Motueka Valley Association Newsletter



MEMORIAL HALL NGATIMOTI

Meet the new treasurer

Hello everyone, I just want to introduce myself as the new Ngatimoti Hall Treasurer and Keeper of the Keys. I am Sarah Douglas and live on West Bank Rd by the Alexander Bluff Bridge. I wanted to do the job, because I have been to many wonderful entertaining and community focused events at the hall. It would be great if we could do some upgrading of it, and some has been done. The hall committee team of four have plans to fence and beautify the grounds to make it safer on that busy corner. There is an anonymous community spirited person who kindly mows the grounds, who should be thanked - thank you - and two others who do the gardens under the mural – much appreciated. David Gorrill did the booking and treasurer job for nearly 20 years and thanks to Paul Wielandt for the past seven. I encourage you to use your hall - I remember the hall that was at Brooklyn, that is now an empty section and hope that won't be repeated in Ngatimoti. Our hall was a community response to the sad loss of soldiers from WW1 as a memorial to them. And it has a sprung dance floor! It's home to the local Zambuko Marimba band and is a great place to hold that next function. If you want to book it, then contact me. Text me your date and function details (or ring) and I will book you in. The more it's used the more it can be upgraded. At this time it costs a very reasonable \$50 plus refundable bond or if it's used for a short time such as for education, music, exercise, art etc. it's only a few dollars per person. Cleaning is the user's responsibility, but there is a person, who will clean for a fee, that I can put you in touch with.

To hire, text 027 721 3991. Include function date, time and your name. Here's to many more happy times in our Ngatimoti Hall. Cheers.

-Sarah Douglas

NEXT MVA MEETING

Wednesday 13 June, 7.30pm Ngatimoti Community Rooms





Use it or lose it? More info about the hall under 'MVA Committee update' in this issue.



Midwinter Community



Friday 13 July, 6.30pm Ngatimoti Hall

Motueka Valley Business Profile

Nature Kids celebrates its five year anniversary

A converted house on the edge of Motueka is home to the early childhood education centre, Nature Kids. Founded five years ago, the boutique centre has a philosophy that focuses on nature and sustainability and aims for 2 to 6 year olds to learn in and from nature.

Founders of the centre are Valley residents Kate and Wendy. Kate returned to Motueka, after teaching in Wanaka for thirteen years, with a passion for a nature based philosophy. With the support of her mother, Wendy, Nature Kids was established. Wendy uses her business experience to keep the background business machine running, freeing Kate to concentrate on the education of the children.



Nature Kids presents a homelike atmosphere in a family owned country property of 1.5 hectares. It has extensive outdoor facilities, including an orchard, animals and a vegetable garden. The children engage in meaningful activities involving the care of the animals and gathering of food from the orchard and garden. Some areas of the property are left ungroomed so that the children can participate in messy explorative play. When I visited, the children were engaged in creating with driftwood gathered from the beach after a storm.



Numbers are kept low. The centre is registered for 29 children; they choose to take up to 24 for better ratios. The teacher to child ratio is higher than that required by the Ministry of Education. The centre operates during school term times. They provide a child and teacher led programme based on the NZ Early Childhood Curriculum "Te Whāriki". The Education Review Office visited in 2016 and gave the centre a favourable review.

As part of their anniversary celebrations they are offering 24 free hours to children aged three and over and two free mornings a week for two year olds (conditions apply).

The Nature Kids website shows the environment and provides a greater understanding of the philosophy behind the education of the children who attend the centre. If this kind of education is what you want for your child, Wendy can be contacted for further information through the website www.naturekids.co.nz, by email naturekidsmotueka@gmail.com, or by phone 03 528 8700.

-interview by Chris Tait, reporter

2018 TERM DATES

TERM 2: Mon 30 April - Fri 6 July

TERM 3: Mon 23 July - Fri 28 September

TERM 4: Mon 15 October - Thu 20 December

NGATIMOTI SCHOOL NEWS: June 2018

Our school swimming pool is now closed; please return your key to the school office to receive your \$10 deposit if you have not yet done so.

Ngatimoti School

Room 5 were very lucky to have the opportunity to learn outside the

classroom with Ian Thorn recently. We were helping Ian to plant approximately 200 native plants in his wetlands area. These plants will stop sediment flowing into the stream and eventually the sea, while also making the wetland a healthier habitat for native animals and our environment. This was a great thing to do as we are an Enviro School. It felt good to be helping our

local environment, learning and having fun, thank you Ian. *By Inca and Caleb*.

BOT News The Board of Trustees have the task of setting a direction for our school and do this by planning over a 5 year period. Board members are contacting as many parents as possible to hear their ideas. These ideas will then be collated and strategic goals developed for our school, for the future.

Ngatimoti School 150th **Celebrations.** The organising committee invite all past students of Ngatimoti and other consolidated schools of the area to this celebration and reunion. The contribution of any photos or stories to share for this



celebration and for the memorial booklet would be greatly appreciated. For more information please contact the organising committee via Principal Alison Turner at Ngatimoti School, tel. 03 526 8842 office@ngatimoti.school.nz.



The freedom to camp

I feel incredibly lucky to have found the corner of the world that is the Motueka Valley. Many people must feel that they have found something special as they travel through. Some are fortunate to find a place so that they may stay for a long time; others find a place where they can stay for a short time to enjoy the beauty that surrounds us in the valley.



Today as I drove past the reserve at the Alexander Bluff Bridge I noticed that the camping area is nearly deserted. In the summer it is a hive of activity which seems to, at times, raise ire in some local residents. The mound of rubbish on the side of the road can be an irritation, especially when there is no rubbish collection for ratepayers.

What is now called freedom camping is something that has been going on for a long time in New Zealand. For many travelling around the countryside and finding places to sleep overnight was a rite of passage. In the mid-1970s I spent six months travelling around the North Island, only occasionally checking into a camping ground. Perhaps it is the increase in numbers that is contributing to the perception that there is a problem.

Tourism is an important part of the economy. Managing the numbers of tourists is a challenge that faces many district councils. Curious about the regulations regarding freedom camping I looked at the Tasman District Council (TDC) website for information. The Tasman District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 came into effect on 18 December 2017. In this document, which can be downloaded at www.tasman.govt.nz/recreation/camping/freedom-camping, the TDC defines freedom camping as "to camp in a defined area (other than at a camping ground) within 200 metres of a motor vehicle accessible ... using one or more of the following: (a) a tent or other temporary structure: (b) a caravan: (c) a car, campervan, house truck, or other motor vehicle." Within the Tasman District there are areas where freedom camping is prohibited, where self-contained vehicles are allowed and several designated freedom camping areas, one of which is the Alexander Bluff Road Reserve.

Correspondence with Adrian Humphries, Manager with responsibility for the Freedom Camping Bylaw, wrote that the "area was chosen because it is isolated and use of it does not have a significant effect on the neighbours." He made me aware that some popular assumptions were unfounded. It is not just 'freeloading' young travellers undeserving of support who use the reserve. The Council's monitoring has shown that the area has become very popular with itinerant workers. Many campers are New Zealanders. All of these people contribute to the local economy and need to be managed in some way.

As for the rubbish issue, the type of rubbish removed has shown that it does not come from campers alone, but includes domestic rubbish, as well as even drums of chemicals. The council are installing cameras in an attempt to deal with this problem.



The issue of managing tourist numbers, and with that, freedom camping is an ongoing one for the whole country. If you are concerned about this issue, become familiar with the bylaws, and inform the council if you believe that these are not being adhered to.

In the end, we are all guests in this special valley, some for longer than others. The spirit of manākitia, or caring for our visitors, is one that makes me proud to be a Kiwi. For now, we are the people of this land and I'd like to think that we welcome and care for our visitors.

-Chris Tait, reporter

MVA Committee update

From the May MVA meeting:

- Issues around committee management of the Ngatimoti Hall and the extent to which council bureaucracy makes this a challenge were outlined. TDC Cr Dean McNamara has met with people from the committee to discuss the concerns. \$5500 for heating in supper room has been budgeted for 2018. The much needed kitchen upgrade is not mentioned in the budget. There is money spent on the hall that doesn't actually benefit the hall, i.e. it is simply compliance with regulations like fire and building safety that have been designed for more complex buildings, not a single storey basic hall. It was noted that TDC responds reasonably quickly when the committee report maintenance problems with the hall. The committee has a new treasurer, Sarah Douglas. Others have also expressed interest in joining the committee. A question was raised re establishing a community trust to take over management of the hall. Dean reported that this is an option and TDC Councillors would be happy with that. The rules imposed by TDC come from national regulations that council (and any property manager) are bound to implement. If management of the hall is transferred to a trust there wouldn't necessarily be council funding available.
- ▶ The proposed 'Welcome to Motueka Valley' sign just passed Woodsman's Cnr was discussed. A large, colour slide of the proposed sign was projected and feedback was invited. The committee will look at using a different font. The flitch measures 2 by 1m. The sign still needs TDC sign off.





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Important information regarding the location of your local Defibrillator (AED)

A reminder to all Motueka Valley residents. We currently have three AED's located in the Motueka Valley. They are outside for easy access. There is one at the Rural Community Rooms (Ngatimoti Rural Fire Station), next to the entrance to the Community Room. An AED sign is posted on the roadside of the Fire Station/Community Rooms. The second one is located at a private residence/business, Kerry and Paula Hall, 1982 Dovedale Road, Woodstock. You will find the AED in a white box mounted to a shed wall at the end of the driveway at their property. It has red paint surrounding the box. There is an AED sign on the fence at the front of the property. The third AED is located on the West Bank at the Pokororo Hall. It is in a yellow box that is locked and has a "breakable red box" with a key in it to access the AED. There is an AED sign on the side of the Hall.

-Gloria Anderson, Chairperson, Motueka Valley Defibrillator Group

ST. JAMES CHURCH NGATIMOTI



Family Service

Sunday 17th June - 10.30am Conducted by Trindi & Graham Walker (Salvation Army)

Children's Sunday School

Morning tea and social time to follow

All Welcome

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 • Sarah Douglas • text 027 721 3991 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 Ist 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 600 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

QUIZ NIGHT - Friday 15 June 2018

@ DUNBAR ESTATES CELLAR DOOR & CAFE

Quiz Night every 3rd Friday of the month starting promptly at 7pm. Max. 6 per team @ \$2pp.

Individuals can join a team on the night. Please book your table ASAP as numbers are limited. Bar & kitchen open. Ph 03 526 8598 or dunbarestates@xtra.co.nz.

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MUSICAL BEGINNINGS

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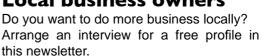


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