

the guardian



Motueka, Tasman & Golden Bay

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Fundraising for Mapua Community Hall gets "in the Swing"

by Murray Owen

Over recent years it became inevitable that a major upgrade or redevelopment was needed for the community-owned Mapua Hall. The land, as well as the hall, is owned by the community through the Mapua Hall Society, which has charitable trust status.

The hall development concept was launched last year after the Mapua community had wrestled with various proposals for a couple of years.

The main challenge was to retain the integrity of the old hall, while also trying to enlarge the architectural integrity and satisfy all groups using the facility.

The building was moved by barge to Mapua from Kina where

it had served as an apple shed. When it opened in 1945, 800 people turned up to celebrate this important new community facility and the music and dancing continued long into the night.

Today, music continues to play an important role in the life of the hall.

For example, Swing Mapua, which is happening over the weekend of February 24th-26th, will see a number of events involving the Aspire Big Band from Wellington taking place, all part of fundraising for the hall redevelopment.

Swing Mapua coordinator Hillary Gregory-Chandler, who is not on the Hall committee, said the Big Band was a Charitable

Trust and a Music Performance Academy.

"They provide opportunities for sharing their skills and helping with fundraising. Our community is hosting the band and providing one vehicle from Picton to Mapua. The band is covering everything else."

Hillary is a teacher, currently focusing on music and performing arts in schools, and is passionate about providing performing opportunities within the district. She has a very good link to Aspire with her brother playing bass for the band.

On Friday evening, February 24th, there will be a concert at the Hills Community Church 7.30pm, while on Saturday, February

25th, 9.45am-11am, there will be an education extension session, involving history of the Big Band era, members talking about their experiences and careers in music, education options and musical demonstrations.

From 2pm-5pm Aspire invite musicians to jam with them at the Golden Bear Brewery. They

suggest you take The Real Book 6 and a chair.

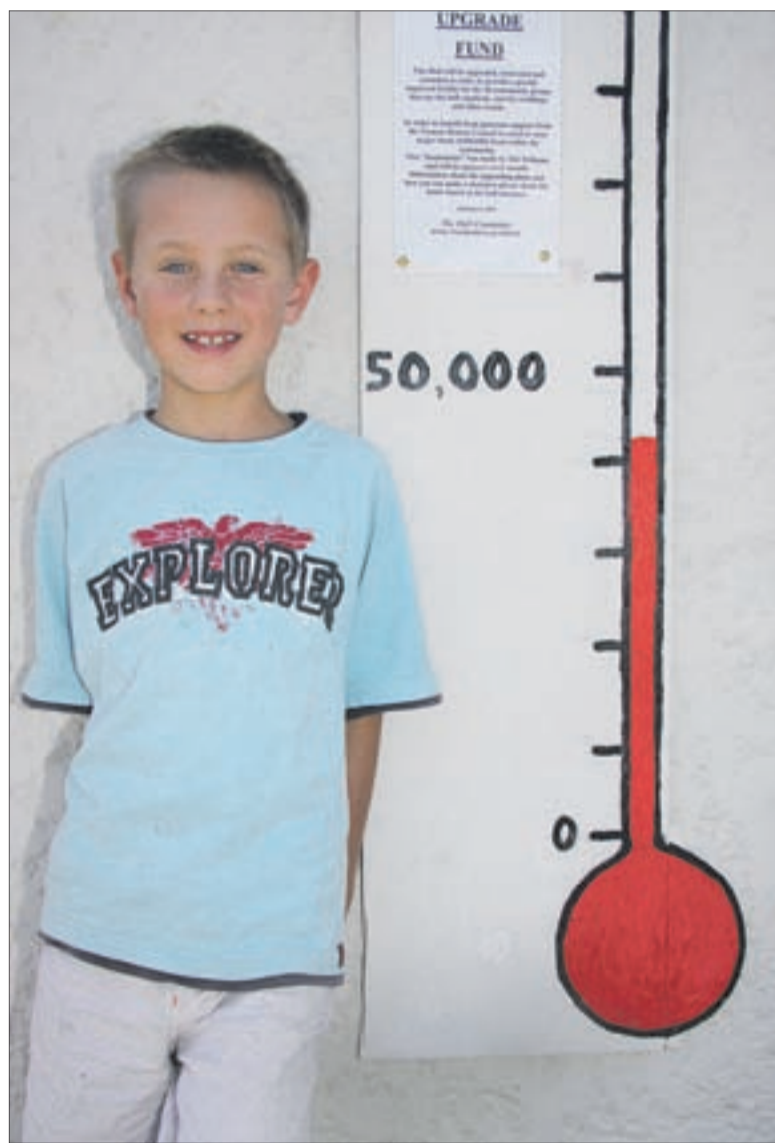
Then on Saturday night, February 25th there will be the 1940s Swing Dance Party Night at The Playhouse, Mapua, 8pm till midnight. On Sunday, February 26th, the band will be playing at the Motueka Sunday Market,

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All smiles at latest Sarau Festival



Sunday's Sarau Festival at the Moutere Hills Community Centre was again a huge success, bringing smiles to organisers and patrons like Georgina and Frances (pictured). More on the festival page 16.



Oliver Chandler, 7, stands beside the fundraising gauge near the front entrance to Mapua Hall.

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