

Motueka Valley Association Newsletter

THE RIVER, THE LAND, THE PEOPLE

DECEMBER 2016



Summer in the valley

Rabbit Hill Café opens

John and Sheree Assen opened their new café at 1469 Motueka Valley Highway at Ngatimoti on 7th November and are now welcoming you to relax on their terrace or inside their cozy new building.

The café is set on their 7ha property, half of which is vineyard. They turn their grapes into wine, which is offered through their café under the Rabbit Hill label. They also grow lavender, hazelnuts, olives and more and plan to use this produce on their menu.

Three years ago, John and Sheree moved from the West Coast to the Tasman area. John says "Once we bought the property, we intended to have a small café as an outlet for our wines, but it has gotten a lot bigger than expected. But I actually think it is for the better."

The menu currently offers coffees (including take-away) and baked goods, platters for lunch, kids menu, blackboard specials, soft drinks and juices. Sheree says they are also able to suit dietary requirements.

Lavender products from their farm will be for sale in their café.

John and Sheree are looking forward to welcoming locals and visitors alike. On Friday evenings they are staying open till 8.30pm for the locals to get together for a casual drink and socialize, with snacks and light meals available. Information: www.rabbithill.co.nz 03 526 8834 —Irma Jager

Valley newsbriefs

- ☉ The December issue of the MVA Newsletter is the last one until February 2017. Be sure to get your adverts and news items to Liz at emj.stuttard@gmail.com by January 23.
- ☉ Music lovers were enthralled by the La Vida Quartet at the concert at the delightful venue of St James Church at Ngatimoti. The concert, brought to you by your local association, was much helped by the ticket sales being handled for free by Floral Affaire and Ngatimoti School. Many thanks to the hardworking staff for this and also to Bernd Reiter for his initiative and organisation.
- ☉ Police are warning rural property owners to be "extra mindful about security" at this time of year. Properties with free-standing sheds have been targeted recently with firearms, motorbikes, chainsaws, hunting gear and fishing gear taken. If you see anything suspicious happening do not hesitate to call 111.
- ☉ The Peninsula Bridge is due to be lit up again by the MVA this year in the weeks before Christmas. Many thanks to the small team who make this seasonal decoration possible, including Barry Burger (traffic management), Luka Droppers (scaling the heights) and Nick Hancox (organiser).
- ☉ Thanks to all who joined the Weedbusters group that started cutting and pasting infestations of pest vines in the valley earlier this year. The next weedbusting date will be advertised in the February issue.



LOCAL HANGOUT: John and Sheree Assen have opened a café at Ngatimoti.

Local happenings December-January



42nd Pokororo Fair—January 8

In its 42nd year with over 70 stalls, the Pokororo Arts & Craft fair is on again this year from 9am to 4pm on Sunday January 8. On the West Bank of the scenic Motueka river, there is free car parking, entry by gold coin donation and music by a popular local band.



Stall Holders - applications are now being accepted. Contact Stu at stu.roz@gmail.com for an application form or go to www.pokororo.co.nz. Sites are limited and allocated as applications are received.

Trewavas Street Art Walk

Enjoy a leisurely wander on **Saturday 3rd December** at a local art walk on Trewavas Street, Motueka from 10am to 4pm. There are 10 houses/studios and at least 20 artists. With Christmas shopping in mind, or just an interest in the arts, come and look for something different—acrylic and water colour art, pottery, jewellery, photography and much more besides. Maps will be available from around town and at both ends of Trewavas Street. Enjoy a leisurely wander round and see work by some very talented people

Riwaka Market on January 2

Last year's Riwaka Market Day was a wash out—the first in 30 years—but this year's fair is on again on **Monday January 2** at the picturesque Riwaka Domain. Entry is FREE and there will be music, art and craft stalls, food. This fair is organised by Motueka Pottery Workshop members who sell domestic pottery at very reasonable prices.

Next MVA meeting • 8pm Wednesday December 14 @ Ngatimoti Community Room

Check out the website on www.mva.org.nz • Ask to join the Motueka Valley Community Facebook Page to swap goods and services



Ngatimoti School

"Together We Excel"

Another fabulous festival! Thank you all for your amazing support

Thank you all for your amazing support for the Ngatimoti festival, which was another astounding success this year! As the year draws to a close, we thank Mr Tony Draaijer who has taken great care of our school in Ali's absence.

Alison Turner will return to her principal duties for 2017.

Congratulations to our Room 3 teacher Debs Godsiff, who has been awarded Study Leave for Term 1 next year – we welcome Mrs Amber Beech into Room 3 for this first term. There are no other staff changes planned. We will, of course, be sorry to see 20 of our Year 8 students leave us; however the big wide world awaits them and we wish them all lots of luck at high school next year. We would also like to send our best wishes to Oscar, as he ventures off to preparatory school next year.

Classroom Modernisation You may have noticed that the building work has begun on our remodel of Rooms one and two. Fitzgerald Construction is doing the work and they are making steady progress. We hope the project will be completed in time for the new school year. In the meantime, please bear with us as there may be more traffic around the school until then and there may be the odd bit of noise as demolition takes place. We ask that you warn your children to stay away from the construction site and be aware of the associated hazards, particularly if you are using the school swimming pool. **Pool Keys** The school swimming pool is OPEN! Pool keys are for sale from the school office at a cost of \$40, with \$10 refunded

on return of your key – BE QUICK as school closes on Thursday 15 December. You may pay by cash or cheque at the office (open 8.30am – 3pm daily) or you may also pay directly online to account 03 1354 0359568 00 (please reference swim pool key). There is an agreement to sign before you purchase a key so please request one from the office. The pool is open to the public between the hours of 12 noon - 6pm during the school holidays and after school, except when swimming lessons are in progress – times and dates for these will be displayed at the poolside (not yet confirmed). Thanks to TDC for their annual subsidy for the running of the pool. Thanks also to festival funds for enabling us to keep pool keys at the same price again this year.

The school will close following the assembly at lunchtime on 15 December 2016 ☺

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a safe and happy holiday, from everyone here at school!
(Term 1 starts on Tuesday 7 February –and ends Thursday 13 April.)

Pokororo Women's Club News

Our November meeting saw 14 of us sitting around my dining table sharing lively conversation and enjoying a yummy vegetarian meal. On December 6th as an extra event we are putting on a luncheon for senior past members at the Fire Station Community rooms. December's meeting sees us gathering at the Pokororo Hall where we make up over a 100 little gift parcels of our home baking, which goes out to Motueka meals on wheels clientele.

Our last two donations that we have given out to our local community have been \$200 to Friends of Flora and \$200 to the Motueka defibrillator fund.

We wish all Valley residents a happy love filled Christmas and New Year

—Guruvati Dyer (President)

Thanks to all MVA Newsletter contributors and advertisers for their continuing support. The next issue will be in February.



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ST. JAMES CHURCH NGATIMOTI

Family Service
Sunday 18th Dec at 10:30 a.m.
Conducted by Rev. Neil Bowdler
Morning tea and socialtime to follow.
Children's Sunday School
Prize giving

Christmas Eve Carols
7:30 p.m. Saturday 24th Dec
All Welcome

Contact MVA Committee Members

Bruce Dyer.....526 8288
Irma Jager.....526 8080
Fran Deech.....021 02260191
Joanna Santa-Barbara ..022 459 0650
Greg Mason.....526 8112
Liz Mahoney.....929 8509



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• Please send ads and unformatted copy by the 20th of each month for the next month's issue • For community concerns contact the MVA at info@mva.org.nz or contact committee members (numbers page 2) • Send editorial of up to 400 words, photos & adverts: emj.stuttard@gmail.com • Please include "MVA News" in the subject line • Phone Liz on 021-749583 or 929 8509 • Advertisements \$2.00 a column cm • Newsletter archives at www.mva.org.nz

Ngatimoti Memorial Hall: Paul Wielandt 526 8047 Reserve Community Room: Sarah Bradshaw 526 8026 Pokororo Hall: Brian or Giselle Storer 526 8065 Woodstock Hall: Kerry Hall 543 3884

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