

Motueka Valley Association Newsletter



the river, the land, the people

MAY 2020



MVA MEETING

Please note: There will be no MVA meetings until further notice.

We'll let you know when meetings will resume via the newsletter and the 'Motueka Valley Community' and 'Motueka Valley Residents' Facebook pages.

In the meantime, the Facebook pages are a great way to stay in touch and share information.

The Health of Our River (3)

The Motueka River is considered by Fish & Game New Zealand (www.fishandgame.org.nz) as one of the key trout fisheries in the region. Fish & Game NZ (formerly known as Nelson Acclimatisation Society) applied for a water conservation order in 1990 to protect trout nurseries for sport fishing. The order was granted in 2004 to most of the river downstream from the Wangapeka confluence. It was also granted to protect blue duck or whio habitat as these are endemic to New Zealand, one of only four duck species in the world that are threatened.

Jacob Lucas is one of the full-time field officers for Fish & Game NZ Nelson Marlborough and works out of the Richmond office. He is also a Motueka Valley resident. "It's one of the most important rivers for us. It's a lowland river that's very accessible to lots of people and generally has a good number of trout that live in there. We're concerned with the sports fishing that goes on in the river. In general, the trout numbers are pretty good," Jacob said.

Fish & Game NZ have been annually monitoring the number of trout in the river at five different sites since 1985. They do this by drift diving. "We all get in our wetsuits, masks and snorkels, and we all float down the river in a line, there're eight of us, and we count the trout as they go past us. We counted 5.8 kilometres of water over the five sites from above the Baton to above Herring Stream on the West Bank near Alexander Bluff Bridge," Jacob said. The latest 'drift dive' was done on Monday 10 February and there were not as many trout as the previous years. "The trout numbers were down this year because of large floods in early December last year and the trout population took a hit – 146 medium to large trout/kilometre. The year before the count was 274 medium to large trout/kilometre. There was a peak in the number of trout in the river last year due to stability of river flows in the previous three or four years, so the trout have a lot higher spawning success and the trout population numbers really boomed. Fishing was excellent last year. The three years prior to this year, 2017-2019, have been the highest trout densities since late 80s-early 90s."

Flooding of the river causes problems for trout. "...If the flood is big enough it can directly kill the fish with injuries from the boulders etcetera floating down, but a lot of the time it's more damaging in the spawning tributaries. If you get a flood July to September when all the young trout are hatching out of the gravels, they'll get washed away or covered with sediment and then you'll see the flow-on effects a few years down the track with less trout numbers." The flooding with ex-cyclone Gita in February 2018 did not affect the trout, as it occurred in the lower reaches of the Motueka River, and also not in spawning times. "It would have been a lot worse for the trout if it had occurred in the tributaries of the Western hills and head waters, but most of the rain event was centred on the lower half of the valley, and we still had really good numbers of fish after that."

"Motueka River is quite a diverse catchment. It's got tributaries coming out of the Western Hills and tributaries from the southern area down to Motupiko and Rainy River. Rainy River, a tributary of the Motupiko, is one of our key spawning sites. The trout need good, clean oxygenated waters with good gravels for spawning."

In Fish & Game NZ's opinion, the Motueka River is in pretty good health: "The trout population is a good indicator of stream health. There's really good invertebrate life too in the river with caddisflies and mayflies which are an indicator of healthy water. There's only a limited amount of intensive farming activity taking place in the catchment compared to other catchments. There is some dairy farming taking place in Wangapeka and Motupiko and the Rainy, but it's at a small scale. And the farmers all have good environmental stewardship. The fact that people can just swim in the river, and lots of people do swim in it. It's a fantastic community river... A great river."

Coming up next month, part 4 of The Health of Our River.

-Fiona Nelson, reporter

(more photos on third page)

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 ☺

School is back, but not as we know it! As a small number of children return to school while we are in Level 3, we have been creatively investigating and measuring 1m lengths, including making our own hats for physical distancing!



Our teachers, parents and students have been working well together from a distance, maintaining relationships and using various resources to continue learning. We are very lucky to live in this part of the world, with a wonderfully supportive community and look forward to seeing our school families return when circumstances allow. Our next meeting of our Board of Trustees is now scheduled for Wednesday 20 May.



Motueka Ward By-Election 2020

Don’t forget to vote

Due to the resignation of Claire Hutt in the Motueka Ward, Tasman District Council are holding a by-election for this position on council. Motueka ward residents should have all received their voting papers for the Motueka ward by-election in the mail by now. These are the people who have nominated for the position:

- Jennifer Beatson
- Maxwell Clark
- Tania Corbett
- Barry Dowler
- Nick Hughes
- Elisabeth Siegmund

Postal voting is from 20th April to 12th May with the election results being announced 16th May. The council recommends that you post your vote back before Wednesday 6th May to ensure it arrives before 12noon 12th May, or put it in a

voting box at either Motueka or Richmond council offices.

If you haven’t received your voting papers and want to vote contact Tasman District Council 03 543 8400 for a special vote. For more information:

www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/about-us/your-mayor-and-councillors/local-elections/





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.

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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.

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

www.mva.org.nz

During this time of lockdown,
the MVA Committee is aware
that the businesses
advertising in this newsletter
need support more than ever.

It was therefore decided that
they will not be charged
for their ads in this edition.
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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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