



# COMMUNITY NEWS

May 2017

*This community newsletter is sent out monthly on behalf of tawalink.com, Tawa's community website since 2002.*

*Other sources of online community information in Tawa:*

*www.neighbourly.co.nz • www.facebook.com/VibrantTawa • www.facebook.com/tawacommunityboard*

## FREE MICROCHIPPING OF CATS

Keep your cat safe with a permanent method of identification. Wellington City Council is partnering with SPCA Wellington to offer free microchipping for cats on Saturday 6 May at the Tawa Community Centre, 1.30pm to 3.30pm.



Following the Christchurch earthquakes, more than 80% of microchipped cats were reunited with their owners, compared with only 20% of non-microchipped cats, so make sure your moggie gets this safe method of identification! See [www.wellington.govt.nz/microchip](http://www.wellington.govt.nz/microchip)

## LIGHTING UP WITH LUX ..... IN TAWA TOO!

"LUX Light Festival is a free public light festival that turns Wellington's waterfront and laneways into a captivating celebration of light, technology & design." It is scheduled to run from 12-21 May.

LUX is now presenting LUX Kids, "a new pilot schools programme that introduces kids to the world of light art."

Five schools in the wider Wellington region are participating in the programme and have been developing and building a light installation made from recycled materials. Students have developed the concept and designed the work together, including learning about electronics and light elements.

In Wellington city, the school chosen to be part of the programme was Hampton Hill, a cause for great excitement amongst the students. Their brainstorming session was very successful and resulted in ideas for their ultimate dream playground installation including monkey bars, slide, flying fox, swings, and of course a rocket!

As part of the project the Hampton Hill children have been learning how to programme the lights they will be using for their work. Many were surprised at how much typing was involved!

The six-week programme has almost been completed. The work will then be installed in each suburban centre to be on display during the festival.

Hampton Hill's end product is "2m high, cylindrical, free standing, constructed of wire netting, LED and plastic bottles". It will be set in place in Tawa Plaza at 6pm on Thursday 11 May. You're welcome to come to the launch. More details will follow.



## HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE ANNUAL PLAN

Council would like your feedback – by 5pm on Friday 19 May – on its plan for the capital’s future, its goals and focus areas for the next 1-3 years. See [wellington.govt.nz/annualplan17-18](http://wellington.govt.nz/annualplan17-18)

The key initiatives for 2017/18 are:

- Supported accommodation for the homeless (Te Whare Okioki)
- Arts and Culture programme
- One Stop Shop for regulatory applications
- South Coast Resilience Programme
- No fees for smokefree dining areas
- No swimming spectator fees
- Rates remission for first home/apartment builders
- Predator-free Wellington
- Living Wage
- Community Engagement
- EV and Shared Vehicle Car parks
- Town Hall Earthquake Strengthening
- Seismic building intelligence system
- Home Resilient Assessment
- Addressing anti-social behaviour



More information is available here: <http://wellington.govt.nz/have-your-say/public-inputs/consultations/open/2017-18-annual-plan/2017-18-initiatives>

## WOULD A COUNCIL GREEN BIN REDUCE YOUR TRASH?

A poll which has been set up by Tawa Community Board member Robyn Parkinson is currently open on Neighbourly. The introductory wording states: “Councils in the Wellington region are working on ideas to reduce our waste going to landfill. Currently green waste makes up a big portion of this. A kerbside bin for green waste – or one for food waste – are among the options. What do you think?”

The Tawa Community Board will be deciding its submission at its next meeting on Thursday 4 May and will likely take account of this poll. See [www.neighbourly.co.nz/message/view/22991186?reply\\_id=23232608](http://www.neighbourly.co.nz/message/view/22991186?reply_id=23232608)

To comment directly on the “draft plan to manage and minimise waste in the Wellington region”, you’re welcome to go to <http://wellington.govt.nz/have-your-say/public-inputs/consultations/open/waste-management-and-minimisation-plan> – the plan aims to slash the amount ending up in local landfills by a third over the next 10 years. Feedback closes at 5pm on Friday 19 May 2017.



Tawa Community Board chair and fellow board member Robyn Parkinson in the foyer of Tawa New World asking members of the community their views on this issue, seen here interacting with Stephen Mulholland (aka “the llama man”).

## TAWA ORCHESTRA CONCERT “LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS”

Tawa Orchestra is a community orchestra that formed as part of the Tawa Community Education programme and attracts amateur players of all ages and walks of life. They hold at least 3 koha-entry concerts per year, all within the local community and encourage local participation wherever possible.

“Last Night of the Proms” will be held in the Salvation Army Hall, 177 Main Rd, Tawa at 2pm on Sunday 7 May. Koha entry. Enquiries to Sue Jane on 027 466 3630.

## LINDEN SCHOOL EASTER GALA

The photos show the Tawa Intermediate kapa haka performance; Malcolm Sparrow and Peter Gilbert selling 200L emergency water tanks; and the fun of a sponge throw. Certainly in this instance “It is more more blessed to give than to receive”.



## FOREST OF TANE CELEBRATORY WALK (THAT WAS)

112 people took part in a community walk in the newly-acquired Forest of Tane on the western hills of Tawa in early April.

Why did Council purchase this 36 hectare block of land when it came on the market?

Because it helps fulfil Council’s vision for the Outer Green Belt, as stated on the WCC website: “..... to create a continuous green belt following the ridges of the city from the south coast to Colonial Knob”. There are many other good reasons, but that is as important as any.

The community support for Council’s action in purchasing the forest has been overwhelming. After a week of wet weather, it was great to participate with other community members in an enjoyable outing on such a pleasant day!



Pic at left: Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves president Wayne Pincott speaking to the gathered throng before setting off.

## OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE TAWA MEMORIAL

The official opening of the new Tawa Memorial alongside Grasslees Reserve took place on the Saturday morning before Anzac Day.

The notice on the fence whilst it was being constructed read: "On this site a Tawa Memorial is being erected, to be unveiled and dedicated on Saturday 22 April 2017. The Memorial commemorates those [the 13] from the Tawa district who gave their lives in the service of their country and in the cause of peace in three conflicts: the South African War, 1899-1902; World War 1, 1914-1918; World War 2, 1939-1945."

Credit to the Tawa Historical Society and, in particular, Tawa stalwart Bruce Murray who drove the project for several years and have finally seen it come to fruition.



Middle pic: Tawa College and Tawa Intermediate students who took part in the ceremony;

Pic at right: (L to R) Justin Lester, Mayor of Wellington; Archdeacon Julie Rokotakala; Tawa Historical Society chair Bruce Murray; Air Vice-Marshal Kevin Short, RNZAF, Vice Chief, New Zealand Defence Force.

## ANZAC DAY PARADE

The Tawa Anzac Day parade started at the New World carpark at 9.45am and proceeded along Oxford St to the new Tawa Memorial, before the service at the RSA quarters. It was a great day for it and an impressive crowd turnout for such a special occasion.

See [www.facebook.com/WCCNorthernCouncillors](http://www.facebook.com/WCCNorthernCouncillors) for a total of 20 photos of the the local Anzac Day parade and service.



## 2 MINUTES WITH ..... Peter Saxton

Peter has played a major part in carving out the tracks in the bush around Tawa over the years. In fact on a wet and windy day this week he was up in the nearby hills planning future tracks. It was he who led the recent community walk up into the newly-acquired Forest of Tane.



Back in the 1970s he served a term on the Tawa Borough Council (as it was then). His contribution in various aspects of Tawa life over the years has been invaluable.



Peter can be seen at the left of this pic at the Forest of Tane celebratory walk.

*Where were you born?* New Plymouth

*Where did you grow up?*

New Plymouth till the age of 13, then to boarding school at Mt Albert Grammar in Auckland. "That's where I got my athleticism from, running against the likes of Murray Halberg [who is now 83 – Ed.]"

*Where were you educated?*

After Mt Albert Grammar I became a survey cadet, training as a surveyor.

*Work experience over the years .....*

Three years after finishing school, having done most of my surveying training, I went to England and travelled all over the world for the best part of three years. I came back to New Zealand and to Wellington to work for survey firm TCB (no longer in existence). After two years there I thought I should take things further and went to town planning school in Auckland for one year. Town planners were new then. I joined Wellington City Council as a town planner in 1966 and finished there 29 years later. In the remaining years before retiring I did some town planning consultancy work around New Zealand, including Hawkes Bay and Blenheim.

*How long have you lived in Tawa?*

Since 1968, so coming up to 50 years.

*What about family?*

Valerie is my wife. She was born in England and came to New Zealand when she was 14. We married in 1963 and bought a house in Newlands. We have three adult children, two in Wellington and one in Auckland; six grandchildren, the oldest at Canterbury University.

*What are your interests and hobbies?*

Main sports are surfing and skiing. We have a house at Oakura [southwest of New Plymouth – Ed.], the top surf beach in New Zealand. I still swim in the surf, still ski, mostly at Ruapehu at least one week a year, if not more.

Since retiring I've been tied up with U3A Tawa, one of the best in the country. I used to be doing lots of work with [the late] Allan Todd [See [http://www.tawalink.com/allan\\_todd.html](http://www.tawalink.com/allan_todd.html) – Ed.] setting up programmes with him. Also genealogy.

Another interest has always been running to keep fit. I take out Tawa Hikers every Thursday. I've always had an interest in tramping and hiking. I was involved with Friends of Maara Roa (Cannons Creek) in establishing tracks, and was then 'co-opted' on to Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves. I took the lead in constructing the Achilles-Peterhouse track in Redwood Bush.

*Favourite sports team and/or sports person?*

Is it the Hurricanes or is it Taranaki? And probably Beauden Barrett whose family come from the other end of Oakura.

..... contd

*contd .....*

*Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?*

I can't sing in tune. I always got kicked out of singing classes! But Louis Armstrong ("gravel mouth") is my favourite. I saw him play in Berlin in an underground jazz sort of place, before the [Berlin] wall went up.

*What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?*

Oakura [southwest of New Plymouth, as previously stated – Ed.]

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

Over a period of 10 or 20 years with Wellington City Council I helped influence people's thinking about living in Wellington. Whereas previously many people living here didn't really want to be here, our efforts saw a change in people's attitudes towards Wellington. As town planners we did things which people appreciated. I played a part in seeing the people of Wellington take responsibility for the harbour. It was 20 years before that happened, before ownership was transferred from the harbour board to the city.

I introduced art into the city, and was involved with the converting of part of Cuba Street into a shopping street.

*What are three things you would like to do before you die?*

I've done most of the travelling I want to do. I've been to around 100 countries over the years and have seen most of Europe.

There are still more tracks to be built in Tawa – opening up the bush to the general public so they can appreciate nature.

Most importantly seeing my grandchildren grow up in a good environment and are capable of handling things that come at them, and helping however I can to achieve that.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO EASYSWIM SWIM SCHOOL**

The Swimming New Zealand Annual Awards Dinner was held at the Ellerslie Event Centre in Auckland on Saturday 8 April.

The event recognises contributions to swimming and learn to swim by swimming clubs, coaches, administrators, primary schools and learn to swim teachers.

Easyswim Swim School received an award for contribution as a Quality Swim School, and Tawa-based Todd Morton received an award for contribution as an individual.

Easyswim Swim School was started in 2006 by Todd Morton out of Khandallah School pool. Easyswim provides swimming lessons privately and to school groups. Over the past eleven years Easyswim has grown to deliver lessons also out of Tawa, Ngaio, Plimmerton, Johnsonville and Rewa Rewa School pool. A team of 50 teachers delivers lessons to over 2000 swimmers every week.

Pictured L to R: Todd Morton, Owner of Easyswim Swim School; Jonty Mills, CEO Water Safety New Zealand; Brendon Cross, Head of Sports, Plimmerton School.





*Get answers to your questions about  
the meaning of life*

**FREE** introductory dinner for the **ALPHA COURSE**  
on **SUNDAY 7th MAY** at **6pm**

**EMMAUS CENTRE** (behind St Christopher's Church)

Main Road/Lyndhurst Road, Tawa

Phone 232 5338 to book your place for dinner

**For more information see [alpha.org.nz](http://alpha.org.nz)**

**WHITIREIA**  
COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE TRUST INC.

**Powers of Attorney, Wills and Estates**

A brief, user-friendly introduction to the law  
presented by Chris Ellis of  
Whitireia Community Law.

**Tawa Community Centre**  
**Wednesday 10 May, 12 noon - 1 pm**

There will be time for questions.

Since its establishment in 1995 Whitireia Community Law Centre has addressed the unmet legal needs of the Porirua City and Kapiti communities. The Law Centre provides a full range of community legal services via access to fully qualified lawyers and provides legal education seminars on a wide range of topics.

Chris Ellis was admitted to the bar in 1987 and has practiced periodically ever since then. He is the Law Centre's senior solicitor and he has a special interest in estates and employment law

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## 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 at:

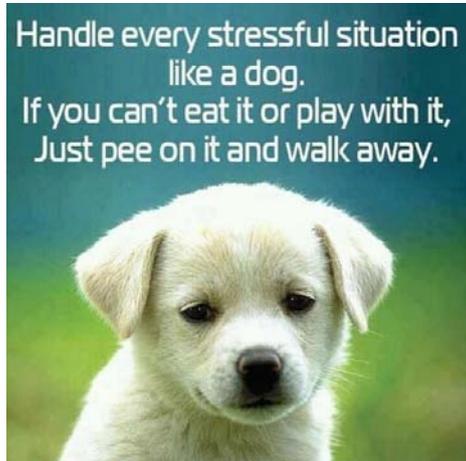
<https://www.facebook.com/TawaAndLindenCommunityCentres>

or 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  
info@tawalink.com  
027 232 2320



*“Great people are those who can make others feel that they, too, can become great.” – Mark Twain*

*“I have never killed anyone, but I have read some obituary notices with great satisfaction.” – Clarence Darrow*

*“A free society thrives when neighbours help neighbours and the strong protect the weak and public policies promote private compassion.” – George W Bush*

*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.*



Two of the more ‘interesting’ letterboxes in Tawa?

What others are there?

