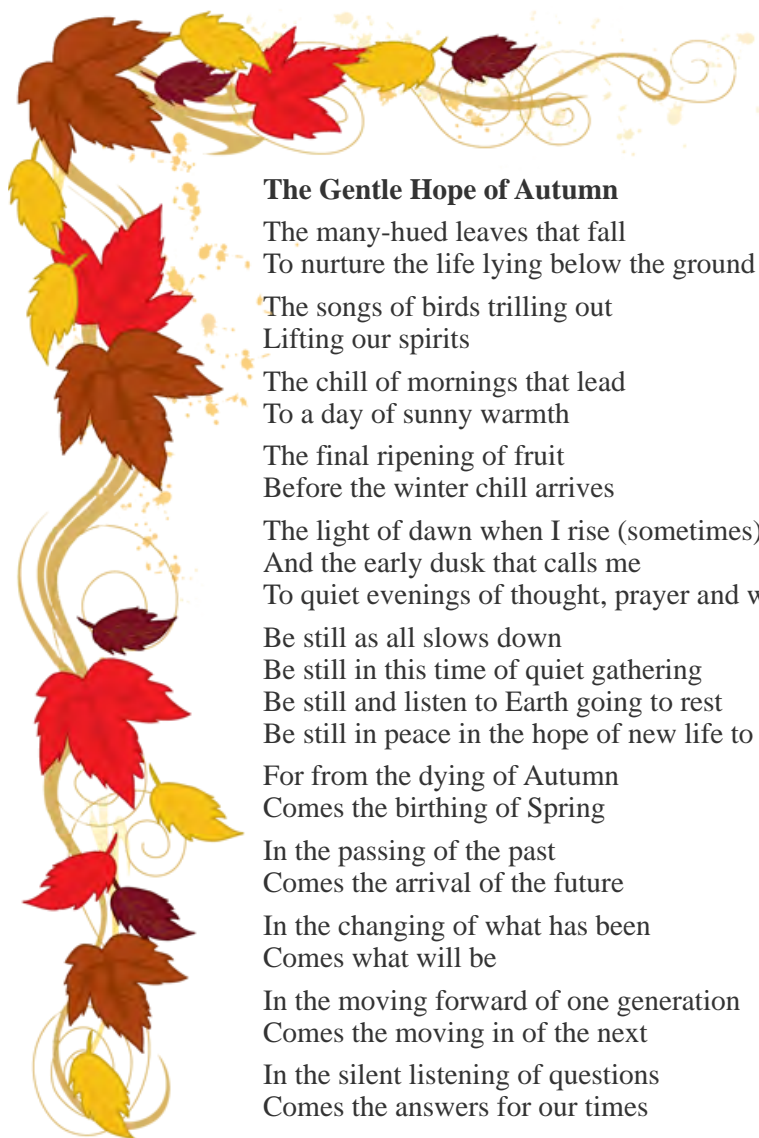


# Motueka Valley Association Newsletter



the river, the land, the people

APRIL 2018



## The Gentle Hope of Autumn

The many-hued leaves that fall  
To nurture the life lying below the ground  
The songs of birds trilling out  
Lifting our spirits  
The chill of mornings that lead  
To a day of sunny warmth  
The final ripening of fruit  
Before the winter chill arrives  
The light of dawn when I rise (sometimes)  
And the early dusk that calls me  
To quiet evenings of thought, prayer and words  
Be still as all slows down  
Be still in this time of quiet gathering  
Be still and listen to Earth going to rest  
Be still in peace in the hope of new life to come  
For from the dying of Autumn  
Comes the birthing of Spring  
In the passing of the past  
Comes the arrival of the future  
In the changing of what has been  
Comes what will be  
In the moving forward of one generation  
Comes the moving in of the next  
In the silent listening of questions  
Comes the answers for our times

-Angela Coleman, NZ poet, 2017

## MVA Committee update

From the March MVA meeting:

- the meeting was largely focussed on the valley response to ex-cyclone Gita. Around 30 people were present. Facilitator David Ogilvie gave opportunities to both TDC representatives and valley residents to share information and concerns. Anyone interested in the minutes from this meeting, please send an email to [info@mva.org.nz](mailto:info@mva.org.nz);
- The other topic that was brought up by TDC is the representation review. One option is to move a large proportion of the Waimea Moutere Ward in Motueka Valley into the Motueka Ward. Another option is to include Tasman/Ruby Bay in the Motueka Ward. If the first option was approved, valley residents affected would have to pay the Motueka Community Board rate. And the Motueka Valley Association wouldn't be eligible for the TDC grant we receive (i.e. we would have to ask the Motueka Community Board for funding). If the Local Govt Commission decides they want to make TDC change the boundaries, these are the two options TDC will have to consider. If it comes to that, we can say no – fill out an on-line submission. Council has to demonstrate it has consulted the communities affected.

## NEXT MVA MEETING

Wednesday 11 April, 7.30pm  
Ngatimoti Community Rooms

**All welcome!**

*Celebrating Our Harvest*



***A wonderful signature event held each year during harvest time to remind ourselves and tell the world about the great food produced in the Motueka area. And to have a lot of fun!***

As well as the huge range of food and food-related stalls running throughout the day, the highlight of the event will be the parade and pageant starting at 11am.

This is a celebratory, colourful and noisy tribute to the four elements - earth, water, air and fire - performed by children from Motueka area schools, with the assistance of seasonal workers from the Pacific Islands with their unique dances and sounds.

A series of stalls and displays will be set up by the local horticulturists and other leading food industries, showcasing their wares and upcoming innovations.

**Sunday 8 April**

**10am-3pm**

**Decks Reserve Motueka**

**12.30pm Zambuko Marimba**

**[www.motuekakaifest.nz](http://www.motuekakaifest.nz)**

2018 TERM DATES

TERM 1: WED 7 FEBRUARY – FRI 13 APRIL

Easter Holidays; Fri 30 Mar, Mon 2 & Tues 3 April

TERM 2: Mon 30 April – Fri 6 July

TERM 3: Mon 23 July – Fri 28 September



**Term 1 at Ngatimoti School** has been packed with lots of learning and fun in addition to the challenges we have all faced following ex-cyclone Gita. Our junior students have enjoyed a wonderful night at Quinney's Bush on camp, some students took part in the interactive Science Roadshow in Motueka and our seniors buddied up with our juniors for a

class trip to various art galleries in Mapua. Two classes are also lucky enough to be learning about 'imagination' with local artist Anne Bannock. We have made good use of our new school minivan this term, and our students have made the most of our new solar heating for our school pool every day, thanks to funds from previous festivals.

Coming up, our seniors have a day of learning to sail at Kaiteriteri, and all students will be learning about the Commonwealth Games prior to us celebrating with our own day of games to finish the term.

**Our school swimming pool is now closed;** many thanks to those who purchased a season key and have treated the pool and our pool safety rules with great respect. Please return your key to the school office to receive your \$10 deposit back.

**BOT News:** At our last meeting, Andrea Goodman was elected as Chairperson for the 2018 year. Thanks Marios for your work as our Chair for the past 5 years.

**Our Parents Group have recently agreed to make a donation to Ngatimoti School of \$40,000** following last year's Ngatimoti Festival. Our local Ngatimoti Memorial Hall and the Motueka Community Swimming Pool have also been chosen to receive small donations from Festival profits this year. Thank you to all parents, students and community members who were involved – what a huge achievement for such a small school – we are very lucky! Funds will be used at school to directly benefit our students; including purchasing all school stationery, as well as enabling out of school activities and theatrical performances.

*Junior camp joy at Quinney's Bush*



## What could be done to prevent another catastrophe?

In the aftermath of Gita, Roger May has written the following article and given the MVA permission to publish this.

### Impacts of Forestry on the Separation Point Granite

We have a situation where a relatively low value crop (Radiata) has been planted on quite fragile terrain. In many places this is steep and once disturbed by earthworks or harvesting, will easily erode. The fragility of these soils has been known for decades; even before the old Forest Service planted the Motueka Forest.

Because the crop is such low value, it is necessary to use large machinery and clearcutting methods to make it pay. But the downsides are a loss of soil, scarred landscapes, silt and debris in streams, impacts on water quality, loss of riparian and aquatic habitat, inundation of paddocks and property downstream, and the associated impacts on people and communities. Clearly this has to stop. Forest owners are reaping the profits and creating environmental and social 'costs' all over the place.

The large forest companies (and some smaller forest owners) and the Tasman District Council have been aware of this for decades and have tried to implement practices to reduce these impacts. But storm events have been a regular occur-

rence – there's a significant storm every year or two and a major one every 10 years or so and they seem to be getting more extreme and more frequent. So despite their 'best efforts', soil and debris still runs off the hills and destroys the environment, property and people's lives.

And from the stories I've heard recently from Tapawera, the Shaggery, Marahau and Pohara, the forest companies seem to be pretty good at minimising their responsibilities and liability to the point of being downright mean. I've been told that some impacted land owners who have received a small compensation package have then had to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

The Council has been at fault too. Over the years, the rules have not matched the risks and the monitoring and enforcement has been lax or non-existent. They haven't taken it seriously until a major event happens, then they respond to the outrage until the public pressure subsides. The basic problems remain unaddressed.

Many of the forestry proponents will say that these events are an 'Act of God' but that is a copout. The problem is their misplaced expectations, bad management, and deficient rules, monitoring and enforcement.

**So what needs to be done?**

*continued on next page*

1. The TDC could consider placing a moratorium on issuing new consents for forestry earthworks and harvesting on Separation Point Granites until such time as the current process of aligning the TDC rules with the new National Standard for Plantations (NES-PF) and the review of the TDC rules are complete.

2. The TDC should significantly increase the monitoring and enforcement of existing consents for these earthworks and harvesting. This will need to be done anyway because most forestry operations under the NES will be classed as 'Permitted' and will need monitoring (The NES allows Councils to charge forest owners/managers for this monitoring).

3. The conversation amongst stakeholders will have to include large (corporate), medium and small forest owners and managers because all will be affected by the new rules. More particularly, local Iwi need to be at the table too because they are now the owners (under Treaty settlements) of much of this plantation land.

4. Our expectations, particularly that of the land owners, of what economic productivity can come off the land is going to have to change. There needs to be an analysis done as to what areas of the Separation Point Granites should be excluded from economic production (forestry but perhaps farming too) simply because it is too fragile under any sort of productive management. Any land so excluded needs to be managed back into tall native forest (rather than just being left to revert).

5. There needs to be a rethink as to what species should be planted on those areas that could still be economically productive. These species need to be more valuable (so that more sensitive and therefore expensive harvesting methods can be used), species with longer rotation (time to maturity), species that retain live root systems (ie. re-grow and so better hold the soil after harvesting), and species suited to low-impact shelterwood harvesting systems. One possible example is Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*).

6. The Council rules need to better reflect the risks of environmental and social impact, while subjugating the economic risks. The new National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF) comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> May this year but is very permissive. However, the TDC has been proactive and successful in getting the NES-PF to include a provision to explicitly allow the Council to set more stringent rules on SPG (Separation Point Granite). Ironically, this can happen only if MPI change the Erosion Classification for SPG back to Orange from Red before 1<sup>st</sup> May (given the wording in the NES-PF regulations).

7. The TDC public consultation process that both reviews the current rules and aligns the TDC rules with the NES-PF regulations will begin sometime in early April so it will be vital for the public and previously impacted communities in particular, to make their voice heard, strongly, loudly, and vociferously if necessary. TDC officials will be making the recommendations and Councillors will vote on the revised rules. Both need to feel the public pressure and act accordingly.

8. Besides the need for stringent rules controlling the activities of forest owners/managers, there is a clear need for the TDC to lift its game in terms of monitoring and enforcement (of both consents and Permitted activities). Right now, the TDC Long Term Plan is out for public submission. One

thing we should be asking for now is much better resourcing (funds and personnel) to increase the monitoring of (existing and new) consents on SPG as well as in all parts of the region (especially since the NES-PF is so permissive everywhere else). Public pressure and regular media attention is needed.

9. The TDC also needs to feel the public pressure for greater resourcing of its consents Enforcement and to grow a spine in terms of prosecuting flagrant non-compliance. Media attention is needed on this one too.

10. And lastly (for now) there needs to be some accountability by the forest owners/managers to properly clean up the damage they have created. It would be a different story if it was their homes, properties and neighbourhoods that had been wrecked. Some media attention and threats of class (legal) action may be worth considering.

-Roger May

**Roger May** is the managing director of Tomorrow's Forests, based in Orinoco.

He has a New Zealand Certificate in Forestry and has worked as a consultant for 14 years. Projects undertaken have focussed on indigenous forest management and restoration, 'alternative' species management and GIS mapping and analysis.

He is a member of the New Zealand Institute of Forestry, Tanes Tree Trust and has been a member of the New Zealand Farm Forestry for over 30 years.

[www.tomorrowsforests.co.nz](http://www.tomorrowsforests.co.nz)



### Motueka Valley Association

**Meetings** every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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  
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 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 500 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)

## Quiz Nights @ Dunbar Estates

Dunbar Estates Cafe monthly Quiz nights begin Friday 20 April and every 3rd Friday of the month thereafter. Quiz starts at 7pm. Max 6 per team. Individuals will be put into teams, so just turn up. \$2 pp.  
Bar and kitchen open. Ph 526 8598 or [dunbarestates@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dunbarestates@xtra.co.nz) to book a team/table.

## FOR SALE - PEA STRAW

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

**Ngatimoti Playgroup** is your local Motueka Valley community playgroup focused on fun and friendships, for kids and parents/caregivers alike. We are a welcoming group providing play and socialisation opportunities for all preschoolers and their whanau in our community, regardless of eventual schooling choice. The sessions are free and held weekly during term time on Fridays between 9:15 and 12:15, but families are welcome to arrive anytime during the session to fit in with naps etc. We are based in the Ngatimoti School hall on Greenhill road. Bring a plate for shared morning tea and join in the fun. We love to see new faces and welcome back old friends, so come along, or call/text Phoebe Quinlivan for more information 021 211 6730.



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## MUSICAL BEGINNINGS

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Tuesdays 11am  
Anne: 021 121 3389

## ST. JAMES CHURCH NGATIMOTI



Sunday 1st April - 10.30am

Easter Family Service with Rev. Pamela Soult

Children's Sunday School

Morning tea and social time to follow

Sunday 15th April - 10.30am

Family Service with Richard Cheeseman

Children's Sunday School

Morning tea and social time to follow

Wednesday 25th April - 10.30am

ANZAC Service

All Welcome

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PH Mike Graham 526 8180

## Local business owners



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