

Motueka Valley Association Newsletter

the river, the land, the people

SEPTEMBER 2019



MOTUEKA VALLEY BUSINESS PROFILE

Doctor Dig

Byron McEnroe must have the best views from any workplace around. A quick glance of his Facebook page shows his diggers in the glorious countryside that we are lucky enough to call home.

Byron, the owner of Doctor Dig Ltd., grew up in the Motueka district, moving to the West Bank when he was eight. His early life on farms and familiarity with farm machinery led him to pursue a career as a digger driver. Prior to establishing his own business, he was employed in the industry for many years, several of them in the Ashburton District which included work following the Canterbury earthquakes. He began small, as many sole enterprises do, but now employs three full-time staff, and has been recently joined by his wife, Leonie, to help with administration and organisation. His fleet now includes five diggers, two dump trucks, one roller, one grader loader, and a 6 wheeler road truck. The risk he took to sell his house and sink everything he owned into the business has paid off as his reputation for quality work to produce a finish to a high standard at a reasonable price has established him in the district. Byron strongly believes in getting the work done right, the first time.

The staff at Doctor Dig undertake a variety of work, including ground development, foundations, subdivisions, driveways, river work, including gravel extraction, the realignment and construction of rock walls, the removal of large tree stumps and dangerous trees, burying large animals for farmers and clearing ex-forestry land. Most jobs that are too big for the tools and equipment owned by many valley residents can be undertaken by Byron and his team. Many smaller jobs can be undertaken at the first visit, while larger jobs may require an estimate after a site inspection. Weather and ground conditions are the determining factor for scheduling a job, as the safety of staff and the customer is paramount, especially when dealing with the steep sites in the district.

While ex-tropical cyclone Gita is a distant memory for many of us, the Doctor Dig team have only just finished with the work that was created as a result of that event. They spent six weeks in Marahau with three dump trucks tackling the mess that was created by the wind and rain in that area.

With the granite base that underlies much of the valley Byron and his team need to employ a variety of methods to move earth and rocks. They hold an explosives licence and are able to make short work of large rocks, tree stumps, and to make post holes in rock. Their licence ensures that the ap-

NEXT MVA MEETING combined with AGM

Wednesday 11 September, 7.30pm
Ngatimoti Community Rooms

All welcome!

7.30pm

Welcome and **AGM**;
committee elections facilitated
by councillor Dean McNamara,
treasurer's report

8pm

TDC's biosecurity officer Lindsay Barber will give a presentation focussed on the regional pest management plan and strategies for pest control (flora and fauna) in the valley. And he will try to answer your questions.

followed by supper

See you there!

THE MVA WANTS YOU!

We would LOVE to have new members join us on the committee.

Meet up once a month (up to 2 hours), have a say in valley matters, create connections, contribute to our community and have some FUN!

info@mva.org.nz

appropriate safety measures are followed and that the notification requirements are met. The use of explosives means that they are able to decrease the time spent that using a digger on an awkward job would entail. The cost to the customer is therefore reduced.

Byron has supported the MVA through regularly advertising in the newsletter. His work comes highly recommended for any of those tasks that require the equipment and skills he has to offer.

Find the Doctor Dig ad in this newsletter for contact info.

-interview by Chris Tait, reporter

NGATIMOTI FESTIVAL 2019

Labour Weekend SUNDAY 27 October 2019

10am - 4pm

Rain or shine ☺



INVITATION TO CRAFT STALL HOLDERS

Please return the form below to secure a site at this popular annual fundraising event. There will be live music, activities, demonstrations, food, sideshow rides, animals and more. The festival is advertised in newspapers, the school website, radio and signs, and will go ahead whatever the weather. As required under section 16 Health and Safety Act 2014 (HSE) we inform visitors to the fair that rides and amusement activities, farm equipment both moving and stationary can cause harm or injury. All persons should exercise caution.

Stall fees are still only \$45

First come, first served - book and pay now to secure your stall space.

- Car parking for one vehicle is available on site. *(Please let us know if you have a large vehicle to park).*
- All other vehicles must be moved to a designated parking area.
- Site size is 3m by 3m. Gazebos allowed
- School grounds open at 8am - not before.
- Please set up by 9.30am.
- Sites are limited; inclusion is at the discretion of Festival organisers
- Eftpos facilities are available at the office on Festival day for cash withdrawals
- Strictly no refunds
- Food Stalls and stalls selling vegetable seedlings are by invitation only

Post form with payment (cheques to Ngatimoti Festival) or direct credit & email form to Annie Simpson, NGATIMOTI FESTIVAL STALLS, 1693 Motueka River West Bank Road, RD1, Motueka 7196 Email ngatimotifestival@gmail.com For enquiries please phone Annie on 03 526 8017 or text 021 064 3232



-----Please return bottom section only, thank you-----

Name _____

Address for receipt _____

Text /Email contact details

Description of Goods/ Services to help us with placement. Use the reverse of this form if necessary.

Enclosed: \$45 site fee

I have paid by direct credit, reference: _____

PLEASE PAY TO NGATIMOTI FESTIVAL 03 1354 0354943 00 THANK YOU

Enhancing the Soil

Soil is something that many urban dwellers think little about, but to gardeners and farmers the health of the soil is the basis for the health of their plants and animals. A recent visit to the property where Irma Jager and Jan-Albert Dropers live on the Westbank saw me talking about, of all things, the soil. With my husband's country upbringing, agricultural studies and passion for soil health it seemed to be a good idea to drag him along to interpret.

Research into methods of enhancing soil health has led Irma and Jan-Albert to adopt practices, which might seem counterintuitive, but that studies have shown lead to improvements in the land, and over time could return infertile soils to fertility and halt the desertification of large areas of land.

Irma had directed me to a Ted talk (link below) by Allan Savory, a Zimbabwean ecologist, livestock farmer, and co-founder of the Savory Institute. He advocates using bunched and moving livestock to mimic nature, as a means to heal the environment, stating "only livestock can reverse desertification. There is no other known tool available to humans with which to address desertification that is contributing not only to climate change, but also to much of the poverty, emigration, violence, etc. in the seriously affected regions of the world."

My understanding of the theory is that holistic planned grazing mimics the behaviour of herds that once grazed the grasslands. Grazing animals naturally group together as a defence mechanism and move regularly in order to have sufficient food for the herd. The dung they leave behind enhances the health of the soil. By the time they return weeks or months later, the fertility of the soil has increased as evidenced by the increase in worm numbers, and the proliferation of a variety of grass types. Holistic planned grazing was

developed to ensure that no plants are overgrazed, few if any plants are overrested, and the soil is only trampled at any one place for a few days followed by recovery time.

Irma and Jan-Albert embraced the ideas and changed grazing practices on their smallholding six years ago. They subdivide the existing paddocks, with solar-powered electric fences, into smaller areas that have been calculated as providing sufficient feed for the number of cows for one day. The animals are moved daily and will not come back to the same piece of land for at least a month. Jan-Albert moves the cows in the mid-afternoon so that they get the best possible pickings from the plants when it is at its peak nutritional value. The animals' feed is supplemented by hay in the winter, but at a rate that is half that which was required previously using traditional grazing practices. The stock, soil, and grass are observed frequently with this commitment to moving the stock daily which aids in tweaking the plan for the best outcomes for the animals. An added bonus is that the parasitic cycle is interrupted which negates the need for drenching.

Follow the links below, or use the keywords to search for further information.

- www.ted.com/talks/allan_savory_how_to_green_the_world_s_deserts_and_reverse_climate_change
- www.beefmagazine.com/pasture-range/ranchers-sing-praises-mob-grazing-cattle
- www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/114537590/regenerative-farming-can-meat-save-the-planet

Irma and Jan-Albert are willing to share their knowledge about regenerative farming with Valley residents who are interested (526 8080 or irma.janalbert@wantoowantoo.nz).

-Chris Tait, reporter

REGENERATIVE FARMING



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Authorised by Dean McNamara at 22a Edward Street, Wakefield.

I would like to thank the residents of the Motueka Valley for their support and encouragement over the past three years serving as your Ward Councillor. It has been a trying period with cyclones, droughts and forest fires, but I have enjoyed working with the MVA, the Reserve Committee and the Hall Committee as well as a number of individuals. One of the highlights was attending the Anzac Service at the Ngatimoti Memorial this year, a truly moving experience.

I look forward to your continued support as I stand for Mayor this election.

- Dean McNamara

Navigating our Changing World

This month Julie Nevin is facilitating a series of community conversations about sustainability and resilience in our region.

Communities around the world are reviewing their direction of development, recognising that the way we do things today is damaging our world. We need to do things differently while protecting what we treasure. In these workshops we will ask:

"How do we keep what we really want to keep?"

"What do we need to let go of in order to not make matters worse?"

"What could we bring back to help us with the coming difficulties?"

"With who or what do we need to make peace as we face these challenges?"

You're invited to join the conversation about the direction of the Motueka Valley.

Ngatimoti Hall, 24th September, 7.30 - 9.30pm

RSVP online at www.julienevin.weebly.com or email juliejnevin@protonmail.com.

[Authorised by Julie Nevin, 15 Hunt Terrace, Wakefield, 7025]

Come and Meet the Tasman District Council Candidates

The MVA is hosting an evening with the **Waimea-Moutere** and **Mayoral** candidates standing for TDC.

This is an opportunity to meet the people who wish to represent us on council and to ask those burning questions to help decide who to vote for.

Supper will be provided.

Wednesday 18 September, 7.30-9.00pm

Ngatimoti Community Rooms

Please note: Due to the high number of candidates standing this year, Motueka ward candidates won't be present. However, Grey Power are organising a number of sessions for Motueka candidates that you can attend if interested.

More Meet the Candidates events on www.tasman.govt.nz.

MVA Committee update

From the August MVA meeting:

- Council are looking at a range of issues related to the access to Pokororo Swing Bridge.
- 1st Open Mic night went well; about 25-30 people attended and there was a range of music, spoken word, poetry, haka and comedy being shared.
- Fiona Nelson from Waiwhero Road will replace the irreplaceable Chris Tait as the MVA newsletter reporter.
- The Meet the TDC Candidates evening was discussed.

Motueka Valley Defibrillator Group

Our AGM will be held on Monday, September 30th starting promptly at 7.30pm in the Ngatimoti Community Rooms (Fire Station). We will be seeking a new Secretary and Treasurer as our current officer has resigned. We encourage new members to join our committee as we would not want to lose the valuable emergency AEDs (Defibrillators) we provide to our community. Please consider taking on a role with the committee. Public welcome! Any questions... please contact me on 526 8644.

-Gloria Anderson, chairperson

1

HUTTON, John

for
DHB

- Motueka Valley Resident
- MBA (economics) - Board level experience
- Restore Patients and their families to CORE of healthcare system



Authorised by John Hutton, 204 Motueka River West Bank Road, Motueka

New online fire permit system

Fire and Emergency NZ is introducing a new Fire Permit application and approval process across the country. It is being introduced in a staged format, with the Nelson/Tasman area being the first area to introduce the new system. Other districts across NZ will follow suit over the next 2 months.

www.checkitsalright.nz

The new online National Fire Permit System in Nelson/Tasman replaces the previous phone-based process. Permits will not be available by calling the FENZ Richmond/RFN office. If you don't have internet access you can still apply for a permit by calling the Fire Information Unit on 0800 658 628.

- Irma Jager, Ngatimoti Volunteer Rural Fire Force

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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- Ian or Tracey Ferne 027 528 4563
itferne@gmail.com - FB: Tracey Ferne

support your local hall!

The **Ngatimoti Hall** committee is asking for a donation of
a fridge, a microwave and an electric kettle for the hall
kitchen. All need to be in good clean condition.

Text Sarah on 027 721 3991 or email
woolweaving@gmail.com.

WANTED **Bee swarms** for removal,
happy to swap for future pot of honey!
Please phone 022 312 6992, *Thanks.*

ST. JAMES CHURCH NGATIMOTI

Family Service

Sunday 15th September - 10.30am

conducted by Rev. Russell Pickersgill-Brown

Children's Sunday School

Morning tea and social time to follow

All Welcome

Combined Churches Spring Service for Women to be
held at St Thomas Auditorium, High Street Motueka,
Tuesday 10th September commencing at 9.45am with
morning tea provided

Guest Speaker: Lieutenant Susan Daly from the
Christchurch Salvation Army

Light luncheon and social time to follow

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**:

Irma Jager	526 8080
Peter Laufkötter	526 8554
Greg Mason	526 8112
Chris Tait	027 315 7815

local halls/facilities

Ngatimoti Memorial Hall • Sarah Douglas • text 027 721 3991
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 1200 members supporting
the exchange of goods, services and information within the
valley. It can also serve as a place for connection during calami-
ties.

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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 call/text Phoebe Quinlivan for more information 021 211 6730.




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