

Motueka Valley Association Newsletter



the river, the land, the people

MARCH 2020



NEXT MVA MEETING

Wednesday 11 March, 8pm
Ngatimoti Community Rooms

All welcome!

The Health of Our River

Going down to the river to cool off in clean and clear freshwater when it's hot is a great privilege and joy. It's a highlight of summer and a tradition in the Motueka valley. Whether it's swimming, kayaking and canoeing, jumping off rocks or a bridge, fishing or white-baiting, we are lucky to have such a river. It is considered one of the best and cleanest in New Zealand.

There are two swimming sites on Motueka River which are monitored by Tasman District Council for bathing water quality and temperature - at Alexander Bluff Bridge and at State Highway 60 Bridge (SH60). The sites are measured weekly over summer November to March every second year. A sample of water is collected for E.coli testing, a thermometer is placed in the water to record temperature and a black disc water quality test is done to measure clarity – that is, seeing how far away a black disc can be seen horizontally through the water. The further away the disc can be seen, the clearer the water.

This summer there have been two high E.coli readings for the river at the SH60 swimming site. On January 28th there was 649mpn/100ml E.coli and then again two weeks later on February 11th there was 548mpn/100ml E.coli. If there's more E.coli than 550mpn/100ml, it is considered a significant health risk. There should be no E.coli found in drinking water to ensure that it is safe for drinking.

E.coli is a bacteria found in human and warm-blooded animals intestines and most strains are harmless. Testing for E.coli is a good indicator of any faecal contamination as it lasts in freshwater for up to four-six weeks. On both occasions when the water was tested again a couple of days later, the E.coli readings had dropped back to a safe detectable level.

“We commonly have spikes like these, due to rainfall or the high tide that pushes water into the debris (eg algae, seaweed or driftwood) at the edges of the waterway or beach. There is a reservoir of faecal indicator bacteria in these debris deposition areas and the high water levels cause it to be released into the water”, says Trevor James, TDC's resource scientist.

If there had been two consecutive high readings, warning signage would recommend not to swim or collect shellfish there. The reasons for these spikes in E.coli at SH60 are possibly due to high tides washing dead animals and faecal matter from the banks of the river.

A couple of weeks ago there was another high spike in E.coli in the river water – 1300mpn/100ml, this time it was recorded at Alexander Bluff Bridge site. It was after a rain event and again it had cleared when tested two days later.

It is always recommended to wait for a couple of days after rainfall until the river runs clear again before swimming or collecting shellfish. Bathing water quality and temperature sampling results can be viewed on TDC's website (www.tasman.govt.nz/my-region/environment/environmental-data/swimming-water-quality-data/).

See next month's MVA newsletter for more on the health of the Motueka River.

-Fiona Nelson, reporter



Fraser Lucas testing at SH60 bridge (25 Feb) - black disc water clarity 6.3 metres, temp 20°C.



Fraser Lucas testing at Alexander Bluff Bridge (25 Feb) - black disc water clarity 5.4 metres, temp 17°C.

NGATIMOTI SCHOOL NEWS

2020 TERM DATES

TERM 1: Tuesday 4 February – Thursday 9 April

TERM 2: Tues 28 April – Fri 3 July

TERM 3: Mon 20 July – Fri 25 September

TERM 4: Mon 12 October – Wednesday 16 December



NGATIMOTI FESTIVAL DAY SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER ☺

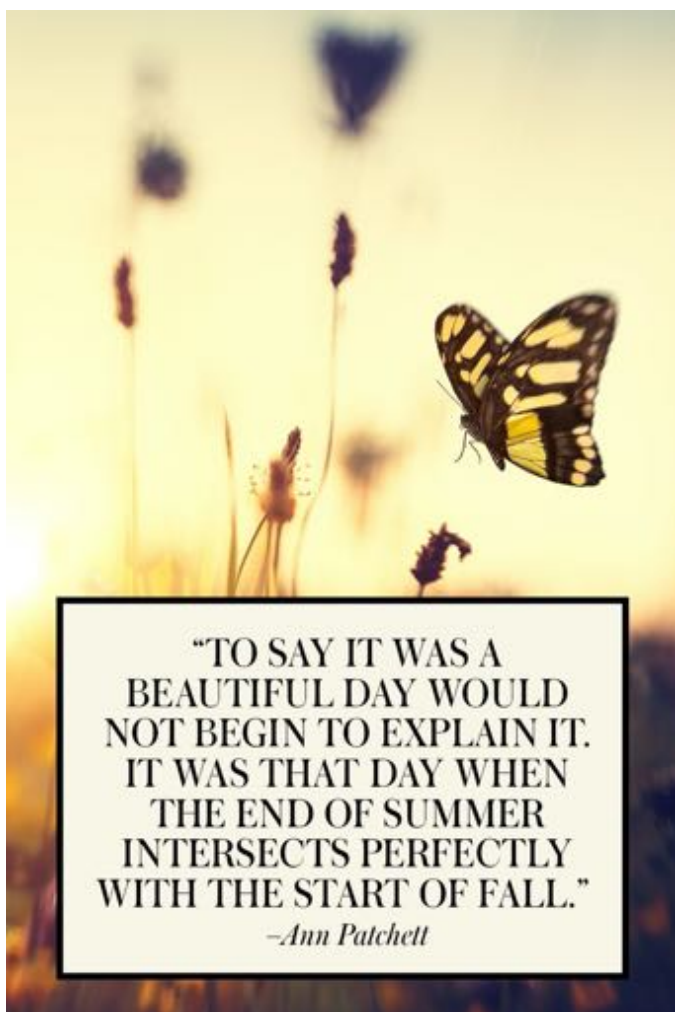
Swimming Pool Thank you for supporting our school swimming pool once again this season. The pool has been very popular over the school holidays and will continue to be open for community key holders outside school hours during February and March. Key holders; if you no longer need your pool key please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

Board of Trustees News Congratulations to Sophie Jackson who is our Board Chairperson for 2020. Thank you to Andrea Goodman for all her hard work in this role over the past two years. Andrea continues to be a valuable board member, along with elected parents Chops Prouting, Andy McFarland, Staff representative Heather Reid and Principal, Alison Turner. The next meeting of our Board of Trustees is on Wed 18 March at 5pm. You can email our Board Chair or the School office through our website at www.ngatimoti.school.nz

Our RIVER values of Respect, positivity, innoVation, excEllence and Responsibility continue to flow through all that we do. They are at the centre of our newly designed learning map.

Our whakatauki this year is E koekoe te tui, E ketekete te kaka, E kuku te kereru. Loosely translated, this means we appreciate all the different voices at school. Together they combine to make beautiful music!

This term our Year 1-6 students all have an opportunity to go on School Camp together at Quinney's Bush, Marahau or Bark Bay. The Senior class will go to Totaranui in December. As well, we are fortunate to provide opportunities for students to visit local businesses, where the range of career options can be explored, the use of our Motueka River considered and an appreciation for the diversity of our valley can be appreciated. Thanks to Mill Creek Blueberry Orchard and Thorn's Hop Farm for these opportunities ☺



"TO SAY IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY WOULD NOT BEGIN TO EXPLAIN IT. IT WAS THAT DAY WHEN THE END OF SUMMER INTERSECTS PERFECTLY WITH THE START OF FALL."
—Ann Patchett

MVA Committee update

From the February MVA meeting:

- **Speed limits in the valley:** TDC have made decisions on speed changes in the valley. There will be further reviews of rural road speeds in Tasman to come.
- **MacLeans picnic area:** MVA is putting in a submission to TDC asking for MacLean's Reserve to be managed as a public/recreational reserve.
- **Long Term Plan Early Engagement:** Council's 10-year plan is about to be reviewed, which offers an opportunity to say how we want money spent for the next three years (more about this in newsletter).
- **Waimea Dam update:** Councillors have had a meeting at the dam site; contractors have done a lot of work, including road works and diverting the river.

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.

Tiny Market in Pangatotara

This is the season of abundance – orchards and gardens overflowing with more than growers can eat.

A Tiny Market has begun in Pangatotara at the corner of the Motueka Valley Highway and Mytton Heights. It runs for just one hour, from 11 to 12 on Saturday mornings. It's stocked with fruit from Atamai community orchard and surplus vegetables from neighbours' gardens. There's a table selling honey and associated skin products and another for home-made soap. Eggs and arts and crafts are on sale too. Prices, of course, are lower than commercial ones.

As well as sales for cash, produce may be swapped. Folk who work in the community orchard's regular working bees benefit from free fruit. Anyone can turn up an hour before the market and help with picking in return for getting fruit at half price. If you want cheaper fruit you can pick your own heritage, no spray, high brix, nutrient dense apples. Come to the Tiny Market between 11 and 11.30am. Bring your own container. You will be given a map indicating what species and where you can pick your apples. Return to the market to weigh in fruit. PYO apples \$1.50/kg.

After the market the fruit is put in the stall at the roadside, available on an honesty basis through the week. We plan to donate surplus to the Salvation Army.

It has proved an excellent opportunity for neighbourly conversations over free tea and cookies. The market was conceived as a way of both exchanging produce and of bringing the community together. Strengthening the local economy and community resilience were additional aims. It turns out to be a schooling in entrepreneurship for the children in the community as well. At each market there have been child vendors – home-made greeting cards, chocolate cake, guinea pig cuddles and plaited flax bookmarks have been for sale. A conversation was recently overheard where the children were discussing pricing arrangements, and doing a market comparison of variants of a product!

Recently this initiative was also mentioned in the Nelson Mail: www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/119760599/sweetest-little-market-hitting-great-heights-for-foodies-in-the-motueka-valley.

Anyone is welcome to be a vendor at the Tiny Market. Buyers need to bring their own containers. And, of course, we welcome buyers. Time your trip to Motueka to drop by for a cuppa between 11 and 12 on Saturday mornings. Buy your next treat from a nine-year-old!

-Joanna Santa Barbara



Rosalie McLeod, 9, stallholder at the new weekly Atamai Tiny Market.



Farmers 4 Whio

Farmers for Whio is a local valley trapping group made up of landowners, bird lovers and trapping enthusiasts, with the aim of restoring healthy whio (blue duck) populations in our streams and rivers. Whio were once a common site in the valley, but are now an endangered bird with less than 700 breeding pairs estimated in the South Island.

We have made a start to our trapping programme, with initial efforts being concentrated on the Baton, Pearce and Graham Rivers, and the Motueka River in between. The main target species are rats and stoats. The trapping of these pests will not only help our vulnerable whio but all of the native birdlife in our area.

We have recently received a grant from the WWF Community Conservation Fund to invest in more traps. If anyone is interested in volunteering for a trap building session I would be keen to hear from you! This would involve building/assembling trap boxes to house the new traps.

Also, if there is anyone who would like to volunteer to take on a future trapline that would be great too. This would involve checking a series of traps monthly throughout the year (fortnightly during the whio breeding & moult stages). Please email me at farmersforwhio@gmail.com.

There have recently been a few reports of whio sightings in different locations in the valley. It is important that we have a record of as many sightings as possible to help monitor where our whio populations are and identify priority areas for trapping.

Whio sightings can be reported by logging on to www.e-bird.org, which is a large international birdwatching group/website. Alternatively you can contact me on the email address above and I can do this for you. Please include the date, time, location and number of birds.

For those interested, we also have a small facebook group, Farmers for Whio. This is a place for the Motueka Valley community to share whio news, pictures and sightings, keep up to date with latest trapping progress and connect with other keen whio folk.

-Barry Burger, trapping co-ordinator

Have your say about our parks and reserves by 31st March

Tasman District Council manages, that is looks after, many public reserves in our area. There are 155 in the Mouere-Waimea Ward and Council are currently reviewing their management plan, as they are for Motueka Ward. They are seeking our help to plan for the future of our parks and reserves and would like to hear what we love about the reserves, which reserves we use regularly, what we value most about them, whether they could be improved in any way, any changes we'd like to see in the way they are used or managed, and what our long-term vision is for the reserves, as in how we'd like them to be in 10-20 years.

Parks and reserves within our Mouere-Waimea ward are places like the Ngatimoti Hall Reserve, Peninsula Road Recreation Reserve, Ngatimoti Recreation Reserve, Ngatimoti Esplanade Reserve – see map. Other places are Aranui Park, Hoddy Estuary Park, Lord Rutherford Park, Faulkners Bush, along with recreation reserves at Dovedale, Upper Mouere, Kina Beach, McKee (Ruby Bay), Grossi Point, Waimea West, Brightwater, Wakefield, Wai-iti, Lee Valley and other locations.

You can have a look at the project page online - www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/projects/mouere-waimea-reserves-project/ and Motueka reserves project, or visit TDC offices at Motueka and Richmond to see the location maps, lists of parks and reserves and other information.

Ideas and suggestions need to be sent to council by the end of March either by filling out a survey online Fill out the survey on www.surveymonkey.com/r/m-w-reserves, or in writing via www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/public-consultation/submissions/, via email, or you can post your com-

ments to Anna Gerraty, Tasman District Council, 189 Queen Street, Private Bag 4, Richmond Nelson, 7050.

This initial round of consultation will assist our council in developing a draft management plan which will then be available for further comment later in the year.

Coming Up:

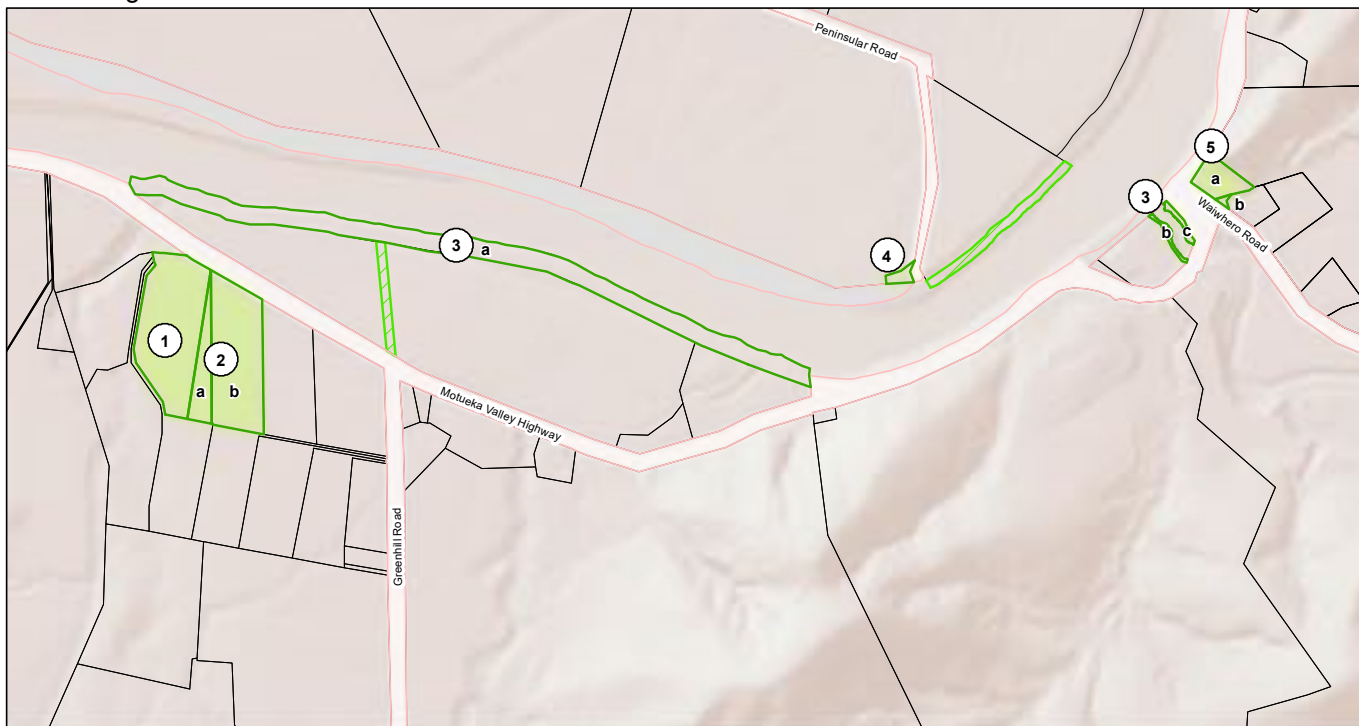
Early engagement for TDC's Long Term Plan 2012-2031

Council are seeking community input to help inform the development of this long-term plan, the where and how Council will spend our rate money. There will be formal consultation on the Long Term Plan Consultation document between March and early April next year but you are welcome to discuss your ideas and suggestions with our local councillors at next month's MVA meeting, April 8th.

Pictures and photos not showing up clearly?
Find the full colour version of the newsletter online at www.mva.org.nz.



Ngatimoti reserves



- 1 - Ngatimoti Reserve - Lot 5 DP 457491
- 2 - Ngatimoti Recreation Reserve - (a) Lot 1 DP 17558 (b) Lot 5 DP 16565
- 3 - Ngatimoti Esplanade Reserve #2 (a) Sec 1 SO 348951 (b) Lot 4 DP 15783 (c) Lot 3 DP 4898
- 4 - Peninsula Road Recreation Reserve - Lot 2 DP 19247
- 5 - Ngatimoti Hall Reserve (a) Pt Sec 22 SQ 7 (b) Sec 114 SQ 7



My latest success story - 83 Dehra Doon Road

I firmly believe you are only as good as your last sale – will you be my next brilliant success story?



Review

for Fay Stoker



Hassle Free, Professional and Caring

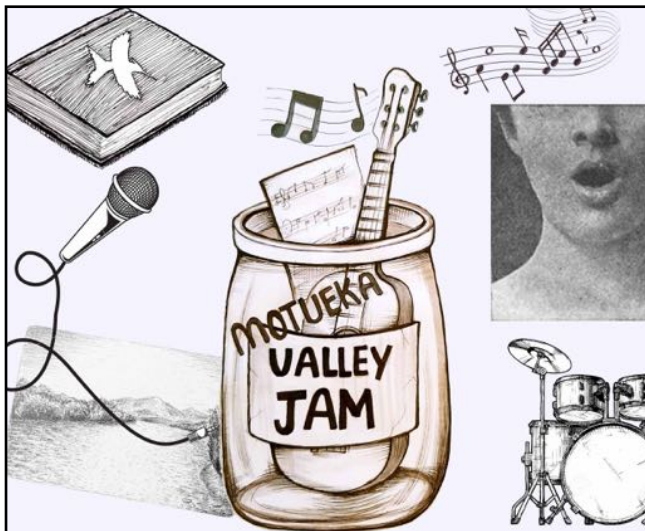
Fay was a dream to work with. She absolutely knows her stuff when it comes to real estate, the market and the best way to market your property. She is always positive and genuinely cares about her clients. She is approachable, respectful and goes the extra mile to learn about your circumstances. Our boys were always very excited when Fay pulled up as she took an interest in their lives too. We highly recommend Fay to anyone looking to sell or buy and if we ever head down the selling road again, she would be our first choice.

Sold for **\$45,000**
over my vendors
lowest price
expectations, I call
that a great result!



Review submitted by Sarah and Matt (Vendor) on 29 Jan 2020

Phone Fay Stoker – 022 359 4195 - fay.stoker@raywhite.com
Office - Ray White Motueka
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Motueka Valley Open Mic

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

All are welcome to participate
or just come and enjoy.

The 2nd Thursday of every month, 7.30pm

Proudly supported by Ngatimoti Hall
Committee and the MVA.

Koha Appreciated

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

Facebook: Motueka Valley Community



This is a closed group with over 1600 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

DO THE CHALLENGES YOU FACE SOMETIMES SEEM TOO BIG?

Are you looking for a way forward?

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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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to book an appointment with no travel charge
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