

Motueka Valley Association Newsletter

March 2013

2013 : A Rata Year

Many people have commented this year on the abundant rata flowering. Hills have been ablaze locally, up the Wangapeka and on the Heaphy. When I was doing my trapline on Lodestone on 1 February, the eastern slopes of Lodestone running down to the south branch of the Graham valley were scarlet. I spoke to local historian Ed Stevens, who had had his binoculars focused on the rata flowering up the Big Pokororo from his home in Greenhill road. Being a data collector, he had some interesting notes on rata flowering and other possible connecting factors over the years . . .

The following extract is drawn from an interview with Jim White of 'Glencoe' , the last house in the Graham valley "There was an abundance of native plants back in the ranges. I've seen the long spur leading back to Mt Lodestone red with rata. Also there were rata trees and lacebark (ribbon-wood) and others on Sugarloaf." The White family moved to 'Glencoe' in 1932 and left in 1948.

Avelon Thorn comments that the first possum he ever saw was one that their vehicle ran over on the east bank of the Motueka river, opposite the Pearse valley (the possum ran away). This was in 1932.

At one time it is reported that the rata flowered every other year but since about 1950 visible flowering had almost disappeared. Rata flowers appeared to be much reduced since the possum browsed the trees.

Whilst mustering on the Graham/Pokororo ridge about 1960 Mike Brereton and Ed Stevens paused to reflect on the dead rata trees standing tall and stark amongst the surrounding fauna of native bush on the near faces. (see photo; Ed Stevens)



Local knowledge suggests that possum numbers peaked about 1950.

In the 1970s possum trappers, Mike Brereton and Alan Stevens observed rata in flower on the true bank of the upper Graham river on the faces leading to Lodestone. Alan, who farmed this area, called the face the Fuschia Block.

Jack Brereton also observed rata in flower at the top of the Graham valley south gorge in the 1970s. Possum trapper Mike Newman worked the top and bottom side of the upper south branch of the Graham road and in 1970 observed a good showing of rata in flower on the faces of the Lodestone ridges.

February 2004 Ed observed 2 -3 rata trees flowering on a ridge leading from Mt Campbell to Big Pokororo but also took a another photo of the devastation to the rata caused by browsing possum.

In 2005 aerial application of 1080 poison for possums was spread on the exotic forest between Pokororo and Riwaka river south branch. and in 2009 from the upper margin of exotic afforestation to the Lodestone/Mt Campbell ridges.

On Jan 20th 2013 Ed observed rata in flower on the southern slopes of Little Brown Acre. Predominance of flower appeared to be on the main ridge leading from Big Pokororo. Colouration became more visible in late January.

The rata is presumed to be *Metrosideros umbellata* (southern rata) which grows from the ground up to a tree (as compared to northern rata, the epiphyte) and flowers have a reddish-orange colouring.

So the rata has obviously maintained a basic presence throughout the years and this year was a splendid show so I hope you saw it. If anyone has more information or observations to report, feel free to let us know through the newsletter or telephone. Ed is particularly interested in monitoring rata on any slopes / ridges leading into the Motueka Valley.

Lesley Hadley 5268047

Ed Stevens 5268895

Next MVA meeting
8pm Tuesday 19 March
All welcome



Ngatimoti School
"Together We Excel"

Ngatimoti School
Greenhill Rd Ngatimoti
RD1 Motueka
Tel: 03 526 8842 Fax: 03 526 8872
Email: office@ngatimoti.school.nz

Term One ends
Friday 19 April 2013

ERO REPORT We have received our confirmed report, following the Education Review Officers visit last year. Some of the positives mentioned include evidence of active partnerships with the community and a strong culture of self review. As well, our high expectations, integrated approach to the curriculum and diversity of opportunities offered were noted. The BOT govern well, teachers use information effectively to aid learning and students are showing increasing responsibility for their learning. The full report is available for you to read in the school foyer.

SEAWEEK Last week all classes learned about "Healthy Seas, Healthy People". In particular we discussed the impact that caring for our streams and rivers has on the sea. All classes have been actively exploring the seashore. Thanks to so many parents for their support for this!

Room 2 Fundraiser To raise funds for our ski trip later in the year we have sacks of pine cones for sale for \$5 per sack. If anyone has spare sacks we could use to sell our pine cones please bring them into Room 2, thank you!! Many thanks to Tina Francis for donating the pine cones and some awesome firewood!!

BOT ELECTIONS are coming up! Parents, caregivers and people from the wider community can be nominated for election to a school board; nominations are invited for 4

trustees. The election timeline is as follows: Call for nominations by 14 March. Nominations close 28 March. Voting papers mailed out by 2 April. Voting day is 11 April. New board takes office Term 2 – 6 May. All parents of students enrolled at school can and should vote in the election. Amanda Cole is our Returning Officer and she can be contacted at school for more information and/or nomination forms.

Cards & Pens We have school cards and pens for sale from the school office: \$12 for a pack of 8 cards PLUS a free Ngatimoti School Pen!!!

SCRAP METAL We are still pleased to receive your unwanted scrap metal. Drop it in the shed or call us if you need it collecting. Thank you!!



Ngatimoti Playgroup

Bring your babies & preschoolers along to our fantastic playgroup held every Friday 10am-12pm during term time at Ngatimoti school. No cost, but please bring something for morning tea for the children. No need to book, just come along! (Call or text Kathryn for more information 021 617 065)

Friends of St James Church Ngatimoti



10:30 a.m. 17th March, 2013
Harvest Festival Service

Easter Sunday
31st March at 10:30 a.m.
Conducted by Rev. Matt Beech

All children welcome to Sunday School
Morning Tea to follow
St. James Annual General Meeting to be held in the Sunday School Hall on Monday, 18th March at 8 P.M.
A very warm welcome to all

MVA Committee Members

Fred Hickling	027 448 4430
Bruce Dyer	526 8288
Lesley Hadley	526 8047
Stuart Granger	970 9004
Bernd Reiter	526 8544
Karen O'Malley	526 8211

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



Many thanks to the Ngatimoti School for printing our newsletter. PLEASE have copy for next newsletter in by end of month. Email Wendy newsletter@mva.org.nz with editorial content. For advertising email Stefan (ads@mva.org.nz) or phone 526 8066

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Early Childhood Education Centre

New Nature Based Centre opening

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(OR PHONE: 526 8066)

Acceptance of an advertisement is at the discretion
of the editor. Cut off date for the next newsletter
is the 31st or when full !



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RURAL NEWS FROM OUR LOCAL POLICE

Just a quick note to say there appears to be a group stealing items out of letterboxes in the rural areas. Parcels, letters etc
Please be aware of this as it seems to be a growing trend. Lately in Canterbury a team of mongrel thieves targetted rural letterboxes and took statements etc then rang the owners to obtain there PINS etc They then cleaned their bank accounts out - thankfully they have been arrested. Under no circumstances give out any information like this over the phone.
Please be vigilant and if you see anything suspicious out there contact me or your local guys.

17/10/12 Copper pots taken from a Motueka Valley address Kohatu area.
This brings me to incidents involving a scrap metal dealer targeting the St Arnaud, Murchison through to the Westcoast. Please report any incidents of these persons to your local station ASAP. They are driving a white Daihatsu truck with no plates. These guys who have already been spoken to by police will take liberties by driving into remote properties and knocking on the door. If the door is unanswered he helps himself to a look a round.

The weather has been dry and the forests are getting dangerously dry. Give me a call if you see any vehicles or people not supposed to be there as it a risk to all of our rural stakeholders. - ANY SMOKE SIGHTED DIAL 111

Keep the info coming in
Thanks

Rob Crawford
Sergeant RCD096
Motueka
Ph 03 5281220

FEBRUARY REPORT:

- Diesel and battery stolen from a digger in the Pearce Valley
- An old farm vehicle a Mazda Ute single cab stolen from a farm in the Kohatu area.
- A car was broken into at the Iron Bridge
- 2nd and 3rd car broken into again in the Upper Buller
- Signs have been stolen near Rangihaeata Road in Takaka - home made 'for sale' signs
- Had a few problems with a motorbike driving dangerously around Sunday Creek (ongoing problem)
- A burglary occurred at Kaiteriteri-Sandy bay Road - 1 Pads taken
- A Burglary at Tapu Bay
- Burglary in East Takaka Road - scrap metal targeted
- 2 x Burglaries Cobb Dam Road - tools and fuel taken
- Bike stolen in the Graham Valley - Avanti mountain bike
- Vehicle broken into at the Mussel Inn near Takaka
- Diesel stolen from a digger in Western Boundary Road Wakefield
- Theft from bus in Sunrise Valley Road
- Diesel stolen from a tank in Upper Takaka.
- Burglary to a shed in Central Road Motueka - scrap metal taken
- Theft from the Lyall Reserve Upper Buller
- Firewood stolen from Whitby Road in Wakefield
- 3 x Calves stolen from Motueka Valley - jersey cross ear tags '45'
- Beehives damaged in the Tophouse Road area
- Damage to a vehicle at the Kill Devil Track carpark
- Poachers spotlighting were caught up the Howard - enquiries continuing.
- Poachers caught spotlighting in the Tutaki
- Spotlighting activity in the Golden Downs area - enquires continuing.
- Fuel and scrap metal stolen from a farm in Central Road Motueka
- Stolen from rural Mapua - Trailer (Briford tandem axel 8x4) Burgundy red and 'briford' in white across tailgate. Reg K363T
- Water pump stolen from shed in Westbank Road Motueka