

# VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Volume No 131

November 2008

## Ambury Farm Day Held on Beautiful Spring Day

The 1<sup>st</sup> Ambury Farm Day recalled by Robin Schwass, had very small beginnings with the original idea being to bring the town to the country allowing the towns people to experience all the things farmy - shearing, milking, mustering, tractor rides, pony rides. These days Ambury Farm Day is a huge attraction for thousands of people from all over Auckland, but the country theme remains the same.

This year a crowd of some 23 000 people poured into the farm on a beautiful spring day to enjoy all the entertainment, activities and farm animals on offer. It was a wonderful family fun day down on the farm, with a record crowd!

Each year Ambury relies on 200 volunteers to get Farm Day alive and kicking. Without these people Farm Day couldn't run, so all those who volunteered on the day, should be congratulated

More farm news is that their pet lambs will be weaned by the end of October and on a full time grass diet.

They are still milking cows at 10.30am daily and will continue until mid December, there are also a few calves still being fed.

Polly their sow had 6 piglets on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, and they are growing so quickly! On another farm note, Stan Hall the farmer at Ambury for the past 5 1/2 years leaves to take on the role as farming co-ordinator for the Southern Sector parks, in addition to developing Waitawa, a new addition to the regional parks network. Stan has done a fantastic job managing the farm at Ambury while keeping the balance between farming and public recreation space.

Down on the foreshore, this is the time of year when the NZ Dotterel start laying, or should be if they if they were here. This is apparently the first time in many many years that the Dotterals haven't appeared. It definitely raises a few questions?

Now that the weather is picking up, and nights are getting longer, you are

invited to bring the kids down for a BBQ, use one of ours or bring your own, kick a ball around, take a walk through the farm, go on a bike ride and enjoy.

If you are bringing groups bigger than 50 it is important that you book, especially as the park becomes more popular (ph 366 2000 ext 2). However remember they are a rubbish free park, so take your rubbish home with you where you can recycle it.

They also have a campground which costs \$10 per night. For large groups please make sure you book (ph 366 2000 ext 2). For 2 - 4 people go to the Ambury Office, if the ranger is not there use the emergency contact to the right of the notice board, you can also set up camp in the campground and they will find you. Take note that the gates are locked at 8.00pm and open again at 8.00am.

### Road Closures and Detours

## SANTA PARADE

Thursday 4 December

**Domain Road closed 5.30 - 6.30pm:**  
Detour routes; Church, Mountain, Millar and Wallace Roads

**Church, McIntyre and Taylor Roads closed 6.30 - 7.15pm;** Detour Routes; Crawford, Hastie, Mountain, Millar and Wallace Roads

**19 to 33 Coronation Road closed from 6.30 - 8.30pm for entertainment;**  
Detour Routes; Crawford, and Hastie; Millar and Wallace.

**NO PARKING outside the shops from 5.30pm**

**NO PARKING in Domain Road 5.30 - 6.30pm**

## What's on at the Bridge

Every Wed	Mangere Bridge Plunket Indoor Bowls Names by 7.20pm Mangere Memorial Hall
Every Thu	Bridge Art Group 9am to Noon Memorial Hall
2nd Sun's	Sunday Walking
Every Wed	Tibetan Buddhist Class 7:30pm
Wed	Brownies 6 - 7.30pm
Mon	Guides 6 - 8pm
Every Mon	CMA Day Care 9:30am - 12:30pm Methodist Church Hall
Mon	W.I. second Monday of the month
Cub Scouts	Wednesdays 5:30-7:00pm 7 1/2 - 10 1/2 years
Kea Scouts	Tuesdays 4.30 - 5.30pm 5 1/2 - 7 1/2 years
Scouts	Thursdays 6.30 - 8.30pm 10 1/2 - 14 1/2 years
Mon/Tue/Thu	Plunket Playgroup 9.00am - 11.30pm
Mon	Plunket Toy Library 11.30am - 12.15pm
Sat	Plunket Toy Library 9.30am - 10.30pm
Mon/Thu	Plunket Car Seat Rentals 12.45 - 2.45pm Plunket Rooms, 5 Taylor Road. M/Bridge
Tue - Thur	Mangere Bridge Walking group 9:00am
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri	Mangere Bridge Playcentre 9.15am-12.15pm, Domain Road
3rd Wed	R & R Meeting 7.30pm St James Church Hall
Every Fri	Sing-a-long Storytime 10.30am Library
Mon/Wed	Senior Citizens Housie, 1.00pm Bridge Crt Hall
Mon	St John Youth- every Mon 6:30 - 8:00pm
Wed	Exercise Classes with DYNABANDS Manukau Yacht Club 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Last Tues	Cafe Church at Latin Coffee 7.00pm
Wed	Yoga 6.30 - 8 pm Mangere Mountain Education Centre
Art & Craft	1st & 3rd Saturday of the month Village Sq Market
1st Thu	Senior Citizens Travel Club, Day Trips every first Thursday Phone 634 1062
Daily	Mathematics/Mandarin Tuition Phone 622 2688 or 021 135 0368

## Mangere Bridge School Boot Sale

Mangere Bridge School Boot Sale  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 08

\$10 per "car boot" for all wishing to sell.

To book your space contact Annette 636 9520  
Cakes and other home made things will be on sale.

Pop down from 8am - 12midday.

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## Village Happenings

with Carol Anne

Hello everyone,

Thursday night entertainment has started with the welcome return of some popular bands. Up until Dec 18 it will be on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. During Summer it will be on every Thursday. When there is a fifth Thursday in the month that night will be Karaoke Night. It is a very enjoyable and inexpensive way to spend an evening enjoying a meal or coffee in both pleasant surroundings and great community atmosphere.

### Road Closures 4 December

Coronation Rd, between Domain and Church Roads will be closed between 6.30pm and 7.15pm approximately on Thursday the 4th of December for the Santa Parade. Use detour routes (Rain date 11 December)

There will be **NO PARKING** in Coronation Rd between the roundabouts, from 5.30pm to 8.30pm and **NO PARKING** on Domain Rd or at the War memorial Hall from 5.30 till 7.15pm.

### Santa Parade and Entertainment

The Parade will start from Domain Rd at 6.30pm and travel down Coronation Rd through the Village and back up again. The road will remain closed between the ASB and United Video until 8.30pm for family entertainment in the Village, in Naomi and Bill Kirk Park. There will be Bouncy Castles, Train rides, Pony and Cart rides, Face painting, Art and Craft stalls and more. Come early to get a good spot along the Parade Route.

It's not too late for any groups who want to take part in the Parade, however you will need to contact me by the 29th November at the latest.

### CCTV

The CCTV trial has been very successful and the police have been able to make use of footage of some incidents. The CCTV project is a joint venture between the Business Association and the Community Trust which have just recently secured some funding. More cameras are to be installed soon

### Management Office

As I am often out it is best to contact me to make an appointment to meet with me. Phone: 636 7491, E-mail: mbvillage@maxnet.co.nz.

kind regards *Carol Anne Armitage*  
Village Manager

Mangere Bridge Progressive Business Association

## Hospice Offers Thanks

As Christmas approaches Hospice would love to take the opportunity to thank the community for all of the wonderful goods that have been donated over the year, without them they would not be able to continue!

Remember when doing your Christmas shopping this year that their shops are a wonderful place to buy Christmas presents. Goods purchased from a Hospice shop carry extra special meaning due to the fact that the purchase price is going towards the wonderful care that is provided the people in need in your community. Another advantage of purchasing gifts from one of the Hospice Shops is that they have an incredibly small carbon footprint

due to the fact that items are being 'recycled' and have no wasteful packaging and the like.

**Hospice shops will be open right up until 4pm on 23 December.** They will be taking donated goods up until that date but they ask that PLEASE don't leave any items outside their shops while they are closed over Christmas as it creates a problem for the council and more often than not the items will be removed and not end up in our shops.

**Shops open on Monday 12 January** and they will gladly accept your donations again on that date



## Mangere Community House Programmes

**Tai Chi** - ring Joanna to register your interest

**Learn English** - Improve your English for work or to be able to read to your children. All levels  
Phone Joanna 275 4920

**In-House Counselling** - Friday am Phone 277 5337 to make an appointment

**Games Morning** - Scrabble, - Thursday 10.00am to 11.00am, all welcome

**Drivers License** - Beginners, Restricted, Full and HT, Full and HT \$30

**AA Aroha** - Sundays 7.00pm Ph 636 8281

**Al Anon** Wednesday 10.00am

**Parent Trust - Being the Mother You Want to be**

This eight week programme is led by friendly, supportive and experienced group facilitators who help mums explore some of these stresses and find strategies to make parenting even more enjoyable phone 376 0400

**Rooms for Community and Private Hire**

Please view our website or phone Joanna 275 4920 for more information on any of the above. Developing programmes to meet the needs of the community, we welcome your ideas, please give us a call.

[www.manukau.govt.nz](http://www.manukau.govt.nz)

Keywords community houses

## ICON Security Offers Some Suggestions

With the arrival of daylight saving and the weather starting to get warmer it is probable that you will see groups of youths congregating late at night and in the early hours of the morning around the township and in parks etc. Associated with these groups one normally finds problems with graffiti and vandalism.

The Icon Patrols will move these groups on during the patrol visits however it is also very important that store owners take some steps to assist with the problem:

Points to observe:

Ensure that external lighting is working

Ensure that your premise is fully secured, especially doors and windows at the rear of your building

Do not leave materials outside that may be used to break windows etc (i.e. wood, pipes, bricks etc)

Do not leave empty boxes and rubbish lying loose outside as this can be dispersed throughout the township

If you are having problems with groups or gangs of youths, report it to Carol-Anne the Village Manager and she will liaise with Icon (may be they might be able to change the timing or frequency of their patrol visits)

## Accountant

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# Mangere Historical Society

Members hear how Otutaua Stonefields were formed

Lucy MacIntosh a young historian came and spoke very knowledgeably about the Otutaua Stonefields. She explained how the area that became Auckland was, 15,000 years ago, a low-lying silt and sand formation gently sloping towards the two rivers, which eventually became our massive Harbours.

Once the Volcanic activity started, clusters formed, spraying the land with molten lava and rock bombs, forming underground rivers and eventually as the top layer cooled, large volcanic caves.

At that time Ihumatao was covered with kauri forest. The two volcanic cones on this 100 hectare piece of land, Puketapa and Ihumatao, smothered the land with magna flow, lava and ash. The kauri forest now remains in petrified form at the end of Renton Road. Over the next 30,000 years the land became covered with large ferns and other fauna. Underground rivers drained the water and volcanic soil was formed.

These stonefields are one of very few areas where one can trace the occupation by man from approx 1000 A.D. The first settlers came from Eastern Polynesia in the Tainui canoe, via the Waitemata, portaged to the Manukau and eventually settled at Kawhia. They dropped families off at various places including the Ihumatao area.

The Nga Oho tribe was established at this time and artifacts have been found here and at Puketutu Island verifying this. They gardened and used the organic matter to compost the land. The warmth from the rocks sheltered their gardens while fish and shellfish offered variations to their diet.

The Nga Iwi tribe, descended from Nga Oho, was formed as this group grew in numbers and amiably split. In 1600 the Waiohaua tribe occupied the Auckland Isthmus under the leadership of Chief Kiwi Tamaki. He lived at Maungakiekie- One Tree Hill. They were descended from Nga Iwi people.

At this time there were approx 2000 people occupying this area. Each hapu/ family had their own area on the Stonefields and gardened their land using the loose rocks to fence or divide their properties. Kumera, taro and gourds were popular plants. A rare native cucumber measuring approx half an inch, has

been found there also.

In 1750 the Far North Ngati Whatua tribe declared war on their southern neighbours and Kiwi Tamaki was killed in battle, between Huia and Titirangi. Others were killed, enslaved and some intermarried with these warriors. Once again people called Nga Oho settled on the Stonefields in the Spring and Summer seasons to work their gardens.

Capt Cook introduced potatoes, corn and peaches which added to their diet. In the 1820s the Auckland area was deserted but by 1836 people returned and planted their crops and gardens again. The Methodist Church established their Mission Station at Taotaoroa, next to Elletts Mountain (Puketapa). In 1863 Gov. Grey decreed that all Maori must swear allegiance to British Crown. Many opted to leave their lands and move to the Waikato. This allowed their lands to be confiscated and given to early settlers. In the Ihumatao case the four families were Rennies, Wallace, Mendelsohn and Elletts. The Scottish people used their knowledge to build up the drystone dykes (fences) to clear the land and make their paddocks.

While the land was difficult to farm, they however planted many trees which have withstood the test of time. Baches built on their beach frontages were enjoyed by many of Auckland's professional families through the summer season until the 1960s.

The Stonefields are owned and run by Manukau City Council as a reserve and are a unique area in the vicinity of Mangere

# Mangere Mountain Guided Tours

Mangere Mountain - Te Upoko o Mataoho in days of old - I nga ra o mua - was a strategic Pa site with over 1000 years of pre-European settlement.

Put your shoes on and book in for a guided tour of the Maunga- Mt with **Mangere Mountain Education Centre** 100 Coronation Rd, Mangere Bridge. 09 634 -7305 or e-mail: [mangeremountain@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mangeremountain@xtra.co.nz) The cost is \$5.00 / person.

Or just go and enjoy their beautiful gardens and museum displays. View their Mara Kai - food garden and Mara Rongoa - medicinal / healing gardens.

HERITAGE SEEDS for sale: KAMOKAMO, KOANGAMAI -white corn, KAANGA WHERO - red corn, HUE - Pacific Bottle Gourd, HUE - African Gourd. \$3.00 packet.

In 6 weeks they will have KUMARA TUPU available for sale. Stock is from original heritage kumara.

For those interested there is available the Mangere Mountain Education Centre Publication on the pre-European settlement history of Mangere Mountain, "I nga ra o mua - In days of old". \$16.90.

## Handbag Snatchers and Some Advice

A major Auckland-wide handbag snatching ring has recently been uncovered.

Recent raids involving 30 officers with 15 search warrants resulted in nine men being arrested.

It is quite possible that some of them may have been involved in handbag snatches in Mangere Bridge which were caught on CCTV.

To check for stolen property recovered from handbag thefts go to:

[www.police.govt.nz/recovered](http://www.police.govt.nz/recovered)

As a safety measure, when walking along the service lanes to or from your vehicle, please keep your handbags on the side which is away from the roadway.

## SANTA PARADE

Thursday December the 4th

### Copy Deadline for December 2008


Deadline for the December Issue is the 21st November 2008. To ensure that your article makes the December issue fax copy to 636 6096 or post to 6 Conifer Lane Mangere Bridge

We cannot guarantee a definite delivery time for the Village Newsletter, however we will do our best to have it delivered before the advertised upcoming events

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## Carters Kids Gone Fishin'

On Sunday the 30th of November a free family fishing event takes place at the Bridge.

This event will give children the opportunity to fish in a safe, fun and organised venue while at the same time enable them to spend quality time in the great outdoors with the family. Carters Police Bluelight and fishing legend Graeme Sinclair from the Carters Gone Fishing Show are the organisers of the event and will be present on the day.

The Carters Kids Gone Fishin' events happen around the country and are always popular.

The event runs from 10.00am to 1.00pm on Sunday the 30th November. For more information or to register call in to the local Caters Store or contact [Brendon@bluelight.co.nz](mailto:Brendon@bluelight.co.nz)

## Mangere Bridge Plunket Indoor Bowling Club

The Club's last championship winners for the year were:

Skips & Leads – Fred Webster and Zac Smith  
Runner up – Ian Price and Emily Reece

3's & 2's – Neil and Helen Robinson  
Runners up – Maryanne Stipich and Jeanne Carey

Mangere Bridge Plunket Indoor Bowling Club would like to thank the sponsors of their tournaments this year, Mr Gordon Ward for donations, the management and staff of Yates Seeds and Selleys for a donation of goods, and Ricky of Redfire Nurseries for plants, also the Mangere Bridge Businesses that supported our September tournament, it is very much appreciated.

The Mangere Bridge Plunket playgroup put on some wonderful suppers and at this years prizegiving, on the 12<sup>th</sup> November, the members are looking forward to presenting the representatives from Plunket with a cheque, the amount being the proceeds raised from these tournaments.

## Looking For Volunteers

The Mangere Citizens Advice Bureau is currently looking for volunteers who have a couple of hours per week to spare to assist their Information Officer in keeping all information up-to-date.

Anyone interested in becoming a fully trained Citizens Advice Bureau worker is invited to fill out an application form for the next Basic Training Course starting in February 2009.

## Lunch Break Activities at Waterlea

Students at Waterlea can experience a range of fun activities during their lunch breaks.

Activities available include playing musical instruments, joining the Tongan Club to practice songs and dance, practicing Kapahaka or training for the athletic sports and then of course there is the school library which is a popular place to visit.

During November the Board of Trustees have a comprehensive plan for meetings so that parents may have their say in the strategic direction of the school.

## Hanging Baskets Herald the Start of Summer

The special feature of Mangere Bridge are the hanging baskets of colourful flowers which have gone up again in the Village for the Summer/Autumn season.

All thanks must go to Dolly and Naomi and the many volunteers who help to prepare the baskets each year.

This year special thanks go to Sepali and the local Brownies, the Pippins and their leaders for their contribution as well as to George who throughout the period takes care of the automatic watering.

They are particularly interested in people who would volunteer for the 10am to 2.00pm duty. Anyone interested in either volunteer position should visit the CAB for a chat or for the application form, Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 4.00pm. Or for more information call the Bureau on 275 6885

The Mangere CAB is situated at the Mangere Town Centre, behind the Library and provides free, confidential and impartial information or help on any matter

## SILVER SNEAKERS

Gentle exercise for the golden years. Sessions promote health and wellbeing through dance and motion.

Enjoy the tunes of yesteryear, while exercising the right way.

Improve your coordination, posture, balance, strength, flexibility and re-energise and de-stress.

You'll be surprised how quickly the hour flies by. Classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30am at the Onehunga Senior Citizens' Hall, 3 Pearce Street, Onehunga.

No membership fees and first class is Free. Newcomers welcome. Contact Kimi (09)6300629

## Bridge Resident Features in Competition

Once again a Mangere Bridge resident features in a competition.

This time it was our local Councillor Sylvia Taylor who had four garments entered and accepted for the Cult Couture Fashion Awards at the Telstra Clear Event Centre.

There were 180 entries of which eighty were accepted from a total of sixty seven designers. While Sylvia's four entries in the final did not win it was a great achievement on her part to have had that number of entries accepted.

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