

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

THE NEW TAWA LOGO

As seen on the "Vibrant Tawa" Facebook page:

Introducing the new Tawa!

A brand identity has been on the radar for a wee while now, but over the last few months there has been a lot of effort gone into it.

This has been a joint effort between the Tawa Residents' Association, the Tawa Business Group and the Tawa Community Board.

We engaged local designers to provide concepts, and this was the one chosen. It is bright, dynamic, inclusive, strong yet simple. It includes the Tawa colours, it can be used in various formats, and you will see it popping up around Tawa.

Thanks so much to Dieter Fourie of DigitalTree for designing this and to Lynell Tuffery Huria from A J Park for getting it registered for us this week!

We are really proud of what we've come up with and super excited to use it!

TAWA COLLEGE'S ACADEMIC PRIZEGIVING

School finished last week for Tawa College seniors, years 11-13. It's now officially study time with NCEA exams beginning this week.

The college's academic prizegiving took place last Thursday evening with various 'dignitaries' presenting certificates and trophies to more than 100 students in acknowledgement of academic achievements throughout the course of this year. Congratulations to all of them!



Former Tawa College principal, Bruce Murray, and the former chair of the Tawa Community Board, Robert Tredger, presented the Murray Trophy and the Tawa Borough Scholarship (administered by the Tawa Community Board) to "..... a student who has demonstrated all-round ability, with excellence firstly in academic endeavour, and secondly in sporting or cultural fields, and who in addition has given worthwhile service to the College and/or Tawa community".

Congratulations to this year's winner, Chinmaya Dixit, pictured with Robert Tredger (middle) and Bruce Murray.



L to R: Steph Knight (Tawa Residents' Association), Dieter Fourie (the designer); Stacey Richardson (Tawa Residents' Association); Richard Herbert (chair, Tawa Community Board); Liz Langham (Tawa Community Board); Tony Henderson-Newport (Tawa Business Group).

2017 TAWA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARADE



This year's parade will take place on Saturday afternoon, 2 December, departing Tawa School at 2pm and heading north on the Main Road towards Surrey St.

Bring along the family to see a range of floats including community groups, bands, clowns, MG cars, and of course Santa.



CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

The Christmas Festival is happening this year! The Tawa School Home and School Committee and Tawa Residents' Association are putting on an afternoon of entertainment, Christmas Carols and Santa at Tawa School after the Lions Christmas Parade. Follow this Facebook page for updates on the event: <https://www.facebook.com/Tawa-Christmas-Festival-2017-1932350053458790/>

We are seeking local businesses or talent who might like to contribute a service or prize for us to give away either on the lead up to the event (on Facebook) or on the day. In return you will get free advertising. Let us know if you would like to contribute.

BNZ DEPARTING TAWA

From Ant Simon, Chair, Tawa Business Group Inc:

We regret to inform you that the BNZ has announced the closure of their Tawa branch, effective 17 November 2017.

Greg O'Connor, our local MP, organised a meeting with two representatives of the Bank

of New Zealand involved in making the decision to close the branch.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Tawa Business (Ant Simon), Tawa Residents' Association (Tony Hassed), Tawa Community Board (Richard Herbert) and our three local councillors Jill Day, Malcolm Sparrow and Peter Gilbert.

Despite our best efforts, the bank would not be swayed in its decision to close the branch.

Two of the bank staff are being relocated to other branches and two have taken redundancy.

Our remaining bank service is a Kiwibank agency operated by Steve and Karen Pettigrew at Take Note.

More info: PLEASE NOTE that BNZ is offering to work with locals wanting more advice on banking services from this point on. They will help set up greater access on the phone and provide bank cards for those who don't have them already. BNZ will run afternoon tea sessions to discuss these aspects. Please contact Malcolm Sparrow at malcolm.sparrow@wcc.govt.nz if you would like to know more.

Tawa Christmas Festival

Sat 2nd December	3:30pm – 6:30pm	FREE ADMISSION
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(Immediately after the Lions Club of Tawa Christmas Parade)

TAWA SCHOOL FIELD – Oxford Street, Tawa

Carol Songs

Come join us for Live Entertainment, Carol singing, Food and a meeting with Santa

Bring along money to help support Tawa School's Sausage Sizzle and Bake Sale

Brought to you by *Tawa Residents Association* and *Tawa Home School Committee*



SPRING INTO TAWA 2017

After last year’s weather-affected event, we couldn’t have had a better day on Saturday 28 October – with ‘relentless’ sunshine – for the 2017 edition of Spring into Tawa! A very successful community festival with the crowds turning out in their thousands.

Thanks to Stacey Richardson and team for all the efforts they’ve put in over the past weeks and months. This is the 15th year the Editor of this newsletter has taken a few, or perhaps many, photographs of those enjoying Spring into Tawa. Long may it continue!



THANKS TO THE TAWA COMMUNITY

The “Tawa Historical Society” and the “Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves” wish to thank the Tawa community for their interest and support in the purchase of the newly released publication *Tawa the tree, the community and its reserves* written by Gilbert Roper.

Since the book launch on 9 October there are a few copies available for purchase at the Mervyn Kemp Library at a cost of \$35. As the stock has virtually sold out, and people are still showing interest in having a copy, consideration is being given to a reprint.

If you wish to place an order, please email Ken Woodgate, Secretary of the Tawa Historical Society ken.woodgate@xtra.co.nz or else visit the library.



NEW SURREY ST ROUNDABOUT

Great progress has been made on the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of the Main Road and Surrey Street.

Here is a portion of the letter Council distributed to locals regarding the work that would be carried out:

“The roundabout [at the intersection of Main Road, Tawa and Surrey Street] is an extension of the proposed Tawa Town Centre improvements and forms a gateway treatment to the area. It will slow traffic on entry to the shopping centre and improve safety for motorists and pedestrians using this busy intersection.

There will also be some modifications made to the roundabout at the intersection of Surrey Street and Oxford Street to improve accessibility for larger vehicles serving the local commercial centre and to free up more kerbside parking in the area.

In the final stage new road markings will be painted.

We expect work to be completed by the end of November / early December 2017.”



ROTARY CLUB OF TAWA BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Tawa Rotary hosts breakfast at The Borough on Wednesday 15 November, 7am-8.30am.

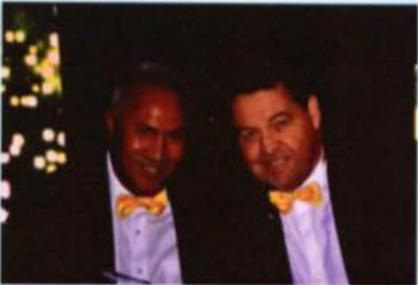
Guest speaker will be Ken Laban, Sky TV Sports Commentator.

See the ad at left for more details.

SPRING INTO TAWA WINNER

Harcourts Tawa ran a “Guess the number of balloons in the Harcourts car” competition at Spring into Tawa. The prize was a microwave which was won by (world-renowned in Tawa author) Gil Roper, pictured here with Harcourts’ Steve Loader.

The Rotary Club of Tawa Business Breakfast



Date:
Wednesday
15th November
7.00 - 8.30am

Venue:
The Borough,
Main Road, Tawa

Guest Speaker
Ken Laban, SKY TV Sports Commentator

RSVP by November 10th

Cost: \$25/head - Cooked Buffet Breakfast

Please register to attend by emailing tawarotaryclub@gmail.com

Payment via internet banking in advance to
02-0552-0037039-00
Code: Rotary Bfast, Ref: Your name



TAWA COLLEGE COMMUNITY SERVICE



If you're senior, disabled or genuinely need a hand with essential work that needs doing at your place, then read on.

Year 10 students will be working in the local community on Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th December. The students will be accompanied by staff members and can garden, clean, pick up rubbish, paint fences, or any variety of labour that you might need doing. There is no cost involved – this is simply an exercise in “community service” within the Tawa basin. This will be the ninth year this project has been undertaken.



To book students to help at your place, phone Tawa College on 232 8184 or email the organiser at the College, Sam McGuire, at smcguire@tawacollege.school.nz before the end of November. Please supply your name, address, phone number, what work you need doing, and which day(s) suit best.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VIRTUOSO STRINGS

Congratulations to Tawa residents Liz Sneyd and Craig Utting – who have been running Virtuoso Strings for several years – for their overall win at the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards.

Quoting from the *Wellington Airport Company's* website: “Virtuoso Strings, a life-changing music programme nurturing the talent of Porirua children from low-decile schools, won the Supreme Award at the 2017 Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards [last week].”

Virtuoso Strings Charitable Trust run a holistic music programme and orchestra in Porirua. They are creating an environment where the youth of Porirua can thrive, realise their immense musical talent, make lifelong friendships, build an enduring sense of self-worth and have a lot of fun.”



TAWA LIGHT PARTY

This year's Tawa Light Party at the New Life Church on 31 October was another roaring success with more than 200 children participating in games, dancing, face painting, talent quest performances, stage challenges, and getting lots of treats to eat and take home. The event could not happen without the support of the Tawa Community Board and all the other generous sponsors.

Well done to Michele McDonald (pictured at right) and team for their hard work in making this a special yearly event for the children of Tawa to enjoy.



TAWA ROTARY BOOK FAIR

Message from the Rotary Club of Tawa:

Thank you, Tawa, for making the recent Gigantic Book Fair the most successful yet [with gross takings exceeding \$30,000.]

When you bought your books you not only got a bargain, but you also made it possible for Tawa Rotary to continue to support a number of local community causes and international projects on Tawa's behalf. These include Life Education Trust (North Wellington),

which works in Tawa schools and is the major beneficiary; Foster Hope Wellington; Predator Free Tawa; youth programmes in Tawa schools; End Polio Now (and we're nearly there); and the Rotary Foundation, one of the largest and most successful global humanitarian grant funds in the world.

So when you next pick up that book to read, take a pat on the back!



TAWA COLLEGE SUCCESS

Congratulations to the victorious Tawa College girls' cricket team which is now headed to the NZCT Secondary School Girls' finals in December.

This the fourth time in succession that Tawa College has won through to the national finals, although Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt pushed them hard on this occasion.

Tawa won by a seemingly comfortable 7 wickets, but it took until the last over to achieve victory. Well done and good luck in the national finals!



PROBUS CLUB OF TAWA MEETING

Friendship, Fellowship and Fun in Retirement.

The Probus Club of Tawa is seeking new members:

- Make new friends with other retirees
- Hear stimulating guest speakers
- Join a wide range of interest groups
- Benefit from exclusive travel insurance
- Have fun

4,000 clubs with 300,000 members worldwide.

Learn more at this introductory meeting:

At the Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge St, Tawa on Monday 13 November at 11.00am

For further information please contact:

Max Bowyer 027 484 0766 or 382 8524 or maxjan@xtra.co.nz

Doug Langford 021 934 263 or 934 2633 or doug@langford.co.nz



Come and enjoy Probus – we look forward to seeing you.

Probus is a Community Service activity of Rotary.

BIKE PARK PROGRESS

The upgrade of the Tawa Bike Park – in Duncan St just south of Tawa Railway Station – has now been completed.

It is still closed at the moment as parts of the area are being hydro-seeded. Once that is done and the new grass is sprouting, an opening date will be determined.



EMERGENCY WATER TANKS AND BIG EMERGENCY WATER TANKS

If you'd like to acquire a 200L emergency water tank locally, please contact Malcolm Sparrow at malcolm.sparrow@wcc.govt.nz – he has a few available for \$110 each.

If you'd like an 800L emergency water tank, you can call David from J & D Property Services at dave.lawn@jdps.co.nz or 021 795 296. He will deliver and install one for \$799.



Pre-Loved Sale

Quality second hand children's books,
clothes and toys
as well as maternity clothes.

Tawa New World Atrium
Saturday 11th November
2017
11am - 1pm

For further information please email:
tawaplunketeve@gmail.com

TRUCKS IN WOODMAN DRIVE

There has been a recent complaint about Transmission Gully-bound trucks speeding along Woodman Drive and "engine braking" where it is illegal to do so.

The matter was referred to Belinda Mackenzie-Dodds who is the Community Relations Manager for the Transmission Gully project. She promised to contact the relevant trucking company to request compliance with the law, i.e. don't speed and don't use engine brakes in a residential area.

We have since been informed by the resident who expressed the initial concern that as a result of Belinda Mackenzie-Dodds follow-through, ".... the trucks have slowed down lots and stopped engine braking."

Please note that any similar enquiries can be directed to Belinda at 021 826 724 or email belinda.mackenzie-dodds@tg.co.nz

THE FAMILY STORE IS BACK

We are back in our refurbished, earthquake-strengthened building at 128 Main Road, Tawa (opp Mexted Motors).

We would love you to pop in to our store and reconnect with us and find yourselves a bargain.

Donations of clean, good quality household goods are essential to our store, so we can continue to provide care and support to those in our community who are marginalised and struggling.

Please drop your donations into the crate just inside the store's front door or phone the Family Store for a free pickup on 232 7934.

After every purchase made in store during November, you will be offered a mystery basket envelope from which you could win a 20% - 50% discount voucher to use on your next purchase or even a full refund on your purchase that day!

So spring into action, pop down with your donated goods, take a look around, do some Christmas shopping and enjoy choosing a mystery envelope!



THE CHERRY TREES

The cherry trees were removed from Tawa Plaza in mid-August and re-planted at Grasslees Reserve.

They look their best every October when they're in blossom and, as this photo shows, they're living up to their reputation in their new home!

Photographed by Malcolm Sparrow on Monday, 16 October 2017.

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 18 November at the Churton Park Community Centre, cnr Lakewood Ave & Westchester Drive, Churton Park from 1.00pm to 3.00pm.

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



NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN TAWA

There are currently several new “high-density” developments in Tawa – yet-to-be-started, currently under way, or newly completed.

Recently-completed is the Ranui Townhouses development in Handyside St, 15 architecturally-designed townhouses, each approximately 100 sqm, 3 bedrooms, and now sold out.

Then there is the project currently under way at Tawa Junction which will “..... create 29 new homes for low income families. It is part of the HASHA (Housing Accords and Special Housing Act 2013) which is intended to enhance housing affordability in certain regions.”

At 4 William Earp Place (Takapu Island), there are currently a lot of earthworks being undertaken. See photo at right. This is in preparation for a 26 one and two-bedroom unit development.

And approval has been given to a 13-unit development at 58 Raroa Tce, alongside Greenacres School. Council is currently responding to traffic safety concerns which may result from this proposal.



NEW STORES IN LINDEN *(article supplied)*

Exciting things are happening in Linden lately! Harriet & George opened in August at 3 Collins Ave in Linden, alongside Raw Glory – the Raw Vegan Dessert Company.

The ambition of owners Kurt & Mashal Butler is to provide organic and wholefoods to our community to help support healthy living to people and families in Tawa and the surrounding area while creating a family business for their family of five children to work together and learn so much about life, healthy food and interesting people.

As a health-conscious family, Mashal has had a raw vegan dessert company Raw Glory operating from 5 Collins Ave next door for two years. When the opportunity arose to rent the next-door shop, the organic shop couldn't wait and Harriet & George was created.

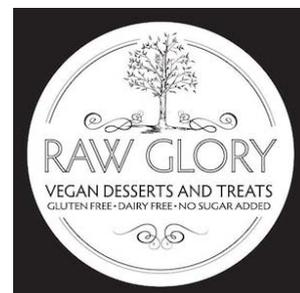
The shop has a range of fresh organic fruit and veges. It offers free range, hormone and antibiotic-free and organic meat, and lots of other packaged organic food products to help create healthy and delicious meals.

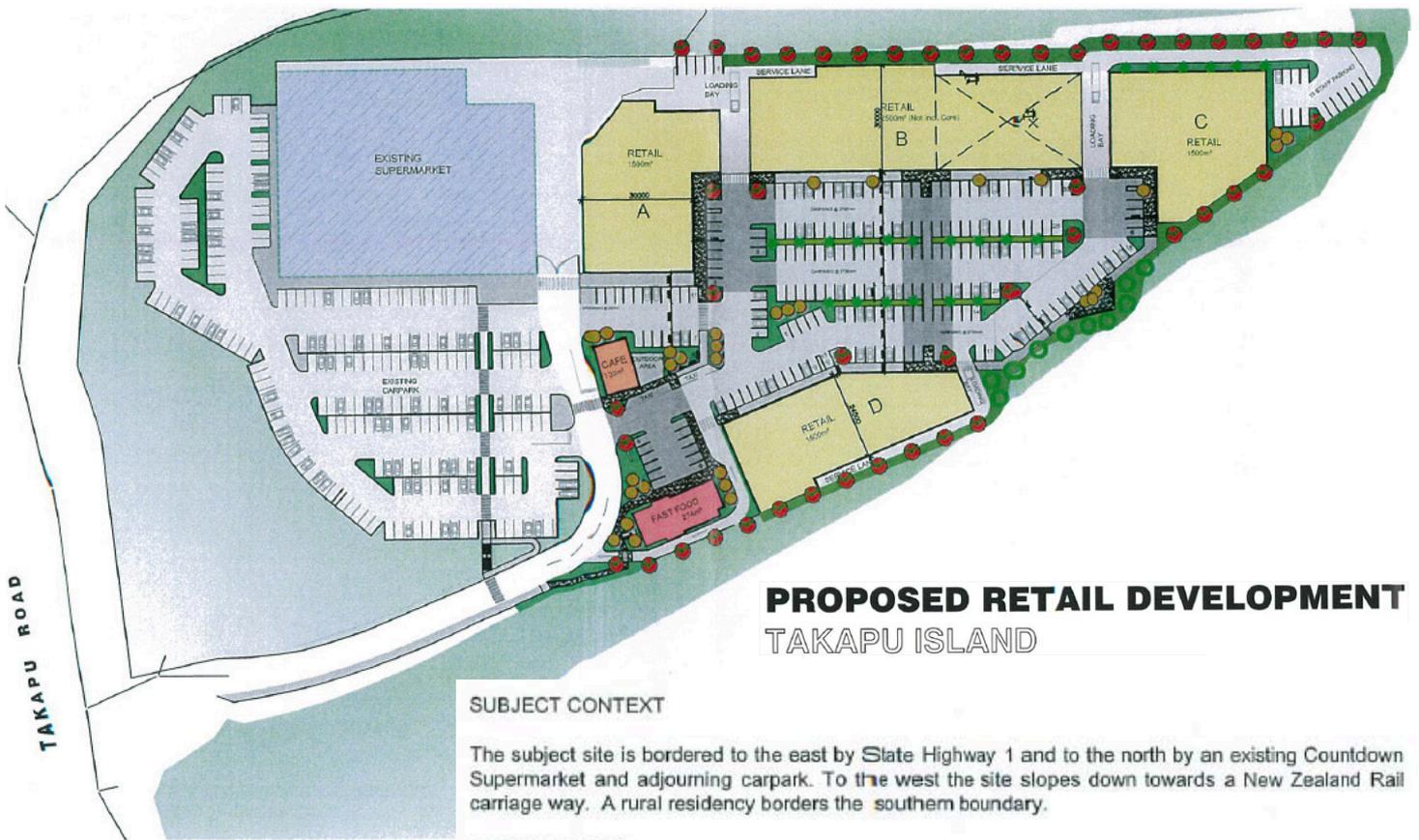
Linden sure is a happening place with Raw Glory, Harriet & George, the South African Sausage shop, The Sugar Trade and Sarah Searancke all providing unique food opportunities to local foodies and drawing people into our area from further afield. #lindenisthenewlondon

Make sure you visit and show your support for these small businesses.

Harriet & George is open 9-6pm weekdays and 10-1 on Saturday.

Raw Glory Coffee Counter is open 7-11am each weekday, and 10-1 on Saturdays.





PROPOSED RETAIL DEVELOPMENT TAKAPU ISLAND

SUBJECT CONTEXT

The subject site is bordered to the east by State Highway 1 and to the north by an existing Countdown Supermarket and adjoining carpark. To the west the site slopes down towards a New Zealand Rail carriage way. A rural residency borders the southern boundary.

DESIGN INTENT

REV 3 CHANGES:

The internal carpark Nikaus are confirmed as small grade as opposed to transplanted mature specimens. In addition to numerous seating and shade opportunities between carpark and building frontages, Kowhai specimen trees have been located to further provide amenity and shade. A secluded outdoor seating area is separated from the carpark and provides staff and customers a 'get-away' location. Ngaio specimen trees have been introduced on the western embankment to provide shelter from wind and give scale to the built form.

NORTHERN BOUNDARY AND ENTRANCE

The northern boundary is bordered by Countdown and its carpark. Pohutukawa trees have been introduced to mark the entrance in a sheltered spot to provide a high amenity experience for the patrons.

WESTERN BOUNDARY

The buildings on the western boundary will be softened by Metrosideros 'Maori Princess' specimen trees plus a secondary layer of screening planting. A visual corridor between buildings on the western boundary allows the development to connect into the wider landscape, inviting the rural character into the site.

EASTERN BOUNDARY

The eastern boundary runs parallel to State Highway 1 and NZTA road reserve, which is characterised by a large earth bund that partially conceals the development. To further reduce visual impact of the buildings, the western boundary will be softened by Metrosideros 'Maori Princess' specimen trees plus a secondary layer of screening planting.

SOUTHERN BOUNDARY

A significant portion of the southern boundary is currently heavily vegetated and a fair distance from the rural residence.

TAKAPU ISLAND DEVELOPMENT

Consent was given by WCC more than three years ago for a commercial development at Takapu Island at the southern end of Tawa.

The resource consent specifically allows for a café, a fast food store, and a certain amount of retail – as shown in this plan. However there has been little progress to date.

I (the Ed.) contacted the Auckland developers in the first week of November to ascertain what was happening with the development. I was told that it is still in the pipeline but “funding is a determining factor We like to think it will be going ahead in the foreseeable future but it depends what commercial interest there is.”

So for all of you who were hoping to pop up to Takapu Island within the next 12 months in the hope of procuring a Big Mac (or whatever might be available in the fast food store), that simply isn't going to happen! Maybe further down the track – but the reality is that we don't know at this stage who or what businesses are likely to be established at Takapu Island.

2 MINUTES WITH Mohan Sudusinghe

Mohan is an artiste with many professions. He is a professional dancer, drummer, choreographer, teacher, artist, sculpturer and a fitness instructor. In 2011 he joined the Sri Lankan Dance Academy in Wellington and has made New Zealand his second home.

He lives in Tawa and contributes to the cultural diversity in New Zealand. Mohan appreciates the opportunities this country has created for him in exploring different avenues to fulfill his ever growing passion for learning and teaching many forms of art.



Where were you born? Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Where did you grow up? Sri Lanka.

Where were you educated?

In Sri Lanka. After moving to New Zealand in 2011, I completed an honours diploma in Arts and Creativity and an Advanced diploma in Arts and Creativity at The Learning Connexion.

How long have you lived in Tawa? Six years.

What about family?

My wife Chamila works as an Office Administrator and supports me with my artistic career. We are blessed with two boys who are artistically talented. Senuka, 15, is at Newlands College and Yenuka, 9, is at Redwood School.

Work experience over the years

I have worked as a professional dancer, drummer and a choreographer for over 25 years. My passion for learning all forms of traditional, oriental and western dance and art created wider horizons for me and it brought me opportunities to perform in Sri Lanka and in other countries in the world.

As an artist I enjoy working with mixed media to produce 2D and 3D sculptural collages. I have displayed my work in exhibitions in Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

I have over 20 years' experience in teaching Sri Lankan dancing and drumming to children from Sri Lanka and around the world.

I had my own dance and exercise studio in Sri Lanka. At present I work at City Fitness as a group fitness instructor.

What are your interests and hobbies?

Apart from spending time with my family, my life is centred on different forms of arts. I am blessed with a very supportive family who enjoy getting involved and we work as a great team. I enjoy dancing, drumming, listening to music and working in my studio creating art pieces.

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

I am a fan of many sports. Sri Lankan cricketer Kumar Sangakkara is my favourite sports person.

Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?

I enjoy listening to eastern and western music. A few of my favourites are Yanni, A R Rahaman and Don Williams.

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

I have not travelled a lot in New Zealand. I love the nature and the picturesque scenery I find wherever I go, which make me very relaxed.

..... contd

contd

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

Although not inherited, I believe the ability to dance has been a talent imbedded in me. For this I am eternally grateful. I am also blessed with a supportive family and talented sons who have begun to prove their potential.

Traditions can be kept alive by gifting it to future generations. I am humbly proud of the fact that today; I play the role of a teacher and dispenser of knowledge.

I feel an undeniable bond with the land where I was born. And yet when I had to leave it for another, I developed a similar bond, often of a more complex nature. The first, involuntary, by birth – the second, by choice. I am pleased with my choice of making New Zealand my second home.

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

To continue my journey in exploring similarities and differences between the two cultures of Sri Lanka and New Zealand through artistic experimentation and creating a new journey in discovery.

To get involved in creating a movie set for a sci-fi or fantasy movie.

To have my own studio and gallery where the younger generation can learn and experience the beauty of art.

PREDATOR FREE COMING TO TAWA

Richard Herbert's post on Neighbourly:

Announcing the proposed formation of a new group to focus on the residential backyard trapping of rats and mice in Tawa.

Predator Free Tawa will operate under the umbrella of the Predator Free Wellington and Predator Free NZ 2050 campaigns, with support of the Rotary Club of Tawa.

If you wish to register for further information please join and like the “Predator Free Tawa” Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/316850542122807/about/>

If you have an existing backyard trap please sign-up at <https://www.trap.nz/node/430700>

Record your catches at <https://gicnz.maps.arcgis.com/apps/GeoForm/index.html?appid=b5d15ed0ca674192b79ece267df4fd72>



TAWA MENZSHED AGM & BARBECUE NEXT WEEK

A MenzShed brings men together in one community space to share their skills, have a laugh, and work on practical tasks individually (personal projects) or as a group (for the Shed or community). MenzShed groups operate right across Australasia and there is a group of dedicated individuals who are currently setting one up in the Rural Fire depot building in Oxford St in Tawa.



The AGM is being held at 11.00am on Wednesday 15 November at the Rural Fire depot building – access via Davies St and southwards past the Tawa Pool carpark. The AGM will probably take only half an hour. It will be followed by a barbecue.

If you want to know more about MenzShed in Tawa, you're welcome along. For further information and/or to reserve a sausage or two, contact Doug Burrus at xtr118911@xtra.co.nz or 232 7894.

Ngā mihi

Malcolm Sparrow
info@tawalink.com 027 232 2320



"The best view comes after the hardest climb."

"Falling down is an accident. Staying down is a choice."

"By working faithfully eight hours a day, you may eventually get to be boss and work twelve hours a day." – Robert Frost

**Nobody
is too busy,
it's just a
matter of
priorities.**

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

Some 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.

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

See www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html for back issues of the newsletter.

Pics taken on Saturday 30 September by David Parsons

Below: a panoramic view of the earthworks above the north end of Linden
Right: a view up Collins Avenue showing the crane and beams in place for the lift (and road closure) on Sunday 1 October

