

This newsletter has been sent out monthly since 2005. See www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html for back issues.

Other sources of online community information in Tawa:

www.neighbourly.co.nz • www.facebook.com/VibrantTawa • www.facebook.com/tawacommunityboard

EASTER EGGS IN TAWA

Last Monday Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern urged Kiwi youngsters to join the Big New Zealand Easter Egg Hunt. This would involve drawing a picture of an Easter egg on a piece of paper (or printing one out) and placing it in their front window.

One or two streets in Tawa were already ahead of the pack at that point in time. The photos below show some of the eggs in windows of houses, in trees and on lamp posts in one Tawa cul-de-sac on Monday morning. After returning from an Easter egg hunt with her kids, one resident emailed: "I love the creativity of the eggs, and where they've been placed! The kids counted 47 this morning." Several more have since been added!



Do you need food?



Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

We know it can be tough to make ends meet at the best of times, let alone in a lockdown. If you need help getting food for you or your whānau, there are support services in Tawa and Linden ready to assist.

Are you able to pay for groceries and delivery, but unable to leave the house?

Contact Keep Connected, Tawa to connect with a volunteer in your neighbourhood who can shop for you and deliver to your doorstep.

021 227 8566 or 027 232 2320

Sign up for the **Countdown Priority Delivery Service** (must meet one of the criteria for being a vulnerable health population) to be put at the front of the line for online grocery delivery.

0800 40 40 40

Are you in need of a free food parcel? Get in touch with one of these organisations.

Wellington City Mission 0800 245 0900
or enquiries@wgtncitymission.org.nz

The Salvation Army 04 389 0594
or wellington.foodbank@salvationarmy.org.nz

St Vincent de Paul 04 237 5968
or www.facebook.com/StVincentdePaulPorirua



NOTE: In addition to what is mentioned above, the Tawa Community Board has been working closely with Tawa New World management to meet “community aspirations” during the lockdown period. In the normal course of events Tawa New World plays a significant part in sponsoring organisations and groups in the Tawa community.

THE FIRST WORD YOU SEE IS WHERE YOU ARE GOING IN APRIL

N O W H E R E N O W H E R E
O W H E R E N O W H E R E N
W H E R E N O W H E R E N O
H E R A B S O L U T E Y O W
E R E N O W H E R E N O W H
R E N O W H E R E N O W H E
E N O W H E R E N O W H E R
N O W H E R E N O W H E R E
O W H E R E N O W H E R E N
W H E R E N O W H E R E N O
H E R E N O W H E R E N O W
E R E N O W H E R E N O W H



A BIG THANK YOU – AGAIN

There are many in our community (and across the city) for whom the current crisis means they are a whole lot busier at their places of work.

In particular we are grateful for those who are there for us at the two local supermarkets, at the pharmacy, at the medical centre and other businesses which remain open. Also to all those who continue to do their jobs – like delivering goods – to ensure that our society continues to function.

A HEARTFELT THANKS!

AS SEEN ON THE VIBRANT TAWA FACEBOOK PAGE

Wellington - LIVE's #essentialserviceschallenge: "Take part in the challenge with your essential service team by filming a video of you dancing and having fun. Message it to our page and we will post for everyone to see." Here we have Tawa Medical Centre essential workers accepting the challenge at lunchtime on Monday. See <https://www.facebook.com/WellingtonLIVENZ/videos/216114406315781>

And did you know Tawa has a brand new band!? Check out the awesome extended Langham family and The Quarantina Band! Playing songs to entertain us all through lockdown and beyond. See <https://www.facebook.com/The-Quarantina-Band-102274778093926/>



GRENADA NORTH PAGE

A Grenada North Community Group page has been set up on Facebook. See <https://www.facebook.com/groups/692822521289232/>

Grenada North

Wellington New Zealand

NEEDING HELP OR HELPING OTHERS

If you would like someone to buy some groceries for you or to assist in some other way (perhaps a friendly phonecall), there is a Facebook group called Keep Connected, Tawa (Self Isolation Support) which you can visit. See <https://www.facebook.com/groups/683251612412811> to request assistance or to offer assistance, or Mandy on 021 227 8566 or Malcolm on 027 232 2320 or 232 5030.



**I'm sooo bored –
I went outside
and knocked on
my own door,
then came back
in and said
“Who is it?”**

KIWI COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE STILL WORKING HARD

Kiwi Community Assistance (KCA) volunteers are still rescuing food. We obtained permission from MPI as we are providing a necessity of life under the social services sector.

Thanks to Wellington City Council, Dobbins Office Furniture and New World Porirua for their generous support by providing us with face masks, gloves and hand sanitiser.

On one day recently we rescued and redistributed 1,237.8 kgs of food. This was shared with Salvation Army Porirua and Lower Hutt foodbanks, Kaibosh, Wellington City Mission, Soup Kitchen Wellington, and Wellington Night Shelter.

KCA has also added a second larger chiller truck which was paid for by ANZ Bank Staff Foundation and Wellington North Rotary.



ARE THE DOG PARKS STILL OPEN?

We have been provided with advice from Council's Parks, Sport and Recreation Team regarding the current status of dog parks.

"Fenced dog areas remain open, however we are asking people to follow the Government's guidance around outdoor activities, specifically for dog parks:

- Stay local. Do not drive to a dog park, use only your local park
- Stay 2m from others and keep your dog under control and 2m from others
- If you cannot maintain a 2m distance or keep your dog under control, either go somewhere else or put your dog on a lead



We are relying on people to follow the government's guidelines and make common sense decisions including around how and where they choose to exercise their dogs."

Tawa has a few off-lead dog exercise areas. One of those is fully-fenced, at Taylor Park, south of Redwood Station. At every other park (other than official off-lead areas) and all other public places, including bush tracks, dogs must be walked on their leads.

After 2 weeks of quarantine with her husband, Gertrude decided to knit him a scarf..

Got up this morning and ran around the block five times. Then I got tired, so I picked up the block and put it back in the toy box.



CLOSED PLAYGROUNDS, PLUS NO WET WIPES!

Playgrounds across the city are off-limits whilst we maintain Level 4 of Lockdown. That includes school playgrounds. “It’s important to think about the surfaces that we need to avoid touching.” However it is okay to visit an adjoining park (in your own neighbourhood) subject to the 2m social distancing rules.

NOTE: City authorities are requesting: “Please do NOT put anything into our wastewater system that doesn’t belong there as it often ends up clogging the pipes. That’s true all the time but especially now. So please do not put **wet wipes**, sanitary products or paper towels, etc down the toilet.”



FROM THE CHAIR OF THE TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD



“Chair on her bike”

Thank you Tawa, Grenada North and Takapū Valley residents. The overwhelmingly supportive and responsible approach by you has been a joy to see.

Please keep up the good work over the next two weeks. Restrictions on our freedoms are tough on us all, but they are necessary.

I would like to thank the members of your Community Board for their recent work well above and beyond that normally expected of local elected representatives.

The Board has had formal meetings suspended temporarily. In their place we have met far more regularly than usual, in digital form.

Members have monitored local reaction to Level 4 restrictions, clarified grey areas, provided feedback to MPs, made lots of phone and video calls, and continued

what we do best – coordinating and supporting our amazing local community. Half the Board have also been able to volunteer time for our local pharmacy. All this has happened while members juggle the stresses unique to their own household situation – working at home with children, learning new technology, or going through difficult life events made even harder under Level 4. Our two Councillors, Malcolm Sparrow and Jill Day, have done all this while juggling the added pressures of their Council roles.

Thank you to Richard Herbert (Deputy Chair), Graeme Hansen, Jackson Lacy, Steph Knight, and Anna Scott. Tawa and surrounds should be proud of you.

Robyn Parkinson
Chair, Tawa Community Board



Easter egg on Robyn’s neighbour’s garage door

See more about the Tawa Community Board at <https://www.facebook.com/tawacommunityboard/>

MESSAGE FROM OUR “COMMUNITY CONSTABLE”

“Unprecedented Times” is a saying I keep hearing and it is certainly a true account of where we all find ourselves at the moment.



As a result of COVID-19 all of us are being impacted in all areas of our life whether it be home, work, social circles or just our everyday movements. It is important to remember that this period will end and if we all listen to the messages being sent by the government, it will end quicker if we abide by the restrictions that have been put in place. They are not in place to inconvenience people, but to protect and save lives.

Every time you leave your house you run the risk of picking up the virus from someone/something and taking it back home to your loved ones or to the next place you visit. With that in mind before you leave the house ask yourself “do I really need to go out now or can it wait?”

- A local walk to get fresh air or to walk the dog is great, but your kids or teenagers meeting with mates at the bike or skate park – not so great.
- A trip to the supermarket to get the groceries is great, but a trip to get just one item – maybe not so great.

Police staff numbers on the streets have been increased to offer a much needed visible presence during these times. Not only are we looking out for people deliberately breaching the lockdown, we are also visiting and offering reassurance to those working in the essential services and vulnerable people in the community, as well as patrolling areas where business are closed and not many people are around.

If you are concerned about someone or something please don't hesitate to give us a call on the 105 number (111 in an emergency). If the staff answering the call can't help they will be able to connect you with one of the variety of organisations that are in place to offer help and support, so please don't be afraid to reach out.

If you are aware of people breaching the “level 4 Lockdown” please let us know – it can be reported through the online form located at: <https://www.police.govt.nz/105support>

Stay safe everyone, and please look out for each other.

Constable Sarah Steed, Community Policing Team, Kapiti Mana sarah.steed@police.govt.nz

**They said a mask
and gloves were
enough to go to the
grocery store...**

**They lied.
Everybody else
had clothes on.**



MESSAGE FROM GREG O'CONNOR, LOCAL MP



As New Zealand enters week three of the lockdown, we temper the news that the new Covid-19 infection rate curve has flattened, with the knowledge we have from overseas that any reduction of our lockdown and isolation efforts and sacrifices will quickly reverse our gains. Those sacrifices for fellow residents, as well as reduced income and business losses, include not being able to have funerals, missing important family events including weddings and births, and of course missing religious, sporting and cultural occasions. Let's not waste them!

You will see that the rules are becoming clearer: some businesses, especially food delivery businesses, like Nada Bakery, have been allowed to re-open under strict conditions, and the Police have been given the necessary power to enforce the lockdown. It is a moving situation, and rules will change as necessary to balance the health, economic, and individual needs of the country. The rule of thumb is less activity and interaction is absolutely best.

It's often said mischief fills a vacuum, and there are more voices criticising New Zealand's strategy. Remember New Zealand's plan is being supported by all political parties, and watching the US, UK, and Australia shows that compromised or half-hearted lockdowns or responses, simply extends the danger and the pain. A special select committee broadcast on Parliament TV from 10am Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday is where hard questions are asked on your behalf of the Ministers and Public Servants who are making the decisions.

Remember, get your information from the Covid-19 website. If you're unable to find the answer, or need to get a specific answer from a Government Department, or have information you think I should be passing on to Cabinet Ministers, please contact me on 478 3332, or email on greg.oconnor@parliament.govt.nz

Keep up the great efforts.

Note from the Ed.: *Messages have been included in this newsletter in recent times from the MP for the Ōhāriu electorate. Approximately two-thirds of greater Tawa (including Linden, Grenada North and Takapu Valley) is in this electorate. The other one-third, at the northern end, is in Mana.*

Conveying "non-political" messages such as these does not indicate support or preference for any particular political party or politician by the Editor of this newsletter.



2 MINUTES WITH Nick Hewer-Hewitt

It was around a month ago when Nick Hewer-Hewitt spoke at the Tawa Rotary Club. Nick lives in Tawa and works at Wellington Water as its Manager – Network Performance. His talk pointed out how dire a situation we may well find ourselves in following a major disaster, with our access to flowing water in Tawa being disrupted for as long as 40 days. In other parts of the city that could be for more than 100 days.



Wellington Water has established 11 emergency water stations across Wellington, three being in the Tawa area. Nick has operated “open sessions” at several of those including the one alongside the Tawa Fire Station, giving people the chance to see inside and to hear what Wellington Water has been doing to ensure residents are provided with access to at least temporary water supplies from day eight after major disruption to the regular water network. It’s a subject he is more than happy to talk about!

Where were you born?

Wellington

Where did you grow up?

Wellington, Wairarapa (3 years) and the West Coast (12 months).

Where were you educated?

Wairarapa College, Hutt Valley High School, Massey University.

How long have you lived in Tawa?

12½ years.

What do you like about Tawa?

I like the community spirit and how proactive local community groups are about improving Tawa and holding community events, e.g. Tawa Goes to Town and the Spring Festival.

What about family?

My partner is Anthea and we have two teenage boys, one of whom goes to Weltec and the other to Tawa College.

Work experience over the years

11 years in the regular Army, still serving as an Army Reservist after 28 years;

28 years in the water industry (Greater Wellington Regional Council, Opus Consultants, Ministry of Health, Wellington Water).

What are your interests and hobbies?

My main interest is riding my motorbike. I have had a 900cc Triumph America for about three years.



Favourite sports team?

The Tawa Toads, a Golden Oldies Rugby team.

Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?

Florence and the Machine [an English indie rock band that formed in London in 2007, consisting of vocalist Florence Welch, keyboardist Isabella Summers, guitarist Rob Ackroyd, harpist Tom Monger, and a collaboration of other musicians. – Wikipedia]

..... contd

contd

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Nelson/Tasman

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

Spent two months in Samoa in the immediate aftermath of the Tsunami, helping rebuild villages and providing drinking water to the displaced people.

What are two or three interesting things about you that local people may not know?

I starred in a Bata Bullets ad when I was a teenager;

I have stood next to the Bamiyan Buddhas [two 6th-century monumental statues of Gautama Buddha carved into the side of a cliff in the Bamiyan valley in the Hazarajat region of central Afghanistan. The statues were blown up and destroyed by the Taliban in March 2001. – Wikipedia]

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

Visit Alaska;

Go to the Sturgis Bike Rally [an American motorcycle rally held annually in Sturgis, South Dakota, for ten days early each August. Attendance is usually around 500,000 people. – Wikipedia]

Brew the perfect beer.

How has lockdown affected you?

I am largely working from home. Just prior to Level 4 coming online, Wellington Water allowed us to bring all our monitors, laptops, and other tools home so we can maintain continuity with what we were doing from the office. I am also an Essential Service provider, which requires me to go out onsite to work with our service crews, contractors, and water treatment plant operators. For us it is about trying to maintain business as usual for our customers, repairing pipes, fixing leaks, investigating sewer overflows, and flooding while still trying to remain within our bubbles.

NOTIFICATION OF “ESSENTIAL SERVICES” WATER WORK

Mills-Albert Limited are deemed essential services. We are preparing to be on site at Main Road, Tawa (near the roundabout by Outlet City) from Tuesday 14 April and anticipate work to be completed within three weeks. There will be Traffic Management in place and pedestrian traffic will be directed to the opposite side from site works.

If you have any questions or comments about the work, please feel free to contact Leeanne Cole – Health and Safety Manager, office 905 8683.

We thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation during these works.

QUESTIONS NEEDING ANSWERS?

This WREMO (Emergency Management) webpage has answers to most questions regarding the current period of Lockdown:

<https://wremo.nz/covid-19/seeking-support/?fbclid=IwAR2x1uCd4P1aLGm50jrADObUUWUy2nH1b1XUEeDEGxv6F9TFRYQK5vpe4M>

So I asked Arnie “Where did you get those toilet rolls?” He said “Aisle B, back.”



FROM THE EDITOR

We're now past the Level 4 two-week mark, hopefully the halfway point (but who knows?). There looks to be light at the end of the tunnel, as they say, but we still need to be taking the necessary precautions for the next two weeks or so – no letting up yet!

It's great to see so many more people out walking or cycling, and it's very pleasant to be able to bike on local streets with very few cars on them! Makes me wonder whether, when we return to 'normal', we couldn't have the occasional car-free Sunday afternoon, even for a couple of hours, in parts of Tawa, and encourage everyone, both adults and kids, to take to their bikes in their hundreds! Could be both good fun and a community-building exercise!

We are privileged in this neck of the woods to have the Tawa Valley Pathway (Ara Tawa) and several bush walking tracks so readily available to us. I was able to make use of both today, the first day of Easter. My wife Karen and I cycled through Lyndhurst Park and along a car-free Oxford St to join up with the shared



pathway at Grasslees, and on in the direction of Kenepuru Station.

We passed many others also out walking and cycling during our 75-minute outing on a very pleasant mid-autumn day.

Later in the day I took the dog up in the hills above southwest Tawa, and back through Redwood Bush on a walk lasting 45 minutes or so. Great views of Tawa, and very enjoyable to have those walking tracks so close to home. Again, quite a few other people were making good use of them too.

Stay safe and enjoy the rest of your break – although I realise that for many that won't necessarily stop once Easter is over!



Does anyone know if we can take a shower yet?
Or shud we just keep washing our hands?



I'm supposed to be at school today...

I'm supposed to be at school today
But mum says I can't go
'It's our turn on the bikes' I said
But she hugged me and said 'No'

I played out in the yard today
And found some bugs within the grass
My neighbour saw me through her window
And waved at me through the glass

I get to play at home today
And sit and watch TV
Dad's been on his phone all day
But it doesn't bother me

Guess what? I went back to school today
And all my friends came back too
My classroom looked exactly the same
And my teacher said 'I missed you'

Mum made us ring Gran today
And I said that I had grown
I told them both my favourite joke
And Gran laughed loud down the phone

Gran came round for tea today
And said something to me
'You must remember this time, my dear
'Cause they'll teach this in History

Lucy Short

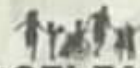
No-one's playing on my street today
And I'm getting bored of TV
I got a bit upset and sad
Then mum sat me on her knee

She said
'It all feels a little strange today
Not just for you, but for me
It won't be like this forever, my love
Just you wait and see

Dad came off his computer today
And helped me read my book
Both our tummies started rumbling
So then he taught me how to cook



www.selfa.org.uk



Sights on today's (11.04.20) morning walk including an 8am line for New World which extended out onto the Main Road!





McLellan Street



The Drive

Lyndhurst Park

Huia Street



5 o'clock drinkies on St Johns Tce with the neighbours

Ngā mihi

Malcolm Sparrow
info@tawalink.com
027 232 2320



“Due to my isolation I finished three books yesterday. And believe me, that’s a lot of colouring!”

“2020 is a unique leap year. It has 29 days in February, 300 days in March, and five years in April.”

“After this is over, can we ‘essential workers’ have a month off while the rest of you run things for a while?”

“With all this talk of Corona Virus, the people who make sanitising gel are rubbing their hands together.”

“I’ve spent two weeks hanging out with myself – and I’m sorry to every person I have ever spent time with.”

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

Some 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.

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.

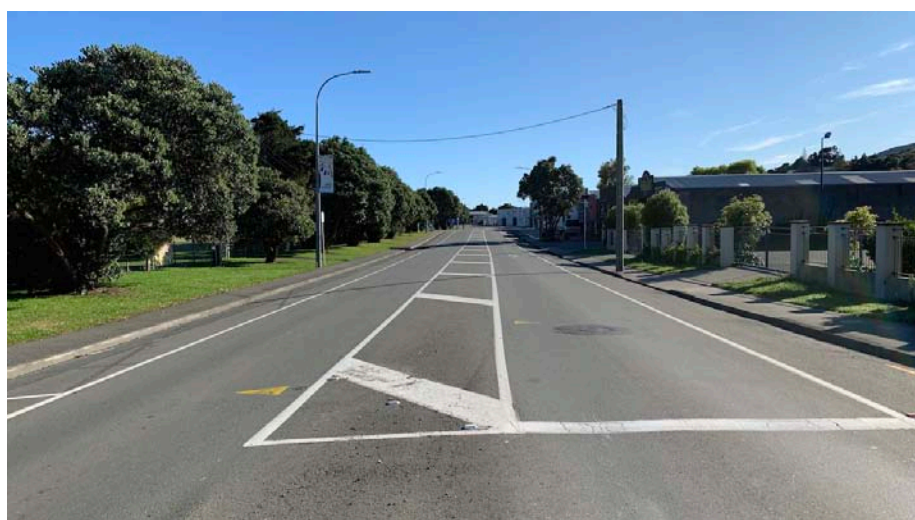
**IT'S A DIFFERENT WORLD
RIGHT NOW!**



“Park and ride”
at Tawa Station (above)
and Redwood Station
(at left)

Thanks to Doug Miller
for these two photos

Takapu Road Station



Empty Main Road outside
St Francis Xavier School



This page:
Deserted Tawa
central shopping area

