

# Tawa Community Board

## Community Plan

May 2011



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## Vision

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To enhance and maintain Tawa's pride and place by making sure the community:

- Is a safe and friendly place to live.
- Has pride in its surrounding environment.
- Utilises its proximity to Wellington to generate growth while at the same time not losing sight of its strong community spirit.
- Recognises the importance of youth for the future.
- Is proud of its history and heritage.

## A Community Snapshot

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The Tawa Community Board represents the communities of Tawa (the northernmost suburb of Wellington), Grenada North and the Takapu Valley, with a total of around 14,000 residents.

Tawa is located close to Wellington (approximately 15 minutes from central Wellington by both motorway or commuter train), making it an attractive option for families and the elderly looking for good facilities (schools, proximity to health care, etc), affordable housing and a strong community spirit.

“When I think about Tawa I think about a small community that isn't too small that everybody knows everybody, but small enough that everyone has a connection with someone. There's not an exclusive feel to Tawa. It's such a good place to grow up in.” - Kieren Gera, Tawa College head girl 2010

## Background to Tawa

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The Borough of Tawa takes its name from the native Tawa tree (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) that once covered the area. The name Tawa Flat was first used in 1854 in the Wellington Provincial Gazette. In the 1941 local body elections Tawa Flat was part of Makara county which also included Porirua and Titahi Bay. In 1953 Tawa Flat and Linden became an independent borough. After rapid housing expansion in the 1950s outside the Tawa Flat area, the name was changed (on 23 February 1959) to the Borough of Tawa. The Tawa Borough Council negotiated for its own water and sewage system to accommodate its expansion into Redwood and Linden. On 3 October 1988 the Local Government Commission decreed that the Borough of Tawa would be amalgamated with Wellington City. In 1989 the Tawa Community Board was set up to replace the Borough Council.

From a commercial perspective, Tawa has strengths. It has a reasonable proportion of flat land, and industrial and business zoned land, and its geography gives it strong potential as a commercial hub.

There are also challenges to manage in looking to Tawa's future. While the Tawa Community Board has little influence over the impact of the macro-economy (recession, etc) or Central Government policy settings, there are areas within its area of influence that could support greater growth and sustainability within the community. These areas of influence include:

- Support for the development of the retail area/heart of the Tawa community
- Advocacy for investment in community infrastructure
- Promotion of the Tawa brand so that it is better known and understood outside the community.

## A Plan for Tawa

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### *Scope of this Plan*

This document represents the priorities for the period 2010–2013 and is the Tawa Community Board's second Community Action Plan. The Board, elected in the Local Body Elections 2010, is looking to develop and implement a Community Action Plan to support its role in understanding and meeting the community's needs.

The Wellington City Council's website states the following about the purpose of the Tawa Community Board: "This elected community board represents the interests of the Tawa Community. The board reflects the unique history and requirements of the area and helps Wellington City Council to understand and meet the community's needs."

The specific roles and responsibilities of the Tawa Community Board are as to:

1. Represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of the Tawa community
2. Consider and report on all matters referred to it by Wellington City Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the Tawa Community Board
3. Maintain an overview of services provided by Wellington City Council within the Tawa community
4. Prepare an annual submission to Wellington City Council for expenditure within the Tawa community
5. Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the Tawa community
6. Undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by Wellington City Council

## Specific Issues and Projects

The following key issues and priorities have been identified by the Tawa Community Board as being those that will most effectively contribute towards the community's overall vision, and lie within the sphere of influence and control of the Board:

### **Local infrastructure projects – to be advanced in the next three years.**

#### Priorities

- Artificial turf
- Community safety
- Playgrounds
- Promotion of emergency management and emergency facilities in the Tawa basin
- Public toilet (Linden)
- Takapu Island
- Tawa railway station restoration
- Tawa Walkway
- Traffic management

### **Strategic projects - initiatives to be advanced over the longer term (3 – 6 years)**

#### Priorities

- Development of Tawa Junction
- Development of the town centre
- Link road initiative
- Park 'n' ride initiative
- Proposed cycleway/walkway Willowbank/Johnsonville
- Spicer Forest
- Transmission Gully development

|   |
|---|
| <b>Brand Tawa</b>   |
| <p>Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building and maintaining community pride</li> <li>- Visual identity/town beautification</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Communication</b>  |
| <p>Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring the Tawa community and key stakeholders are informed and kept up-to-date on issues and developments.</li> <li>- Ensuring the Tawa Community Board maintains its relationship with relevant local bodies.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Community Pride</b>  |
| <p>Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring the continuation of the biennial Tawa Community Civic Awards.</li> <li>- Establish the Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards on a yearly basis.</li> </ul>   |

The Action Plan outlined in the following pages details the projects the Community Board believes should be undertaken in the coming years.

These are divided into short to medium term activities (Infrastructure projects, Brand Tawa, Communications activities) and longer term projects (Major Projects).

The Wellington City Council will work with the Community Board as these projects are further developed.

## Action Plan

| Community Projects (short to medium term) |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Project                                   | What we need to do   | Who is responsible                                 | By when  |
| Artificial Turf                           | Include in submission to draft annual plan.  | Alistair Sutton<br>Margaret Lucas                  | Q1 2011  |
|   | Gain community support<br>e.g. petition, letters of support etc.   |  | Q2 2011  |
| Emergency management<br>/communication    | Use the newsletter to communicate the current emergency management/ equipment available.                     | Graeme Hansen<br>Malcolm Sparrow<br>Cr Ngaire Best | Q2 2011  |
|   | Investigate initiative (and perhaps a safety week) with Tawa emergency services and community organisations. | Graeme Hansen<br>Malcolm Sparrow<br>Cr Ngaire Best | Q2 2011  |
| Playground upgrades                       | Review of how the playground policy is applied to the Tawa community.  | Robert Tredger                                     | Review completed by Q2 with recommendations for next step. |
| Public toilets (Linden)                   | Get a clear understanding of who is using the park and their needs.  | Alistair Sutton                                    | Q1 2011  |

| <b>Project</b>                   | <b>What we need to do</b>   | <b>Who is responsible</b> | <b>By when</b>   |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| Takapu Island                    | Keeping the community informed.   | Graeme Hansen             | Continued quarterly report back or as required.            |
|                                  | Meet with local area planner and report back to the Community Board.        |                           |  |
|                                  | Meet with appropriate Council officers and Councillor.                      |                           |  |
| Tawa railway station restoration | Work with Bruce Murray and Tawa Historical Society to develop the building. | Cr Ngaire Best            | Ongoing  |
| Tawa shared driveways levy       | Keeping community informed.   | Malcolm Sparrow           | Continue to monitor quarterly, reporting back as required. |
|                                  | Monitor and report on the WCC annual report.                                |                           |  |
| Tawa Walkway                     | Continued advocacy.   | Cr Ngaire Best            | Report to Community Board meetings as required.            |

### Major Projects (longer term)

| Project   | What we need to do   | Who is responsible                                  | By when  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Cycleway/ Walkway<br>(Willowbank/ Johnsonville) | Monitoring and report back on an ongoing basis to ensure that the Tawa community is well represented in any decisions/ development.                          | Cr Justin Lester<br>Cr Ngaire Best<br>Graeme Hansen | Update to Community Board meeting as required. |
| Link road                                       | Monitoring and report back to ensure that the Tawa community is well represented in any decisions/development.   | Graeme Hansen                                       | Update to Community Board meeting as required. |
| Spicer Forest                                   | Monitoring Wellington Regional Council and Wellington City Council discussions and report back to the Community Board for further consideration as required. | Robert Tredger                                      | Update to Community Board meeting as required. |
| Town centre/ Urban planning                     | Engage with Foodstuffs to endeavour to get the best outcome for the Tawa community   | Chris Reading                                       | Q2 2011  |
|   | Initiative to develop shared vision for Tawa Town Centre.  | Cr Justin Lester<br>Cr Ngaire Best                  | 2011/12  |
|   | Advocacy with Council officers.  | Cr Ngaire Best<br>Malcolm Sparrow                   | Q2 2011  |

**Major Projects (longer term)**

| <b>Project</b>           | <b>What we need to do</b>   | <b>Who is responsible</b>       | <b>By when</b>                               |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Traffic flow/ management | The issue needs to be assessed and reviewed with a separate action plan developed in this Community Board term. | Graeme Hansen<br>Mlcolm Sparrow | To be assessed and assigned at a later date. |

| <b>Brand Tawa (short to medium term)</b> |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Project</b>                           | <b>What we need to do</b>   | <b>Who is responsible</b>  | <b>By when</b>                           |
| Beautification of the town centre        | Scoping paper to determine what is possible and potential costs.  | Chris Reading  | Q2 2011                                  |
| Signage (Tawa entrance signs)            | Meet with Tawa Lions to assess possibilities and make recommendations to the Community Board.   | Malcolm Sparrow  | Q2 2011 - report back to community board |
|  | Work with other community groups to implement recommendations.  |  | Post-May decision                        |
| <b>Communication</b>                     |   |  |  |
| <b>Project</b>                           | <b>What we need to do</b>   | <b>Who is responsible</b>  | <b>By when</b>                           |
| Community Communication                  | Review of current communication with the community/ general public, including:<br>Frequency and format of the Tawa Community Board newsletter, opportunity to develop the website further, use of social media. | Malcolm Sparrow<br>Robert Tredger<br>Alistair Sutton<br>Margaret Lucas | Q2 2011                                  |
| Stakeholders                             | Invite community stakeholders to meet with the Community Board and discuss issues of importance to the Community.   |  |  |

| <b>Project</b>                           | <b>What we need to do</b>  | <b>Who is responsible</b>                        | <b>By when</b> |
|--|--|--|----------------|
| Tawa Community Civic Awards              | Organise and promote citizenship awards in Tawa community recognising and showing appreciation for part that volunteers play in life of the community  | Malcolm Sparrow Robert Tredger<br>Cr Ngaire Best | Q1 2012        |
| Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards | Contact all Tawa primary schools to assess amount of interest in setting up a yearly Community Board award to be presented (in all of six schools) to the Year 6 student who has shown "true leadership, citizenship, contribution to school life, etc." | Malcolm Sparrow                                  | February 2011  |
| Wellington City Council Relationships    | Initial contact with the Wellington City Council by Community Board members responsible for a portfolio/ project will always go through the Chair in the first instance and then direct, as determined by the Chair and the WCC CEO.                     | Community Board                                  | Ongoing        |

## **The process from here**

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- The Tawa Community Board will continue to work with the Tawa community to implement the Plan.
- The Community Board will promote this Plan to Council to provide clear direction for the future development of Tawa.
- The Plan will be a living document and will undergo a regular monitoring and reviewing process.

## ***2011 Tawa Community Board***



*The Tawa Community Board as from November 2010 comprises (from left in above photo) Cr Justin Lester, Cr Ngaire Best, Alistair Sutton, Robert Tredger, Malcolm Sparrow (chair), Chris Reading, Graeme Hansen (deputy chair), Margaret Lucas*

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