

Motueka Valley Association Newsletter

The River, The Land, The People

October 2025

Whiringa-ā-nuku 2025

Kia ora tatou, greetings everyone and welcome to the October edition of the MVA Newsletter. As we enter what is, for many, the loveliest time of the year. Please spare a thought though, for those still wrestling with the aftermath of the recent floods. What will help them to recover and, equally importantly, what might be done to reduce harm in future events?

Emergency services (Civil Defence, FENZ, etc.) follow detailed and co-ordinated debrief procedures designed specifically to help capture lessons from critical events such as major floods. Those of us living and working in directly affected areas don't seem to have the same opportunity.

The MVA hopes to gather local observations, experiences and wisdom and relay it to Council and other interested parties to add to their store of knowledge. So; what have you learnt from the recent floods and their aftermath? What worked well? What didn't and what might be done differently in future? Please send your observations to the MVA at: info@mva.org.nz — all responses will be treated confidentially. If you prefer to make submissions directly to Council, Civil Defence, FENZ or forestry management companies; their contact details can be found on our website www.mva.org.nz (If you are happy to share your thoughts with us we would appreciate a copy of your submissions to add to our own report).

Thanks for your support. Enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Quiz



1. What is the largest island in the world?
2. Who was the first New Zealander to win the Booker prize?
3. How old was the world's oldest cat?
4. How many bones are there in the human body. 194, 206 or 218?
5. How many black keys are there on a piano?
6. What is the world's largest lake?
7. How many players on a rugby league team?
8. What is the capital of Estonia?
9. What phrases do the following initials stand for DINKs NIMBY FOMO MAMIL?
10. What year did Kahurangi become a National Park?

Spring Potluck Supper

The annual potluck supper organised by the Motueka Valley Association was again very successful with over 70 Valley residents, both old and new, enjoying an evening of good food, good company and a welcome respite from the floods that have affected so many.

The evening began with a short address from Pat Shortley, followed by Mechtild introducing a song from the Inakord choir and then we all stood together in a large circle, encouraged to join in with the singing of 'Te Aroha'. Afterwards, Te Reo students led us in Auraki mai nga kono, kei waenganui i a tatou, hei kai maku, hei kai mau, hei kai mana, tihei mauri ora! Translated as Bring these bread baskets, set here amongst all of us. Food for me, food for you, food for them. Let there be life. After that it was the perfect time for supper. A wide variety of dishes was served with home baked bread and mulled wine, tea and coffee and followed by delicious desserts.

A good time was had by all. If you missed out on coming this time, make sure you put it in your diary for next year.



LOCAL COMMUNITY HALLS AND AEDs

Ngātimoti Community Rooms - AED

Next to Fire Station
Sarah Bradshaw 526 8026

Ngātimoti Memorial Hall – no AED

Corner of Valley Highway and Waiwhero Rd
Bex Douglas 021 173 1279 / ngatimoti.hall@gmail.com

Pokororo Hall – AED

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

Woodstock Automotive - AED

1982 Dovedale Road Woodstock Junction
Kerry Hall 543 3884

AED also available at Four Foot Lodge

1216 Motueka River Westbank Road, Krista & Wilfred de Blauw 526 8776

Ngātimoti School News

On behalf of our school, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for all the support, generosity and kindness shown following the devastating floods this year.

Special thanks to the community groups, such as the Lions Club and Rotary, the Rapid Relief team and the church groups. Heartfelt thanks to the Ngātimoti Fire Party, Mitre10, New World, Nautilus Lodge Motel, River Haven, the Flood Relief Hub, the Student Volunteer Army, Taskforce Kiwi and the team based at Te Maatu. Having food and supplies donated has been a most welcome reprieve and having so many individuals helping in so many ways has lifted spirits. Thank you also to the Hadley's for all of your support with our school water issues. All of this reminds us of our Ngātimoti School vision "Navigating together with purpose and pride" and it reaffirms what a great community school that Ngātimoti School is. We are looking forward to celebrating our fantastic community at our 23rd Festival coming up on 26 October.

In Term Two, we have enjoyed a productive and happy week of enviro-activities, with students exploring various habitats, creating Festival scarecrows from recycled materials, or preparing gardens and planting plants.

Science continues to be a real strength at Ngātimoti School, with learning this term including chemistry, space, forces, hearts and electrical circuits. So much great hands-on learning results in lots of scientific conversations. This has been further supported in the Senior Class with teaching from Will Stovall about our changing world.

In Term 4 we are looking forward to lots more science, class trips to Bark Bay and beyond, an international cultural celebration, a Talent Showcase and athletics! Our classes are small, and our learning is great. If you would like to enrol your child at Ngātimoti School, you are most welcome. Contact Ali at principal@ngatimoti.school.nz or Amanda at office@ngatimoti.school.nz

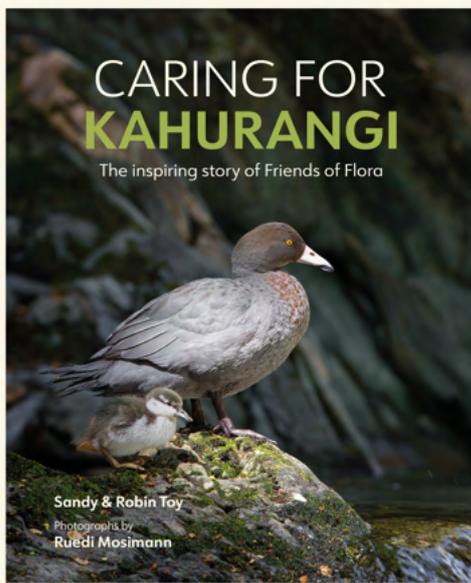


Caring for Kahurangi

Imagine a place where whoo whistle in every creek, where the soul-touching call of roroa, the great spotted kiwi, rends the night, where elusive forest ringlet butterflies flit in sunlit glades and diminutive 'giant' wētā trundle through the tussock. This is the Flora, rugged country beneath the marble peaks of the Wharepapa/Arthur Range on the eastern edge of Kahurangi National Park. For the last 25 years, the volunteer group Friends of Flora has been pursuing this vision. Here they have been trapping predators, translocating birds, surveying and monitoring, determined to restore this special place.

POTTON & BURTON AND MOTUEKA PUBLIC LIBRARY

invite you to the book launch of



Wednesday 15 October, 2025, 6pm

Motueka Public Library

32 Wallace Street, Motueka

RSVP: by 10 October 2025, pauline@pottonandburton.co.nz

Caring for Kahurangi is the story of Friends of Flora, one of the most successful community-led conservation projects in New Zealand. Beautifully illustrated with Ruedi Mosimann's photographs, the book describes the journey of Friends of Flora, weaving tales of volunteer adventures, rigorous science and magical encounters into an inspiring story of what can be achieved with great commitment, drive and friendship.

Authors Sandy and Robin Toy have been involved with Friends of Flora for 15 years. Through working on the groups' numerous restoration projects, they have come to love every nook and cranny of this wondrous part of Kahurangi National Park. Birds, plants, and moths all feature along with the 'mystery beast' of Wharepapa/Mt Arthur. The voices of volunteers and supporters run through the book capturing the joy and heartache that come with conservation volunteering.

The book will be available from October at PaperPlus and from

<https://www.pottonandburton.co.nz/product/caring-for-kahurangi/>

It will be launched at Motueka public library at 6pm on Wednesday 15 October. Please RSVP by 10th October to pauline@pottonandburton.co.nz



**MVA MEETINGS ARE AT 7PM ON THE 2nd THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH (Excl. January)
PLEASE COME ALONG - 9th October, 13th November, 10th December**

Counselling / Self Care



Kia ora Valley dwellers, Katerina Seligman here, a counsellor, previously living at Pokororo and now working from my home in Motueka. I've been at it for over forty years and am still passionate about this rewarding work. I work mainly with individuals, couples and families, and also do some clinical supervision with others in the 'helping professions'. People of all ages come with a wide range of needs including anxiety, depression, relationship difficulties, addiction, trauma recovery, and more. Some people attend for a few sessions, others for months or more. Get in touch if you want a leg up to create a more constructive and fulfilled life. Investing in yourself pays off! My contact details are in the ad that is published regularly in the MVA newsletters.

Many of you will know me from when I lived and worked in Pokororo. More recently my adult daughter has made our little farm her family home. She unfortunately suffered devastating damage in the recent floods. I know many of you are also dealing with the chaos and distress of those floods! My heart goes out to you!

I've always been passionate about my healing work with people, and am now working at a level appropriate to an old lady of nearly eighty, hopefully wiser, and definitely more experienced!

Just a little background about what brought me to this work: I was born in devastated post-war Prague in a holocaust survivor family. Our family escaped Stalin and settled in Melbourne where I grew up in a xenophobic culture, before the influx of migrants to our area. I made the move across the Tasman to Aotearoa fifty years ago, and have come to deeply love this land. As well as my counselling work, and learning te reo Maori, I now take great pleasure in my garden, tramping, and grandchildren. The climate crisis has occupied much of my attention over the past decade.

Wishing you all the very best in these challenging times, Ngā mihi mahana, Katerina.



St. James Church

NGĀTIMOTI

Family Services are held on the 3rd Sunday each month and everyone is welcome

Upcoming Service Dates:

Sunday 19th October at 10:30am
(ANNIVERSARY SERVICE – ST JAMES WILL BE 141 YEARS OLD)

Sunday 16th November 10:30am

Sunday 21st December 10.30am



The above Services include Children's Sunday School and morning tea

Monday 24th December 7.30pm
(CAROL SERVICE)

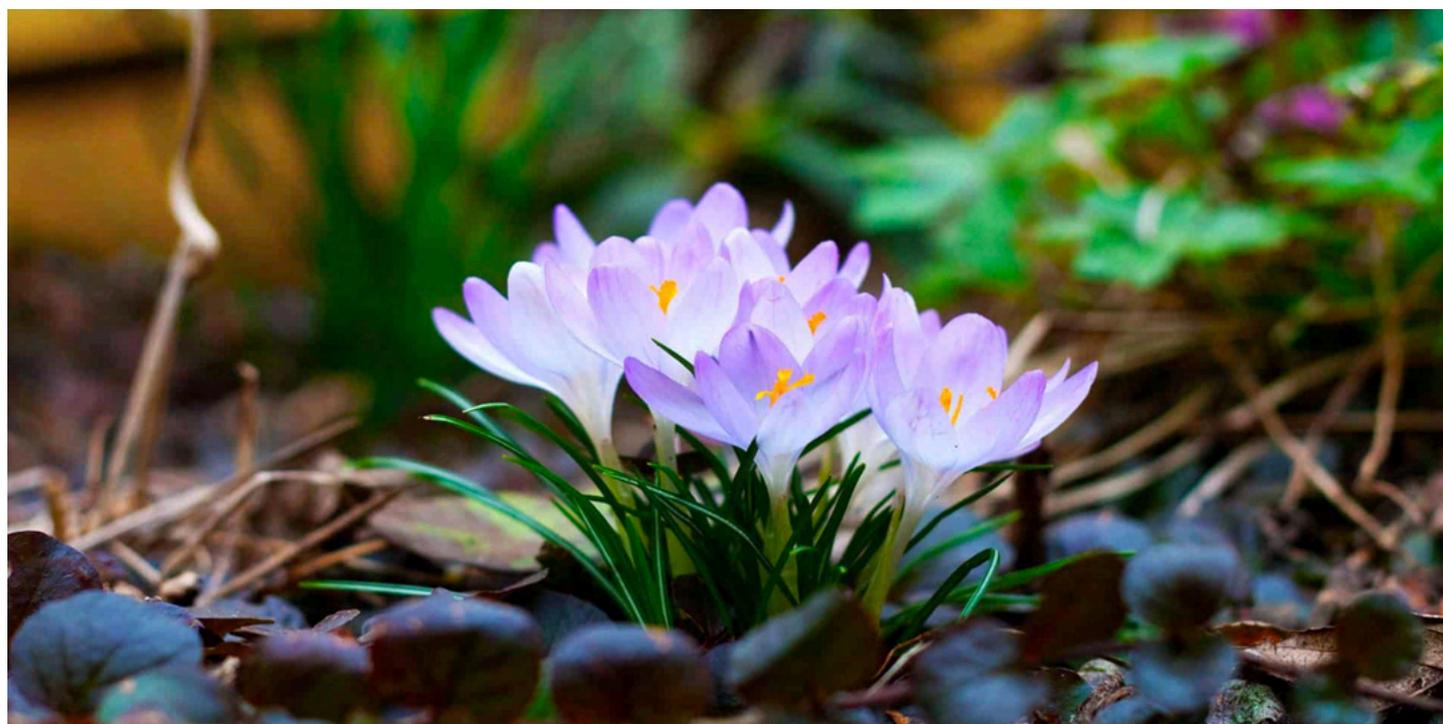
Many of you may know that although St James comes under the Anglican Parish, the Church is really our Community Church available for everyone, attended by folk of various denominations and also has a variety of service takers for each monthly service. To keep St James looking good for these services, a small group of rostered volunteers look after the historic church buildings and grounds, particularly in preparation before each monthly service plus the ANZAC Service. However, many in the dedicated group have become more senior folk, who are now either unable to assist or struggle with some of the more strenuous jobs such as vacuuming inside the church and hall plus mowing lawns around the church.

In particular, prior to our Anniversary Service in October St James is also in need of helpers for the once a year more intensive tidy up (cleaning windows, washing outside walls etc) on 11th October from 9am.

Many of us have been affected by flooding/wind & rain so it's not the best time to be asking if you could share your time and muscles, but if you would be willing to either go on the roster (3 times a year with 3 other folk – you don't have to be a church attendee) or just assist for a couple of hours with the October tidy up (morning tea provided) please contact Sandra Moore 027 626 2197 for more details.

Quiz answers

1. Greenland
2. Keri Hulme
3. 38
4. 206
5. 36
6. The Caspian sea
7. 13
8. Tallinn
9. Double income no kids. Not in my backyard. Fear of missing out. Middle aged man in Lycra
10. 1996



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MOTUEKA VALLEY ASSOCIATION

Meetings are in the Ngātīmoti Community Rooms at 7pm on the 2nd 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.

Current members are:

Pat Shortley	Maria Ware
Daniel Bulman	Linda Sillery
Nelly Willetts	Trevor Knowles
Sue Lancaster	

We publish a newsletter (bi-monthly) and encourage residents to submit any stories, photos, recipes, feedback, and advertisements (at \$3 per column cm) to newsletter@mva.org.nz