



COMMUNITY NEWS

August 2015

This community newsletter is sent out monthly 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 1730 other Tawa residents on neighbourly.co.nz. You can opt for daily updates or weekly updates from that site.

'NEIGHBOURLY' MEAL ON SUNDAY 23 AUGUST

More than 150 locals got together for a great 'Neighbourly' barbecue a few months back. If you're a member of Neighbourly in Tawa, YOU ARE INVITED to our next get-together, a pot luck meal at the Linden Social Centre on the above date. Doors will open at 5.30pm and we'll be dining by 6.00pm.



Previous 'Neighbourly' get-together

As was the case last time, it'll be a great opportunity to meet other locals, both "old-timers" and "newbies". Come along and mix with Tawa people of all ages. There

will be activities to ensure everyone feels welcome. Please RSVP under Events on the Neighbourly site.

Here is some of the feedback we received after the first occasion:

"Thanks to all those who came and mixed and mingled, making it a very enjoyable occasion. A great example of what a neighbourhood BBQ can look and feel like." – A.D.

"Well done for all the organising and planning that went into this event, I'm sure everyone will agree it went without a hitch and was a really enjoyable event. Well done, Tawa people." – T.C.

"A fantastic community event. Thanks to everyone involved." – M.A.

WANT A STALL AT "SPRING INTO TAWA" MARKET DAY?

This year's "Spring into Tawa" Market Day will take place on Saturday 12 September.

There are spaces available if you as an individual or your club or school or church wish to be involved in this year's event. Applications should be in by Friday 28 August. See www.tawalink.com/springintotawa2015.html for details or email tawaresidents@xtra.co.nz

The Red Hackle Pipe Band traditionally marches along the Main Road and into the plaza area later in the morning (around 11am) to entertain the crowd with a few items. Spring into Tawa will feature other entertainment in addition to the usual 60+ stalls.

For more information contact Ray Lindsay on 027 442 1902.



CONNECTING WITH TAWA ON NEIGHBOURLY

Coming Events in Tawa (as listed on Neighbourly):

Mon 3 August	– Monday Night Ladies Squash
Tue 4 August	– Winter Warmers TED Talks - Food, Agriculture & the Environment
Tue 11 August	– Winter Warmers TED Talks - Inequality and Market Forces
Tue 18 August	– Winter Warmers TED Talks - Designing a better future
Sun 23 August	– Neighbourly Pot Luck Meal
Tue 25 August	– Winter Warmers TED Talks - A different slant on Evolution
Sat 12 September	– Spring into Tawa Market Day

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

Organisations & Groups:

- there’s a separate section on Neighbourly which currently lists details of 50+ Organisations & Groups



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

A SUCCESSFUL ROTARY BOOK FAIR

This year’s Tawa Rotary Book Fair was held over the last weekend in June and the first weekend in July, and was very well supported by the community.

The gross figure for both weekends is estimated at \$25,000 compared with around \$20,500 gross last year. Half of the proceeds go to support North Wellington Life Education Trust, the remainder to other (mostly local) charities. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of this annual community event!



Rotary stalwarts Doug Burrus and Malcolm Andrews waiting to relieve customers of their cash.

Read more about Rotary’s active role in Tawa at www.tawarotary.org.nz

KIDS’ CROSS COUNTRY EVENT COMES TO TAWA

The hugely successful Kids Cross Country Series is coming to Tawa on Sunday 16 August. These events are run around the Wellington region, with our local Olympic Harrier and Athletic Club hosting this event in partnership with Athletics Wellington.

There are races for pre schoolers (Year 0s) through to Year 8s. They’re heaps of fun for the kids, and if you register by this Sunday (9 August) your child will receive a personalised race bib that they get to keep as a memento of their day. Only \$7 per child to enter.



Medals are awarded to those who finish in the top three, and there are certificates for team awards. So get a team of three or four together and you’re in with a chance. If your child loves running, give it a go. For more details or to enter go to www.athleticshub.co.nz. If you have any questions phone Jo Murray at 021 976 116 or jo@athleticswellington.org.nz

LANDFILL SMELLS

Spicer Landfill's annual Community Liaison Group meeting took place in late June. Most of those present were there to hear what the landfill authorities are doing to alleviate the smells which are particularly prevalent in the northwestern sector of Tawa, just over the hill from the landfill.



Also in attendance at the meeting were a number of "elected representatives" interested in knowing what's being done to rectify this ongoing problem: Hon Peter Dunne (MP for Ohariu), Kris Faafoi (MP for Mana), Porirua-Tawa Regional Councillors Jenny Brash and Barbara Donaldson, Wellington Deputy Mayor Justin Lester, WCC Councillor Malcolm Sparrow and Tawa Community Board member Graeme Hansen.

We have been assured that significant measures are in fact being taken to eradicate or at least minimise unacceptable odours attributable to the landfill. The problem is that those measures do not appear to be as effective as they need to be, and so the smell problem continues.

The next step is a meeting which is currently being organised with the Mayor of Porirua and other PCC officials. Continued pressure will need to be applied until this issue is finally resolved.

And we can play our part as members of the community by continuing to phone the Regional Council on 0800 496 734 every time we notice an unacceptable smell. Tedious though it may be, that's an important factor in ensuring that those responsible for the problem find a solution to it.

WINTER WARMERS

Join us for a round of stimulating TED talks. Accompanied by morning tea (and a chat if you wish). Everybody is welcome!

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|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 4 August | Food, Agriculture and the Environment |
| 11 August | Inequality and Market Forces |
| 18 August | Designing a better future |
| 25 August | A different slant on Evolution |

Gold coin donation: Enquiries to Heidrun 232 2197 or Adrienne 232 7724.



Tuesdays in August
10.00 am - 12.00 noon
Tawa Union Church,
Elena Place



At each session we will be presenting several TED talks, each about 15 minutes long, under the umbrella of a certain topic. TED talks cover a wide range of topics and take place all over the world. They are public and free to watch on the internet. This not-for-profit organisation has been founded with the aim to spread ideas around the world. Enjoy them and get inspired!

For more details on the different topics, see:

<http://tawaunionchurch.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/WW-Ted-talks.pdf>

EASY NOW MINDFUL PARENT TRAINING

Join this 4 week training for mums/dads and bubs. Starts Thursday August 27, 11-12, for 4 weeks.

You will learn the basics about mindfulness, and how mindful parenting can help in being less stressed, less anxious and less worried and more kind to yourself. You can bring your under-4s along too.

\$75. Early bird special \$65. For registration or questions email monique@easynowmindfulness.com or call 021 134 7541.

HAMPTON HILL 50 YEARS CELEBRATION

Friday October 30, 5.30pm to Saturday October 31, 12.00pm.
A fun weekend catching up with old friends from Hampton Hill.

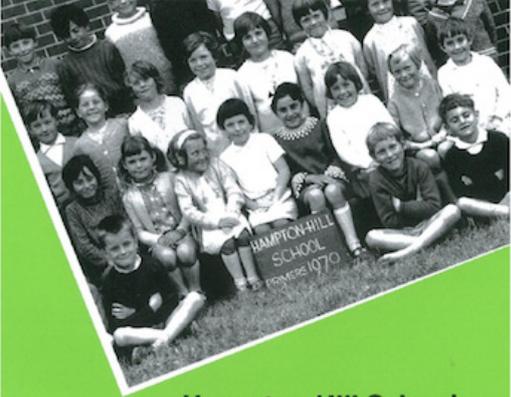
Friday night is in the hall and marquee – live music, catch-up time, old photos, canapes and refreshments, candid photos by a professional photographer, and lots of talking and stories. Informal and relaxed evening.

Saturday morning is at school with our current families and a more formal time with morning tea, speeches, decade photos, tree planting, entertainment and a school walkabout.

Registrations are now open.

Check our website: www.hamptonhill.school.nz or email Jan at celebration@hamptonhill.school.nz

We have an “Expressions of Interest” list – stay informed! Send an email to us.



Hampton Hill School is turning 50!

If you are a past student, or ex-member of staff, come and celebrate with us this October...

<i>Friday 30 October 2015</i>	A special evening for past students and staff to catch up over old photos and memorabilia. Canapes and refreshments will be served.
<i>Saturday 31 October 2015</i>	A morning of activities for past and current families to celebrate the school's birthday. Official decade photographs will be taken.

For full programme details and to register your attendance, please call Jan Berndt at Hampton Hill School (04 232 6509) or send an email to celebration@hamptonhill.school.nz Register online: www.hamptonhill.school.nz

REDWOOD SCHOOL'S 50th BIRTHDAY

Redwood School will be 50 years old in 2016. Are you interested in being part of a committee to organise some events to celebrate this milestone?

Please contact Sue Goodin on 232 7704 or email bot@redwood.school.nz.

TAWA RESIDENT IN MASTERCHEF

Quoting a posting last week on Neighbourly: “In case you missed it, here’s the link to Sunday’s first episode of the new season NZ Masterchef: www.tv3.co.nz/Shows/MasterChefNZ.aspx About 30 minutes into the programme you’ll see Tawa resident Julie Harris!

Congratulations Jules on making the cut to the next round – from the first 50, now down to 24 contestants.”

P.S. Julie didn’t make it to the following round (as at Sunday 2 August). The judges said that the standard of cooking this year is very high. To make the top 24 as Julie did is a remarkable achievement!



REDEVELOPING TAWA TOWN CENTRE

Officers from Council’s Spatial Planning team ran a meeting at the Tawa Community Centre last week on the issue of the redevelopment of the Tawa Town Centre. Around 20 people took part – representatives from the local business community and the Vibrant Tawa group, as well as two Tawa Community Board members and two Northern Ward councillors.

The main issues arising from the meeting which will need to be further addressed are the empty shops in the central shopping area, traffic along the Main Road there, and how Tawa Plaza might be better developed. The potential for more concentrated housing in central Tawa was also mentioned.

TAWA EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

Stakeholders from a number of community groups including Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade, Tawa Community Patrol, Tawa Medical Centre, plus school and church representatives (and various elected representatives) are currently working with WREMO (Emergency Management) to develop an emergency response plan specific to Tawa.

TAWA ANGLICAN CHURCH WORKSHOPS

Bookings and further info: Tawa-Linden Anglican Church office on 232 8448 or email admin@tac.org.nz
Cost \$10 -20 per workshop, depending on workshop.

BLOKES COOKING NIGHT: Wednesday 12 August (6.45 - 9.30pm)

Hands-on cooking demonstration for men who would like to learn how to cook a meal. Dinner will be included.

Presenter: James Fahey



MANAGING YOUR MONEY: Wednesday 26 August (7.30 - 9.30pm)

This is such an important life skill for living well in the present and being prepared for the future. You will be shown how to do a budget and cash flow, be given savings tips and much more. For those who want to bring their finances under control.

Presenter: Peter Gallagher



BETTER THAN TAKEAWAYS: Friday 11 September (7.30 - 9.30pm)

You will be empowered to cook some Asian dishes for yourself. The following will be shown and you can have a go at wrapping the dumplings:

- Mee Goreng
- Laksa
- Dumplings
- Honey Soya chicken nibbles

Presenter: Fiona Khoo



SUNDAY FAMILY WORKSHOP – School-aged children are welcome with an adult

ART MADE EASY: Sunday 6 September (3.00 - 5.00pm)

Come along and be inspired to create some amazing artworks. This workshop is for anyone who has the enthusiasm to be creative. You don't need any art experience or ability.

Presenter: Valrae Gardiner



THE DOG SQUAD

"We are a pet grooming shop in Tawa. My sister and I bought the shop from the previous owners in March. We all live in Tawa and are looking forward to being a bigger part of the community!" – Anastasia Carlson



The Dog Squad, 120 Main Road, Tawa • 232 6131 • www.facebook.com/thedogsquadtawa

FAME – THE MUSICAL

Tawa College musical productions are always first class, and so it was with "Fame – The Musical" which completed its run at the college this past Saturday night.

Some of the comments on social media:

"Superb musical performance and choreography!!! Highly recommended! Well done to everyone involved! Another class act from Tawa College. Do not miss this chance to watch, 5 more performances to go!"

"Just come home from seeing 'Fame' at Tawa College. Blown away by the incredible singing, dancing, playing, characterisation and acting! Thnx for a wonderful evening's entertainment.

You guys rock!!! Amazing playing by the live band too, awesome Steph! Massive congrats to Issac and Murray for another standout production. Can't believe this standard is coming out of a school!"



60 SECONDS WITH Shona Murray

Shona was the main organiser and the driving force behind the biennial Tawa Schools' and Community Festivals which date back to 1979. Although stepping down from that role in recent years, it's fair to say she would be regarded as an 'icon' of the Tawa community.

Where were you born?

Hshuchang, Honan Province, China.

Where did you grow up?

China until the age of 7, one year in Queenstown, 6 years in Gore, then Tawa since 1957.

Work experience over the years

Teaching New Entrants at Tawa School 1963 - 1968

HOD Music at Tawa College from 1982-2006

Directing Tawa Schools and Community Festivals from 1979 - 2010.

Choral work with Dawn Chorus and Twilight Tones (at Tawa College) and acting as accompanist for the NZ Secondary Students choir 1990-2000.

Ten years as Chief Moderator and examiner for School Certificate and University Bursaries Music in New Zealand.

Assistant teacher at Tawa College from 2006 - 2010 working for one of my ex-students, Murray Cameron, who became HOD Music in 2006.

What are your interests and hobbies?

Accompanying Trust Porirua City Band soloists for Regional and National Contests, and students from Tawa College for NCEA performances.

Photography, computer technology, cooking, embroidery, movies, church and community music.

Keeping in contact with ex-students through Facebook.

Being actively involved in the life and activities of the grandchildren [*one of whom is Jess Kerr whose profile featured in the most recent edition of this newsletter – Ed.*]

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

Rafael Nadal – apart from his amazingly athletic playing, I admire his humility, his overcoming of difficulties, his down to earth family values, and his service to the school he has created in India for children in poverty.

Favourite musical group and/or individual singer(s)?

Elton John, Karen Carpenter, Schubert, Mozart, Bach.

Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Queenstown.

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

I am inspired to see the lives that I've had a link to, go on to achieve fulfillment with their talents or gifts beyond what they ever would have thought possible.

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

Celebrate the service and talents of our grandchildren in community.

Return with Bruce to Scotland and Ireland to our family heritage sites.

Watch Rafa Nadal play live.



Shona with her home made Chiau-Tze, a family favourite at Murray celebrations, and part of Shona's family heritage with China.

CRICKET AWARDS FOR LOCAL GIRLS

This past weekend the NZ Indoor Cricket Provincial Championships were held at the Hutt Indoor Sports Centre. Amelia Kerr (14), at left in photo, playing for the Wellington Women's team and Kate Fenton (13) playing for the Wellington Under-20 team both had remarkable weekends against players considerably older than them.



Amelia who last year was named Most Valuable Player at the Under-20 World Cup had a superb weekend for the Wellington women dominating with bat and ball. The Wellington side lost to Canterbury in the final, 107-108 in a thrilling match. Amelia was awarded the Most Valuable Player of the tournament award.

In the Under 20 girls grade Kate Fenton was named Wellington's Most Valuable Player and narrowly missed the grades overall MVP.

Both players will be heading to the Under-18 Indoor Cricket World Cup in Brisbane in September. The side also includes Tawa College teammates Jess Kerr (captain), Makaylah Mason Jones and Roshani Thurasingham. All five girls are part of the Tawa College Girls first XI cricket side who are the current National Secondary Schools champions.

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)



"Get a bicycle. You will not regret it. If you live." – Mark Twain

"It's easy to find reasons for division between people. Finding common ground is harder, but a step towards happiness."

"Joy is what happens to us when we allow ourselves to recognise how good things really are." – Marianne Williamson

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 1250 Tawa households, businesses, schools, churches and clubs/groups (anyone who has an interest in the community of Tawa), usually in the first half of the 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 (Feel free to skip):

The biggest problem with holidaying in the northern hemisphere at this time of the year is returning to a New Zealand winter. Yes, it's tough for some!

Spending time elsewhere broadens the mind, as they say. That may be the case for a few. For others, we simply enjoy the experience and learn to better appreciate the fact that we have it pretty good on the whole in these far flung islands that make up New Zealand.

I've recently returned from a great three weeks in the USA, always an exciting place to visit. It's a land of contrasts, extremes and complexities. Without going into detail (because that could go on forever), I do think that life in New Zealand really is "simpler" in many respects and somewhat less inequitable than in lots of places.

When it comes to internal travel, the USA is superb with its vast highway system but no fun whatsoever when one has to fly. How easy it is in this country to report for a domestic flight a mere 30-40 minutes before departure time and breeze through security within a matter of minutes (or not at all when flying to smaller centres). Contrast that with needing to be at an American airport two hours or more before departure, and spending 25 to 30 minutes in long lines, removing belts and footwear, etc, then being subject to the once-over in the xray cylinder, all in the name of security. Yes, perhaps there's a need for it, but how much less complicated the process is in little old NZ!

On the other hand, I always find driving in the USA great fun. The freeways are a pleasure to use, enhanced by the chance to cruise at speed limits of 70 to 80 mph (112 to 128 km/h). Ran up a few too many kilometres, I dare to say!

"America the Beautiful" is very accurate with so much scenic beauty encapsulated in numerous national parks, two of which I got to visit. New Zealand is also renowned for its great scenery. The difference is that we're so much more compact. You don't have to travel the same kind of distances to enjoy the scenic highlights!

I very much enjoyed having my daughter Becca (a teacher at Tawa School) spend the first 11 days with me in California, Utah, Wyoming and Idaho. I spent a further nine days mostly in Missouri and Arkansas.

Highlights of three weeks in the USA:

- two days at Disneyland, "The Happiest Place on Earth." Amazing fireworks display (and accompanying music). Photo 1.
- catching up with ex-Tawa friends in Salt Lake City. Great walks and scenery in the nearby mountains.
- Independence Day community breakfast with more than 100 neighbours taking part.
- Grand Teton National Park (another item off the bucket list!) including a scenic raft ride on the Snake River. Photo 2.
- Yellowstone National Park. Wildlife and superb scenery. Photos 3 & 4.
- St Louis, Missouri. A quick visit to the top of the arch, Gateway to the West.
- show-town Branson, Missouri. Silver Dollar City theme park and a couple of shows.
- Little Rock, Arkansas, with a visit to the State Capitol (Photo 6) where they were proud of their "balanced budget", and the Clinton Presidential Library.
- Memphis, Tennessee. Graceland where "Elvis lives!" Big crowds & exorbitant prices but another bucket list tick. Photo 7.
- friendly Americans who are generally very easy to talk to, not that they always understand the NZ accent!
- 32-37 degree temperatures which one could get used to (but thank goodness for hotel pools and air conditioning!).

