

Motueka Valley Association Newsletter



the river, the land, the people

DECEMBER 2017



*Wishing you
a festive holiday season
and
a very happy new year*

NEXT MVA MEETING

Wednesday 13 December, 8pm
Fire Station Community Room
All welcome!

No newsletter in January

The next issue will be delivered on Thursday 1 February.

Wasp control workshop

Saturday 20 January, more info on next page.

No MVA meeting in January

The next meeting will be on 14 February.

MVA family picnic in February

Socialise over games, music, BBQ... not to be missed!
Sunday 25 February, 3-7pm
Jot down now, more info to follow.

Motueka Valley Business Profile

Portrait Commissions - Ellen Urselmann

As a young woman in Amsterdam, Ellen Urselmann put aside her desire to go to Art School to follow a more financially stable path. Like many creative people, her passion and interest could only be ignored for so long. She eventually went to Art School in the evenings as an adult student. There she was able to focus on painting and printmaking.

Diploma completed, she created a studio in the north of Holland in Friesland where she enhanced the skills she had been taught, developing her own methods and style. Her fascination with the human face led her to specialise in portraits. For these she usually works in oil paint, pastels, or charcoal, taking varying amounts of time to complete a commission to her satisfaction.

The preparatory stages of the commission involve meeting two or three times in the subject's own environment, observing, sketching and engaging with them in order to gather the information she requires. Initial planning of the format is negotiated with the client, but Ellen usually decides on composition and colour as she takes the painting from ideas and sketches to the canvas. During her initial visits she also takes photographs from many angles and in different lights for reference as the work develops. Once she has the information she needs to begin, she works in her studio in her house above the West Bank Road, where she has lived for the past four years. This room has wonderful light and provides the peace Ellen needs to focus on the work.

It was a pleasure to talk with Ellen about her art practice. She is clearly passionate about her work and spoke about her desire to capture the essence of the person being portrayed, as well as a physical likeness. Ellen has embraced Qigong as an important part of this process, the results evident in the work she currently has on the easel. Having painted the subject twice previously, a comparison of the works shows how she has captured the change within him over time.

While her portraits are worked in oils, she also works in charcoal, pastels and acrylic paint. I was impressed that the charcoal studies she uses when developing her paintings also capture the essence of the subject.

Ellen is available to teach art and Qigong.

Ellen's work is a testament to her talent and to the focus and commitment she has made to develop her skills to a high level.

-interview by Chris Tait, reporter



NGATIMOTI SCHOOL NEWS

Term 4: 16 October – 20 December

TERM 1 2018: WED 7 FEB – FRI 13 APRIL

Easter Holidays: Mon 2 & Tues 3 April



Our logo: The triangle shape is significant geographically, because Mt. Crusader is a focal point and looks over us, historically as the cairn at the front of the school links us to the past, and educationally as we believe that parents, students and teachers need to work together for the best outcomes for all.

The river flowing through symbolises our RIVER values; a part of all that we do.

Our students are *Respectful, Positive, Innovative, Excellent and Responsible*

Education Review Office We are very happy to share some of the positive comments from our recent Education Review Office report:

“Children benefit from a broad, inclusive, and integrated curriculum that is responsive to their individual interests, needs and strengths for learning and wellbeing. Teachers effectively plan and implement a curriculum that enacts the school’s and the New Zealand curriculum’s vision of confident and lifelong learners, whilst making good use of their local environment. Teachers provide experiences that support all children to learn about their bicultural heritage. Children are well supported to achieve the school’s valued outcomes. They learn to:

- ~ Be confident in their identity
- ~ Be creative
- ~ Have agency in their learning (know about their learning).

Trustees actively represent and serve the community well. Trustees and leaders are implementing a clearly aligned strategic vision, values and priorities. They ensure there is an explicit focus on learning, wellbeing and achievement for all children. They scrutinise the effectiveness of the school programmes and practices in achieving valued outcomes.”

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 Wednesday 20 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.

Plans for 2018 Debbie Godsiff has been a great member of our teaching team for at least 5 years and has won a position at Rapaura School in Blenheim, beginning in 2018. We wish Debs all the best and thank her for her work, her loyalty and positive attitude to learning at Ngatimoti School! Debs will be leaving at the end of the year, and a new teacher will start at Ngatimoti in February next year.

Ngatimoti School welcomes all students back to school on Wednesday 7 February 2018. New enrolments welcome. For more information about Ngatimoti School please contact Ali Turner, Principal Tel: 03 526 8842. office@ngatimoti.school.nz www.ngatimoti.school.nz

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a safe and happy holiday, from everyone here at school!



Learn About Wasp Control

Wasps can be a major nuisance in our region over late summer and autumn, but there is now a tool available to provide wide-scale control. Richard Toft, insect ecologist and the developer of Vespex, has offered to talk to people interested in controlling wasps in the valley. When used correctly, Vespex is very safe for the bees and birds, but devastating to populations of introduced social wasps. There is no need for you to find the wasp nests in the bush, because the wasps do the hard work themselves and take the bait back to their nests. Come along to learn more about Vespex, techniques for getting the best results, and avoiding common issues. There will be time at the end for Richard to answer any waspy questions you have.

Where: 19 Herring Stream Road (off West Bank Road)

When: Saturday 20 January, 11 am – 12 noon

Please register by sending an email to irma@jager.co.nz.

More info: www.merchento.com/vespex.html



Controlling Old Man's Beard in the Motueka Valley



The TDC is calling for submissions in respect of the Proposed Tasman/Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan 2017.

Old Man's Beard is already in the Regional Pest Management Strategy as a progressive control pest in Golden Bay/Riwaka and Upper Buller districts.

To encourage Valley residents to make submissions for the Motueka River Valley to also be included in the Regional Pest Management Strategy, the MVA has circulated a flyer that includes a submission form.

Sending the submission form to the TDC will show evidence of community support. Sending in the form will help ensure that Old Man's Beard is brought under control in the Motueka Valley.

Submissions close on 15 December 2017.

-Bruce Dyer

Coming Home

It was my intention, as the new reporter to the Motueka Valley Association newsletter, to set up a series of interviews with members of the Motueka Valley community and to have the first of these ready for publication for this newsletter. It is still my intention to do this, but it won't be this month. As Cervantes' wrote in Don Quixote, "Diligence is the mother of good fortune; and the goal of a good intention was never reached through its opposite, laziness." Now, I'm not saying that it's been a lazy November. It certainly hasn't. But somehow the days have passed, the appointments haven't been made, and the writing hasn't been done. Not exactly the diligence I was hoping for. Next year, perhaps. No, definitely. I have my first target selected.

So, what to write when you haven't done what you hoped? Part of our November included a trip to Christchurch, Dunedin, and on to Wanaka. As we drove, I thought about what I might write in lieu of an interview, composing sentences and paragraphs as the kilometres clicked past and the splendour of the land unfolded before me.

The South Island is a breathtakingly beautiful place with the drama of soaring mountains, cascading rivers, rolling hills and the grandeur of big skies. It's my home. For most of my life Canterbury was home. I tried Auckland once, but only felt that I could breathe again once the ferry reached Picton. I wondered, when we decided to move to the Motueka Valley how long it would take before it felt like home, for it to feel familiar.

It's too soon for that yet, but I know that this is where I want to be. Rather than driving through towns and wondering what living there might be like, I looked and knew that we had chosen the right place.

Our valley is dramatic too, but softer than many other places. The road that winds through it contains surprises around each corner as the seasons change. We're coming into summer and with it the campervans to take in the beauty of our place. The trees are in full leaf, and there is no need for caution on shaded corners. The swimming holes are welcoming the daring. Swallows are dancing over the river seeking their food, the tui are bossing all the other birds in the garden away from their selected flax flowers. The sandflies are out and about looking for bare ankles. Hops wind their way up the strings. Even the cursed broom drowns the hills in vibrant yellow. This is a good place to call home.

I want the interviews and articles in this newsletter to be a celebration of the place we have chosen to live. I want to know how people relate to the land, the environment, the river, and the others in the valley. If you want to tell me your story about living here, I'd love to hear it. It's our home, after all.

-Chris Tait, reporter

Zambuko Marimba

@ Riverside Music Festival

Sunday 21 January, 3.15pm

www.riverside.org.nz/music-festival-2018



photo Martin Macale, Ngatimoti

Motueka Valley Association

Meetings every 2nd 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 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 1st 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
- advertising rate: \$2.00 per column cm
- online newsletter + archives: 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

MVA now part of national network of ratepayers and residents groups

A couple of months ago MVA received the following invitation.

Kia ora to everyone involved in the Motueka Valley Association.

Alan Preston here in Mangawhai, Northland.

We're attempting to set up an enduring national network of ratepayers and residents' groups and are sending this e-mail to your organisation to check firstly whether your e-mail address is actually still valid and whether your ratepayers group is currently active.

While our groups are all fighting our own local battles, there are issues affecting all ratepayers in New Zealand that could more effectively be addressed using a more co-ordinated collective approach.

Please let us know if your group would like to be included in this network.

www.ratepayersandresidents.org.nz

The MVA committee has decided to join this network.

Most of you will be aware that our local council has just finished a round of submissions on the Waimea Dam. It will be interesting to see how this feedback is going to be interpreted by our councillors. Being part of this national network may give some insight into how councils are supposed to follow their democratic processes.

-Irma Jager

FOR SALE - PEA STRAW

Conventional Bales: \$13 ea
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Portrait Commissions

For any questions contact:

Ellen Urselmann

Ph: 0272425823

E: joyfulqiflow@gmail.com



MVA Committee update

From the November MVA meeting:

- MVA is willing to support the purchase of plates for the Ngatimoti Memorial Hall. Final amount to be decided after more research.
- Signage at the beginning of the valley; total cost for a macrocarpa slab, incl. installation to be around \$600; ask for help from local tradespeople for the installation.
- Richard Toft from Merchanto Ltd in Nelson has confirmed that he's willing to come out to the valley to introduce the successful Vespex wasp bait technology; see details in this newsletter.
- Family Picnic date in February was decided; see details in this newsletter.

2017 Motueka Valley Community concert a delight

St. James Church was absolutely packed for this year's annual concert. Graham Wardrop is clearly a well-loved performer for many. His easy stage presence engaged the audience, as he moved effortlessly from classical guitar to jazz, to flamenco and to pop. His own compositions were fine pieces, some with a tinge of sadness. Audience members enjoyed local baked goods at supper in the interval. The programme was generous, the acoustics were excellent, requiring no amplification. It was a musically very satisfying evening.

-Joanna Santa Barbara

ST. JAMES CHURCH NGATIMOTI



Family Service

Sunday 17th December - 10.30am

Conducted by Rev Russell Pickersgill-Brown

Children's Sunday School

Morning tea and social time to follow

All Welcome

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*Christmas Carol Service*

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December - 7.30pm**

**in the Church with the Motueka Brass Band**



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## YOGA

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Ngatimoti, Community Rooms

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Motueka, Laura Ingram Kindergarten

Friday 5.00 - 6.30pm

school terms only



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PH Mike Graham 526 8180

## Local business owners



Do you want to do more business locally?  
Arrange an interview for a free profile in  
this newsletter.

Contact us at newsletter@mva.org.nz.

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