

Motueka Valley Association Newsletter

the river, the land, the people

October 2020

Living Well with Bamboo Charcoal

Recently, I had the opportunity to spend Saturday at my neighbours learning about Bamboo Charcoal with a group of other valley residents. “The Herb Group” is an informal, casual group of people in the valley who generally meet about every six weeks or so to share knowledge, ideas and inspiration about gardening, foraging and wild food. Over the Covid-19 lockdown the group didn’t meet so at their first get-together since March the multicultural group of sixteen, ranging in ages, were all bubbling with enthusiasm and the opportunity to catch up with friends.

One of the group, Laksmi Crick, said: *“We meet together to exchange ideas and gardening tips and learn about different plants, and we socialize and share insights for living well. We always have a potluck lunch to finish with food mainly from our gardens.”*

Sue, who has been in the valley for only 18 months, comes to the gatherings because:

“It’s a great way to meet people with similar ideas and knowledge about gardening in this climate here”.

This gathering was hosted by Kazuyo and Seiji Kubo at their home on Waiwhero road where they have lived for the past 10 years. They immigrated from Japan to New Zealand in 1991. The Kubo’s have transformed what 10 years ago was a pine forest into a rich garden of native and exotic plants with food beds and flower beds.

Before coming to New Zealand, Seiji was trained to make Bamboo Charcoal or Takesumi by a Japanese master, Megumi Niino. Seiji has been practising the art for many years using his homemade kiln and he sources his bamboo locally:

“The climate here and in Golden Bay is good for growing bamboo which was one of the reasons we came to live here.”



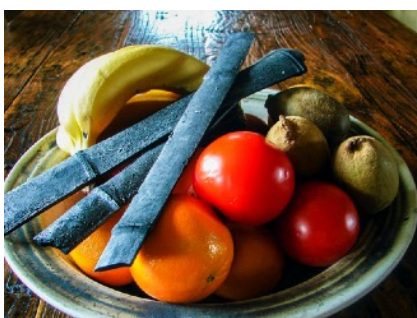
Takesumi is not like wooden charcoal. It is not used as a fuel but is used for its many health benefits – in and under the house for purifying, deodorizing and dehumidifying; for animal health and to enhance the taste of the animal’s meat; in drinking water to remove chemical residue and to release Takesumi’s rich minerals making water taste better; in the garden to increase the number and activity of micro-organisms which makes the plants grow better; as an insecticide; and to cure insect bites as well.

“As my master explained to me Wood charcoal has energy from the Sun, Bamboo charcoal has energy from the moon supporting new growth, cleansing and detoxifying”, said Seiji

Takesumi is ten times more porous than wooden charcoal and is produced in a kiln with a high burning temperature over 1000 degrees C., then it is cooled. The whole process takes up to a week.

Seiji showed us the different forms of bamboo charcoal he makes – charcoal sticks for drinking water or wine; charcoal powder; charcoal pendants; charcoal ornaments; and *Bamboo Charcoal Vinegar* which is a liquid produced by cooling the smoke in the process of making the charcoal. *Bamboo Charcoal Vinegar* can be used as a spray undiluted for spraying in the mouth or on an insect bite or wound. It can also be diluted with water up to 10 times. Seiji uses the 10x dilution for spraying in his eyes when he has hay fever.

After a tour of their garden and Seiji’s Takesumi kiln, Kazuyo shared with the group another Japanese tradition – How to make Sushi. She explained the process from cooking the rice in a





traditional rice cooker, preparing the other ingredients for the centre garnish e.g. cucumber, roasted egg, smoked salmon, avocado etc. to rolling them up using a bamboo

mat with sheets of Nori seaweed. Kazuyo said that in Japan sushi is a special dish and not eaten every day.

Then we enjoyed a pot-luck feast of homemade food – Nori rolls; kumara, plantain and nettle salad; nettle pesto; and miso soup, to name just a few of the food delights. It was a wonderful gathering – much laughter, conversation, inspiration and enthusiasm for living well. And many thanks to Seiji and Kazuyo for sharing their knowledge and home.

For more information about Bamboo Charcoal see [slowliving](https://slowliving.co.nz) (<https://slowliving.co.nz>) website or phone Seiji: 03 5268247

Fiona Nelson

Reporter

AGM Report



The MVA's 2020 AGM was held on 9th September. Highlights of the year were noted and include:

- A meet the TDC candidates evening in September for the local government elections.
- The St James Church concert in December with singing groups the Avid Opera singers and Men-in-Accord.
- The traditional mid-winter Potluck gathering in the Ngatimoti Hall held in July.
- A submission to the Moutere-Waimea Reserve Management Plan requesting MacLeans picnic area be managed as a public reserve.
- A letter of support for an application to fund a cycle and walking track from Baton Bridge to Alexandra Bluff Bridge as part of the Great Taste Trail.
- A range of topics under discussion, including the free tree service to remove hazardous trees overhanging roads, Council's 10-year Long Term Plan review, speed limits in the valley, and names of local bridges and culverts.

The MVA extended its appreciation to TDC councillors Dean McNamara, Christeen Mackenzie, David Ogilvie and Barry Dowler for their attendance at MVA meetings.

The MVA then farewelled committee member Greg Mason and newsletter editor Jan Albert Droppers. Peter Laufkotter and Fiona Nelson were voted back on the committee as treasurer and newsletter reporter respectively. Joel Briffault and Fay Knight, who have been active supporters of the committee over the past year, were officially elected onto the committee. Seiji Kubo has taken over as newsletter editor.

The AGM concluded with an engaging and inspiring presentation by Sky Davies, Manager of the Tasman Environmental Trust (see next article).

- Greg Mason



Looking After Our Environment ~ Tasman Environmental Trust

"...Their favourite home and nesting place is the mountain torrent and there among the deep pools and rushing falls they're always to be seen. So tame and fearless that they could be knocked over with a stick..."

This was written in 1852 about the Whio (Blue Duck) in the diary of a first pakeha settler to the Ngatimoti area and the first pakeha to canoe up the Motueka River. It was shared by Sky Davies, manager of the Tasman Environmental Trust (TET) and Motueka Valley resident, when she spoke at the Motueka Valley Association AGM on 9th September.

Sky introduced her talk with a story from her own backyard in the Graham Valley about the return of the Whio, and to illustrate the importance of restoring habitat for native wildlife:

“As a kid I used to spend all summer on the river and I can’t remember ever seeing Whio. They haven’t been common on the river for a hundred years.”

Showing a photo of a pair of Whio at the bridge on her property, and another of their ducklings, Sky said:

“I consider it amazing and a beautiful blessing that, with Friends of Flora’s work to create a safe place for Whio to live and after two years of trapping, these Whio ducklings appeared. A Farmers for Whio group has formed and started working in the Graham, Pearce and Baton Valleys with the goal of creating safe space for Whio to move back into.”

Tasman Environmental Trust (TET) was set-up in 2000 by the Department of Conservation, Federated Farmers, Queen Elizabeth II Trust and the Tasman District Council to support community conservation efforts in the Tasman Nelson region and are funded from a wide range of sources. Their mission is connecting people to nature conservation in their communities. Their vision is of diverse native habitats woven through the Tasman Nelson landscape.

As manager, Sky tries to be a facilitator and she describes TET as a conservation hub:

“We try to act as a bridge between bureaucracy and grassroots. We try to lighten the load for groups or individuals who are wanting to get a project done and want a bit of support with financial planning, fundraising, H&S, reporting and all of the things that have to be done behind the scenes of a project.”

Sky spoke with passion and urgency:

“At present there is only 0.1% left of original lowland alluvial podocarp forest in the Motueka district – Rimu, Kahikatea and Matai – which used to be abundant”

A model of land use Sky hopes to help develop more of in the region is an interwoven world where native habitat and diverse forest types are woven throughout the landscape with production land and production forest:

“We’ve pretty much got the opposite of that interwoven world at the moment,” she said showing a Landcare Research map: *“...with the only intact native habitat left in the mountain areas.”*

“We’re not going to restore habitat back to the whole of the Motueka plains and valley so part of our vision is to identify the opportunities for weaving that rich forest



back. It’s a long, slow and sometimes really expensive process to take a degraded, transformed habitat and return it back to something more natural...” said Sky.

Examples of TET’s current projects are:

-Willow removal in Motupipi river, near Takaka; and working with landowners to replant native vegetation.

-Willow and sediment removal in Neimans creek – a spring-fed creek flowing into Waimea Inlet.

For Waimea Inlet, Sky hopes that :

“In a hundred years from now there’ll be tall Kahikatea, Totoro and Rimu shading that river and creating a healthy stream environment...”

Some big habitat restoration projects are due to begin such as in the Moutere catchment where \$2million will be spent on riparian restoration work with 270,000 native plants being established over the next three years. Also there are another 70,000 plants for the Waimea catchment. All plants purchased are locally sourced.

Another important role of TET is education. Recently they held a couple of workshops on *Blue Carbon* - looking at how saltmarsh sequesters carbon, in some cases more than a forest. Saltmarsh is another ecosystem under a lot of pressure:

“Saltmarsh is being squeezed on the landward side by development and squeezed on the seaward side by rising sea levels. We are looking at potentially more estuary-focussed programmes in the region with a focus on protecting and restoring saltmarsh habitat.” said Sky.

Motueka Valley has been identified as a focus area for TET and Sky is hoping to have further habitat restoration projects started in the river catchment. Over the next year with community-driven conversations, Sky is looking to build momentum for some exciting and ambitious projects here in the Valley.

Sky can be contacted through [TET website](https://www.tet.org.nz) (https://www.tet.org.nz) or by phone: 021 051 5447

Fiona Nelson

Reporter



TERM 4: Mon 12 October - Wednesday 16 Dec

NGATIMOTI FESTIVAL DAY SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER ☺

Ngatimoti Festival

We continue to make plans for this year's annual Ngatimoti Festival to be held on Sunday 25 October (Covid Level 1 dependent). 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. Any member of the community who would like to support us by creating a scarecrow is most welcome to do so!

This term has been very successful for many of our students. Amongst our sporting achievements has been

- Year 5 and 6 team winning the Top Team trophy for Motueka Netball
- Year 7 and 8 team winning the Presidents Trophy, the Department Shield, the Primary Grade Championships Cup and the Glenda James Cup for having the least goals scored against them.
- Sophie was awarded the Motueka Netball Leadership Trophy
- Tawn was awarded the trophy for most promising Junior Netball Umpire
- Ruby M was awarded the most promising Year 5 and 6 Motueka Netball Player.
- As well, Ada recently won the inter-school speech competition with a very entertaining and informative speech about anger.
- The Ngatimoti team of Phoebe, Gabrielle, Ruby and Ella won the Motueka Schools Book Quiz held at the Motueka Library.
- Alex, Chico, Isabella and Gabriel came 5th in an inter-school Technology Challenge
- Nikau, Louie, Manaia and Riley came 2nd in their EPro8 Technology Challenge and will be heading to the finals in Nelson in Term 4

We rounded off Term 3 with Student Led Learning Tours and a shared International Lunch, as a culmination to our recent unit on ancestors.

In Term 4 we look forward to camps, dance lessons, swimming lessons and some outdoor activities such as sailing, sea kayaking and rock climbing for our senior students. We also have three bands playing in the Nelson Theatre Royal BandQuest and a music recital to finish the term.

Ngatimoti Festival

Sunday 25 October 2020

Labour Weekend 10am - 4pm

Rain or Shine - at Level 1 ☺

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NEXT MVA MEETING

Wednesday 14 October, 8pm
Ngatimoti Community Rooms

ALL WELCOME!

Come and join us!



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.

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**:

Peter Laufkotter	526 8554
Fiona Nelson	020 4160 1968
Joel Briffault	021 0784 7245
Fay Knight	022 320 0449

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
- new editor Seiji Kubo

www.mva.org.nz

Think ahead.

Party Vote Green.

Steve Richards - West Coast Tasman

 **steverichards2020**

Authorised by Gwen Shaw, Level 1, 17 Garrett St, Wellington



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ST. JAMES CHURCH NGATIMOTI



Family/Church Anniversary Service

Sunday 18th October - 10:30 a.m.

Conducted by Rev. Russell

Pickersgill-Brown

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.



connect on Facebook:

Motueka Valley Community

A closed group with over 2000 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.



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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 ngati



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Motueka Valley Open Mic

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All are welcome to participate
or just come and enjoy.

The 2nd Thursday of every month, 7.30pm

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Committee and the MVA.

Koha Appreciated

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