

TAWA COMMUNITY CIVIC AWARDS 2016

The biennial civic awards ceremony took place at the Tawa Community Centre at the end of May with the Mayor of Wellington presenting certificates to 44 people or groups to thank them for the voluntary service they provide in this community. It was a memorable occasion with WCC councillor Malcolm Sparrow and Tawa Community Board chair Robert Tredger reading out citations for all those nominated.

There were six categories, with a winner chosen in each of those categories. They each received a Parker pen and their certificate was framed! They also receive a little more 'recognition'. The main aim of the ceremony however is to show appreciation to everyone whose name is submitted and to express gratitude for what they do to improve the quality of life for the rest of us!



Above: The nominees (and a few 'extras')

ARTS & CULTURE

Enhancing and increasing participation in arts, including music and creative leisure and cultural activities.

Murray Cameron

Murray has been the key figure in ensuring that the biennial Tawa Schools' and Community Festival continues to be a successful event both in terms of participation and performance. He is passionate about music and in particular encouraging and supporting students to develop and perform to their full potential.

Ross Pedder

Ross plays a big role in the running of Tawa Community Theatre shows. He liaises with the director and/or producer and handles the bookings of the Linden Social Centre. His effort and commitment is done for love of theatre and nothing else. He also offers to assist the occasional group who book the centre and require lighting. He goes out of his way to be helpful and often has trouble saying 'no'.

Sara Scott

Sara has worked tirelessly within the Tawa community for many years, helping put together major productions at Tawa College and the amazing "Tawa Goes to Town" show, giving up hours of her time to coach the students with the choreography. Her creative dancing and music settings are amazing. She has also volunteered at the local Red Cross and is now working at Mary Potter Hospice. Sara is always positive and gives her time without a second thought.

EDUCATION and/or CHILD/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Improving and enhancing the development of young people and children.

Sue Abraham

Sue has been an effective Tawa College Board of Trustees member for the last six years. In the last three years she has been the Chairperson of the Board and provides an invaluable service to the Tawa College community. Her role also involves speaking at college prizegiving ceremonies and leavers' dinners. Sue makes herself available at short notice and gives very generously of her time to the school.

Laurie Coetsee

Laurie spends her own time organising and planning Club Intermed which is run at the Tawa Baptist Church for years 6-8 kids on a fortnightly basis. She and the other leaders always have heaps of energy to give to the kids and make sure that their couple of hours are jam-packed and keeps them entertained. Laurie communicates regularly by email, is always friendly, and gives a loving and caring welcome to the kids with whom she shares her time.

Ross Denton

Ross was instrumental in the project to re-build the Tawa-Linden Plunket Rooms. An ideal project manager, his long and deep involvement with the Tawa community and beyond meant that he had a wide network of contacts and connections to help get this significant project done. Ross expertly handled the relationships with all the tradespeople and key partners in the project, ensuring that the building was delivered on time and on budget! We could not have achieved this without him.

Miranda Denton-Smith

Miranda has been the most recent President of the Tawa Linden Plunket committee and head of the steering group responsible for delivering the new Plunket building for Tawa and Linden. Without Miranda's drive, passion, energy and considerable expertise, the building project would not have been completed. She is the reason the building was completed to a high standard and is now a great facility for babies and their families in the Tawa and Linden communities.

Paula Dymond

Paula was the chair of the Redwood School PFG (Parent Fundraising Group) who gave tireless support to the team and took the lead with any fundraiser. She was the one who would go around all the businesses in Tawa asking for their support. When her son left Redwood School, she continued on as a committee member of the Redwood School 50th anniversary. She now is following through in fundraising for Tawa Intermediate School where her youngest goes.

Tina Elsdon

Tina was instrumental in the completion of the new Tawa Linden Plunket building. She is a super volunteer, committed to supporting and developing the community in which she lives. When she was President of the Plunket Committee she spearheaded action on the building project that had been talked about for 20 plus years and initiated the planning and fundraising. Tawa and Linden now have a fantastic community facility thanks to her tireless efforts and commitment.

Liz Jarvis

Liz actively supports Linden School through her devotion to organising and running the school garden club and voluntarily maintaining school grounds. She actively champions the school in all environmental education fields, she actively planned and managed the school gala, and energetically fundraises for the school. Liz supports all school trips and functions, coaches the school hockey teams and volunteers in different roles at the local kindy. Linden School would be lost without her!

Noel McCabe

Noel has been a leader with the Tawa Keas since 2009 and has been Section Leader since 2010. He has continued with this role even after his own children had moved on to other Scouting Groups. His dedication to providing a fun learning environment has made it a popular group for local 6-8 year olds, with many children needing to wait up to a year for an opening space due to its popularity. You will have often seen Noel leading the Kea Scouts in the Tawa Christmas Parade and ANZAC parade.

Lee-Ann Newton

Lee-Ann is an active member at Tawa-Linden Playcentre, a parent cooperative licensed early childhood centre. Over the years there she has taken on a variety of roles (including co-president and currently property officer) and always gives beyond expectation. Recently she has overseen the upgrade of the outdoor area, and spent many, many hours planning, coordinating with people, as well as doing plenty of hands-on work – digging, planting, painting and so much more.

Pop In Community Playgroup

Pop In, a licensed pre-school playgroup has been operating in Tawa for 36 years. Hundreds of volunteer hours a year are poured in to staffing and resourcing two locations on multiple days a week. Everyone is warmly welcomed – mothers, fathers, grandparents, caregivers and their children. Volunteers also connect with lonely families outside the 'official' hours. Many families in this community have been touched by the team's care, love and kindness. They are instrumental in helping newcomers to Tawa feel welcome and loved.

Barbara Scott-Hill

Barbara works on a voluntary basis at Hampton Hill School every day for at least five hours a day. She runs the library; does road patrol duty; runs the second-hand clothing shop; cleans out cupboards, fridges, storage rooms. She does whatever is needed and is an invaluable part of the school. Barbara is also on the fundraising team and is at the forefront of most events and fundraising initiatives, and does anything for the staff at the school when asked.

Tawa-Linden Playcentre

[QUOTE] “I had some trepidation about moving to Tawa after living after living in Wellington city most of my life, but we found instant community and friends at Tawa-Linden Playcentre. It’s been an amazing way to get to know people and we love living in Tawa.” [UNQUOTE] Mums and dads volunteer their time at the centre to learn with their children and provide top-quality early childhood education. Parents learn valuable skills running the centre and many are active in the wider community including on school boards. The community support is invaluable, including meals cooked for families in times of need.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Providing services which enhance the wellbeing of people.

David Allo

David is the cornerstone to the Redwood Club's day-to-day activities. A veritable Mr Fixit, David oversees the usage and maintenance of the 10-seat van, trains volunteer drivers and relieves for them. The interior and exterior of the Redwood Hall are also maintained by him. Owned by the Tawa Union Church, the hall provides a happy, caring and safe environment for members of the Redwood Club community.

Murray Chiles, Jack Lloyd and Bruce Walter

Murray Chiles, Jack Lloyd and Bruce Walter are each part of a group of volunteer drivers who operate the Redwood Club Tawa's 10-seat passenger van collecting club members from their homes and transporting them to the clubrooms in Redwood Avenue. Murray ensures the member has a safe, smooth and cheery trip while in his care. Jack ensures the member has a safe, smooth and cheery trip while in his care. Bruce too ensures the member has a safe, smooth and cheery trip while in his care. [The same wording was received for each of them.] Redwood Club membership comprises those people suffering from any condition that leaves them dependent on others. The club catchment runs from Johnsonville to Plimmerton.

Betty Durr

Betty is president of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Tawa which operates a foodbank from Our Lady of Fatima Church. She has been organising and helping others for years. She is in charge of packing food parcels and makes the effort to personally deliver items where needed, being the compassionate sort that she is. She is also involved with monthly meals for the "Not so Young" (apparently that's the actual title) at Our Lady of Fatima. Betty provides the entertainment!

Mal Fyfe

Mal volunteers for many worthy organisations – in the yearly cancer collection and as a driver supervisor; Justice of the Peace (from home and service centres); Police Base; Tawa Community Patrol to name a few. His volunteer service in years far exceeds his age. His involvement in the Tawa community makes him unique and special.

Kim Hearps

Kim was a property owner potentially affected by NZTA's proposal in February 2014 to widen SH1 between Tawa and Linden. Her response went far beyond self-interest. She took a leading role in coordinating information-sharing, mail drops and public meetings. She was a prime mover in ensuring that the Tawa community had a forum through which to seek information, share ideas and coordinate a response. Kim's leadership and concern for the community increased the level of public engagement with this issue, which in turn helped NZTA to decide against implementing either of their proposals – a matter of considerable relief to many people in both Tawa and Takapu.

Maureen Johnston

For many years Maureen has each week prepared, and led, a very interesting two hour art class at the Tawa Community Centre. She also prepares and presents a series of talks on “Scottish History” for U3A (University of the Third Age) Tawa. Members of both groups have benefitted greatly from her knowledge and guidance.

Kiwi Community Assistance

KCA is a charity now in its fifth year of operation, having delivered thousands of meals, articles of clothing, linen, furniture and whiteware to other partner agencies in the Wellington area, all done from their Tawa base. Some of the 20,000 plus banana boxes of food distributed over the years have gone to local schools such as Tawa Intermediate, HHT and Linden School to assist with their breakfast and lunch clubs. KCA has a partnership programme with Arohata Women’s Prison which includes collecting fruit and vegetables grown in the prison’s gardens. Prisoners also mend clothing and upcycle donations for KCA to reduce the amount going to landfill.

Margaret Lake

Margaret Lake has been a caregiver at the Redwood Club for more than ten years. She is a faithful participating carer at the club and is always willing to perform extra duties at the club to fill a gap in the volunteer carer lists whenever it may occur. Supporting her husband’s vocation, she too has interest in the welfare of leprosy sufferers. Another Tawa community stalwart.

Sister Francine McGovern

Sister Francine is an outstanding musical therapist dedicated to extolling the beneficial effects of music. She is able to play almost any style on her keyboard from a repertoire of many thousands, and is equally adept at the piano accordion. Even with the wide variety of people at the Redwood Club, she is able to achieve harmony. Her exercising to music sessions are looked forward to. Sister Francine is active also in choral work for other community organisations. Tawa is fortunate to have Sister Francine, modest, yet of outstanding ability, among our citizenry.

Redwood Club

The Redwood Club provides a happy, caring and safe environment for members of the community who require stimulation and support of a balanced day programme. Elderly people who are dependent on others can attend for one or two days each week and receive good care. Professionals head the team supported by wonderful volunteers, some of whom have assisted there for many years. A wide range of activities including a daily outing in the club’s van are available with lots of fun and laughter. A cooked lunch and morning and afternoon teas are provided.

Gwen Russell

Gwen regularly goes out of her way to help people, especially the elderly, and uses her car to take those less able to the hospital, both for their appointments as well as to visit their friends and relations. For many years she has helped prepare the flowers for Tawa Baptist Church services. She is more than deserving of this award.

St Vincent de Paul Society Tawa

Betty Durr and her group of volunteers distribute food and bedding, etc from the foodbank at Our Lady of Fatima Church to those who are in need. The team, which meets weekly at the church, liaises with other agencies in Tawa to ensure food parcels, not money, are given to people in genuine need. We have been informed by a reliable source that after Mass at Our Lady of Fatima, a certain parish priest requests a gold coin from churchgoers who arrived late, the monies going to the local St Vincent de Paul Society, thus providing a regular source of funding!

HERITAGE & ENVIRONMENT

Improving or revitalising the environment, culture or heritage.

Melanie Clubley

Melanie has been heavily involved with the Tawa Community Garden from the outset and has been one of the driving forces in making it happen. She has put many hours into producing the original design, setting up and helping operate the stall at Spring into Tawa, attending planning meetings, and of course working on the garden herself. Melanie has worked with the local Guides and kindy kids at the garden, as well as promoting it on Neighbourly and Facebook.

Richard Herbert

Richard was a founder member of the Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves and a president for six years. He has led working bees, more recently pest control, and worked on various other initiatives. He has networked with other Tawa-based organisations. Richard has made a massive contribution to the Friends, all on a voluntary basis. He also has voluntary roles with other organisations including the Tawa Community Garden and Vibrant Tawa (the new-look residents' association).

Bruce Murray

Bruce is a stalwart of Tawa. He is the driving force behind the Tawa Historical Society and has worked with the Wellington City Council to see recognition given to points of historical interest in Tawa. He has authored a number of books published by the society, including "The Streets of Tawa", "Best of Tawa" (referring to Elsdon Best, to whom there's a monument at Grasslees Reserve), "Lest Tawa Forgets" and "Rails Through the Valley", "Arthur Carman's suitcase", and it probably won't be long before the next one is out.

Robyn Parkinson (4 nominations were received for Robyn)

Robyn has been the driving force behind the establishment of the Tawa Community Garden which was originally birthed on the Neighbourly website. She established a committee which worked for twelve months to get the garden project off the ground. Her ability to connect with a wide variety of people, liaise with council staff and involve and interest all age groups (e.g. Scouts, Guides, kindy and U3A) in the project deserves our thanks and recognition. It culminated in the official opening of the garden with Mayor Wade-Brown and Pam Warhurst from the UK's "Incredible Edible" in March.

Helen Roper

Helen has worked tirelessly to grow and tend seedlings at the Tawa College Horticulture block to plant out in areas like the Redwood Bush. She has also been involved with the Tawa Community Garden, contributing to the ongoing planning as well as on a practical level. She is a humble woman who serves the community in a very effective way.

Tawa Community Garden

Robyn Parkinson and Melanie Clubley, amongst others, have led Tawa Community Garden from the germ of an idea to a growing and thriving garden in central Tawa. More and more people are becoming involved bringing their own gardening expertise or learning new skills. The garden appeals to individuals and groups of all ages from kindergarten through Guides and Scouts to superannuitants. It is more than a garden. The group will continue to spread and share knowledge of growing, harvesting, and eating local freshly grown vegetables.

SPORT & LEISURE

Enhancing and increasing participation in physical sport, leisure activities and recreational pursuits.

Tim Cockle

Tawa Junior Cricket Club and North City Cricket Club would not be the success that it currently is if it were not for Tim Cockle. He has worn many hats within the club and wider cricket community. His roles over the last 10 years have included club administrator, Junior convenor, treasurer and secretary. He also delivers training for Cricket Wellington and is on the Junior Advisory Committee. He has put in endless voluntary hours over the last 10 years developing, organising and coaching cricket in our community.

Pamela Freeman

Pamela goes above and beyond for kids from years 5-8 involved with Tawa Junior Hockey, answering questions from parents and coaches, sorting out uniforms and organising teams for both winter and summer hockey. She always seems to be down at the turf supporting all the teams, and constantly popping up at practices. Without all her work and that of the rest of the committee, the job for everyone else (coaches, parents, managers) would be that much harder.

Shane Jones

Shane has been involved in cricket coaching at Tawa College for at least four years. He made a significant contribution to the regional and national success of the Tawa College Girls' First XI. He has given many hours of his own time to assist the players in their technical and communication skills.

Robbie Kerr

Robbie has been the key person in guiding the Tawa College Girls' Cricket First XI to two national titles. He has given many hours of his time to develop an excellent team culture which is the credit to the Tawa community both on and off the field.

Richard Preston

Richard has for the last five years been involved as part of the rugby coaching staff at Tawa College. He has been described as a genuine guy who fronts up year in and year out, spending many hours developing the technical and communication skills of the teams he coaches. He has created an excellent team culture.

Tawa Junior Hockey Club

Tawa Junior Hockey Club enters junior hockey teams in the Wellington Hockey Association, Primary and Kiwi Sticks hockey competitions over the winter season. Last year four teams were entered in the Primary competition (this winter it is five), and four teams in the year 5 & 6 competition, Kiwi Sticks. The club provides development opportunities for younger teenage umpires. TJHC has been recognised as “Volunteer of the Month” by the Wellington Hockey Association in their February newsletter for their success in the growth of this competition. The club provides the opportunity for many young people to play hockey in the Tawa area.

Neil Thompson

This year Neil will be celebrating 25 years of volunteering for the Tawa premier rugby team! Preferring to be the middle man between the management and the players, Neil supports the team doing everything from rubs and initial first aid to 'water boy', delivering the all important coaches messages onto the field. Twice a week for 25 years is an impressive effort and an example of what dedication and commitment is all about.

YOUTH (15-24 years)

Celebration and recognition of young people who provide outstanding service within the community of Tawa.

Dan Cuttriss

Dan has been involved as a youth leader since 2011. He is very good at relating to young people both within the programme time and outside it. He gives up his time on Wednesday evenings, Saturday evenings and some Sunday nights, providing helpful mentoring and leadership along with the running of youth events. A top bloke.

Duard Ferreira

Duard is a promising young cricketer who despite leaving Tawa College more than two years ago has returned this year to spend many hours coaching the Boys' Cricket First XI. As the main coach he has worked hard to develop a good team culture. The team have maintained their Premier 1 status and have produced some excellent results.

Isaac Irvine

Isaac has been volunteering with the sound and technological expertise at many events. He did an outstanding job at an event called Kids Games about 5 years ago and now regularly volunteers to help at church running the data or sound desk which he always does in a very professional manner. Without sound experts, musicians, speakers and singers lose their ability to be heard. Isaac has recently been using his skills to help start up the youth band again at St Christopher's Church.

Erin Lockhart

Erin in recent years has been involved with the Wellington City Council as an active member of their Youth Council. She has relinquished this role but she is an effective deputy head girl who has been the key leader in the 2016 Tawa College Stage Challenge where she has given many hours of her time. Erin is also very involved in the college's Wednesday morning Breakfast Club which caters for students of all ages who might not always have a regular breakfast, and she plays a part in running "AM Mayhem" which is designed to improve students' fitness levels.

Josh Nightingale

Josh was head boy at Tawa College in 2015 and was and is a great role model and leader. He put hours into leading Stage Challenge and was awarded a national award for student leadership with respect to Stage Challenge – the only individual award in the country. He also played a key role in the visit by Prince Charles to Tawa College in November 2015.

Peter Sim

Peter has been involved as a youth leader since 2011. This involves him in about six hours a week of contact with college-aged young people on Wednesday afternoons, Saturday evenings and some Sunday evenings. He is very helpful in building friendship with young people and encouraging them in a positive direction in life, willingly giving of his time and concerned for their wellbeing.

THE WINNERS OF THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES

The winner of the ARTS & CULTURE category is a person who

has been the key figure in ensuring that the biennial Tawa Schools' and Community Festival continues to be a successful event both in terms of participation and performance. He is passionate about music and in particular encouraging and supporting students to develop and perform to their full potential and sharing their skills and experiences with their whanau and the wider community. While this is his role as a teacher, the overwhelming number of hours of his own personal and family time that he commits to making these students shine is incredible, and his effort with both schools and adults ensures that the Music Festival, or more simply known as "Tawa Goes to Town", is a quality event and a credit to the Tawa community.

Congratulations to MURRAY CAMERON

The EDUCATION AND/OR CHILD/YOUTH category received a significant number of nominations. On this occasion the judging panel deemed it appropriate to have two winners, one group and one individual.

The winning group in the EDUCATION AND/OR CHILD/YOUTH category is

a community group which has recently undertaken a necessary but mammoth project to replace its ageing rooms in Linden. This project was started to ensure the wonderful work the group does in the community can continue for many generations to come. It brings all their operations under one roof for the first time, including the toy library. The previous building was very old and had ongoing issues with being extremely cold and damp, not great for nurses or volunteers to work in, or for Tawa/Linden families to come to for their visits. Countless hours spent by the team of volunteers have resulted in warm, dry and colourful new premises, a fantastic community asset for future generations.

Congratulations to the TAWA-LINDEN PLUNKET COMMITTEE

The winning individual in the EDUCATION AND/OR CHILD/YOUTH category is a person who

works more than 20 hours per week as a volunteer school librarian and has done so for the past five years. In addition to that she has run the school's second-hand clothing shop for four years. Funds raised are being used to obtain lighting for a public pathway by the school to make it safer for all in Tawa who use it. She has helped out for the last eight years in garage sales, Spring into Tawa Market Day, gala fundraising events, as well as road patrol duties four days per week. She does anything for the staff at the school when asked. She is a true volunteer and would bend over backwards for Hampton Hill School and for her friends.

Congratulations to BARBARA SCOTT-HILL

The winner of the HEALTH & WELLBEING category is a group which

provides a happy, caring and safe environment for members of the community who require stimulation and support of a balanced day programme. Elderly people who are dependent on others can attend for one or two days each week and receive good care. Professionals head the team supported by wonderful volunteers, some of whom have assisted there for many years. A wide range of activities including a daily outing in the club's van are available with lots of fun and laughter. And you may have noticed that at least six of those who volunteer at this club have individually received certificates this evening.

Congratulations to the REDWOOD CLUB

The winner of the HERITAGE & ENVIRONMENT category is a person who

is a stalwart of Tawa. He is the driving force behind the Tawa Historical Society and has worked with the Wellington City Council to see recognition given to points of historical interest in Tawa, including the heritage sign, the plinth that is, outside the library. He has encouraged the collection and writing of historical materials related to the Tawa valley, resulting in his playing a major part in the publication of a number of books on different aspects of the history of Tawa. He has also been involved for many years in education and church life in this community, recently retiring from having served 50 years as a deacon at Tawa Baptist Church. A Wikipedia page on Tawa includes him in its list of four "Notable residents and former residents" of Tawa.

Congratulations to BRUCE MURRAY

The winner of the SPORT & LEISURE category is a person who

trained as a primary school teacher and is now Director of Cricket for Cricket Wellington. He is a great encourager, getting alongside kids and ensuring they achieve their best. He started coaching the Tawa Intermediate girls' cricket team some seven years ago when his older daughter was at the school. They went on to win the national championship two years in a row. He has since been the key person in guiding the Tawa College Girls' Cricket First XI to two national titles. He coaches indoor cricket Wellington-wide, with several girls from the Tawa College First XI having gone on to represent New Zealand at age level as a result of his input. He is regarded as an extremely effective coach which he does on a voluntary basis at all levels of the game.

Congratulations to ROBBIE KERR

The winner of the YOUTH category is a person who

was head boy at Tawa College in 2015 and was and is a great role model and leader. He put hours into leading Stage Challenge, the theme of which was the life of William Earp, a Tawa resident who lost his life in WW1. Of some 200 schools nationwide competing in Stage Challenge, only one individual award was given and that was to Josh for his efforts. Despite having left Tawa College, he has been involved in Stage Challenge this year in a supporting role. In his time at the college he made an effort to mix with all sorts of students, putting into practice the school's values of being inclusive towards all. Josh and the head girl were specifically chosen by the school to host the visit of Prince Charles to Tawa College in November 2015, an event which attracted nationwide news coverage and, according to his principal, he performed the role extremely well. He is a great role model for the youth of Tawa.

Congratulations to JOSH NIGHTINGALE



The winners of the various categories (L to R in the above photo):

- Bruce Murray – Heritage & Environment
- The Redwood Club, represented by David Allo – Health and Wellbeing
- Tawa-Linden Plunket Society, represented by Ross Denton and Stacey Richardson – Education and/or Child/Youth Development (group winner)
- Mayor Celia Wade-Brown
- Josh Nightingale – Youth (15-24)
- Barbara Scott-Hill – Education and/or Child/Youth Development (individual winner)
- Murray Cameron – Arts & Culture

Absent: Robbie Kerr – Sports & Leisure