

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

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?

See the poster at right.

It's a good idea to know what to do in a major emergency, especially after the likes of a big earthquake!

Here's your opportunity to join with other locals in a workshop specifically designed for Tawa residents.

It's on Wednesday 27 February 6.00-8.00pm at the Linden Social Social Centre.

We hope to see you there!

LINDEN SOCIAL CENTRE 'OPENING'

Do you live in Linden or simply have an interest in Linden? Pop down to the Social Centre on Saturday 16 February 1pm – 4pm for tons of family-friendly fun and have a chat about the things you'd like to see happening in Linden.

- Kids cycling obstacle course
- Sausage sizzle
- Bike checks and bike fixes
- Emergency water tanks
- Books
- Cake
- and more!

The community Christmas BBQ at the Linden Social Centre on Friday 21 December



WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF IT HAPPENED NOW?

TAWA PLAN AND PREPARE WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY, 6:00 – 8:00PM

Linden Social Centre,
10 Linden Avenue, Tawa



Nau mai, haere mai!

Join us for an evening of sharing and networking with your neighbours of the **Tawa** community.

We will discuss...

- the hazards we face in the Wellington region
- potential impacts of a disaster during and after a major event
- how you and your family can better prepare at home, school and work AND
- ways that you can support your wider community.

We look forward to seeing you there!

PICK UP YOUR 200L WATER TANK AT LINDEN

There will be a few 200L emergency tanks available at the Linden Social Centre event, as mentioned at left. \$110 each.

If you would like to reserve one to pick up on the day, please email malcolm.sparrow@wcc.govt.nz – otherwise it will be a matter of first in, first served!

TIME'S RUNNING OUT TO APPLY FOR A TAWA COMMUNITY GRANT

The Tawa Community Board has \$15,000 each year to be made available to worthy local causes. The Tawa Community Grants Fund is designed to assist voluntary projects in Tawa.

Grants may be made for charitable, educational, welfare, community development, cultural, recreational, sporting, activity development, equipment or training programmes. Applications close 28 February 2019.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- show that their project benefits residents of Tawa
- not have excess unallocated reserve funds

Preference will be given to projects that will be completed within 12 months.

For further details, see <https://wellington.govt.nz/services/community-and-culture/funding/council-funds/tawa-community-grants> or call the WCC grants team on 803 8525.

TAWA MUSIC CENTRE ENROLMENT



Tawa Music Centre Enrolment Day for 2019 is Saturday 16th February at Tawa Intermediate School hall, 9.00am to 10.30am.

Come along and talk to our tutors and enrol your child. Lessons will start the following Saturday.

Instruments that we teach are:

- Music Appreciation (5 1/2 year olds +)
- Recorder
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Flute
- Piano
- Keyboard
- Violin
- Guitar
- Cello
- Theory and Drums

Group music tuition for children Years 1 - 8. Full details are in the prospectus, which was delivered to local primary schools in the first week of Term 1.

UPPER STEBBINGS VALLEY DEVELOPMENT

A community update on the Upper Stebbings Valley development took place earlier this week at the Linden Social Centre. The meeting was organised by Northern Ward city councillors Jill Day, Malcolm Sparrow and Peter Gilberd. Mayor Justin Lester and David Mitchell, Council's Senior Spatial Planning Advisor, spoke to and answered questions from an audience of 80 or so interested residents, not only from Tawa, but also Churton Park and Glenside.

We were told that Council has gone back to the drawing board in terms of a proposed road connection from Upper Stebbings Valley over the hill to Tawa.

Over the first half of 2019 the next steps will be to undertake a detailed design process, initially focused on Upper Stebbings Valley. This will include transport and roading work. Council officers will also undertake detailed assessments such as earthworks modelling, development feasibility, and streams and ecology analysis.



The Mayor addressing the meeting

Later in the year a detailed structure plan will be developed. This will involve Councillor, stakeholder and public engagement phases. Watch this space!

THINKING ABOUT A BBQ IN YOUR STREET?

People in streets right across the country will be getting together with their neighbours over a BBQ or afternoon tea next month – a very neighbourly thing to do! And it's a known fact that streets where neighbours know each other cope better with any disaster/emergency that might befall them!

It's just a matter of inviting 10-20 nearby households to an event in your street, rolling out a barbecue (or two), people cooking their own food and mixing together on the day. Simple really!

Email info@tawalink.com if you'd like to discuss further and/or obtain an advertising sign for your street, a few balloons and some name tags.



OUTER GREEN BELT PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public consultation is now under way on the Draft Outer Green Belt Management Plan 2019.

On the WCC website: "The Outer Green Belt is a series of reserves on the edge of the city that stretch from the Porirua City boundary to the south coast [of Wellington]. It covers more than 3,000 hectares and comprises over half of the City's public reserves network." This includes Spicer Forest and Te Ngahere-o-Tawa (formerly Forest of Tane) on Tawa's western hills.



View from near Chastudon Place over Tawa's western hills

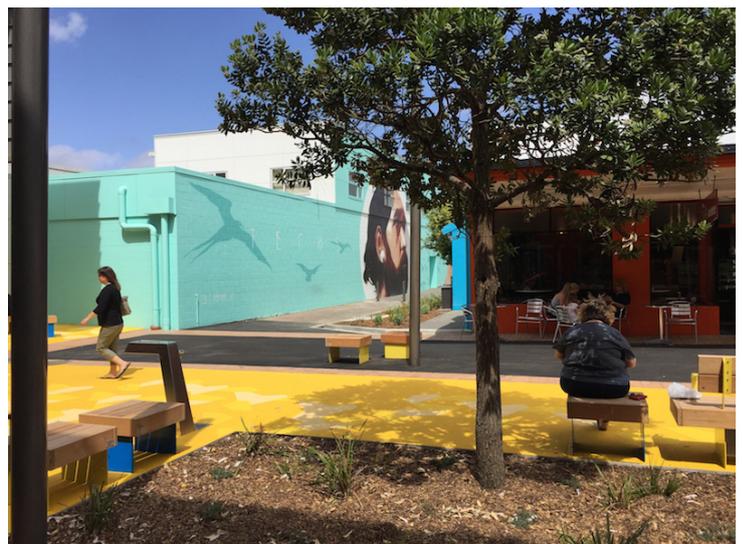
As residents we have the opportunity to provide feedback to Council on this. The deadline is 5pm on Monday 25 March 2019. More information is available at <https://wellington.govt.nz/have-your-say/public-inputs/consultations/open/outer-green-belt-management-plan-review>

TAWA PLAZA UPGRADE

As you may have seen, the upgrade of Tawa Plaza is nearing completion. We are currently awaiting the catenary lighting installation which is now scheduled for March.

Both positive and negative feedback has been received about the upgrade which, as already stated, is yet to be completed.

Significant consultation was undertaken – over a three-year period – with the Tawa community including local businesses, councillors, the Tawa Community Board and Tawa Residents' Association before the final upgrade designs were "signed off". Overhauling the plaza and making it a more appealing place to visit included (as per the WCC website) "new planting, street furniture, bright pavements – vibrant pavement design – and lighting". We now have all of the above, with the lighting yet to come.



An official opening event is likely to take place later in March. We'll keep you posted in regard to that.

PARKING IMPROVEMENTS IN TAWA

A number of parking spaces in the central shopping area have now been widened. With the formerly narrow spaces, encroachment on the next space often meant that the adjacent space was rendered useless anyway.

There has been a slight reduction in the overall number of parking spaces on the Main Road between Lincoln Ave and the Cambridge St/Lyndhurst Road roundabout, similarly slightly fewer parking spaces outside the Tawa Community Centre in Cambridge St.



More official parking spaces outside the coffee cart

The Inner Wheel Club of Tawa presents

Health & Beauty Expo

Wednesday 20 March

In association with Unichem Simon's Pharmacy
Proceeds to **Look Good Feel Better**

Fun night of information, demonstrations & raffles

Cash out facilities available

6pm to 9pm

**Tawa Bowling Club,
Davis Street, Tawa**

\$20.00 per ticket
(includes a drink & nibbles)

Tickets available - email lgfbexpo@gmail.com or from
KD One Skin Care & Cosmetics, Main Road, Tawa.

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

Inner Wheel New Zealand Inc. Living for Women's Health Guardian Funeral Home Johnsonville & Tawa look good feel better FACING CANCER WITH CONFIDENCE

ZELATI FOOD TRUCK NOW OPERATING

The Zelati food truck was open for the first time this past Thursday.

Here's the official word about its future operations:

"Zelati's Dessert ambo will be parked alongside Tawa's Mervyn Kemp Library by the roundabout. Here you can get your favourite gelato and sorbet in scoops, fresh-baked vegan dairy-free cookies, cookie sandwiches, and thick Spanish hot chocolates on:

- Wednesdays 1pm-5.30pm
- Thursdays 1pm-7.30pm
- Fridays 1pm-5.30pm

Have a gelato, relax in the sun and enjoy!"



2 MINUTES WITH Gary Beecroft



Gary Beecroft was presented with a Tawa Community Civic Award in June 2018 for his many roles in the Tawa community. This was the wording on his citation at the time:

“Gary is on the board of the Tawa Rugby Club and for many years has been the ‘go-to man’, often seen on match day, ensuring the pitches are properly marked up and that everything runs smoothly. He recently became President of Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves, and played a part in last year’s [2017] purchase by Wellington City Council of The Forest of Tane which shares access to his home. He is also chair of the relatively new Tawa MenzShed group and has been instrumental in securing new premises for the group in Oxford St’s Rural Fire Depot, thus seeing a MenzShed established in Tawa.”

Where were you born?

I was born and bred in Otago. We lived first in Purakaunui, a small dairy and fishing village on the Otago Coast between Port Chalmers and Waitati, then Dunedin (where I met my wife to be), and Central Otago.

Where did you grow up?

Most of my childhood was spent living in Purakaunui and Dunedin North. We came from a rural background and, as children, life out of school was mostly outdoors – farming, fishing, shooting and walking the hills.

Where were you educated?

I went to school in Dunedin, North East Valley primary, and Otago Boys High School. My time at OBHS set me up for my life ahead and was very rewarding. Over the span of my working life I continued my education. So I started at Dunedin Teachers College, then Otago University, BA in Education, and a B Sc in Geology & Geography, a post grad in Natural Resources Management at Lincoln; some years later a Soils Diploma at the Egyptian International Centre for Agriculture, Cairo, Egypt, and finally an Executive Management Program at the University of Virginia, USA.

How long have you lived in Tawa?

Our family moved to live beside the Forest of Tawa 20 years ago. A great decision which has just got better each year.

What about family? Megan is a Policy Manager at the Ministry of Social Development. My children have spent all their lives in Tawa. Now Sandie (18) is beginning a design course at Massey, and Campbell (20) is doing Chemistry and Psychology at Victoria.

Work experience over the years

Following university I was a soils conservator with the Otago Regional Council, then Soil Scientist with the DSIR working irrigation and drainage, Dean of Science and Technology at Eastern Institute of Technology Hawkes Bay, CEO of the Agriculture ITO, Dairy Group General Manager, Lark International China, CEO of the Retail Meat ITO, and CEO of Retail Meat New Zealand.

Work experience over the years

As a young man I loved the outdoors, farming, fishing, shooting, canoeing, tramping, and mountaineering. In Tawa, now a bit older and slower, and with teenage children, I have become very involved in the Tawa Rugby Club, the Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves, and the MenzShed. I also do a little house renovating.



This photo appeared in last month’s newsletter: MenzShed chairman Gary Beecroft receiving an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) from Denise Garcia, President of Tawa Rotary.

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Favourite sports team(s)?

Hurricanes and Highlanders, I'm not sure in which order. The All Blacks, and really all New Zealand's national teams and individual international NZ sports competitors.

Favourite musical group and or individual singer?

Paloma Faith, Bob Dylan, Neil Young, David Bowie, and Freddie Mercury. Mostly a boy of the 70s and 80s.

Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Rangataua (and for many of you) a small town between Wairau and Ohakune, beside the National Park; in a house build in 1890.

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

As CEO of the Agriculture ITO where I could work with the farming industry to develop a very successful workplace-based, on job, farm education and training system for all the agriculture sector.

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

- See a fully functioning, proactive MenzShed in Tawa;
- See the creation of a 100-year conservation legacy protecting the flora and fauna of the Forest of Tawa and the lands of the Wellington Northern Outer Green Belt;
- See the Tawa Rugby Club win the Swindale Shield and the Jubilee Cup four more times.

Tawa Community Centre

A friendly place to pop in during the hours of 9am-1pm and 2-4.30pm 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> and sign up to our newsletter by clicking the email signup button.

Ngā mihi

Malcolm Sparrow

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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.

Travel advice:

If you step on a plane and recognise a friend of yours named Jack, don't yell out: "Hi Jack!"

"In order to insult me, I must value your opinion. Nice try though!"

"When strangers start acting like neighbours, communities are invigorated." – Ralph Nader

"If you don't go after what you want, you won't have it. If you don't ask, the answer is always no. If you don't step forward, you're always in the same place."