

This newsletter has been sent out monthly since 2005. See [www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html](http://www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html) for back issues.

Other sources of online community information in Tawa:

[www.neighbourly.co.nz](http://www.neighbourly.co.nz) • [www.facebook.com/VibrantTawa](http://www.facebook.com/VibrantTawa) • [www.facebook.com/tawacommunityboard](http://www.facebook.com/tawacommunityboard)

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

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TAWA?

The answer to that is obvious – not a lot, due to the current ‘lockdown’ situation! The photo at right, showing a deserted town centre, was taken at 10am yesterday on the second day of the current lockdown.

At 12.30pm on Thursday I [Ed.] had shopped at New World. At that stage there was no queueing to get into the supermarket. People were keeping their distance inside, although not quite as much as necessary in some instances!



There was a rush (probably uncalled for) on supermarket items in the day or two leading up to the lockdown. It may be “the luck of the draw” in terms of how busy things are at any given moment now. At 11am on Friday the outside line was quite long at New World, but there were just 8-10 people at the pharmacy, unlike the queue in the photo below.



Residents obtaining supplies prior to official lockdown starting



## NEEDING HELP OR HELPING OTHERS?

If you need someone to buy some groceries for you or to assist in some other way, there is a Facebook group called Keep Connected, Tawa (Self Isolation Support) which you can visit. This is being monitored by people in the community who are willing to assist.



See <https://www.facebook.com/groups/683251612412811> to request assistance or to offer assistance. Those who aren't online should call Mandy on 021 227 8566 or Malcolm on 027 232 2320 or 232 5030.

Already there have been two requests for assistance from Redwood Estate residents living on their own with no-one to fetch their groceries. A caring community will ensure that everyone is looked after!

This rather appropriate graphic currently heads up the “I am proud to be from Tawa” Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2482075895>



## COVID-19 INFORMATION

Answers to most questions about what we should and shouldn't be doing during this period of lockdown are available at the official website: <https://covid19.govt.nz>

There is also a substantial amount of information on the Council site at <https://wellington.govt.nz/about-wellington/emergency-management/civil-emergency-news-and-information/emergency-management-information-for-individuals>

And last, but not least, there are daily updates from the Mayor which can be viewed on Council's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/wellingtoncitycouncil/>



## TO WALK OR NOT TO WALK

There has been some debate regarding when we are allowed to leave our houses. The official request is to stay at home. However .....

As long as you are not unwell, you can leave your house to:

- access essential services, like buying groceries, or going to a bank or pharmacy
- go to work if you work for an essential service
- go for a walk, or exercise and enjoy nature

Further guidance about “going for a walk” has been provided by Denise Clements, WCC's local park ranger, as follows.

“We are following Ministry of Health guidelines which means people are allowed to go outside to recreate as long as they:

- Stay local [don't use your car]
- Stick with those you are self-isolating with
- Stay 2 metres away from others
- Avoid touching surfaces (like handrails)
- Wash hands well when you get home
- Avoid unnecessary risks – the medical professionals have enough going on”



## DAILY FITNESS SESSIONS

Stuck at home and needing exercise? Julia McHale, of Heavenly Fitness fame and a Tawa local, is offering a free 10 minute daily workout. See <https://www.facebook.com/fitnessheavenly/videos/2651902628407581>



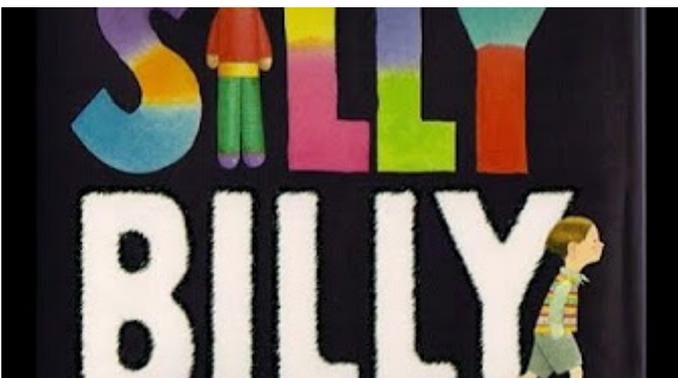
## TAWA SCHOOL STORYTIME

As seen on Facebook – post from Tawa School principal Barri Dullabh:

“Over the lockdown period, I am doing daily story readings for my Tawa School community [as per the graphic below], but want to invite other school’s families to join us as a way of coming together through this lockdown season.

We are going live every weekday at 10:00am. You can check out the Tawa School website for the new live links or subscribe to the YouTube channel. We’ve done two so far that can be seen at [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3yqaHKjFAa\\_x\\_HbsFkCnSEpRRKnaTnBH&fbclid=IwAR1mxlWps\\_solxdvKKldSt-ZzNiQ5nR2AATwbGIT11OPUJ4HN4UYxulljhY](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3yqaHKjFAa_x_HbsFkCnSEpRRKnaTnBH&fbclid=IwAR1mxlWps_solxdvKKldSt-ZzNiQ5nR2AATwbGIT11OPUJ4HN4UYxulljhY) All stories will be added to this playlist.

Be safe out there and we will see you soon for storytime.”



Can we uninstall  
2020? This version  
seems to have a  
virus.



**Day 3 of social distancing: Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He’s a web designer.**

## UNICHEM SIMON'S PHARMACY

As most of us know, our local pharmacy run by Ant Simon and team has been exceptionally busy lately! Their Facebook page states "Prescription wait times are currently around 72 hours. We will triage prescriptions for antibiotics and aim for a 2 hour turnaround, please queue to drop these off." See <https://www.facebook.com/www.simonspharmacy.co.nz> for updates.

## ASSISTING IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

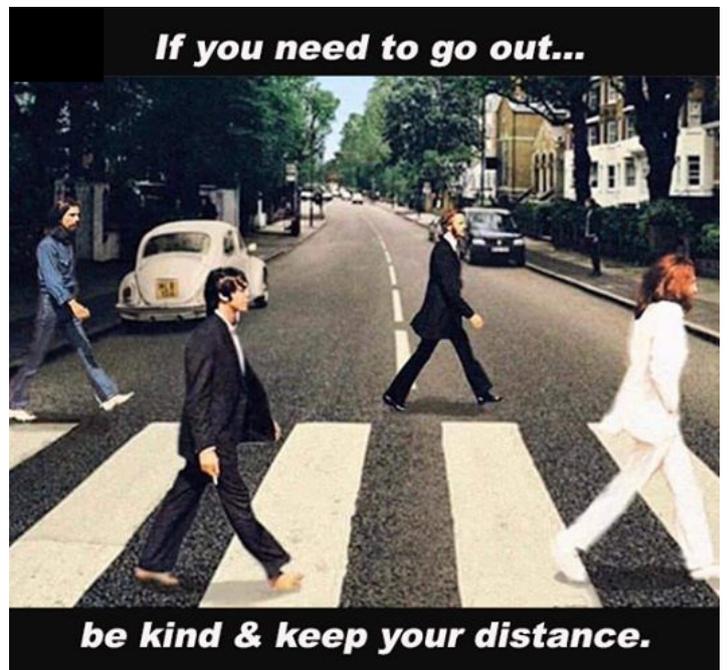
Just to be sure that no-one in your neighbourhood is home on their own with no-one to assist them, it's not too late to print a few copies of the form below and do a letterbox drop in your own street – perhaps just five houses on either side of you and a few across the road. That's what being a good neighbour is all about! This form is available on Neighbourhood Support's Facebook page.

The Wellington Volunteer Student Army is also offering assistance. See <https://www.vuwsa.org.nz/sva?fbclid=IwAR17Veu7GrUAeNUY-dCJgysrLy3guwmxsPwrPEbSnmfeSLgYEIXaCoYMF Pg> to make a request for support.

There are also local Coronavirus Support Groups on both Facebook and Neighbourly.



*Wash hands for at least 20 seconds*



## KIA ORA NEIGHBOUR!

If you are self-isolating, I can help provide support.

My name is:

---

My address is:

---

My phone number is:

---

If you are self-isolating, I'd be happy to help with:

- Shopping     Urgent supplies  
 A friendly call     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Just call / text me and I'll do my best to help out (for free). COVID-19 is contagious so we both need to take precautions to ensure we are only spreading kindness. The Ministry of Health website ([www.health.govt.nz](http://www.health.govt.nz)) has the latest info. Let's both keep up-to-date. If your symptoms worsen you can phone the NZ COVID-19 Healthline on 0800 358 5453, or 111 in an emergency.



Creating safe, resilient and connected communities.

Have you met Corona Lisa?



## BBQs IN TAWA

A number of street gatherings (BBQs or similar) had taken place in Tawa before last weekend, 21-22 March. By that stage many streets decided to cancel their proposed get-togethers. One or two events went ahead on the basis that anyone feeling the slightest bit unwell or who preferred to not attend, didn't.

There weren't quite as many as usual at the Brasenose Place BBQ last Sunday, but it was a

good chance for those taking part to enjoy a "last hurrah" before going into lockdown. The photo shows social distancing being practised (although not necessarily the case for the whole duration).



## FORMER TAWA CONNECTION

Dr Ashley Bloomfield is New Zealand's Director-General of Health and, on behalf of the government, the public-facing health specialist fronting the media on the country's coronavirus pandemic. Most of us give him top marks for the way he's performing his role! Colleagues reputedly describe him as "measured, methodical, calm and sensible".

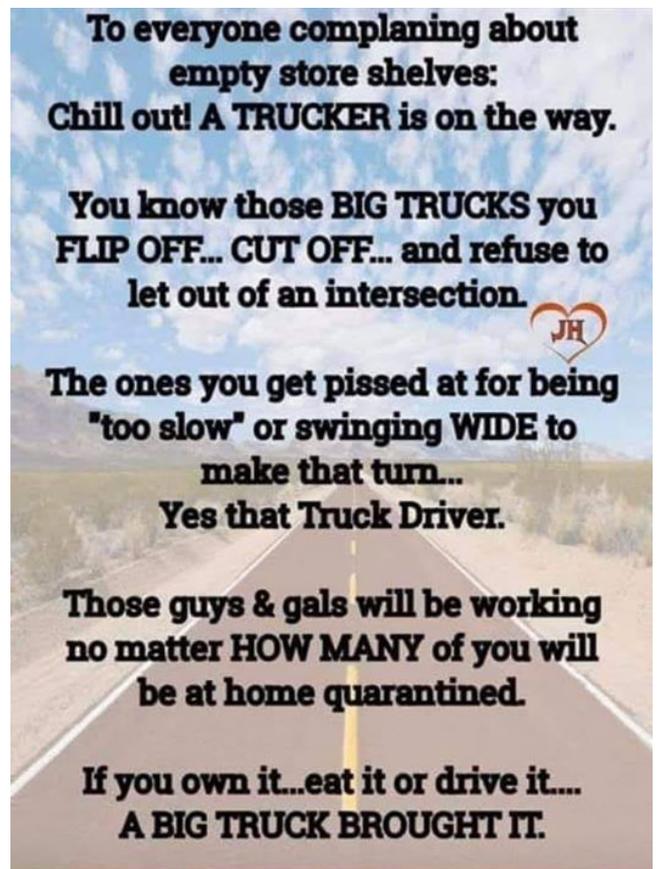


Ashley Bloomfield, we have been informed by reliable sources, spent much of his growing-up years in Tawa. His family lived in Redwood and went to Tawa Baptist Church in the 1970s and 80s. His mother, Myreine, taught at Redwood School. She also taught at Scots College which is where Ashley and his brother received their secondary education. According to Wikipedia, he went on to graduate from the University of Auckland in medicine in 1990.

## PLAYGROUNDS AND WET WIPES .....

**Playgrounds** across the city are off-limits right now. That includes school playgrounds. "It's important to think about the surfaces that we need to avoid touching." However it is okay to visit an adjoining park (in your own neighbourhood) subject to the 2m social distancing rules.

And the city authorities are requesting: "Please do NOT put anything into our wastewater system that doesn't belong there as it often ends up clogging the pipes. That's true all the time but especially now. So please, no **wet wipes**, sanitary products or paper towels, etc down the toilet."

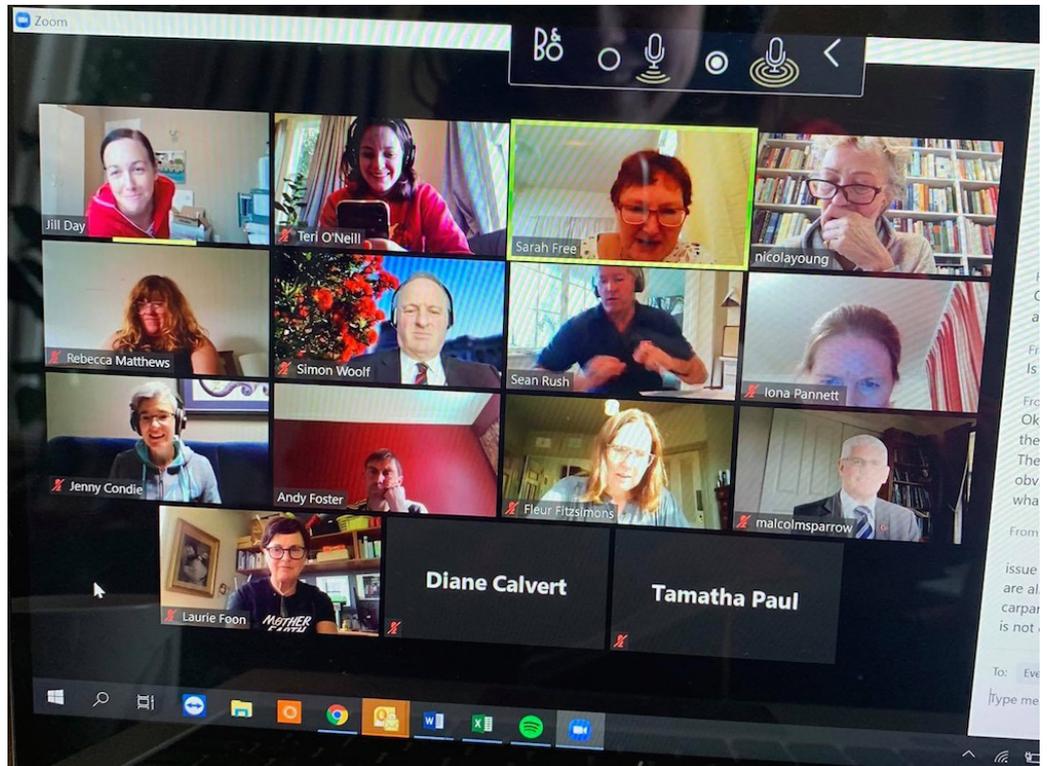


## VIDEO CONFERENCING

For some, “video conferencing” may be nothing new. For others, it is, and it’s becoming quite the norm for many of us during the lockdown. It’s a great way of communication with workmates when we can’t be in the same workplace together.

Wellington City councillors are using this format around three times a week to communicate with their colleagues to discuss the current issues (bearing in mind the city has to continue operating), and to let other councillors know how they’ve been assisting in their own communities.

Likewise, the eight members of the Tawa Community Board (six elected members and two appointed city councillors) have been conversing in the same format. In case you aren’t aware, the community board plays an important part in the wider Tawa community and continues to keep tabs on local issues (e.g. how things are faring at the local supermarkets and the pharmacy) in these difficult times.



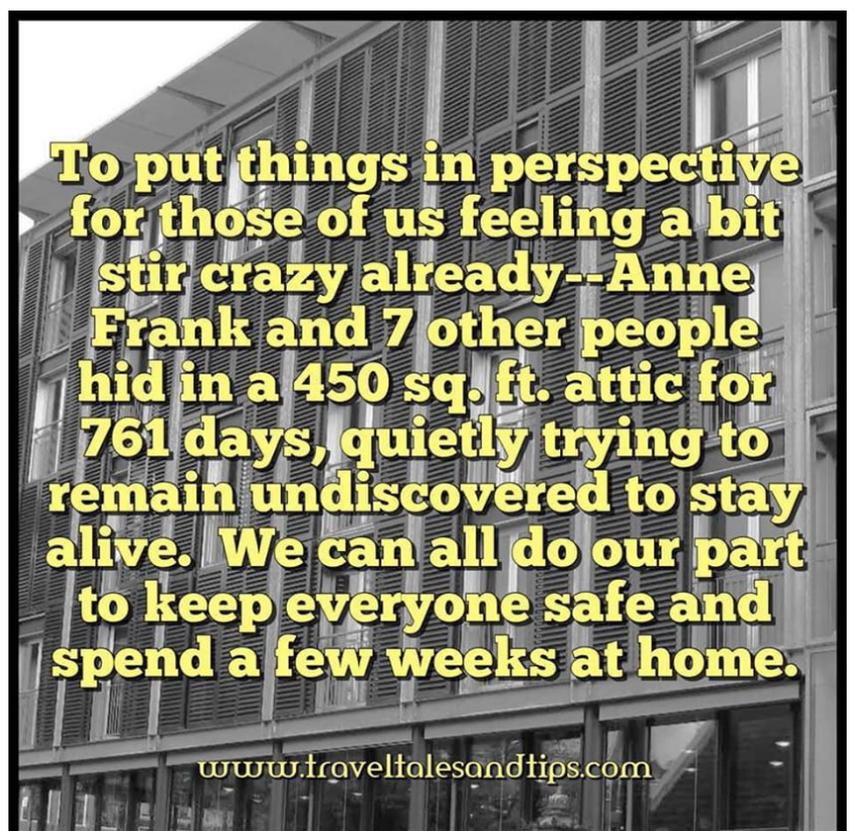
The pic shows Wellington City councillors and mayor in a recent video (Zoom) conference. The councillor at bottom right alternates between a corporate cutout and his real persona.

## A BIG THANK YOU

There are many in our community (and across the city) for whom the current crisis means they are a whole lot busier at their places of work.

In particular we are grateful for those who are there for us at the two local supermarkets, at the pharmacy, at the medical centre and other businesses which remain open. Also to all those who continue to do their jobs – like delivering goods – to ensure that our society continues to function.

**A HEARTFELT THANKS!**





**Teddies  
(and friends)  
on display  
in one Tawa  
cul-de-sac  
Wednesday  
25.3.20**



**IF YOU GO OUT ON THE STREET TODAY .....**

You'll have a pretty good idea of what to expect! In the street-facing windows of houses all over Tawa (and the whole country, for that matter) are teddy bears and their friends. It's all about providing a bit of cheer in these 'gloomy' times, particularly for families with children taking a walk in their own neighbourhood. It's not a competition. It's simply a fun thing to do and helps bring a smile to our faces!



**More  
Teddies  
(and friends)  
in the same  
Tawa street  
Thursday  
26.3.20**



## **LIONS SATURDAY MARKET CLOSED FOR THE DURATION**

The weekly Saturday Tawa Lions Market usually operates at Outlet City, 24 Main Road, Tawa from 9 am to 2 pm and is the club's main source of funds. Since its inception in 2006, the Saturday Market has raised in excess of \$200,000.

During the lockdown period the club will not be operating its Saturday Market.

**Bored during lockdown?  
Why not use the time to  
learn the difference  
between  
you're & your,  
their, there & they're,  
and when to use the apostrophe  
in its! It's not that difficult!**

## **COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM LOCAL MP**

Kia ora All

You will be settling into the new normal that is lockdown, and hopefully taking the opportunity to look at your community through a new lens. I will continue to be fully available by phone, email and Facebook through the lockdown period.

Much of my work until now has involved helping constituents interpret the assistance packages and also immigration issues, assisting people trapped overseas without New Zealand passports. Sadly one Tawa family here awaiting residency were visiting their home country when the borders closed and now cannot return to their home, jobs, and schools here. I am helping where I can and have had some success.

From a central government point of view you will be following the evolving health and economic response, led by our PM Jacinda Adern. Every decision has massive implications so the best information available from here and overseas is taken into account. That is why this unprecedented lockdown action has been taken.

While parliament has been suspended, a committee of MPs from all parties has been established to scrutinise the government's actions. This is important as the state of emergency does give government wide-ranging powers which should receive such examination. It will naturally operate remotely and its sittings will be available online.

So take the opportunity lockdown presents to re-evaluate what is important in our lives. And of course, keep to the rules, and do your bit to eliminate this virus from our nation.

Greg O'Connor, Ōhāriu MP

Phone 478 3332 Email [greg.oconnor@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:greg.oconnor@parliament.govt.nz) Facebook /GregOhariu

Note from the Ed.: *This is the third message in this newsletter in recent times from the MP for the Ōhāriu electorate. In case you didn't know, approximately two-thirds of greater Tawa (including Linden, Grenada North and Takapu Valley) is in this electorate. The other one-third, at the northern end, is in Mana.*

*Conveying "non-political" messages such as these does not indicate support or preference for any particular political party or politician by the Editor of this newsletter. The messages have been included in this newsletter at the request of the MP concerned. He has taken the initiative. Simple as that.*

## ON A PERSONAL LEVEL .....

The New Zealand Herald asked all Wellington City councillors about how they were planning to spend the next four weeks. See [https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=12319845](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12319845)

Here is the response I provided:

“I have a desk in the corner of our lounge at which I often work in the evenings when I’m not out at a meeting. I will continue to work at that because my wife who is now also working from home has commandeered my office!

One last minute thing was visiting McDonald’s yesterday afternoon for a ‘final’ Kiwi burger. As expected, the drive-thru line was very long, even at 2.30pm, but they were well set up to deal with the huge additional custom before shutting up shop for however long it takes.

In the past 24 hours I’ve already been involved in two lots of video conferencing which is new to me. Councillors have started to use this means to discuss the issues we’re currently dealing with. Running the city has to continue, but it’s happening somewhat differently now!”



I’m quite happy to admit I enjoy a McDonald’s Kiwi burger. I eat around half-a-dozen a year! Here I am sitting in my EV (electric vehicle) making the most of it before lockdown. - Ed.



Last ‘bought’ coffee for a while. Couldn’t use my refillable mug on this occasion!

I have used my car once since lockdown started. That was to pick up a few necessary supplies at the supermarket.

Fortunately I am able to continue the daily routine of walking the dog through part of Redwood Bush which is on my back doorstep (so to speak). Social distancing is the norm on the odd occasion when I encounter another walker. There is usually little problem in one of us moving a couple of metres off the track.

In my own street I have spoken to considerably more neighbours (at an acceptable distance) than I would do in the normal course of events when most are elsewhere for work. Similar enhanced connections are being made by many other people across our

communities. Increased neighbourliness is one good thing that happens in any sort of ‘crisis’.

Our street email list has been very useful over the past few days. All 18 houses are part of it and it has proved its effectiveness in keeping in touch. Hopefully other streets in Tawa (or groupings of 20 houses or so) have similar lists. Because of that a letterbox drop hasn’t been necessary.

We have a long way to go! Some of us will cope well. However I expect it won’t be easy for some living on their own and those with kids to entertain. Remember there are numbers to call, including my own, if you need a helping hand.

Kia kaha, Tawa! He waka eke noa – we are all in this together.

## COVID-19

and your blood donation

#1

Travelling to donate blood is considered ESSENTIAL travel



## YOUR HOROSCOPE THIS WEEK

 <b>ARIES</b> You'll be spending time in your home	 <b>LIBRA</b> You'll be spending time in your home
 <b>TAURUS</b> You'll be spending time in your home	 <b>SCORPIO</b> You'll be spending time in your home
 <b>GEMINI</b> You'll be spending time in your home	 <b>SAGITTARIUS</b> You'll be spending time in your home
 <b>CANCER</b> You'll be spending time in your home	 <b>CAPRICORN</b> You'll be spending time in your home
 <b>LEO</b> You'll be spending time in your home	 <b>AQUARIUS</b> You'll be spending time in your home
 <b>VIRGO</b> You'll be spending time in your home	 <b>PISCES</b> You'll be spending time in your home

"Tonight before falling asleep think about when we will return to the street. When we hug again, when all the shopping together will seem like a party Let's think about when the coffees will return to the bar, the small talk, the photos close to each other. We think about when it will be all a memory but normality will seem an unexpected and beautiful gift. We will love everything that has so far seemed futile to us. Every second will be precious. Swims at the sea, the sun until late, sunsets, toasts, laughter. We will go back to laughing together. Strength and courage."

Pope Francis



### LIFE IN TAWA:

Tawa Rotary's 50th Anniversary is in early April. Celebrations have been postponed, but flags are flying in the central Tawa shopping area;

New life at Lyndhurst Park;

Sunflowers in Surrey Street.

Ngā mihi

Malcolm Sparrow  
info@tawalink.com  
027 232 2320





## THE LATEST METLINK INFORMATION

In response to COVID-19 alert level 4, Metlink is reviewing bus services, introducing germ shield fogging and rolling out physical distancing markers on all buses and trains.

General Manager Scott Gallacher says Metlink is continuing to monitor the region's timetables and will make adjustments to ensure we support our communities and provide access to essential services.

Metlink has also rolled out germ shield fogging across all of its trains, stations and buses. The antibacterial spray coating is effective in destroying germs that come into contact with surfaces and has been used for MRSA, Norovirus and H1N1 type viruses.

"The fogging is another measure that we're putting in place on top of very robust cleaning measures. We're encouraging passengers to continue to follow Ministry of Health advice and stay at home if sick, keep up their personal hygiene efforts and maintain physical distancing of two metres," says Scott Gallacher.

To help passengers keep a two metres distance, Metlink is introducing markers on floors and seats, as well as stickers on the back of seats and on windows to show where passengers should sit.

Metlink thanks all passengers for their patience at this time.

