

TAWA COMMUNITY CIVIC AWARDS 2018

The civic awards ceremony took place in the Tawa College staffroom on Thursday 7 June, with the Mayor presenting certificates to around 48 people or groups to thank them for the voluntary service they provide in this community. The occasion was well supported, with Malcolm Sparrow (WCC councillor) and Richard Herbert (Tawa Community Board chair) reading out the citations for all those who had been nominated.

This year we decided to not select a winner for each category. ‘Winning’ is not what the awards are all about. Their sole purpose is to show appreciation – in a public setting – to each of the volunteers who have been nominated.



Above: The nominees (and one or two ‘extras’)



This certificate is awarded to

Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade

In acknowledgement of your contribution to the community of Tawa

Signed Richard Herbert Date 7 June 2018
Chair, Tawa Community Board



ARTS & CULTURE

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

Martin Burdan

Martin has been a key member of “Tawa Goes to Town” – the Tawa Schools & Community Festival that is held every two years. He has been the “piano man” at every performance since 1982 and at numerous rehearsals. This year will be the 23rd show in which he has played a key part – sorry, pun unavoidable. Martin is an accomplished performer who always contributes in a calm and unassuming way. He is an encourager who stays out of the limelight but has made a superb contribution to Tawa’s Art and Culture.

Michael Holland

Michael is currently in his second year as chair of U3A Tawa, and for some years prior to this held the position of membership secretary. Over many years he has undertaken leadership roles of a number of Tawa U3A courses and lectured on many short courses on a wide range of topics. Michael’s often humorous style endears the popularity of his courses with members and ensures the continuing education and social contact of the older folk of Tawa is maintained.

Jean Hollier

Jean has made and continues to make a major contribution to the positive and exciting “Tawa Goes to Town” – the Tawa Schools & Community Festival that is held every two years. She is an unsung hero in that she contributes many hours in administrative and creative work that ensures the show is an unqualified success. Jean is a familiar face to many a school child in Tawa because of the constructive and committed part she plays in this long-established highlight on the Tawa calendar.

Roxanna Johnston

Rox is a gifted artist who has put enormous amounts of time into Hampton Hill School to bring colour and life to the school environment through her artwork. She designed the stunning mural which covers the bike shed, supported the development of a graffiti-style fence near the vegetable gardens, helped students to create beautiful images of native birds to represent each classroom and has also donated considerable time to support the school photo fundraiser. Rox cheerfully contributes to school and kindly in many other ways too.

Jancis Potter

Jancis has exercised a kindly, yet firm leadership in U3A Tawa (and beyond). In the current semester of community adult education she is contact person / tutor for an astounding seven modules. She is also courses coordinator which involves more managerial responsibility. Jancis does all this with great calmness, modesty and verve. She deserves wider recognition and acclaim.

Robin Thomson

Robin Thomson has been both band leader and support person for Tawa Learners' Band. He has recently handed over the management of the band but still provides support in the role of music librarian and setting up for each practice. Robin is also an active member of Tawa Union Church where he is always busy on one duty roster or another, be it playing the organ or piano, leading a service at church or at Longview Home, singing in the choir or doing other duties at Sunday Services.

EDUCATION and/or CHILD/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Improving and enhancing the development of young people and children.

Michael Corcoran

Michael is the Group Leader for Tawa Scout Group and spends much of his time thinking of new ways he can help develop and grow local scouting. He organises camps, activities, outings and general scout evenings that keep the kids engaged and involved. He has organised multiple quiz nights to raise money for the scouts, including one to buy them an honours board so past and present members and leaders could be correctly recognised for their efforts. The Tawa Scout Group is one of the strongest in the Wellington region thanks to his leadership.

Lydia Middlemiss

Lydia gives generously of her time and skill across a range of organisations. She has been involved with Tawa-Linden Playcentre and has put many hours into supporting the development of kapa haka with Mana Tiaki and at Hampton Hill School, along with other arts programming at the school. Lydia was also instrumental in establishing an effective resilience programme at Hampton Hill. Add in road patrol duties, parenting young children, working with children with additional needs, and many other commitments, it is clear that Lydia makes a significant contribution to our community!

Liz Jarvis

Liz invests tirelessly in the tamariki of Linden School. She has developed the garden and runs an active and popular gardening club. She sees potential for things that will help the children learn and play and works to make them a reality – a new playground, painting a bike track on the playground, the fitness trail on the field and so many more ideas. Liz runs lunch fundraisers and she also coaches and manages a school hockey team. In all of these activities Liz comes alongside the children, gets to know them and empowers them to be involved and use their skills.

Lee-Ann Newton

Lee-Ann has been extensively involved with Tawa-Linden Playcentre at all levels, including coordinating a complete overhaul of the outdoor environment. She works tirelessly with the staff and students at Hampton Hill School, creating things with students, improving the outdoor environment, supporting students with special needs, applying for grants and resources to enhance learning opportunities, and much more. Lee-Ann is incredibly gifted and generous with her time, going well beyond any expectations. She is a great asset to our community.

Deryn Scott

Deryn has given countless hours over more than a decade to supporting early childhood education, adult education and primary school education through her involvement in Tawa-Linden Playcentre, Redwood School Board of Trustees and Tawa Intermediate School Board of Trustees. She has worked closely with many students in establishing crochet clubs in several schools, with charities benefitting from the finished products. She has also championed public participation in the library programming, and supported many other community initiatives with passion, time and skill.

Annette Smith

Annette volunteers in the New Entrant classroom at Tawa School every week. She is always there and will spend her own money on bringing in resources for the class. With her husband she has recently begun creating amazing homemade equipment for the classroom using natural and recycled materials. This includes a wonderful mud kitchen made from a recycled pallet. She is always kind and inclusive with the children and always goes the extra mile.

Tawa Intermediate Links Reading Group

Community Links at Tawa Intermediate School is a group of retired Tawa citizens who go to the school every Tuesday and Thursday morning to both read to children and help them read on an individual basis. The group was started 25 years ago in 1993 by Marjorie Todd. Members came from Tawa Rotary, U3A and local churches. Current members are Graham Ellett 23 years, Barbara Jeffries 21 years, Shirley Briggs 10 years, Janet Cassie 10 years, Margaret Robson 10 years, Iris Miller 6 years, Jean Howarth 4 years, Ceinwen (Kenny) Geismar 4 years, Warwick Beauchamp 3 years. In the words of the Tawa Intermediate principal: "They are a fantastic group with a lovely attitude and are a real community asset."

We also have separate certificates for the two members of the group who have served in this role for more than 20 years, Graham Ellett and Barbara Jeffries. Well done to both of them (and of course to the rest of the team).

Cheryl Watson

Cheryl Watson has dedicated over 40 years to GirlGuiding New Zealand at local, regional and national levels. She is currently Girl Scouts National Trainer for GirlGuiding New Zealand but has stayed true to "grass roots" guiding, having been a key leader in the Rawhiti Ranger unit in Tawa for 35 years. She has mentored and supported hundreds of girls and young women on their leadership journey, including those achieving Queen's Guide and Duke of Edinburgh's International Awards.

Olivia Wilkinson

Olivia is Redwood School's "go to" person for accessing grants to ensure the school is able to provide the extras that are needed to make it such a great place. From netball and kapa haka uniforms, planting a school orchard and 100 trees on the school's field, Olivia has been proactive and very successful. Redwood School couldn't be the school it is without her.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Providing services which enhance the wellbeing of people.

Gary Beecroft

Gary is on the board of the Tawa Rugby Club and for many years has been the “go-to man”, often seen on match day, ensuring the pitches are properly marked up and that everything runs smoothly. He recently became President of Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves, and played a part in last year’s purchase by Wellington City Council of The Forest of Tane which shares access to his home. He is also chair of the relatively new Tawa MenzShed group and has been instrumental in securing new premises for the group in Oxford St’s Rural Fire Depot, thus seeing a MenzShed established in Tawa.

David Bradley

David has been a longstanding coordinator for the Titahi Bay Fruit & Vege Co-op operating from St Peter’s Church in Linden. David himself lives in Titahi Bay yet commits his time and energy into ensuring that people of Tawa can access cheap fruit and veges locally. Every Tuesday he picks up the orders from the Titahi Bay hub and delivers to Tawa and Johnsonville outlets. He then distributes at St Peter’s Church in Tawa at lunchtime and again in the evening. At a time in his life when he could be relaxing and taking things easy, he continues to think of others and how he can help.

Doug Burrus

Doug is part of a group that has established the Tawa MenzShed organisation and over the past 18 months has efficiently held the position of Secretary. For 29 years Doug has also been a strong supporter of Tawa Rotary which undertakes projects for the local community, and for the past 10 years has been actively involved in the organisation of the Tawa Rotary Book Fair, a massive undertaking which culminates in the biggest one-off fundraiser on Tawa Rotary’s annual calendar.

Rachel Dorragh

Rachel contributes to the community of Tawa in many ways – supporting community-run programmes for children such as Playcentre and Pop-In, through regularly volunteering at Pete’s Place drop-in in Linden, through voluntary contributions at Linden School well beyond her hours as school librarian, through supporting arts projects with social values, and in building friendships with people, particularly people who may otherwise be isolated or overlooked.

Mal Fyfe

Mal has many roles as a community volunteer in Tawa and the wider Wellington region. He has volunteered for the Cancer Society for 15 years and the yearly cancer collection in Tawa. He recently retired as a volunteer with Riding for the Disabled. He has been a Justice of the Peace for more than 35 years, willingly sharing his knowledge with other JPs. Mal is also a Tawa Community Patroller, having been a foundation member 10 years ago, and he willingly undertakes additional Patrol projects such as Safer Plates, school gala events and Open Days where the patrol is represented.

Max George

Max presided for two years over the Tawa Probus Club during a very difficult period. It was through his guidance and leadership that the club has now re-affiliated to the Probus family. As past president his knowledge and experience ensures the continued future of the club in Tawa. He is also involved in U3A Tawa as coordinator of the Genealogy Group, leader of the Meccano and he takes weekly groups of children at Greenacres School. Max has assisted the Tawa MenzShed group in establishing their new premises. His very affable nature is an inspirational to many that meet him.

Tony Hased

Tony displays a real service ethic in a number of organisations. He has been pivotal in motivating others to make a positive difference in Tawa. This has been visible in his work with the Tawa Technology Trust, where he has been the driving force in securing sponsorship for placement of 3D printers in each of the primary schools in Tawa. He continues to liaise with local schools to ensure that Tawa students have access to the latest technology and digital training. In addition to this busy role, he chairs the Tawa Residents' Association and is a member of the Tawa Resilience committee.

Dawn Jamieson

Dawn has volunteered countless hours of her time, her enthusiasm and energy to the young people of Tawa through her involvement in various groups at Tawa Baptist over many decades. She has been a regular caregiver for a weekly mothers' group for over 21 years. Whilst the mothers have time out to focus on other things, Dawn looks after the young children. For some mums this is the only break they get from their little ones during their day. This is a true sanity saver and the health benefits to both mothers and offspring of such committed, loving service cannot be measured.

Redwood Club Trustees

The Redwood Club provides a happy, caring and safe environment for older members of the community who require stimulation and support of a balanced day programme. Elderly people who are dependent on others can attend and receive good care. Professionals head the team supported by volunteers, some of whom have assisted for 10 to 20 years or even longer. The five Redwood Club trustees are Roberta James, chairperson; Lyndsay Boys, treasurer; Jill McCabe, secretary; Dave Allo, advisor and trouble shooter; and Libby White, nursing advisor. All work on a voluntary basis. The staff at the Redwood Club hold these people in very high esteem and with great affection.

Stacey Richardson

Stacey plays a leading role in promoting Tawa events on the Tawa Residents Association's (Vibrant Tawa) Facebook page. In 2015 she received a Kiwibank Local Hero Award for her work with Tawa Linden Plunket and the new Tawa-Linden Plunket building. What Stacey is best known for is her major role in building up the Spring into Tawa event over the past two years, doubling its size and introducing new innovations like closing off the Main Road, bringing in food trucks and lots more entertainment, thus putting Spring into Tawa on the map of must-go-to regional events.

HERITAGE & ENVIRONMENT

Improving or revitalising the environment, culture or heritage.

Steph Knight

Steph has been very involved in the recent improvements we have seen around Tawa. She led the charge on encouraging and working with the Wellington City Council to overhaul the Bike Pump Track by Tawa Railway Station. This was a great outcome for the community. She plays a key role in the Residents' Association and is always looking for ways to enhance our community. She is an active member of the Tawa Business Group and was very involved with the planning for the plaza upgrade. She gives much of her own time for the benefit of the Tawa community.

Robyn Parkinson

Robyn has done an outstanding job in creating and sustaining community gardening in Tawa. The garden benefits not only those who enjoy gathering together and getting things to grow, but the wider community who benefit from being able to access the healthy produce and enjoy seeing the gardens. Robyn's tireless enthusiasm, knowledge and superb communication skills all contribute hugely to the ongoing success of this venture. The positive environmental impact is also appreciated.

Wayne Pincott

Wayne was president of Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves from 2016 to 2018 and is currently vice-president. He spearheaded the successful campaign in 2017 for Wellington City Council to purchase the Forest of Tane, spending many hours lobbying stakeholders including the Mayor and councillors, and guided key personnel through the bush to see it first hand. His strong leadership mobilised a packed Tawa community meeting of 230 people so that they were fully aware of the issues. The meeting wholeheartedly endorsed WCC to make the purchase that subsequently occurred.

Gil Roper

Gil worked on a book "Tawa: the tree, the community, and its reserves" over the past two to three years. It is a significant book of 173 pages, and covers both the heritage and environment categories of these awards. It was published last year by the Tawa Historical Society, and has sold very well. It has gone through a reprint. This book is a significant contribution to both Tawa's heritage and its environment. Gil is a member of the Tawa Historical Society and the Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves.

Helen Roper

Helen has for many years faithfully cultivated native seedlings at the Tawa College Horticulture block for planting in existing bush areas in Tawa. She has also been involved with the Tawa Community Garden, contributing to the ongoing planning as well as on a practical level. She gets on and does what needs to be done, thereby serving the community in a quiet yet very effective way.

Peter Saxton

Peter has lived in Tawa for 50 years, and since retiring has been very much involved in helping organise courses with U3A Tawa. He has been a key member of the Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves committee almost since its inception and has played a major part in the planning and construction of new tracks in the bush around Tawa over the years. Peter says there are still more tracks to be built in Tawa – opening up the bush to the general public so they can appreciate nature.

Spring into Tawa Organising Committee

The group of dedicated volunteers that comprise the Spring into Tawa Organising Committee has taken on the huge task of organising Spring into Tawa over the past two years, growing it from a community market day each October to an increasingly popular regional event and contributing hugely to the cultural environment of Tawa.

Peter Turney

Known locally as “the rubbish man”, Peter is regularly seen picking up rubbish around the streets and pathways of Tawa from Willowbank to Grasslees. He wears rubber gloves and carries one or more rubbish bags with him. For several years he has been a common sight on fine days collecting rubbish from the central Tawa area – from streets, gutters and drains, and out of blackberry bushes. Peter does this work as voluntary service for the community. This is much appreciated in ensuring Tawa stays a clean and tidy suburb.

Richard and Brenda Wordsworth

Richard and Brenda form the mainstay of the Tawa Community Garden roster for the daily pickup of used coffee grounds from New World’s cafe. They cover three days a week and Richard has been overheard to say he’d rather do every day than see the grounds go to landfill. The estimated amount they personally have diverted from the tip would be around one tonne over the past two years. It is this kind of regular commitment that truly adds up over time.

SPORT & LEISURE

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

Nikki Farmer

Nikki devotes significant voluntary time as Junior Coordinator at Tawa Squash, arranging junior club nights, junior coaching sessions, junior tournaments and junior fundraising. She is a mother of two children and works full time in the city. She is a key reason why Tawa Squash is a finalist in Wellington Sports Club of the Year.

Kathryn and Chris Henshaw

Kath has been the Junior Club Captain of the Tawa Junior Football Club for many years, a role from which she has recently stepped down. She has worked tirelessly alongside her husband, Chris, who has been the Treasurer and Gear Coordinator. Between them they have ensured that more than 300 local children have been able to play football on a weekly basis. This has required an enormous amount of time, resource and effort and it is much appreciated.

John Langham

John has been a grade coordinator for children's football for 4 or 5 years. He provides an excellent level of communication with parents, coaches and managers and gives many hours a week of his own time to do so. He is now representing the juniors at club level and has been supporting Junior football through recent changes. John has also been an advocate for improvement to grounds and resources for football in Tawa. Many young people and their families are benefitting from his investment in the community.

Julia McHale

Julia McHale has been the netball coach at Redwood School for three years, coaching indoor and outdoor netball. Her inspiring manner not only gives the children the skills to play the game, she teaches them how to work together as a team regardless of their level of ability and skill, thereby seeing them gain confidence in their all-round abilities. Julia also provides service to the wider community by running free senior gym classes to help older citizens with their mobility and strength programmes. She is both an amazing life coach and an amazing trainer.

Jan Loader

Jan has organised hockey for children at Redwood School for the past 16 or so years. She is a wonderful organiser and very supportive of the students and their families as they get to know the sport. She liaises very well with other clubs and schools. Jan's involvement has seen hockey become an integral part of the school. Her dedication to the role has given many students a love of the game which has followed them long after leaving Redwood School.

YOUTH (15-24 years)

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

Jess Hill

Jess has assisted Tawa-based KCA (Kiwi Community Assistance) on a fortnightly basis over several years with the distribution of fresh fruit and vegetables, bread and milk to schools in the Tawa area. This ensures that all students have full stomachs so that they are able to concentrate at school. She has shown commitment and dedication in giving many hours of her time to assist and support others in this way.

Elizabeth Jackson

Elizabeth is a gift, she is an amazingly mature and competent worker and has been since she first started serving in the kitchen for Tawa Anglican Church events five years ago. She has been heading up the kitchen team for the past three years. She has outstanding stamina and will always complete her tasks to a high standard. Elizabeth brings initiative, perseverance, discernment, reliability, capacity, competence and endurance to her volunteering role.

Jake Keats

Jake is the current head boy of Tawa College, fully involving himself in all aspects of life in the community and at school. He has been the key leader in organising participation in "Relay for Life" for Tawa College students. This year over 130 students took part, with Jake coordinating involvement in the event. He was also the key organiser in 2017. Jake is determined to raise money and make people aware of the vital role The Cancer Society plays in New Zealand society.

Davinia Riceman

Davinia has been providing volunteer service at Tawa Anglican for the past four years in many capacities – holiday programmes, kids camps, movie nights, Children's Church, food fairs and more, as well as family events for Prison Fellowship. She goes above and beyond what is expected. Davinia is extremely reliable and very responsible. She gives up many hours and cheerfully interacts with young and old. She is very much appreciated by her church community.

Elizabeth Werner

Elizabeth has been a passionate and positive role model in her concern for the environment. As a current student at Tawa College she has displayed real leadership in this area. She has raised environmental concerns at college assemblies, community events and local, regional and national environment conferences. Elizabeth has been proactive in mobilising the school in her desire for a pest-free Tawa. She has also been selected as a Youth Ambassador for Zealandia.

TAWA ROTARY YOUNG EMPLOYEE AWARD

Displaying energy and enthusiasm in undertaking workplace responsibilities.

Rotary is a service club. Service is a strong element of Rotary membership which is shown in a number of avenues – through community service, international peace and humanitarian service, and youth development; also in vocational service in promoting integrity and a high standard of ethics in the workplace. It is through vocational service that Tawa Rotary initiated this award, to recognise a young employee who is nominated by their Tawa-based employer, and who displays energy and enthusiasm in undertaking their workplace responsibilities.

This year the recipient of the award is nominated by Mexted Motors and is an apprentice technician in their service department. The recipient is described as being a valued member of the Mexted Motors team, is willing to learn and is adaptable, hardworking and diligent, polite and a well-liked colleague.

The Tawa Rotary Young Employee award in 2018 goes to **Diego Alcaino**.

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

This year the Tawa Community Board agreed to a special category being added for EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE, to recognise certain nominees who have shown “excellence in leadership and all-round community service” in Tawa over many years.

We have only ever presented one nominee with this award before now. That’s not to say that others mightn’t have been eligible for it, but at the time this was presented a certain elder statesman in Tawa had fingers in so many pies that we made up this category specifically to accommodate him. The year was 2008. The recipient was the late Allan Todd whom many may remember.

Tawa Community Patrol

The Tawa Community Patrol currently consists of more than 40 unpaid volunteers who have gone through a training programme prior to undertaking twice-weekly night patrols of the whole Tawa area. They now carry out daytime patrols as well. Their aim is to detect and curb vandalism, graffiti tagging and other potential problems, preferably before the damage is done or crime committed. In a nutshell, their role as a volunteer organisation is to help make Tawa a safer community by acting as an extra set of eyes and ears for the New Zealand Police. The patrol has been in operation in Tawa for ten years and has the support of both the Wellington City Council and the Police. It has very much proved its effectiveness during this time.

Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade

The Volunteer Fire Brigade is a well-organised fully voluntary group, limited to 30 in number at any one time, who work hard for the community. They attend a significant number of callouts each year, approximately half within Tawa and half in neighbouring areas. They are often first on the scene in medical emergency callouts. In reality they now see themselves as being a “multi-purpose emergency response provider”. Much of their service is proactive – installing smoke alarms, providing training in schools and regularly turning out at community events and galas. Next year they will be celebrating their 75th year of serving the local community.

Robert Tredger

Robert has served the Tawa community in numerous roles for more than two decades. He was the longest-serving member of the Tawa Community Board having served 21 years when he stepped down in October 2016. As a longstanding member of Rotary, for two years he put much effort into organising and monitoring a team of Tawa Rotary members to undertake liquor management duties at Westpac Stadium. At the time that was Rotary’s biggest ongoing activity to fundraise for the community. Robert has been a committee member on the Tawa Residents’ Association for many years, he is one of the trustees on the Tawa Community Patrol, he helps replace the hanging baskets in the central shopping area twice a year, and he coordinates a neighbourhood barbecue in his own street in conjunction with Neighbours’ Weekend in Tawa each year. His unselfish contribution to the community of Tawa over many years has been up there with the very best.

And now to our final **EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE** award:

The story goes that a get-together was being organised for representatives of a whole bunch of community groups in Tawa. A Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves working bee organiser would be invited, along with a committee member from the Tawa Historical Society, plus a long-serving committee member from the Tawa Residents' Association. A representative from the relatively new Tawa Technology Trust would be invited too. It would also be useful having the Probus Club of Tawa vice-president on board and, for good measure, why not ask the chair of the Tawa Community Board to attend, as well as the president of the Rotary Club of Tawa. And so the invitations went out, but only one person turned up at the meeting – **Richard Herbert**. He was the only one who needed to. He filled all those roles. He is more than worthy of this presentation.