



COMMUNITY NEWS

April 2015

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 1500 other Tawa residents on neighbourly.co.nz. You can opt for daily updates or weekly updates from that site.

A MONTH OF STREET GATHERINGS

45-50 street gatherings – barbecues, afternoon teas or similar – have taken place in Tawa over the past few weeks. We don't know the final tally as some were either postponed or cancelled because of the weather, and also because of the World Cup Cricket Final! The remaining two gatherings took place this past Sunday, both indoors because of less than exciting weather!

Quoting a report from Ranui Tce: "We had a lovely afternoon tea at our place last weekend with around seven families attending. The weather was just perfect for us – only started raining as people were



Greyfriars / St Benets / Newnham gathering of 47 people

leaving. It was great to connect with a variety of people and we had several letters or phone calls from people to say how much they had appreciated the idea, the invitation and the get-together which was lovely."



St Edmund Cres had their event on Easter Sunday (photo at left): "The BBQ and Children's fun event went off well, including Easter egg events and Jaffa racing." They also had the local fire engine along. To cap it off, they may appear in an international documentary – a

French filming crew was there as part of a 12-city international project recording "iconic Wellington events bringing people together". Neighbours' Day in Tawa was chosen as one of those events. The filmmakers' sample Sydney trailer can be seen here: <http://youtu.be/5EQ5azRMkvU>

Thanks again to each of you who made the effort to organise a get-together for your neighbours in your street. It is appreciated!

TAWA RETURNED AND SERVICES ASSN ANZAC DAY OBSERVANCE

This year's Tawa Community ANZAC Day observance will commence with a parade which will assemble at the New World car park on Saturday 25 April at 9.30am and march off to the Tawa RSA.



The Civic Service will be held in the Tawa RSA Hall, 89 Oxford Street, at the completion of the parade (approximately 10am).

This is a Tawa Community commemoration and the public are most welcome to march in the parade, attend the service and pay tribute on this special day of remembrance.

2015 POPPY DAY COLLECTION

Poppy Day this year will be on Friday 17 April. All monies from the sale of poppies are used exclusively for welfare purposes for Returned Service veterans in the area which the monies are collected, in this case Tawa. It is therefore very much for the benefit of our community.

PERSONAL EMERGENCY SKILLS COURSE

About 95% of rescues after a major event are carried out by survivors or bystanders who are drawn to the site by a desire to help.

If someone was trapped, injured or needed assistance, could you safely help them?

The Wellington Emergency Response Team runs a free, practical emergency skills course. This course shows you what you can do to save lives and help others, while keeping yourself safe.

Upcoming courses are scheduled for:

Sunday 19 April • Saturday 16 May • Sunday 21 June

For more details, see <http://www.getprepared.org.nz/emergencyskills>

CONNECTING WITH TAWA ON 'NEIGHBOURLY'

Recent discussion includes:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • Mana Recovery and Trash palace closing | 25+ replies |
| • Reliable auto mechanical workshop & WOF | 25+ replies |
| • Noisy dirtbikes | 25+ replies |
| • Making baby blankets or providing wool for charity | 20+ replies |
| • Indecent assault | 15+ replies |
| • "Cat Corner" has lost its popular owner, Carol Long | 10+ replies |
| • Free Apples – good for pigs or horses? | 10+ replies |
| • Alcohol in the streets | 5+ replies |

Coming Events in Tawa:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Mon 13 April | – Tawa Football holiday programme starts |
| Fri 17 April | – Closeoff date for Long-Term Plan and Medium Density Housing submissions |
| Fri 17 April | – Women's Business Network Meeting |
| Mon 20 April | – Tawa Community Garden meeting |
| Sun 26 April | – Craft club, cardmaking & scrapbooking |
| Mon 4 May | – Charity knit/crochet group meet |
| Thu 7 May | – Mindfulness training |
| Sat 9 May | – Sacred Music Choral Workshop |

Organisations & Groups:

- there's a separate section on Neighbourly which currently lists details of 40+ Organisations & Groups

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?

HAVE YOUR SAY ON MEDIUM-DENSITY HOUSING IN TAWA

The Council is planning to encourage more medium-density housing to be built in Tawa and has given local people the chance to comment.

Council officers have reported they had 60-70 conversations at the drop-in centre (Tawa Library) recently where members of the public sought further understanding of the projects, asked questions on a general level and in more detail specific to their own situation, and engaged in robust discussions. This was followed by the community meeting on 1 April which was attended by almost 40 members of the public. “We gave a presentation on the two projects and followed this with a Q&A session which saw a number of different questions coming from the floor.”



We’ve been advised that Council is “..... really happy with the results and more specifically with how the Tawa community has engaged with us on these projects. We have received approximately 85 submissions to date from the Tawa mail-out.”

NOTE: Council is also very keen to tap into the youth/young adults/young families of Tawa. They would like feedback from more than just those over 50 years of age!

- Where in your community would it be best to develop medium-density housing?
- What standards of design should the medium-density housing meet?

LAST CHANCE: There is still time for you to express a view. Submissions close at 4pm this coming Friday, 17 April. See <http://wellington.govt.nz/have-your-say/public-inputs/consultations/open/tawa-housing-and-town-centre> for information and an online form.

TAWA ROTARY COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Tawa Rotary, helping the local community, recently installed a clothesline at the Redwood Club which provides services for the elderly, people with Alzheimer’s disease, and related disorders. Many thanks to the following people:

- Clothesline provided by Tawa Inner Wheel
- Posts and concrete provided by ITM Building Supplies Tawa (Rotarian Brian Frampton)
- Labour to dig holes/concrete posts and set up clothesline (Rotarians Mike Kelly & Chris Black)

Tawa Rotary also partners with New World Tawa throughout the year, with New World sponsoring Rotary’s weekly meat raffle prize, providing premises for the Rotary book fair in July, and lending their van for the “Toot for Tucker” food bank collection each December.

HANGING BASKETS SUPPORTED BY TAWA ROTARY

Did you know it costs around \$3000 each year to maintain the hanging baskets in our Main Road shopping centre?

The next round of refreshed baskets is being paid from Tawa Community Board discretionary funds and will be installed by Rotary members later this month. Tawa Community Grants has allocated Tawa Rotary funding of \$1,500 for a second hanging basket replenishment later in the year, plus an additional \$500 for maintenance of the watering system.



The current lot of baskets were removed this past weekend. Maintenance work will be carried out to the irrigation system before the baskets are reinstated a couple of weeks down the track.

TAWA SWIMMING CLUB SUCCESS AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

A team of eight swimmers from Tawa Swimming Club travelled to Dunedin recently for the National Division 2 competition. The team comprised Sean Allan, Michael Chang, Thomas Downs, Sarah Downs, Tess Hindle-Daniels, Joshua Keegan, Lachlan Mudie and Shavendra Somaweera. They were accompanied by their coach, Jason McPhee, team managers and supporting parents.

The team performed well throughout the long sessions (morning and evening) over four days and finished 5th overall out of 86 clubs (our relative performance placed us 3rd – top 3 finishes divided by number of swimmers in the team). 5 of the 8 swimmers came home with individual medals, with Shavendra Somaweera (Tawa College) and Tess Hindle-Daniels (Wellington Girls) being top club performers with five medals each.



The 14 and under boys relay team were twice gold winners – in the club 4x100 Freestyle relay and the club 4x100 Medley relay. Several swimmers were also selected for Wellington Regional relay teams.

The photo shows Sean Allan swimming in the 400m Individual Medley where he won bronze.

The club advises that no airport luggage carousels were abused during their trip to Dunedin. :)

REPLACING THE SHELTERS AT TAKAPU ROAD STATION

Greater Wellington Regional Council advised us before Easter that the Takapu Road Station shelters which had originally been scheduled for removal on 15 March would be removed over the Easter holidays when there would be a shutdown of rail services on the Kapiti line. That has now happened.

They advise: “Unfortunately for a period of time there will be no shelter available as there is limited room on the platforms. Preparations for new foundations are required, and contractors will also be relocating electrical services and future proofing for future CCTV when installed on this station. New shelters are expected to be in place by the end of May.



The new-look shelter

We apologise for any inconvenience that this work may cause but we think that customers will appreciate bigger, cleaner and brighter shelters once they are installed.

We would also ask that all users of the station take extra care whilst this work is in progress and if anyone has any concerns or comments they can call us at the Metlink call centre on 0800 801 700. Alternatively call our Rail clean team on 0800 Railclean.”

HOP IN = HOLIDAY DROP IN



Holiday fun for caregivers and preschoolers.

An opportunity for adult company while your pre-schooler plays in a safe environment. Plenty of toys and activities! Morning tea available!

Everybody is welcome! Join us on Thursday 16 April, 10am to 12 noon, Tawa Union Church, Elena Place.



RETURN OF THE KERERU SCULPTURE

The kereru sculpture (the whirly-gig contraption at the start of Tawa Plaza alongside the Main Road at the very centre of Tawa) was removed last November for foundation strengthening work. We were advised that it would be returned once repair work had been carried out.

In mid-February this information came through from Council: “We’ve had a geotech report and foundation strengthening has been designed. We are now organising the ‘cage’ that will join the



existing pile to a new larger concrete block, and new fixings for the sculpture. Realistically it will be another month or so before the foundation work is done and the sculpture is back up.”



The casual pose was suggested by the photographer!

These photos of the foundation work were taken on 1 April. The workmen seemed to think the structure would be back in place within a couple of weeks or so. We’ll see!

NEW COLLECTIONS AT TAWA LIBRARY

Two new collections are being trialled at Tawa’s Mervyn Kemp Library. They are Adult Graphic novels, and the Adult Learning collection. Both collections are free to issue for three weeks.



The Adult Learning collection is mainly for English Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) who are learning English as a second language. There are three levels of books, from beginner to advanced. The collection also contains readers (stories) and IELTS workbooks for English learning exams.



The Adult Graphic novels are comic books aimed at an adult audience. The collection contains classics of the genre such as Watchmen, and The Sandman series, as well as brand new titles.

MINDFULNESS

Morning and evening classes of this 8-week training will start on 7 May at the Linden Social Centre, Tawa. There are still spots available. Morning 10.30am-12.00, or evening 7.30-9.00pm classes.

Mindfulness is all about learning to live more in the here and now. It can help you to enjoy your daily life more, to worry less and to be more calm and less stressed. Mindfulness is scientifically proven to reduce feelings of stress, anxiety and depression.

Learn to be less judgmental and create more self compassion. Mindfulness is also a great attention trainer, you might learn to be less forgetful and live less on automatic pilot.

This is great training for all, you will practise different kind of concentration techniques to discover what works best for you and when. Because you know yourself best! This is down-to-earth “non-spacey” training. 8 weekly sessions for \$125.

To join or contact: monique@easynowmindfulness.com, easynowmindfulness.com & Facebook.

U3A IN ACTION – MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

On March 24th Michael Holland began a fortnightly series of illustrated talks on “How to Read a Church”, explaining the history and significance of the art (icons) and architecture of churches. This first talk centred on the early Byzantine and Greek Orthodox churches, the way icons are “written”, not painted (because they are interpreted as text – so long as you can understand them!). I learnt about the symbolism of the colours used; the way that church layout is based on the shape of the Greek Orthodox cross (with arms of equal length); the arches are called Romanesque; that two fingers are used as a symbol for blessing (not the peace sign or the other one somewhat more vulgar!); that the Christ is shown with a cruciform aureole (a halo with a cross inscribed in it) where other holy figures have an area of light or simple halo.

The celebration of heroes in “English Literature” was continued on March 26th by Carolyn Marshall. This time she reflected on “Unsung heroes” and read poems by Frances Doyle who, she pointed out, the Oxford Companion to English Literature describes “sniffily” as one of the popular patriotic poets, and a number of not so well known poems by Rudyard Kipling. Then the more familiar “Gunga Din” and “A Smugglers’ Song”. Everyone leaves with a smile on their face however well their brains have been stimulated.

– Jancis Potter, U3A Tawa

TAWA TABLE TENNIS CLUB

The club started playing again on Tuesday 7 April at the Porirua East School hall. It will play from 7pm each Tuesday night from now through to 29 September. For more information contact Evan Watkin on evanwatkin@hotmail.com



Athletes Village
Gold Card Membership
Shimmer, shine & feel the sparkle

We welcome Gold Card holders with open arms...
Not only are you entitled to full use of our facilities during off peak hours. We have added a couple of Silver Streaks Sessions to our timetable which are tailored specifically for the 50's Forward crew.

Off peak hours just exclude Mon – Fri from 6pm to 8pm.
Full use of facilities and group exercise sessions outside of these hours.

Membership for Gold Card holders is just \$10 per week!

Silver Streaks Session: *STARTING 14th APRIL

- Tuesday's & Thursdays
- 10:15 a.m
- 30 minutes tailored exercise
- 10 minutes of mobility activities & stretching

Athletes Village – Tawa Junction – 10 Surrey Street
www.ateamtraining.co.nz 04 232 3894

Pop in and let one of the A Team chat through adding a bit of sparkle into your days...



A CONCRETE PROPOSAL

The Tawa Community Board was advised at its meeting last Thursday evening that Council intends to remove the flower garden from the roundabout on the corner of Main Road/Tawa St/The Drive and turn the roundabout into a plain concrete one. This is because of ongoing drainage problems with the current watering system.

As this present point in time there are no flowers in place, and the garden itself will be gone in due course.



Summer shot of the floral display at the BP roundabout

60 SECONDS WITH Briana Boele van Hensbroek

Briana is this year's head girl at Tawa College.

Where were you born? Wellington Hospital.

Where did you grow up? Plimmerton.

What schools have you been at since you first started school?

I went to Te Ra School in Raumati for both primary and intermediate.

What subjects are you doing this year at college?

History, chemistry, maths, physics and biology.

What are you hoping to do when you leave school?

Study at Auckland University, either science or history.

What does being a head student actually involve, any particular responsibilities?

Representing the students at formal events, attending assembly and just looking out for the younger students and really trying to connect with them and inspire them.

What are your interests/hobbies?

Netball, dancing, anything performance and sports really.

What do you like about Tawa College?

I love the community aspect and the opportunities it gives to all students, no matter what their interests.

Favourite sports team and/or sportsperson?

I would have to say netball since that is my sport, but apart from that the girls cricket team as they have achieved so much and represented the school so well.

Favourite musical group and/or style of music?

Favourite music group would be the Blue Notes [Tawa College auditioned choir] as they have also have had a huge success in New Zealand barbershop.

Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Rangiputa which is on the Karikari peninsula just north of Kaitaia.

Any accomplishments/achievements in your life (to date) that give you much satisfaction/pride?

Becoming head girl was definitely an amazing achievement.



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.

Email mandy.russell@wcc.govt.nz and put 'Join' as the subject to receive regular updates.

STOP PRESS: ANOTHER SMALL VICTORY FOR TAKAPU VALLEY

Wellington City Councillors agreed today (Tuesday 14 April) by a margin of 11-4 that "neither the widening of SH1 at Tawa, nor a major road through Takapu Valley, be part of the Petone to Grenada (P2G) proposals, and that both be rejected by WCC." That was just one of several similar amendments. The final decision on any proposed new highway, or SH1 widening, will of course be NZTA's to make.

UNREGISTERED MOTORCYCLES IN TAWA

There have been a number of comments recently about riders of small unregistered motorcycles in the vicinity of Taylor Tce, Duncan St, Ranui Tce and beyond, as well as having been seen several times riding on the Tawa Valley Pathway (Ara Tawa) between Redwood Station and Willowbank.

At Thursday evening's Tawa Community Board meeting the Police confirmed they have visited the homes of more than one of these riders. They have been warned about riding their unregistered bikes on public roads or the walkway. If they offend again, "appropriate action will be taken".

If members of the community see any of these bikes continuing to be ridden, PLEASE notify the Police as soon as you're able. Dial *555 on your cell phone. Alternatively fill in the form at <https://forms.police.govt.nz/forms/online-community-roadwatch-report/9>

Adios

Malcolm Sparrow

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



"With great power comes great electricity bill."

"Easter is the only time of the year when it's safe to put all your eggs in one basket."

"Three grand essentials to happiness are: something to do, something to love, something to hope for."

This newsletter is emailed to around 1250 Tawa households, businesses, schools, churches and clubs/groups (anyone who has an interest in the community of Tawa), usually in 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.

