



COMMUNITY NEWS

Late 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.

THANKING THE VOLUNTEERS IN OUR MIDST!

Without the numerous volunteers who assist in our schools, churches, sports clubs and various community groups, we would be a lot worse off as a community! The least we can do is to show our appreciation for all their efforts!

You can do just that by nominating a local volunteer to receive a public thank you from the Tawa community along with an awards certificate from the Mayor of Wellington. The closing date for nominations is Friday 30 May. You can nominate



online at <http://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/committees/tawa-community-board/tawa-community-civic-awards> or deposit your nomination form in the box at the Library.

STAYING IN TOUCH IN TAWA – from the Ed.

This eNewsletter is currently sent out to around 1200 Tawa email addresses and to 75 “out-of-zoners”. The frequency was increased from once a month to twice a month in May 2011 (precisely three years ago).

The purpose of the newsletter is primarily to keep local people informed of what's happening in our community because only a limited amount is reported in the general media.

The main reason the newsletter's frequency was increased was because a once-a-month edition is less effective in making known the various events taking place in the community, and other news can be well out-of-date by the time it is reported.

However the demands of my new role mean that I am looking seriously at sending out the newsletter a little less often than I currently do. Fortunately I've become aware of a great way for the Tawa community to stay in touch more effectively than is currently the case! Read on

YOUR CHANCE TO BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY NETWORK

Most people like to know what's happening in their community, especially in Tawa.

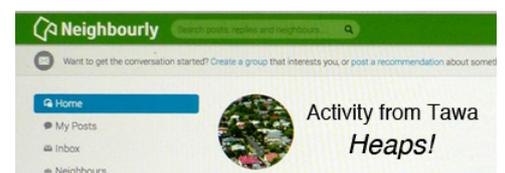
One of the most effective ways of staying in touch as a community is by means of a community website to which everyone can contribute. And now we have exactly that in Tawa (and it's free)!

- 😊 If you want to promote a community event, you can publicise it to the community straightaway!
- 😊 If you want to ask “everyone” to look out for your lost dog or stolen car, you can do so with no delay!
- 😊 If you need a hand with a particular project or in some other way, this is the place to ask!
- 😊 You can also list your community group on the site and keep the details up-to-date yourself!

WE NEED 1,000 TAWA RESIDENTS to sign up if it's to be effective in our community. In the first 2-3 days 90 Tawa people have joined!

Tawa is already a great community. This will help make it even better!

See the introductory video at <http://www.neighbourly.co.nz>.



CELEBRATING THE COMPLETION OF THE TAWA VALLEY PATHWAY

A special celebration attended by a considerable number of people (who knows how many?) was held at Grasslees Reserve last Sunday afternoon to celebrate the completion of the Tawa Valley Pathway and the Grasslees upgrade which includes a new playground, a pedestrian bridge and more.

Malcolm Sparrow (the MC) quoted from an April 2007 Tawa Community Board newsletter which referred to a public meeting being called the following month to look at the options for a new shared walkway in Tawa. And thus the project was born!

Tawa Valley Pathway committee chair Brett Gillies thanked members of his team whose efforts over the ensuing seven years have seen the project through to fruition.

Mayor Celia Wade-Brown spoke on behalf of the WCC who oversaw and funded the pathway (along with the NZTA). Many thanks to them.

It was a fitting occasion to celebrate the completed 5km pathway

- from Willowbank in the south to Kenepuru Station in the north - built for both cyclists and walkers to enjoy for many years to come.

P.S. See the article on page 4 entitled "The Pathway from Kenepuru Station to central Porirua".



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.

SHELTER AT TAWA STATION

An email from a Tawa resident expressing the following concerns about Tawa Station was sent to the Greater Wellington Region Council recently:

"The design of the station design seems to have significant shortcomings in its real purpose which is to give waiting passengers shelter. The openness of the design means that there is no shelter from the wind anywhere. It just eddies around the many open spaces, and it is a very miserable and cold, drafty place to wait, especially in winter.

It seems that the architects have not taken into account that the valley is a wind tunnel, exposed to all the prevailing winds and that this station bears the brunt of them all. It would be great if a few of the gaps could be filled in. Not a great expense surely for a bit more plastic strategically in place to divert those cold southerlies without jeopardising its openness which presumably is to prevent vandalism."

The response received from Greater Wellington Regional Council is as follows:

"The new Tawa Station building was built around a number of factors which included the provision of shelter and safety for users.

We have not received many complaints regarding the tunnel effect of the wind that comes through the valley, nevertheless it is always a challenge to eliminate the ingress of all weather while also adhering to important principles of personal security and resistance to vandalism.

When the building was designed the architect was encouraged to design the waiting area with the weather in mind, however they also had to think about the security of the area. Any element of enclosure tends to create an entrapment zone which we try to avoid under the crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) process.

The building we have now is far superior in terms of protection, as there is a central area which is well lit and under CCTV observation whereas previously there were just corners to retreat to in bad weather. Apart from the personal security issue it would be difficult to enclose the area without encouraging further graffiti and vandalism that happens at almost all rail stations throughout the region.

We will monitor the situation as winter progresses."

IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS about the lack of shelter at Tawa Station, please let us know at info@tawalink.com.



What would make you happy - or happier - to cycle in Tawa?

With the Tawa Valley Pathway – Ara Tawa complete, we're developing a plan to guide other possible cycling improvements in the area over the next 10 to 20 years.

Drop in and share your thoughts.

Sunday 25 May, 1–4pm
Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge Street

Or go to Wellington.govt.nz/cyclingsupport to complete the online survey.

For more information, phone 499 4444, email cycling@wcc.govt.nz or visit Wellington.govt.nz/cycling

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

THE PATHWAY FROM KENEPURU STATION TO CENTRAL PORIRUA

The following query was received from a local resident:

“As one who regularly cycles on the new [Tawa Valley] pathway I would suggest the main priority now is to lobby the Porirua City Council to get on and complete the pathway from Kenepuru to Porirua and thus connect with the pathways of Porirua, including Ara Harakeke. After rain this portion of track gets really muddy and with it being stony it is not good for road bikes.”

The gist of the Porirua City Council response is as follows:

The Porirua City Council had looked at constructing their part of the pathway before now. However they had been made aware that KiwiRail were going to be carrying out some substantial work near the railway line which would have had a major impact on the pathway. That work is nearing completion. Thus PCC have delayed starting the project until that aspect is dealt with.

PCC will start the construction work this year but do not currently have enough funds allocated. They would like to see it completed within a twelve-month timeframe but need to gain approval to bring forward the funding. There are no guarantees of that happening. A key factor will be whether all of the necessary funding is approved for all the work to be done in one twelve-month period. If that doesn't happen, it is likely to be spread out over a longer period.



UPPER COLLINS AVE

At the end of the most recent Tawa community newsletter, mention was made of the 'rural' aspect of upper Collins Ave. A local resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, subsequently sent through the following:

“Living on this road, we have watched the development of this hillside with interest over the years. When it was subdivided many years ago (perhaps 15+), the front section next to the road was bought by a person whom I've heard is a retired GP from Porirua. He built a ramshackle hut in which to practise piano and, for a long time, walks down the road were accompanied by various melodies.

The council eventually declared the hut 'unsafe' and he built another, but there has been no music for some years now - I assume the rain got to the piano!

There have been numerous sub-lets to assorted farmlet interests or horse grazing, and there have been pigs (on two occasions), goats and allsorts over the years, with regular checks from SPCA either giving a tick or making recommendations. One of the houses directly opposite on Collins Ave has people who assisted the owner to occasionally feed animals if he wasn't there for a bit.

A year or so ago a large male pig got out onto the road and my adult son & I cautiously tried to contain it whilst contacting police/SPCA! The pigs disappeared not long after! In the course of that event, I discovered the name of the owner. He turns up every morning to feed whatever is currently there.

I only know a fraction of the history, but the above is accurate as far as I'm aware. There have been no horses for several years now, only cockerels which still regularly crow to announce the morning and chooks to wander the berms and even incautiously cross the road. Why does the chicken cross the road, when its source of food is on one side only?

The latest update is that I haven't seen or heard the cockerels over the last week or two - perhaps they have now gone also. Plenty of hens about still.”



greenacres school

23 May, 7.30pm

QUIZ night

GREENACRES SCHOOL HALL

brought to you
by the letter **N**

Register early with your 'N' team name
\$10 per person

PRIZES for best-dressed 'N' team, PLUS spot prizes & raffles

Teams of 6-8, Individuals & couples welcome.
Register at school office.
Bring gold coins for quiz questions

nibbles provided • BYO drinks

TAWA ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

A Programme of
Classical European

Beauty

Mozart / Symphony No. 25
in G minor, K. 183
Wieniawski / Violin Concerto No. 2
in D minor, op. 22
Tchaikovsky / Romeo and Juliet
Fantasy Overture



TAWA COLLEGE HALL
Sunday 8 June at 2pm
Admission by koha / donation

Conductor: Andrew Atkins

Violin Soloist: Laura Barton (NZSM)

Concert Master: Maria Sydor

The marriage course

Come for a date night with a purpose

Make your good marriage great
Your great marriage even better

Learn new communication skills
Diary in time for yourselves (7 sessions)

Wednesday nights in the Emmaus Centre
(behind St. Christopher's church)

28 May	7.00pm	Dinner
4 June	7.30pm	Dessert
11 June	7.30pm	Canapés
18 June	7.30pm	Dessert
25 June	7.30pm	Canapés
2 July	7.30pm	Dessert
9 July	7.00pm	Dinner

Cost \$75 per couple (includes book and all the above)
(Subsidy available)

For more information contact
Rev Terry McIvor 021 242 1822 or
Office 232 8448

Registrations to the church office by Friday 23 May

(Alpha marriage course)



Guys, time to get fit?

**You need to come to one of
our group fitness sessions!**

Contact David on 021 257 9963 or
email david@360degreefitness.co.nz
to register!

Session locations vary so get in touch to find out
which session suits you! Times are below:

Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
10.30-11.30am	6.15-7.15am 10.00-11.00am	6.15-7.15am 10.30-11.30am 2.30-3.30pm	10.00-11.00am
	4.00-5.00pm		

THANKS FROM TAWA RSA

Tawa RSA would like to thank the Tawa community and businesses for all their support and contributions during Poppy Week 2014. The funds raised in Tawa during Poppy Week are available for the welfare and support of all local Tawa Veterans and their families, regardless of membership of the Tawa RSA.

MANA ARTS SOCIETY QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY EXHIBITION

The exhibition is being held at our clubrooms at Plimmerton Domain from 31st May – 2nd June and is open from 10.00am-4.00pm. All works will be for sale and we usually have an excellent variety of paintings.

WORKSHOP FOR ORGANISERS OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

There is a great workshop for organisers of community events and programmes coming up:

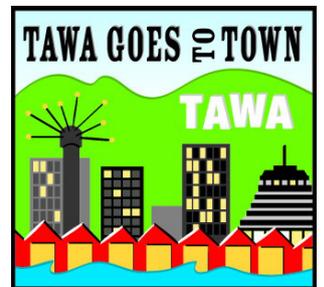
SPREAD THE WORD – How to effectively promote your community event or programme. Wednesday 11 June 2014, 9am-12.30pm.

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.

TAWA MUSIC FESTIVAL – YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN THE SINGERS

The Tawa Schools and Community Music Festival, Tawa Goes To Town, is happening on Tuesday 23 September in the Michael Fowler Centre. This event (now biennial) was established in 1979.

The 2012 show included 700 members of the Tawa community in the production, plus many more behind the scenes. The production team remains the same this year with Murray Cameron as the Musical Director, Jean Hollier, Producer, and Sara Scott, Choreographer.



Students from all the Tawa schools in year 5 or higher will have the opportunity to be involved and will start their rehearsals soon. The rehearsals for the adult choir will be on Sunday afternoons, 4–5.30pm in the Music Department at Tawa College, starting on Sunday 15 June. The music cost will be \$15 per person (applies to adult choir). All welcome! Enquiries to Jean Hollier: GJnZ@xnet.co.nz

CLEANING UP THE STREAM AT WILLOWBANK

Since the June 2013 storm the stream that runs under the bridge in Willowbank Park at the end of Taylor Tce has been full of rubbish and items blown down from the motorway. The bush and scrub is also full of litter. The WCC and some volunteers have just completed planting 1,000 trees over this area and it is starting to look good again.

A local resident intends to organise a weekend working bee to clean all the rubbish up. The WCC will help by supplying sacks and taking away the rubbish. The working bee will be organised for one weekend in June. Anyone like to help? Email info@tawalink.com to find out more.

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.

60 SECONDS WITH Graeme Hansen

Graeme has been a member of the Tawa Community Board since 2007.

Early life Born in Hamilton (go the Mooloos - except when playing Wellington).

Lived in Tawa since 1984

Family Married to Helen with three adult children and four grandchildren.

Work experience over the years

Since leaving school I've always worked in the insurance industry - in claims, commercial risk and underwriting. In 2001 I started my own insurance agency, working with businesses, and have been self-employed ever since.

Interests and hobbies

Justice of the Peace, Tawa Catholic Church Finance Committee Chair, Coordinator and member of the Porirua Nominated Adult Group (CYP&F Act); football referee, travel, photography, armchair motorsport and football fan.

Which sports team(s)?

Phoenix Football Club member, Hurricanes & Waikato/Chiefs supporter. English football club - Manchester United.

Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Auckland and Christchurch - both for family reasons.

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

I wanted to work for my community. I was at a stage in life when I had the time to work as an advocate. Personally I am keen to see better public transport and roading, including safe cycleways to the city. Deputy Chair of Tawa Community Board from 2007 to 2013.

Responsibilities: Roding, Tawa Grants.



KIDS CROSS COUNTRY SERIES

A partnership with local clubs.

The Kids Cross Country Series run by Athletics Wellington and local athletics clubs is back again this year. The events were very popular last year with up to 200 kids taking part. This year they've opened it up to the younger age groups with races now for year 1s through to year 8s (5 to 13 year olds). Held at various venues around the Wellington region, the events are heaps of fun and encourage children to give cross country a go.

The next event is Sunday 8 June at Trentham Memorial Park. Other venues are Sladden Park, Petone (July), Grenada North Park, Tawa (August) and Mt Victoria, Wellington (September). Children get their own personalised race bib if they enter 7 days prior to each event. With school cross country season in full swing it's a great opportunity to take part in these cross country events throughout the winter season. You don't need to be a club member to take part. Everyone is welcome.



For more details or to register go to www.athleticshub.co.nz or contact Jo Murray from Athletics Wellington at jo@athleticswellington.org.nz or 021 976116.

JIM HIGGINS – A TIRELESS VOLUNTEER RETIRES

Jim Higgins has tirelessly led the Tawa Community Police Volunteers as the Base Controller for 21 years. Jim is now relinquishing that role, but will still go down to the base to do occasional volunteering.

During this time Jim has worked under many Community Constables, Sergeants, Area Commanders and is recognised by the shop owners in Tawa who all know him personally. He has also received various awards in that time including a “Tawa Community Civic Award” in 2012, as shown in the photo.

We wish to thank Jim for all the hard work he has put into the Tawa community over the last 21 years.

– supplied by Terry Poynter who is the new Base Controller



Adios

Malcolm Sparrow

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



“Money can't buy happiness – unless you spend it on someone else.”

“If you were another person, would you like to be a friend of yours?”

“If Captain Cook had turned back no-one would have blamed him. No-one would have remembered him either.”

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 towards the end of the first week 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.

The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon John Key, and the Minister of Youth Affairs, the Hon Nikki Kaye, both spoke at a Youth Week 2014 event at Tawa College yesterday (Thursday), celebrating Youth Entrepreneurship.

