

TAWA COMMUNITY NEWS



Christmas 2014

This community newsletter is sent out early 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 more than 990 other Tawa residents on neighbourly.co.nz. You can opt for daily updates or weekly updates from that site.

'TOOT FOR TUCKER' IN TAWA

Helpers from Rotary, Lions, Salvation Army, Scouts and, of course, the Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade were out on the streets of Tawa last Monday evening with sirens blaring and horns tooting to encourage people to bring out cans of food and other non-perishables for the Tawa Food Bank.

The first night's collection took place the previous Thursday. Over the two evenings a total of 4515 items of food were collected, an increase of more than 40% on last year, and \$760 came in as donations.

Many thanks to all who assisted, and to all who contributed and played a part in making Christmas hopefully a little 'easier' for those who need it most.



TAWA PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards ceremony was held by the Tawa Community Board recently. The awards, first run in 2011, recognise "true leadership, citizenship, contribution to school life, etc" at each of Tawa's six primary schools, plus the Intermediate.

The Mayor of Wellington, Celia Wade-Brown, presented each winning Year 6 (or Year 8) student with a small trophy, a laminated certificate, and a book voucher from Take Note Tawa.

A wooden shield with the winner's name engraved on it each year, was handed back to the school principal or a staff representative. This is displayed on the wall in the office block in the schools.

A framed photo of each individual student receiving their awards from the Mayor has since been presented to them.

L to R (Year 6 unless mentioned otherwise): Amelia Cameron, Greenacres School; Tayne McMahon, Yr 8 Tawa Intermediate; Harrison Wong, Redwood; Julianna Hennessey, Tawa School; Mayor Celia Wade-Brown; Terepai McDougall, Hampton Hill; Isabel Warden, Yr 8 Tawa School; Stephanie Viliamu-Letalu, Linden School; Analisa Ewens, Yr 8 Tawa Intermediate; Anastasia Edwards, St Francis Xavier.

At left is Cr Malcolm Sparrow and, at right, Tawa Community Board Chair Robert Tredger.



TAWA LIONS CHRISTMAS PARADE

Thanks to everyone who was involved in making this the best Tawa Christmas Parade yet, with an impressive turnout to watch the many participants go by.

It was great to see a wide range of individuals and community groups taking part, school groups, church groups, dancing schools, the MG club (who are there year after year), Steve Mulholland with his llamas, Tawa Community Board members, the Mayor herself and, of course, the jolly fellow in the red suit on the last float.

Thanks to the Lions Club of Tawa for organising the occasion. It really was superb.



TAWA GIRLS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



Congratulations to the Tawa College 1st XI girls cricket team for winning the NZCT secondary schools national finals in Palmerston North last week. Tawa College scored 100/4, beating Whangarei Girls High School on 36/5, with Amelia Kerr, 50 not out, (pictured at left) being declared MVP of the tournament.



NEIGHBOURS' DAY IN TAWA

In March 2015 we'll once again be making a big weekend of "Neighbours' Day Aotearoa" in Tawa. The aim is to have more than 50 streets in this neck of the woods getting together with their neighbours in some way or another any weekend that month – maybe just having fish & chips together, sharing brunch, or rolling out a few barbecues to cook and eat together.

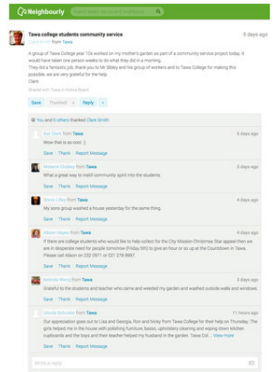
It's always a good time and a great way to get to know neighbours and make your street a better place in which to live.



TAWA COLLEGE COMMUNITY SERVICE ON 'NEIGHBOURLY'

In the last newsletter we mentioned that Tawa College Year 10 students would be working in the local community to assist those who are “senior, disabled or genuinely need a hand with essential work that needs doing at your place.”

That took place earlier this month. The following ‘conversation’ subsequently took place on Tawa’s Neighbourly website – verifying the effectiveness of the community service provided by those students, and the effectiveness of that community website.



PERSON 1: *A group of Tawa College year 10s worked on my mother’s garden as part of a community service project today. It would have taken one person weeks to do what they did in a morning. They did a fantastic job, thank you to Mr Sibley and his group of workers and to Tawa College for making this possible, we are very grateful for the help.*

PERSON 2: *What a great way to instill community spirit into the students!*

PERSON 3: *My son’s group washed a house yesterday for the same thing.*

PERSON 4: *Grateful to the students and teacher who came and weeded my garden and washed outside walls and windows.*

PERSON 5: *Our appreciation goes out to the students from Tawa College for their help on Thursday. The girls helped me in the house with polishing furniture, basso, upholstery cleaning and wiping down kitchen cupboards, and the boys and their teacher helped my husband in the garden. Tawa College has been assisting the community for a long time now and I’m sure it is the 5th year in a row that I have had the students come and do a marvelous job. I always provide them with morning tea and they appreciate the gesture in return. Do continue your good work, it is very much appreciated. Thank you!*

PERSON 6: *Hi Person 5, I’m [the mother of one of the students who worked at your place]. She appreciated the morning tea and mentioned it when she got home. I think it would be great if it was something that happened a little more often in our community. Whether she realises it or not, I believe she got something out of doing the community service last week. Also have to say I love how this website makes our community closer in this way!*

PERSON 5: *Thank you Person 6, they are such lovely young ladies and I enjoyed the time I spent with them as I don’t have daughters of my own. It was good to be in their company and have a laugh. Yes I agree, this website is awesome!*

TAWA COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Tawa Community Board has \$15,000 to be made available to worthy local causes. The Tawa Community Grants Fund is designed to assist voluntary projects in Tawa. Grants may be for charitable, educational, welfare, community development, cultural, recreational, sporting, activity development, equipment or training programmes. Grants may also be given to people representing New Zealand in a recognised sporting or cultural event. Applications close 28 February 2015.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be based in Tawa
- not have excess reserve funds
- show that their project will directly benefit the Tawa community
- meet all criteria on the Tawa Community Grants application form

For further details, see <http://wellington.govt.nz/services/community-and-culture/funding/council-funds/tawa-community-grants> or call the WCC grants team on 803 8525.

NEW PRINCIPAL AT LINDEN SCHOOL

The Linden School community is proud to announce Gaylene Hill as their new principal for 2015. Gaylene was a Tawa resident for over 30 years until recently. Linden School is looking forward to an exciting new start to 2015 with Mrs Hill at the helm.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN TAWA

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day - details on this page.



**Celebrating Christmas 2014
with
Tawa Churches**

Community Christmas Service

Hosted by
Tawa Baptist and Salvation Army Churches
Tawa College Hall (Duncan St)
9.30 am Christmas Day

Anglican Church

St Christopher's: Cnr Main & Lyndhurst Rds., Tawa
Christmas Eve, 6pm Christingle Family Service
Christmas Eve, 10.30pm Carols and Communion
Christmas Day, 10am Family Worship & Communion

St Peter's: Cnr Collins Ave & Hinau St., Linden
Christmas Day, 8.30am Traditional Communion Service

Baptist Church

225 Main Rd, Tawa
Christmas Eve, 8.00pm "Carols, Candles and Cake" Service

Catholic Parish (Our Lady of Fatima Church)

169 Main Rd, Tawa
Christmas Eve, 7.00pm Family Mass
Christmas Eve, 11.30pm Carols and Midnight Mass
Christmas Day, 10.30am Christmas Day Mass
31 December, midnight New Year's Eve Midnight Mass
1 January, 9am New Year's Day Mass

Linden Samoan Assembly of God

St Peter's Church, Cnr Collins Ave & Hinau St., Linden
Christmas Eve, 8pm—12 midnight Service (In Samoan)
31 Dec. 9pm-12 midnight New Year's Eve Service (In Samoan)

New Life Church

236 Main Rd,
Christmas Eve, 6.30pm Christmas Eve Service

Union Church

6 Elena Pl, Tawa
Christmas Eve, 11.30pm Candlelight Carol Service
Christmas Day, 9am Christmas Day Service

Porirua & Kenepuru Hospital

24 Upper Main Rd (next to Hospital Museum)
Christmas Eve, 6.30pm-Christmas Carols (Kenepuru Hospital)
Christmas Day, 9.30am-Christmas Service (Chapel)



Christingle Service Dec 24, 6 pm

**St Christopher's Anglican Church
Tawa**

A service for the young at heart
celebrating Jesus: the light of the world
Hear the Christmas story
Sing carols
Receive your own Christingle (Christ Light)

Light supper to follow

Celebrate Christmas With Us Tawa-Linden Anglican Church

Christmas Eve
10.30pm
Carols and Communion
St Christopher's Tawa

Christmas Day
8.30 am
Eucharist
St Peter's Church, Linden

Christmas Day
10.00am
Family Service with Communion
St Christopher's Church, Tawa

Christmas Fun Day
22 Dec 9.15am—2.30pm.
For ages 5-11.
Crafts, games, stories, DVDs,
lots of fun. \$15 per child.
Bookings essential - contact
Hayley ph 232 9433



60 SECONDS WITH Charlotte Murray

“Charlotte Murray has been a mentor and friend to the Musical Island Boys since they began performing together and her wise words have provided a path for their stunning success.” These were the words from the Mayor when Charlotte and the Musical Island Boys barbershop quartet were presented with Absolutely Positive Wellingtonian Awards in August following their gold medal win earlier this year at the International Barbershop Quartet in Las Vegas. Like her mother Shona, Charlotte plays a big part in music in Tawa.



Early life: Born in Wellington

Lived in Tawa: since I was born. I lived for one year in Wellington City as a university student and then two years in Japan as an English teacher. They are the only years I haven't lived in Tawa.

Family: Married to Steve with one son and two daughters. Micah 13, Lily 11 and Ava 8.

Work Experience over the years

I have been a Music and Japanese teacher at Tawa College since 1998.

Interests and hobbies

My main interest is barbershop singing. I direct two barbershop choruses at Tawa College and Vocal FX who are the NZ Chorus Champions. I love encouraging people to get involved with singing. I also enjoy performing and I sing in a mixed barbershop quartet called Charlie's Angels.

Favourite sports person?

Probably Richie McCaw. He is a person who seems to walk the walk. The mental and physical strength he displayed during the last World Cup inspired me.

Favourite individual singer?

Karen Carpenter. She has the most beautiful voice I have ever heard.

Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

The destination that takes my breath away is the area around Queenstown. It is majestic.

What accomplishments/achievements in your life give you the most satisfaction/pride?

I love seeing people realise their talents and potential. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing someone grow in confidence and recognise they are special and they have something to offer this world. I guess that is why I love teaching so much.

I am extremely thankful for the people that have become part of my life because of my involvement with music. This is the best reward for involving yourself in any community.

Lastly I am very thankful for my close knit family. One of life's best rewards is seeing those you love enjoying spending time together.

What are two or three things you would like to do before you die?

Meet each of my grandchildren.

Travel to countries I haven't visited before.

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.

Tawa Recreation Centre Holiday Programme

January 2015 | Tawa College, Duncan Street, Tawa | For ages 5-12 years | To book phone 232 2260

Monday 5 January	Tuesday 6 January	Wednesday 7 January	Thursday 8 January	Friday 9 January
<p>Marvellous 'M' day</p> <p>I spy with my little eye – lots of things beginning with M!</p> <p>Make magnetic memo holders, marbled masterpieces, matchbox racers and mouth-watering morsels.</p> <p>Finish the day playing miniball and mayhem.</p>	<p>Trip Day: Marine Centre</p> <p>Head to the Island Bay Marine Centre with us to learn about your favourite sea creatures.</p> <p>Come back and make your own aquarium!</p>	<p>Have a go at flipperball</p> <p>We'll take a walk to Tawa Pool to play flipperball so bring your togs and towel. Then it's over to Grasslees Reserve for a picnic lunch.</p> <p>Spend the rest of the afternoon baking a special treat and have a go at floorball.</p>	<p>NZ Kiwis day</p> <p>Kiwis love sport! Join in some classic Kiwi sports including cricket and rugby.</p> <p>Test your NZ knowledge with a Kiwi quiz, and see how you go in the weet-bix challenge.</p>	<p>Have a go at kayaking</p> <p>Learn how to kayak at Tawa Pool!</p> <p>Then we'll have a fun-filled afternoon of crazy relays and inflatable fun.</p> <p>Bring: togs and a towel</p>
Monday 12 January	Tuesday 13 January	Wednesday 14 January	Thursday 15 January	Friday 16 January
<p>Wipe-out!</p> <p>Enjoy the great Kiwi summer by surfing down our giant waterslide and playing fun water games like water balloon battleships and human bowling!</p> <p>Don't forget to bring your togs, towel and goggles.</p>	<p>Trip Day: Rock Climbing Kayaks!</p> <p>Come rock climbing at Fergs Kayaks!</p> <p>There are heaps of walls to try for beginners and experts. Take the challenge and reach those heights!</p> <p>Then play capture the flag, kill the cone and dodgeball in the afternoon.</p>	<p>Volleyball with a splash!</p> <p>Bring your togs and towel because we are heading down to Tawa Pool to play water volleyball and splash about.</p> <p>Then we'll try our skills at the drier indoor version after lunch have a go at floorball.</p>	<p>Inflatables and wheels</p> <p>It wouldn't be a Tawa Rec Holiday Programme without a day full of inflatable fun and wheels!</p> <p>Bring your wheels along for a 'wheely' great morning, then inflatable fun in the afternoon.</p>	<p>Have another go at kayaking</p> <p>To perfect our technique, we're going to give kayaking another go! If you didn't move much last week or fell out of the kayak a few times, then come back and give it another go.</p> <p>Then it's over to Grasslees Reserve for some lunch and cool games.</p> <p>Bring: togs and a towel.</p>

The above outlines the first two weeks of the holiday programme. The remainder and further details are available at <http://wellington.govt.nz/recreation/get-active-indoors/recreation-centres/tawa-recreation-centre/holiday-programme>

COMMUNITY GARDEN IN TAWA

A core group of around a dozen people has met a number of times over the past while to discuss establishing a community garden somewhere in Tawa. Sarah Adams, Community & Neighbourhood Advisor from the WCC, whose role is to liaise with groups setting up community gardens across Wellington, has provided useful advice along the way.

A site visit to the well-run Jay Street community garden in Paparangi was made last month. Site visits have since been undertaken to four possible spots in Tawa. This has been narrowed down to two, with preference being given to the central locality of one particular location.

There is still considerable work to be done in setting up this project, including determining its precise purpose and how the fruits (and vegetables) of the volunteers' labours would be distributed. The next step is to liaise with those who will be immediately affected by the setting up of the garden (i.e. live or play in the vicinity), before applying to the WCC for permission to proceed.

There is obvious interest in the overall concept judging by the number of people who have taken part in the discussion to date, including the 37 who are registered on the Neighbourly website's "Tawa community garden setup/discussion group". And, once the garden is under way, it has potential to involve different segments of the community, including both the young and those of more advanced years.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7pm on Thursday 22 January at the Linden Social Centre.



Checking out one potential site

Adios

Malcolm Sparrow

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



"I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world." – Norman Vincent Peale

"There's no happier moment in life than to awake Christmas morning and be a child."

"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree." – Roy L Smith

"One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly." – Andy Rooney

Please send items for this newsletter 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.

See www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html for back issues of the newsletter.



On a personal note:

In previous Christmas newsletters I've stated: "We've had a family tradition this century of spending Christmas in Tauranga every second year with my side of the family (being North Island transplants despite Southern roots), and in Christchurch every other year with Karen's side of the family."

This year we'll be in Morrinsville instead of Tauranga with around 25 others (mostly family) on Christmas Day. We'll also have a few days in Tauranga and Auckland. Here's to a nice relaxing break and glorious summer weather in which to enjoy it!



A SUMMARY OF EVENTS IN TAWA IN 2014

(as gleaned from this past year's community newsletters)

2014

JANUARY

Work continues on the Tawa Valley Pathway - Ara Tawa.

A major overhaul of Grasslees Reserve commences.



FEBRUARY

Takapu Valley residents are advised by the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) of the possibility of a two-lane highway being constructed through their valley to link up with the yet-to-be-built Transmission Gully. At the same time Tawa residents learn that the alternative to the Takapu Valley option is to widen the motorway through Tawa.

Z Tawa is closed temporarily for "exciting renovations". It re-opens in April.



MARCH

Around 48 street gatherings of some shape or form – barbecues, afternoon teas, etc – are held in Tawa under the "umbrella" of Neighbours' Day during the month.

That well known icon Pink Pineapple at the north end of the Tawa shops shifts south, just a matter of 100 metres to be precise.



APRIL

160-180 people attend a community meeting organised by the Tawa Community Board to give local people the chance to find out more about the NZ Transport Agency's (NZTA's) proposals for the Tawa area.



MAY

A special celebration is held to mark the completion of the Tawa Valley Pathway and the Grasslees upgrade.

'Neighbourly', Tawa's community website, kicks off towards the end of the month. Seven months later it is nearing 1000 members.



JUNE

The annual ball for senior Tawa College students takes place at Te Papa. Another very successful occasion.

The biennial Tawa Community Civic Awards ceremony is held, with the Mayor presenting certificates to around 47 people or groups to thank them for the voluntary service they provide in the Tawa community.

15-20 people join a working bee to help clean up the Porirua stream and the surrounding area at Willowbank.



contd

JULY

Tawa Rotary's annual book fair nets around \$18,500.

Tawa College barbershop choirs gain 1st and 3rd placings in national competitions.

Tawa Community Board sponsors the "Tawa Community Board Challenge Cup" presented to the winning primary school at the end of various Tawa inter-school competitions throughout the course of each year.



AUGUST

Neighbourly Tawa tops the 500 member mark - the first suburb outside Auckland to reach that milestone!



SEPTEMBER

Another successful Spring into Tawa Market Day.

Tawa's biennial music festival, "Tawa Goes to Town", is held in the Michael Fowler Centre, involving 750 singers and dancers, etc.



OCTOBER

Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade celebrates 70 years of operation.

NOVEMBER

150 local people enjoy a community barbecue sponsored by 'Neighbourly' to celebrate Tawa's hitting no. 2 spot in New Zealand in terms of Neighbourly members.



The Tawa Borough Scholarship is awarded to Loren Marley at Tawa College's end-of-year academic prizegiving.

The yearly Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards ceremony is held, with the Mayor presenting awards to a winner from each of Tawa's six primary schools, plus the Intermediate.



DECEMBER

Tawa Lions Christmas Parade involves big numbers of participants and onlookers.

Tawa Rotary Carols is/are held at Tawa College.

Two nights of "Toot for Tucker" see more than 4500 items collected for Tawa Food Bank.

54th community Christmas service takes place in Tawa College hall (yet to happen!).

