

# Motueka Valley Association Newsletter

The River, The Land, The People

February 2026

Hui-tanguru 2026

Greetings All. Hopefully there was time for some rest and relaxation over the summer holiday period. Now, as hints of autumn come stealing through the Valley; the cool, dewy mornings, the soft call of hinds preceding the roar and of course, the increase in harvest related activities. Please take care on the roads, expect to meet tractors and trucks on awkward bends. Check tyres, antifreeze and, if your battery is starting to get tired, now might be the time to look at replacing it. Sun strike can be a particular problem for those living in the Valley and travelling to and from town. If the sun is low and behind you please turn on your headlights to help drivers with the sun in their faces to see you. The same on wet or misty mornings - you may be able to see but can others see you? Enjoy the season and its bounty and do come along to the community BBQ on the last day of summer. See you there!

## Last of the Summer Wine



The MVA Midwinter community get together has been a popular and well attended event on the community's social calendar for some years. So much so that we've decided to trial a summer BBQ on:

**Saturday 28th February at the Ngātīmoti Recreation Reserve, from 4pm onwards.  
(Rain day 7th March)**

The Zambuko Marimba Band will play. Games will include: pétanque, frisbee, etc. A quiz, with prizes.

Things to bring:

- Something to share; for the BBQ, a salad, sweet treats
- Something to drink
- Something to sit on (camp chairs, cushions, etc.)
- Something to eat and drink with/from (glasses, plates, knives and forks)
- Any surplus garden produce you may have (To share)



If it proves popular we'll make it a regular event so do please come along with family and friends.

Everyone welcome! We look forward to seeing you there.



## Brain teasers



1. Johnny's mother had 3 children. The first child was called April, the second May. What was the third child's name?
2. There is an assistant in the butcher's shop. He's 5ft 10in and wears size 13 shoes. What does he weigh?
3. Before Mt Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?
4. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures 2ft x 3ft x 4ft?
5. What word in the English dictionary is always spelt incorrectly?
6. In California, you can't take a photo of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?
7. What was the U.S. president's name in 1975?
8. If you were in a running race and passed the person who was in second place, what place would you be in now?
9. Which is correct to say 'the yolk of an egg are white, or the yolk of an egg is white'?
10. A farmer has 5 haystacks in one field and 4 in another field. If he combines all his haystacks in another field, how many haystacks does he now have?

## Have you been to Motueka Valley

Have you been to Motueka Valley

Where Ngatimoti stands, `neath Tane's sacred forest, where Rimu quietly grow.

Have you thought of giant Totara by ancient Maori felled

With stone adze skill to carve and shape a mighty war canoe

Tohunga laid a tapu on many an acre here

Ancient Maori custom fills one with Godly fear

Crusader's deep locked secret with Lodestones riches communes

Nearby Arthur's higher splendour enhances attunes

Flora, Rock Shelter, Tableland, beloved of long ago

How we honour those who trod the virgin road

So come to our lovely valley, her Peace enfolds you here

Midst April's golden glory the song of the river is clear

Contentment after hard labour, now the season's o'er

Thanks be to God for harvest and memories in store.

Katherine Grooby,  
Ngātīmōti,  
April, 1975.

**MVA MEETINGS ARE AT 7PM ON THE 2nd THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH (Excl. January)  
PLEASE COME ALONG - 12th March, 9th April, 14th May**

# Update on local roads

**Graham Valley Road to Flora Car Park** – The road remains closed with access for residents only. DOC have identified the following stages in the project but say they are “not willing to give an estimate of time for when the works will begin and when the project will be finished because there are too many variables involved and we don't want to set up expectations which may not be met, this is particularly important for the residents who are adversely impacted.

- 1) Works involving heavy vehicles cannot begin until the section opposite the Pokororo Hall (where work started in early February) has been completed.
- 2) A full 3D scan of the river and roadway has been carried out and DOC are waiting for confirmation of the exact volumes of rock that are required.
- 3) DOC will then engage Downers under contract with a full schedule of quantities for a resilient construction of the rock armour wall and the new road surfacing.
- 4) Downers to collect large rock and materials and cart to site.
- 5) Start the site excavations to find the base layers and build up from there.
- 6) Complete the construction and reinstatement of 6 slips and the road on top.
- 7) Clean up the road and Flora carpark and open the road.

**Motueka Valley Highway outside Riverhaven** – A crack on the river side of the road is causing local concern. TDC say that their “specialist rock revetment contractor Graham Ferguson (who has been in high demand since the July Events) is mobilising to site and commencing work mid February. He will carry out the rock wall repair and Downer will then complete the cycleway and barrier reinstatement.”



**Pokororo Swing Bridge** – The TDC has engaged Scott Construction to carry out the extensive repairs to the bridge as well as upgrading the stay cable system so the bridge will be far less "lively" in future. The contractor is in final discussions now with the TDC and its specialist bridging consultant Stantec and is due to commence work in February. The works are still on track to be completed by the end of June.

**West Bank Road between Baton Bridge and Haycock's Bush** - The significant damage to sections of the road has resulted in a number of temporary repairs since the July events, with the permanent repairs programmed for late summer.

**Mud and debris around the Bluff Bridge campsite** – TDC is working with other Council Departments and Forestry Owners to find suitable, compliant, cost-effective areas to "lose" the material. If anyone can suggest a suitable location they are encouraged to contact the Council.

**Footpath along the river bank** behind Riverhaven's Health Spa and opposite the school – We were all surprised when this was suddenly promoted by the Council who now say they are waiting on feedback from the Rivers Team re the viability of carrying out any reinstatement work (planting of natives etc.) given the damage sustained after the July events. Once they have a clearer understanding of the risks involved and how they can be mitigated, they will then make a determination on how they intend to proceed.

**Valley Cycle Path** – Following the floods considerable works have been undertaken on the section between the Swing Bridge and Peninsula Bridge, and it will become fully operational once the Swing Bridge repair has been completed (by end of June?)

## Brain teaser answers

1. Johnny
2. Meat
3. Mt Everest
4. None
5. Incorrectly
6. You can't take a photo with a wooden leg, you need a camera
7. Donald Trump
8. Second
9. Neither. An egg yolk is yellow
10. One

# Community champion

The MVA would like to celebrate local resident Mary Nicholls (nee Knowles) who recently received an Outstanding Community Service Award from the TDC in recognition of a lifetime of voluntary contributions to her community. Mary grew up in Pangatotara and, after a time away in Nelson and Australia, has lived there for the past 30 years. During that time she has been or is still actively involved in a number of community organisations including the Motueka Recreation Centre (for 20+ years from its establishment in the early 1990s), the Motueka Arts Council (from its foundation in 1996), the Able Tasman Education Trust (board member and tutor for 20 years), the TDC's Creative Communities Scheme (reviewing applications and awarding grants for 15 yrs), the Motu Weka Neighbourhood Centre, the Motueka Over 50s Hub, and many more groups that support the wellbeing and learning of community members.



# Summer quiche

Block of pastry  
200 gm fresh or frozen spinach  
250 gm ricotta  
2 eggs  
1/2 cup parmesan  
zest of a lemon  
1/2 tsp salt  
pepper  
1 courgette  
1/4 cup pine nuts

Heat oven to 180 deg.  
Butter a quiche/pie dish.  
Defrost pastry till pliable. Roll out and line the dish with pastry, trim the edges.  
Squeeze out water from the spinach and place in a bowl. Add ricotta, beaten egg, parmesan and grated zest of lemon, salt and pepper. Mix together. Fill the pastry shell with the filling.  
Thinly slice the courgette and place overlapping slices in circles on top of the quiche filling. Sprinkle with pine nuts.  
Bake for 30-40 mins or till golden on top.



# St. James Church

Ngātīmoti

## Family Services

Including Sunday School

Sunday 15th February at 10:30 a.m.

Following morning tea our AGM will be held in the Church

Sunday 15th March at 10.30 a.m.

Sunday 5th April at 10:30 a.m.

Easter Family Service

Sunday 19th April at 10.30 a.m.

## ANZAC SERVICE

Monday 27th April at 10:30 a.m.



Morning tea and social time will follow all services.

*Everyone welcome*

# Summer art workshops



On Sunday 8th March Ngātīmoti artist and sculptor Steph Jewell will lead a one day workshop on Oamaru Stone Carving. Steph has taught hundreds of stone carving classes all over the motu and says that everyone will have fun and take a work of art home with them at the end of the day. Steph's workshop is one of several that are being coordinated by the Motueka Arts Council as part of their Summer Workshops programme which runs from February 22nd to March 28th. The workshops cover photography, painting, printing, sculpting, storytelling, singing, and an afternoon of harakeke and waiata at Te Awhina Marae. If you ever wanted to try something new, or to extend your practice in a specific art form, then see [motuekaartscouncil.com/workshops-events](http://motuekaartscouncil.com/workshops-events) for further details.

## News from Riverhaven

Given the apparent abandonment of the Health Spa property (at 1370 Motueka Valley Highway), the removal of some classic cars from various properties, and the appearance of a three-legged symbol at the entrance to the vineyard, Riverhaven was asked to comment. Noel Edmonds promptly responded as follows:

**Health Spa** – progress is slow due to negotiations with the insurance company but parts of the property have been cleared of debris and recent plantings of native trees have been protected. Noel would be keen to hear from anyone with ideas about what could be done with the property.

**Classic Cars** – these have been on the move, either going to be repaired (following flood damage) or to be used as part of exhibitions elsewhere.

**Isle of Man** – Noel has recently purchased a house on the Isle of Man. Following interest from friends there, he is now importing all of the wine from the Riverhaven vineyard for bottling and sale in the Isle of Man. Noel says that he will be organising another traditional style harvest at Riverhaven, probably in April, and the local community will be encouraged to attend.

**Coffee cart, restaurant and pub** – We have no updates on these.



### MOTUEKA VALLEY ASSOCIATION

[mva.org.nz](http://mva.org.nz)

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](mailto:info@mva.org.nz).

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

We publish a newsletter (bi-monthly) and encourage residents to submit any stories, photos, recipes, feedback, and advertisements

## LOCAL COMMUNITY HALLS AND AEDs

### Ngātīmoti Community Rooms - AED

Next to Fire Station  
Sarah Bradshaw 526 8026

### Ngātīmoti Memorial Hall – no AED

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

# Ngātīmoti School news

**Ngatimoti School feels good!** With the sun shining on our beautiful school grounds, and so many friendly and responsible kids, it is a pleasure to be back from the summer break.

We welcome six new students to our school this term: Zendé, Isabella and Iver join Room 1, Toby joins Room 3, & James and Hazel join us in Room 5. We know you will all have lots of great times at Ngatimoti School.



We farewell and thank Andrea for all her hard work in her role as cleaner for the past five years, and welcome Kate H to the team as cleaner and also the Orinoco bus driver. We farewell Juliette, who has driven the Orinoco bus for many years, and wish her happiness as she explores new opportunities 😊

At the moment as a part of our curriculum, all students are swimming every day in our school pool. We are very grateful to Ian, Anna and our wonderful school neighbours, Jeanie and Annie, who take such great care of the pool. Thank you!



Swimming Lessons with Anna Lessons continue after school on Thursdays, weather dependent. Pre-schoolers at 3pm. School age 5-7 years at 3:20pm. Older children and adults are welcome following these lessons. If interested, just show up at the school pool (adults must attend) or contact Anna on 022 631 7636.

We are very excited to have had two flash new basketball hoops installed in January. Huge thanks to TDC, Sport NZ, SportTasman and Nelmac/Kūmanu for these!

During Term 1 we are learning some local history. This will include trips to some local sites, such as the Ngatimoti St. James church, the Waiwhero cemetery and old school sites. Thanks to Ed Stevens for supporting us with this!

On 17 March, we look forward to hosting a number of vintage cars, as a part of the Vero International Festival of Historic Motoring. You are welcome to come along and see some amazing old cars at Ngatimoti School!

Music Lessons with Glenn Private music tuition with Glenn is available here at Ngatimoti School on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, in school time or after school on Tuesday. Learn guitar, bass, drums, piano, recorder or ukelele. Contact Glenn 02040819932 or [blisteringtongues@yahoo.com](mailto:blisteringtongues@yahoo.com)

**facebook**

Ngatimoti School has a new facebook page. Have a look, like and follow! 😊



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