

Motueka Valley Association Newsletter

The River, The Land, The People

June 2026

Pipiri 2026

Welcome to the June edition of the Motueka Valley Association Newsletter.

A somewhat soggy start to the season but hopefully, not a harbinger of things to come. Much has been achieved since last years floods and, although recovery work is ongoing, many major repairs are complete.

Winter chores:

- ✓ Keep culverts and drains clear of obstructions
- ✓ Unblock gutters and down pipes
- ✓ Replace batteries as necessary - smoke alarms, torches, etc.
- ✓ Review contents of your emergency 'grab bag' and replace as necessary
- ✓ Review and revise emergency plans, including emergency contact list, do this as a household so everyone has the same awareness and understanding.

The Motueka Valley mid-winter gathering

The Motueka Valley mid-winter gathering is set for Friday 10th July. (The official Matariki celebration date)

At the Memorial Hall, Ngātīmoti. Doors open at 6 PM.

Bring something to share, something to eat off (plate, bowl, banana leaf), something to eat with (fork, spoon, chop sticks) and whatever you'd like to drink.

These gatherings have been well attended in the past. A great opportunity to meet the folk you've been meaning to catch up with since last year.

Everyone welcome!



Ngātīmoti Community Food Forest



The Ngātīmoti Community Food Forest Committee is excited to announce a new project for our valley community. We are incredibly grateful to have been given permission from both the Ngātīmoti Reserve Committee and the Tasman District Council to establish a community food forest on the Ngātīmoti Reserve for the benefit of everyone in our community.

The site is located at the southern end of the Ngātīmoti Reserve, beside the BMX track. Our aim is to establish a thriving syntropic food forest that will grow into a long-term source of organic, nutrient-dense food, biodiversity, education, and community connection.

The project will be developed using regenerative principles inspired by natural forest systems, combining fruit and nut trees, berries, perennial vegetables, herbs, pollinator plants, and support and bio mass species in a way that builds healthy living soil while creating a productive and beautiful space for people to enjoy.

This project is for everybody in our community. Its aim is to create a welcoming space where people of all ages can gather, learn, share skills, reconnect with nature, and contribute toward a more resilient and abundant local food system. The food forest will also become a place for workshops, school involvement, community events, and hands on learning around soil health, regenerative growing, and food sovereignty.

We are currently in the early stages of planning our first planting event and working bees. If you're interested in being involved, whether through planting days, workshops, helping maintain the space, or simply following the journey, please sign up to our mailing list by giving us an email:

ngatimoticomunityfoodforest@gmail.com or follow our Facebook page, Ngātīmoti Community Food Forest.

We're looking forward to planting, learning, and connecting with many of you as together we create a living example of what community can achieve, a vibrant, resilient, abundant food system for future generations to come.



MVA MEETINGS ARE AT 7PM ON THE 2nd THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH (Excl. January)
PLEASE COME ALONG - 9 July, 13 August, 10 September

Valley wildlife



The common name for a group of shags or cormorants is 'a flight'; although they can also be called 'a gulp' which, if you've ever watched them feed, seems particularly appropriate. Black shags are a common sight along the river, year round, usually in one's or two's. However, at this time of year, they often get together in larger groups and it's quite common to see twenty or more gathered on gravel banks or in classic chevron formations as they fly to and from their roosts.

Other seasonal gatherings commonly seen at this time of year include Goldfinches and other seed eaters who work their way along roadsides and other places where tall grasses grow. Much less common are the small groups of New Zealand Scaup, pretty little diving ducks with dark plumage, that can sometimes be spotted near to the Peninsular Bridge. They appear to be displaced immature males (they have a distinctive yellow eye and are usually darker than females). They are gone by Spring.

What seasonal patterns of wildlife behaviour have you noticed? Let us know and, if there's sufficient interest, perhaps we can make it a regular feature in the Newsletter.

Correction

The obituary for Nova Davey in the April Newsletter omitted the dates of her birth and death which are as follows:

Nova Davey 20th February 1944 -
21st March 2026

Apologies for the omission.

Volunteers Needed

The MVA needs more committee members. 2 hours, one evening a month. No experience necessary. Just an interest in your community. It would be wonderful to find any (committee member) volunteers with website or social media experience.

Contact Pat on 027 361 9065 for more information or join us at our next meeting on July 9th at 7pm at the community room and share a cuppa with us.



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 / Ngātīmoti.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

Ngatimoti School News



Last year's successful Ngatimoti Festival resulted in generous donations from our Parents Group for our school and other community organisations including Rotary Club, St. James' Church, St. John's Ambulance, Nelson Marlborough Rescue Helicopter, Motueka Valley Defibrillator group and Kai Collective. We thank the wider community for your continued support with our Festival. These extra funds enable us to provide free stationery, class photos, and a variety of trips outside of the classroom. We will begin to plan this year's Festival this month – mark the date in your diaries for Sunday of Labour Weekend, 25 October and let us know if you are keen to help out!

If you still have a pool key to return after the swimming season, please do so within school hours in term time to receive your \$10 deposit refund. We appreciate you returning these keys at the end of the season to help us keep this facility open to the public in the future. Thank you!



We are halfway through Term Two and it has been a busy few weeks. As a school we celebrated David Attenborough's 100th birthday, visited amazing local properties in our environmental learning, and had a hugely successful Book Week, with lots of reading and writing and fun competitions. The netball season is underway, and we have had winter sports events like cross country – thanks Ed Stevens for the use of your paddocks once again! Pink Shirt Day (left) highlighted the importance of kindness and treating others nicely.

We have had students represent us at a Māori games' tournament, a chess competition in Nelson, and a library book quiz and interschool's cross country coming up soon.

Our theme for this term so far has been **COURAGE**, which stems from our whakatauki for the year:

Tama tū ki te tauihu, tama ora ki te ao.

This comes from Ngāti Tama and encourages courage and leadership. Our learning ties in with all our RIVER values of respect, innovation, positivity, excellence and responsibility.



We welcome new enrolments at Ngatimoti School. Come along for a visit!

Contact Principal Ali Turner 03 526 8842 or office@ngatimoti.school.nz

Our R.I.V.E.R values:

Respectful - Innovative - positive - Excellent - Responsible



St. James Church

Ngātīmoti

Family Services are held on the 3rd Sunday every month. Everyone is welcome

Upcoming Services:

Sunday 19th July 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 16th August 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 20th September 10:30 a.m.



All Services include Children's Sunday School. Morning tea and social time to follow.

Special Appeal

We are sadly missing our Australian Flag which was taken down from the flag pole by someone following the 2025 ANZAC Service. We had to borrow one for this year's ANZAC Service. If you have the flag in safekeeping or know of its whereabouts please contact Davina Clarke 022 670 2281 as we would welcome its return.

Granny Flats



Extracted from TDC Update

Homeowners can now build a standalone, single-storey dwelling up to 70m² without a traditional building consent, provided all exemption conditions are met, and work is carried out or supervised by licensed building professionals. A Project Information Memorandum (PIM) must be obtained before work starts, and TDC must be notified once construction is complete with the required documentation. Depending on the design and connection to existing services, development contributions may also apply. There are a number of conditions that have to be met for the project to achieve compliance. Homeowners are encouraged to check the guidance on tasman.govt.nz/granny-flat-exemptions and talk to TDC early in the planning process to understand requirements within the rule changes.

Summary: Granny Flats Exemption Guidance

Purpose:

The guidance explains the new building consent exemption for “granny flats” (small, standalone dwellings) up to 70m², effective from January 2026. It outlines the conditions, responsibilities, and processes for building these dwellings without a building consent, provided all exemption criteria are met.

Key Points:

Eligibility:

Must be a new, single-storey, standalone, self-contained dwelling (not an addition or alteration).

Maximum internal floor area: 70m² (including any attached garage).

Must be at least 2 metres from any other residential building or legal boundary.

Maximum height: 4 metres above the floor; floor level max 1 metre above ground.

Built using lightweight steel or timber framing, lightweight roof ($\leq 20\text{kg/m}^2$), and wall cladding ($\leq 220\text{kg/m}^2$). Must have independent water, drainage, and energy supply (with specific technical requirements). No level-entry (wet-floor) showers or solid fuel heaters. All restricted building work must be designed and built (or supervised) by Licensed Building Practitioners (LBPs). Homeowners must apply for a Project Information Memorandum (PIM) before starting, and submit all required documentation to council within 20 working days of completion. Build must be completed within 2 years of PIM issue.

Process:

Apply for a PIM from council before starting.
Engage LBPs for design and construction.
Notify council before and after construction.
Submit final plans, Records of Work, and compliance certificates to council after completion.
Pay any required development contributions.

Limitations:

No council inspections or Code Compliance Certificate (CCC) are issued.
Homeowner is fully responsible for compliance with the Building Code and exemption conditions.
If any condition is not met, a building consent is required.

Enforcement:

Non-compliance can result in fines (up to \$200,000 plus \$10,000/day for ongoing offences), enforcement notices, and difficulties with insurance or resale.

Why Most "Tiny Homes" Do Not Comply

Tiny homes often do not comply with the granny flats exemption because they:

- Are not always new, standalone, or single-storey.
- May use non-compliant materials or construction methods.
- Frequently include lofts/mezzanines, are on wheels, or are not sited as required.
- May lack compliant water, drainage, or energy systems.
- Are not always designed/built by LBPs or with the required documentation.

If a tiny home does not meet every exemption condition, a full building consent is required.

For more details, see the <https://www.building.govt.nz/projects-and-consents/granny-flats-exemption/> and the relevant sections of the Building Act 2004.



**MOTUEKA VALLEY
ASSOCIATION**
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.

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 (at \$3 per column cm) to newsletter@mva.org.nz

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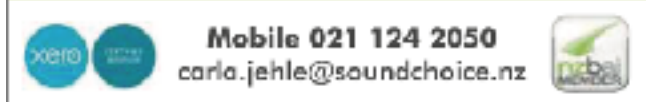


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