

Report of the Keep Motueka Beautiful celebration of reserves event held at the Inlet Gardens on Saturday, May 9th, 10.30am - 1.30pm:

Report by David Armstrong

This event was essentially a piggybacking of a planned Keep Motueka Beautiful event aimed at celebrating the work of restoring and developing the Inlet Gardens and Inlet walkway which has taken place over the past 10-plus years. At the early stages of planning this event, Vision Motueka asked to make it a combined event as part of the Motueka 2030 program, and therefore a general celebration of Motueka's environment and reserve areas and the work of volunteers and Council to improve these for the benefit of Motueka residents.

With the event being open for about three hours, the number of people passing through and staying to take part in the activities was hard to count, but an estimate was made at 50 people, several as families. At the short formal section of the event around 12.15pm, about 40 people were present. The weather was perfect for the event, and some of the people stopping to take part had simply been walking through the area and wondered what it was about.

The main activities included a marquee set up with two large photo boards showing progress of restoring the Inlet Gardens and constructing one of the boardwalks, over the past 10 years. These sets of photos drew a great deal of attention and praise for the work of Keep Motueka Beautiful. There were also information leaflets handed out.

Vision Motueka organised a "walking quiz" with 18 questions, the answering of which required participants to walk through the gardens and look for clues. Four of the questions required a visit to the community gardens nearby, which was appropriate given that the community gardens are approaching their fifth birthday. 10 people/families took part in the walking quiz, and Mitre 10 provided 3 prizes at a total retail value of \$116. Some questionnaires were also handed out to interested people for them to write down their ideas about future projects or reserves improvements that Keep Motueka Beautiful could take on; a handful of people answered these.

The formal part of the event centred on a presentation by the Mayor Richard Kempthorne to Bob Cooke for the visionary work which he had put into the project over the years. Special mention was made of the contribution by men serving community service through the Corrections Department. This presentation was followed by a sausage sizzle put on by two men from Rotary, plus some delicious pumpkin soup prepared by Danielle using produce grown in the community gardens.

Several people also took part in working bee activities, planting trees to close off some of the paths between plots which are no longer to be used.

Overall, the event did help several people passing by to express their appreciation of the work by volunteer members of Keep Motueka Beautiful, and reflect on the excellent environment in and around Motueka. The contribution by Vision Motueka was also appreciated by KMB leaders.