

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

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR IN TAWA!

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

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

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



Sustainable Tawa



Did you know?

According to the Ministry for the Environment, New Zealand industries and households send over 1 MILLION tonnes of plant matter and food scraps to landfills each year, accompanied by 600,000 tonnes of paper/cardboard and 220,000 tonnes of plastic (about 60kg/person).

If you are interested in learning how to start reducing your household/business waste for 2020, or if you have any tips on you have how to do so, please come along to the first sustainability workshop and let's start this discussion as a community.

Help Tawa transition into a low waste town for a better future!

Supported by the Tawa Residents Association.

Friday 14th February 2020, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Tawa Community Centre
5 Cambridge Street, Tawa (between the library and New World).

RSVP to sustainabletawa@gmail.com (or) 0274290289

Instagram: @sustainabletawa

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 2020.

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 2020 is Saturday 15th 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. For more info, see <https://www.facebook.com/Tawa-Music-Centre-164575346983974/>

PASSING OF RON BICHAN

Ron Bichan was an active and much-appreciated member of the Tawa community for many years. He died on Christmas Day at the age of 91.

Ron's service to this community was recognised with a Tawa Community Civic Award in 2010. His citation at the time read:

“Ron Bichan retired as a minister of religion after more than 50 years but still works voluntarily in the community. He was the backbone of the former Tawa Resource Centre, and is now an active volunteer at the Tawa Community Centre. He is an enthusiastic DIY practitioner and is frequently found repairing equipment to help people in need. At the Union Church Ron assists in many areas, including visiting people in their homes. He still occasionally takes church services where he is very popular.”



While his activities had become more limited in recent years, Ron played a major part in the establishment of the MenzShed in Tawa, his vision dating back more than a decade for what became reality just two years ago.

In October 2010 our “2 Minutes with” profile featured Ron Bichan, and that can still be seen at http://www.tawalink.com/ron_bichan.html The lead-in to that interview summed up Ron in one simple statement: “A jolly nice guy.” Our condolences to Helen and whanau.



- * Come for a date night with a purpose
- * Make your good marriage great
- * Your great marriage even better
- * Learn new communication skills

Starts **7.30pm Tuesday 18 February**

Emmaus Centre, Tawa Anglican Church
(course runs each Tues evening for 7 weeks)
Registrations close 16 February

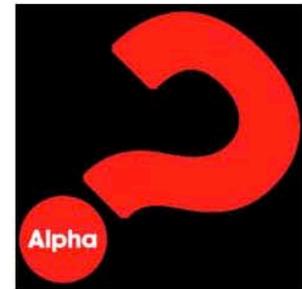
Free babysitting can be arranged for you if necessary

For more information contact

Sharnene Stella - 027 2434598
Sharnene@stellaassociates.co.nz

Suggested donation

\$75 per couple (or pay what you can afford)
Includes course material and supper each night



Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves Inc.



Annual General Meeting 'Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves' 11 March, 2020



This is scheduled for 7.30pm, Wednesday 11 March 2020 at the Tawa Union Church lounge and we are privileged to have **Danielle Shanahan** as the guest speaker. She holds a prominent leadership position at 'Zealandia' as Director, Centre for People and Nature. People from the Tawa community are cordially invited to attend to hear Danielle speak.

In relation to her presentation that night, Danielle says:

It is tough for our native wildlife to survive in urban landscapes, but we are seeing changes around Wellington. This is possibly one of the only cities in the world where the native bird community is on the improve. In my talk, I will touch on the role of 'Zealandia' and community groups in this shift, but also the special opportunities offered by urban landscapes for biodiversity and for people that you might not find anywhere else. Also, I will look forward to New Zealand's future and our outward focus, and welcome discussion on what Wellington community-led conservation initiatives might be.

TAWA INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AT LINDEN'S KAI KITCHEN

One Friday morning in December a cohort of students arrived at the Linden Social Centre, bubbling with energy and excitement for the day. They came prepared with handmade decorations and a string quartet of ukeleles in tow. Their teacher, Ms Kelly had heard about a Kai Kitchen weekly community meal at the Linden Social Centre every Friday at 12pm. Her class was doing a “volunteer army” project to get involved in the community, and thought about planting trees, but as she puts it, “We decided to tap into what’s already happening. We had such a good experience, and definitely want to come back to volunteer.”



Some of the Kai Kitchen volunteers who were interviewed for this article: Tawa Intermediate students Ethan, Olivia, Korbin, Matthew, and Ryder with their teacher Ms Kelly.

What was your experience at Kai kitchen like?

It was really fun talking to people and helping around. Setting up was fun because we got to talk to friends and work as well. Seeing that it wasn't our own little world but that there were people around us.

It was real good it was cool talking to random people and learning about their lives. I talked to this lady from Hawkes Bay and it turns out she lives next to my aunty and family's land!

What were some highlights from the day?

I liked when we finished all of the things and got to play in the park. My highlight was all of the thanks at the end of the day from Denise [Byarugaba] – it made me feel good inside.

I enjoyed being there in the environment with other people and having a chat. And getting candy canes at the end.

How did the musical entertainment come about?

At first on the way back, everyone started singing as a joke, and we said we should get a band assigned. We had two guitars (but one broke on the day), a piano, and three ukeleles, and we practised during lunch breaks and every chance we got, enquiry time and after school. It was a really great experience. I enjoyed playing music and making everyone happy; it was nice to see people smile.



How did you all organise yourselves and what work did you do to prepare the meal?

Ms Kelly: With the student volunteer army there are different roles – planners, caterers, HQ, platoon leader. They all decided their strengths and negotiated and decided roles leading up to the day. As they learned more about Kai Kitchen, it changed.

Our safety officers wrote our safety action plan for the day. The finance officers emailed grocery stores to try to get vouchers. The platoon leader made sure everything was running smoothly. He wanted to wear the high-vis and wanted to be the boss.



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What were some of the takeaways from the day?

It was appreciating how hard it is to volunteer. It's difficult and it's great because it's a pure act of kindness.

The core messages of volunteering and giving back to others are better than the academic stuff. The thanks is better than the money. Whenever you get an opportunity to help out, do it.

HAYLEY JOHNSON DANCE

"SHOOTING STARS"

Explore, Create, Discover – for all 3 & 4 year olds who have to dance
Saturdays 11.00-11.30am & Tuesdays 3.30-4.00pm

"DANCING DIAMONDS"

For 5 & 6 year olds who have to dance
Saturdays 10.15-11.00am Ballet & Jazz; Tuesdays 4.00-4.45pm Ballet & Tap

"SILVER SWANS"

For any adult who wishes to dance

"Don't just DO it Dance it" Enrol now for classes in 2020!

www.hayleyjohnson.com Email dancing_dudes@hotmail.com



**Tawa Recreation
Centre
Basketball
Clinics**

Play like a champion!
Dust off your sneakers and
improve your game.

**YOU will learn new skills and
master old ones. Registrations
are now open for term 1.**

Thursdays 30th Jan - 9th April (excluding
Waitangi Day)
4pm - 5pm 7-9 years
5pm-6pm 10-12 years
\$80/10 weeks

Contact us at tawa.rec@wcc.govt.nz

**MANAAKI
NIGHT**

Mind, Health & Wellbeing
Community Expo

For students, teachers, whānau
and the community

Speakers, information booths, food & coffee

TAWA COLLEGE
Wednesday 18th March
5.30–8.30pm

**Me mahi tahi tātou mō te
orange o te katoa** | *We should work together
for the wellbeing of everyone*

NEW BID CO-ORDINATOR IN TAWA

Sharon McKenzie, a Tawa local, started recently with the Tawa Business Group as the BID (Business Improvement District) Co-ordinator.



Sharon will be working closely with the Tawa Business Group Executive to support them in the delivery of initiatives. She will also be managing events, providing administration support for meetings, maintaining the membership database and

developing communication strategies to promote community engagement. She will be meeting regularly with members and attending other advocacy group and partner meetings to build strong and sustainable relationships which promote the growth of Tawa. In a nutshell, Sharon will be the 'face' of the Tawa BID.

HANGING BASKETS LOOKING GOOD!

The hanging baskets in the central shopping area are currently looking superb! Thanks to the Tawa Business Group, Tawa Community Board and various businesses and individuals who help pay for their upkeep.



IN SHORT

- The Greenacres School Mad Hatter's Gala is scheduled for Saturday 28 March, 11am to 2pm.
- Tawa Goes to Town, Tawa's biennial music festival, will take place this year on Tuesday 22 September. That's just 32 weeks away!
- Spring into Tawa is scheduled for Saturday 17 October.
- Greenacres School's new principal, starting in Term 2, is Mike Thomas. He is currently deputy principal at Paraparaumu Beach School.
- The Editor (of this newsletter) was privileged to catch up recently with an Oriel Ave resident who turned 101 last month. I won't mention his name as I don't yet have his okay in that regard. Anyone else in Tawa older than that?
- We are continuing to "keep tabs" on the intersection of Takapu Road and the southbound off-ramp from SH1 (east of the motorway). NZTA have minor improvements in mind for this intersection. "The intention is for completed design drawings to be finalised by the end of June 2020, ready for construction from July 2020 subject to approved funding."
- The roadworks towards the southern end of the Main Road (the ones causing the detour!) are being carried out to provide stormwater and sewerage services for the additional accommodation being constructed at Longview Home (up the hill). Unfortunately there have been delays "due to undocumented services being encountered" and, as a result, disruptions may continue till later this month or even early March.
- Council advised two weeks ago that "the insurance assessor is meeting with an engineer in the next couple of weeks to inspect the damage" to the fire-damaged pedestrian bridge at Willowbank to determine "what needs to be done to get the bridge open again". We have since ascertained that the bridge has been re-opened (sooner than expected) with a new plywood deck cladding and anti-skid mesh. This may just be a temporary solution but at least the bridge is useable.
- Last, but not least, Christmas Day 2020 is set down for Friday 25 December. 317 sleeps to go!

2 MINUTES WITH Derek Thresh

In terms of Tawa, Derek Thresh has two “claims to fame”. He is one of a small grouping of local nonagenarians, having turned 92 last August. And he is one of an elite number who has lived in Tawa for more than 50 years. In his case it is more than 60 years, having built his house in Taylor Tce in 1958. It used to be called Earp Tce but “nobody liked that, so they changed it.” Derek’s was one of the first houses there, adjoining the Zande farm. The motorway north of Johnsonville was just being constructed, with Middleton Road through Glenside still the main highway north. He has certainly seen a lot of change in his time here!



Where were you born?

Pembroke Dock, south Wales. My father was a major in the East Lancashire Regiment and was posted there at the time.

Where did you grow up?

In Bradford, West Yorkshire mostly. Also in Lancashire.

Where were you educated?

I went to Crumlyn Technical College in South Wales.

How long have you lived in Tawa?

Since 1958. I arrived in Wellington that year and lived a few months in Newtown initially.

What do you like about Tawa?

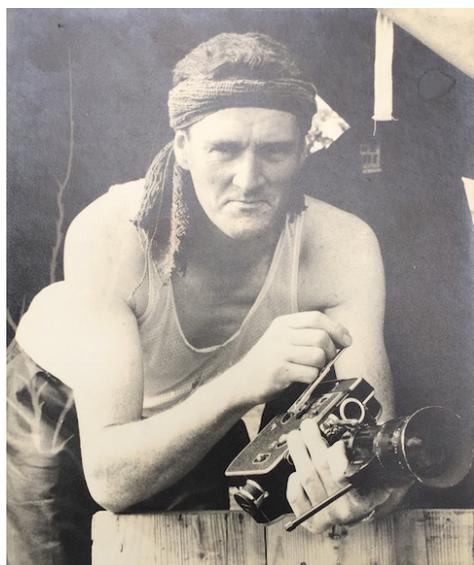
It’s a good place and very handy to most things. You don’t need to go into the city for anything. Porirua has it all. Parking is good here and free. It’s a quiet place except for some hoons in our street.

What about family?

I have been married to Noeline for 33 years. My first wife, Kay, a teacher at Tawa School, was unfortunately killed in a car accident in Australia in 1984. I spent four months in hospital in Canberra as a result of that.

Work experience over the years

I had been in the London Fire Brigade before coming out to New Zealand in 1951. I lived with my parents on Auckland’s North Shore initially and joined the Police. I wore my helmet “on the beat” in Queen Street. For a short time I was in charge of Waiheke Island while the local constable was on holiday. In 1958 I was transferred with the Police to Wellington, and went into the Criminal Registration branch (the “fingerprint branch”).



My ‘Rambo’ picture
– taken in Nui-dat, Vietnam

I left the Police in 1963 and joined the Army, having the opportunity of taking over their photographic section. I spent the rest of my working life in that role. It took me to quite a few places including Egypt, Singapore and Canada, as well as to Vietnam for a couple of months during the Vietnam War. I retired in 1989.

What are your interests and hobbies?

Oil painting – I photograph a scene and then paint it. I’ve given away a few as wedding presents. Tramping – I’ve been in tramping

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clubs and used to tramp in the Tararuas every week, also walked the Heaphy Track, etc. I was a member of the Tawa Fitness Centre until just over a year ago.

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

The only sport I really like is the America's Cup [yachting] and those two guys, [Blair] Tuke and [Peter] Burling. I like following them.

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

I like touring the South Island. A lot of places there, too many to name!

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

Mostly my painting. I am self taught.

What are one or two things you would like to do before you die?

Another tour of the South Island, also to go up Coromandel way. And to stay healthy so I can do that!



Derek Thresh's painting of "The Stables" on Zandes Farm, the site of today's Bucket Tree Motel.

SUNDAY ROAST AT THE RSA

The next (monthly) Sunday Roast will be at 6pm on Sunday 1 March at the RSA at the northern end of Oxford St.

\$25 per person. You do need to book your place by Friday 28 February. Phone Alistair at the club on 232 5788 or email John on jfgplunkett@gmail.com



MESSAGE FROM GREG O'CONNOR, MP FOR ŌHĀRIU

Kia ora all

Tawa residents, like many from around the world, will be anxiously watching for news of Novel Coronavirus. It is a reflection on our mobility as a society and modern communication that we are getting virtual hour by hour reports on the progress of the virus.

I want to use this newsletter to reassure you that the New Zealand health authorities and the New Zealand Government are taking all steps possible to firstly prevent the virus entering New Zealand and secondly to deal with any outbreak. The relevant information including the latest details are on this link:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

It is important we keep the threat in perspective and our response proportionate to that threat. Our children have enough to worry them now without adding unnecessarily to their anxiety.

In the meantime, good hygiene and cooperating with instructions and recommendations from the authorities is the best way to combat any threat.

While Tawa seems a long way from Wuhan, this is a timely reminder of the need to keep up our vaccinations and other preventative measures against infectious diseases.

Greg O'Connor, MP for Ōhāriu

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

info@tawalink.com 027 232 2320



“If one door closes and another opens, your house is probably haunted!”

“Do you remember when I asked you to give me your opinion? That’s right, me neither.”

“Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.”

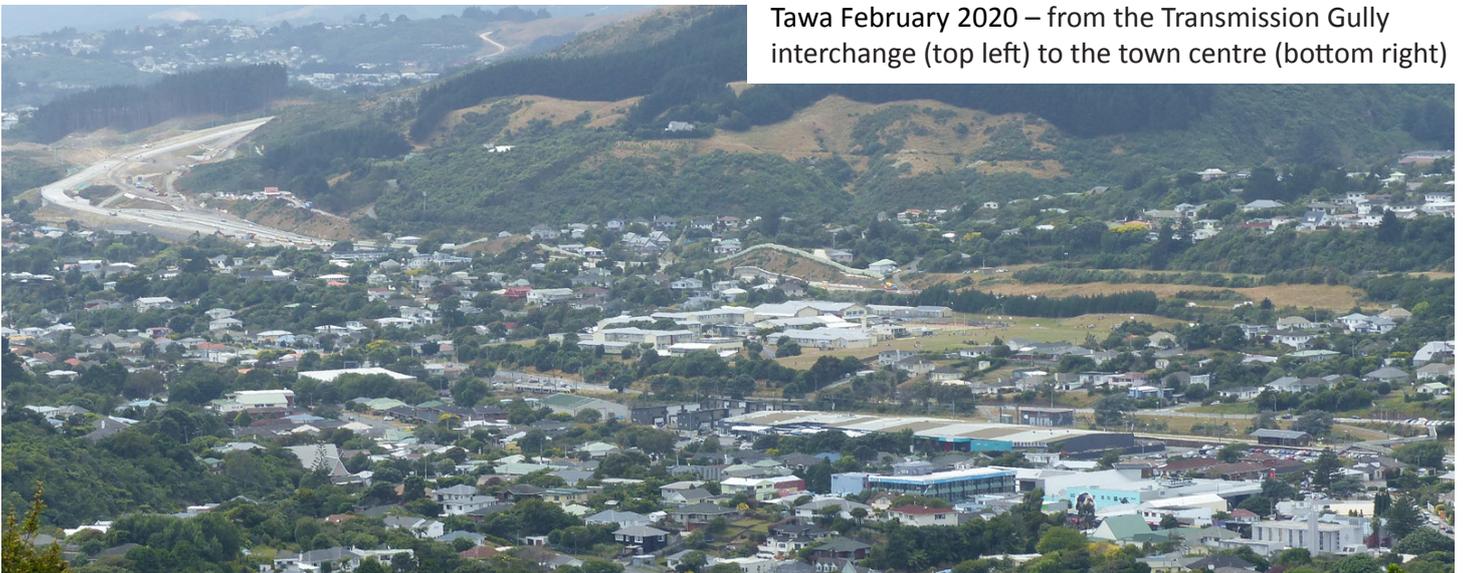
“When something is important enough, you do it even if the odds are not in your favour.” – Elon Musk

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 for back issues of the newsletter.



Tawa February 2020 – from the Transmission Gully interchange (top left) to the town centre (bottom right)

ARE YOU KEEN TO HELP KEEP TAWA VIBRANT?

The Tawa Residents' Association (aka 'Vibrant Tawa') is a not for profit organisation run by a small group of enthusiastic locals. They have made a huge difference to Tawa over the years by being involved with projects to make Tawa look and feel better, and have also supported and helped many other groups in our community.

As a not for profit organisation, the Residents' Association rely on subscriptions, donations and grants to exist. They need community support to help cover overheads such as public liability insurance, printing, and financial auditing, as well as continuing on with various projects.

More support from the community will help the Association continue to add value to Tawa. There are many ways you can support this group - you can make a financial contribution, provide physical support, volunteer, or share your expertise or ideas, or any other way you would like to be involved!

If you are keen to show your support, please send us an email with your details (as below) to vibrant.tawa@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can complete the below form and drop it into the Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge Street, Tawa.

To find out more, follow Facebook - www.facebook.com/VibrantTawa

or call President Tony Hassed on 021 374 592, or Treasurer Peter Bowers on 027 677 8274

**** The Association meet monthly, the second Monday of the month, 7.30pm at Tawa Squash Club. All welcome!**

Yes, I would like to support The Tawa Residents' Association:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

Annual Family Subscription of \$20

Annual Individual Subscription of \$10

Donation of \$ _____

Payments can be paid direct into the Tawa Residents' Association bank account 02-0552-0015147-000
For all payments, we can send an invoice and receipt.

I would also like to be involved by:

Sharing my ideas / project / initiative

Helping with community events /Spring into Tawa

Becoming a Committee member

Helping with Community Gardens

Sharing my expertise

Helping with grant applications

Reviewing our annual accounts

Other (please comment below)

