

This community newsletter is sent out monthly on behalf of tawalink.com, Tawa's community website since 2002.

Other sources of online community information in Tawa:

[www.neighbourly.co.nz](http://www.neighbourly.co.nz) • [www.facebook.com/VibrantTawa](http://www.facebook.com/VibrantTawa) • [www.facebook.com/tawacommunityboard](http://www.facebook.com/tawacommunityboard)

## QUIZ FOR HANGING BASKETS

On Thursday 1st March there will be a fundraising quiz night at The Borough in Tawa. Tickets are a bargain at just \$10 per person (it's been recommended that teams should have a maximum of six people). There will be raffles on the night with prizes generously donated by Tawa businesses.

Please contact Fiona on 021 504 103 or email [the5wildies@gmail.com](mailto:the5wildies@gmail.com) to reserve a place. Get your team together to support this worthy cause!

## TAWA TOWN CENTRE UPGRADE

This is the message from Council:

"In February we'll start upgrading the two pedestrian crossings on [the] Main Rd between Surrey St and Cambridge St. The crossings will be widened and raised to improve safety and make it easier for pedestrians to get around.

We expect the work will take around three weeks



to complete.

Traffic will be managed by allowing north-bound vehicles to use [the] Main Road and for south-bound traffic to be diverted at Surrey St and along Oxford St. There will be signs letting pedestrians and drivers know about the diversions and there will be a large electronic sign set up one week before the works start to let people know what is happening.

*See the photo at left.*

This will mean work can be done on both crossings simultaneously to reduce the construction time.

Within the project is an upgrade of Tawa's central plaza, which was identified as a key priority by the local community.

It will create a gathering space that is flexible to facilitate community events and support surrounding businesses. Artwork will also contribute to enhancing Tawa's identity."

## QUIZ NIGHT FUNDRAISER



**WHEN**  
Thursday 1st March 2018  
7-9pm

**WHERE**  
The Borough, Main Rd, Tawa



• RAFFLES • RAFFLES • RAFFLES • RAFFLES • RAFFLES •  
\$2 per ticket OR three tickets for \$5

**GET YOUR TEAM TOGETHER NOW!**

**TICKETS ARE LIMITED**  
\$10 per person

Contact Fiona on  
Ph. 021 504 103 or email  
[the5wildies@gmail.com](mailto:the5wildies@gmail.com)

**SPONSORS**  
These include:

- Unichem Simons Pharmacy
- Salon Savoy
- Paisley
- Twisted Willow Florist
- Haircraft Centre

**BENEFITING**  
The Tawa Potted Colour Committee, in conjunction with Tawa Residents Association, is fundraising to maintain the hanging baskets and develop other flowering projects in Tawa.



## IT'S GOOD TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR!

Will you be organising a barbecue or afternoon tea in your street (or neighbourhood) in conjunction with Neighbours' Day – any time in March?

It really can be very simple. Here's how:

The idea is to agree with one of your neighbours to have a barbecue in your front yard or at the end of the cul-de-sac or on the grass verge on a given day. Then invite another 6-15 nearby neighbours in person or by means of a flyer. Everyone brings and cooks their own food. Easy really. If no-one else turns up, at least you'll enjoy your neighbour's company!



We'll supply an advertising sign for your street, plus name tags and balloons – if you'd like all those. Simply let us know your street name and the date of your get-together. Email [info@tawalink.com](mailto:info@tawalink.com)

And it's a known fact that streets where neighbours know each other cope better with any disaster/emergency that might befall them!

## VERY FIRST TAWA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Kellie Darroch, a Tawa resident with strong family associations in our community, received the inaugural Tawa Community Service Award at the first meeting of the Tawa Community Board for 2018.

This new award is intended to recognise those who deserve more thanks for outstanding service in their work.

Kellie has now worked for more than 22 years in a resthome, in a job that would often truly merit the label of 'thankless'.

She is not only a thoroughly worthy recipient of this new award, but was also its inspiration. The Award has been developed by the Board in response to a conversation with Kellie at an earlier event commemorating the work of a family member.

Do you know someone who deserves more thanks for their work? See the poster for details on nomination criteria.



Award presentation to Kellie Darroch. Also featuring Tawa Community Board members (L to R): Graeme Hansen, Richard Herbert (chair), Liz Langham, Marg Lucas, Jack Marshall, Robyn Parkinson. Absent: Crs Jill Day and Malcolm Sparrow.

**Tawa Community Service Award**

**Do you know someone who deserves more thanks for their work?**

Nominate them for a Service Award from the Tawa Community Board.

Conditions of Award:

- 1 Any person may nominate an individual aged 16 and over who:
  - lives, or works, or has similarly strong connection to Tawa, and
  - does an act or acts of service in their work that merits greater appreciation from the Tawa community.
- 2 Awards will reflect an individual going over and above the usual expectations of their role.
- 3 Board members are not eligible for nomination. Awards are given at the sole discretion of the Board. Nominations may be made at any time.

To make a nomination contact any Board member or place completed form in the nominations box at Tawa Library or Tawa Community Centre.  
Award recipients receive a certificate of appreciation in a brief presentation at regular Board meetings.

**TAWA** Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council  
We Better Be Pleased

## 🎵 TAWA MUSIC CENTRE 🎵

Group music tuition for Year 1-8 children from 5 years of age

(restrictions may apply as stated in the prospectus).

Classes are held on Saturday mornings at Tawa Intermediate School.

Fees \$70 per half year.

Instruments include: Recorder, Cello, Guitar, Saxophone, Keyboard,

Brass, Flute, Clarinet, Piano, Violin, Drums. Music Appreciation

and Music Theory are also taught.



Enrolment day is

**SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

**AT TAWA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL HALL**

Ranui Terrace, Tawa, from

9.00am to 10.30am

Further enquiries to Marianne Peacocke 233 0541

🎵 TAWA MUSIC CENTRE 🎵



## Tawa Judo Club

Tawa Wrestling Club Hall  
(cnr Gee and Findlay Streets, Tawa)

Judo is a Martial Art and an Olympic Sport, loads of fun and will also help children develop:

- Physical fitness (speed, strength, Agility/flexibility, endurance)
- Self-Discipline / Self Control
- Co-ordination
- Self Confidence

**Beginners Class for children aged 8 to 13**

starting **Thursday**, 22 February 2018

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Cost \$50 per term

**What to wear:**

Clean sweatshirt and shorts or leggings

**For more info contact**

Graeme 021 – 832 922

Ralph 021 – 894 718

**Register** via email before 20 February:

TawaJudo2014@gmail.com

## PROBUS CLUB OF TAWA

Friendship, Fellowship and Fun in Retirement.

The Combined Club of Tawa is looking at re-affiliating to the Probus organisation.

A Special General Meeting will be held at the Tawa Bowling Club on Monday 19 February at 9.30am.

Anyone interested in joining or re-joining Probus is welcome to attend.

Probus is a worldwide group of clubs for retired or semi-retired folk.

- Make new friends with other retirees
- Hear stimulating guest speakers
- Join a wide range of interest groups
- Benefit from exclusive travel insurance
- Have fun

For more info, please contact Max George on 232 4200 or Kevin Thompson on 238 2191.



## TRAIN WITH TAWA RUGBY CLUB

Tawa Rugby Club has started its preseason training and would welcome any new players. Club preseason training is on a Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm (sharp). The Senior 2 team is specifically recruiting players for this team, a good bunch of lads who enjoy playing rugby and having fun.

Preseason training started on Monday 12th February at 6.30pm. Fitness and skills will be the name of the game initially, so if anyone wants to come along, have a shot, even if you have not played for a while, you are welcome.

For more details, contact Steuart Ogilvie at [Steuart.Ogilvie@aecom.com](mailto:Steuart.Ogilvie@aecom.com)

## 2 MINUTES WITH ..... Gil Roper

Gil featured in this newsletter when his book *Tawa the tree, the community and its reserves* was published last October. The book stems from his involvement with both the Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves and the Tawa Historical Society.

He was one of those from FoTBR who gave huge support to the Tawa community's drive at this time last year to convince Wellington City Council to secure the Forest of Tane (on Tawa's western hills) for community ownership – a bid that was ultimately successful.



*Where were you born?* Palmerston North.

*Where did you grow up?* Palmerston North, New Plymouth, Wanganui and Wellington.

*Where were you educated?*

Wanganui Intermediate School, Wellington College and Victoria University of Wellington.

*How long have you lived in Tawa?* Eight years (2010 to 2018) but previously for four years (1968 to 1972) when I began my teaching career at Tawa College.

*What about family?*

Married to Helen for almost 49 years. We have five adult sons who all live in New Zealand and then we have 10 grandchildren from the next generation, including seven girls!

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

I've worked in Secondary Education all my life – a Science and Biology Teacher at Tawa College and then HOD Science, Katikati College. In 1993 I moved back to Wellington to join NZQA in the Secondary Assessment Section. In 2002 I became an Adviser to Secondary Schools for NZQA when the NCEA qualifications were introduced. I'm currently employed part-time as an Adviser to Staff at Wellington College.

*What are your interests and hobbies?*

Botany and the conservation of flora and fauna. I take guided tours at Zealandia and more recently at the Botanical Gardens. Gardening and landscaping, plus music and sport. Interests in the history of Tawa and its native bush reserves are enabled as a committee member of both the Tawa Historical Society and Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves. Writing, editing, as well as overseas travel, provide further interests.

*Favourite sports team and/or sports person?*

I'm an avid follower of national team sports – but especially Cricket and Rugby, having played and coached both of these sports in my younger days.

*Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?*

I'm a keen fan of opera and operetta – having sung in many productions in my earlier years.

*What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?*

Anywhere where there are pristine native bush walks, lakes and rivers. First-time recent visits to The Catlins, Stewart Island, Great Barrier Island and White Island have been memorable.

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

Helping other people through imparting knowledge and experiences learned in my employment in secondary education. Also, I enjoyed writing and publishing a book last year, which took two years to prepare – *Tawa the tree, the community and its reserves*. Seeing the content used locally and beyond has been satisfying.

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

Visit the Galapagos Islands and tropical rainforest in the Amazon.

View opera at Covent Garden or 'the Met' in New York.

Visit parts of historical Europe previously unseen.

## **STEPHEN BRASSETT COMPLETES THE LONGEST WALK NZ**

Stephen Brassett was in Tawa recently to see his parents, after completing The Longest Walk New Zealand, a walking trip of around 4500 kms with his two dogs, 6-year-old pug cross Jake and 12-year-old chihuahua cross Piccolo.



Stephen grew up in Wellington, and has worked in animal welfare in both New Zealand and Australia, especially training and handling dogs.

Quoting his website <https://thelongestwalknz.wordpress.com>: "The Longest Walk NZ is about visiting animal welfare organisations and finding out how you can help. It's about helping them gain visibility and getting their messages out. In the long run, it is about improving the quality of life of animals (and their people) in New Zealand."

His homemade camper on bicycle wheels is light enough to pull. Piccolo rode in it most of the time, but the more adventurous Jake did a lot of walking. At night the camper was propped up to stay flat and all three slept in it. It contains cooking gear, has a solar panel on top, is insulated and ventilated, and was their home for 12 months.

Stephen's Longest Walk NZ began in Invercargill in January last year, travelled up the South Island as shown in the map at right, headed up the east coast of the North Island to Kaitaia, then turned around to come back down the west coast. The epic walk ended in Wellington last month with a small event in the grounds of Parliament attended by Northern Ward councillors Malcolm Sparrow and Peter Gilbert, followed by a reception at the office of Wellington Central MP, the Rt Hon Grant Robertson.



As for Stephen's future? He's now moved to Hokitika which he describes as "having a special feel" to it. He is aiming to re-establish himself and would like to get involved in animal education and perhaps dog training as well.

## **LECTURES AT THE UNION CHURCH**

To celebrate the 100th birthday of Sir Lloyd Geering on 26 February 2018, three exponents of modern thought on religion will give lectures at 11am on the following dates at the Union Church in, Tawa.

March 1 – "A porthole upon Jesus and the origin of Christianity" with Rev Dr Jim Veitch

March 8 – "A porthole upon the Bible" with Rev Dr Jim Cunningham

March 15 – "A porthole upon theology today" with journalist Ian Harris

A finger lunch will be available afterwards. For catering purposes please contact coordinator Ron Bichan on 232 6185 or [ronbichan@gmail.com](mailto:ronbichan@gmail.com)

## VOLUNTEER PATROLLERS

Tawa Community Patrol is currently recruiting for more volunteer patrollers, day time patrollers in particular.

If you can spare at least three hours once a month and are interested in joining our friendly and welcoming team – or just want to find out more, simply complete the form at [www.tawacp.org.nz/join.html](http://www.tawacp.org.nz/join.html) and we'll be in touch!



## ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN TAWA

A very hot day last month saw the first public meetup of local owners of Electric Vehicles (EVs). One strip of car parking at Grasslees Reserve was almost entirely filled by these EVs, all the more remarkable as just two years ago there were none known of in Tawa.



First owner honours are shared by the current Chair of the Tawa Community Board, Richard Herbert, with the Murrell family – Nathan & Anita being strong supporters of the EV community. Around another 10 local EV owners came to the event.

As you can see by the photo, one model is the current car of choice – the Nissan Leaf, mainly due to its affordability and availability. The EV community is growing exponentially as owners discover they are not only good

for the environment, but incredibly cheap to run – and fun to drive.

Owners find much support and information through the online community of Facebook groups – which is how this event was organised. If anyone local is interested in knowing more about EVs, join the “Wellington EV Owners” group on Facebook (you don't have to own one yet to join) or contact Robyn Parkinson, Tawa Community Board member, on 232 5338 or 027 805 8334.

## TAWA COMMUNITY GARDEN

It's been two years since the official opening of the Tawa Community Garden in Coronation Park, Oxford Street. The Garden and the level of interest from the community has grown noticeably!

Common questions are “What happens to the produce?” Answer: the volunteer gardeners take some, passers-by take some, and anything surplus gets offered to passing strangers or left with the neighbouring kindergarten for their whanau table, and “Can I bring things to add to the compost bins?”

Answer: no thanks – not without checking with the gardeners first. There is only a small composting setup, with limited scope for additional material; and the best compost is made when the balance of ‘ingredients’ is right. So check with us first! – *article supplied by Robyn Parkinson*



Opening of Tawa Community Garden in February 2016

## GREENACRES SCHOOL MAD HATTER'S GALA

This year's gala is scheduled for Saturday 17 March. More details to come.

## LAST CHANCE TO APPLY FOR A TAWA COMMUNITY GRANT

The closing date for community groups to apply for a grant from the 2018 Tawa Community Grants fund is Wednesday 28 February. For further information, see <https://wellington.govt.nz/services/community-and-culture/funding/council-funds/tawa-community-grants> or call Council on 803 8525.

The Inner Wheel Club of Tawa \ Look Good Feel Better  
**Health & Beauty Expo**



**WEDNESDAY 21ST MARCH**

**Time:**  
7.00pm

**Place:**  
Tawa Bowling Club,  
Davis Street Tawa.

**Price:**  
\$20.00 ticket.

Ticket sales Carolyn 021 369 115 or [tawaiwsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:tawaiwsecretary@gmail.com)

More information on our Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/innerwheeltawa/>



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

Ngā mihi

Malcolm Sparrow

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



*"The more you weigh, the harder you are to kidnap. Stay safe. Eat cake."*

*"Some days I amaze myself. Other days I look for my phone while I'm talking on it."*

*"It is fitting that we pay tribute to Abraham Lincoln, who was born in a log cabin that he built with his own hands." – Congressman Dan Flood (on the occasion of Lincoln's birthday on 12 February)*

*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](http://www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html) for back issues of the newsletter.*