



SCHOOL TALK

October 2016

What a Difference a Road Makes

This week the tiny coastal settlement of Mokau has been isolated when the main arterial route to New Plymouth was closed by a slip.

Slips are nothing new to the residents of Mokau as they happen all the time in the Awakino Gorge just north of the township. These slips are normally cleared quickly and life goes on but the slip to the south has resulted in the road being closed for several days.

Mrs Scott the Principal of Mokau School was caught on the other side of the slip having been to town to get her groceries. While in town she and her husband heard about the slip from her daughter who had seen a post on facebook.

Despite a large flashing sign at Brixton saying 'SHW 3 - road to Mokau closed' they thought the slip would be cleared by late afternoon so they stopped for coffee in Urenui before heading along the coastal road.

Cars were heading in their direction which they naively thought was a good indication that the road was open but little did they know that all these people had been turned around at the road block!

Patiently they joined the queue of cars waiting by Mohakatino Station - cars were still periodically coming in the other direction! A good sign? No!

Finally a car driver winds down their window and drives s-l-o-w-l-y p-a-s-t and tells the queue - the road will be closed for days, turn around! Oh No!!

Long story short Mrs Scott and her husband had a muddy return to Mokau and their car and groceries were left on the other side of the slip!

Life in Mokau was different this week. Kids did not get to school, people could not get to town. Mokau was very quiet with no trucks passing through.

Some people resorted to travelling the long way round to New Plymouth taking the gravel road to Ohura. Others were just content to watch the helicopter and the monsoon bucket dislodging rubble from the cliff face, a long slow progress.

Some children rejoiced that they had a few days off school, parents lamented that they were missing work and life went on - only differently.

What a difference a road makes!



On Sunday the 18th of September there was a slip in Mokau by the Tainui Camping Ground.

In the little village cars parked up on the side of the road. Big trucks taking up space cramped between each other.

A couple of days after that a helicopter flew over the slip and poured water on it so the rest of the slip could come down.

My friend Connell, Claude and Claude's sister named Francis plus their little brother named Emmet were on the other side of the slip.

What a big scene - **what a difference a road makes.**

Merekara Tupu-Ngahere, aged 11

"Yahoo," we cheered (Claude, Francis, Emmet and I), "Day off school."

I was in Tongaporutu with Claude and his family. There had just been a slip in Mokau and that was going to stop us from getting to school.

It was only Sunday but the workers said the road would not be open until Monday so it's a day off school!

The next day Evan said, "Let's go everyone!"

"Where are we going?" said Claude.

"To take Connell home," replied Evan

We got to the road works and a worker walked towards us. He said, "The road won't be open until Wednesday."

Evan and I hopped out of the car and started walking around a track beside the road. We were walking through gorse, flax and very long grass.

Then we reached the barrier on the side of the road.

The slip was right there! We kept walking and then Evan started heading back to his car. He told me to keep walking.

Then I was walking on my own by the big slip.

After a bit of walking I came across a fire engine. There was a man standing by it. I asked him if it was ok to walk along the road.

He said, "Just be careful!" Then I saw my mum and dad.
What a difference a road makes.

Connell Hagenson, aged 10

One day there was a slip in Mokau. There were over 200 cars in line.

They brought a helicopter in to drop water on it so the cliff falls down and it doesn't happen anymore.

The slip has been there for 4 days.

This is the second time it's happened.

One good thing about the slip is that Eve and Martha got to sell a lot of cookies. They sell cookies for Girls Brigade. **What a difference a road makes**

Matua Tupu-Ngahere, aged 9

On Sunday a cliff by the river mouth slipped. A lot of cars were piled up in a traffic jam on both sides!

Martha and I were selling biscuits when we found out. Slowly the cars stopped moving I thought there must have been a crash!

At first we were really pleased because we made lots of money but then everyone stopped buying biscuits and drove away.

One man informed us that the road would not be open till one o'clock the next day, Monday! That meant that two lucky families would get a day off school!

But then at one o'clock on Monday we were told that the road would not be open until at least Wednesday! I was super upset no swimming, no manual!

After school we all went to see the helicopter dumping water on the slip. We were all expecting a massive monsoon bucket but we were greatly disappointed the bucket was tiny and only let out a small trickle each time. It worked Monday evening and all of Tuesday! (The novelty of watching wore out after about five runs).

On Wednesday abseillers went up to check out the top of the cliff. I thought they should have just stuck a few sticks of gelignite in there and then, but no the helicopter went back up that afternoon.

At time of writing the slip hasn't been cleared yet and it's Thursday! They have said that one lane will be opened this afternoon. I hope so as I want to get to guides this evening and we need food - our cupboards are empty!

What a difference a road makes

Eve Hagenson, aged 12

Tainui Cross Country

Recently Mokau school students travelled to Mimi School to compete in the Tainui Cluster of School annual Cross Country.

Running conditions were ideal and Mokau students' training certainly paid off. Thanks to Wendy Smyth and Evan Lobb our student were well prepared for the challenging course. Congratulations to all runners. Mokau children placed in the top 3 for their age group were:

5 year old girls 1st Anika Pryor
3rd Ruth Hagenson
6 year old boys 1st Jacob Omelvena
7 year old boys 1st Billy Smyth
7 year old girls 3rd Jessica Lovell
8 year old girls 1st Dannielle Hamblin-Manderson
8 year old boys 1st Reece Omelvena
9 Year old girls 1st Sophia Smyth
9 year old boys 3rd Rico Pryor
12 year old girls 2nd Eve Hagenson
13 year old girls 1st Francis O'Sullivan-Lobb
Adults. Men: 1st Evan Lobb,
2nd Zac Kete
Ladies: 1st Emma O'Sullivan,
2nd Wendy Smyth
3rd Maxine Lovell



Up and Coming Events At Mokau School

Community are welcome to attend the following events that Mokau school children are involved in

OCT	19	Mokau School Agricultural Day and Arts Display. 10.00 am
	21	Tainui Girls' And Boys' Club (Ag Day) @Tainui Domain 10.00 am
NOV	18	Tainui Schools Athletic Sports @Ahititi School

Tainui Speech Comp

School first place getters at Mokau School's speech and poem recital competition proudly represented Mokau at the Tainui Cluster finals at Whareorino School. The audience enjoyed some delightful poems from juniors and were entertained and informed by a wide range of "What is the point of ..." speeches from seniors.

Cluster results for Mokau students were:

Year 1	1 st Ruth Hagenson - The cat
Year 2	1 st Jacob Omelvena - Grandma's house
Year 3	2 nd Billy Smyth - Rugby
Year 4	Kayla Gorrie - participation What's the point of pets?
Year 5	1 st Claude O'Sullivan-Lobb What's the point of running in the morning?
Year 6	Merekara Tupu-Ngahere - participation What's the point of school?
Year 7	2 nd Ocean-Leigh Kete What's the point of homework?
Year 8	1 st Eve Hagenson What's the point of nicknames?

Congratulations to you all. Claude O'Sullivan-Lobb was overall runner up in the Year 5/6 competition and Eve Hagenson was overall winner in the Year 7/8 section.



MIGHTY MOKAU TRAIL RIDE MEETING

It's that time again, when planning starts for Mokau School's major fundraiser - the Mighty Mokau Bike Ride.

This public meeting will be held in the
Mokau School Library
on Tuesday 8th November
@ 7.00 pm

All community members welcome

EnviroSchools Update

This term Enviroschools Educator Robyn Irving worked with the senior students to highlight what living in the 'Mokau community' means - students developed a map of local sites, celebrities and resources.

At Mokau School we are keen to re-energise our Enviroschools actions to address the question: 'What key issues does Mokau face and how could these be contexts for developing action competent students in creating a sustainable community?'

In creating the map Robyn introduced students to developing a sense of place and a responsibility towards that place.

You may have spotted students out and about taking photos of local celebs and buildings the last week of term. We would love to hear stories of local people & places, take photos of local families and the buildings of Mokau. If you would like to be part of this please call into school or contact the school office.

As a starting point this 'sense of community' and 'keeping it local' will become a focus for some of our activities during art week - the first week of next Term.

The gardens are being dug over to begin planting in the new Term. If any community members have mini pots spare - these are the current giveaways from New World supermarkets, we would welcome their donation to school to start our spring planting. We would also appreciate any spare seedling community members have. Our plan this growing season is to plant one garden in corn and the second garden in a variety of vegetables. Pots and/or seedlings can be dropped at school any time after the holidays. On the other hand we still have a pile of mulch that community members are welcome to help themselves to we just ask that you take care driving on the grass as our grounds are still quite sodden. If you or your family purchases any Mother Earth products from New World please think of Mokau School and enter the 'Turn your New World Little Garden into a Big Garden' Mother Earth competition as outlined below.



The winning school's garden will be installed by the Mother Earth Task Force, a special team of hard-working, enthusiastic builders and gardeners.

The Task Force will work with the winning school to design and install a new garden or make your existing one bigger and better.

How to enter

1. Purchase any Mother Earth product from New World between 12 September and 16 October.
2. Photograph the New World receipt.
3. Email your photo of the receipt along with the name of the school and town and your contact details to littlegarden@motherearth.co.nz