

Motueka Valley Association Newsletter

the river, the land, the people

May 2021

Anzac Day Sunday 25th April 2021

It was a beautiful sunny autumn day at the Ngatimoti War Memorial for ANZAC Day Commemoration. Over 100 people - Pakeha, Maori and Pasifica - gathered at St. James', with seating and speakers set-up outside to broadcast the service for those who couldn't fit inside the church.

Reverend Matt Beech led the service in the church with the ANZAC Day address being given by Commander Cathy Knight, and a reading from the bible. Three Hymns and the National Anthems of New Zealand and Australia were sung accompanied by Motueka Brass Band. St. James' Youth Choir gave a melodic and harmonious performance of *Let There Be Peace on Earth*. And prayers of thanks were given for those who lost their lives when serving their country.

"We're not here to glorify war in anyway or for any political position. We've come here today to give thanks to all who gave their service and their lives for the cause of Peace and Freedom," said Reverend Matt.



The first New Zealand soldier killed in action was an Irish-born Ngatimoti man, William Arthur Ham, 22 years old, on fifth of February, 1915. His battalion was defending the Suez canal from Turkish invasion. Fourteen other young men of the area also died, and the fifteen names are inscribed on the obelisk and on a plaque inside the church.

Over 40 young men from the valley community "... took off, eager for adventure and a chance to see the world", Commander Knight said. Only 28 returned.



For a hundred years, except last year when in lockdown, an ANZAC Day commemoration has been held at the War Memorial in front of St. James'. In 1920, Mrs. C.B. Brereton formed a women's committee to organise the building of a war memorial in Ngatimoti to honour the young men of the area who fought in the first World War and those who died. The obelisk is made of Takaka marble and was the second war memorial to be erected in New Zealand. It was officially unveiled by the Bishop of Nelson on 25th April 1921.

After the church service, commemorations continued outside at the memorial. Wreaths were laid by church and service personnel. Then individuals placed red paper poppies in front of the wreaths in remembrance of those they knew who had lost their lives serving in the first and second World Wars, South Korea and Vietnam.

Corporal Guinevere Hoggard from New Zealand Air Force gave the ANZAC dedication and Kyle Abbott, President of Motueka RSA, led the Ode of Remembrance and closed the service. A member of the Motueka Brass band then bugled 'The Last Post' followed by a minute of silence.

Morning tea was provided by the RSA which members of Friends of St. James' organised and served. Many stayed and mingled outside the church hall in the sunshine, catching up with friends and relatives while the brass band played.

"It's a very good turn-out, today, as it usually is here", Ross Connochie said. *"And the catering is superb".*

Connochie, a RSA member, who his friends say is a *good organiser* and *knows the protocol*, was a sailor in New Zealand Navy, working in catering. After 13 years, he changed over to the Airforce. He remained in catering and then later took various training and administration roles.

Motueka RSA has 1300 members, the majority of who are non-serving, civilian members which Connochie said is *"a point of difference with other RSA branches"*.

Abbott has been the President of Motueka RSA for the last three years and as president it is his job to take the annual ANZAC Day services, a role he enjoys. Before coming out to Ngatimoti, Abbott had taken the dawn service in Motueka, then in Riwaka. On the Friday before, a service was done for residents at Woodland and Jack Inglis Residential Homes in Motueka.

Abbott served in the New Zealand Airforce for which he wears a medal alongside his Police Long Service medal. He lives in Motueka but works in Richmond as Community Constable which he also enjoys as Richmond is his home town.



Reverend Matt, who has looked after the Murchison RSA ANZAC service for a number of years, said he was privileged to be asked to conduct the ANZAC church service at St. James'. In his closing address, he emphasised:

"In wars, nobody really wins...and what we need is mutual respect and gratitude for those who have seen fit to sacrifice for their country."

Let there be Peace on Earth.

Fiona Nelson

Reporter

**Correction for Ian's Mechanical Services
phone number in the last newsletter**

Correct No. : 027 307 0303

St. James' Church - a Place of Worship, Peace and Sanctuary.

That little white church on the hill, Waiwhero Rd, has been a prominent place for many valley residents since it was built in 1884. The building, of Totara and Rimu, was listed as an Historic Place Category II in 1990, and improvements have been made to it over the years.

The first regular Anglican services began on the site in 1874, in a little cottage where John Arliss Guy lived, the property belonging to his father, Walter Guy. Later that year, because the cottage was too small, services were held in the Ngatimoti schoolroom, alternating with Wesleyans and Plymouth Brethren. In 1879 it was decided that a church should be built in the district, with Walter Guy donating the land.

Once a design for the church was confirmed and funds gathered, the church was built by a Motueka carpenter, James Robinson, and others. In *One Hundred Years of Witness*, St. James' Church Historian C.B.Brereton records the church's consecration, 28th October 1884:

'...On the morning of the 28th, the bishop and clerical party robed in the shelter of trees and walked in procession to the church singing 'How Beauteous are Thy Feet'. When he reached the door the Bishop was given the key, and he opened it, naming the church St James.'

Today, in 2021, fourth, fifth and sixth generation valley residents as well as more recent residents attend the services, third Sunday of the month, led by Reverend Neil Bowdler. Bowdler is Assistant Minister of Motueka Parish and has been the Minister at St. James for 20 years.

"It speaks for itself", says Reverend Bowdler, looking at the large congregation gathering outside in the sunshine after the service, and in the hall for morning tea - community members young and old, and Tuvaluan orchard workers too:

"St. James' has good heart".

The care and maintenance of the church and grounds, including the War Memorial, is left to the dedicated work of volunteers within the church community - "The Friends of St. James". Guthrie Beatson is the current chairman of the Friends group. He is a fourth generation valley resident, and has been coming to St. James all his



life. Both his grandfathers and his father were lay readers at the church.

While still Anglican at its roots, St. James' is non-denominational:

"The fact that it is not tied to any one denomination has been one of the things that works. So the people that actually come to church I wouldn't know what denomination they are, it's of no interest, as long as we can cater for their needs.", says Beatson.

Each month a different person gives the reading:

"It's by invitation, and rather than doing things to a set form it brings a little bit more variation as to how they run the service. It's a recipe that seems to work. We often have retired clergy giving the reading too.", says Beatson.

David Canton, a past chairman, is a fourth generation valley resident too:

"It's part of my history...", he sums up, *"My mother, Nina Canton, was one of the organists at the church for many years."*

Canton helps with mowing the church lawns using his ride-on. He also mows around the War Memorial which is on council land.

Nova Davey is the current organist. She is also choir-mistress for the Youth Choir. Taylor, Lili, Isla, Nieka, Mili and Samara have been singing together for nine years:

"It's kinda cool...we meet on Wednesdays for practice mostly at the church or at Mrs Davey's house and we sing at the monthly church service.", says Lili.

After the choir sings in the church at the beginning of the service, the youth leave the church for Sunday School in the hall. They return to the church for communion at the end of the service.

For the last fifteen years, St. James' Sunday School has been taken by Davina Clark:

"It must be pretty good as I have between 12- 16 children come most times. A lot of older children and a younger group coming on as well. We have a story and make a craft to reinforce the story."

Being at church, for some, is like being at home. Nieka, who is 17 years, says:

"It's a very safe and comfortable place. We are used to it. So nice being out in nature...nice being in God's creation."

Fiona Nelson

Reporter



NGATIMOTI SCHOOL NEWS

2021 TERM DATES

TERM 2: Mon 3 May - Fri 9 July

TERM 3: Mon 26 July - Fri 1 October

TERM 4: Mon 18 October - Monday 20 December



NGATIMOTI FESTIVAL DAY SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER ☺

This term we look forward to waka trips, drama lessons with Damara, a Book Week, the Life Education Truck and te reo with River, gymnastics and cross country competitions, netball, mini ball, and lots more!

Swimming Pool Thank you for supporting our school swimming pool once again this season. The pool is now closed and we ask that key holders please return your key to the school office within school hours for your \$10 refund.

Ngatimoti School Parent Group At the recent 2021 AGM of Ngatimoti School Parents Group, office holders were re-elected with no changes from last year: Chair- Annie Simpson (Alex & Benji), Secretary - Brenda Fry (Madi & George), and Treasurer - Kathryn Beatson (Grace & Kaisami). The sizeable proceeds from the 2020 Festival mean that significant donations have been made this year to Ngatimoti School and community as follows:

\$54,000 to Ngatimoti School
\$300 to Motueka Valley Defibrillator Group
\$200 Friends of Flora
\$500 Rotary Club
\$1000 Westpac Rescue Helicopter

We will begin to plan this year's festival in Term 3 and we would love to receive any feedback, suggestions and offers of help, entertainment and services nearer to festival day. Thank you to our wonderful community for your continued support!

Board of Trustees At our last meeting of the Board of Trustees the topic of bus safety was raised following a recent incident when one of our school buses slipped off the road. Thankfully no one was injured. There is a petition that can be signed in support of legislation to make seatbelts on school buses compulsory. You can sign the petition using this link: https://www.parliament.nz/en/petitions/sign/PET_109505

New enrolments are welcome. For more information about Ngatimoti School please contact Alison Turner, Principal Tel: 03 526 8842. office@ngatimoti.school.nz www.ngatimoti.school.nz



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\$2 per cm high**

Motueka Valley Association

Meetings every 2nd 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 or contact any of the following **committee members:**

Peter Laufkotter	526 8554
Fiona Nelson	020 4160 1968
Joel Briffault	021 0784 7245
Fay Knight	022 320 0449

local halls/facilities

Ngatimoti Memorial Hall

• Bex Douglas • 021 173 1279 •
ngatimoti.hall@gmail.com

Ngatimoti Community Rooms • Sarah Bradshaw • 526 8026

Pokororo Hall • Sylvia Arnold • 526 8282

Woodstock Hall • Kerry Hall • 543 3884

ST. JAMES CHURCH NGATIMOTI

Sunday 16th May at 10:30 a.m.

Family Service

Conducted by Rod Gibson

Children's Sunday School

**Morning tea and social time
to follow.**

All Welcome



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- **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.

NEXT MVA MEETING

Wednesday 12 May, 7pm
Ngatimoti Community Rooms

ALL WELCOME!

Come and join us!



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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 ngati



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Motueka Valley Residents

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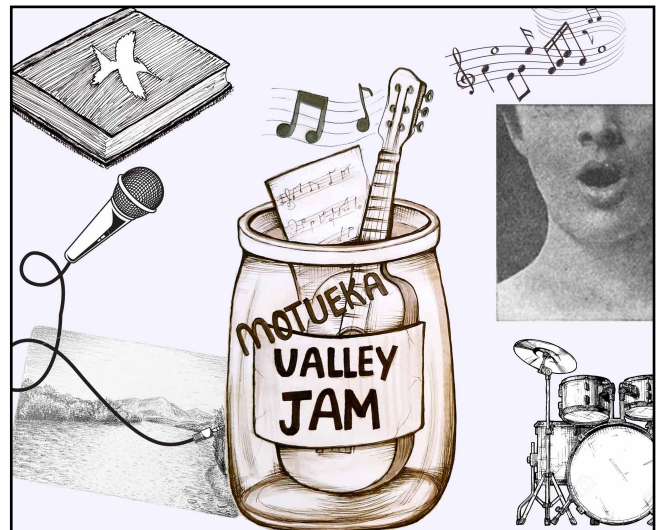
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