

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

THIS EDITION IS A SUPPLEMENTARY NEWSLETTER. THE NEXT FULL ISSUE IS SCHEDULED FOR EARLY/MID JUNE.

LAST OPPORTUNITY TO RETAIN OUR HANGING BASKETS!

The future of our hanging baskets was the lead article in this newsletter in November 2017, 18 months ago. Read it in full here: <http://www.tawalink.com/2mins/tawanews-nov2017SUPPL.pdf>

The same issue has now risen again. Do we want to keep them?

It costs around \$1500 every six months (\$1.20 per basket per week) to maintain the hanging baskets in the Main Road shopping centre.

For a number of years the Tawa Community Board provided the necessary funding. In 2017 a majority on the board decided to limit funding of the baskets to around one quarter of the amount required. That leaves a shortfall of \$2000-2500 each year.



ARE THE HANGING BASKETS WORTH RETAINING?

That was the question we asked in that November 2017 article. When we sought your views at that stage, the response was very supportive with exactly 50 emails coming through to me [the Ed.], 47 supportive, 2 not supportive, and 1 neutral.

“They brighten up the shop frontages and are well worth the cost of maintaining them.” That was typical of the comments received at the time.

A “working group” was set up to take on responsibility for maintaining the baskets and ensuring future funding. Unfortunately the few who were in that group are not continuing in the role.

What is need **NOW** is a good number of local people willing to put their hands up to take this on as an ongoing project. That will include fundraising. A quiz night run in early 2018 raised more than \$1000, over one third of the funding required for the year. We ideally need one quiz night per year.

A small number of people volunteered in November 2017 to sponsor a basket for a year. If there are 50 locals willing to sponsor one basket (\$60) each per year, the financial issues will be sorted!

WE NEED COMMITMENT FROM THE COMMUNITY IF THE HANGING BASKETS ARE TO BE RETAINED

Let’s be blunt – if we do not get enough local people supporting this project, the hanging baskets will be removed, i.e. gone! We were heartened by the response last time around, but we need *specific commitment* now. I will set the ball rolling by pledging to sponsor at least one basket per year.

If you want to see the baskets retained, please email me at info@tawalink.com to indicate:

- you’d be prepared to sponsor a basket for one year at the rate of \$60 for the year, AND/OR
- you’d be willing to be part of a “working group” to ensure our hanging baskets continue, AND/OR
- you can come to a meeting to discuss how we ensure the continuation of our hanging baskets

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN TAWA

If you have an interest in what measures are being taken to better prepare ourselves in Tawa for any major emergency situation we might be faced with, you're welcome along to the yearly "Tawa Stakeholders Resilience Meeting" at the Tawa Community Centre at 7pm on Thursday 27 June.

The guest speaker (at the start) will be the Minister for Civil Defence, the Hon Kris Faafoi. Updates will be provided by WCC, WREMO and Wellington Water, as well as local organisations.

TAKAPU ROAD AND THE MOTORWAY OFFRAMP

The intersection of Takapu Road and the motorway (SH1) southbound offramp isn't especially safe. It's a very short offramp from the motorway and many cars do not slow down to 50km/h as quickly as they need to.

The intersection is a little complicated with NZTA being responsible for the motorway offramp portion and Wellington City Council responsible for the Takapu Road portion. There was the possibility that the intersection might be re-designed as part of the changes that would be made for the proposed Petone to Grenada link road. However that project has now been shunted way into the future.

Local elected officials have previously requested better signage from NZTA requesting motorists to reduce their speed to 50km/h immediately on leaving the motorway, but that hasn't yet happened.

Wellington City Council officers recently met with NZTA representatives to discuss what immediate action could be taken to improve this intersection. We are still awaiting an official response but we believe that, at the minimum, increased signage requesting motorists leaving the motorway to slow down more quickly is likely to be installed. We'll let you know once this has been confirmed.



BEAUTIFYING TAKAPU ISLAND - OR NOT

There have been concerns expressed about the accumulation of damaged vehicles on the land south of Countdown up at Takapu Island. Enquiries have been made of Council whether this is acceptable practice on this land. Here is Council's response:

"The current resource consent for commercial and retail development on the site has not been exercised.

The site has been subleased (for 3 years) to a company which stores and sells damaged vehicles on the site on behalf of insurance companies. The site is zoned business one which allows for these sorts of activities provided they meet certain permitted activity standards. Currently not all of the required standards are met (namely visual effects). Unless these standards are met in the near future, the company will require resource consent. The compliance officer is currently discussing this with the company."



That was two days ago (Monday of this week). We are currently awaiting a response from Council on what progress has been made.

LINDEN STATION PEDESTRIAN OVERBRIDGE OPEN AGAIN

If you're a regular user of the pedestrian overbridge at Linden Station, you'll be aware by now that it was re-opened last week.

The bridge was closed earlier this year when a seismic assessment came up with a rating of 25%. Since that time there has been investigative work carried out. Greater Wellington Regional Council advised us this was a slow process "because of the timeframes required to obtain permits and to find appropriate times to enter the live rail corridor to undertake the work."

On Tuesday last week they received a report "which has increased the bridge's rating back up to 35%, hence why we have re-opened the bridge to the public this morning."



GWRC aims for all of its structures to have a rating of at least 67%, so additional strengthening works will be undertaken in the near future, but it is expected that the bridge will remain open through most of these works.

BING LUCAS / TAKAPU ROAD INTERSECTION

In our January 2019 newsletter we advised that: "Council is planning to widen this intersection to assist vehicles turning in and out of Bing Lucas Drive at the Takapu Road intersection."



The physical work was meant to have been done the following month. For a variety of reasons these projects often get delayed. That happened on this occasion, but we're now pleased to report the work has finally been carried out!

This issue was first brought to Council's attention by the Tawa Community Board several years ago. Sometimes good things take time!

NEW PLAYGROUND FOR ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL

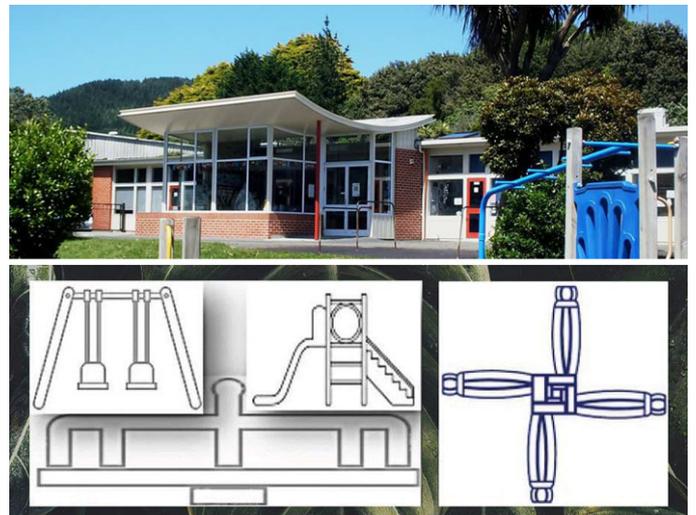
St Francis Xavier School in Tawa needs a new playground.

A Givealittle page has been set up for donations towards this worthwhile project.

The details are: <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/sfx-needs-a-new-playground>

Donations are eligible for tax credits.

A big thanks to anyone who is able to support us.



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY HUBS IN TAWA

In a disaster, once you've checked on your household and neighbours, you can go to your nearest Community Emergency Hub. It's a place to find out what's happening locally, and to ask for and offer help.

The Community Emergency Hubs in Tawa are at these schools: Greenacres, Linden, Redwood and Tawa.

For more information, see https://www.getprepared.nz/my-community/community-emergency-hubs/wellington/#Hubs_Wellington



TAWA SALVATION ARMY FOODBANK IN NEED OF SUPPLIES

Items of food will be collected on Saturday 8 June. Please see the details below.

THE SALVATION ARMY

Stuff The Trailers With Stuff

As winter approaches the Tawa Foodbank is in need of supplies to help families get through at this time of year. Please purchase an extra item or two in your shopping trolley and "Stuff the Trailer".

We will be waiting outside the doors of the supermarket to transport items to the Foodbank.

Saturday June 8th
At Tawa New World
At Tawa Countdown

Suggested Items include

Soup Mixes	Spreads
Tinned Goods	Cereals
Biscuits and Crackers	Long Life Milk
Baking Goods: Flour, Sugar etc.	Cleaning Products
Dried Fruits	Sanitary Products
Toiletries	Toilet Paper
Toothpaste	Tea
Shampoo & Conditioner	Coffee
Pasta, Rice, Tinned Tomatoes	Milo

Please give generously

Sausage sizzle with the kind sponsorship of Tawa Countdown and Tawa New World



Rotary
Club of Tawa



Guardian Funeral Home, Johnsonville and Tawa

TAWA SQUASH CLUB A FINALIST AGAIN

After last year being adjudged the Wellington Sports Club of the Year, Tawa Squash Club has again been selected as a finalist in the prestigious Sport Wellington annual awards.

Tawa Squash experienced another outstanding year which included the installation of a digital scoring system with monitors on each court, an upgraded court light management system with touch screen access and remote access (the doors can be opened and court lights turned on from an administrator's cellphone or computer!), a significant increase in women participants, and another year of over-subscribed tournaments.



One of the smallest clubs by number of courts, Tawa remained the biggest club in the Wellington region last year by member numbers.

The awards evening will be another one of glitz and glamour recognising outstanding achievement in sport by Wellingtonians. It is sponsored by the Wellington Hospitality Group (whose assets include The Borough, sponsors of Tawa Squash's Mums 'N Bubs programme.)

Other finalists with a Tawa connection are cricketers **Sophie Devine** and **Amelia Kerr**, both in the running for Sportswoman of the Year.

A full list of finalists can be found at <http://wellingtonsportsawards.co.nz/2019-finalists/>

Tawa Squash Activities:

- Mums 'N Bubs Thursdays 9.30am-11am (\$5 non members, first week and members free)
- Junior Club Night Fridays in school term 5pm-7pm (\$5 non members, first week and members free)
- Small Nix 5-8 year olds Fridays in school term 5pm-5.30pm free
- Adult Club Night Mondays 7pm-9pm free

FOR EMPLOYERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS/MANAGERS IN TAWA

As a business owner/manager and employer, please tell us what you think about NCEA.

Tawa College has been asked by the Ministry of Education to take part in a nationwide programme to provide feedback about NCEA.

Please click on the link below to tell them what you think, as a business owner/manager and employer. A similar survey has been sent to students, parents and whānau, and teachers.

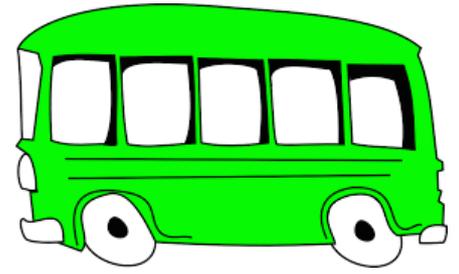
Providing your feedback is voluntary, but if you do, it's completely confidential. It'll only take 1-2 minutes.

<https://surveys.researchnz.com/mrIWeb/mrIWeb.dll?I.Project=W508404&i.User2=257>

A BUS SERVICE TO OTHER PARTS OF TAWA?

Tawa has a good public transport setup for those who have ready access to the Main Road. Beyond Tawa's Main Road there is nothing.

Every so often the suggestion is made to introduce buses to service some of the streets in Tawa that may be more than walking distance from the Main Road which runs from one end of the suburb to the other.



The following email (paraphrased) came through recently:

“Please consider a bus service for the Tawa hills to central Tawa for train or bus connections and returning home. It would save on parking and petrol costs and offer an alternative to driving for those who have cars:

- for people unable to walk well and in poor weather to keep them dryer and warmer;
- for students getting to schools from the hills or across the valley, to keep them dry and offer an alternative;
- for elderly who can no longer drive and have to call a taxi or Miss Daisy to go the doctors or shop or get to the library. Or who are now isolated, minimising their contact with community;
- for people who rely on public transport as their sole source of travel. There are people who have chosen not to rent flats on Tawa hills as they have no transport options;
- for mothers, fathers, child carers, etc who need to get babies and children to the centre of Tawa to doctors, library and Plunket etc;
- for people or family who need to link up with the bus to Keneperu Hospital for work and visiting the sick or going to the after hours department.

We are the poorest served suburb in Wellington for public transport and this needs to change.”

Local city councillors and the Tawa Community Board can advocate strongly to the Greater Wellington Regional Council for a trial bus service heading along some of the main arterial routes in Tawa – if there is enough ‘demand’ from the community.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? If you consider you might make use of a bus service like this, please let us know by emailing info@tawalink.com We will continue to ask this question on social media and by other means over the next few weeks before deciding on the next step.

Ngā mihi

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