



COMMUNITY NEWS

Early May
2014

This community newsletter is sent out usually twice each month on behalf of tawalink.com, Tawa's community website which has been supported by the Tawa Residents' Association since 2002.

TAWA COMMUNITY CIVIC AWARDS NEXT MONTH!

Our local civic awards give us the chance to publicly thank those in the Tawa community who volunteer in some way or another to improve the quality of life for the rest of us.

Most of us know people who assist in sports clubs, schools, churches, or perhaps a community group. All you need to do is to forward their name and a few details of the community service they provide. In return the Tawa community will show its appreciation with a certificate which will be presented to them by the Mayor of Wellington at a special ceremony next month. The Tawa Community Board has run these awards every second year since 2006. Also included is the Tawa Rotary Young Employee Award.

Within the next few days you should receive the Tawa Community Board's printed newsletter in your letterbox. That newsletter will provide more information about the awards. It will also include a nomination form. You have the choice of completing that form or going online to nominate someone.

Now's the time to put on your thinking cap and figure out who to nominate! There are seven categories:

ARTS AND CULTURE

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

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Providing services which enhance the wellbeing of people

HERITAGE & ENVIRONMENT

Improving or revitalising the environment, culture or heritage

SPORT & LEISURE

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

EDUCATIONAL AND CHILD/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Improving and enhancing the development of young people and children

YOUTH (15-24 YEARS)

Celebrating and recognising young people who provide outstanding service within the community of Tawa

TAWA ROTARY YOUNG EMPLOYEE AWARD (17-24 YEARS)

Displaying energy and enthusiasm in undertaking workforce responsibilities

2012 nominees



CELEBRATION OF THE COMPLETION OF THE TAWA VALLEY PATHWAY

The Tawa Valley Pathway (Ara Tawa) is the 5km shared pathway running between Willowbank Park at the south end of Tawa and Kenepuru Railway Station in the north.

From Mayor Celia Wade-Brown: “This project is a terrific example of the Tawa community [the Porirua Stream Walkway committee] coming to Council with an idea, which we developed under our 2008 cycling policy and boosted with the increase in funding in 2010. The shared path’s completion will encourage more people to walk and cycle in their neighbourhoods.”

The New Zealand Transport Agency has funded just over half of the \$4.2 million project. As at early May, all that is left to be completed is the new bridge across the stream at Willowbank.

The pathway is a great asset for local walkers and cyclists. You’re invited to celebrate its completion at a special fun day at Grasslees Reserve on Sunday 18 May starting at 1pm.

The occasion is also about celebrating the upgrade of Grasslees Reserve. There will be “family fun” comprising treasure hunts, sausage sizzle, skate competitions and more! You’re welcome along.

SUGGESTIONS REGARDING CYCLING IN TAWA

What would make you happy – or happier – in regard to cycling in Tawa?

Wellington City Council is talking to community groups and developing a cycle network blueprint for Tawa, to capture how Tawa locals want to make the suburb more cycle-friendly. See the Council’s website <<http://wellington.govt.nz/services/parking-and-roads/cycling/we-support-cycling>> for information.

The blueprint will build on the Tawa Valley Pathway, and identify locals’ priority routes and standards for improvement. It will help the Council plan future work and achieve the best cycling improvements in the most efficient way.

Bring your ideas on Sunday 25 May to the Tawa Cycling Blueprint “Have A Say Day”, 1–4pm at the Tawa Community Centre.

SUPPORTING LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS

As in previous years, four members of the Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade are competing in the Firefighters Sky Tower Stair Challenge in order to raise funds for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand (LBC) - the national charity dedicated to supporting patients and their families living with blood cancers like leukaemia and related blood conditions. They receive no government funding.

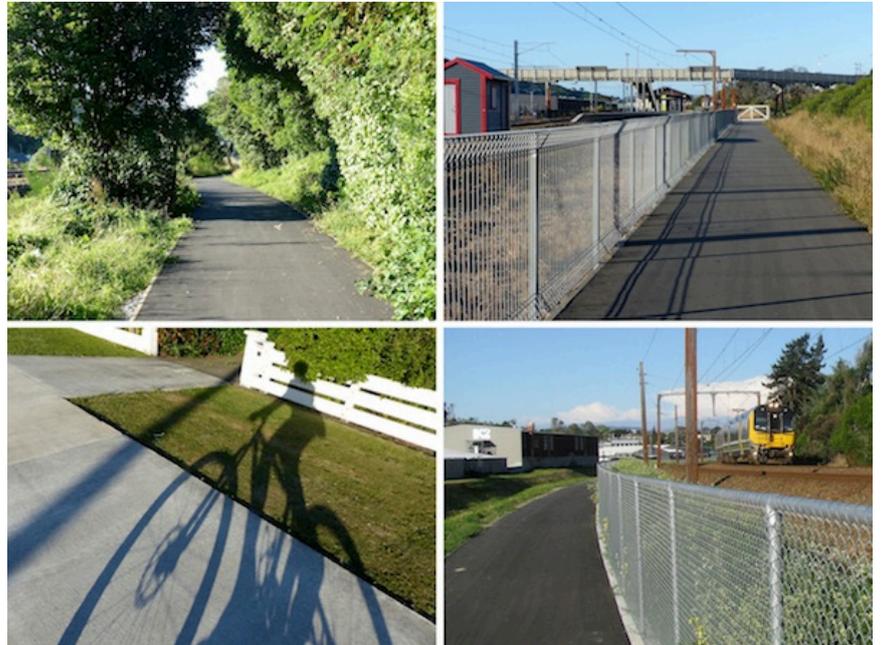


The climb is in Auckland on Saturday 17 May. Members of the Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade have been out doing bucket shakes at both Dressmart and at New World Tawa.

Members of the community can donate online (and receive a tax receipt by email).

See <http://my.leukaemia.net.nz/TeamPage.aspx?EventID=43889&LangPref=en-CA&TeamID=69358>

Tawa members competing are Senior Firefighter John Pitchford (4th time - at right in photo), Station Officer Mark Osborne (3rd time – at left in photo), Firefighter David Logan (2nd time), Senior Firefighter Craig Robertson (1st time).



WORKSHOPS FOR ORGANISERS OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

There are two great workshops for organisers of community events and programmes coming up:

GET SET GO - Find out everything you need to know about running a community recreation programme or event. Friday 23 May 2014, 9am-12.30pm.

SPREAD THE WORD – How to effectively promote your community event or programme. Wednesday 11 June 2014, 9am-12.30pm.

Being held at Newtown Park function room. \$40 voluntary organisations, \$60 government or business organisations. For info and registration contact: daphne.pilaar@wcc.govt.nz.

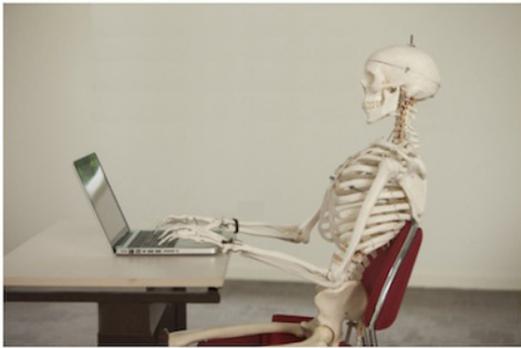
CAN YOU HELP WITH PLANTING?

There's an opportunity for you to help with community planting at Willowbank Reserve in the not-too-distant future.

Following the removal of the pine trees last year, the first tranche of replanting of 1000 native trees is planned by the WCC for Wednesday morning 21 May, commencing from about 8am until finished – in the vicinity of the track down from the end of Taylor Terrace. Members of the local community are encouraged to come along and help.

Bring a planting spade and boots and clothing suitable for the weather (wet or fine). For further information contact Richard Herbert 027 445 5942 or herbert.r@xtra.co.nz.

Perfect Posture?



- Sit better
- Relieve pain
- Quiet your racing mind
- Relax and enjoy some quiet time just for you

Improve your posture, coordination and efficiency; in movement and in life.

Series of weekly movement classes starts Tuesday

For more information feel free to contact me

Janine Archer

Registered Feldenkrais® Practitioner

Janine@janinearcher.co.nz

Book now 021 111 2820



USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT TAWA

Statistics from the 2013 census are now available. They show that:

- The population of Tawa (including Grenada North and Takapu Valley) is 14,175. That's 6.95% of the total population of Wellington city.
- 26.5% of Tawa's population is under the age of 18 (compared with 23.5% for the rest of the Wellington region), 20.4% is 18-34 (compared with 23.6%), 36.4% is 35-59 (34.5%), and 16.6% is 60+ (18.4%).
- 72.3% of Tawa residents were born in New Zealand. Of those born overseas, UK-born residents make up the biggest group, 6.96% of Tawa residents. 2.89% of Tawa residents were born in the Philippines (almost three times as many as recorded in the 2006 census), 2.06% in South Africa, 2.01% in Fiji, and 1.92% in India.
- On census day, 50.0% of Tawa residents drove a car, truck or van to work. 21.8% caught the train, 3.1% walked or jogged, 1.3% travelled by bus, 0.8% biked, 4.9% worked at home, and 10.8% didn't go to work!

COMING UP WITH TOASTMASTERS IN TAWA

SPEECHCRAFT COURSE

Become a Better Speaker and a Confident Presenter with this fun 6 week course (limited places) designed to help you improve your public speaking and presentation skills from 7 May – 11 June 7.30pm – 9.30pm at Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge St, Tawa. Contact Maya to register now on 478 9466, or email maya.fengshui@paradise.net.nz.

LIBRARY DISPLAY

From 25 May – 5 June you can find out the history of Toastmasters in Tawa (local club since 1972 – more than 40 years), the Toastmasters Story, and pick up a free magazine to take home with you. All at the Mervyn Kemp Library, Tawa.

OPEN MEETING

On 9 June Tawa Toastmasters are holding an open meeting (free entry) with high profile guest speaker Kim Chamberlain. Kim is an experienced coach for women and a professional communicator and has lived and worked internationally on three different continents; in Europe, Africa, and now has returned to Wellington. Kim took her first steps towards public speaking at Tawa Toastmasters years ago and will give a talk on presentation techniques that she learned outside of toastmasters.

During this evening you will also hear other experienced speakers of our club present and you will get a feel of what Toastmasters is all about. An opportunity not to be missed!

To find out more about these special 3 TREATS see the following websites:

<http://tawa.toastmastersclubs.org/> <http://www.successfulspeaking.biz/home/>

A BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD WITH STREETBANK!

Streetbank is a website that gives neighbours the opportunity to lend, give away or offer items and skills to anyone living within two or three kilometres of their home. People simply sign up with their postcode, add at least one item or skill they would like to share, and they can see everything offered by their Streetbank neighbours. All for free.

Streetbank works like a giant garden shed, tool-kit, fancy dress chest, skills bank, DVD collection and library all rolled into one. With thousands of members across the UK and starting to grow in New Zealand, the organisation is living proof that community spirit is alive and well.

People can make use of it however they wish. Some want to save money, for others it's about living more sustainably and for others still it's about getting to know their neighbours. In a world where the annual average usage for a household drill is 14 minutes, it makes sense to share more on a purely practical level, if nothing else.

And share more is exactly what Streetbank members are doing. People have lent each other lawnmowers, bikes and gorilla costumes; they've given away microwaves, sofas, pianos and freshly baked bread; they've helped each other move house, grow vegetables, write CVs, hula hoop and that's just the start.

Streetbank, although practical, fun and economical is, at heart, about reconnecting community, alleviating loneliness, and making society a little less independent.

Time to check out who's in your Streetbank neighbourhood and get sharing today: www.streetbank.com.

streetbank
share things with your neighbours



60 SECONDS WITH Margaret Lucas

Margaret has been deputy chair of the Tawa Community Board since November 2013. She has been a community board member since October 2010.

Early life Born in Lower Hutt.

Lived in Tawa since 2002.

Family Married to Murray with two boys, Caleb & Nathanael, both at university, Otago & Auckland.

Work experience over the years

Taught in primary schools for 11 years (including 8 years in a Catholic school in Wainuiomata) and then part-time. Shifted to Levin for 6 years before coming to Tawa 12 years ago. Moved into special education, the past 8 years working as an itinerant advisory teacher supporting teachers of students with learning difficulties, and now studying towards becoming an educational psychologist.

Interests and hobbies

Faith, family, tramping family holidays, exercise (whether it be swimming, running or biking), golf, sewing, homecrafts, hospitality.

Which sports team(s)?

Started supporting Sheffield Wednesday [*English football team – Ed.*] because my son Caleb will be doing his medical elective alongside the team doctor. Passionate about watching whatever sports my kids are playing, whether it be football, lawn bowls or running a half marathon.

Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

The Kepler Track (Te Anau/Manapouri) – the views from the top are stunning and inspirational. Also Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes. We love doing the Nelson Walkers & Striders “Loop the Lake” event.

Why the community board, and what do you do on it?

Acting as an advocate to ensure that Tawa gets a fair deal from the Wellington City Council. I was originally encouraged by a group of people to stand for the board as their representative. I am currently working with Bruce Murray (Tawa Historical Society chair) towards getting a peace memorial in place in Tawa before next year’s WW1 centenary celebrations. It will commemorate Tawa people who have given their lives for their country.



Tawa Community Centre

A friendly place to pop in during the hours of 9am-1pm on weekdays, or hire a room or hall for your community group / birthday party / meeting at reasonable rates.

Like us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/TawaAndLindenCommunityCentres> or email mandy.russell@wcc.govt.nz and put ‘Join’ as the subject to receive regular updates.

DID YOU NOTICE ANYONE SUSPICIOUS?

Please cast your mind back to Anzac Day (Friday 25 April) at 6.20pm. If you noticed anyone hanging around the front of the ITM store towards the southern end of the Main Road, Tawa, the Police would be interested in hearing from you. The store suffered a break-in and power tools were tools stolen.

Assistance from members of the Tawa community in solving this would be appreciated.

Adios



Malcolm Sparrow

On behalf of TawaLink.com (supported by the Tawa Residents' Association)

"The large print giveth, but the small print taketh away." – Tom Waits

"Ten ways to get rid of the blues: Go out and do something for someone else, then repeat nine times."

"When these parenting years have passed, something precious will have flickered and gone out of my life. Thus I am resolved to enjoy every day that remains in this parenting era." – Dr James Dobson

Items for this newsletter should be sent to info@tawalink.com. Queries to 232 5030 or 027 232 2320. Please type in email Subject Line: "Item for Tawa newsletter".

This newsletter is emailed to around 1200 Tawa households, businesses, schools, churches and clubs/groups (anyone who has an interest in the community of Tawa), usually in the first and the third weeks of each month. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please send us an email requesting that your name be deleted from our list.

Back issues of the newsletter are available at www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html.

PLEASE BE AWARE that many of the items/articles in this newsletter have been sent through by members of the Tawa community and have been published "unedited". They may not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor.

From the Ed.

I like the fact that, in many respects, Tawa is a small town in its own right. People often refer to the sense of community here. That's exemplified by the fact that so many neighbourhoods make the effort to get together over Neighbours' Weekend in March. And every two years around 600-700 locals, both schoolkids and an adult choir, take part in the Tawa Schools' & Community Music Festival, with an audience of twice that number. Tawa (literally) goes to town with 12-13% of the local populace heading in to the Michael Fowler Centre for a superb evening's homegrown entertainment. That will be taking place again in September this year, with practices starting about three months before then.

In the words of Kieren Gera, a former Tawa College head girl: "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."

We're surrounded by hills, bushclad on one side, and walking tracks on both. The tranquil Takapu Valley is on our doorstep, a pleasant neck of the woods in which to get away from it all. Long may it stay that way!

We have a great train system into town, we now have an excellent shared pedestrian/cycle pathway from one end of the valley to the other, and this is an easy suburb in which to get about by car (or on foot, which many people use). If you need reminding that we're well away from the congestion of inner city Wellington, just take a cruise up Collins Ave as it heads into Greenacres. Horses on the other side of the fence and chooks wandering freely closely to



the roadway serve as confirmation, as Shona Murray so succinctly put it, of our "village atmosphere on the outskirts of a world-class city". Tawa really is a great place to live!

P.S. I took my first stroll across the classy new bridge at Grasslees today. The upgrade at the park is almost finished and it's looking very good!

