

# Motueka Valley Association Newsletter

The River, The Land, The People

February/March 2023

## Our River and Us

Celebrating our beautiful Motueka River catchment, Motueka District Museum latest exhibition is *Our River and Us*. The exhibition looks at how we relate to the river with a pictorial history of the river displayed on the walls. A detailed map shows the length of the river from its headwaters in the Richmond Ranges at Porter Ridge to its mouth at the Motueka delta flowing into Tasman Bay. People can follow the river along a floor installation which showcases the recreational aspects of the river. There is even a pond with trout and fishing rods. Children can get a fishing licence when they arrive at the museum and then have a go at fishing for trout, using the catch and release method.

Motueka Catchment Collective have a display also highlighting the regenerative work that is being done in the catchment. The issues which concern the catchment community such as forestry, flooding, gravel extraction and pest control, as identified by the Collective, make up their display.

“This exhibition is aimed to gather local interest,” says Jen Calder the museum’s curator, “And we want to gather more stories from locals about the river. After all the work the council has done over the years with stopbanks, the river still floods, and the debris still washes out to Tasman Bay.”

*Our River and Us* will be open until end of July at Motueka District Museum, High Street, Tuesday to Friday 10am – 3pm and Sunday 10am – 2pm.



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## MOTUEKA VALLEY OLD MANS BEARD WEED BUSTING GROUP

About five years ago a group of locals from the middle Motueka River Valley got into a conversation about the increasing infestation of pest plants along the banks of the Motueka River, especially, but also up its tributaries and into peoples' properties. There seemed to have been a steady increase in the amount of Old Man's Beard smothering trees and native bush remnants, as well as real increase in the amount of convolvulus flowering happening on the river banks. They had heard about the great work that Project DeVine was doing in Golden Bay and thought about setting up a local group to do the same job. As luck would have it, Project DeVine set up a public meeting in Ngatimoti to assess the public interest, although they were not interested in being directly involved themselves as Golden Bay was keeping them sufficiently occupied. But representatives from both the Tasman District Council and the Queen Elizabeth II Trust were present and supportive of a local Motueka Valley weed busting group being established.

From that meeting a number of volunteers agreed to form our own local weed busting group, and a number of potential clients wanting help with Old Man's Beard (OMB) removal also made themselves known. Thus, it was a relatively simple matter to organise a group of volunteers to visit sites and assist local valley inhabitants deal with their OMB. It soon became clear that a key area to start with was the bush remnants protected as Covenants under the Queen Elizabeth II Trust and the group has continued with this priority to the present day. However, other sites of remnant bush, especially those whose owners are interested in having their reserve becoming a Queen Elizabeth II Covenant, are also considered. Additionally, the Tasman District Council has begun clearing sections of the local river banks and carrying out intensive planting of them in natives. Long term, it is hoped these two activities will help reduce the amount of OMB and other pest plants.



The weed busting group has now been operating for about five years. **“It has been gratifying to see the improvements resulting from our work, and our clients are also highly expressive in their thanks. It is really good to see the huge amount of regrowth of native plants in these bush reserves once the pest plants have been removed. This is now up to head-high and flourishing; exactly what is needed to encourage native wildlife to return and expand their presence knowing that food resources and shelter are now more readily available.** Says group member Bruce Stare

As with many activities over the past few years, the number of volunteer members we have available to do this important work has decreased as a result of lock downs and Covid, along with the insecurity that that has created across the nation. We are very happy to welcome new members for next year's programme which will consist of visits to ten covenants, all sited within the Motueka Valley Catchment. Our working bees take place on the last Saturday morning of the month, from February to November. All gear and any training necessary are provided.

Those interested should make contact with Bruce Stare on: [bruce.stare@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bruce.stare@xtra.co.nz) or 03 526 8577

Working bees will be held monthly, at a property in Lloyd Valley Rd, Orinoco at 9:30am. Please ring Bruce for more details



## Motueka Catchment Collective Update

We hope that you have all enjoyed a welcome break as we start back in this new year. The applications for our catchment coordinator/s have closed and are being short-listed for interviews with the expectation we will be able to appoint shortly. We're very pleased to see the strong field of candidates applying. Given the onus to date on volunteers in the Collective, we are keen to focus on the recruitment of the coordinator as a priority so that that person/persons can take up much more of the organisational work and move us all forward.

We are also pleased at the positive response from mana whenua iwi to be part of the Steering Group. The deadline for applications from the community to be members of the Steering Group has been extended past Waitangi Day to 10th February. With the funding for the Collective coming from the primary sector, it is important that we have strong representation from the same sector with a good spread throughout the catchment.

Please consider, and encourage, stepping forward to be part of the team that helps to guide the overall direction of the Collective. The link to apply or learn more is [www.surveymonkey.com/r/TVGJPQF](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TVGJPQF)

MCC has a display in Motueka Museum's upcoming Our River exhibition.



## 'Our Regenerative Future' One Farmer's transition from traditional sheep and cattle farming to a more economic and biologically resilient farm

Greg grew up on a family farm near Methven, Mid-Canterbury. After gaining a Bachelor of Agriculture from Massey University and working in the agriculture industry, he and his wife Rachel worked in partnership with Greg's parents to develop Mangarara Station in Hawke's Bay. After the birth of their first child in 2000, Greg and Rachel began thinking about their legacy and the world they would be leaving for future generations.

He is transitioning the 600 hectare traditional sheep and cattle station to a farm of the future that creates balance by developing diverse, integrated, regenerative farming systems, stacking layers of different production streams and restoring ecosystems through tree planting, sequestering carbon from the atmosphere and building healthy soil using holistic grazing techniques. He is developing an economically and biologically resilient farm system. The ethos for the farm is "Optimising Life."  
Organised by NZ Landcare Trust.

Register here: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/XDGS267](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XDGS267)

- March 9, 2023 from 6:00 - 8:00pm
- Moutere Hills Community Centre

An advertisement for Zealand Roofing Ltd. The background is a dark green, textured image of a roof. At the top, the text "ZEALAND ROOFING LTD" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, there is a white silhouette of a house with a chimney. Underneath the house, the name "NIGEL BRUNT" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the name, there are three bullet points: "\*Repairs", "\*Maintenance", and "\*Expert Advise", followed by the text "SPECIALISING IN METAL &amp; CONCRETE TILES". At the bottom, there is a line of text: "Free No Obligation Quote: Nina Brunt", followed by the phone number "0274947946", the email address "admin@zealandroofing.co.nz", and the website "www.zealandroofing.co.nz". In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo for the "ZEALAND BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION" with a house icon inside.

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***Family Service***

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 10:30 a.m.**

**Children's Sunday School**

***Our AGM will be held***  
***Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February***  
***at 7.30pm in the Sunday***  
***School Hall***

***All Welcome***

## PANUI COMMUNITY UPDATES

### New MVA Constitution

Our existing constitution is more than 30 years old and no longer reflects the workings of the Association, or the requirements of banks. The proposed new Constitution is available on request from [info@mva.org.nz](mailto:info@mva.org.nz) and will be approved at a Special General Meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.

Everybody who lives in the Valley between Shaggy Creek/Woodmans Corner and Baton Valley/Macleans Reserve is welcome as a Member of the Association so please have a look and give us your feedback before or at the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the outdated constitution is available upon request as well.

### Send us your pics:

The MVA needs images of this beautiful area for our upgraded website. Please help us present the valley in all its majesty by sending us your pictures to [newsletter@mva.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@mva.org.nz)

### Shape the Future of the Waimea Inlet

Comments for the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy 2050 and Action Plan 2023 to 2026 should be made at <https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/public-consultation/submissions/> by 14 March 2023

### Advertising

As you will know from reading the November issue, the newsletter is struggling to remain in its printed form, thus as of February 2023 advertising rates will raise to \$3 per column height, as we trust that the community will continue to support us in this way.

**Simple wetland building** that doesn't need a consent – Open Day Sessions- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 3-5pm or Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 9-11am, Brookfields Farm, Stanley Brook

**Native Seed field collection and seed swap** workshop – through Tapawera propagation group. Timing TBA but potentially Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March, Tadmor valley farm

**Do you have local news or a valid community issue to raise?**  
[newsletter@mva.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@mva.org.nz)

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**Connect:**  
**Motueka Valley Community**  
**Motueka Valley Residents**

### Motueka Valley Bike Trail

Cycle Trail Update from Ross Maley, Trail Manager: No digging since I last reported. Waiting on a CIA, Cultural Impact Assessment, to set the rules for digging down the Motueka Valley. Not very complicated but unfortunately we're in a queue. May at best. I've closed the section of trail behind the hops as bridges aren't in place. But feel free to walk. Alas the track is rapidly getting overgrown with weeds. I'll get onto some maintenance next week. In the meantime could the MVA **discuss where they'd prefer the trail to follow below Alexandra Bluff bridge? Westbank to Brooklyn. Or East to Motueka?**

We are grateful to Ross for this update and consultation so please give us your feedback, before or at our next meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>, on whether the stage from Bluff Bridge should go a) on "West Bank" side to Brooklyn or b) on "Highway" side to Motueka (via riverside/stop-banks where possible)."

### Forestry News

Barriers and opportunities for planting native trees on farms – Manaaki Whenua online webinar Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 11-11.30am, register link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3545976006538985055>

### One Forty One Field Day

Effectiveness of forestry environmental practices Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup>, Donald Creek

### Farm Forestry Association Field Day

re-establishment experience post Pigeon Valley fire damage. Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup>, Meet 9.30am corner of Teapot Valley Road & Waimea West Rd, Brightwater

The MVA meets Second Thursday of month  
**The next meeting is**

**Thursday 9 MARCH at 7.30pm**

we will approve the new constitution and give feedback on plans for the next stage of the cycle path



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## NGATIMOTI SCHOOL NEWS

### TERM DATES 2023

2023 Term 1: WED 1 Feb – Thurs 6 April

Good Friday 7 April, Easter Sunday 9 April

Monday 24 April Teacher Only Day

Tuesday 25 April ANZAC Day

Term 2: Wednesday 26 April – Friday 30 June

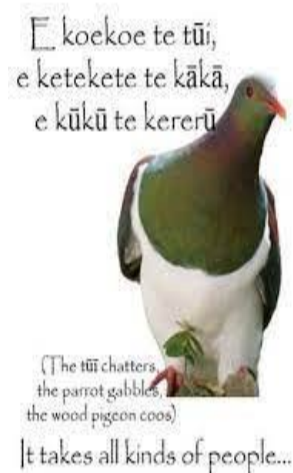
Term 3: Monday 17 July – Friday 22 Sept

Term 4: Monday 9 October - Monday 18 Dec



*We will begin to plan this year's festival in Term 3 and we would love to receive any feedback, suggestions and offers of help, entertainment and services nearer to festival day. Thank you to our wonderful community for your continued support!*

Sunday 22 October 2023 is Ngatimoti Festival Day



Welcome to the 2023 school year! We extend a particularly warm welcome to our new staff and students; Suzanne Tawharu is here for the year to teach senior students in Room Five, and Whaea Beth and Ms Reid return as junior teachers. Mrs Roberts and Mrs Milnes continue to teach in Rooms Three and Four. Welcome also to new students Xavier, Amelia, Mollie, Paige and Cas. We hope you all love it here at Ngatimoti School!

Swimming Pool Thank you for supporting our school swimming pool once again this season. Pool key sales this year have been very successful and the pool has been very popular over the summer! Thank you for all your donations and respect for our pool and school property when swimming. The pool is more and more expensive to keep open and we are pleased to continue to be able to do this.

New enrolments are welcome. For more information about Ngatimoti School please contact Alison Turner, Principal Tel: 03 526 8842. [office@ngatimoti.school.nz](mailto:office@ngatimoti.school.nz) [www.ngatimoti.school.nz](http://www.ngatimoti.school.nz)



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