-called lobby groups, that is people who were making money and didn’t want things to change, so the politicians didn’t do the things that they should have done to try to stop the things I have mentioned.
There were plenty of clever people around but they didn’t seem to be able to get themselves listened to and I feel sorry for them for they could see what was coming but couldn’t stop it.
Did your fore-fathers, say, 150 years, ago find a way to get to one of the other planets in our solar system? (I hope that you can understand some of these terms). That would have helped.
Must stop now but, on behalf of us all, I did at least want to offer an apology to the future. That is the least that we can do and never let it be said that we didn’t do the least that we could.

Greeting Cards

Printed from watercolours by
June Macleod
are now being sold at
Godley Café
&
Snowdrop Cottage
LIVING WELL
The Real Meaning of Failure
I went to get my Warrant of Fitness the other day and came away with the dreaded F word – fail. It got me thinking about what failure really means. I regularly meet people for whom failure is a very scary word, scary enough to stop them starting, and scary enough to cause all sorts of avoidance behaviours. Then when they do fail at a task, it can be devastating, somehow meaning that they themselves are a failure, rather than having failed at one specific task only.

Looking at my car makes it easier to see what is really going on. Failing a warrant is simply an indication that something (or in this case, two things) are not quite as they should be. It’s not an indication that the whole system needs to be scrapped. Instead, it’s simply an indication that something in the system needs adjustment or improvement. It’s tempting to focus on these negatives and blow them up into something big, but actually, this particular test gives us other information too – that the rest of the car is running perfectly, yet this is something that often gets overlooked as we focus on the areas of failure.

We can learn from this. People often see failure as a sign that the whole system is defective, i.e. that they themselves are a failure, are somehow not good enough or incapable. In contrast, the failure is actually a sign that an improvement or adjustment needs to be made somewhere - it’s simply a matter of figuring out where that is. In addition, it’s useful to keep the failure in perspective by looking at the whole picture. Looking outside the failure will most likely show that the vast majority of the system is working well, i.e. that the rest of your life is going well, that you are healthy, that you have a great job or career, and that you have great people in your life.

With those things in mind, it could be useful to re-frame how we are thinking of failure in the first place. Instead of thinking in terms of failure, you could instead think in terms of areas where you can make improvements, opportunities for learning or feedback. Changing the terminology around this can change the way you think about it, and therefore the way you respond to it.  

Franziska

RECIPE
Non-baked Chocolate Mud Slice
A sweet treat for vegan gourmets... and others!

My friend Kate offered me a special treat the other day. It looked like a delicious chocolate brownie... but it is not! It is however gluten free, dairy free, healthy, with almost no sweetener, yet it tastes sweet and it’s delicious. I thought this would be the perfect dessert for a vegan friend whom I had invited, but first decided to test it on my fussy children, who do not like healthy hippy food... as they call it.

My children loved the chocolate brownie, and my son quietly added, next time a wee less beetroot please…

So here is the recipe and don’t be afraid of the word vegan. This is not just a healthy snack but also a very delicious one!

Ingredients
2 cups brazil nuts 1 cup coconut
3 good sized beetroots, peeled and chopped
1/2 cups raisins or currants
2 cups raw cacao powder (or cocoa)
1/4 cup maple syrup 1 cup prunes
2 tbsp psyllium husks - ground (available at New World)

Method
Grind brazil nuts in food processor and set aside. Blend prunes, raisins, maple syrup in food processor until smooth. Add to the brazil nuts. Blend beetroot and add to main mixture. Add coconut, cacao powder and psyllium husks and mix in well. Add to a greased cake tin and refrigerate until firm – about 30 mins.

Icing — Ingredients
1 cup raw cashew nuts 1/2 cup raw cacao powder
100g cacao butter - gently melted and cooled
1/2 cup maple syrup 1 tsp lemon juice

Icing — Method
Blend cashews, cacao powder, maple syrup, lemon juice in food processor until nuts are finely ground. With motor running, add melted cacao butter and blend until smooth. Spread over the cake and refrigerate till set.

Delish!

Franziska
COMPUTER HELPDESK

Will Windows 10 be Worth the Wait?

Microsoft are working hard on a new version of Windows which is due out towards the end of the year. To emphasise the vast leap from its unpopular predecessor, Windows 8 (W8) they are naming it Windows 10 (W10) rather than Windows 9.

I have been playing about with the W10 Technical Preview (free from Microsoft) as it continues to evolve and it is looking pretty good, so far... a giant step forward from W8... although it could equally be called an enormous step backwards towards W7 – which may be no bad thing.

For those who want a PC or laptop to just get thing things done: email, web browsing, word-processing, spreadsheets or more sophisticated office/business applications, W7 is a safe, stable, predictable platform which will be supported for another 5 years (until 2020). W10 is closer in appearance and functionality to W7 than W8. The Start Menu is back – albeit with some W8 New UI style Live Tiles tacked on – however these can be easily discarded to give you something that resembles the classic Windows Start Menu which Microsoft attempted to bury in W8 to the dismay and outrage of many of its customers.

The W10 Technical Preview keeps morphing and key bits are still missing, so it is difficult to be certain of the final product. So far it looks vastly better than W8 (arguably Microsoft’s greatest mistake). Historically, new versions of Windows that are significantly different from their predecessors (and W10 is certainly that) have initially been plagued by bugs (remember Vista?) which it took Microsoft some months to fix. So it might be wise to wait a bit and see before jumping into W10 (watch this space).

Microsoft are so keen to move users to W10 that for the first 12 months after its release, W7 and W8 users will be able to upgrade to W10 for free.

Details of how the upgrade process will work are not yet available. At best, it will upgrade Windows while preserving your files and possibly even reinstalling other programs on your computer (like Office and Adobe Reader)... but then again it may be a lot more difficult and require technical expertise (again, watch this space).

Assuming the upgrade process is not too difficult, W8 users will probably want to take up the free offer while most W7 users may be quite happy to stick with what they have. Unfortunately the upgrade is neither free, nor likely to be technically feasible for those with Vista or earlier.

Vista will be supported for 2 more years, but support ended for XP a year ago – Warning: it is no longer safe to use XP on the internet. If you are still on XP, you could buy a W8 computer and upgrade it for free to W10 when it comes out. Unfortunately, that means suffering several months of W8 purgatory, however there are ways of making W8 easier to use and a lot more like W7.

Another option is to install Linux, a free alternative to Windows, on your old XP machine. Linux is immune to malware but has generally been considered suitable only for the computer savvy. However, there are now versions which any reasonably computer-literate person should find almost as easy to learn and use as Windows.  

Ron

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Dental Care

Dental and gum disease is the second most common medical condition we see in pets, after obesity. More than 85% of dogs and cats over the age of three are known to have periodontal disease which could be causing bad breath. Not only does it create problems in the mouth, periodontal disease can also lead to issues with your pet’s overall health such as liver, heart and kidney problems. Fortunately with good dental care at home and with regular checkups and dental cleanings at your vet clinic, this disease can be prevented. Periodontal disease starts with plaque build up on the teeth which allow bacteria to attach. Plaque is soft enough to be brushed off or dislodged by chewing hard bones and/or toys. However, if the plaque remains it can lead to gingivitis. This causes inflamed, red gums which are painful and bleed easily. Gingivitis is reversible with good dental care. If the plaque remains, the saliva and plaque harden to form calcium carbonate on the teeth, also known as calculus or tartar. This can extend below the gumline and can only be removed with a professional dental cleaning by your vet. When the calculus is not removed, then severe periodontal disease can occur which causes loosening of the teeth, teeth falling out, and severe pain.

By bringing your pet in for regular check-ups, problems can be identified before they become detrimental to your pet’s health. Dental cleanings at your vet are highly recommended as your pet gets older, especially in smaller breeds. The cleaning is carried out under anaesthesia, but recommended as your pet gets older, especially in smaller pet’s health.

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As in humans, a regular dental check-up and clean along with good home care program will help prevent periodontal disease from occurring. Routine things you can do at home to help your pet achieve sparkly whites include giving them rawhides, greenies, and marrow bones. Brushing your pets teeth can be the most effective method – just like with people. A child’s toothbrush and toothpaste formulated for your pet from your vet clinic are also helpful as the plaque may be too thin to brush away.

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What rain we have had has not penetrated far in previously un-watered areas, wetting only the top 4-5cm. Cooler temperatures mean that any available water will go further, but we’re still a long way from our usual autumn rainfall levels.

Temperatures last December were remarkably mild (Global Warming, or just a variation within the long-term range?) but in the last few days a more normal autumn has been evident. The mornings are just that little bit cooler, and as evening approaches it seems a good idea to close the windows and even put on some heating!

It’s very easy to get the wrong impression of weather, especially temperatures, over a long time, so I went over my records back to 2001. I looked at December temperatures, and the mean for each year. Surprisingly, the warmest means were for 2003 (15°C) and 2004 (14.6°C). Last year’s mean was 12.3°C, slightly below the means of the previous two years. The warmth of the last month of the year was not enough to counterbalance the cooler months of the earlier part of the year. It will be interesting to see if the next few months continue the relative warmth of this year’s first quarter!

Paul

WEATHER WATCH

Oh, Ain’t it Gonna Rain No More?

Yes, I know it has rained... one night (March 7/8) we even got 25mm. There have been other occasions when we’ve had a couple of millimetres, and at least once we had as much as 4mm. However, the period of time that I’ve been looking at covers nearly four months, from December 2014 to the time of writing (the 4th week of March 2015). During that time I measured 125mm. Of this, 27mm fell overnight on March 7/8. Which leaves just 98mm for the rest of the four months.

Over the same period temperatures were warmer than usual, so, presumably, because I have no means of measuring it, evaporation rates were above average. My garden suggested this was the case. I kept the lemon tree, the roses, and the ground cover of wild strawberries under teth them in good order with out watering, but I gave up on most of the garden, and watched cracks develop. Fortunately, there are irises in the part of the garden most seriously affected by the lack of water, and they are probably not suffering too much. Next spring will tell!

The lack of rain seems to be very localised. On Sunday, March 21, I ventured into the garden for a time. It was chilly, but it didn’t rain. Over in town, however, a friend reported persistent drizzle and rain throughout the day. It looked as if it might be raining, or at least drizzling, at the head of the harbour, but I didn’t feel inclined to go and see! No rain was recorded either over in port.

Since then, there’s been some rather grey and drizzly weather, but by no means enough rain that we can cheerfully lay aside the hose and leave the winter vegetable plants without some support. The bulbs for the spring flowering should be OK on their own, but those planted in pots may need some attention.

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Jane Soons
Deepening communities?
A couple of weeks ago I went to a workshop on deepening community. As I sat there listening to the speaker (from a community development organization in Canada) I kept thinking: *But that’s so obvious – doesn’t everyone know that these are the things that make a real community?* But as he spoke on and other participants shared their experiences of finding or failing to find a sense of community I realized that what we have in Diamond Harbour is pretty special. From this workshop it was clear that Diamond Harbour (including neighbouring bays) has all the ingredients for a deep community.

**Social Capital:** This is the investment that individuals make in their communities by belonging to clubs or civic organisations. On the Diamond Harbour website there are 31 clubs and organizations listed (and this is not all of them). Pretty good for a population of 1400 (from Purau to Teddington). Research from the US has demonstrated that a decline in the number of clubs and organizations in a community correlates with a decline in the quality of life. These clubs and organizations rely on hundreds of hours of volunteer work from community members. We also have wonderful people who see a gap in services or activities available and offer to fill it. For example, swimming lessons in the school pool which saves parents from having to drive into the city.

We have a community made up of individuals with diverse skills. The strongest communities have people who can offer each other different skill sets rather than all having the same skills. This is what the Timebank aims to facilitate – your neighbours and friends may not have the skill you are after but Timebank may be able to find someone in your community who does.

**Sharing our stories:** In deep communities people share their stories. In Diamond Harbour we have a great many opportunities to share our stories – when we gather at our cafés and shops, at church, at playcentre, school and kindy. We also share our stories through our community newsletter, a community website and community facebook pages. A year or so ago we had friends staying from inner-city Auckland. As we headed down to Diamond Harbour for a coffee I kept stopping to talk to people. The friend commented on how she was envious that we lived in a real community where we actually knew other people. It made me realize that what we have in Diamond Harbour is pretty special. From this workshop it was clear that Diamond Harbour (including neighbouring bays) has all the ingredients for a deep community.

We also have four neighbourhood associations in the area described in the census as Diamond Harbour (Purau, Diamond Harbour Community Association, Church Bay Neighbourhood Association and Charteris Bay Residents Association) who work either individually or collectively to better our neighbourhoods. While it is sometimes viewed as unnecessary by some people to have so many neighbourhood associations it actually means issues pertinent to each neighbourhood can be addressed (such as for example, the restoration of the Church Bay and Charteris Bay jetties). It also means that if there is an issue that affects the whole community the submissions from a number of neighbourhood association rather than just one strengthens the argument.

We also have a wonderful Neighbourhood Support system where messages can go out to people quickly (at the workshop of the 40 or so attendees I was one of only two who lived in a community with such an asset). Deep versus shallow

So why is it important to experience deep community as opposed to a shallow one? It is more fulfilling to be part of a deep community and it helps build resilience. For example it is important for the development of resilience in children for them to know where they fit into their community, to know their neighbours and shopkeepers. And, as we have all experienced, a deep community is essential for the quick recovery of a community following a natural disaster.

Want to meet other people in the community? The Lyttelton Harbour Timebank has over 600 members, mostly from the Lyttelton Harbour area. There are a diverse range of skills offered from these members. To sign up go to www.lyttelton.net.nz/timebank or come along to my next drop in at Godley Café on Friday the April 10, from 9.30-11.30am and enjoy a Timebankers Breakfast Special for only $7 plus one time credit.

**Sarah**

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**Meeting to share our stories**

We generally know our neighbours and share our stories with them (if you don’t - go over and introduce yourself now). And if you’re new to the community and want to meet more people to share your story with join a club or organization or join Timebank.

Enjoying one another: Aside from our clubs and organizations we have events organized by dedicated community members that allow us to get together and have fun. For example, the SPRIG concerts, fairs, music evenings and the community quiz nights. While the purpose of some of these events is to raise money it also gives the community an opportunity to have fun together. Friday night touch rugby is also a good example as it provides an opportunity for grown ups to exercise while having fun (at least I think they are!) Taking care of one another: There are always people in this community who are looking after friends in ill-health, or providing meals for parents of a newborn or for other people who may need a bit of extra help.

Building a better world together: We are a community which has traditionally been willing to build its own assets – the health centre, the library, the community hall were all built by the community (through fundraising and physical construction).

We have a community made up of individuals with diverse skills. The strongest communities have people who can offer each other different skill sets rather than all having the same skills. This is what the Timebank aims to facilitate – your neighbours and friends may not have the skill you are after but Timebank may be able to find someone in your community who does.

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---

**Chiropractic, Acupuncture & Nutritional Medicine**

Truly integrated healthcare offered by caring practitioners with a wealth of training and over 40 years of clinical experience

**Help with:**
- Neck, back and joint pain
- Muscular aches and pains
- Sports injuries, headaches
- Digestive, circulatory and respiratory complaints
- Anxiety, stress, insomnia
- Food intolerances and more

**Lou Warren**

6 Te Pupu Crescent
Diamond Harbour

**Thrive NZ**

325x 3353
CHARACTER CROSSWORDS

This Month’s Clues

Across
1 Biscuits (7)
4 Related to the moon (5)
7 Silent (4)
8 Fellow soldiers (8)
10 Understand (10)
12 Christian festival (6)
13 Cycling (6)
15 Happening infrequently (10)
18 Swallowed (8)
19 Leave out (4)
20 Relieves (5)
21 Contracts (7)

Down

1 Witty (5)
2 Single-handed dinghy (8)
3 Calm (6)
4 Inflamed throat (10)
5 Naked (4)
6 Corroding (7)
9 Lawyers document case (10)
11 Spice in Hot Cross Buns (8)
12 Test (7)
14 Bets (6)
16 Indian waterlily (5)
17 Often chocolate at this time (4)

February Solution

NEW!! Friday Drop-In Time Bank Breakfast SPECIAL

Time Bank Special Breakfast – just $7 + 1 time credit (usually $12) – Fridays 9.30 – 11.30 am available only to Time Bankers. Come and hang out with Sarah and enjoy your Special Time Bank Breakfast! New Members Welcome!

Bacon, Eggs (poached, scrambled or fried), mushrooms, sausage, ciabatta – gluten free and vegetarian options also available. (not Good Friday)

Pizza & Pint/wine Friday nights 5-8pm and HAPPY HOUR Friday 5-7.30pm

ART & ACCESSORIES Night – Sat April 11 6.30-9pm
Also Artists in Residence Sat 11 April & Sun 12 April 1-3pm Jo Ewing & Paul Brocklebank - ALL WELCOME

Our famous Roast Nights are making a come-back! $25pp roast & dessert – starting Thursday 7 May at 6.30pm – Ring 329 4880 by Tuesday of the same week to make a booking.

Have you checked out the pre-loved clothing stand? New fur & skin gorgeous handbags & booties and the awesome range of cards and stationery!

Like us on Facebook to keep up with the latest info!

The Godley Cafe Team

Godley Café is still open 6 Days a week.

Start your week off with a delicious coffee on a Tuesday and come and say hi to Nicki or Lillie.

Geoff Brewer Systems

Diamond Harbour’s Technology Specialist

Got Computer Problems?
Call 0272807859 or (03) 3294083

I am a qualified electronics technician and Microsoft certified systems engineer working in the computer industry for 35 years, 20 of which on PC’s and networking.

One of my specialities is building custom PC’s and media servers.

But if you have ANY computer related problems or need free unbiased advice on what to buy give me a call.

Note I can also help with Apple technology ie Macs, iPhones, Ipads and Ipods.
YOU CAN COME TOO — LOCAL EVENTS AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Arts & Accessories

Godley Café – Saturday 11th April
6.30 – 9pm

Jane McCulla – Ceramic Artist
Originally from Ireland, Jane has held many exhibitions around the world. Her ceramic pieces reflect her love of nature, geology, topography, entropy and archaeology.

Jo Ewing – Botanical Artist
Well known for her intricate and delicate paintings of flora and insects, Jo will have a selection of her images presented in a more colourful and contemporary way.

Paul Brocklebank - Artist
His pastel and watercolour paintings beautifully capture the sea and landscapes of the Harbour and bays.

Lisa Wheeler – Designs Bags, Clothing, Accessories
Specialising in leather, hide, lambskin & Possum. From gorgeous bags to baby booties & sunglass holders - Hide cushions and more … definitely something for everyone!

The Makers – locally crafted accessories & cards
Also various cards, chopping boards and a “pre-loved” clothing rack (all currently in Godley Café) will be available during the night to peruse!

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE
Paul and Jo will be at Godley Café on Sat 11 & Sun 12 April from 1 till 3 pm, to paint and talk with customers.

Diamond Harbour Community Association AGM

Monday April 20 at 7pm
Stage Room (Community Hall)

The AGM will be followed by a Community Consultation with Ecan to look at the Lyttelton Port Recovery Plan which will cover the process, give an overview of what's in the plan, how it's formulated and how to produce a good submission.

Questions will be answered from the floor.
Refreshments will be provided.

Diamond Harbour Community Association Meeting — Special Guest

Monday April 13 at 7pm
Stage Room (Community Hall)

Gary Manch from Ecan will attend the Community Association Meeting in the Stage Room on April 13 to talk about the problem of jet skis and power craft being banned from popular swimming beaches, and the process for applying for a motor craft ban.

Mt Herbert Parish

QUIZ NIGHT

Did you enjoy the last Quiz night???
Advance notice... the next one is being held
Friday 22 May

$25 per Table: Maximum 5
Be in early to book a table as they go fast and you won’t want to miss out
Phone and leave your details on 329 4790 or
Email mt.herbertparish@xtra.co.nz

DH Historical Association AGM

Tuesday April 14 at 7.30pm in the Stage Room
Followed by a showing of a selection of the photographs in our archives: From the Stoddart Albums through the twentieth century to the present day. All welcome.

Jan Studholme

Woolfun Day

Saturday, April 11
anytime between 10 am and 4 pm

Hosted by Phillipa Drayton at 397 Marine Drive Charteris Bay – next to the yacht club (look for the stone wall).

Enjoy a relaxing day working with wool with like-minded people in a small group. Bring your lunch, your woolcraft gear, and if felting, a table if possible.

Philippa

Free Community Walk

Join Dave and Lou Heath for a weekly walk in Diamond Harbour.
Meet outside Godley Café Thursday at 10am (come rain or shine) during term time.

Walks will be around 45 mins long and will finish back at the café. Everyone welcome... dogs and buggies too.
Catch up with friends and meet new faces. No charge, no need to book, just turn up!

Dave Heath
**Diamond Harbour Herald - Established 1952**

**Free Running Group**

Sundays at 8am. Ph 329 4647 or mikecatton@mac.com

**Diamond Harbour Camera Club**

**AGM**

Tuesday April 21

at 7.30pm in the Stage Room.

After the meeting and election of officers and committee, one of our club members will give a presentation on Morocco and Spain.

Visitors are Welcome

For further information phone Dale on 329 4041. Dale

**Diamond Harbour Toy Library**

Every Saturday 10-11am at the Community Hall

New Members Most Welcome!

Come down and see our amazing range of good quality toys – why buy when you can hire!

Brand new toys added regularly.

Baby, Toddler, Preschool & School age toys.

Huge range of indoor/outdoor toys – slides, bikes/trikes, cars, puzzles, prams, water tables, playsets, construction, games, dress ups, sports, baby toys, musical instruments and more!

Drop in any Saturday morning for more information or to pick up an enrolment pack.

Email: dhtoylibrary@gmail.com

**Our Library**

Did you know?

That we have lots of interesting, informative and fun DVD titles in the library, including many new releases. Just the thing for those colder days and longer nights. If there is a DVD you would like to watch that isn’t on our shelves you can reserve it and get it sent out to Diamond Harbour from town. Adult DVDs are $1 for a week. Children’s DVDs are free.

The recent *Read Around the World* competition run by Christchurch City Libraries for the Cricket World Cup had our own Campbell Wear as one of the winners. He gets a $50 book voucher from Paper Plus. It’s good to see Diamond Harbour on the map.

Library Membership is free

All welcome

You are welcome to come down any time the library is open.

**Library Hours:**

Tuesday: 2-7pm  Thursday: 10am-2pm

Friday: 2-4pm  Saturday: 10am-12noon

Christine Turner

**Line Dancing**

We are a group of local girls who meet on

**Wednesdays 1.30-3pm in the Community Hall**

for low impact dancing.

We would like a few more to join us, so put on those comfy shoes and get on down there and have some fun!

Bev 329 4868

**Harbour Singers host**

**A Harmony Singing Workshop with Nikki Berry**

Diamond Harbour Hall

(Lower Waipapa Ave)

Saturday 18 April

9.30 am - 4.00 pm

Registration from 9am

$55 waged  $40 unwaged

All welcome

Lunch and refreshments provided

Further information:

Joy McLeod 329 4119

Karen Colyer 329 3006

**LEST WE FORGET**

**APRIL 25TH**

Diamond Harbour calling All forces personnel, past and present & Families!

You are welcome to join us for breakfast at 8.30am on this special National Day at the Church Hall.

[PLEASE ADVISE NUMBERS for catering]

The Service at the Memorial Hall begins at 11am following the march, as usual from Chalfont Café (assemble at 10.30am).

Following the Service wreaths will be laid at the Memorial gardens for those who would like to join in remembrance of local servicemen.

All Welcome

Contacts... Don Cameron 329 4868

John Barry 329 4545 or Jean Burford 329 4830.

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Christine Turner
You Can Come Too — Local Events and Community Activities

Road Cycling Group
Meets weekly in Diamond Harbour.
To join a ride contact Mike on 329 4647 or mikecatton@mac.com.

Toastmasters
When it’s time to speak up, do you clam up?
Then you need Toastmasters.
Joining Toastmasters can be your first step towards being able to speak confidently in public.

We had a very successful demonstration meeting of Toastmasters on 28 February. We had two really good guest speakers who inspired and entertained us all. There were lots of experienced toastmasters in attendance and quite a few visitors. We have just had our second meeting and have 8 members confirmed, with only 12 more needed to enable us to charter our club.

There was a lot of brainstorming and fantastic ideas shared at the meeting on 14 March. New members recognised the benefit especially to business people in knowing how to communicate well. Being able to get your point across in a clear, credible and organised way can make all the difference to success in life, business and personally.

Toastmasters is all about communication and leadership training in a warm, supportive and fun atmosphere. It is a learn by doing concept that works really well. Theory is great, but nothing can beat putting it into action. This is how we learn in Toastmasters, and we all support each other to reach our potential and improve.

We now have a name:
Bay Harbour Toastmasters
meet every 2nd and 4th Saturday
in the Stage Room 1.30–3.30pm.

Come along and find out how you can improve your potential, grow your confidence and become a better communicator and leader, whilst making new friends.

For more info contact Jann Meehan on 329 4936, 021 2631040 or jann@jannmeehan.co.nz. Jann

Reserve Management Committees
At the last meeting of the Diamond Harbour Community Association it was agreed that the community should be approached to seek interest and support for the possible formation of a Reserve Management Committee in our district. The aim of forming such a group would be to better look after reserve land in the Diamond Harbour area, in particular, the Stoddarts Point Reserve. I have been asked by the DHBCA to get the ball rolling and seek signs of interest and support from the community regarding the possibility of setting up of a local RMC.

There are currently 12 Reserve management Committees spread across Banks Peninsula. Each Committee is made up of committed locals who work with representatives of the Christchurch City Council to ensure that each reserve is properly cared for. Here is an excerpt from the Lyttelton Reserves Committee that describes some of the tasks they perform with assistance from the CCC.

The Lyttelton Reserves Management Committee meets on a regular basis to make decisions concerning the management of the reserves. In addition it organises weed control and planting programmes that include public and schools planting days along with programmes to support this planting including watering and releasing the young trees. The Committee is also involved in track development and contributes to reserve management plans.

I feel that in addition to the above management activities that there may also may be a role in overseeing fire prevention needs (in conjunction with the Fire Service), community firewood gathering, care of the cemetery and the use of reserve land for private functions. There may well be other legitimate activities such a group could undertake.

If you are interested in this proposal or would like to know more about RMC’s please either contact Jim Nieman on 329-4726, 021 294-5007 or nielman@snap.net.nz. You can also find out more about RMC’s by checking out a couple of websites. This one is very useful:
www.lytteltonharbour.info/community-information/lyttelton-reserves/199-lyttelton-reserves-management-committee

The Diamond Harbour Community Association and I look forward to hearing from you on this matter. If there is sufficient interest, the Community Association will advise the community of where to from here. Thank you.

Jim Nieman
329 4726, 021 294 5007 or nielman@snap.net.nz

Morgans Gully Update
Some time ago a petition circulated in the community showed there would be a lot of support for the planting of native trees within the area either side of the DOC track to Mt Herbert, between Marine Drive and Bay View Road, known as Morgans Gully. This is the area that the school track (featured in the Match Herald) cuts through at its eastern end.

Through the help of the DHCA, Robyn Russ of ECAN was contacted and a lot of paper pushed back and forth, until an agreement was reached, allowing a fence to be erected to prevent sheep entering the area. Thank you to Tom, who holds the lease on this land, for generously allowing this to go ahead.

This autumn, we should receive the first 1000 of 3000 trees for planting in the Gully. Help will be needed to get these all into the ground, and to maintain them until they reach a height that will give them a fair chance against the weeds. If you are interested in helping with any of this, please contact Dave Hammond on 329 4270 or email dumpy@xtra.co.nz.

Dave Hammond
Drinking Water Storage Warning!

Please be aware that household bleach containing fragrances (eg lemon) or detergents must not be used to treat water in an emergency. In particular, Janola recently changed its bleach formulation and now contains sodium hydroxide, so it should never be used.

We hope to have an update from the District Health Board on the correct formulation and method for treating water in an emergency to include in next month’s Herald.

Civil Defence Team

Graffiti in the Diamond Harbour Area

We don’t have much of a problem with graffiti over here, but what there is can be very disappointing and annoying. If you do come across any, try to find out who owns the structure and contact them first. If it is on your property or the council’s, email info@ccc.govt.nz or phone the Call Centre on 941 6655.

If residents have graffiti on their property, the Christchurch City Graffiti Programme may help with the offer of free paint. You may also contact Dave Hammond on dumpy@xtra.co.nz or 329 4270 who has recently become the local volunteer for the CCC graffiti programme.

Dave Hammond

If only it was really like this...

Come on, Dog Owners!

We know you love your pet, but you are making the rest of us hate them - and you!

Please don’t let your dog run free to mess up our pavements, gardens and parks. Be responsible — What your doggie does belongs to YOU. PLEASE PICK IT UP!

Civil Defence Update

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Can You Help?

I am a local grandmother raising two grandchildren, one with a severe intellectual disability. I wish to stay in the area as moving away from Diamond Harbour would be upsetting to the children and lead to many problems regarding their routine, safety and independence.

I need a home to rent with 3 bedrooms, fenced, preferably without carpets. A bath tub is essential. I can pay up to $450 a week in rent.

I would very much like to hear from anyone who is able to help find us a place in or around Diamond Harbour.

Please phone Agnes on 329 4359 or email asotet@gmail.com.

CHALFONT CAFÉ & BAR

Sunday: 9am–8pm

Monday–Wednesday: 9am–4pm

Thursday–Saturday: 9am–late

Dinner menu Friday & Saturday from 5:30pm till 8pm

Happy hours: Thursday 5–7pm & Sunday 4–6pm

DIAMOND HARBOUR COUNTRY STORE

Sunday–Thursday: 8:30am–5pm

Friday–Saturday: 8:30am–8pm

(prescriptions will be delivered on an earlier boat for pickup before 5pm)

Takeaway Fish & Chips and Burgers

5–8pm Friday and Saturday nights

CHALFONT MERCANTILE & THE DIAMOND HARBOUR POST OFFICE

Monday–Friday 10am–2pm Saturday 9am–12noon

Chalfont Café, Diamond Harbour Country Store

2i Waipapa Ave Phone: 329 4465

www.chalfontcafe.co.nz

Kumar O'Reillys

Chalfont Cafe

Authentic Indian menu.

All freshly cooked.

Freshly made naan and bhajees.

Choice of mains, starters, sides and desserts

Special main with basmati rice and any naan

and a pint or glass of house wine $25

Banquet for 2 including drinks $50

Take away available

From 6.30 to 8.30 Thursday
DIAMOND HARBOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT MEETING — REPORT

Thanks to the DH Fire Service for the use of their facilities.

Structure of Diamond Harbour Neighbourhood Support:
In the area from Manson’s Point (near Allandale) to Port Levy and Camp Bay there are currently 101 groups. For administration purposes these are divided into seven sectors: Teddington, Charteris Bay, Church Bay, Diamond Harbour West, Diamond Harbour East, Purau (including Camp Bay) and Port Levy.

The three most densely populated sectors, Church Bay and Diamond Harbour East and West, are each subdivided into four blocks. This structure has essentially been in place for probably more than 20 years, but has now been more formalised by the establishment of the database.

The coordinator maintains contact with Canterbury Neighbourhood Support, local police, Civil Defence, etc.

Database:
Designed and created by Ron Dubin specifically for our area. It is secure with access limited to only two people (Elaine and Ron) and information is never released without the owner’s permission - the only exception being to rescue personnel, police etc. in an emergency. Information on more than half of the properties includes email addresses for just over half of them, which permits mass emailing of community information.

Problems in the System:
Responsibility of Individuals

Without question the effectiveness of the entire Diamond Harbour Neighbourhood Support is dependent upon input from individuals – residents and property owners, and group, block and sector leaders and the coordinator. While a number of people are extremely conscientious in their contribution to maintain the data, the majority are generally not participating well. (Further explanation follows...)

Accuracy of Database Information for Emergencies

It is probable that email contacts for about another 200 neighbours who have not given an email address. Printed warnings were circulated. Since then several groups have reinstated if updates were subsequently received.

Emergency Contact: The use of mass text messaging to cell phones is currently being investigated.

Other Methods of Contact: Social media pages and a dedicated website or page were suggested, but extra help would be needed to manage these – any offers?

Other Matters:
Annual DH Neighbourhood Support Get-together: This is viable and funding would be available from CCC Neighbourhood Support Week grants. An organising team is required – any takers?

Funding: Applications for administration funding may be made to CCC. The meeting suggested some remuneration for the coordinator should be considered.

Prioritisation of Messages: This was not considered feasible due to the wide range of priorities of the membership.

Elaine 329 4512

MORE HERALD SUBSCRIBERS

At the time of going to print further Herald subscriptions for 2015 had been received from the following readers:


Subscribers may place free non-commercial classifieds in the Herald. Thank you for your support.

The Herald Team
DIAMOND HARBOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

DHCA Committee Meeting March 9

Richard has contacted Robin Russ about Morgan’s Gully being signed off, but nothing more has been done yet. We still don’t know when the Godley House site fences are coming down.

Thanks to Thomas for the wonderful Representation Review report. There will be a formal submission process.

Public Forum

Mahony May attended the meeting on behalf of the DH and Districts Health Support Group. The land that the Health Centre sits on is leased from CCC for costs $3,000 a year. The present year lease hasn’t long to run and the group will ask for the land to be gifted. If the CCC decline, they will look at purchasing it.

David Rice and Felicia Forbes attended the meeting to talk about a new community website. The current one needs updating. Felicia, Ron, Pete, Thomas and Karen will form a small working group to meet and propose a blueprint to work with. Paying someone to manage the site was discussed.

Jim Nieman spoke about the idea of setting up a Reserve Management Committee in order to manage the reserve on Stoddart’s Point. This will give more guidance and help maintain trees and tracks etc. This would be a sub-committee of the Community Board. Jim will find out if there are people interested in forming a committee.

Treasurer’s Report

The SPRIG account has been split off from the main account. Accounts for the Herald and the Hall need to be separate. Money for the hall needs to be tagged to spend on the Hall. It was moved that Colin will set up a third account for the Hall.

Hall Report

Karen will apply for a grant for discretionary funding from the Community Board for a dishwasher. If anyone has a fridge to donate please contact Karen.

SPRIG

Tracey Ower from SPRIG attended the meeting and thanked us for our continued support. There was wonderful feedback from Black Cat, the Port Company and the local cafés. They also sold one of the sculptures and $1,100 was paid to SPRIG for commission. As they were successful with all their grants and donations there is an $8,000 profit, plus $3,000 from last year. Tracey suggested that we purchase Sam Mahon’s sculpture “Family” worth $5,000 using the $1,100 commission, plus $1,400 from the SPRIG profit. Sam has offered to find a sponsor for the rest of the money. The committee supports the acquisition.

Tracey and Janet will be standing down from SPRIG and encourage others to take over. We thank the SPRIG sub-committee and workers for their fine work with the running of such successful events.

Submissions

The CCC Long Term Plan Smart Choices document is now available. This proposes a fee increase for public facilities. Submissions can be made until April 20. The submission periods for the Representation Review are May 2 to June 15 and June 30 to July 30.

Resource Consent documents for the Sumner Road rebuild are available from Chalfont Café and the Library. They are turning a scenic reserve into an eyesore. Opportunity for comments close 20 March 2015.

General Business

Pete Simpson is attending a Leadership in Communities course and invited people along to an Additive Workshop for community supporters run by CPIT on Wednesday March 11 at 5.30-7.30pm. Richard and Jim will attend.

A request from Heather for three sheets of custom wood to upgrade the tabletops on the hall tables used for quiz nights was approved.

Ritchie Moyle, the Facilities Rebuild Programme Manager has looked at Stoddart Cottage. A scope of works and inspection will be done and a resource consent applied for. Next meeting Monday April 13 at 7.30pm – Gary Manch will speak about the problem of jet skis and other motor craft in our popular swimming beaches.

AGM

Monday April 20 at 7pm will consist of chair and treasurer reports and election of committee followed by a Community Consultation with Ecan on the proposed Lyttelton Port Recovery Plan. Joy will organise refreshments.
LMH COMMUNITY BOARD BRIEFS
News and Views from Lyttelton Mt Herbert Community Board Chair Paula Smith

Boyd Cottages Re-open
Rebuilt and upgraded, Lyttelton social housing units Boyd Cottages officially re-opened recently. Tenants have settled into two of the units and the other two will be used as temporary accommodation for tenants from one of Lyttelton’s other social housing complexes, Briggs Row, as they are being repaired. Lyttelton Mt Herbert Community Board members enjoyed attending the opening and meeting siblings and descendants of social activist Gladys Ethel Boyd, who worked to establish social housing in Lyttelton and after whom the cottages are named.

Diesel Exhaust in Lyttelton
Lyttelton Mt Herbert Community Board continues its campaign to persuade Environment Canterbury to undertake monitoring of tiny PM2.5 particles near Norwich Quay and the tunnel stack. These products of diesel combustion are associated with bladder cancer and impaired cognitive development in children. With so many sources close together in Lyttelton the board is seeking reassurance that levels do not exceed national guidelines. It is important to establish a baseline against which Lyttelton air quality can be monitored as the volume of freight moving through our town increases as predicted in the Lyttelton Port Plan.

Jetty Trust Up and Running
Restoration of Governors Bay’s landmark jetty became a real possibility with the recent establishment of a charitable trust to make it happen. The extra long jetty, weakened by deferred maintenance, was further damaged by the earthquakes and is now unsafe to use. With no Council budget to pay for repairs, the Governors Bay community has taken matters into its own hands and is raising funds and seeking partnerships to fix it up.

Not Graffitti – it’s Art
Young people from the Lyttelton Youth Centre proposed painting a temporary mural on the massive retaining wall behind the Lyttelton Skate Park, at our most recent meeting. The Community Board was happy to approve and we look forward to seeing the big beige wall transformed with colour. A planned upgrade of the skate park was put on hold while the swimming pool retaining wall above was rebuilt. Now the pool work is finished the skate park upgrade can proceed and when it is complete, we could consider a new permanent mural if it’s needed.

Cass Bay Reserve Management Committee
People from Cass Bay formed a new Reserve Management Committee to manage all the foreshore reserve between the headlands on either side of Cass Bay. The Community Board expects to approve the nominations at their next monthly meeting. Many of the good people on the new committee have already been planting and watering and weeding the recovering native bush in the reserves for years.

Back to School at Port Levy
Our next Lyttelton Mt Herbert Community Board meeting is to be held at the old Port Levy School building in Western Valley Road on Wednesday April 15 at 9.30am. This continues our efforts to bring local democracy to the farthest flung corners of the community we represent. Anyone may attend our formal meetings and if you wish to speak to the board about any matter of community interest or concern please phone Community Board Adviser Liz Beaven on 942 5602 to make an appointment. Until next time, stay safe. Paula

DH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE
Brigade Briefing
The dry spell appears to be over and, as firefighters, we’re all a little relieved. This year saw some days of extreme fire danger. The combination of high air temperature, low humidity, wind speed and very dry vegetation (the fuel) provided an environment that would have seen a small ignition source grow quickly into an inferno. In the past, discarded cigarettes were the source of many fires, both inside the home and outside. As smoking rates have fallen so have the incidents of accidental fires.

The change in seasons also sees the end of daylight saving. The New Zealand Fire Service encourages everyone to associate the altering of our clocks with the checking of our smoke alarms. Smoke alarms do save lives and are very affordable. A basic unit retails in town for $5.95 and one with a 10 year battery is under $45. If you need any guidance or help installing them, just get in touch.

Last week we attended a fire at someone’s home. The house is was not badly damaged, but the incident occurred in the neighbourhood of a family that had a narrow escape from the same issue a couple of years ago. The evenings have started to cool and so we reacquaint ourselves with our log-burners. The following day we emptied the ash believing it to be inert. Perhaps it is because we’ve not done this for a few months that we forget that the embers can remain hidden in the ash; waiting to become enlivened by a slight breeze. Please take care when discarding the contents of your log-burners and, if in doubt, give them a soaking before leaving them.

Fire Fighter David Rice

VETERINARY SERVICES
Vetlife
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.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Storage Available
20ft (6m) Container in Diamond Harbour, Lock-up, waterproof. Contact Barry Bowater on 329 4828.

Garage wanted to rent
Suitable for keeping a 5 meter motor boat in over winter, phone 021 846 719.

Cleaner wanted
2½ hours a week, Charteris Bay modern family home, prefer Thursday or Friday. Ph 027 226 2446.

House for short term rental
Gorgeous ocean view retreat for rent June/July. 4 Bedrooms furnished - new kitchen and bathrooms, heat pump, fire, hydro-therapy bath. Rent $450/week neg. Contact Paru on 329 4773 or journeyessence@hotmail.com.

Metal Detector
Do you have a metal detector we can rent from you for an hour or two to find a ring lost while gardening. Ph 329 4748 or 027 334 3536.

PC for sale
3 years old, Windows 7 with 19” LCD screen, wireless keyboard and mouse. All in excellent condition. $400. Ph 329 4083.

Windows 7 Laptops and Linux PCs

Manuka Honey
Local organic produce, not heated, $20 kg delivered. Ph 027 342 0953.

Beehives for hire
Registered hives. Do you enjoy watching bees coming and going, their communication and collections of pollen, nectar and honey? Ph 027 342 0953.

Firewood for sale
Dry pinus radiata, $95 per m3 delivered locally. Ph 027 342 0953.

Fridge wanted
The Diamond Harbour Community Association is looking for a replacement fridge for the kitchen in the hall. Ideally medium sized with a small freezer. Please contact Karen 329 3006.

Orton Bradley Firewood for sale
Dry, split and ready to burn. 3m3 delivered. Pine $195. Macaropca $245. All proceeds to Park maintenance. Ph 329 4730.

House to rent
From 10 June until 20 July. New house, 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Please phone Karen 329 3006.

Furniture For Sale

Flatmate wanted
Beautiful and warm 2 storey log house with wonderful harbour views on a sunny Teddington farm has one single ensuite room with veranda available at $200 pw. Power, firewood, water and internet $25 pw. Garden space and grazing available. Long term, working tenant preferred. Ph 329 9118 or 027 482 9410. See www.bergli.co.nz.

Free Concrete Water Tank
Three thousand gallons, in sound condition. Collect for free. Phone 329 4774.

Preserving Jars wanted
I am running out of Agee preserving jars. If you have any spare, please phone Karen 329 3006.

TV stand for sale
Three tier black glass TV stand. $40. Ph 329 4736.

Kiwi Home Maintenance
All house dwelling, maintenance and landcare etc. Discounts for over 65. We are locals who are honest, reliable who give personal service with integrity. Contact Richard and Yvonne on 027 659 9419.

Ride to Christchurch
Is there anyone who could give us a ride into Christchurch one afternoon of a week? Required for two people, one with a medical condition. Please phone (03) 550 4225.

Furniture and Rugs for sale
All in good condition at bargain prices. Art deco chrome lamp table $50. Large solid oval dining table, dark stain $40. 2 attractive thick wool tufted rugs: 160x230 maroon design $75. 110x160 red/white design $45. Ph 329 3032.

Lawn Mowers for sale
Ozito electric mower with catcher, good condition $80. Ozito push mower, little used $40. Ph 329 3032.

Dressmaker
Specializing in dance costumes, wedding gowns and formal/prom dresses. Happy to work on any sewing project large or small! 329 3166 or livingdolls@thedollfactory.co.nz.

Services offered
Handyman home services are offered. Tidying, painting, siding, roofing, plumbing and some plumbing as well as section tidying. Affordable rates. Ph Jim 328 8274 or 027 226 4548.

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

Boxing Circuit Classes
Monday 6.30pm and Wed 7pm. Commercial gym open 7 days. 329 9525 or 027 773 0036 or baysidefitness@gmail.com.

Doggie Bootcamps
We pick up your pet from home in the morning, take them out for the day and drop them back in the afternoon. We spend time walking on the lead individually and as part of a pack and have free time at a safe place such as a dog park, beach or forest. Ph 027 773 0036.
CHURCH NOTICES

Catholic Masses
Every Sunday at 5.30 pm
First Sunday of month: Mass at DH Community Church
Second, Fourth, and Fifth Sunday: SCAP® service (which fulfills Sunday Obligation)
Third Sunday of month: Mass at Lyttelton (21 Exeter St)
*Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest

Anglican – Methodist – Presbyterian Services

Easter Services
St Andrews Diamond Harbour
Easter Monday Thursday April 2nd 7pm
Good Friday 3rd April 10:30am
Easter Sunday 5th April 10:30am
St Pauls Port Levy
Easter “Trilogy” Saturday April 7th 7pm
St Peters Teddington
Easter Good Friday 3rd April 9am
Easter Sunday 5th April 9am

Weekly Services
St Andrews Diamond Harbour
Sundays at 10.30am and Wednesdays at 9am

Prayer for the Parish
Weekdays at 8.15am in the Church Library. This is to specifically pray for God’s presence in all our lives and His Spirit to move in our Parish. All are welcome. If you are unable to join us, please pray wherever you are.

Monday Night Study Group
Meets Monday fortnightly in a warm and friendly Charteris Bay home. Call Bruce Beckett on 329 4422.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study Group
Based on reading Word for Today, is held in the Church Library every second Wednesday at 3:30pm. Please contact Merylin Hasell on 329 3036.

Gamma Home Group
Meets Monday weekly in a warm and friendly Diamond Harbour home. For further details, please contact Ross Fountain on 329 4202.

Baby & Toddlers Group
Fortnightly on a Tuesday, a coffee and support group for parents and caregivers of babies and infants aged 0-36 months in the Church Hall from 10-12 noon. Contact Wendy on 329 4483 or 021 154 1434 for further information. Upcoming dates are Apr 7 & 21; May 5 & 19.

City Shopping Van
The van runs on alternate Wednesdays. Upcoming dates are Apr 8 & 22; May 6 & 20. Pick ups are around 9am and returning around 1:30pm. Bookings are essential so please call Nicky on 329 4341 or Wendy on 329 4483. A $10 contribution towards fuel costs is invited.

Quiz Night
Did you enjoy the last Quiz night? Advance notice... the next one is being held Friday May 22. $25 per Table: Maximum 5. Be in early to book a table as they go fast and you won’t want to miss out. Phone and leave your details on 329 4790 or email mt.herbertparish@xtra.co.nz.

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.

Second-hand items donated to the Church
Generally these are passed on to the Christchurch City Mission but we are also preparing for an Op shop in the Little River end of the parish. Thank you for donations - especially clean clothing. Please note that electrical items cannot be accepted. Non-perishable food items also gratefully accepted.

Mount Herbert Parish Newsletter
Please email contributions for the next issue to mt.herbertparish@xtra.co.nz.
You can read the current issue of the newsletter and back copies at: www.diamondharbour.info/church-notices.aspx

Mount Herbert Parish Website
For further parish news and information visit http://mouttherbertparish.wordpress.com

HERALD CALENDAR

ANZAC Day: Sat Apr 25. March 10.30, Service 11am. p14
Art Group: Weds, 9.30am-12noon, Church Hall
Art and Accessories: Sat Apr 11, 6.30pm Godley Café. p13
Artists in Residence: Sat/Sun Apr 11/12, 1pm Godley Café
Baby & Toddlers: Tue Apr 7 & 21; May 5 & 19. p21
Ballet - Harbour Basin Dance: Sats, 9.15am, Hall.
Bridge Club: Weds, 7am, Bowling Club. Ph 329 4049.
Camera Club: Tues Apr 21, 7.30pm, Stage Room. p14
Church Notice: See p21
Community Walk: Thurs, 10am, Godley Café. p13
Croquet: Weds, 1.30pm; Sats, 10am.
DHCA: Mon Apr 13, 7.30pm, Stage Rm, Gary March. p13
DHCA AGM: Mon Apr 20, 7pm, Stage Room. p13 & 18
Easter Services: See Church Notices. p21
ECAN at DHCA AGM: Mon Apr 20, 7.30pm. P13 & 18
ECAN at Port Talk: Thurs 10am-2pm, Sats 10am-12.30, p6
Harbour Singers: Weds, 7.45pm, Stage Room
Hist Assn AGM: Tue Apr 14, 7.30pm, Stage Room. p13
Insight Meditation: Tues, 6.30pm, 7A Where Ave
Jazz - Harbour Basin Dance: Tues, 4pm, Hall.
Ladies Probus: Mon Apr 13, 10am, Church Hall
Line Dancing: Weds, 1.30pm, Hall. p14
LPC at Port Talk: London/Oxford St. Fris 11am-1, p6
LMH Com Bd Mtg: Pt Levy Sch, Wed Apr 15, 9.30am. p19
Mens Probus: Thu Apr 2 & May 7, 10am, DH Rugby Club
Quiz Night: Fri May 22, 7pm, Community Hall. p13 & 21
Playcentre: Mon & Wed, 9am-12noon. p3
Running Group: Suns, 8am. p14
Sea Scouts: Tues, 3.30pm
Shopping Van: Wed Apr 8 & 22, May 6 & 20. p21
Singing Workshop: Sat Apr 18, 9.30am, Hall. p14
Tai Chi: Thu 11-12noon, Com Hall.
Tennis Club: Suns 9.30am, Waipapa Courts
Timebank Drop-in: Fris, 9am Godley Café. p11
Toastmasters: Sats Apr 11 & 25, 1.30pm, Stage Room. p15
Toy Library: Sats 10am, Community Hall. p14
Woolfun Day: Sat Apr 11, 397 Marine Dr. p13

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.

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