

KEEP MOTUEKA BEAUTIFUL ANNUAL REPORT, 2015/16

The Keep Motueka Beautiful Committee has, during its 2015/16 season, maintained efforts in its “traditional” areas of activity, and taken initiatives in some new ones.

Maintenance of gardens around the town centre. Several garden plots and planter boxes in the town centre are maintained by KMB volunteers. Volunteers also have planted along a pedestrian right-of-way between two streets in a new neighbourhood, and have established new gravel pathways (with Network Tasman support) and access entrance, a picnic table donated by a resident, and amenity plantings in Sanctuary Gardens, a very attractive but hitherto somewhat under-patronised park past which the new Great Taste Cycle Trail passes. The new facilities already are having an observable impact on usage.



Conservation planting. A pair of KMB committee members has continued to plant native plant species to reclaim an area of the Motueka Inlet Wetland that in the past has been used as a sawdust dump. Their network of predator traps is dealing to a steady flow of rats etc., which should assist wildlife – especially banded rail – to use the locality. The neighbouring Motueka Inlet Garden has been established over the last ten years on the same sawdust dump. Known as the “Adopt-A-Plot” area, it continues to receive care and attention from many volunteer plot adopters and others, and regular visits from Corrections Department work parties. Several hundred plants went into the ground in autumn 2015, and large areas are being mulched in order to reduce ongoing maintenance requirements. The Garden is on the Great Taste Cycle Trail that passes through Motueka, and is receiving increasing usage from cyclists as well as pedestrians walking their dogs, enjoying the views across Motueka Inlet, and so on.



Walkway network. The network of walkways, which was the major KMB project for some years, is now essentially complete, and heavily used. The main paths through the Inlet Gardens have been resurfaced this year. Volunteers have continued to plant native species along a stretch of the walkway that runs along a causeway across Motueka Inlet, and this task is pretty much complete. Volunteers have received countless compliments from users of the walkway (but not many offers of help!), which encourage us to believe that the work is beneficial to the community.

Beach Reserve and Port Motueka Quays. Good progress has been made with amenity planting and establishment of shade trees around Beach Reserve, which is heavily used by

visiting campervans (at times up to 30 are crammed into the parking area). To improve the amenity, KMB installed paving around the shower/toilet block. Attention has now shifted to the former East and George Quay at the Motueka Harbour entrance.



A kerbed parking area has been established on the formerly very unkempt wasteland, new chip laid, and shell pathways constructed around the perimeter which link with the walkway system north to Beach Reserve and on to the town centre. Amenity planting is planned for spring 2016, which will complete the conversion of these unkempt former quays to a real asset for the community and a major attraction for visitors.

High Street tree avenue and hanging baskets. An initiative to take advantage of a project to “underground” power lines along the southern approach to Motueka, to create an attractive avenue of trees, absorbed a great deal of time and effort in 2014/15. Because of numerous bureaucratic and other obstacles, the project has been abandoned. Also on High Street, KMB provided and installed 100 hanging baskets along shop frontages for spring/early summer 2015, and will do the same in 2016. Feedback from the public was extremely positive, and warrants this becoming an annual practice – if funds can be arranged.



Food Forest/Community Orchard. This initiative has made good progress, with a very attractive garden/orchard being established in one of the town’s neighbourhood parks, Ledger- Goodman Reserve. It has received good support from local residents, and working bees have been well attended. Weed growth has been more vigorous than anticipated, so efforts are going into completing this garden/orchard before moving on to other sites. However, initial planting of fruit trees has been carried out at a site next to the Motueka Community Garden, and as time and resources permit this will be further developed.

Conclusion. The KMB group of volunteers is small but keen, and is supported by the Reserves staff of Tasman District Council – which affords the branch’s principal funding for development work through the Council’s Reserves Contribution Fund. The main issue confronting the Committee is how to arrange for ongoing maintenance, because few funding sources are interested in supporting such activity, essential though it is.

***KEEP MOTUEKA BEAUTIFUL
ANNUAL REPORT, 2015/16 FOR
KEEP NEW ZEALAND BEAUTIFUL***

Branch Name: Keep Motueka Beautiful

Number of Committee Members: Eleven

Secretary's name: Paul Mosley

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LOCAL INITIATIVES

Key achievements were:

1. Hanging baskets (~100) provided along High Street, Motueka town centre, during Spring 2015.
2. Development of a “food forest” at Ledger-Goodman Reserve in a central Motueka suburban setting.
3. Effective completion of the walkway network around Motueka Inlet, with installation of signage etc and incorporation of a section of it into the Tasman Great Taste Trail (cycle trail).
4. Provision of additional all-weather footpaths, a picnic table, and amenity plantings in Sanctuary Gardens.
5. Development of a viewpoint at the former East/George Quays by the Harbour Entrance, with construction of a car park and footpaths, and preparation for landscaping and amenity planting.
6. Installation of paving around the changing sheds/shower at Motueka Beach Reserve.

LOCAL OBJECTIVES

1. Provision of hanging baskets along High Street, Motueka town centre, Spring 2016.
2. Completion of landscaping and amenity planting at the new East/George Quay viewpoint at the Harbour Entrance.
3. Extension of the footpath network in Sanctuary Gardens.
4. Effective completion of the amenity planting programme at the Inlet Gardens “Adopt-A-Plots” area, on the shore of Motueka Inlet.

5. Completion of the Ledger-Goodman food forest and development of an additional food forest/community orchard at Inlet Gardens.

6. Publication of a scenic *Motueka 2017 Calendar*

LOCAL ISSUES

The principal issue is providing for ongoing maintenance of the facilities that KMB establishes – conservation plantings, footpaths/cycleways, gardens/hanging baskets, etc. All these require resources, but there are few sources of funding for maintenance.

A related issue is the maintenance of a functional and harmonious working relationship with staff of the local District Council, which is the principal source of capital funding. This is not always easy, given the institutional requirements that appear to be placed on the staff.

STATISTICS

We don't record detailed statistics. We've planted around 1,500 trees, shrubs and native tussocks this year.