

# Motueka Valley Association Newsletter



The River, The Land, The People

March 2022

## 2022 Actions of the Motueka Catchment Collective

Jo Leyland, Co-convenor of Motueka Catchment Collective (MCC), writes: Hope the year is off to a good start for everyone and that the summer has been a good one. The recent rain has been very welcome to see the paddocks greening up again. Presumably we will have another hot spell and appreciate river swims before it gets too cold. As we go forward this year, we have the prospect of omicron spreading through our community.

We had planned a meeting in March to share the findings on the research that Tasman District Council (TDC) have been doing over the summer viz gravel in the Motueka river. It follows on from key interest of members and the meeting that we had on flooding last October. We have requested that the TDCC (Tapawera & Districts Community Council) invest in some equipment for the Community Centre so that we can have Zoom meetings there. They are exploring what is required but have indicated support, which would potentially be helpful for a range of events & groups in the Tapawera and upper Motueka area. It would mean being able to be more inclusive when using Zoom as some people don't have that internet capacity and it enables a smaller gathering to be able to take part in such meeting events, given that it's unwise to hold larger scale meetings in person for the time being. So, we have scheduled the next main meeting for the Motueka Catchment Collective (MMC) to be on **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> April** which is the week leading up to Easter, and it would be via Zoom. It would follow a presentation that is being made by TDC staff to Councillors on the research findings related to gravel. It is not a simple topic.

There have also been various moves behind the scenes to further develop the Motueka Catchment Collective's (MCC) Action Plan. Our meeting in December, led by Annette Litherland of NZ Landcare Trust was a really good start. There was good representation from eight of the tributary/catchment areas as well as Sherry catchment group, TDC, forestry & ICM stakeholder input.

We agreed on a revision of our Aim so that it now reads:

*From an informed and respectful standpoint, facilitate weaving the communities of the Motueka catchment together to ensure the wellbeing of the freshwater system and connected environment.*

We looked at what issues the Motueka River/catchment faces in the next twenty years and the outcomes that we would like to see. From that we went through a prioritisation voting exercise to determine the key issues to focus on. The top six came out as:

- Sediment (including gravel) 13
- Weeds – especially OMB 11
- Human management of riparian margins 8
- Flooding resilience and climate change 7
- Water quality – swimmable/drinkable 7
- Predator control 6

We also discussed the governance for the Motueka Catchment Collective (MCC). The Tasman Environmental Trust (TET) will provide project management services through their Community Conservation Hub <https://www.tet.org.nz/conservation-hub/> which enables us to better solicit for funding and support. The MCC is an overarching group for the whole catchment and in some respects we need to look at a whole-of-catchment approach but obviously there are different priorities in different parts of the catchment and different communities with differing actions. Project work and actions would then be mostly at this more local level.

Annette is continuing to develop our Action Plan and she is also drafting up a survey to go out to landowners in the catchment. There are some interesting conversations going on in relation to actions addressing some of these priority issues and we are looking to source funding and support this year which means fleshing out details on priority actions more so at sub-catchment level. If your sub-catchment or local community wants to be part of this, we want to hear what your key issues are and how to address them. Thanks to those who have communicated those already.

You can contact Annette on 0277244445 for further details or email Jo at [motcatchment@gmail.com](mailto:motcatchment@gmail.com).



**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).

Are your rates working for you?

The next MVA meeting is **Wednesday 9 March, 8pm**  
Ngatimoti Community Rooms

All Welcome!

## Cherry Homestead: A Wonderful Place To Be

Johan and Emelie Wahlgren and their two sons Loke and Viggo moved to the valley two years ago in 2020. They emigrated from Sweden seven years ago and moved to the Coromandel, where they ran a holiday park with help from Johan's parents and sister. But after five years, they made the decision to come down south: "The holiday park was a hectic lifestyle, on call 24/7, we never had time off" says Emelie, "We felt like we couldn't keep on going by ourselves when Johan's parents retired."

They bought their 6 ½ hectares property on the West Bank, and Johan's sister and parents settled in Nelson. The entire property before various subdivisions over the years was known as Salisbury Farm.

The Wahlgrens arrived just before the first lockdown in February 2020. Johan says: "It was an awkward time to move with Covid and lockdowns but it was an easy move because of the friendly people and the school environment".

Emelie agrees: "It's a beautiful place, everyone is so friendly...It reminds us of Sweden with all the deciduous trees too."

Loke, 10 years old and Viggo, eight years old are students at Ngatimoti school: "They love it, it's an awesome school", says Johan.

Johan and Emelie are aiming to be as self-sufficient as possible: "We want to live more off the farm here and get the income from that...", they say.

Their farm has orchards of plum, apple, pears and quince, with a few established walnut trees around the site as well. There used to be 100 sour cherry trees but as they weren't in good condition and not worth investing in, Johan and Emelie have taken them down. They are planning to expand in that area this winter with Christmas trees: "...just for three years", Johan says.



The farm used to be certified organic for years, but the cost is prohibitive for the Wahlgrens at this stage and they will continue as spray-free. Last year, in one of the paddocks, they planted garlic using three varieties – Printanor, Early New Zealand Purple and Kakanui a New Zealand heirloom:

"We have had our first harvest", says Johan, "and we sold just a small batch, 13kg, and kept most for it for ourselves as seed collection for next season. As the property was an old tobacco farm we still have the old drying rooms to use."



In Sweden, as well as doing forestry work and fencing, Johan was a qualified carpenter. He has set himself up here offering handyman services – firewood, gardening work, weed eating, property clean-ups, as well as building services and renovations. While at home all summer with the kids as Emelie was working, Johan is busy again doing a variety of jobs for people around the valley.

Emelie, a nurse in Sweden, has just started working at Greenwood Health as a health-care assistant. She is also an artist and uses driftwood as her medium. Her driftwood art is on display in her studio along with some furniture reconditioning to which Johan also contributes.



Driftwood artwork by Emelie

Also on their property they have a self-contained, one bedroom cottage with a lounge and kitchen, and a sleep-out with two additional beds, to accommodate up to five people. Well-experienced as accommodation providers, Johan and Emelie have renovated these during lockdown and offer them as BnB accommodation:

*“Covid has made it difficult for tourist accommodation. We had bookings from kiwis with a lot of one night bookings only and cancellations before Christmas but we still ended up fully booked for four or five weeks. We were able to rent it out for short-term before Christmas and now again for a few months.”*

For enquiries or more information, check out their website [www.cherryhomestead.nz](http://www.cherryhomestead.nz), email [johan@cherryhomestead.nz](mailto:johan@cherryhomestead.nz), or ring 027 763 5871.

Fiona Nelson  
Reporter

### 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

#### 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


#### about your newsletter

- delivered on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month to 500 homes in the Motueka Valley from February to December

- send stories, photos & ads by the 20th of the month to the editor, Kamal Ortiz:  
[newsletter@mva.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@mva.org.nz)

- advertising rate: \$2.00 per column cm

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## NGATIMOTI SCHOOL NEWS

### Terms and Holiday Dates 2022

Term One: 2 Feb - 14 April

Good Friday - 15 April

Easter Monday - 18 April

Day after Easter Monday - 19 April

ANZAC Day - Monday 25 April

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



**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.

We have recently installed a junior slide, thanks to profits from previous Ngatimoti Festivals. Thanks Ian for installing this!

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

Goodwill towards others  
is a precious treasure.



*This is the whakatauki we have  
chosen for our school this year.*

It has been a great summer and we are pleased with how students have settled into school, despite the challenges around us all. We have been enjoying lots of learning outside, including swimming and water safety lessons. Thanks to all those who have supported us to keep the swimming pool open over the summer break by purchasing a key, and by following our pool rules and expectations.

The rules and expectations around the use of the pool also apply to the use of our school grounds and are mostly based around health & safety. We teach our students to be RIVER students; *Respectful, Innovative, positive, Excellent and Responsible*. Respecting our school as a place of learning for our students and also as a place for building our community is important. We expect all community members using our school grounds to model these values and appreciate the communication, unity and inclusiveness of our local community.

**Ngatimoti School Board News** At the first meeting of the Board for 2022, Andy McFarland was elected Presiding Member (previously Chairperson). Our Chairperson for the last two years has been Sophie Jackson and she has done an amazing job, especially through these difficult times. Thank you Sophie for your patience, care and dedication to the role of Chairperson. Sophie chose to step down as Presiding Member this year but will remain as a parent elected board member. Ciaran Bolger has been officially co-opted onto our board and now joins Rebecca, Andy, Sophie and Chops as a parent board member.

**New enrolments are welcome.** For more information about Ngatimoti School please contact Alison Turner, Principal 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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#### Family Service

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March - 10:30 a.m.

#### Children's Sunday School

Service will be outside, weather permitting

#### Easter Service

There will be a service on Easter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am, however we are limited to 25 people inside due to covid restrictions

#### AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 at 7.30pm in the Sunday School Hall

### BEE SWARMS

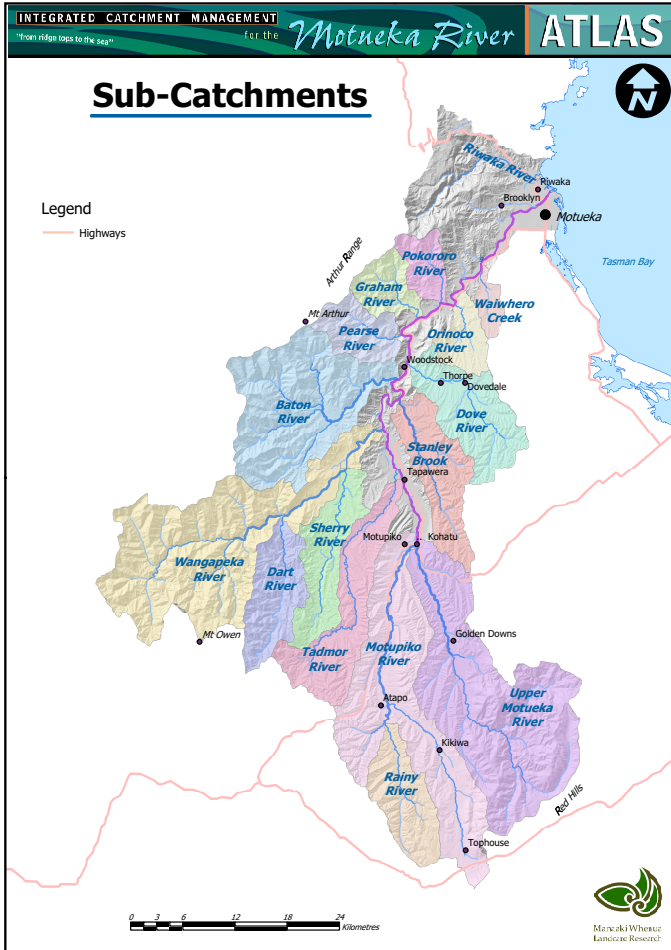
Please ring Bernd our local beekeeper at [03 5268545](tel:035268545) or [02102212313](tel:02102212313) to come and collect and provide a good home for them!

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



**Ngatimoti Playgroup** is your local Motueka Valley community playgroup focused on fun and friendships, for kids and parents/caregivers alike. We are a welcoming group providing play and socialisation opportunities for all preschoolers and their whanau in our community, regardless of eventual schooling choice. The sessions are free and held weekly during term time on Fridays between 9:15 and 12:15, but families are welcome to arrive anytime during the session to fit in with naps etc. We are based in the Ngatimoti School hall on Greenhill road. Bring a plate for shared morning tea and join in the fun. We love to see new faces and welcome back old friends, so come along or contact Marian for more info on 03 543 3613 / 021 2400 416 or [ngatimotiplygroup@gmail.com](mailto:ngatimotiplygroup@gmail.com).





There will be future events/meetings for the Motueka Catchment Collective as it evolves.

For anyone who would like to get involved in caring for your particular sub-catchment, for more information or to be put on a mailing list for Motueka Catchment Collective contact:

[motcatchment@gmail.com](mailto:motcatchment@gmail.com)

The Motueka Valley Association newsletter will also keep you informed.



**connect on Facebook:**

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**Motueka Valley Residents Group**

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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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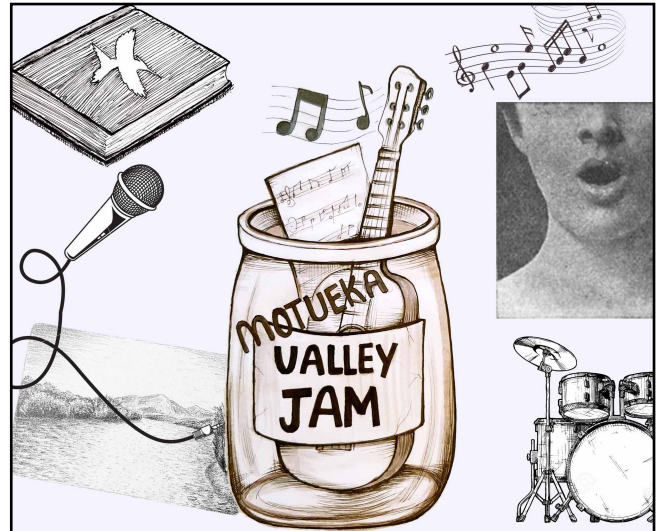
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All are welcome to participate  
or just come and enjoy.

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

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