

Motueka Valley Association Newsletter



the river, the land, the people

FEBRUARY 2018

NEXT MVA MEETING

Wednesday 14 February, 8pm
Ngatimoti Community Rooms
All welcome!

Sunday 25 Feb

3-7pm

Ngatimoti Recreation Reserve

fun

games

**MVA
family
picnic**

**Zambuko
Marimba**

5pm

**BBQ
available**

Summer in the Valley

I'm beginning to work out what summer means in our valley. For us it means a stream of visitors, some for the day, and some for days on end. It means tents on the lawn, managing the water supply, company on our bike rides, endless delicious food from the garden, battles to avoid being bitten by sandflies, and requests for swims at all times of the day.

The river naturally draws people to it. I'm sure that everyone has their favourite swimming holes where memories are created. So far, we're happy to dip into the ones that are within walking distance.

At the start of the holiday season the river was lower than usual. Our visitors were determined to grab the tractor tubes and float down a few kilometres. I'm not sure if the bruises they acquired outweighed the pleasure of discovering the valley from the water. With a slower flow, our swimming hole was safer for the little ones to drop from the rope swing and scramble up onto the bank for as many turns as the adult supervisors' patience allowed.

Even though the first welcome rain swelled the river for a few days, it only created a temporary break in river activities. According to one lot of day visitors swimming in the river was the highlight of their holiday.

The second rain brought debris with it keeping us out of the water for a bit longer. Again, as the children grab their last free days before the return of school, the swimming holes call out and the river is filled with the wonderful noise of summer fun.

-Chris Tait, reporter

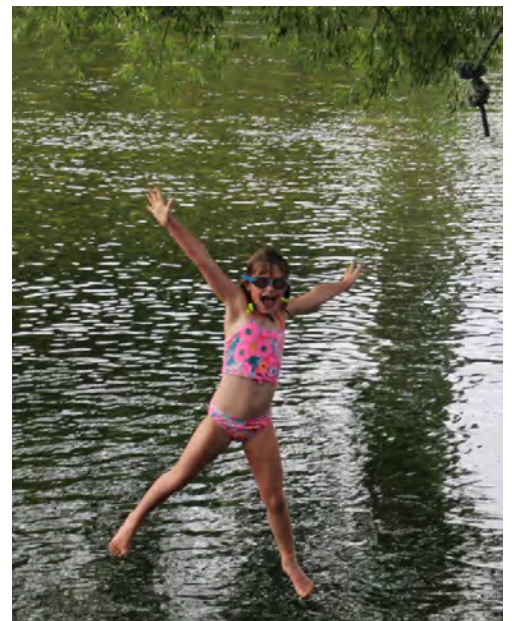


photo supplied by Chris Tait

NGATIMOTI SCHOOL NEWS

2018 TERM DATES

TERM 1: WED 7 FEBRUARY – FRI 13 APRIL

Easter Holidays; Mon 2 & Tues 3 April

TERM 2: Mon 30 April – Fri 6 July

TERM 3: Mon 23 July – Fri 28 September

TERM 4: Mon 15 October – Thurs 20 December

Welcome back to school to all our students, teachers and families; particularly to our new students, and to Rochelle Roberts our Year 3 & 4 teacher.

School re-opens on Wednesday 7 February, and on the Thursday 8 February we will hold our popular 'Infomingle'; a fun evening giving parents, students and teachers a chance to mingle and receive information for the year's learning. We continue with 4 classrooms this year, with Ms Heather Reid teaching Years 1 & 2 students, Mrs Roberts taking Year 3 & 4 students, Mrs Lauren Milnes continues to teach our Year 5 & 6 students, and Mr Malcolm Hepburn will teach our Senior Year 7 & 8 students.

2018 is 150th Centenary Year! We are very excited to be planning a reunion and celebration to mark this historic milestone to coincide with Labour Weekend later in the year. We would love to hear your stories and anecdotes if you have historical knowledge of our school. Please send any interesting snippets or suggestions to office@ngatimoti.school.nz and watch this space for further plans.

Swimming Pool Thank you for supporting our school swimming pool once again this season. The pool has been very popular over the school holidays and will continue to be open for community key holders outside school hours during February and March. Key holders; if you no longer need your pool key please return it to the school office for your \$10 refund at any time.



Ngatimoti School in the 1890s

Keeping Our Valley Beautiful

To those who cycle or walk our roads there are little treasures to delight the senses. Overhead the sound of a kereru in flight draws the eye upward; the smell of a eucalyptus tree in the heat of the day reminds us of other places; roadside weeds are alive with insects and draw us into their world.

This close observation also reveals things that are not so delightful. Discarded cans, plastic bags, hunks of polystyrene and all manner of rubbish lie on the sides of the roads in our valley.

A neighbour's three visiting grandchildren in the valley took it upon themselves to gather all the rubbish they could find beside a one kilometre stretch of road in Ngatimoti. By fossicking in grass, bushes and fence lines they gathered three large bags of rubbish, presumably discarded by people as they pass through. Lucy and Ruby McKay, Greymouth, often gather rubbish on their walk to school and introduced their cousin, Brianna McKay, Brightwater, to the activity. Brianna is keen to make this her new hobby and continue collecting roadside rubbish in her area. Well done girls for helping to keep the valley clean.

-Chris Tait, reporter



Sisters Lucy and Ruby McKay, Greymouth, and their cousin Brianna McKay, Brightwater, with their rubbish haul.

photo Chris Tait



Vespex® Workshop

Concern for the health of bees and other beneficial insects, and about the increase in the wasp population prompted the Motueka Valley Association to host a workshop run by Nelson insect ecologist Richard Toft, the developer of the Vespex® wasp bait. On Saturday January 20th twenty-five valley residents gathered at a property on Herring Stream Road to hear Richard explain wasp habits and how Vespex® has been developed with understanding of these habits to target the *Vespula* wasp species. In New Zealand, this includes both the common wasp (*Vespula vulgaris*) and German wasp (*V. germanica*).

Vespex® is a protein bait attractive to wasps with a potent, but slow-acting insecticide. As it is not sugar based, it does not attract bees and other species. The bait is taken to the nest by the worker wasps, and shared with the colony, causing the nest to collapse rapidly. Having low toxicity to mammals and birds, the bait, when used correctly, has minimal impact on anything other than the targeted species.

Richard answered residents' questions, providing detailed information to alleviate concerns and misunderstandings. Some groups of neighbours began discussing coordinating a baiting programme for maximum impact.

It was a privilege to listen to someone as knowledgeable and informed as Richard. With the wasp season upon us it is encouraging to know that a locally developed product is available to deal with the problem.

Further information can be found on the internet at Merchanto's website www.merchanto.com or at Wasp Wipe-out's website assets.stuff.co.nz/interactives/special-features/wasp-wipeout/.

-Chris Tait, reporter



Richard Toft (left) talking wasps to the locals.

MVA Committee update

From the December MVA meeting:

- The concert at St James Church was once again well attended and much appreciated. It financially broke-even, which was the aim of MVA.
- Further discussion around the "Welcome to Motueka Valley" sign. With the help of some local people this is now moving along.
- The Civil Defence Welfare Committee is still looking for some volunteers.
- The family picnic is confirmed for 25 February.

No spraying on your road frontage

The TDC invites residents to request that their rural property frontage not be chemically sprayed and instead undertake the vegetation control themselves.

An application form to be included on the Council's No-Spray list is available at www.tasman.govt.nz/transport/roading/roading-policies-permits/roadside-spraying/ or at the Council's local service centres. On approval, the Council marks the no spray area with red marker pegs.

To prevent unwanted spraying, the pegs need to be positioned on your property frontage to mark it as a no-spray property so that can be clearly seen from the road.

Rural residents who choose the "no spray" option must control the vegetation growth along their property frontage to ensure road users are not impeded and all roadside signs and markers are clearly visible. Vegetation height should not exceed 300mm. Any storm water drainage ditches need to be kept clear of excess vegetation. At intersections vegetation must be kept well clear to ensure good sight lines for traffic using the intersection.

~Bruce Dyer

Doing
your
bit
for
our
environment



Motueka Valley Association

Meetings every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8pm (7.30pm in winter) in the Ngatimoti Community Rooms.
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
Ngatimoti Community Rooms • 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 450 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



“Jill” Eileen Ethel Ellis Knowles

1916-2017

Longtime Motueka Valley resident Eileen Ethel Ellis Knowles - better known as “Jill” - passed away 20 November at the age of 101. Beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother, landscape artist, friend, and bowls enthusiast Jill always had a ready laugh and kind word.

Born in Dunedin 6 April 1916, Jill lived on a dairy farm at Kaikorai Valley. In 1921 the family relocated to Dunedin. After graduating King Edward Technical College, Jill worked at Ross and Glendenings sewing garments for display and shop windows. In 1939 she was engaged to Robert Francis Dyer, who died in 1941 when the HMS Neptune was mined. Jill worked at Mt. Cook before moving to Motueka to work in the tobacco fields. She married the boss- Francis Harris Knowles and together they had five children: Juliet, Doreen, Valerie, Trevor and Lloyd. Francis is the one who dubbed her “Jill” as his mother was also called Ethel.

Jill’s daughters live on the North Island; the sons run their own timber business in Pangatotara. Francis passed away in 1989. Jill leaves behind a legacy of 5 children, 12 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.



FOR SALE - PEA STRAW

Conventional Bales: \$13 ea
Medium Square Bales (13 Bale Equivalents): \$100 ea - SOLD OUT,
but more arriving in February
Large Square Bales (18+ Bale Equivalent): \$135 ea - SOLD OUT

Call Marian on 03 543 3613 or txt 021 240 0416.
Pickup in Dovedale or delivery to be negotiated.

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Anne: 021 121 3389

ST. JAMES CHURCH NGATIMOTI



Family Service

Sunday 18th February - 10.30am

Conducted by Rev Pamela Soult

Children’s Sunday School

Morning tea and social time to follow

All Welcome



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with Mechthild Laufkotter

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• Upper & Lower Moutere

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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.

Jacqui's Therapies

Beauty, Yoga & Massage Therapy



Jacqui Jenkins
jacquijenkins72@gmail.com
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Kath 526 8068

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