

# Motueka Valley Association Newsletter

the river, the land, the people

NOVEMBER 2017

## Guitar concert @ St James Church



**Graham Wardrop**, regarded by many to be New Zealand's finest finger-style guitarist, singer-songwriter, will play a concert at Ngatimoti's 132 year-old St James Church.

*-organised by Motueka Valley Association*

### NEXT MVA MEETING

Wednesday 8 November, 8pm  
Fire Station Community Room

**All welcome!**

### New reporter

We're pleased to introduce Chris Tait as the new reporter for the newsletter. Chris and her partner moved into the valley about a year ago from Christchurch. Look for her contributions in this newsletter.



### Friday 10 November, 7.30pm

entry \$10, children \$5  
tickets from Floral Affaire,  
166 High St, Motueka  
or Ngatimoti School

## Motueka Valley Business Profile

### The Tree Team

Family legend holds that local arborist Luka Droppers could climb before he could walk. He has turned his finely honed tree climbing skills to deal out of control and overlarge trees through his business, The Tree Team. These days he does not shimmy up a tree with a rope tied to his belt, but uses a full climbing kit resplendent with spikes and ropes to safely make his way to the branches that need his attention.

Local knowledge is brought to his work as Luka grew up on the west bank, and continues to live there with his family. His apprenticeship was served with other local arborists with whom he continues to work. Luka reports a high degree of cooperation between the businesses he trained under, with a system of contracting and subcontracting to provide the best means of dealing with trees.

Luka has been in the industry for four years, and has sought the best practical learning opportunities with experienced arborists, supplemented by theoretical knowledge gained with his assessor and through the Primary Industry Training Organisation in Richmond. He has completed his Level 3 qualification and by the end of this month he will have completed the Level 4 papers.

Luka recently completed a qualification that allows him to attend to trees near powerlines, a specialised area where safety is paramount. While tree care may be central to the business, other services provided are the control of shrubs and hedges. Attention is paid to leaving the area tidy after the work is completed through the use of chippers and leaf blowers. Liaison with others in the industry to provide for a range of services including road control, stump grinding, and milling, if necessary, allows Luka to offer a flexible, efficient service.

Luka is developing a regular clientele through his reliable, cost effective service. He can be contacted by email enquiries@thetreeteam.co.nz, through his Facebook page www.thetreeteam.co.nz or by phoning 022 083 0090 for a quote.

*-Chris Tait, reporter*



## Scarecrow Season

All manner of clothing was rescued and objects scavenged to create the wonderful variety of characters seen on the roadsides around the district leading up to the annual Ngatimoti Festival. The scarecrow tradition certainly sets the festival apart as a unique event.

On the Friday before the festival we had a pleasurable morning driving around to photograph the creations. While there is not space to show them all, this is a small selection showing the variety, humour, and talent evident in the district.

A close look revealed some surprising detail. The lazy non-chalance with which the scarecrow on Waiwhero Road draped his arm across the letterbox as a bird perched on his shoulder was delightful. His cheerful little companion at his feet might not have been seen from a passing car, but the creator had raised her hand to wave to the passers-by.



Just past the school an enthusiastic young rider mounted her little pony, which had been so cleverly crafted from straw and wire.



Meanwhile up the valley a parrot had stolen a gumboot.



The drive down the west bank revealed quirky humour. A netball player exhorted locals to “shoot on down to the festival” and a cartoonish thief suggested they could “steal a bargain” at the fair.



Rich in shiny regalia sat the king surveying the road from his vantage point on the West Bank Road.



Newcomers to the valley, we have come to look forward to the creativity displayed in the lead up to the big day. I can only imagine the hours of thinking, discussion, problem-solving, and hard work that have gone into these characters. Long may the tradition continue.

-Chris Tait, reporter

[WWW.MVA.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.MVA.ORG.NZ)

## NGATIMOTI FESTIVAL 2017 – THANK YOU!

• Our wonderful community; landowners, past and present students, staff and the hard working and dedicated parents. • Local businesses who contributed with services or donations. • All the fantastic entertainers. • Neighbours and extended families. → Your commitment, goodwill and generosity are hugely appreciated.

See you again next Labour Weekend Sunday!

**Thank you all so much for the part (or parts!) you played in this and for your incredible generosity in either time or goods, or both! Special thanks to those who organised an area, coordinating not only their team but whatever was needed, as well as setting up and packing up your area.**

From cute baby animals, plants, wild foods and the Silent Auction, our Festival offers lots of variety, and this is only possible when everyone pitches in. Many people put in over and above their fair share, and this is hugely appreciated. To those people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, parking, collecting or counting money, cleaning, recycling, coordinating, advertising, fetching and carrying – you were the backbone of the Festival! Thank you again to everyone who was able to contribute this year, we are expecting that at final count up we will have made approximately \$40,000 profit. Amazing!

**Scarecrow Competition Results:** The winner of this year's scarecrow competition was Tui G and family, for a scarecrow which the judge said just exuded a real sense of joy. The scarecrows created by Chase, Jack & Max, Elvie, Henry & Nina were all awarded close second prizes! 'Most original' went to Arabella's horse, and 'most eye-catching' went to the SWAG scarecrow on Westbank Road. Thank you to Kath Nauta for judging our scarecrows at short notice this year! And it was really great to see a few scarecrows out there created by members of the community who do not attend our school. Thank you all for your efforts!

**Cake competition results:** The cake competition was judged by Jester House's executive chef, Catherine Channells. She awarded first prize to a chocolate gateau that not only looked very appealing, but was deliciously composed with chocolate mousse in the centre and fresh cream on top. This was made by Joanne King. Second prize went to a delicious and unique cake with a great texture and yummy coconut topping, made by the Kiddle family. Third prize went to Bo Cruikshank, for a chocolate overload cake that was beautifully moist and had fantastic icing.



## Farmers for Whio trapping workshop

Whio (blue duck) were once common on the Motueka River, but are now in serious trouble and at risk of extinction nationally if not actively protected. Whio feed on invertebrates found in clean freshwater, and are the whitewater kayakers of the duck world – at home navigating fast flowing river rapids.

Farmers for Whio is a new community initiative that aspires to have blue duck breeding and thriving on the Motueka River once more. To achieve this goal we would like to support land owners to manage predators in the Graham, Pearse, Baton, and Motueka valleys.

To kick off this initiative, we will be holding a public workshop to find out more about our local whio populations, and what we can do to protect them. The workshop will include practical advice on best traps to use, how to use and maintain them, and the best trapping network set up.

When: Sat 11 November, 10 am

Where: Pokororo Hall

Any questions please call Sky Davies on 03 526 8060 or email skydavies@gmail.com.



## Motueka Valley Association

**Meetings** every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 8pm (7.30pm in winter) in the Fire Station Community Room.  
**Everyone welcome!**

For community concerns email the MVA at [info@mva.org.nz](mailto:info@mva.org.nz) or contact any of the following **committee members**:

Bruce Dyer	526 8288
Irma Jager	526 8080
Fran Deech	021 0226 0191
Joanna Santa-Barbara	022 459 0650
Greg Mason	526 8112
Chris Tait	027 315 7815

## local halls/facilities

Ngatimoti Memorial Hall • Paul Wielandt • 526 8047  
Fire Station Community Room • Sarah Bradshaw • 526 8026  
Pokororo Hall • Sylvia Arnold • 526 8282  
Woodstock Hall • Kerry Hall • 543 3884

## about your newsletter

- delivered on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month to 500 homes in the Motueka Valley from February to December
- send stories, photos & ads by the 20th of the month to the editor, Jan-Albert Droppers: [newsletter@mva.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@mva.org.nz)
- advertising rate: \$2.00 per column cm
- online newsletter + archives: [www.mva.org.nz](http://www.mva.org.nz)

## Facebook: Motueka Valley Community



This is a closed group with over 300 members supporting the exchange of goods, services and information within the valley. It can also serve as a place for connection during calamities.

[www.mva.org.nz](http://www.mva.org.nz)

## MVA Committee update

During the October MVA meeting, the following topics were discussed:

- Gloria Anderson from the Motueka Valley Defibrillator Group gave a brief explanation of what an additional AED would mean to our community. The committee decided to support the purchase of the second defibrillator by donating \$500.
- It was decided that MVA will organise a workshop around the use of Vespex wasp baiting stations. The workshop will take place in January at a property in the Motueka Valley.
- Feedback on the valley entrance sign was discussed; the suggested sign for Woodman's corner is deemed too dangerous by many. A much simpler option - a slab of wood with "Motueka Valley" engraved in it - is now being explored. More information to follow in the next newsletter.
- Harideva (organiser) updated the committee on the upcoming concert at St. James Church.

## Correction: NZ's "Blackest Day" of WWI

Please note that the official number of New Zealanders killed in action at Passchendaele on the 12th October 1917 should have read 843 and the total number of casualties 2700. I had an unfortunate transpose moment while writing the piece published last month. For those curious about how those casualty numbers were reached, see "Counting the Cost of Passchendaele," by military historian Ian McGibbon. [www.ww100.govt.nz/passchendaele-casualties](http://www.ww100.govt.nz/passchendaele-casualties)

-Anne McFadgen

### FOR SALE - PEA STRAW

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### Portrait Commissions

For any questions contact:  
**Ellen Urselmann**  
Ph: 0272425823  
E: joyfulqiflow@gmail.com



## Civil Defence Welfare Group to be established for the Motueka Valley

During a well attended meeting on 18 October, Roger Ball from Nelson Tasman Civil Defence shared his knowledge and experience. A whole range of topics, followed by a lively discussion, got everyone thinking about potential times of disaster.

The most important outcome of this meeting is that a Welfare Group of ideally 6-8 volunteers will be established, with support from Civil Defence. A few people have already put up their hand. Our community also needs a second-in-charge to our current coordinator, Ed Stevens.

These positions don't require a lot of your time, but they are crucial for keeping our community resilient in times of need. We don't just need to look after ourselves in times of misfortune; it is very likely that there will be stranded travellers in the valley needing assistance.

Are you willing to take up either of these roles?  
Please contact Ed Stevens on 526 8895.



### ST. JAMES CHURCH NGATIMOTI



*Family Service*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November - 10.30am**

**Conducted by Graham Walker**

**Children's Sunday School**

**Morning tea and social time to follow**

*All Welcome*

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## Local business owners



Do you want to do more business locally?  
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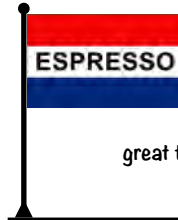


### Timber for Sale

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- Poplar saking and lining
- Macrocarpa saking and lining
- Douglas Fir, cut to order
- **Firewood** (Eucalyptus & other)



PH Mike Graham 526 8180



## Sunday Café & Market

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