

Motueka Valley Association Newsletter



The River, The Land, The People

May 2022

One Hundred Years of Poppies

This year's Ngatimoti ANZAC Day Service at St. James, Orinoco, on Monday 25th April, was held outside the church under a blue autumn sky. A large crowd of valley residents, families, friends and visitors - young and old - veterans, RSA members, and army personnel, gathered at the church, sitting under shade of a gazebo or standing in the sunshine. The church service was led by Reverend Matt Beech.

The ANZAC day Address was given by Lucy Summerfield and Jade Sundbye, head students of Motueka High School, giving a youth perspective. Lucy and Jade noted that it was the 100th year since the first poppy appeal in New Zealand. They said they were honoured and humbled to wear the poppies to commemorate the past and present ANZAC.



Kyle Abbott (RSA), Lucy and Jade (Motueka High School)

The girls had found writing the speech "quite hard" as their own experiences are different to those of servicemen and women, past and present: "...For us, war is something far away. It's happening in places halfway across the world, or is relegated to history books, as something to study..."

Many attendees congratulated them on their speech, finding it impressive, and well-spoken,

clearly they said they were honoured and humbled to wear the poppies to commemorate the past and present ANZAC. *[See over for a reprint of Jade and Lucy's whole speech.]*

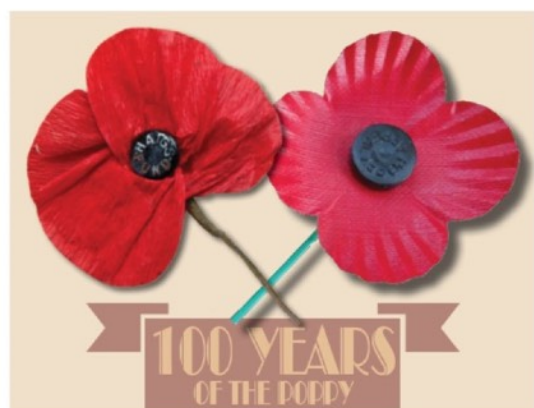
Three hymns and both New Zealand and Australia national anthems were sung accompanied by Motueka Brass Band. The service was completed with prayer and thanks to all those who had served and continue to serve.

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 cenotaph and on a plaque inside the church.

For over a hundred years (except 2020 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 cenotaph 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.

(Continued on page 3)



Motueka High School ANZAC Day Speech

He aha te mea nui o tēnei ao. He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

In the year 1921, Colonel Samuel Moffat and Madam Guerins visited New Zealand to promote the idea of selling poppies to commemorate the fallen and raise money to help living veterans. On April 24, 1922 the first Poppy Day was held. Today 2022 is the 100th year since the first poppy appeal.

We are here on behalf of Motueka High School, honoured and humbled to wear these poppies, to commemorate the past and present ANZAC. This pin symbolises the love and respect we have for the personnel who served in the world wars and who fought to create a brighter future where freedom and peace are as abundant as this flower.

What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people. And it was people who left their communities because they saw injustice happening. And people who stayed behind to take care of farms and businesses. It was people who suffered. It was people who were lost. It was people that we left grieving. Around 100,000 people served in WW1, and 140,000 in WW2. Our population size at the time was about one million, that's 1 in every 10 people who went off to war hoping for a short journey and a safe return. For each soldier, there were kuia, little brothers, mothers, baby sisters, cousins, and friends who waited and all hoped for the same thing, that they would return home safe.

For us war is something far away. It's happening in places halfway across the world, or is relegated to history books, as something to study. It can be hard for people our age to see the significance of ANZAC day because we have grown up sheltered from war and cannot understand the full effect that it had on the people of this community, at the time. It is an immense privilege to not have the hardship of war looming over us as we grow up. We are truly grateful to all 15 names engraved into this cenotaph.

So today, every year on the 25th of April, all of us, whether we have ties to someone who enlisted or not, are unified in the recognition and acknowledgement of their service and sacrifice. And it is not just the ANZAC's we remember on this day but all New Zealander's who have served and are still serving.

Many New Zealanders don't know that even on peacekeeping missions our servicemen and women are affected physically and mentally from the environment they are put into and the situations they are exposed to. They return home and to a society that has little understanding of what they were a part of. We must also thank them for their service on this day. Those who served in : East Timor, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and many other countries. We especially remember those of us that are still experiencing the reality of war today.

Yet for the rest of us, it is easy to forget. Forget the toll it took on our community. Forget the effect it had on two generations of our nation. Forget how many people spent their years waiting. We forget that it was people our age, who experienced the world with eyes not that different from our own. Who saw a fight they believed in and gave up their lives as they knew it so that we could live unburdened by the horrors of war. Who were asked not only to die for their country but to kill for it too. Who gave away their peaceful, everyday lives so that future generations could live without fear. Who experienced things we will never have to face. All those lives that were taken before their time. We will remember them. - Together Each year the poppy appeal and Anzac Day is our opportunity to remember and honour the sacrifices made by those brave men and women. On this day we give life to their memories and share in their hopes for a better future. By wearing these red poppies, just as New Zealanders have for the past hundred years, we are all saying that these men and women are worth being remembered and that we truly honour their deeds. They deserve to have their ancestors and the people of Aotearoa stand in the dawn, year after year, and say their sacrifices mattered. Lest We Forget.

Lucy Summerfield and Jade Sundbye, Head students of Motueka High School

One Hundred Years of Poppies

(Continued)

After the church service, commemorations continued at the memorial where a welcome was given by Mr Kyle Abbott, President of Motueka RSA. Wreaths were laid by 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.

After the church service, commemorations continued at the memorial where a welcome was given by Mr Kyle Abbott, President of Motueka RSA. Wreaths were laid by 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.

Motueka Ward Councillor David Ogilvie gave the ANZAC dedication which was followed by 'Last Post' and 'Rouse' - bugle calls blown by Mr Jake Walker. The Ode of Remembrance was given first in Maori by Mr Moeke Paaka and in English by Kyle who then gave the closing address. In recognising the 100th year of poppy appeals for ANZAC and ARMISTICE days and questioning the significance of the red poppy, Kyle asks What is a Poppy?:

I am not a badge of honour

I am not a racist smear

I am not a fashion statement to be worn but once a year

I am not a glorification of conflict or of war

I am not a paper ornament, a token...I am more

I am a loving reminder of a father or a son...A mother or a daughter...a reminder of any family member in fact...

I am paper or enamel

I am old or shining new

I am a way of saying thank you to every one of you

I am a simple poppy...a reminder to you all
That courage faith and honour will stand where heroes fall.

Author unknown

Kyle concluded with thanks to all who came: "We do not seek to glorify war, but we can acknowledge the courage, commitment, and sacrifice of those who have served their country well with honour and pride".

Fiona Nelson
Reporter

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 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.

- delivered on the 1st Thursday of the month to 500 homes in the Motueka Valley from February to December
- advertising rate: \$2.00 per column cm
- online newsletter + archives: www.mva.org.nz

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local halls/facilities

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

Ngatimoti Community Rooms • Sarah Brashaw
526 8026

Pokororo Hall • Sylvia Arnold • 526 8282

Woodstock Hall • Kerry Hall • 543 3884

MVA Committee Update

The annual Mid-Winter Pot Luck is just around the corner in June. If you are keen to assist in organising this much-loved community gathering, please contact a committee member, or email info@mva.org.nz

Thank you!

The Next Meeting Is

Wednesday 11 May, 7.30pm
Ngatimoti Community Rooms

All Welcome!

NGATIMOTI SCHOOL NEWS - May 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.

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!

Term One ended with a series of dance lessons with the funky Mark from Dance Curriculum - such fun!



The senior class celebrated the end of summer with a memorable canoe journey down the river. This was a great way to reinforce our school value of positively noticing things in our environment. Thanks to Wilderness Canoe Trust for this subsidised opportunity.



Term Two begins with some learning about wool, and we are excited to have the NZ Wool Shed parked up with us. We look forward to technology challenges and have booked the EPro8 resources for an added challenge! Harold the Giraffe will visit for more Life Education lessons. During the term, we are running some help sessions for parents to support reading at home. We would love any parents of pre-schoolers to join us for some of these free sessions. Just phone or email us for more information.



Some of our junior students getting into the groove on the dance floor. Kumu,

Our Student Councillors recently visited Te Noninga

Motueka's brand new Public Library!

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

Tel: 03 526 8842. office@ngatimoti.school.nz www.ngatimoti.school.nz



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Motueka, Thursdays, 10:30-11:30am, starting May 5th

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Register at <http://forms.gle/nJF9eaygoKhGpnwo8>
Enquires to Music Educator/Facilitator, Marie Willis on mariembagley@gmail.com



ST. JAMES CHURCH NGATIMOTI

Sunday 15th May at 10:30 a.m.

Family Service

Children's Sunday School

Morning tea and social time
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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.



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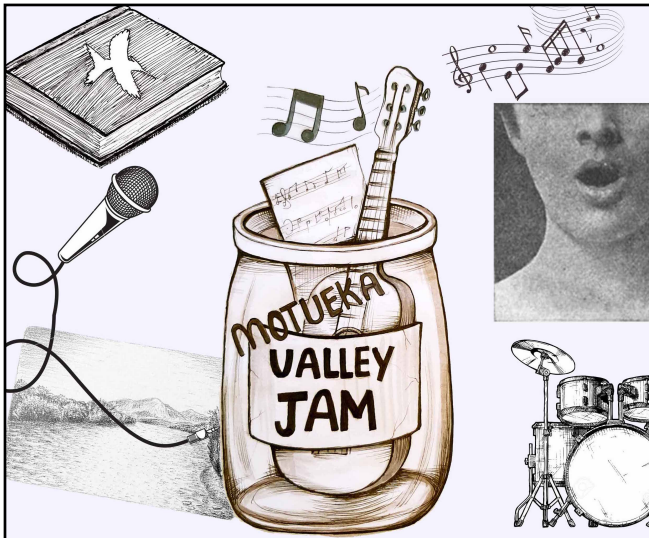
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