

# Motueka Valley Association Newsletter

The River, The Land, The People

## OCTOBER 2023

Welcome to another 'team effort' edition of the MVA Newsletter - just in time for our annual Festival, see you there!

### COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION GET TOGETHER WITH TDC MAYOR & CEO

This annual event is an opportunity to meet with TDC leaders and other community associations from across the region to discuss key problems or issues affecting our community, as well as what we're planning. MVA raised road safety as a key issue, including road condition with increased use by heavy trucks; speed limits, especially around Ngatimoti School; and safety issues for the new cycle trail. It's good to get our issues heard & understood at the highest levels & to be seen to be active. For the year ahead we noted plans to develop a community preparedness plan. Key issues for other areas included EV charging stations, impacts of economic downturn, water supply, fire risk & storm water.

**TDC are working on the 10-Year Plan**, which is difficult with current political uncertainty and financial challenges. They expect to have a draft by Christmas and **it is important for communities to provide key input now**, as it is harder to make substantial changes once drafted. Go to [shape.tasman.govt.nz](https://shape.tasman.govt.nz) to have your say on the 10-Year Plan, as well as the Streets For People, Transport Choices 2023, and Rethink Waste projects.

There will be final consultation on the draft 10 Year Plan in March-April, and Hearings in May 2024. TDC noted that the 'must do' list is sucking up more & more funding, meaning less for the 'should do's' & 'nice to haves'. Roads were top of the list in early engagement along with water reforms, climate change and weather & other natural hazards.

**Ngatimoti Festival**  
Sunday 22 Oct '23  
Labour Weekend  
10 am - 4 pm  
Rain or shine

No Dogs allowed  
Activities for all....  
EFTPOS available  
Come and join us!  
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A huge range of great food, craft & plant stalls....  
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For directions go to google maps....  
1425 Motueka Valley Hwy, Ngatimoti 7196

## NGATIMOTI FESTIVAL CAKE COMPETITION

Everyone is welcome to bake for this fun competition & donate their cake to the Festival cafe! Separate categories for kids & adults, plus gluten free/dairy free. Judging is Saturday 21 October, 3pm by Michael, Head Chef at Falcon Brae Lodge. Bring your cake along to Rathgar House (the Festival Cafe) anytime before 3 pm on Saturday. They don't have to be super fancy - it's more important that they are yummy!

## MATARIKI POT LUCK IN JULY

It was great to see such a fantastic turnout for our annual community pot luck dinner on Matariki. Thanks to our great team of volunteers who helped set-up and clean-up, and to all who attended for the amazing range of kai and conversation.



## TASMAN GREAT TASTE CYCLE TRAIL

We had a big turnout to our September MVA meeting to hear all about what's happening with the Cycle Trail in our area. There was a lot of support for the trail and lots of good questions about how we can make it as safe as possible for users, with appropriate separation from the traffic and speeds, especially around school

**On September 25<sup>th</sup> the Trail Manager wrote to Motueka Valley Residents:** *"The Nelson Tasman Cycle Trails Trust has commenced construction on a section of the Great Taste Trail from the Pokororo swingbridge to the Peninsular Bridge in Ngatimoti. We are starting at the Ngatimoti end, working South along the Motueka Valley Highway towards Pokororo. Traffic management will be in place for parts of the construction including, in some instances, lane closure. We hope to be up to the Ngatimoti school in the next 6 to 8 weeks. The*

*traffic management will continue to move south as we move along the trail.*

*We apologise for any inconvenience, and thank you for your patience. If you have any concerns, please contact Belinda Crisp on 021 1680 833 or [tm@heartofbiking.org.nz](mailto:tm@heartofbiking.org.nz)"*



Since then Belinda has added *"Things are progressing well and we will have a walkable trail from Peninsula Bridge to the School in time for the Ngatimoti Festival with the exception of three sections (two bridges over the culverts just prior to the school and a section outside 1370 Motueka Valley Highway trail). Traffic Management will continue to be in place along this section as various elements of the build require."*

## **NEXT MVA MEETING IS AT 7.30PM ON THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER – DON'T MISS IT**

### **"BE PREPARED" WORKSHOP**

How would you cope in a natural disaster? Wildfire, flood, earthquake, tsunami or storm, do you have a plan to help you get through? The MVA is offering to host a half day workshop to assist households and communities plan and develop resources to manage in an emergency. No firm date has been set but perhaps one Saturday morning in November or early December if there is sufficient interest. To register your interest please phone Pat Shortley on 027 361 9065. Details will be advised.

### **NGATIMOTI ROAD SPEED**

The Regional Transport Committee of the Tasman District Council is due to meet on Friday 27th of October to confirm consultation dates for the Regional Speed Management Plan. As previously reported, numerous submissions have been made to Council over the years asking for road speed in the vicinity of Ngatimoti School to be reduced. The MVA have asked to address the meeting to, once again, urge Council to act promptly to bring this long standing anomaly to an end. Further updates to follow.



## NEWSLETTER “DESIGNER” NEEDED

The Newsletter is a great way to keep Valley residents informed and connected. If you want to keep it we really need help to skilfully weave the parts into a beautiful whole each month (or two people who could share/alternate). Please email [info@mva.org.nz](mailto:info@mva.org.nz) for more information. Our survey last year confirmed that the Newsletter is much appreciated. Please help us make sure it continues.

## CLIMATE CHANGE – TE PANONI AHUARANGI I

In March the TDC published a Draft Tasman Climate Change Response Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2035 which can be found at <https://shape.tasman.govt.nz/tasman-climate-response-strategy-and-action-plan>. Iwi and community feedback on this draft is being analysed and a final Action Plan, supporting TDC’s 2024-34 Ten Year Plan, should be published in November.

The Draft Action Plan identifies the following impacts as most relevant to the Tasman region:

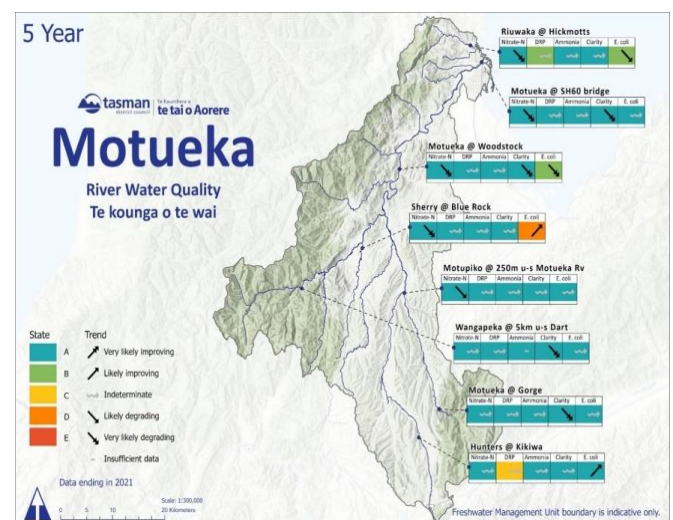
- Coastal hazards – There may be increased risk to coastal roads and infrastructure and private property from coastal erosion and inundation, increased storms, and sea-level rise.
- Heavy rain – The capacity of stormwater systems may be exceeded more frequently due to heavy rainfall events which could lead to surface flooding. River flooding, hill country erosion and landslip events may also become more frequent.
- Drought – By 2090, the duration of droughts could more than double. More frequent droughts are likely to lead to water shortages, increased demand for irrigation and increased risk of wildfires.
- Disease - There may be an increase in the occurrence of summer water-borne and food-borne diseases such as Salmonella. There may also be an increase in tropical diseases.
- Biosecurity – Climate change could increase the spread of pests (mosquitoes, blowflies, ants, wasps, and jellyfish) and weeds and agricultural diseases (fungi and viruses), and also result in a loss of habitat for native species.
- Agriculture and horticulture – Warmer temperatures, a longer growing season and fewer frosts could provide opportunities to grow new crops (kiwi fruit and wine grapes) with faster growth of pasture and better growing conditions. However, the negative effects of climate change such as prolonged drought or greater frequency and intensity of storms may have an adverse effect on crops like hops and berry fruit.

## THE MOTUEKA RIVER – KI UTA KI TAI

At our recent AGM Trevor James (on his birthday), Senior Resource Scientist from Tasman District Council (TDC), gave a “mountains to the sea” overview of the Motueka river, showing the effect of the geology, soils and wetlands on water quality. He shared the findings of the latest report on the state and trends of river water quality in Tasman, focussing on the Motueka River and its tributaries.

TDC has been monitoring the health of our rivers and streams in the Tasman district ‘mostly’ quarterly from 2000 to 2016, then monthly at 29 sites. The report, released in April, looked at the water quality trends over five and fifteen years up to June 2021 for total ammonia, nitrate, dissolved reactive phosphorus, *E.coli*, water clarity and macro-invertebrates.

You can view the full report at [www.tasman.govt.nz](http://www.tasman.govt.nz) or [www.lawa.org.nz](http://www.lawa.org.nz)



The report found that there were more degrading trends in water quality than there were improving trends. A ‘dirty eight’ of smaller rivers or streams were identified. These are Reservoir Creek and Borck Creek in Richmond, Neimann Creek in Waimea Plain, Tasman Stream in Tasman Village; the Moutere River; the Motupipi River near Takaka, and Powell Creek, a tributary of the Motupipi; and Neds Creek in Murchison.

Motueka River was not one of the 'dirty eight' but there are still some concerns. Eight sites are monitored: at Hunters, Motueka Gorge, Wangapeka, Motupiko, Sherry, Woodstock, SH60 and at Riuwaka.

As set under the Freshwater Management National Policy Statement, river attributes are banded A to E, and Motueka River's eight sites mostly rate in the top A band. However, there are some indications of declining water quality with the number of macro-invertebrates decreasing by 1 percent a year, with water temperatures high at times. In small streams across Tasman region, the water temperature in summer is high, often greater than 21°C. and for some this can reach more than 24°C. When the level of oxygen in the water is low there is not enough oxygen for fish and macro-invertebrates to breath. This is why shading waterways by restoring vegetation is so important.

There are concerns about the 'likely' and 'very likely' degrading states of E.coli found at Riuwaka and Woodstock sites respectively (see image). Riuwaka site is a frequented freedom camping site. While the Sherry site has been of concern for E.coli, it is now considered to be 'very likely' improving due to better farm practices.

Trevor went on to explain the data collection methods used and information from their fish surveys, noting that in the Sherry and Tadmor catchments the Lamprey has been found. Lampreys are native jawless fish which look like eels but are more closely related to rays and sharks. They are considered nationally threatened and have not been seen further down the Motueka River. There are 18 species of fish in the Motueka river with the Giant Kōkopu only found in Waiwhero creek. "Most of the time", Trevor says, "the Motueka River is swimmable."

## **TDC UPDATES**

### **MAORI WARD IN TASMAN FROM OCTOBER 2025**

All people on the Maori electoral roll will be able to vote for their preferred Maori Ward candidate who will become a Councillor and provide Maori communities with fair and effective community representation.

### **EBUS TAKES OFF**

There were 68,000 journeys on Nelson Tasman's new eBus service during its first month, an impressive 68% increase compared with the average monthly usage from January-July of the old service. The new Motueka route is proving to be popular with close to 3,000 journeys across the month. Timetables & routes will continue to be refined.

### **DO YOU QUALIFY FOR A RATES REBATE**

Help is available for lower-income earners to meet their annual rates bill. To be entitled you must be the person who pays the rates on the property that you live in full-time & be listed as the ratepayer in the Rating Information Database (RID). You can't claim if the property is used mostly for business, farming, or a holiday home. Apply as soon as you can, but you have until 30 June 2024 to apply for a rebate for the current financial year. To check you're eligible, head to [tasman.govt.nz](https://tasman.govt.nz) and search 'rates rebates', otherwise call us on 03 543 8400 and we can check your eligibility for you.

### **KEEN TO CATCH SOME PESTS**

If so, you can buy a subsidised pest trap through our backyard trapping programme. All our Tasman Service Centres are now back in stock of the following traps:

- Victor snap trap in a wooden tunnel for rats: \$15
- Trapinator traps for possums: \$20
- DOC200 traps in a wooden box for stoats, weasels and rats: \$50

The rat and DOC200 trap mechanisms are housed in strong wooden boxes, and our subsidy provides a 50% saving on the cost of manufacturing and materials. Thanks to the great team at the Waimea Menzshed for building the trap boxes for us! There is currently a limit of one of each trap type per property.

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## MOTUEKA VALLEY ASSOCIATION – [mva.org.nz](http://mva.org.nz)

Meetings are in the Ngatimoti Community Rooms at 7.30p on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month and all Valley residents are very welcome to attend.

The Association is managed by an elected Committee which can be contacted on [info@mva.org.nz](mailto:info@mva.org.nz). Current members are:

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Andrea Blackburn | Maria Ware     |
| Pat Shortley     | Joel Briffault |
| Daniel Bulman    | Trevor Knowles |
| Fiona Nelson     |                |

We publish a Newsletter (monthly where possible) and encourage residents to submit any stories, photos, feedback, and advertisements (at \$3 per column cm) to [info@mva.org.nz](mailto:info@mva.org.nz)

## A MOTUEKA COUNSELLING SERVICE WITH EXPERIENCE AND HEART

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## LOCAL COMMUNITY HALLS AND AEDs

### Ngatimoti Community Rooms - AED

Next to Fire Station  
Sarah Bradshaw on 526 0826

### Pokororo Hall – AED

Corner of West Bank Road and Graham Valley  
Sylvia Arnold on 526 8282

### Ngatimoti Memorial Hall – no AED

Corner of Valley Highway and Waiwhero Rd  
Bex Douglas on 021 173 1279 and  
[ngatimoti.hall@gmail.com](mailto:ngatimoti.hall@gmail.com)

### Woodstock Hall - AED at 1982 Dovedale Road

Woodstock Junction  
Kerry Hall on 543 3884