



COMMUNITY NEWS

August 2014

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

More regular community updates are available if you join 500 other Tawa residents on neighbourly.co.nz. You can opt for up-to-the-minute information or daily updates or weekly updates from that site.

WANT A STALL AT SPRING INTO TAWA MARKET DAY?

This year's "Spring into Tawa" Market Day will take place on Saturday 13 September.

There are good spaces still available if you as an individual or your club or school or church wishes to be involved in this year's event. Applications should be in by Friday 29 August. See www.tawalink.com/springintotawa2014.html for details or email tawaresidents@xtra.co.nz.

The event will feature various entertainment in addition to all the usual stalls. For more information contact Ray Lindsay on 027 442 1902.



KEEPING IN TOUCH IN TAWA

If you want to keep in touch with what's happening in the Tawa community, 'Neighbourly' is the place to be. This is where local people:

- share information
- promote community events
- ask questions
- make recommendations about local businesses
- sell or give stuff away

'Neighbourly' is a great site for connecting with other local people. 500 Tawa people are now part of the site!

Best of all, it's free! See www.neighbourly.co.nz.

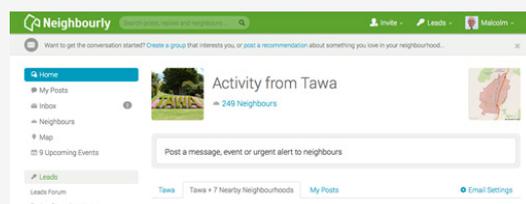


Q. WHAT'S HAPPENING ON 'NEIGHBOURLY'?

A. HEAPS!

Recent notices/queries:

- old Wellington trains - the ones with the red seats
- missing cat in Linden
- meditation for stress
- wanted - good quality infant toys
- volunteers urgently required for Kiwi Community Assistance
- any recommendations for a sparky?
- wanted - a learner percussionist
- free - good quality soil
- Tawa book clubs?
- Tawa RSA community bowls



Organisations & Groups:

- there's a separate section where local Organisations & Groups list their details

Coming Events in Tawa:

Tawa Historical Society AGM	- Wed 27 August
MMP - More Murder Please!	- Thu 28 August (first night)
SPCA Quiz Night	- Fri 29 August
The Famous RSA Karaoke Night	- Sat 30 August
Spring into Tawa Market Day	- Sat 13 September

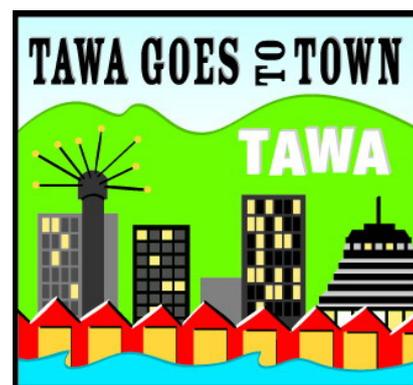
'Neighbourly' enables local people to share information with each other and to become a more "connected" community. See www.neighbourly.co.nz.



ARE YOU KEEPING UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TAWA?

GET YOUR TICKETS FOR 'TAWA GOES TO TOWN'

This biennial event is happening on Tuesday evening, 23 September at the Michael Fowler Centre. The Schools & Community Music Festival includes a choir from every school in Tawa, plus musicians and dancers from the schools and wider community. The show involves around 720 performers, plus all the wonderful people "behind the scenes", mostly from the Tawa community.



Tickets for 'Tawa Goes to Town' are now on sale at a cost of \$28 for an adult and \$14 for a child (14 years and under), available through Ticketek.

Keep the cost of your tickets to a minimum by buying as many as possible in one transaction via phone or internet – get the neighbours together, or direct from the box office – Michael Fowler Centre or St James.

Photo at left is from 'Tawa Goes to Town' 2012.

ADDITIONAL DEFIBRILLATOR SPONSORED FOR TAWA COMMUNITY

Harcourts Foundation Supports Community Patrol

The Harcourts Foundation has supplied an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for use by the Tawa Community Patrol. Harcourts Tawa Realty supported an approach to the Foundation by the Patrol and was pleased to officially hand over the AED unit to the Patrol in Tawa recently. Steve Loader, co-owner of Harcourts Tawa Realty, said the Community Patrol was regarded as a valued asset in the Tawa, Linden and Grenada North area where it operated in close liaison with Porirua Police.

Established in 2008, the Community Patrol now has 33 members and a patrol car equipped with communications equipment and basic emergency resources. The Patrol operates as the “eyes and ears” of the Police with the aim of providing a safer community for local residents.

“The new defibrillator will be a useful addition to the Patrol’s resources,” says Steve Loader, “and the local real estate agency is delighted that the Harcourts Foundation, a national body funded by Harcourts Agents, approved the funding application for the unit.”

There are now nine AEDs located at strategic locations in Tawa – Tawa Medical Centre, Mervyn Kemp Library, Tawa Community Centre, Tawa Fire Station, Outlet City, Drummond’s Pharmacy, 24/7 Fitness, Power Systems Consultants and the Community Patrol.

Wellington Free Ambulance supplied the AED to the Patrol and provided training in its use to the Patrol’s 33 members.

Photo (L to R): Community Constable Mel Clancey; Steve Loader, Harcourts; Mike Wynne-Jones, Harcourts; Michael Johnson, Patrol Co-ordinator; Robert Tredger, Chair, Tawa Community Board; Sergeant Jonathan Westrupp, NZ Police.



KIDS’ CROSS COUNTRY SERIES - NEXT EVENT IN TAWA

There’s a Kids’ Cross Country event for year 1 to year 8 students coming to Tawa on Sunday 31 August. It’s being held at Grenada North Park and is hosted by the local Olympic club.

There have been up to 400 young kids taking part in the series over the winter months, so come along and give it a go. You can even get a few friends together and form a team. Team and individual awards are on offer. Children get their own personalised race bib if they enter 7 days prior to each event.

You don’t need to be a club member to take part. Everyone is welcome. For more information or to enter go to www.athleticshub.co.nz or email jo@athleticswellington.org.nz or phone 021 976 116.



TAWA ART & CRAFT SOCIETY (INC) ANNUAL EXPO

The annual Expo will be held on Saturday 18 October 2014 at Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge St, 9am-3pm. Paintings, Pottery, Woodcraft, etc.

We have tables available. Contact Aileen - email aileenwood@hotmail.com or text 027 212 6024.

FRUIT & VEGE SHOP OPEN AGAIN

The following is an excerpt from an email which came through from a local resident late last week:

“Noticed that the vege shop [in the Main Road shopping centre] is now open again We would love our village shopping area to be vibrant and well supported and viable for the shop owners.”

And on the ‘Neighbourly’ site a few days ago:

“I popped into this new shop on Monday to scout out their prices and quality as a comparison before going to the supermarket. I was really impressed with both quality and price. The storekeeper was extremely friendly and happy to chat. Much of the produce is brought in twice a week from the growers in Levin so it is really fresh.”

And from the Ed.: I’ve now popped in to this store and had a brief chat with the manager, a youngish Asian man by the name of Jackie. I am also of the mindset that it’s good to support local businesses if we possibly can. Empty shop frontages in our main shopping area (and anywhere else in Tawa) are certainly something we want to avoid! Food for thought (pun not necessarily intended!).



BARBERSHOP SUCCESSES

Tawa College has achieved many successes with its barbershop quartets and choirs over the years. In national competitions held last week, the following results were achieved:

Acafellas (at right) were placed 1st in the Young Men in Harmony contest.

Maiden Tawa (below right) were 3rd in the Young Women in Harmony Contest.

Euphoria, a girls’ barbershop quartet from Tawa College, were placed 4th in the Young Women in Harmony Contest. (L to R) Dayanitha Angela, Emily Brieseman, Sara Malo Siolo, Jess Kerr. Photos courtesy of jojoE.photography.



On a slightly different note (pun definitely not intended), Wellington’s Vocal FX Men’s Barbershop Chorus, directed by Charlotte Murray of Tawa, were placed 10th in the International Contest in Las Vegas 2014, and last weekend won the National Pan Pac Contest, as well as being the champion men’s chorus in the New Zealand Association of Barbershop Singers this past Saturday evening.

ROTARY BOOK FAIR

This year’s Tawa Rotary Book Fair netted around \$18,500, after various expenses (mostly promotional costs) were deducted. Around half of the proceeds go to support Life Education Trust, the remainder to other (mostly local) charities. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of this annual community event!

**TAWA COMMUNITY THEATRE
PRESENTS**

ANOTHER DUBIOUS
REASON TO HEAD
BACK TO THE
POLLING BOOTH

- VOTE FOR LAUGHS
- VOTE FOR ...

MORE MURDER PLEASE!

BY 4M PRODUCTIONS

DIRECTED BY
MARGARET POTTER
& MARIE THOMSON

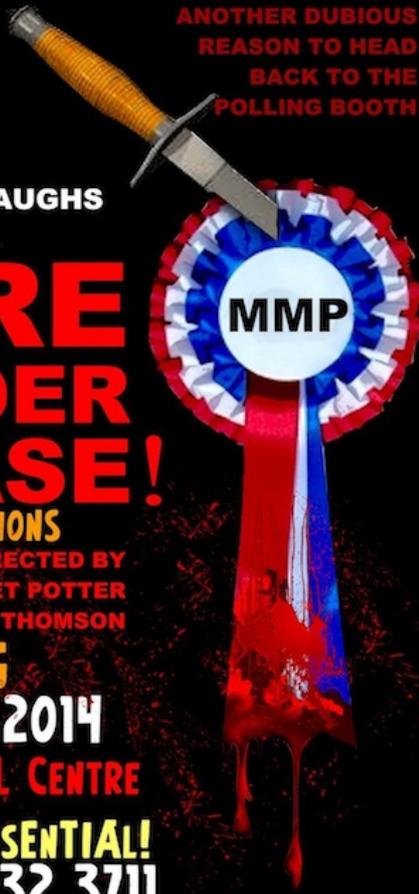
28-30 AUG
4-6 SEPT 2014

LINDEN SOCIAL CENTRE

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!
PH. 232 3711

TICKETS \$39ea - INCLUDES 3 COURSE MEAL
PLEASE BE SEATED BY 7.15 FOR 7.30 START

 Find us on Facebook: "Tawa Community Theatre"



SPCA Quiz Night

Host/MC'S SPECIAL
Six people at a table
for only \$40



Come along and bring your friends

Date: Friday 29 August 2014

Where: Tawa College Hall

Time: Doors open at 6.50pm

Quiz starts at 7pm to 9pm

Cost: \$10 per head, doorsales or you
can pay at the Tawa College Office

- Drinks and nibbles will be provided on the night
 - Food can be brought on the night
 - BYO accepted!!

Elections 2014

Make your vote an informed vote.

Meet the major candidates
for the Mana and Ohariu
electorates at a public
meeting at
Tawa Union Church,
6 Elena Place, Tawa
on Wednesday
September 10th @ 7pm.

Hear the candidates
talk about their background and about
some of their party's social policy.

Talk with candidates informally
over supper afterwards.

Organised by the Tawa Union Church Men's Group



Clubhouse: Taylor Park Complex
By Redwood Railway Station
Tawa
Phone: 232 5312

Junior Tennis Registration Club Open Day

Wednesday 3 September 3.30 - 5.30pm

Sunday 7 September 1 - 3pm

- Meet the Club Coaches
- Bring along your racquet and have a hit
- Registration for Junior Club Night,
Interclub and coaching



Junior Club Nights

Starts on Week 1 Term 4

Year 1 - 3: Fridays 3.30 - 4.30pm

Year 4 - Year 6: Fridays 4.30 - 5.30pm

Year 7 - Year 13: Wednesdays 4.30 - 6.30pm

Interclub coaching: Wednesdays

Junior Interclub

- Interclub is available on Saturdays and Sundays (depending
upon grade)
- Team entry is due on 14th September.

Junior Convenor: Julie Roberts
Phone: 232 9301
julieroberts33@gmail.com

Club Coach: Francis Glover
Phone: 0274 289 759
tennisinc.ltd@gmail.com

PEDESTRIAN LINK BETWEEN VICTORY CRES AND THE MAIN ROAD

Work is currently under way creating a path between the Main Road and Victory Crescent. This, according to the Wellington City Council, “..... is a further step in improving the pathway network in Tawa. By sealing this well-used link through the Victory Crescent Reserve we will enhance the local linkages to schools, parks, shops and other recreational facilities in the area.

A good example of this is the new five kilometres walking and cycling track linking Tawa and Porirua which runs alongside the Porirua Stream and was finished in April this year. It is great to see people already using and enjoying the Tawa Valley Pathway and reaping the lasting transport, health and safety benefits that it provides.

As part of the work we also plan to upgrade the ‘crossing’ at the bottom of the path across the Main Road to a full pedestrian crossing. This is a busy crossing and warrants further improvement to ensure the ongoing safety of pedestrians using it.

Whilst there will be some disruption during construction, it will be kept to a minimum and access to homes will be maintained at all times.”



FROM TAWA RESIDENT GERDA SMIT

I tutor painting classes one on one for people with disabilities/cancer/chronic pain ... depression.

It works like this. They book between 1-2 hours with me on a day that they feel well enough to go out. I do not mind if they have to cancel a class when they do not feel up to it. It is in my home studio so they can be creative at their own pace. Most people find it like therapy.

I have ME/CFS, so totally understand their everyday struggle. That’s why I only book one session a day. It is my way of paying forward. Cost is \$15/hour.

See <http://gerdasmitart.blogspot.co.nz>.

HOT OFF THE PRESS: TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD CHALLENGE CUP

Students from the six primary schools in Tawa – Greenacres, Hampton Hill, Linden, Redwood, St Francis Xavier and Tawa – take part in various inter-school competitions four or five times a year.

The Tawa Community Board has now sponsored the “Tawa Community Board Challenge Cup” which is presented to the winning school at the end of each contest.

This morning (Wednesday) an inter-school swimming competition involving all six schools took place at Tawa Pool. The overall winner on the day was Redwood School.



The cup was presented to students from the winning school by Tawa Community Board chair Robert Tredger (pictured) and WCC councillor Malcolm Sparrow (photographer). Seen above are Year 6 Redwood students Charlotte, Chelsea and Neiko. Well done to them and to all the others who took part!

60 SECONDS WITH Jack Marshall

Jack has been a member of the Tawa Community Board since October 2013 and is the youngest member of the board. He has been a member of the Wellington City Youth Council for the last six years, and Chair for the past two.

Jack was the winner of the Youth (15-24 years) category at the Tawa Community Civic Awards ceremony in June this year.

Early life Born in Christchurch.

Lived in Tawa since the age of three (16 years).

Family Living at home with Mum, Dad, two sisters and a cat. I also have a brother who is currently living in Finland.



Education

I completed all of my schooling in Tawa. Started at Redwood School, then Tawa Intermediate. Went to Tawa College (and really enjoyed it). Currently in my second year, of five, at Victoria University, studying Law, Political Science and International Relations, which I am really enjoying.

Interests and hobbies

Currently on the Wellington City Youth Council, advocating for young people in Wellington City is a big interest. Also a Civil Defence volunteer for WREMO (Wellington Region Emergency Management Office). I like to read when I can.

Which sports team(s)?

Big Black Caps follower after playing many years of cricket when I was younger. Hurricanes and Phoenix watcher when I can.

Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Probably Kaikoura. Close enough to see my extended family in Christchurch, whilst still quiet, warm and relaxed.

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

I wanted to ensure that the voice of young people in Tawa was heard. I'm really enjoying being on the Board. I am currently advocating for the Board to take steps to ensure the long term future of Tawa, so that our community is fostered and enhanced, well into the future. As a young person, thirty years into the future is when I could potentially have a family, and I want my children to be able to grow up in the Tawa that I did, a caring community with its own identity.

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.

Adios

Malcolm Sparrow

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



"Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow." – Jeff Valdez

"Politics is not the art of the possible. It consists in choosing between the disastrous and the unpalatable."
– John Kenneth Galbraith

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 near the start 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.

For back issues of the newsletter, see 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.

On a personal note

A little time away from New Zealand can make one appreciate what we have going for us here. On the whole we do have it pretty good in this farflung corner of the world!

Karen and I returned earlier this month from a 30 days overseas holiday. We spent time in each of California, Kent, London, Berlin, Vienna, Venice, Rome and Hong Kong, plus a short stint on the Mediterranean. The latter was very relaxing and a welcome break.

I made a few mental notes along the way as to what was great about the places we visited, and what I realise I actually appreciate about life back here, aspects of day-to-day living in New Zealand which we so often take for granted.



What's great about Europe:

- The history and so many marvellous old buildings, especially in the likes of Vienna, and even more so in Rome. I enjoy wandering around both English country villages and narrow alleyways in Italian cities, along which scooter riders roar, narrowly dodging errant pedestrians! As for Venice and its canals, it really is unique and well worth a visit!
- The public transport systems. We rode underground trains, overground trains, buses, trams, a gondola, and even a taxi (once!).



I was intrigued by the number of cyclists in Berlin. Ordinary people wearing ordinary clothes (i.e. no lycra) and mostly no helmets. And we both enjoyed biking with our former German exchange student in Potsdam (near Berlin) sans helmet!

- The weather. We struck it good most of the time, regularly 25-32 degrees. After all, it was mid-summer and consistently warm/hot, apart from a brief period in England during which the jersey came out for the only time.
- The vibrancy in the evenings. Wander the touristy parts of town mid-evening and you'll be just one of hundreds also doing so. Nice to peruse the shops and outdoor stalls well into a warm evening, or to dine outside and watch the world go by!

- Hearing absolutely nothing about a certain 'Dotcom' individual for one whole month was a real bonus!



What's so great about returning to NZ:

- The friendliness of the average Kiwi. People serving in stores and restaurants in New Zealand are generally very pleasant. At the local supermarket the checkout operators are friendly and often downright chatty, and we don't give it a second thought! In some overseas cities those providing a service are very matter-of-fact, doing the job they need to do but with little, or no, customer rapport. In our experience that happened more often than not! A distinct contrast to the friendly service we take for granted here. Often foreigners visiting this country make comments along the same lines. Long live that cheerful Kiwi demeanour!
- There being only 4.4 million of us means we don't have to jostle for space on the street or jump the queue to get ahead. We're not as 'pushy' as some peoples and we're pretty orderly when it comes to waiting in line. And our lines are never all that long in any case, well not compared with many overseas!
- Knowing that the advertised price in a store or more particularly a restaurant is the total price! It's refreshing not having to pay a 'mandatory' service charge of 15% on top of the advertised price or, on occasion, a surcharge (albeit just a few euros) on top of the service charge which is already on top of the advertised price!
- The knowledge that most (although admittedly not all) car drivers stop for pedestrians on pedestrian crossings in this country. In some European cities I asked myself why they even bothered painting crossings on the road. I didn't have an answer. The vast majority of drivers have no intention of stopping for pedestrians. Fortunately most do here. The white stripes on the road actually serve a purpose!
- And last, but not necessarily least, the fact that cigarette smoking is much less acceptable in many aspects of NZ society than it is in parts of Europe. It's banned in many more places here, which is great for those of us who prefer clean air!

In summary, we have so much going for us here! Many overseas places are great to visit, to enjoy a holiday and to experience the differences, before coming home with a greater appreciation of what's so good about our very own backyard and the Kiwi way of life, warts and all!

