

Motueka Valley Association Newsletter

the river, the land, the people

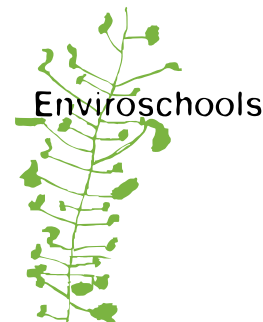
JUNE 2020



NEXT MVA MEETING

Wednesday 10 June, 7.30pm
Ngatimoti Community Rooms

All welcome!



Sophie Maxwell inspecting insects, Ngatimoti Stream

Caring for Our River

The Motueka River has hundreds of streams and tributaries, which all contribute to its magnificence on its journey to Tasman Bay. Regular testing and sampling at various sites of the Motueka River is carried out by Tasman District Council to check on the health of our river. For a number of years, our local Ngatimoti school students have been assessing the health of one of its tributaries. The Ngatimoti stream is across the road from the school and while it is only a small tributary that flows into the Motueka River, checking on its health is still important.

Ngatimoti School is one of the Green-Gold Enviro-schools in Nelson-Tasman district. Each year enviro-leaders are chosen from all year levels. One of the many tasks the enviro-leaders do is to check on the clarity, flow and ecology of the Ngatimoti stream. Sophie Maxwell, Riley Nelson-Knauf, both in Year Eight, and Chico Burger, who is in Year Six, are three of the seven enviro-leaders for this year at Ngatimoti School. These three students have each been enviro-leaders in previous years. They all enjoy the experience of checking on the stream's health, assessing its quality and flow, and checking for the presence of insects/macro-invertebrates such as mayflies and caddisflies which are an indicator of river health. Riley likes being an enviro-leader as she likes helping the environment. Sophie sees it as a chance to keep her school as environmentally friendly and sustainable as possible, while Chico likes leading the other students to help and teach them how to look after the environment.

Over the years Ngatimoti school students have assisted with plantings at the stream site and at Thorns Wetlands. These sites are on private land and the school has been given the task of taking care of them. "Five years ago it was a bit of a disaster zone and it was a major makeover project in 2014. Now we're just maintaining it. It's not as intense as it was," Sophie said. Chico said, "We've been trying to stop the ero-

sion. We've planted quite a few natives – manukas, grasses and flaxes. Cyclone Gita caused a lot of erosion; there was a big gauge in the stream bank and it took out some of the path too." Unfortunately, the school has not had any funding to assist with the damage done by ex-cyclone Gita in February 2018. "There has been a lot of stream bank erosion from the huge amount of water that flowed through with the cyclone back in 2018. However, funding has not been forthcoming as yet," said Ali Turner, Ngatimoti School Principal.

In the first week back at school after level 3 lockdown, on Friday 22nd May, the Ngatimoti stream was checked for clarity and insects. Riley said, "Usually we check the stream at the end of each term, but didn't after term one as we were in lockdown, so today's checking was a catch up. It was also a refresher for us as ATYA (Abel Tasman Youth Ambassadors) members."

As well as being Enviro Leaders, Riley, Sophie and two other students – Sanne Kiddle and Kalahni Hassik from Year 7 are Ngatimoti School's Abel Tasman Youth Ambassadors with Project Janszoon. Students from Motueka High, Golden Bay High, Motupipi, Lower Moutere and Ngatimoti schools are chosen to be Abel Tasman Youth Ambassadors each year. There are also representatives from Te Awhina and Onetahua Maraes. Together they can learn about and work on various conservation projects in Abel Tasman National Park.

The Ngatimoti stream may only be a small tributary of the Motueka River, but all tributaries are important to the health of the river as they support important ecological functions, such as providing spawning habitat for native fish. The Motueka River is such an integral part of every Ngatimoti school student's life and it's good to know that they have the practical opportunity to learn about its health, and that they have an awareness of the importance of caring for our river.

-Fiona Nelson, reporter

2020 TERM DATES

TERM 1: Tuesday 4 February – Thursday 9 April

TERM 2: Tues 28 April – Fri 3 July

Queen’s Birthday holiday Mon 1 June

TERM 3: Mon 20 July – Fri 25 September

TERM 4: Mon 12 October – Wednesday 16 Dec



NGATIMOTI FESTIVAL DAY SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER ☺



It’s great to be back! We have had many positive affirmations and responses to our distance learning programmes, and for how our students have settled back into school. We have been impressed with how our Health and Safety protocols have been respected and how kind and happy everyone seems.

Our newly renovated classrooms are now fully operational and the builders have almost completed the new deck connected to these classrooms. Our next property project will be a modernisation of our resource room to create a more user friendly and insulated space. We also plan to continue developing our entrance to the school with new fencing and an exciting new river themed ‘viewing circle’ under our waharoa.

Our students are now wrapping up their studies of bugs and insects from last term and are beginning a unit of learning on Māori Legends bringing us towards Matariki. We will soon welcome the Life Education truck for Harold the Giraffe’s annual visit – this year the learning focus is well-being and healthy relationships, and our Year 8 students will enjoy a leadership course at Whenua Iti. We are also hoping to reestablish some winter sports for a shorter season, and, of course our mid-winter swim!



Sanne Kiddle collecting insects from Ngatimoti Stream



Sophie Maxwell collecting water from Ngatimoti Stream



Lowering Carbon Locally

Regenerative farming and agriculture is making a focus as we look for low-carbon solutions to reduce our greenhouse gases in our current climate emergency. There are many definitions of regenerative agriculture and is considered by the Rodale Institute as:

“a type of farming that goes above and beyond today’s organic standards to actively regenerate the natural resources used while supporting healthy, thriving communities.”

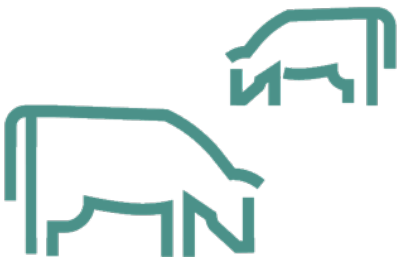
(source: www.rodaleinstitute.org/blog/original-principles-of-regenerative-agriculture/)

As noted in *Our Regenerative Future*, with 48% of our greenhouse gases in New Zealand coming from agriculture, adoption of regenerative methods of farming is a way to reduce these emissions and store more carbon in the soil.

Regenerative agriculture is about the diversification of crops – e.g. 8-9 different species rotated – and intercropping, to stop pest and fungi infestations and therefore reduce the need for pesticides. Not plowing the soil is another important feature as conventional plowing exposes the soil to the air emitting carbon and decaying the soil quickly with any fertile topsoil being buried. With no tillage, more carbon is stored in the soil which enhances its life:

“...the roots go deeper, worms drag organic matter down their holes and make rich castings of nitrogen, nutrient uptake is enhanced, water retention increases several fold, nourished plants are more pest resistant and fertility compounds to the point where little or no fertilisers are necessary.”

(source: *Drawdown - the Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, p 2017, Penguin, New York)



Many farmers around New Zealand are regenerative farmers and have been practising ‘regenerative’ techniques along with organics, biodynamic and permaculture practices on their farms for decades.

And there are a number of local farmers in our region too.

“Walking the Talk – Local Solutions for Carbon Reduction” is a *Local Matters* event, with site tours showing some of the regenerative land use in the area as well as other solutions for carbon reduction. The event organised by the Motueka branch of The Greens was to begin on 23rd March with an evening programme giving an introductory overview. This is then followed-up with two ‘garden tours’ that focus on climate change reversal solutions.

Properties in and around Motueka and in the Motueka Valley have been identified for the site tours, and one property in the Wakefield area that is featured in the introductory evening. Climate change reversal solutions featured in the site tours are some of those listed in *‘Drawdown – the Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming (2017)’* and its follow-up publication *‘Drawdown Review (2020)’*; solutions to do with electricity, industry, transport and buildings as well as food/agriculture/land use.

“We have carefully pieced together the garden trail. The properties and their hosts aim to inspire and inform people about individual and community solutions for climate



change,” said Heather Spence, one of the organisers of *Local Matters*. *“Walking the Talk* is about showcasing the pleasures and rewards that can come with low carbon living.”

The Motueka Branch of The Greens have been running *Local Matters* events since early 2018 as a means of connecting with our local community on sustainability issues, with a focus on ‘issues’ rather than ‘politics’. The events are also for fundraising purposes.

“To date it’s been a regular programme of films, speakers, and panelists, and has been held either in Mapua or Motueka. It’s a popular programme. We’ve had films, climate change groups and speakers with national profiles, and have attracted good audiences of between 80 and 200,” Heather said.

So far, the *Local Matters* team have hosted two films on sustainable living in New Zealand. Dr Mike Joy came to speak about New Zealand’s freshwater crisis followed by Trevor James from Tasman District Council describing Tasman District Council’s performance on the issues raised by Dr. Mike Joy. They have hosted a Zero Carbon keynote speaker with panelists from Extinction Rebellion, Our Climate Declaration, and local research group on the effects of climate change. Co-Housing with Thomas Nash and two local panelists has been another one; Professor James Renwick on Climate Change; and Dr. Mike Joy came back to speak on The Future of Food and Energy.

“They all have been thought-provoking, and the supper at the end of the evening is always buzzing until we sweep people out the door. We have been fortunate that some of the region’s stellar environmental personalities have hosted national speaker programmes for us - Craig Potton, Debs Martin, and Steve Richards. Our big project for 2020 is *‘Walking the Talk – Local Solutions for Carbon Reduction’* that has, to date, been hijacked by COVID 19. It will now be rescheduled for later in the year,” Heather said.

For more information on *Drawdown* see www.drawdown.org. The link to *Drawdown Review* is also on this site. There is also a lot of information about regenerative agriculture on the internet and a simple explanation video can be found on www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSEtiixgRJI.

Stay tuned for when this informative local event is back on.

-Fiona Nelson, reporter





Professor James Renwick in Māpua last year to give a presentation on “Climate Change, What’s the Emergency”, hosted by Local Matters

2020 Motueka Ward By-election

DECLARATION OF RESULT

The final result for the by-election that closed on Tuesday 26 May 2020 is:

| Motueka Ward (1 vacancy) | | Votes Received |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| DOWLER, Barry | | 1,318 |
| HUGHES, Nick | | 869 |
| WATSON, Gary | Competent in Challenging Times | 429 |
| BEATSON, Jennifer | | 408 |
| CORBETT, Tania | | 388 |
| SIEGMUND, Elisabeth | | 192 |
| CLARK, Maxwell | | 191 |
| INFORMAL | | 2 |
| BLANK VOTING PAPERS | | 11 |

Barry DOWLER is declared elected.

The voter return was 42.23%, being 3,808 votes.



Thinking real estate, Think Fay Stoker

We've always said real estate is the last to be affected in tough times, and always the first to emerge afterwards!

Media predictions are not giving a true indication of the market. Read on, this is great news for prospective vendors...

Here are the facts - presently at Ray White we are selling three times as many properties as we are listing and this is during lockdown, with 23 offers in the first week of lockdown and 16 offers worked on last week... this means that stock supplies will be running very low over the next few months, most likely indicating great selling prices for our vendors.

Level 2 has already been a highly active time. There are many cashed up buyers currently out there keen to buy after lockdown constraints, and numerous homes are attracting multi offers.

Prospective vendors who aren't sure about 'when' is the best time to sell are confidently doing the listing paperwork now (and getting photography done), so that we can get all the marketing pie arranged, then when the time is right for them, they can go live on the Internet without delay, a truly sensible way to pick the timing to be just right.

I'm guessing there will be numerous properties on the market in about two to three months time when sellers find they must sell due to financial issues and job losses post Covid. This could mean plenty of homes to choose from if you are looking to buy.

So there's never been a better time to sell as there is right now, i.e., sell now while prices are holding AND buy when prices may drop due to an oversupply on the market.

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Winter Is Coming.....

Children awaken me in the early light;
'Winter is coming' they shout in unison
'The leaves have danced off the limbs and the trees
are going to sleep, Mama.' says one.
'Winter is coming' claps two and three as they pa-
rade around on my bed
'Hot chocolate' screamed one
'with marshmallows' yelled two
'I will pop the popcorn' states three
'Winter is coming, Mama, we had our first frost. I
thought it was dew, but it crunched under my feet.'
says one with bright open eyes and cold feet on my
toasty legs.
'Winter is coming, Mama, no more mosquitoes to
bite us when we play.' cried two in excitement
'Winter is coming, Mom, I better go out and chop
some wood for the family.' states nostalgic three
Yawn
Stretch
pull the covers closer
Sleepy answers
'Oh good, Winter is coming. I can crochet you a
new scarf.' pointing to one
'I can make you a new doll' pointing to two
'And for you' beaming at three, 'I will bake some
fresh bread for you my darling'
Hugs all around
Wiggle
Jump
Skip
'Winter is coming!'
'Winter is coming!'
'Hooray!! Winter is coming!'

Poem by Shala Drake

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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connect on Facebook:

Motueka Valley Community

A closed group with over 1700 members, who are not necessarily living in the valley, but have the valley at heart.

Motueka Valley Residents

A private group for people residing in the Motueka Valley area.

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.

ST. JAMES CHURCH NGATIMOTI

Family Service

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Children's Sunday School

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