Motueka Valley Association Newsletter



MOTUEKA VALLEY BUSINESS PROFILE

TREECARE

Caring for Trees

Working with timber has been Bob Roborgh's life work. Coming to New Zealand with his parents from Holland in 1950 at the age of three, Bob grew up in Riwaka. His father, Dr Rudi Roborgh, was in charge of the Hop Research Station and helped to revive the hop industry, which is now a booming industry.

"I started off in the early days logging, working for a logging gang, but very quickly I got out of that and got my own business. It started in 1980 and then I moved to Motueka here in 1986. My business TREECARE is about trees, all to do with trees. I just go round and help people with their trees. I've been doing that for about thirty five years in the Motueka area, and you get to know a lot of people, they become friends. So I'm working for a lot of people that I've known for a long time, as you do in a rural area. ...I love going around and talking to people about their trees, giving people options about their trees that maybe they haven't thought about, which is sometimes useful for people if they are wanting to landscape their properties or change the way they get their views. So I can advise them on shaping their trees or taking them out and what to do with the trees once they're down – they can bring them here and I can mill them up for them and they can build a house or a shed, or whatever the timber is useful for."

Bob rents his mill site from Trevor Knowles at Pangatotara. The most common trees that Bob mills are poplar, eucalyptus, macrocarpa and lawson cypress. "Eucalyptus is hard and the best for flooring. Poplar is soft and good for bedrooms to walk around on it in your socks. Lots of people import timber flooring from overseas ready made up in big panels like oak but we have a natural, local resource here and a lot of people get into it."

There have been many local contractors who have worked with Bob over the years, like Byron McEnroe of Doctor Dig, Roger Brereton of Motueka Auto Parts and Lloyd Knowles of Knowles Timber & Machining, to name just a few. Bob is very thankful for all their work and help.

"It's very handy here for people where I can bring the trees here to be milled and then the timber can go down to Lloyd's where he can dress it – be it for floorboards or architraves – and it doesn't have to travel very far. A lot of the actual tree work is as far as Wakefield, Richmond, Nelson, Golden Bay and Murchison. So we drive a little bit for that."

At present, Luka Droppers, a local arborist, works part-time for Bob. Luka uses his skills to help with with the work that Bob can no longer manage himself, as needed. Luka also is licensed to manage the traffic control when felling or moving trees. "Luka started off with me as an apprentice at the age of 14. Then when he got to 18 he wanted to go out on his own, so he has done and is doing very well. Now he comes and helps me out about a week a month, because I can't do all the things I used to be able to do. The rest of the jobs I do by myself and I work at the mill by myself."

Bob is also very appreciative of all the friendships he has made with the people he has worked for and helped with the care of their trees. "Generally I love my work and people are so happy to see you, I really enjoy that part of my job, I like being able to help people with their trees..."

During lockdown Bob stayed at home with his wife Ellen and had a well-earned break from his work with the wage subsidy helping his business to survive. He didn't even go down to the mill for a month. After 40 years of tree caring, Bob is well and truly due for his retirement and these days is taking life a little bit slower.

-Fiona Nelson, reporter

NEXT MVA MEETING

Wednesday 8 July, 8pm Ngatimoti Community Rooms

All welcome!



Midwinter Community



Friday 31 July, 6.30pm Ngatimoti Hall

soup will be simmering
Sylas' freshly baked bread
mulled wine & warm apple juice
bring a dish to share
and plates, bowls, cups, cutlery



2020 TERM DATES

TERM 3: Mon 20 July - Fri 25 September

TERM 4: Mon 12 October - Wednesday 16 Dec

NGATIMOTI FESTIVAL DAY SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER ©





As we come to the end of Term 2 we have enjoyed returning to some 'normality' with a fun run and mid-winter swim here at school.

Our students have enjoyed learning local Māori legends from Whaea Tania, as well as some Matariki stories. This ties in well with our goal setting, which is all a part of the celebration of the Māori New Year.

Our teachers, parents and students have all had meetings to reinforce relationships and support each other following the long break from school and we are now pleased to be back on track with our learning. Our roll is expected to be 99 students to begin Term 3.



We are beginning to make plans for this year's annual Ngatimoti Festival to be held on Sunday 25 October. Festival is organised by parents, in close partnership with the

school and everybody is involved! Many members of this wonderful community also help out each year and we love that – get in touch if you would be interested in volunteering your services on the day or if you have any services, art or crafts you would consider donating to our auction. Craft stall application forms will be available next month. Food stall invitations will be sent out soon, there are very limited spaces for food stalls and these are by invite only. Watch this space for further developments next month.

Chris B negotiates the obstacle course representing Yellow House at our recent fun run and mid-winter swim.



Free informative online meeting Informed and Connected Rural Communities =

Informed and Connected Rural Communities = Safer Communities

The high fire risk summer season is well behind us. However the use of fireplaces, heaters and electricity to keep our families warm in the winter, bring a different set of fire dangers.

FMG Insurance say that claims start to increase as early as April and then peak further into the winter months, when we start using fires, heaters and electrical appliances.

Register your interest to join our local FENZ Zoom meeting on Tuesday 14 July, 8pm, (it's FREE) so we can be more prepared and help prevent fires in our homes and thus make rural areas safer for everyone.

Please email Gavin O'Donnell at fairhill@scorch.co.nz to be send the Zoom link.

-Irma Jager, Ngatimoti Volunteer Fire Brigade



ST. JAMES CHURCH NGATIMOTI



Family Service
Sunday 19th July - 10.30am
conducted by Rev Pomeroy
Children's Sunday School
Morning tea and social time to follow
All Welcome

Location of AEDs in Motueka Valley

- Woodstock Automotive (Kerry Hall)
 982 Dovedale Road, Woodstock Junction.
- Ngatimoti Community Rooms/Fire Station
 Motueka Valley Highway next to Ngatimoti School
- Pokororo Hall

West Bank Road at corner of Graham Valley Road



Motueka Valley Defibrillator Group is a registered charity (CC50792). Donations towards the maintenance of the AEDs can be made to: Motueka Valley Defibrillator Group, NBS acc # 03-1354-0474291-00 or contact Gloria Anderson, chairperson, on 526 8644 for more information.

Support Our Hall and Local Performers



OPEN MIC Nights Back On!

It's cold, it's winter and it's time to share some warmth, entertainment and fun at the Ngatimoti Memorial Hall with the Open Mic night. Now out of lockdown, the Open Mic nights will be happening again on the second Thursday of each month, starting August Thursday 13th. The Open Mic nights have been running for about a year and are the initiative of Ross Pizzay, Russell Anderson and Joel Briffault.

"We'd been talking about it for about a year before they began. We just felt that in the valley there were so many amazing musicians, talented people, and not just musicians - lots of different stuff going on. We wanted to provide a space where everyone could come and do it together. We're pretty famous at having parties here in the valley, but in terms of a scheduled space where people can be creative, there wasn't anything for that. So we wanted to do it for that reason. And we wanted to encourage people to have the confidence to come and perform in front of other people," said Joel.

The Ngatimoti Memorial Hall has been our local entertainment venue for nearly 70 years. It was built by locals and opened on 12 December 1953. After WWII, a group of locals worked for several years to raise funds to build a memorial hall. 2,400 pounds were raised and was matched by a 1:1 government subsidy. The site on which the hall was built used to be Lawrence [Todd] Heath's garage with his tobacco kilns nearby.

When it opened, the hall had a kitchen, a fireplace and toilets. The supper room was added in 1965 and was also financed by local fundraising. Tobacco growers had a voluntarily amount deducted from their leaf sales to build the supper hall.

Weddings, funerals, parties, cabarets and dances have been held there over the years. The Country Women's Institute had their meetings there and, as Ngatimoti school used to be behind the hall, the school children would use it as well. More recently it has been used for marimba practice, table tennis, boxing and karate classes.

There is a commemorative memorial plaque at the door of the hall in honour of the men and women of this district who served in WWII. It records the names of the two valley men who lost their lives on active service in WWII.

The hall receives a small amount of funding from Tasman District Council for maintenance and continues to be managed by an elected committee of local residents – Ross Pizzay, Russell Anderson, Judy Bowen, Sarah Douglas and Bex Douglas. "It's great the Open Mic nights are starting up again, they've been terrific," Bex Douglas said, who is the contact for hall bookings – 021 173 1279.

Bex says that the lockdown has affected the bookings for the hall. "The only new booking we have so far since lockdown is for the Motueka Valley Association midwinter community potluck on Friday 31 July."

— continued on next page >



Bex is hoping a few more things start happening at the hall again, like boxing classes and maybe a mothers club for all the mums in the valley. "This weekend we are setting up a communal book swap at the front of the hall. I've painted an old fridge bright yellow to keep the books in. We've been donated a couple of boxes of books, adult and children's books, then anyone who wants to read a book can take one from the fridge. You can swap a book too and bring it back when you've read it for someone else to read." Bex hopes to also start a communal borrow and swap "fridge" for board games and puzzles.

Whether playing music, performing or simply enjoying the company and having a night out in the valley, the Open Mic nights at the hall have been well-supported. Some nights have attracted up to 35 people. "Sometimes we'd have 10 names on the board and the music just goes and goes and goes. People wouldn't stop until someone called it - being a Thursday night. You'd get that feeling that it could just go on until the early hours of the morning," said Joel. "There's been quite a lot of music. People doing solos, duos, and dances; there's been a comedian a few times with a really good act; spoken word, storytelling, poetry, performing a haka... it's anything goes. In the long run we're hoping we might be able to have a band come out of the Motueka Valley. It's good to have all these musicians 'come out of the woodwork', so to speak."

At the hall, there is a PA system, a microphone and a drumkit for use. It's a free event and a gold coin koha is suggested to cover the hall's costs. "We're hoping to save up enough money to buy our own PA and drumkit as at the moment we have to borrow them for the night. It's a comfortable, easy space, extremely casual and we encourage people to come along for the evening to perform or just to watch and have a chat".

Come and check out our awesome valley's local musicians, storytellers, comedians and diverse folk for a night of whatever goes on the mic. Thursday 13th August, 7.30pm.

-Fiona Nelson, reporter



Working Bee at Ngatimoti Hall

(from left) Stan Clark, Allen Beatson, Sid Thorn, Stan Lattimer, Tom Beatson, Allen Brereton, Eddie Beatson, Joe Collings, Alf Wells and Roy Catteremole

photo - Eddie Beatson caption courtesy of Diane Miller nee Beatson



MVA is looking for new committee members

Do you have an interest in the well-being of the Motueka Valley?

Do you have a couple of hours every month to attend meetings at Ngatimoti Community Rooms?

Do you enjoy meeting new people?

If you're interested or have questions, contact one of the committee members or email info@mva.org.nz.



MVA is looking for a new newsletter editor

If you're interested or have questions, contact one of the committee members or email info@mva.org.nz.

For more detailed info about this role, contact the current editor, Jan-Albert, at newsletter@mva.org.nz.

Free Tree Service to Remove Hazardous Trees

If there are overhanging trees or branches that could fall onto a footpath or road, or any overgrown trees that are hazardous for road users, you can apply to Tasman District Council (TDC) for their free removal. This free service is a project being managed by TDC in conjunction with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). The aim of the project is to improve road safety while redeploying workers, from all industries, who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown.

This free service is a 'one-off initiative' 100% Ministry funded, with the money for it being provided to TDC to manage. Qualified tree specialists are being engaged for all the necessary tree felling and limb removal work. If your application is considered hazardous enough, one of the teams will be assigned the work to discuss the options available with you.

For this free service, you need to apply and then your submission will be prioritised according to what risk it presents to the public. Providing photos with your application is helpful also. The link for making an online application is www.tasman.govt.nz/my-property/common-property-questions/dangerous-roadside-tree-removal-rural-areas/, or you can email projects@tasman.govt.nz. You can also ring TDC and register your request for removal of the hazardous trees to ensure they are put on the priority list. As above, this is a one-off amount of money for the free tree removal service and won't last forever.

John Crick, with his mate~

KAURI JACK Story-Track

AOTEAROA ODYSSEY

"

Poling logs through a kauri dam I'm fallin' in and going with 'em a mile... Bashed bad, I am, stretched out. Alive. Cold. Lonely. In a dream? Rememb'rin

Now it's time to tell.... Kauri Jack"

"He brings each person to life in a unique and celebratory way, with his voice rising and falling for dramatic effect, using just the minimal amount of words and phrases. Many of his speech patterns come from the past, creating an atmosphere of suspense and longing, especially where the characters have journeyed far from home and experienced great challenges. We were both reminded of Homer's Ulysses, a true epic." KJ, Top of The South Poets, June 2019

"Weaving together prolific tales of NZ history and culture with beauty, care and integrity. Very powerful to listen to. Hope Kauri Jack is someday recorded or performed for others to enjoy the deep history and detail of his work." AS, June 2019

From John 'the Walrus' Crick: I've worked on this project, been haunted by it, over many years ~ a wondrous, creative adventure. So grateful for it all, glad it's now ready to go... Yes, and while the covid stuff is tough, it helps us be aware, celebrate, treasure, these Islands of Wonder~

Aotearoa/NZ, mid-winter, New Year, Matariki. Kiwi Ecology & The Lore, that's the story! Let's go...

(PS, there really was a bushman, "fell in, poling logs, going with them a mile, who survived." I've named him, and shaped the tales. All folk are real, but The Miner's Wife, family in Scotland, Soldier/Deserter, Bullock Driver, & Midwife are creations. Believable?! You decide!)

Any Koha, with many thanks, to help cover advertising. Remainder goes to the great, long-toiling, giving folk of Forest & Bird ~ Blessings on you.

COME, CELEBRATE!
TUESDAY, 14 JULY, 7PM
Ngatimoti Community Rooms

MVA Committee update

From the June MVA meeting:

- Long Term Plan. Feedback was extended to Friday 12 June. A draft LTP will be prepared for public comment in early 2021. The Plan relates to TDC spending from 1 July 2021
- Midwinter Potluck. The date has been set for 31 July (see advert).
- **September AGM.** The MVA AGM will be held as part of our usual monthly meeting on 9 Sept 2020.
- Trees over Road. TDC has money to remove trees overhanging roads, on both private and public land. MVA will let Council know about a number of trees near Alexander Bluff Bridge.



connect on Facebook:

Motueka Valley Community

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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:**

Greg Mason 526 8112
Peter Laufkotter 526 8554
Fiona Nelson 020 4160 1968

local halls/facilities

Ngatimoti Memorial Hall

• Bex Douglas • 021 173 1279 • ngatimoti.hall@gmail.com 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

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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 contact Marian for more info on 03 543 3613 / 021 2400 416 or ngatimotiplaygroup@gmail.com.



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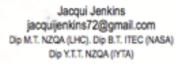
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