

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

THIS EDITION IS A SUPPLEMENTARY NEWSLETTER. THE NEXT FULL ISSUE IS SCHEDULED FOR EARLY MARCH.

A BBQ IN YOUR STREET?

Now is a good time to be thinking about a BBQ or afternoon tea next month – a very neighbourly thing to do!

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. Reasonably easy to organise!

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.

DID YOU KNOW that in 2013 Tawa won the "Enhancing Communities" award at the nation-wide community boards' conference for its work in bringing together around 50 street get-togethers for Neighbours' Day the previous year?

As the best in the whole country for "enhancing communities", it was an exceptional achievement and a real credit to this community! Let's do it again!

TAWA PLAZA UPGRADE

This update came through from Council on Thursday 21 February:

"The Tawa Plaza works are nearly finished, with practical completion undertaken yesterday (Wednesday 20 February).

As with any construction project there are a few minor items we need to work through with our contractors, including sorting out defects and snags (i.e. cleaning, attending to garden edges once mulch settles down and plants begin to grow – we will also rectify the potential trip hazard around the pohutukawa tree with the composite pebble surround known as Agrok).

..... contd

BBQ
in **your**
street
in March ?



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!

TAWA PLAZA UPGRADE *contd.....*

Please note that some seats have backs and arm rests and these are scattered through the plaza, but not all seats have these due to the flexible use/nature of the site and the variety of user groups we had to accommodate in the design. We did liaise with the Accessible Advisory Group during the design phases.



Our team also has bean bags and seats that businesses adjacent to the plaza can book for free if they would like to put some furniture out in the plaza on sunny days to further encourage people to use the space. If you are interested in this or want more information, please contact UD.Tawatc@wcc.govt.nz

Still to do: We are waiting on a few specialist parts to arrive from the factory to complete the decorative lighting. Once these parts have been delivered to our contractor, we can confirm a launch event date and will be in contact again with more information. The aim is to have the launch event in March.

We thank you all for your patience and support during planning, design and construction, and look forward to celebrating the new space with you all in March.

NEW BANNERS IN CENTRAL SHOPPING AREA

Last October this newsletter reported that the Tawa Business Group had commissioned the installation of banners and flags along the Main Road in Tawa. Those banners are still flying high. However the ones in the central shopping area have since been replaced with a stand-out design as shown in the pic at right.



THE TAWA SQUASH CLUB

Presents...

BOHEMIAN RHAPOSODY

DRIVE IN CINEMA

OUTLET CITY CARPARK
TAWA

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH

Gates Open @ 6.00pm

Movie Starts @ 7.30pm

\$40.00 PER CAR

PROCEEDS TO CLUB EXPANSION

Book now at...

www.firefly.nz

[see above for link]

or purchase at the club

67 Main Road, Tawa

04 232 8200

info@tawasquash.co.nz

NEW PLANTER BOXES

Have you noticed the new planter boxes outside Tawa library? These are the result of a joint community project between Tawa Potted Colour Committee (Tawa Residents' Association), Tawa MenzShed and Maryflower Nursery. Many thanks to MenzShed members Howard and Ann Woolston (<https://www.smartway.builders>) for building the wonderful planter boxes and to Annemarie van der Slot-Verhoeven (<https://maryflower.co.nz>) for supplying and planting the beautiful plants.



Can you help us to water the new plants? While the plants are getting established we need volunteers to water the plants in the new planter boxes every couple of days. If you can spare 10 mins once a week for the next month please contact Fiona on 021 504 103 so that she can add you to the roster.



Group photo (from left): Ann Woolston (MenzShed), Fiona Wild (Tawa Potted Colour Committee), Annemarie van der Slot-Verhoeven (Maryflower Nursery), Howard Woolston (MenzShed), Gary Beecroft (MenzShed), Richard Herbert (Tawa Community Board).

VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS WANTED!

The Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade is currently recruiting for daytime-available fire fighters. Are you:

- Available for calls during the day time in the Tawa area? (Stay at home mums/dads/caregivers, local business owners, shift workers, local business staff who have a great employer who will allow them to attend calls, retired, etc)
- Able to work well in a team?
- Maintaining a good level of fitness and able to pass “pre-employment” checks?
- Available to train on Wednesday nights? (The initial recruit course is a 7 day wage reimbursed course).
- Able to attend callouts that vary from fires to motor vehicle crashes to medical events and more, and to help with fire safety education?
- Keen to learn new skills and to contribute towards our community?
- Live within 4 minutes' drive from the Tawa Fire Station and have your own transport?



Then we want you! Age, gender, race, etc are not an issue! If you think you fit the bill, please contact us with your name, DOB, address, contact email and phone numbers and we'll be in touch!

<https://fireandemergency.nz/volunteering/being-a-volunteer/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Tawa-Volunteer-Fire-Brigade-215455908516537/>

CRICKET LAST SATURDAY

A full day of cricket competition was run by the Sri Lankan Dance Academy at Linden Park this past Saturday, with matches involving men's, women's and junior teams. This is an annual event bringing together Sri Lankan people from across Wellington for not just cricket, but "a family fun day with Sri Lankan food, music and more."

Local MP Greg O'Connor and Northern Ward city councillors Jill Day, Malcolm Sparrow and Peter Gilberd presented the players with various awards at the end of the day's competition.



STAYING SAFE: SENIOR DRIVING COURSE

Last year the first senior driving course in Tawa was held. It was highly successful, therefore the Tawa Lions Club have agreed to sponsor another course starting on Wednesday 27 March at 10am at the Emmaus Centre, Tawa Anglican Church. Staying Safe is a classroom-based refresher workshop for senior road users. The workshop aims to maintain and improve safe driving practices and increase knowledge of transport options available to help senior road users remain mobile.



The Staying Safe workshop will help senior drivers refamiliarise themselves with traffic rules and safer driving practices.

A driver licence is an important symbol of independence and many older New Zealanders rely on their car to get around – for shopping, appointments or visiting friends and family.

Whilst older drivers don't have as many crashes, they and older passengers involved in a crash are more at risk of being seriously injured or killed. This is due to increasing physical fragility.

The ageing process can affect a range of skills essential to driving – including eyesight, memory, decision-making and reaction times.

This course will address these concerns in a safe friendly environment and will heighten awareness to changes in their lifestyle so that they can keep driving longer.



Due to the sponsorship of the Tawa Lions Club the course will cost only \$10.

To enroll go to <https://www.tawacommed.co.nz/Course,Staying-safe-for-senior-drivers,1803>

MORE TAWA COMMUNITY EDUCATION COURSES

NAVIGATING DEMENTIA:

Concerned about a person's memory? A seminar on Monday 25 February at 7pm will cover "What is and isn't dementia – What to do if you are concerned about changes in memory or thinking" and "How to support a family member or friend living with dementia". See <https://www.tawacommed.co.nz/Course,Dementia-Wellington,1193>



FINE DINING AT HOME:

This is a new course run by a local experienced chef who has worked in restaurants in New Zealand and overseas. It is the perfect occasion to learn some extra special dishes. See <https://www.tawacommed.co.nz/Course,fine-dining-wellington-chef,4099>

Other courses due to start are **PERSIAN SWEETS** on 20 March, and **RELAXATION THROUGH CROCHET** on 6 March. You may have seen some of the "yarn bombing" around Tawa. Most of this has been done by the tutor and previous class members. You can come along and be part of this fun.

Further details on all courses can be seen on the website www.tawacommed.co.nz
<https://www.tawacommed.co.nz/Course,Beginner-Crochet-Wellington,2433>

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICAH CONROY!

Tawa's Micah Conroy has been named in the New Zealand U-19 cricket team to tour Bangladesh.

"Some of New Zealand's most promising teenage cricketers will get a valuable chance to experience sub-continental conditions in April. NZ have named an under-19 squad to tour Bangladesh, with three of the 15 players from Wellington.

The tour will comprise one warmup 50-over match, followed by five 50-over internationals against the Bangladesh under-19 team. The squad will leave New Zealand on April 10 and return on April 29."



Micah is grandson of Bruce and Shona Murray, son of Steve Conroy and Charlotte Murray, and cousin of Tawa's Amelia Kerr, a current White Ferns player. (See http://www.tawalink.com/2mins/amelia_kerr.pdf) Micah is in Year 13 at Tawa College and deputy head boy this year. Congratulations to Micah, and all the best in Bangladesh!

TAWA LOOKOUT CLEAN-UP

A great turnout on by Rotarians this past Tuesday evening saw good progress made in cleaning up the Tawa Lookout area. The next step is to tackle a number of trees to reinstate the full view!



LINDEN COMMUNITY EVENT LAST SATURDAY

From the Vibrant Tawa Facebook page:

“Thank you to everyone who came to the Linden Social Centre Open Day on Saturday! A great turn out on the day.

At the Open Day we asked Linden residents to input their views on a Linden-based survey. This survey is live until 16th March and all answers will be put into a draw to win one of 3 \$50 New World vouchers!

If you need help to answer the survey, or a device to do it on, don't hesitate to pop into the Linden Social Centre Tuesday-Thursday before that date, so Blanche or Sarah can assist you with it.



The survey is at https://capitalviews.uq.nz/surveys/y77dbvscv0qn155q13c935_h1404flg8g9v3jxvhmvm0kng8r35p6g882z10?fbclid=IwAR27J_Fs9QHaVlllek2HL_g6DfECzcphhFBNZoYdaYGIq1JrOG7b4pgobQZo

Linden Social Centre drop-in opening times next week: Tuesday-Thursday 26th-28th 9.30am-4.00pm.”

WINNER: The winner of the draw for the 200L emergency water tank was Linden's Brenda Wordsworth.

TAWA COMMUNITY PATROL APPOINTMENT



With the retirement of Michael Johnson as Tawa Community Patrol Co-ordinator, the Patrol is pleased to advise that Kevin Walker has been appointed to succeed Michael, effective 1st February.

Kevin has a background in the military in the UK and is well experienced in logistics, planning and team building. Both he and his wife Karen were senior referees in NZ Football and they have both been active members of the Patrol for the past two years.

The position of Patrol Co-ordinator is one of operational management. Kevin's role is to co-ordinate the activities of the 45 members. He is supported by an Events Co-ordinator and a Training Officer.

NEW SEAT REPLACING THE PERGOLA/PLATFORM

In the August 2018 edition of this newsletter we provided this report from Council:

“Tawa Platform [aka the Lions pergola – between On the Spot drycleaners and Take Note Tawa in the central shopping area] is closed due to erosion around a post in the stream.

An engineer is checking it out and will get back to us with a report on their recommendations of what we need to do to save the platform and retain the stream bank.”

It was determined that remedial works for stream erosion could be undertaken but it was estimated this would cost \$120,000. After consultation with “key Tawa players” the decision was made to replace the structure with a seat. That has now taken place and the seat is almost ready for use!



LINDEN STATION PEDESTRIAN OVERBRIDGE

We asked Greater Wellington Regional Council for an update on the overbridge. Here is their response:

“As you know, Linden bridge was recently closed due the results of a detailed structural assessment of the bridge. Engineers assessed the bridge at 25% of the New Building Standard (%NBS). The engineers’ report is based on the concrete breakout of the capacity anchor bolts to the abutment. The approximate risk was assessed as 10 - 25 times greater, relative to a similar sized building, giving the bridge a high risk status.



No access!

Following the report being issued the decision was made to close the bridge pending further investigations.

The final foundation investigations are now in progress, however access remains an issue due to the lack of space between the bridge and passing trains. Permits to enter the corridor also take up to 30 days to process and are only approved when all safety requirements can be met. The results of the final foundation investigations may point to even greater issues or may indicate that the main issues are with the abutments.

If we don't find anything worse we are hoping we can design a short term fix to re-open the bridge, however this obviously cannot happen until engineers have the further information and can then review the structural design and then design an interim and long term fix.

So at worst a short term fix may still be several months away. We appreciate this is a far from ideal situation, unfortunately this is the nature of the assets we have inherited from KiwiRail. Up until the Ava (Lower Hutt) bridge was damaged in the earthquake and now Linden, we have been relatively lucky with the bridges. We are now spending \$2 million p.a. to bring the last four bridges up to an acceptable level of earthquake resilience.

We will keep you up-to-date as we make progress – please be assured this is not about funding or resources – simply the difficulty and risks of accessing and assessing old infrastructure in and around a busy electrified railway.”

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.

GREENACRES SCHOOL MAD HATTER'S GALA

Greenacres School's much-loved annual Mad Hatter's Gala offers loads of entertainment, games, stalls, food and baking, garage sale, and much more!

This year it's on Saturday, March 23, 2019 from 11am to 2pm at the school, 60 Raroa Tce, Tawa.



NEW BUS SHELTER

There have been requests over the years for a bus shelter to be built at the existing uncovered bus stop outside 134 Main Road, Tawa. That's just north of the Salvation Army Family Store. The powers-that-be have decided the time has come to agree to this request. In the Resource Consent Applications section of February's Tawa Community Board agenda, the following application is listed: "Land use consent for a bus shelter on legal road at 134 Main Road, Tawa."

It may not happen overnight, but it will happen!



Ngā mihi

Malcolm Sparrow
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"Always deliver more than expected."

LARRY PAGE, CO-FOUNDER OF GOOGLE