



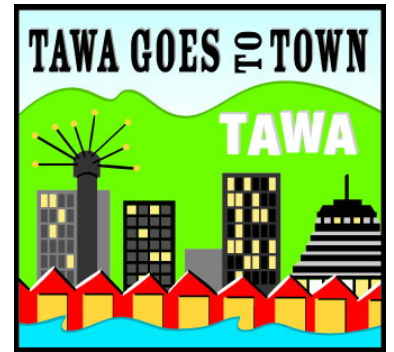
# COMMUNITY NEWS

August 2016

*This community newsletter is sent out monthly on behalf of tawalink.com, Tawa's community website since 2002. More regular community updates are available if you join around 2700 other Tawa residents on neighbourly.co.nz. You can opt for daily updates or weekly updates from that site.*

## **“TAWA GOES TO TOWN” – DON'T MISS IT!**

This iconic Tawa event takes place just once every two years. This year it's happening on Tuesday evening, 20 September at the Michael Fowler Centre. The Tawa Schools' & Community Music Festival includes a choir from every school in Tawa, plus musicians and dancers from the schools and adults from the wider community. The show involves more than 700 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 \$26 for an adult and \$10 for a child (14 years and under), available through Ticketek. Those prices are lower than previously, in an attempt to ensure that the event is affordable for everyone.

*Note from the Ed:* I can thoroughly recommend this show. This will be the 10th time I've been since arriving in Tawa in 1996. My daughters have long since left the Tawa schooling system (although one is now teaching locally), but I still very much enjoy this special occasion.



It involves down-to-earth music with many pieces accompanied by either energetic dancers on stage, or colourful props used by all those taking part – and sometimes both! Many hours of practice on the part of all the singers and the accompanying musical team go into making a brilliant performance!

## **“SPRING INTO TAWA” – BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW!**

By now you will have heard that we're planning Spring into Tawa, our annual community spring festival, for Saturday 15 October. The event will be held on the Main Road between Essex Street and the Cambridge Street roundabout (outside the Library) – we're going to close that portion of the Main Road so the festival can spread out.



We'll have a range of amazing and interesting community and craft stalls, an entertainment zone, a food zone with some amazing Wellington food trucks and a dedicated activity zone.

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## “SPRING INTO TAWA” contd .....

It promises to be an amazing event with lots of fun and community spirit. So plan to come on down to the festival, spend some time connecting with friends and supporting local Tawa community groups and people.



Applications for stalls are now open – please email [spring.into.tawa@gmail.com](mailto:spring.into.tawa@gmail.com) for information on how to apply. Follow Spring into Tawa on Facebook for updates and information - [www.facebook.com/Springintotawa2016](http://www.facebook.com/Springintotawa2016)

Spring into Tawa is brought to you by Vibrant Tawa, the trading name of the Tawa Progressive and Ratepayers' Association.



## WELL DONE TO OUR TAWA RUGBY CHAMPIONS!

Congratulations to Tawa Rugby who won the Jubilee Cup championship the Saturday before last, beating MSP! Quoting from *Stuff*: “After dropping their first three in the Jubilee Cup and languishing at the bottom of the ladder, they [Tawa] surged back with a six-game winning streak to defy the odds and snatch the title from a rampant Marist St Pats side with a nail-biting 24-20 win at Jerry Collins Stadium in Porirua.”



See the full report at <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/sport/82895235/togia-double-secures-jubilee-cup-for-tawa-in-tense-final-with-marist-st-pats> And thanks to *Stuff* for the photo.

## EDITOR WANTED FOR CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

An editor is needed for the local conservation group's newsletter. Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves (FOTBR) is a volunteer group dedicated to serving the Tawa community by caring for and enhancing Tawa's bush. We are looking for a volunteer to write an occasional e-newsletter for our membership.

Over the last fourteen years the group has undertaken tree planting, track building, pest plant and animal control and monitoring, and lobbied for the further protection and preservation of bush areas in Tawa. These efforts have been recognised by the Tawa and Wellington City communities with local and regional awards, and with the revival of the bush as evidenced by the increase in native birds and the decrease in pest numbers. Many residents of Tawa enjoy the fruits of FOTBR's labours whether it is by walking in the bush or viewing birds in their own gardens.

An important means of keeping our members informed and engaged has been through an e-newsletter, the “Bush Telegraph”. This is a way of sharing recent developments, successes, challenges and opportunities. Leaders within FOTBR can provide the raw material – your job would be to pester us for material, and then turn it into something interesting for our members. If we could get four Bush Telegraphs published each year, that would be great.

If you have good writing and visual presentation skills, you're the person we need. We promise you it will be a rewarding role! Contact Wayne Pincott at [wnpextra-temp@yahooextra.co.nz](mailto:wnpextra-temp@yahooextra.co.nz) for more info.

## **UP-TO-DATE INFO ON A FEW KEY GROUPS IN TAWA**

### **• TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD**

This is a group of six elected members and two appointed city councillors under the 'umbrella' of the Wellington City Council.

Elections take place every three years in line with regular council elections. WCC's website states: "This elected community board represents the interests of the Tawa Community. The board reflects the unique history and requirements of the area and helps Wellington City Council to understand and meet the community's needs."

Some of the responsibilities of the community board are:

- representing and acting as an advocate for the interests of the Tawa community
- considering and reporting on any matter referred to it by Wellington City Council and any issues of interest to the Tawa Community Board
- maintaining an overview of services provided by Wellington City Council within the Tawa community

For more information about the Tawa Community Board, see <http://www.tawalink.com/tawacommunityboard.html>

Nominations for the community board to serve from October 2016 to October 2019 have just closed. Those standing, in alphabetical order, are: Jill Day, Graeme Hansen, Richard Herbert, Margaret Lucas, Jack Marshall, Robyn Parkinson. With six candidates for six places, an election will not be necessary.

### **• VIBRANT TAWA**

"Vibrant Tawa" is the trading name for the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association. The role of the group is to:

- make Tawa a more active community
- improve neighbourhood connections
- liaise with businesses, community groups, schools and churches to achieve the above

Vibrant Tawa promotes what is happening locally on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/VibrantTawa/> – this page can be used to share information useful to those living in Tawa, promote what is happening in Tawa and anything else that supports our local community. If you're a club, community organisation, business, group or local, please feel free to use it to promote upcoming events, or if you have a great idea or need some local help or support with a local initiative, please let us know.

The Vibrant Tawa AGM is coming up, so if you would like to join this proactive group, please get in touch. Email [vibrant.tawa@gmail.com](mailto:vibrant.tawa@gmail.com)

### **• TAWA BUSINESS GROUP**

Tawa Business is a group of passionate local business owners, property owners and Tawa community members who would like to help make Tawa a better place to live, work and visit.

An internationally recognised approach to doing this would be the establishment of a Business Improvement District (BID) in Tawa.

A BID would provide the foundation for a strong business association to represent Tawa, that is sustainably funded through a reasonable targeted rate on businesses and commercial properties within

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## • TAWA BUSINESS GROUP *contd.....*

a BID boundary. This Tawa BID establishment project will consider options for where a BID boundary might be set.

A BID would use its funding for the ongoing betterment of the Tawa town centre, for example collective marketing efforts, advocating for further investment into Tawa from stakeholders such as the Wellington City Council or addressing shared issues such as graffiti, poorly presented retail space or crime within the town centre.

For more information, visit <http://www.tawabusiness.co.nz>

## • TAWA TOWN CENTRE UPGRADE

Happening at the same time as the Tawa BID project is the Tawa Town Centre Upgrade project. Led by Wellington City Council, this project is now in the final stages of consultation and will see \$1 million invested by the Council into the look and feel of the Tawa town centre.

To view full information about the upgrade project and to have your say on the improvements being considered, just click on this link: <http://planningoursuburbs.org.nz/where/tawa/have-your-say/>

The options include:

- Surrey Street roundabout
- raised pedestrian crossing
- gateway features
- Essex Street junction
- planted central median strip
- Tawa Plaza upgrade

Lucie Desrosiers at [Lucie.desrosiers@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Lucie.desrosiers@wcc.govt.nz) is the contact person for the upgrade project.



Advocacy for further investment into Tawa will be one focus of a Tawa BID. However a Tawa BID will have a much broader focus.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Submissions for the Tawa Town Centre Improvement close on Friday 26 August.

## EMERGENCY WATER TANKS AVAILABLE AGAIN

It's water tank time again at the Tawa Community Centre where you can get a 200L tank for \$105 in green or light grey. Call the centre on 232 1682 or email [tawacc@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:tawacc@wcc.govt.nz) to book yours, with your details and choice of colour.

Payments can be made in multiple ways.

All orders need to be placed by 1pm on Monday 22 August. Pick-ups will be from the centre that week.

For more information see:

[www.getprepared.org.nz/rainwater-tanks](http://www.getprepared.org.nz/rainwater-tanks) and [www.thetankguy.co.nz/200l-rain-butt.html](http://www.thetankguy.co.nz/200l-rain-butt.html)

Water tanks will also be available outside Countdown Johnsonville (next to The Warehouse) on Sunday 21 August from 11am to 1pm. If you wish to reserve one, please email [malcolm@tawalink.com](mailto:malcolm@tawalink.com)



## **REDWOOD SCHOOL'S 50th CELEBRATIONS**

Redwood School celebrated its 50th birthday over the weekend of 1st and 2nd July.

Over 450 people were at school on Saturday afternoon to see performances by the school ukulele group, a Sri Lankan dance and drum group made up of past and present students and the school Kapa Haka group.

There were speeches from foundation pupils Fiona Green and Francie Bengie; the Mayor of Wellington; and a beautiful speech by current pupil Charlotte Gibbs. An amazing cake created by Chamila Sudsinghe was cut by foundation pupil Johanna Haus, the second principal of the school Pieter Braun and current pupil Macy Joseph-Tolo.

Decade photos were taken, trees planted and there was lots of looking over old photos, laughter and tears as stories were told of days gone by. Photos were taken throughout the event by Julie Willetts and can be ordered at [www.juliewillettsphotography.co.nz](http://www.juliewillettsphotography.co.nz) – click on the 50th reunion thumbnail and use RS50thR as the sign-in code.

A highlight of the event was the bringing together of the only three principals that Redwood School has had: Con Coffey, Pieter Braun and Sue Goodin. It was a wonderful weekend and the school is very grateful to the organising committee for all their hard work to bring about the event.

On 14th September the celebrations will continue with the launch of the Redwood School 50th Book of Memories currently being written by Kay Lilley, Margo Crawford and Sarah Harmon.



Former principals Pieter Braun and Con Coffey  
with current principal Sue Goodin



Former principal Pieter Braun, current pupil Macy Joseph-Tolo and foundation pupil Johanna Haus cutting the cake

## **TAWA BOWLING CLUB OPEN DAYS**

Every Sunday in August Tawa Bowling Club Inc invites you to our 2016 Open Days. 10am to 12 midday with a sausage sizzle to finish. All equipment supplied. No commitment other than having fun. Bring family and friends. Tawa Bowling Club is in Davies Street, off McLellan St, opposite Grasslees Reserve.

## **THE BOROUGH – THE PROPOSED NEW CAFE/RESTAURANT**

We received this information about 10 days ago: “At the moment we are just finishing two other fitouts in the city. The builders have been in the Main Road, Tawa site, but out the back working on the toilet blocks and service areas rather than the stuff you can see from the front. In the next two weeks you should see a whole lot more action in the front of the bar as our team finishes our other sites.”

The intention is to be open in plenty of time for Spring into Tawa on 15 October!

## 2 MINUTES WITH ..... Brett Gillies



Brett Gillies is one of many valued members of the Tawa community who play their part (in his case a substantial part) in making this community a great place in which to live. Amongst other roles, Brett was Chair of the Tawa Valley Pathway Committee which was responsible for the creation of the 5km Tawa Valley Pathway – Ara Tawa which opened in 2014. He is also a trustee on the Tawa Community Patrol.

*Where were you born?* Otahuhu, Auckland

*Where did you grow up?*

Whangaparaoa Peninsula [near Auckland]

*What were you educated?*

Orewa District High School; subsequently obtained a Diploma in Energy Management

*How long have you lived in Tawa?*

40 years. I shifted to Wellington when I got a promotion here, and never left.

*Work experience over the years .....*

Many years in DSIR and presently the Property Manager, GNS Sciences Ltd, Avalon.

*What about family?*

Married to Wendy Gillies with three sons Michael, Scott, David and daughter Gemma. We have three lovely granddaughters, Gabriella, Andy-Rose and Lola.

*What are your interests/hobbies?*

Volunteer Hut Warden for Dept of Conservation for the Tararua Ranges

Trustee, Training Officer and Patroller for the Tawa Community Patrol

Tramping and kayaking expeditions

Enjoying my grandchildren's company

*Favourite sports team and/or sportsperson?*

Hurricanes

Steve Gurney

*Favourite musical group and/or style of music?*

Creedence Clearwater Revival

Sam Smith

*Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?*

Marlborough Sounds and Nelsons Lake National Park.

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

My involvement in various volunteer community groups within the Tawa community has been exceptioningly rewarding, as Tawa is a great town, has a great village environment and is a magnificent place to raise children and be surrounded by lovely people.

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

Tramp the length of NZ

Kayak around Stewart Island

Take up paragliding



**The Tawa Bowling Club**

# **MONSTER GARAGE SALE**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
September 8am  
13 Davies Street  
Tawa**

**A sausage sizzle and  
refreshments will be available**

## **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](https://www.facebook.com/TawaAndLindenCommunityCentres)

Email [mandy.russell@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:mandy.russell@wcc.govt.nz)  
and put 'Join' as the subject  
to receive regular updates.

Adios

Malcolm Sparrow  
[info@tawalink.com](mailto:info@tawalink.com) 027 232 2320



*"The one who falls and gets up is stronger than the one who never fell."*

*"Wrong is wrong, even if everyone is doing it. Right is right, even if no-one is doing it."*

*"I love the sense of camaraderie when an entire line of cars team up to prevent a jerk cutting in at the front. Stay strong, brothers and sisters!"*

*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](http://www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html).*

Sneaking off with the slipper or returning it to its owner? The former, unfortunately!  
At what age do labradors grow up, one wonders! Ever?

