

Letters to the Editor

Response to complaint about officer's actions

Sir, It was disappointing to read of the actions of one police officer during Operation Blue, the recent drink driving operation in Motueka.

I take complaints of this nature seriously and agree the behaviour described is not acceptable. I can assure your reader that the matter has been followed up and the out of district police officer will be spoken to and that appropriate action will be taken.

Police in Motueka value the excellent relationship we have with our community and its continued support of local staff.

We want people to be safe and feel safe living here in the community.

*Senior Sergeant Grant Andrews
Motueka Police*

Fantastic service acknowledged

Sir, The news of the Totaranui access road being washed out was like the straw that broke the camels back to finish an appalling year for many Cantabrians. However, I have to acknowledge the fantastic service provided by a number of your local businesses that enabled many quake-weary Cantabrians to enjoy their annual holiday in Totaranui.

To the DOC staff at Totaranui, Port Manager at Taroakohe, Abel Tasman Sea Shuttles crew, New World Motueka staff, and staff at Wilsons - we can't thank you enough for the fantastic service.

Natalie Woods, Christchurch

Viewing Area on Bypass

Sir, In response to Vivien Christian's suggestion that a viewing area on the new Ruby Bay Bypass Highway.

I make the following comments with regards Keep Motueka Beautiful.

This type of project is outside of our Draft and we could not get involved in this type of project as it requires State Highway approval and even if consent was achievable it would take years for anything to happen and would also be a very costly project.

This type of project is subject to strict engineering designs and I would be surprised if it would get any hearing at all.

I would agree that viewing points on any highway are desirable but in this case I do not believe it will happen.

As the project manager for KMB we would not be involved.

Bob Cooke.

Message to town complainers

Sir, Whenever my spirits get a bit low I get myself down to the Inlet Reserve and walkway, where I am immediately inspired by the fantastic work done by Bob Cooke, Keep Motueka Beautiful, and Adopt-a-Plot volunteers in the area.

It's so easy to constantly criticise organisations like the council for stuff we think they should be doing for us, and it's easy to forget the power of volunteers and people who get stuck in to make our community a better place to live.

Our town complainers should also get down to the Inlet Reserve, off Old Wharf Road, and see for themselves what ordinary people can do if they make an effort.

Even the new Community Gardens at the entrance - all voluntary work by amateurs - make for an impressive sight.

David Armstrong, Motueka

Events over long weekend

There will be a full range of events across the region this weekend.

On Saturday the Takaka Mardi Gras happens from noon to midnight, with the street parade set to take place 6pm-6.30pm. There will be entertainment throughout the day.

At Kaiteriteri a volleyball beach bash will be staged on the estuary sands, beginning 4pm.

On Sunday the Waitangi Festival takes place at Te Awhina Marae, Motueka, 2pm-5pm, followed on Monday by the Motueka River Raft Race which begins at Alexander Bridge 1pm, finishing at the Motueka Bridge.

Be my Valley Valentine in Dovedale, February 12th

Leaning against a hay bale, your partner's head in your lap and listening to great live music, while the children are entertained - all you have to do is follow your heart.

Or, follow the trail of Red Hearts through Upper Moutere or up the Motueka River Valley to the Country Affair in Dovedale - just look on the fence posts.

The second annual Country Affair on Sunday, February 12th, will have something for everyone and this year looks set to be better than the last. Gates open at 11am.

There will be a range of stalls spread out around the Dovedale Domain with a little something for everyone.

The displays are a real feature of the

Country Affair starting with Jim Papp's and his vintage farm machinery.

Just across the bridge and in the beautiful historic Dovedale Church, is a display of bridal dresses past and present, complemented by photographs and documents from the Dovedale Historical society.

For the children, the petting zoo will be up and running as Heather brings her menagerie to the domain.

Children's games are a real feature of the Country Affair with fun and challenges running all day.

How about playing with the giant catapult - all that's needed is a water balloon?

There are a number of established artists and artisans who live in Dovedale

and the Country Affair features an exhibition in the Dovedale Hall - quilts, oils, watercolours, sculptures.

This year there will be transport for the elderly or disabled to get them up the drive.

One of the highlights of the day will be the entertainment.

Great acts like Aly Cook, the Brandy Creek Band, the Sou'Westers and the Hetheringtons from the West Coast.

Buy a beer from the Moutere Hills craft beer stall, a wine from Neudorf, some yummy food and relax with your valentine or friends.

The Country Affair is on in Dovedale, Sunday, 12th February, from 11 - 5pm - just follow the trail of red hearts.



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