



# COMMUNITY NEWS

March 2015

*This community newsletter is sent out early each month on behalf of tawalink.com, Tawa's community website which has been supported by the Tawa Residents' Association since 2002.*

*More regular community updates are available if you join more than 1390 other Tawa residents on neighbourly.co.nz. You can opt for daily updates or weekly updates from that site.*

## STILL TIME TO ARRANGE A GET-TOGETHER IN YOUR STREET

Most people enjoy the opportunity to meet with their neighbours. We get great feedback when people do: "On Sunday we had about 23 adults and 14 children and teenagers gather in our cul-de-sac, a perfect spot for a neighbourhood get-together. Everyone enjoyed themselves, getting to know their neighbours better and throwing about ideas on how to better keep in touch as neighbours. Many stories were shared of moving into the street and changes we have seen over the years. All agreed what a great initiative Neighbours' Day was, and many are looking forward to getting together again in the future."



THERE IS STILL TIME for you to organise something simple in your street, but you'll need to get onto it pronto! We're here to help if you need any advice, and we suggest you peruse [www.tawalink.com/neighbours.html](http://www.tawalink.com/neighbours.html) for "Three simple steps to running a barbecue in your street".

At this stage 44 streets in Tawa have indicated they will (or hope to) hold a barbecue or afternoon tea in conjunction with Neighbours' Day. In fact a number have already done so. They're happening in Tawa right through March. What about your street? Participating streets are featured on 'Neighbourly'.



## SMELLS FROM SPICER LANDFILL

A community meeting took place last month to discuss unpleasant smells in Tawa which appear to be coming from over the hill at the Spicer Landfill. Presenters at the meeting were Peter Keller, Solid Waste Manager at Porirua City Council; EnviroWaste representatives including Brendon Cribb, the manager at Spicer Landfill; Greater Wellington Regional Council representatives including Louise McKenzie, Resource Advisor - Compliance.

Approximately 20 community members were present, plus four Tawa Community Board members. We were told of the measures that are being taken to minimise/eradicate offensive odours emanating from the landfill. The authorities appear to be treating the problem seriously but, as was pointed out, those odours appear to be worse now than they were three or four years ago.

The Regional Council advised that the number of complaints they'd received in recent years have been increasing, but last year it averaged out at around only one per week. It was emphasised to them that people often didn't know who to call. The Regional Council indicated that they would make more

*contd .....*

## LANDFILL SMELLS *contd*

effort to let the community know it was they who should be contacted with any odour concerns.

Community members endeavoured to convey to the presenters how appalling, on occasion, the situation had become. It was hammered home that despite remedial action, the situation does not appear to be improving. The response of those in charge was that they will continue to do whatever they can to ensure it does improve. However many of those present were not entirely convinced that will happen any time soon.

One useful outcome from the meeting was the strength of feeling shown by community members affected by the smells, and this appeared to be taken on board by the Regional Council whose role it is to “monitor the situation”.

It was emphasised on the night that every member of the community noticing an unacceptable smell should report it to the Regional Council *immediately*. A barrage of complaints will ensure a better response! It’s fair to say that in the intervening weeks the Regional Council appears to have already made an effort to communicate better with complainants. Concerned residents will need to continue to liaise with the powers-that-be (and each other) until this issue is finally resolved!

## CONNECTING WITH TAWA ON ‘NEIGHBOURLY’

### Recent discussion includes:

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| • Wheelie bin home collection service                | 25+ replies |
| • What’s so great about Tawa?                        | 20+ replies |
| • Colonial Knob Sunday walk                          | 15+ replies |
| • Neighbours’ Day in Tawa - is your street involved? | 10+ replies |
| • Rubbish in Tawa                                    | 10+ replies |
| • Parakeets (kakariki) in Tawa                       | 10+ replies |
| • Contacted by Trust Power                           | 10+ replies |
| • Recommendation please - arborist                   | 10+ replies |
| • Commuter parking at Outlet City                    | 5+ replies  |
| • Bridge lessons                                     | 5+ replies  |

### Coming Events in Tawa:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Sat 14 March | – Hampton Hill School Gala                                 |
| Sat 14 March | – Canine Social Club meet-up                               |
| Tue 17 March | – Knitwits March meet-up                                   |
| Fri 20 March | – Women’s Business Network Meeting                         |
| Mon 23 March | – Tawa Community Garden meeting                            |
| Wed 25 March | – Sharing your Christian faith with your Children Workshop |
| Fri 27 March | – Teenage Health evening                                   |
| Sun 29 March | – Join our craft club - cardmaking & scrapbooking          |

### Organisations & Groups:

- there’s a separate section on Neighbourly which currently lists details of 46 Organisations & Groups

**Neighbourly enables local people to share information with each other and to become a more “connected” community. See [www.neighbourly.co.nz](http://www.neighbourly.co.nz)**



**ARE YOU KEEPING UP WITH WHAT’S HAPPENING IN TAWA?**

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON MEDIUM-DENSITY HOUSING IN TAWA

The Council has a responsibility to give the community what it needs and to make it possible for a variety of housing types to be developed. To achieve this, the Council is now planning to encourage more medium-density housing to be built in Tawa.

Your feedback is invited on two important parts of this plan:

- Where in your community would it be best to develop medium-density housing?
- What standards of design should the medium-density housing meet?

From Saturday 28 March until Saturday 4 April there will be a “drop-in centre” during library hours at the Mervyn Kemp Library where you can share your views and learn more about medium-density housing and what it could look like in Tawa.

Talk to a planner:

- Saturday 28 March, 10.30am–2pm
- Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 March 11am–2pm & 4pm–6pm
- Wednesday 1 April, 11am–2pm

Learn more at the presentations at 12.30pm and 5.30pm on those days.



In addition to the drop-in centre, you’re invited to an evening meeting where you will hear town planners share the feedback they’ve received during the week. At St Christopher’s Church Complex, corner of Main and Lyndhurst Roads, Tawa, at 6pm on Wednesday 1 April.

## SECRET SANTA



Redwood Village residents express their appreciation to the “Secret Santa” that enters the village on Christmas Eve between 10.00pm and 2.00am and decorates the entrance inside the village and professionally writes on roadway “Happy Christmas and New Year to everyone”.

Santa, you have now set a precedent and residents will eagerly await your visit again next Christmas Eve.

– Redwood Village Body Corporate

## CURRENT BAN ON GARDEN SPRINKLERS (AND FIREWORKS)

From the WCC website:

“A total ban on outdoor fires – gas barbecues excepted – is now in force in the Wellington region. There is also a ban on the use of garden sprinklers and other unattended irrigation systems to conserve the region’s water supplies.

Like much of the rest of the country, the Wellington region is tinder-dry after weeks of hot weather and a serious lack of rainfall.

The fire risk is now extreme so local councils and the Department of Conservation have imposed the total ban. The ban covers all territory in Wellington City, Hutt City, Upper Hutt City, Porirua City and the Kapiti Coast District. It includes all land administered by the Department of Conservation.

All fires in the open are banned. This includes cooking fires such as hangi, umu and braai, incinerators, solid-fuel barbecues, campfires, beach fires and fireworks.

## REPLACING THE SHELTERS AT TAKAPU ROAD STATION

A notice currently in place at Takapu Road Station reads as follows:

As part of our improvement programme, we are replacing the shelters at Takapu Station with modern, bright ones. The current shelters will be removed on 15th March 2015 and construction of the new shelters is expected to be completed by the end of May.

Unfortunately there will be no weather protection while the new shelters are being built. We apologise for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

Please make sure you take extra care using the station while the work is under way.



Out with the old



In with the new

## MORE PARKING AT TAWA STATION



Greater Wellington Regional Council has sent this message through:

Tawa Station commuters will soon have almost three times the amount of parking, with work having begun on a large new park and ride area. The area, next to the old Tawa Junction warehouses, will provide 109 carparks in addition to the existing 45.

The land will be fully developed, drained and landscaped and lighting will be installed. Commuters can look forward to the new park and ride opening by May 2015.

## EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Hayley Balmer, an Early Childhood Educator with over 20 years of experience will be offering the following workshop for parents of 2 to 5 year olds:

EARLY NUMERACY – Building a solid numerical foundation, 7.30pm on Tuesday 24 March or 9.30am on Wednesday 25 March. The session is two hours long and is offered twice so you can find a time that suits. There is a charge of \$20 which includes comprehensive notes.

Hayley's goal is to inspire, encourage and equip you as parents. For details, contact her or book on [hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz)

## HOST FAMILY NEEDED

AFS Pasifika are on the lookout for a host family for a 16 year old boy already attending Tawa College. This young Argentinian man is friendly and eager to be involved in the community.

If you have the room in your home and your hearts please contact Andrea on 022 310 5146 or via [afspasifikaporirua@hotmail.com](mailto:afspasifikaporirua@hotmail.com)

## TAKE NOTE! – A NOTE FROM TAKE NOTE TAWA

Construction work is under way at Take Note Tawa to upgrade the seismic rating of the building. Currently the building meets the Wellington City Council seismic code for retail but not the NZ Post Kiwi Bank requirements.

Over the next couple of weeks work will be done on the exterior of the building, mainly on the south side (left of pic), concrete pillars with foundations being constructed and the rear walls strengthened. This will make access to the Private Boxes via the side door restricted at times. It will be necessary during the day for Private Box holders to access their Boxes via the shop.



In early April steel beams and cross bracing will be put in the ceiling space of the shop. This will be done outside opening hours and should have minimal affect on business.

We will try to keep any disruption, noise, etc to a minimum and we regret any inconvenience caused. Access to the construction site is prohibited. Please contact us if you have any issues.

## PLEASE ASSIST IF YOU CAN .....

Smartway Builders met a lady last year who has got herself into a fair bit of strife and is living with her children in a house that is unfinished and unsafe.

She suffered from severe depression and as a result of the medication she was put on, became manic and made some unwise decisions. She had watched more than her fair share of 'DIY' Programmes and decided, based on what she had seen on these shows, to renovate her house herself.

The end result was partial demolition of her house and she and her children are now living in an environment that is very unsafe, with live electrical cables hanging down from the ceiling, plumbing running around the floor and hazards all around. Once she was well, she realised the magnitude of what she had done but did not have the skills or money to fix it.

Smartway Builders have decided to help this lady for one reason, and one reason only – Because We Can. She really needs our help, and she needs yours too.

A Give-A-Little page has been set up to raise the funds needed to fix her house and we ask you to go to this page, and contribute whatever you can manage. Further down the track we may need help with labour and materials but right now, money is the thing that we need the most.

To make this project a success, we ask that you take one or more of the following actions:

Go to [www.HelpingTheSmartWay.co.nz](http://www.HelpingTheSmartWay.co.nz) and make a donation.

Go to [www.facebook.com/HelpingTheSmartWay](http://www.facebook.com/HelpingTheSmartWay) and like and share our Facebook page for this project.

If you have any queries, or want to offer your help, please email [HelpingOut@SmartwayBuilders.co.nz](mailto:HelpingOut@SmartwayBuilders.co.nz) and we will contact you as soon as we can.

Thank you in advance for your support with this matter. It is very much appreciated.

Ann & Howard Woolston, Directors, Smartway Builders Limited.



## **A NOTICE FROM THE REGIONAL COUNCIL ABOUT ODOURS**

Greater Wellington Regional Council has sent this message through to the Tawa community:

The Regional Council welcomes all odour reports to Environment Hotline 0800 496 734. Greater Wellington Regional Council is encouraging people to call its hotline to report odour from Spicer Landfill following an increased number of notifications over recent weeks.

The council runs a 24-hour environment hotline and an environmental regulation duty officer is always on call to respond. In most situations the duty officer will be able to be at the site within one hour of being notified. The duty officer also responds to calls about other environmental incidents which involve the contamination of land, water, air and the coastal marine area.

Calls to the environmental hotline are confidential but a name, address and phone number is asked for in case the duty officer needs more information and to update the caller on the investigation. To make a report, phone the environment hotline on 0800 496 734.

## **TAWA RECREATION CENTRE**

What's on Offer:

### **April School Holiday Programme**

Tuesday 7 – Friday 17 April

Registrations for the April School Holidays are now open.

### **Play Floorball**

The 8 week league runs on Monday evenings between 4pm – 7pm, from 4 May – 29 June. Cost is \$210 per team. Register by 2 April.

### **Free Badminton Sessions** for the month of March

Come along with some friends or family and enjoy a game of badminton. Monday nights 5.30pm – 7pm. Free entry. Hire racquets for \$2. All other equipment provided.

### **Birthday Parties**

We cater for birthday parties for children 12 years and under. We are available Saturday and Sunday, and on week days/nights during the school holidays.

### **Pre-season fitness training**

Winter sports are about to start. Register your child for pre-season fitness training. This programme will be run on three mornings every week during the school holidays in April. Each session \$12/child.

### **Women's Social Netball League Term 2**

Registration period is 11 to 25 March. Open to the first 12 teams. Cost \$550 for 11 weeks. Players must be 15+ years.

### **Ezy Movers Fitness Class**

Low-impact class designed for our older adult community at the Tawa Community Centre Fridays 9.30am – 10.20am. Cost \$5/session. Bring a friend for free for the month of March.

Register for the holiday programmes and further info at <http://wellington.govt.nz/recreation/get-active-indoors/recreation-centres/tawa-recreation-centre> or call us on 232 2260.

## **MARY POTTER HOSPICE SHOP**

In case you were wondering, the Mary Potter Hospice shop (north of Subway on the Main Road) is currently undergoing renovations. It will be back in action in another month or two as “a much better shop.”

## WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT TAWA?

Following on from some recent discussion on Neighbourly (the community forum), a group of community-minded locals have got together to talk about different ways to attract new businesses and visitors to Tawa, and generally look at ways to make it an even better place to live.

The "Vibrant Tawa" group is conducting a community SWOT survey which has already garnered a significant number of responses on Neighbourly. We would love you to take a couple of minutes to give us your thoughts on a few brief questions.

In your opinion .....

1. What do you love about Tawa?
2. What do you think could be improved?
3. What do you think is missing from Tawa, or what would you like to see added?
4. What other suburbs in Wellington do you enjoy spending time in, and why?
5. Do you have any other comments on how to enhance the appeal of Tawa to locals, businesses and visitors?

Please email your response to [vibrant.tawa@gmail.com](mailto:vibrant.tawa@gmail.com)



## SHARING YOUR CHRISTIAN FAITH WITH YOUR CHILDREN

The purpose of this Resource Night for Parents, grandparents and caregivers of 6 - 12 year olds is to provide ideas and encouragement to help equip them to disciple their children.

Presenter: Hayley Balmer, Children's Pastor at Tawa Anglican Church. Wednesday 25 March, 7.30-9.30pm. No charge, but bookings essential. Phone Tawa-Linden Anglican Church office on 232 8448 or email [admin@tac.org.nz](mailto:admin@tac.org.nz)

## MECCANO INTERNAT'L EXPO

10am-6pm Friday 3 – Monday 6 April at the Visa Platinum Gallery, Level 4. Free entry.

This Easter don't miss this spectacular display of Meccano Models made by the NZ Federation of Meccano Modellers. Over 300 classical models will be on display. The largest is more than 8 metres long, the tallest more than 3 metres high. Some of the more complex models even have built-in microcomputers.

Thomas fans and train spotters, take note! The expo will also feature a large working display of Hornby trains courtesy of the NZ Hornby Modellers Assn. And children will be able to try their hand at building a Meccano model.



28 March 2015

Greenacres School  
Mad Hatters  
Gala

GREENACRES SCHOOL  
60 Raroa Terrace  
Tawa

Saturday 28 March  
11 AM - 2 PM

Easter hunt LUCKY DIP GARAGE SALE  
Tombola MARBLE RUN MYSTERY BOTTLES TOYS  
Trains FERRIS WHEEL Fire truck  
Bouncy castle FACE PAINTING Meccano  
Hair Braiding SMASH PALACE CAKES  
GIANT Slide Fill-a-bag clothes  
PAINTBALL GAMES ALLEY  
PONY RIDES Spin the Wheel CLASSIC CAR RIDES  
Paddle boats CAFE Mini Hot Rods

## **TAWALIN INDOOR BOWLS CLUB**

Our season started on Monday 9 March. We meet at Redwood School hall at 7.15pm on Mondays. New members would be very welcome and coaching is available if needed, plus transport if required.

Please contact any of the following members if you would like more information: Jan Ferguson on 232 7538, Graeme Munro on 232 5407, or Terry Roche on 232 5263.



## **TAWANUI INDOOR BOWLS CLUB**

Tawanui indoor bowls club re-opened for the winter season on Monday 9 March at 7.20pm (for a 7.30pm start) at the Tawa Bowling Club, Davies Street, Tawa.

The only equipment you need to enjoy the sport of indoor bowls is a pair of flat, soft-soled shoes. All other equipment is provided and membership is only \$40 for the entire season. We have a very diverse membership and we can definitely provide free coaching. We are very lucky to also have a current NZ representative as a regular attendee at club nights.

If you have any questions please let me know (Dale 021 358 875) or just pop along on any Monday night from 9 March until 14 September. You will be more than welcome.

## **U3A TAWA IN ACTION**

Recently I've had the pleasure of attending a few of the U3A courses for this half year.

Marina Fabris hosted February's "Music and Lunch" with a small group of classical music lovers. Marina's choice was a CD of pianist Lang Lang, playing a selection of piano music. Beethoven, Mozart, Liszt, Schumann, Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky. Marina provided the lunch with generous offerings from the others. As this was the first meeting, everyone sat round the table and just kept talking. So instead of having a second half of the concert, the members simply enjoyed getting to know each other. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Phone Marina on 232 7007.

Current Affairs met in February in the Doris Mills Lounge in Linden and was ably chaired by Mike Williams. There were around 30 people in attendance and the topics were listed on a white board and checked off as they were discussed. That month the topics covered were: High rise buildings in Tawa; The use of Hospital land at Porirua; ISIS; Speed limits; Three parent babies; Charlie Hebdo, and Cycle Ways. The discussion seems to centre around a hard-core of individuals (well controlled by Mike) and everyone is welcome to speak or listen as they feel comfortable. This group meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Phone David Perry on 237 7660.

The Book Group that I attend regularly met first in January. Ten women read a great variety of books. Memorably "The Poets' Daughters" (Wordsworth and Coleridge); "Emma" by McCall-Smith; "Miss Carter's War" by Sheila Hancock. This group meets once a month on the fourth Monday. It is hosted by a different member each time. There is a second Book Group which meets on the second Monday of the month. Contact Pat Downes on 232 5871.

I was one of only two students who signed up for the short course on "Power Point", one of several classes or one-off talks on Technology. This was taken by Lola Gudsell who talked us through setting up a slide page, introduced us to terms and expressions and we left with copious notes which basically meant we could practise on our own at home. I was unable to attend the subsequent two classes but found it extremely useful.

– Jancis Potter, U3A Tawa

## **60 SECONDS WITH .....** Josh Nightingale

Josh is this year's head boy at Tawa College.

*Where were you born?* I was born in Wellington Hospital.

*Where did you grow up?* Right here in Tawa.

*What schools have you been at since you first started school?*

Redwood School from Year 0-5, then St Marks [in town] for Years 6-8, and then Tawa College.

*What subjects are you doing this year at college?*

Accounting, Computing - Design, Dance, English, Maths.

*What are you hoping to do when you leave school?*

I have been accepted into a Performing Arts college in Los Angeles called the Young Americans. The Young Americans are trained in performing arts and then travel both nationally and internationally to try and bring music back into schools' curriculum.

Upon my return I would like to do a Bachelor of Commerce.

*What does being a deputy head student actually involve, any particular responsibilities?*

I am a leader for the school, and as a role model get involved with as much as I can in order to encourage the other students to do the same. I represent the college at many events, and also act as a line of communication between students and teachers.

*What are your interests/hobbies?*

I enjoy dancing and singing, and am leading Stage Challenge this year.

*What do you like about Tawa College?*

I like how there is a range of extra-curricular groups which are able to suit all of the different interests of the students, and in which the teachers are enthusiastic and involved.

*Favourite sports team and/or sportsperson?*

Don't really follow sports, but I did watch the last five minutes of NZ vs AUS cricket match!

*Favourite musical group and/or style of music?*

Broods!! ["A music duo from Nelson, New Zealand, composed of Georgia Nott on lead vocals, with older brother and multi-instrumentalist Caleb Nott on production and backing vocals." – Wikipedia]

*Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?*

I enjoy travelling to the Mount at Tauranga.

*Any accomplishments/achievements in your life (to date) that give you much satisfaction/pride?*

Being selected as head boy of Tawa College.

Representing New Zealand in a dance competition and workshop in Los Angeles last year, and then finding out I was accepted in the Young Americans.



### **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.

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

Adios

Malcolm Sparrow

On behalf of TawaLink.com (supported by the Tawa Residents' Association)



*“Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try.”*

*“Failure isn't an option. It comes bundled with Windows.”*

*“The U.N. is the place where governments that suppress free speech demand to be heard.”*

This newsletter is emailed to around 1250 Tawa households, businesses, schools, churches and clubs/groups (anyone who has an interest in the community of Tawa), usually in the first week of each month.

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please send us an email requesting that your name be deleted from our list.

Back issues of the newsletter are available at [www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html](http://www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html).

PLEASE BE AWARE that many of the items/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.

## Observations about Tawa's 'remoteness'

Tawa is geographically removed from the rest of Wellington city. Most locals know that. Most also like the fact that it contributes to our special “village feel”. On the other hand it also means that many Wellingtonians, especially those in the eastern and southern parts of the city, see Tawa as being “out there” somewhere, and “Why bother going there?”

There is definitely a ‘disconnect’ which sometimes works in our favour and sometimes doesn't.

Below are a few ‘interesting’ observations which tend to back up what has been stated above:

When driving southwards on SH1 towards Wellington, where is the road sign indicating that you've reached Wellington? Is it on the outskirts of Tawa, Wellington's northernmost suburb, as you might expect? No, it's at the bottom of the Ngauranga Gorge. The whole of Wellington's northern ward has been bypassed before motorists are informed they've reached Wellington! Interesting.

This from a supporter of the Island Bay cycleway: “The CBD already has [cycle lanes along] the waterfront from the railway station to Oriental Bay ..... So far we have nothing in Wellington's suburbs. The nearest is Tawa and the Hutt River Trail.” So, in the mind of this southern resident, Tawa isn't one of Wellington's suburbs! Interesting.

Greater Wellington Regional Council maps of Wellington city regularly exclude Tawa. Admittedly Tawa is in the Porirua-Tawa ward in terms of GWRC zones, but it may be that the Regional Council needs reminding that Tawa is still part of Wellington city. Interesting.

Two Wellington suburban newspapers cover, on the one hand, the eastern and southern suburbs and, on the other, the western and northern suburbs. The “Independent Herald” covers the latter, all the northern suburbs, with the biggest one, Tawa, being excluded. Interesting.

There are no doubt other examples of Tawa's “isolated state” which, as stated earlier, can work both for and against us. We'll finish with this anecdote from the last local body elections. Describing the suburb's remoteness, a certain mayoral candidate on making it all the way out to Tawa, was heard to exclaim “It's like the lost city of the Incas!”. Well, who knows? Maybe it is and we just don't know it!

### Wellington Northern Suburbs Revised Bus Network Proposal April 2013

*Tawa is not always regarded as being part of the “Northern Suburbs”*

