

# Motueka Valley Association Newsletter



The River, The Land, The People

April 2022

## Bringing Back the Whio

As recorded in 1852 by a first pakeha settler to Motueka Valley, Whio or Blue Duck's '...favourite home and nesting place is the mountain torrent and there among the deep pools and rushing falls they're always to be seen. So tame and fearless that they could be knocked over with a stick...'.

Now, while their population of under 3,000 is slowly increasing, Whio are still a threatened and nationally vulnerable species. Just 372 pairs in the South Island.

Whio are an ancient and iconic species of waterfowl found only in New Zealand and featured on our \$10 note. A taonga (treasured) species with which Maori have a strong traditional, cultural, spiritual and historic connection. They live all year long in rivers which are clean and fast-flowing. They nest along the banks of rivers and feed on the insect life. The presence of Whio is a good indication of a river's health.

Fortunately, there are a lot of local conservation efforts going on to protect the Whio. Their population in Kahuarangi National Park and Motueka River Catchment is slowly increasing and this is due to the trapping work being done by Friends of Flora, local farmers, land owners and Farmers for Whio.

Supported by the Tasman Environmental Trust, *Farmers for Whio* is a group of local landowners in the Graham, Pearce and Baton River catchments. The group formed in 2020 to provide predator control to protect the Whio. Stoats and rats are the Whio's main predator, but also feral cats, domestic dogs, and ferrets.

Barry Burger is trapping coordinator and contact person for *Farmers for Whio*. Barry, a fencing contractor, lives in Ngatimoti with his wife Catherine and sons Louie, Chico, Beau and Rua. They moved here 10 years ago from western Southland.



Louie clearing a trap up the Skeet River



Whio family

"I think it's a good project to be involved with. The kids are really keen, and it's a good community thing to do. I do one day a week which is one day a week I'm not abusing my body on a fence line," he laughs.

Barry really enjoys being in the outdoors and seeing what birds are out there:

"We've recently been surveying in the Big Pokororo, assessing habitat, looking for signs of ducks and we've found a pair up there which is good to see. We've also got ducks up the Graham, Pearce and headwaters of Baton rivers as well," Barry says.





*Nikau, Joe, Chico & Sayla with traps they built at Ngatimoti School last year*

“Primarily we use DOC 150 traps which are the ones the Ngatimoti school kids have been making. We have a wee workshop up at the old Graham Valley School to make up the trap boxes. We have around 500 individual traps out”.

The trap lines are along the Pearce, Graham and Baton rivers and in between on the West bank of Motueka River.

“There are also trap lines on the stream which goes to the river across the road from Ngatimoti School...eventually we want to link it all up”, Barry says.

The traps and lines are listed on the website Trap NZ – a record-keeping platform where hundreds of trapping groups all over New Zealand record their data. It is a free app for the recording of trap, bait, monitoring and biodiversity outcome data. This helps to show trends and is good for funding purposes.

“We have quite a few landowners who check their own traps on their properties, and we have 4 or 5 volunteers who have their own trap lines to check as well.”

Traps are generally checked once a month:

“A bit more frequently if possible over the summer months and now when the adult ducks are moulting,” Barry says, “They’re really vulnerable when they can’t fly, and the same when they’re nesting.”

Another threat to the Whio is climate change and extreme weather events:

“...Not only during nesting times when nests and ducklings can get washed away by floods but also in winter when a lot of feed for the ducks gets washed out of the river like larvae from stoneflies and caddisflies...Climate change is not very good for the blue ducks in a lot of ways.” Barry says.


For anyone who wants to get involved Barry Burger can be contacted on [farmersforwhio@gmail.com](mailto:farmersforwhio@gmail.com) or call him on 0223 126 992



*Rua with a stoat caught in workshop*



*Barry showing traps to Ngatimoti School students  
Photo: Niki Morrell*



Can anyone who travels regularly to Nelson assist the MVA by acting as a courier once a month?? Please contact [newsletter@mva.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@mva.org.nz) if you can help in this way.

### **MVA Committee Update**

The highlight from the March MVA meeting has been that feedback has been submitted to the Tasman District Council regarding the Walking and Cycling Strategy. This project has been in development since 2018 yet fails to serve the valley.  
This is where the MVA is working for you.

### **The Motueka Valley Association is looking for new committee members**

Do you have an interest in the well-being of the Motueka Valley and its people?  
Can you attend meetings at Ngatimoti Community Rooms?  
Do you enjoy meeting your community?  
If you're interested or have questions, contact one of the committee members or email [info@mva.org.nz](mailto:info@mva.org.nz).

The next MVA meeting is  
**Wednesday 13 April, 8pm**  
Ngatimoti Community Rooms



All Welcome!

### **Motueka Valley Association**

Meetings every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 8pm (7.30pm in winter) in the Ngatimoti Community Rooms.

*Everyone welcome!*

For community concerns email the MVA at [info@mva.org.nz](mailto:info@mva.org.nz) or contact any of the following **committee members**:

Peter Laufkotter	526 8554
Fiona Nelson	020 4160 1968
Joel Briffault	021 0284 7245
Fay Knight	022 320 0449

#### about your newsletter

Kamal Willis has taken over the role of newsletter editor from Suji. For your stories, photos, advertisements by the 20th of the month and/or feedback you can contact him on [newsletter@mva.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@mva.org.nz).

- delivered on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month to 500 homes in the Motueka Valley from February to December
- advertising rate: \$2.00 per column cm
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#### local halls/facilities

Ngatimoti Memorial Hall • Bex Douglas  
021 173 1279 • [ngatimoti.hall@gmail.com](mailto:ngatimoti.hall@gmail.com)

Ngatimoti Community Rooms • Sarah Brashaw  
526 8026

Pokororo Hall • Sylvia Arnold • 526 8282

Woodstock Hall • Kerry Hall • 543 3884

### **A Small Reminder for the Garden**

It is time to get your winter veggie garden jobs underway. Collect seeds such as tomatoes, beans, sunflowers etc.

Winter vegetables to be planted as young seedlings or sown as seed directly into the garden include; beetroot, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, lettuce, onions, peas, bok choy, radish, silverbeet, spinach, and kale.



## NGATIMOTI SCHOOL NEWS - April 2022

### Terms and Holiday Dates 2022

Term Two: 2 May - 8 July

Queen's Birthday - Monday 6 June

Matariki - Friday 24 June

Term Three: 25 July - 30 September

Term Four: 17 October - 15 December



**He taonga  
rongonui te aroha  
ki te tangata.**

Goodwill towards others  
is a precious treasure.



Term One has been action packed, using our local environment with visits to look at bridge structures, class walks to White Rock (huge thanks to the Laufkotter family for allowing us to bring whole classes through their land!) river swimming and water safety lessons. Our senior class has also enjoyed helping a local farmer with some weed control and planting native trees. Many thanks to those who continue to support Ngatimoti School. In these tough times, schools often suffer, particularly when funding is dependent on roll numbers. Rural schools are often the hub of a community and at Ngatimoti we are proud of what we offer our children and their families. As well, we are a community school where we enjoy learning with, and from, people in our local community.

Our students really got into the spirit of our fun Try-athlon recently, having fun together with some healthy competition too! It is always great to see the role modelling from older students and the positive attitudes from everyone.

**Swimming Pool.** Key holders; if you no longer need your pool key please return it to the school office for your \$10 refund within school hours. Thank you!

**Ngatimoti Parents Group AGM** The Annual General Meeting of Ngatimoti Parents Group was held in March. At this meeting Annie Simpson was re-elected as Chairperson, Kathryn Beatson re-elected as Treasurer and Phoebe Quinlivan was elected Secretary. Despite our festival having to be cancelled in 2021, the financial position of Parents Group remains healthy and it was agreed to make the following donations to our community: \$20,000 to Ngatimoti School Board, \$400 to Ngatimoti Memorial Hall and \$500 to Westpac Rescue Helicopter. We are very appreciative of all the hard work our parents have put in in preparation for Festival even though it did not go ahead, and school will use these funds donated to directly benefit our students here at school. In these uncertain times we are unsure if this year's festival will be able to go ahead either, however we remain positive and thank you for your continued support.



*Room 5 students, teacher Mr. Hepburn and Banksy the dog look out from White Rock*

**New enrolments are welcome at Ngatimoti School.  
For more information please contact Alison Turner**

**Tel: 03 526 8842.**

**[office@ngatimoti.school.nz](mailto:office@ngatimoti.school.nz) [www.ngatimoti.school.nz](http://www.ngatimoti.school.nz)**



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## BEE SWARMS

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A sweet reward at the end of summer shall be yours.



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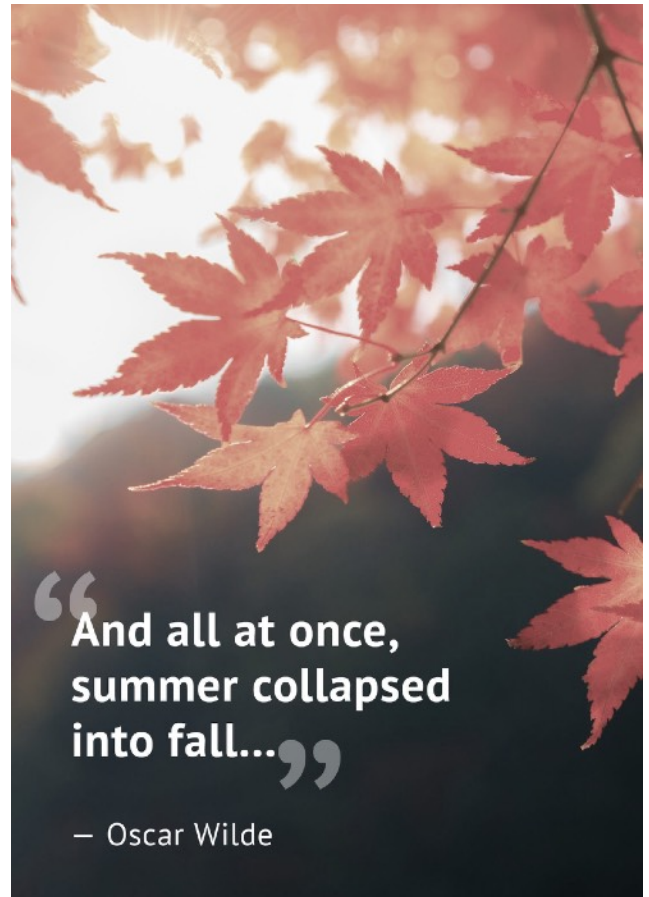


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— Oscar Wilde

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## ST. JAMES CHURCH NGATIMOTI *April Services*

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 10:30 a.m.**

**Easter Family Service**

**Children's Sunday School**

**Outside, weather permitting – no service if raining or inclement conditions**

## ANZAC SERVICE

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 10:30 a.m.**

**Outside – bring your own seat**

*All Welcome*





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**connect on Facebook:**

**Motueka Valley Community**  
 A group with over 2700 members, who are not necessarily living in the valley, but have the valley at heart.

**Motueka Valley Residents Group**  
 A group for people residing in the Motueka Valley area.

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**Location of AEDs in Motueka Valley**

- **Woodstock Automotive (Kerry Hall)**  
 1982 Dovedale Road, Woodstock Junction.
- **Ngatimoti Community Rooms/Fire Station**  
 Motueka Valley Highway next to Ngatimoti School
- **Pokororo Hall**  
 West Bank Road at corner of Graham Valley Road

Motueka Valley Defibrillator Group is a registered charity (CC50792). Donations towards the maintenance of the AEDs can be made to: Motueka Valley Defibrillator Group, NBS acc # 03-1354-0474291-00 or contact Gloria Anderson, chairperson, on 526 8644 for more information.





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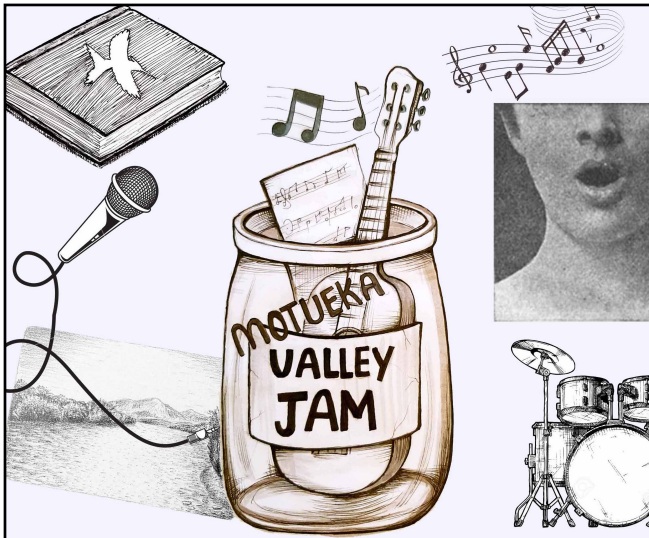
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## Motueka Valley Open Mic

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All are welcome to participate or just come and enjoy.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month, 7.30pm**

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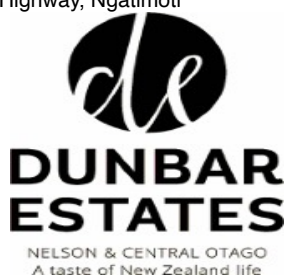
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