

Motueka Valley Association Newsletter

February 2012

Hello, kia ora and welcome to the first newsletter for 2012 and the first for me.

Thank you Ruedi for the time you have put into editing the Motueka Valley Newsletter for the past 2 years and showing me the ropes.

This year's summer seems to have started a bit slow and the consensus is that this La Nina year will bring a long hot autumn. I'm keeping my fingers crossed. As I live overlooking the banks of the Motueka River, I can attest to the fact that it has been flowing a lot higher than last summer and the few swims have yielded an array of shouts and exclamations due to the lower than expected temperature.

Let's all spare a thought for the residents of Golden Bay and Nelson after the horrendous flooding and slips over Christmas and New Year. I for one am grateful that Motueka Valley was not affected to that extent. The road traffic over the Christmas and New Year seems to have been less than the last two years I have lived here and I wonder if this has been a direct correlation to the flood devastation and perhaps less Christchurch residents able to take holidays due to their situations regarding the earthquakes. Having said that, there is still a marked noise increase over the weekends as SUV's, boats, caravans and assorted toys make their way back down the island along the Motueka Valley Highway as even more head on up.

I am looking forward to helping get our small but enthusiastically enjoyed newsletter out to all the Motueka Valley residents and also keeping the website, www.mva.org.nz updated and useful for everyone. If you have any stories to share, please email them on to me and I will willingly fit them into the MVA Newsletter. Local news is what makes this publication a pleasure to receive.

MVA Meeting 8pm Wed 15 Feb 2012
The first of the year all welcome

Transmitted Chooks

When Friends of Flora (FOF) needed a few large birds to practise attaching transmitters to their legs then who else to call upon but Coralie Grooby with her much loved and friendly chooks.

The Great Spotted Kiwi translocated to the Flora valley have transmitters on their legs so that they can be located with telemetry gear at any time. It also allows trackers to study their movements and hours of foraging which can indicate if they are sitting on eggs. The transmitters hold 2 weeks of data so every 2 weeks FOFers walk the best 'listening ridges' to receive each kiwi's data. The transmitters run on batteries that last approximately 1 year. So once a year (Feb/March) the kiwi are tracked to burrow, caught and their transmitter batteries changed.

This is no easy task and a person must observe quite a few changes before actually doing it. Practise is also required. One can practise on a broomstick but this is rather static and fails the reality test. Chooks are the next best bet. Coralie selected her finest chooks who behaved admirably whilst bands were clicked on and liberally taped to their legs above the hocks. So now FOF has 2 more partially trained transmitter battery changers.

NB. Any tools and clothes that come into contact with chooks must be either changed or sterilised because of the likelihood of any bird disease transfer to kiwi.

TIP: the best place to hear kiwi at night is from Mt Arthur hut. At this time of year they are coming out of their burrows just after 9pm and going back to bed at approx. 6am.



Term Dates: Greenhill Rd Ngatimoti
RD1 Motueka 7196
Tel: 03 526 8842
Fax: 03 526 8872
office@ngatimoti.school.nz

Term 1: We're back into the swing of our new school year with 100 students on our roll! We welcome 3 new teachers this year; Darrin Andrews, Michelle Jacobs and Lauren Soper and we are excited for the imminent opening of our new "Room 5" classroom.

Thank you to all those who have used our school pool throughout the holidays and continue to do so, your support is much appreciated. The pool remains open to keyholders outside of school hours for the foreseeable future.

We are looking forward to a busy school year and invite anyone from the community to come in and help in class or around school. If you have time to spare and would like to become more involved please call Ali at school on 526 8842.

Remember you can bring your aluminium cans along to the school shed for recycling too – this earns the school a bit of pocket money



Pokororo Women's Club

We meet first Weds of each month at the Pokororo Hall

usually at 7.30pm for fun, friendship, and sometimes fundraising for local causes.

We welcome new members.

A seal was spotted swimming up river from the Peninsula Bridge. DOC says this is not uncommon. Anyone have any pics?

Friends of St James Church Ngatimoti



Sunday, 19th February, at 10.30a.m
Family Service
Conducted by Rev. Neil Bowdler

Sunday School for children
Morning tea to Follow

Sunday Evening Service 4th March

Combined Evening Service with St David's Presbyterian Church of Richmond
at St James, Ngatimoti.

Commencing 5 p.m. followed by BBQ tea.

A very warm welcome to all

MVA Committee Members	
Fred Hickling	528 9122
Bruce Dyer	526 8282
Lesley Hadley	526 8047
Stuart Granger	970 9004
Bernd Reiter	526 8544

Please have all ads and copy for the newsletter in by the end of the previous month

General Content: Your contributions, ideas and community notices are welcome

Community Concerns: You can contact the MVA on local matters info@mva.org.nz

Advertisements: All ads can be emailed to Stefan at ads@mva.org.nz \$2.00 per column centimetre. Past advertisers please let Stefan know if you wish to continue your advertising by emailing at the above address or **Phone 526 8066**

Back copies of the newsletter are available for printout from the website mva.org.nz