June 2021

TAWA
Wellington

COMMUNITY NEWS

This newsletter has been sent out monthly since 2005.

See www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html for back issues.

COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

City councillor Malcolm Sparrow and Tawa Community Board chair Robyn Parkinson met with the Police earlier last month to discuss crime and safety in general in Tawa.

We are now organising a community meeting covering various aspects of safety which will also include the Tawa Community Patrol and representatives from WCC's community services team. A similar meeting – which proved very worthwhile – was held in Linden in August 2017. See the poster for details.

Tawa community safety hui

Join the Tawa Community Board for a discussion on how we can make Tawa a safer community for everyone, featuring representatives from Police, the Tawa Community Patrol, and the Wellington City Council.

Priority will be given to questions emailed to: TawaCommunityBoard@wcc.govt.nz

7pm, Thursday 24 June 2021
Tawa Community Centre Hall, Cambridge St, Tawa

More info: facebook.com/TawaCommunityBoard

NEW MEMBER ON THE COMMUNITY BOARD

Congratulations to Malcolm Alexander on winning the recent by-election for a seat on the Tawa Community Board. He was officially inducted onto the board at its May monthly meeting on the evening of Thursday 13th – as seen in the photo at right below.

Thanks to all the quality candidates who put their names forward for election. The by-election results are available here: https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/elections/2021-tawa-community-board-by-election

Candidate profile statement

Tawa residents deserve strong representation. I've lived here for 28 years, because it's the place my wife Sue and I chose to raise our two daughters (now adults). Now I want to serve my community through election to the Tawa Community Board.

Last year I retired from full-time management roles. I was Chief Executive of Local Government NZ for eight years; before that, a senior executive in the energy sector, and a lawyer practicing in London and Wellington. So I understand governance, and local government, and I want to harness that experience for Tawa.

I've got the time and plenty of energy to help the Community Board look for better ways to deliver on its mandate, and work with the local community and businesses in the best interests of Tawa. I'm a positive person who gets things done, so I would welcome your support in this by-election.

HANGING BASKETS REPLACED

The hanging baskets – with a new round of flowers – were hung up again this past Saturday. Thanks to Richard Herbert (pictured in high-vis vest) and the team of volunteers from Tawa Rotary for attending to this, also to Doug Miller (blue jacket) for his part in maintaining the baskets over the past while.

The baskets are 'replaced' every six months on average. Thanks to the Tawa Business Group, Tawa Community Board and various businesses and individuals who help pay for their upkeep.

TAWA CENTRAL DAIRY
TAWA CENTRAL DAIRY OPEN
Open
DRINKS
ICE CREAM
MILKSHAKES
PHONE CARDS
MAGAZINES
GROCERIES
FLOWERS
HOT PIES
Florist
LESS PROCESSED MORE GOODNESS

DR ASHLEY BLOOMFIELD'S VISIT

The Inner Wheel Club of Tawa was proud to host an evening with Dr Ashley Bloomfield on Wednesday 19th May at the Tawa Bowling Club. Dr Bloomfield grew up in Tawa so felt very 'at home' among members and guests who were given the opportunity to chat informally with him during the evening. Ninety attended including club members, family, and friends.

Dr Bloomfield shared much from a personal perspective. He spoke about how he had coped with the daily stand-ups, the impacts of his role on the family and the ramifications of any decisions made in helping the country to manage Covid19. However, over time the collective effort of everyone and willingness to comply with the imposed restrictions made the decision-making less difficult. Dr Bloomfield believed employing a leadership model based on trust, honesty and integrity helped New Zealand survive. Explaining to people the 'why' they become engaged, the 'what' they understood, then the 'how' became clearly visible, manageable, and accepted. When there is clear buy-in, people do extraordinary things. He illustrated by saying the Level 4 lockdown was to save lives – the why; limit community transmission – the what; and not overload the health system – the how. He raised the question – "What might we achieve if we acted collectively like this more often?"

Dr Bloomfield ended his address promoting the vaccine and its programme. He is optimistic that 90% of the population will agree to be vaccinated. Other behaviours, evolving during lockdown, will also impact on halting transmission. This includes less travel as business, communication and connection can take place remotely. Another positive arising from the vaccine research has provided information which may help manage other diseases. Questions were accepted following the address and Dr Bloomfield graciously gave more time for photos at the end of the evening.

A signed photo was donated by Dr Bloomfield, framed by Sam Broad. This was auctioned with the proceeds, along with raffle sales, being donated to the Wellington Children's Hospital foundation as requested by Dr Bloomfield when asked about his preference for a charity. A total of over $1000 was raised.

Inner Wheel is an international Women's Service/Friendship organisation which meets once a month at the Tawa Bowling Club. For more information contact: tawaiwsecretary@gmail.com

SPICER LANDFILL MEETING

On 21st June 2021 at 6.00pm Porirua City Council will be holding its annual Spicer Community Liaison Group meeting.

PCC is inviting residents to come along and listen to a presentation about what has happened at the landfill over the last year and what is planned for the future. There will be ample opportunity to ask questions and put forward ideas. The current draft of the landfill Operational Management Plan will be available.

The meeting will be held in the Linden Community Centre hall, 10 Linden Ave. Please feel free to invite friends.

Please RSVP to Nagam on 237 3841 or Carol Freeman on 237 3588 (email Carol.Freeman@poriruacity.govt.nz) so they have a rough idea how many people are likely to attend.

15 YEARS AT THE FAMILY STORE

The Tawa Salvation Army Family Store is celebrating 15 years of loyal service from staff members Janice and Brian. Congratulations Janice and Brian! They both began work at the store on the same day 15 years ago.

To celebrate their 15 year anniversary and to thank the community for their support, the family store (cnr Main Road and Oxford St) will be offering a **15% discount** on everything purchased on Tuesday 15th June, alongside a range of giveaways and spot prizes!

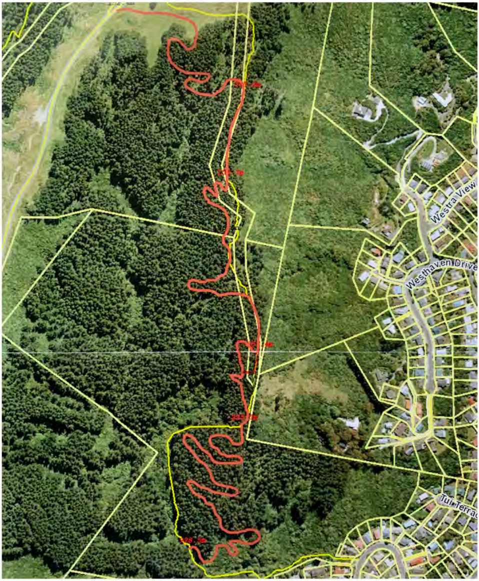
Looking forward to seeing you in store to celebrate this milestone!

P.S. Janice features in this month's "2 Minutes with ....." segment later in this newsletter.

PROGRESS WITH THE TRACK

A new track is currently being constructed in Te Ngahere o Tawa (Forest of Tawa), access to which is gained from 58 Kiwi Cres. The "shared track" will be for walkers and uphill cyclists between Kiwi Cres and the Meridian road at the top of the hill.

The yellow line which weaves its way from the bottom of the map (below) to the top is the existing track. The wiggly orange line represents the shared track which is currently being built.



BID MANAGER FOR TAWA

Sharon McKenzie has left the role of Tawa BID Manager, having done a great job for the community of Tawa.

The Tawa BID Executive is now looking for a part-time 25 hours per week BID Manager to support the Tawa Business Improvement District. A BID is a mutual partnership between a local authority (in this case Wellington City Council) and a local business community to develop projects that benefit the business community of Tawa.

If this is of interest please apply here: https://www.seek.co.nz/job/52261733

LIONS SATURDAY MARKET

WE ARE MOVING

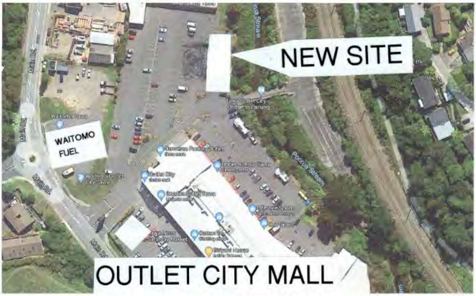
TAWA LIONS

SATURDAY MARKET

TO A NEW SITE

OUTLET CITY CAR PARK

29TH MAY 2021



SATURDAY MARKET

The Tawa Lions Saturday Market has moved to a **new site** within the Outlet City carpark effective from 29 May 2021. The new site is adjacent to the Porirua Stream just north of the vehicle access bridge across the stream, as shown in the photo above.

In recognition of the move, Tawa Lions have waived the normal fee of $10 for a stall or boot sale for the first three weeks – i.e. through to Saturday 12 June. So now is the time for new vendors, as well as those who have been before, to come along and sell their goods. Prospective vendors should contact Tawa Lions by email at tawamarket@lionsclubs.org.nz or phone Alastair on 232 7936, or Murray on 232 5947.

The Saturday market has now been operating on the Outlet City property for the past 15 years (see the photo below) and Tawa Lions are most grateful to

Outlet City management for allowing this. All funds raised from the market are directed back into the community for various projects such as supporting local youth and the Tawa Lions annual Christmas parade.

The market offers fresh fruit and vegetables from a Kapiti Coast market gardener, and the Tawa Lions stall offers fresh free-range eggs, honey, home-made jam and second-hand books. The Lions stall is also a collection point for aluminium wine tops and unwanted spectacles for recycling, and used small batteries for disposal. Other vendors from time to time include a local nurseryman selling plants and shrubs, a bakery selling buns and rolls of various flavored spices, and an Asian food vendor.

So, come over and have a browse around next time you call in to Outlet City between 9am and 2pm on a Saturday.

P.S. 15 years ago the tawalink.com site featured the photo below with this wording: "Tawa Lions Saturday Market got under way on the last Saturday in June 2006, a cold and miserable winter's day. Both Mayor Kerry Prendergast and local M.P. Peter Dunne gave brief speeches before cutting the ribbon to officially declare the new market open."

See http://www.tawalink.com/saturday_market.html

WIN FOR TAWA COLLEGE STUDENT

Lucia Bernards, a year 12 student at Tawa College, was the winner of this year's Race Unity Speech Awards held early last month. It was her second time at the national competition.

Text and photo courtesy of 'Stuff'.

16-year-old Lucia Bernards' message is simple, to be the change you want to see.

Her speech called for all secondary schools to have a race relations strategy, as well as a race relations youth council to ensure the voices of ethnic minorities are heard. Race relations youth ambassadors would suggest policies to decision-makers and government agencies from a youth perspective.

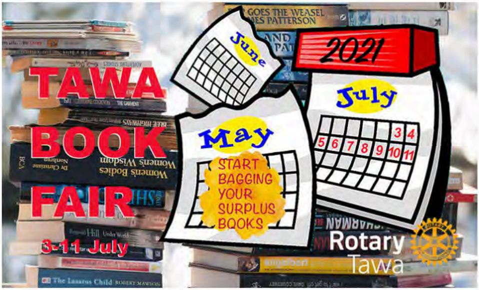
Chief judge NZ Police Deputy Commissioner Wally Haumaha, said Lucia's speech was fantastic. Haumaha had been involved with the Race Unity Speech Awards since 2008. "I am totally inspired by what I've heard over the years. If people understand diversity, then they understand what unity means," he said. "There is now more understanding of the hopes and the aspirations of young people."

Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities and Minister for Youth Priyanca Radhakrishnan said all six finalists spoke with eloquence and confidence about their experiences, "about where we are today, and where we need to get to". A former Race Unity Speech Awards judge herself, the Minister said she was inspired by the messages shared, and they would influence her work in Government.

ROTARY BOOK FAIR COMING UP

The annual book fair held by the Rotary Club of Tawa will take place on 3-11 July at the former Beanstalk Kindergarten, opposite Tawa College in Duncan St.

If you have books you wish to donate to the fair, they can be placed in the bin immediately alongside the New World supermarket (inside).



25 YEARS OF TAWA U3A

Tawa U3A is celebrating 25 years as a valued and active community group this June. As part of the mid-year lunch programme, on Thursday 10 June, there will be some musical contributions from the U3A Choir and Ukulele groups, a short presentation on the early history of Tawa U3A, and the cutting of a cake.

U3A groups provide a place where retired people can acquire new skills and knowledge in a friendly and non-competitive environment. Members share their experiences, interests and expertise with others.

The idea of developing a U3A in the Tawa area was first mooted in 1996 by local Rotarians. A public meeting was held, that resulted in 'U3A Tawa' being born. At the beginning, there were 55 members who were offered a choice of nine courses. Ten years later, membership had grown to 475.

As U3A celebrates 25 years on, we acknowledge the efforts of committee members, tutors, course convenors and many others who have given freely of their time and energy. This has meant that senior residents of the Tawa community have been able to participate in an expansive range of activities while enjoying social interactions with others.

Former members are very welcome to attend and can contact the Chair of Tawa U3A, Alison Bayly on wiseowlalison@gmail.com

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U3A TAWA INCORPORATED

NEW FOTBR WEBSITE

Did you know?

Tawa has some gems of native bush reserves that may not be well known!

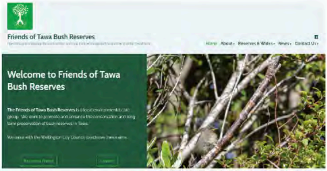
Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves Inc.

Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves (FOTBR) was formed nearly 20 years ago with a view to preserve, restore and extend our local native bush reserves, by working closely alongside WCC. Volunteers have undertaken track planning and development, weed and pest animal control, native tree propagation as well as planting out new trees, all of which are ongoing.

Recently, Tawa resident, FOTBR member and website developer Liz Bouda, has expanded and updated the website. This site will enable people to view the extensive native bush reserves that we are privileged to have in Tawa. Details of the location of reserves, maps, tracks, and many photos taken from within the reserves are featured, as well as the work that is undertaken by FOTBR.

For Tawa residents who are unfamiliar with these reserves, they are warmly invited to view details from the website and enjoy walks in these recreational locations that are available in our 'immediate backyard'.

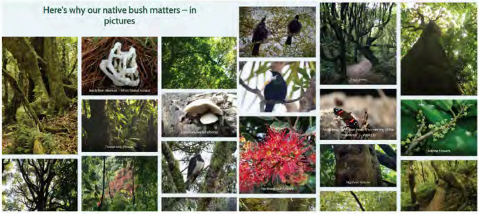
The new website can be found at: https://tawabush.org.nz



Welcome to Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves

The Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves is a local environmental care group. We work to promote and enhance the conservation and long term preservation of bush reserves in Tawa.

We liaise with the Wellington City Council to achieve these aims.



SONG ABOUT TAWA

This is worth a look. Steve Joll of The Breeze radio station sings about Tawa. See https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=4098546186833481

WELLINGTON 98.5FM 94.1FM
THE BREEZE

CIVIC AWARDS COMING UP

The Tawa Community Civic Awards were last run by the Tawa Community Board in 2018. They will be held again on 23 September 2021.

The awards allow us to publicly thank those in the Tawa community who volunteer in some way or another to improve the quality of life for the rest of us.

Most of us know people who assist in sports clubs, schools, churches, or perhaps in a community group. You will soon have the opportunity to provide details of such an individual or group worthy of receiving an award from the Mayor of Wellington at a special ceremony in Tawa.

2018 awards ceremony

TAWA PRIMARY SCHOOLS' AWARDS

The Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards have been run by the Tawa Community Board since 2011. They involve each of Tawa's six primary schools, plus the intermediate school.

One Year 6 student (or Year 8 student where applicable) is chosen by each school to receive an award from the Mayor of Wellington at a special ceremony near the end of the year. The award is to recognise "true leadership, citizenship, contribution to school life, etc".

At this stage of the year a community board representative speaks to the senior students in each school informing them of the awards and encouraging them all to be good citizens and good contributors to the life of their school. The next awards ceremony will be held in Tawa at the end of November.

The photo shows “the talk” at Greenacres School this week.

CONGRATULATIONS

2 MINUTES WITH .....
JANICE NARAYAN

As you’ll have seen earlier in this newsletter, Janice has provided 15 years of loyal service to the Salvation Army Family Store in Tawa and is now its manager. The following interview provides a few more details about her and why she came to New Zealand 20 years ago.

Where were you born and where did you grow up?
Suva, Fiji Islands.

Were were you educated?

I attended the Gospel School in Suva which was Primary right through to Secondary School.

How long have you lived in Tawa?
20 years. I moved to New Zealand for better job opportunities and had a work permit sponsored by extended family who lived in Tawa and helped us settle into New Zealand.

What do you like about Tawa?
The community vibe and peaceful surroundings.

What would you like to see improved about Tawa?
I would love to see more retail outlets in Tawa and more vegetable shops ..... a little more like my previous homeland offers!

What about family?
Most of my immediate family live in Australia, so COVID allowing, I hope to get back to visit with them soon.

Work experience over the years?
The last 15 years I have worked at the Salvation Army Family store in Tawa. Prior to this I worked for Konev Leather while it was here in Tawa, followed by retail work in Porirua and Johnsonville.

What are your interests and hobbies?
When I'm not at work I love to cook, shop and travel, and watch movies. I love my rose garden and like to listen to music in my native language of Hindi.

I also serve in my local church and enjoy the supportive friendships I have built up over the years.

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?
Definitely the All Blacks!

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?
Anywhere my family and friends are, however I am particularly fond of Rotorua and the gondola.

What accomplishments/achievements in your life give you much satisfaction/pride?
I love seeing our regular customers in store each day and meeting the new customers who are discovering us for the first time. Every day is different, and the team and I find lots to be thankful for and to enjoy a good hearty laugh.

In this job we see the most unusual items donated ….. anything from an urn with pet's ashes, drugs in handbags (we have strict procedures to adhere to with these items) to the most mundane kitchen utensils.

Rubbish and donations left at our door overnight cause us much stress and extra clean-up work. We are unable to use these goods to on-sell due to Health and Safety, and rodents run all over the goods during the night!

Currently I am working towards completing my Retail Management studies, which I am enjoying.

What are some interesting things about you that local people may not know?
As manager of the Family Store, I manage a team of 15 people of which over half are volunteers, who specialise and have a passion about the areas they work in, be it electrical, toys, games, clothing, books, china or merchandising.

I coordinate pick-up and deliveries of goods donated and sold.

Winz quotes, Health and Safety are all areas of constant change and update.

Our store helps fund the local food bank and our Youth and Community worker.

We work with our Youth and Community worker to provide household goods to struggling families in our community.

PIC FROM A FEW YEARS AGO .....

This photograph featured on the tawalink.com site in April 2006. It was entitled "Southern entry to Tawa in the autumn". In 2021 the sign is still in place but, sadly, most of the trees on the left side of the road aren't.

YOU ARE ENTERING
TAWA

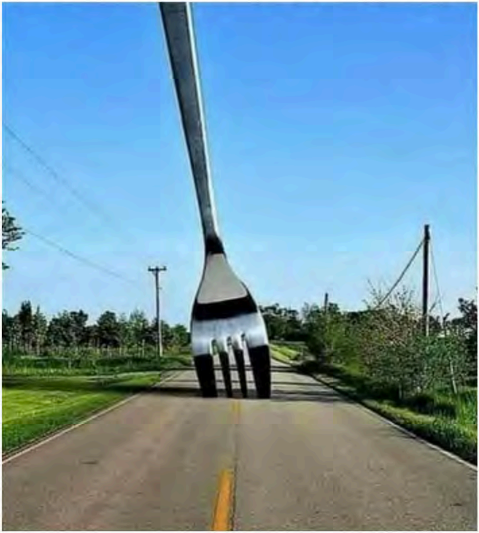
"No matter how tall the mountain is, it cannot block the sun." – Chinese proverb

"Remember back when we were kids, and every time it was below zero outside, they closed the school? Me neither."

"Today I saw a woman talking to her cat. She really thought the cat understood. I told my dog when I got home – we both had a good laugh."

"Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on, or by imbeciles who really mean it." – Mark Twain

I've heard about this my whole life!



Ngā mihi

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