

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

**PLEASE NOTE: This is Part 1 of the November newsletter.**

The aim is to send out Part 2 in the next couple of days.

## GUIDED NATIVE BUSH WALK

Did you know that Tawa has some of the biggest tawa and matai trees in the Wellington area? To provide an opportunity to view these and other native bush, FOTBR (Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves) is hosting a guided community bush walk in Redwood Bush and the Larsen Crescent Reserve, starting at 2pm on Sunday 15 November.

Please meet at the Brasenose Place entrance of Redwood Bush at 2pm. The walk will take approximately 2 hours and conclude in Peterhouse Street and return to Brasenose Place by the footpath.

The walk is open to anyone, but to determine the numbers participating, please email FOTBR Secretary, Carol Andrews by 8 November, [secretary@tawabush.org.nz](mailto:secretary@tawabush.org.nz)

**Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves Inc.**



## MENZSHED OPEN DAY ON SATURDAY

**Saturday 7th November** 10am until 1pm.

BBQ at noon. Cuppa tea at 10. Muffins while stocks last. \$2 each.

Also selling stock left over from Spring into Tawa: tui feeders, bird seed feeders, Scotty dogs, garden stakes, tea lights, Tawa key rings.

Please note that vehicle access is off Davies St via the Tawa Pool car park. Drive through the pool car park and follow the driveway past the skateboard park, alongside the railway line. We are at the south end of the building that we share with the Wellington Voluntary Rural Fire Force.

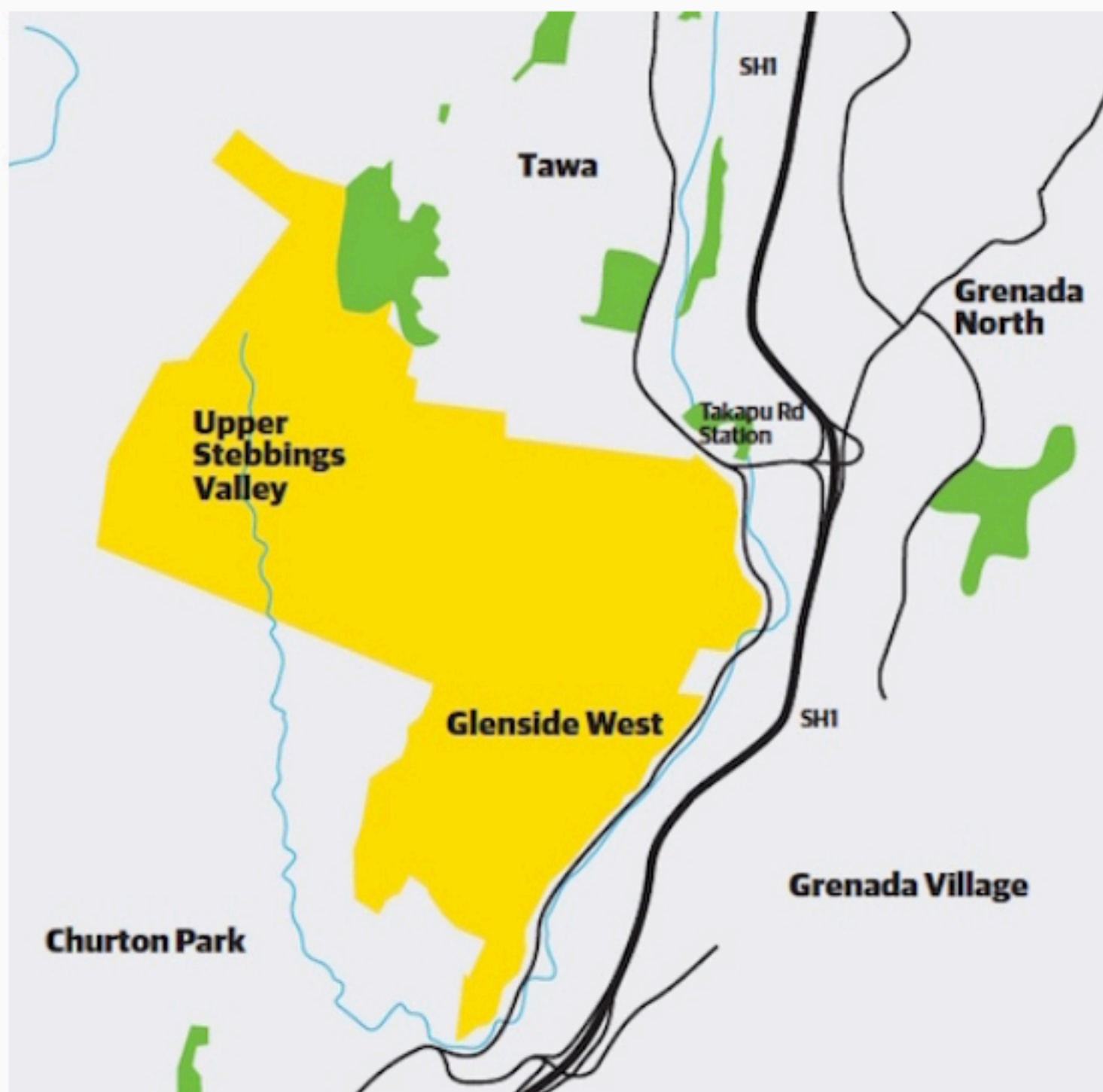
## BLUE NOTES CONCERT ON SATURDAY

The Tawa College Music Department is organising a fundraising concert with its prestigious Chamber Choir, the Blue Notes, in the Tawa College Hall at 7pm on **Saturday 7th November**.

Tickets are available from the School Office up till 4pm Friday 6th or on the night – admission \$10 adult, \$5 student.



## UPPER STEBBINGS DROP-IN COMING SOON



There are proposals to develop Upper Stebbings and Glenside West, the areas to the west of Tawa (over the hill) and southwest, and to allow a substantial amount of housing. The WCC website states: "Upper Stebbings and Glenside West are an attractive location for new housing being close to existing shops and services in Churton Park, Takapu Road and Tawa town centre."

Council is currently running an "engagement period" when members of the community can find out more about what is proposed and to provide feedback. The engagement period which will run until 5pm on 30 November.

WCC officers will be holding a drop-in event at Tawa Library on **Thursday 12 November** between 5 and 7pm.

Find out more here: <https://wellington.govt.nz/have-your-say/public-inputs/consultations/open/upper-stebbing-and-glenside-west>

## HOUSEHOLD EARTHQUAKE PLANNING

If you're not sure about your next step towards being better prepared for an emergency, the Household Earthquake Planning session is for you!

This free one-hour session will provide tips on how you to prepare to help yourself, your household and your community when the worst happens.

WREMO (Wellington Region Emergency Management) is offering an *online* short-format class with a brief introduction to:

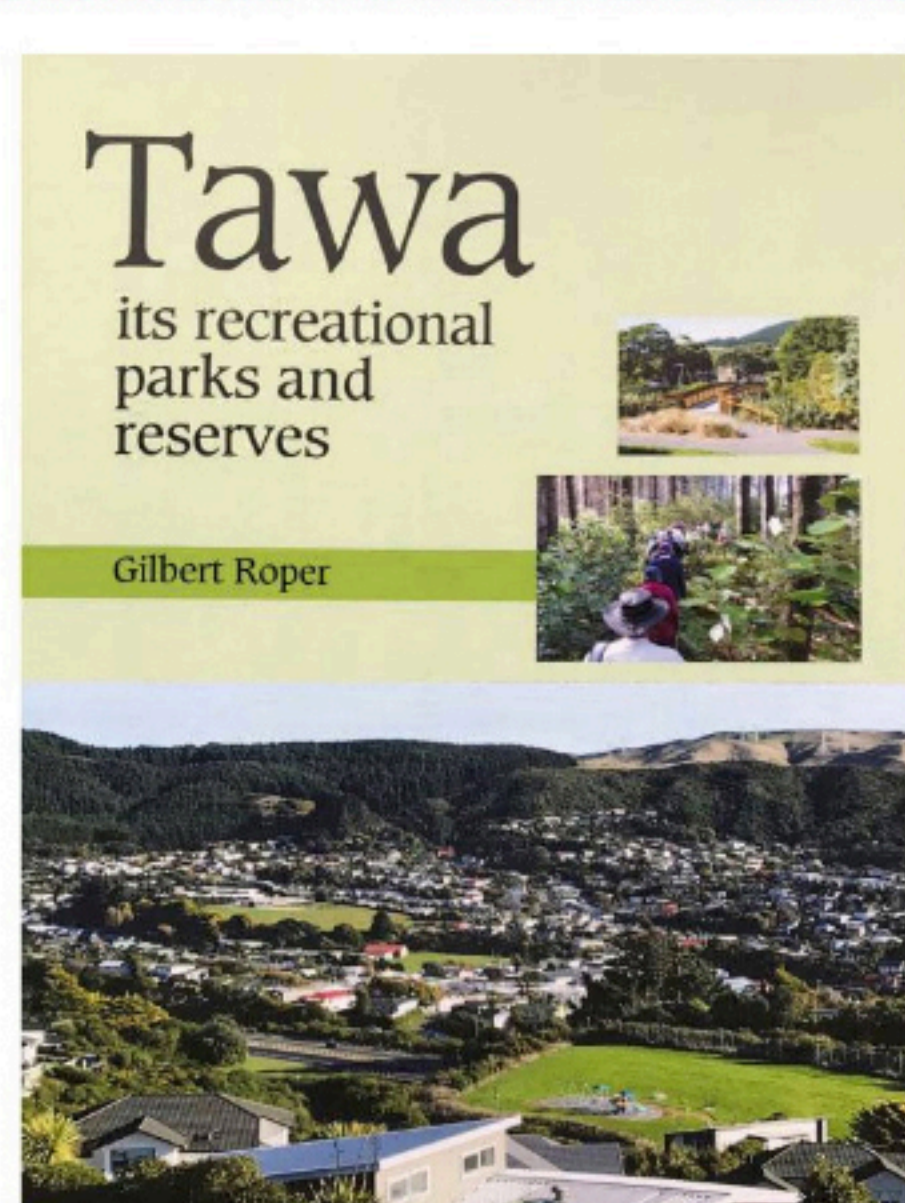
- The hazards we face in the Wellington Region
- The impacts of those hazards on your daily life
- How you and your household can be prepared for an emergency
- How you can get involved in the wider community's response

You are welcome to register for the session on **12 November** 7.00pm to 8.00pm Virtual Earthquake Planning Series (Session 3)

For more information see <https://www.getprepared.nz/keep-up-to-date/course/>

## A NEW BOOK ABOUT TAWA

Just published! A new book about Tawa



We're privileged to have a substantial number of parks and reserves available to us in Tawa. A newly-published book "Tawa – its recreational parks and reserves" gives you all the information (and pics) you'll need about those parks and reserves, along with details of the sports clubs which use some of them! It has been written by Tawa resident, Gilbert (Gil) Roper who is a member of the 'Tawa Historical Society' (THS) and 'Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves' (FOTBR).

You can obtain your own copy from the Mervyn Kemp (Tawa) Library or Take Note Tawa for \$35.00 cash.

The photo below shows Gil Roper speaking at the launch of his book in Tawa on Monday 12 October.



## U3A TAWA ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS WEEK

U3A is a countrywide organisation aimed at the entertainment and education of Seniors. Tawa U3A has a strong social membership with many interesting activities.

Wellington City Council is organising a **Seniors Week 9th to 15th November** which Tawa U3A is participating in with the following open sessions.

**U3A Tawa Botany Group** will have a guided tour of the Petone Dunes, their specialised plants and hear about the work of the local protection group.

Meet at corner of Davies and Luckie Streets, Tawa on Monday 9th November by 9.30am. We will car pool and we expect to finish by midday.

Please book with Alison on 027 437 9215 or wiseowlalison@gmail.com by Friday 6th November.

**U3A Tawa Singers** invite you to visit a rehearsal of the choir and sing with us. We sing a wide variety of music such as folk songs and musicals.

This will be held at the Tawa Union Church, 6 Elena Place on Monday 9th November at 1.15pm. There is a hall cost of \$2.00 each.

Please book with Alison on 027 437 9215 or wiseowlalison@gmail.com by Friday 6th November.



**U3A Tawa Write It Group** offers an opportunity to share your writing with others in the group with a piece no more than 500 words. Or come along to listen.

The location is Tawa Library, 158 Main Road, Tawa on Tuesday 10th November at 1.30 to 2.30pm. Please book with Alison on 027 437 9215 or wiseowlalison@gmail.com by Monday 9th November.

**U3A Tawa Poetry Favourites** to share. Come to listen to the beauty of chosen poems. Bring your own if you wish.

The location of this poetry reading is Tawa Library, 158 Main Road, Tawa on Wednesday 11th November at 1.30 to 2.30/3.00pm.

Please book with Alison on 027 437 9215 or wiseowlalison@gmail.com by Monday 9th November.

**U3A Tawa Table Tennis** offers you a chance to get together for a few games of table tennis and enjoyable exercise at Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge Street, Tawa.

This will be held on Thursday 12th November from 9.30 to 11.30am. There is a hall cost of \$2.00 each.

Please book with Alison on 027 437 9215 or wiseowlalison@gmail.com by Tuesday 10th November.

**U3A Tawa Art Group** has an opportunity to experiment with various art materials and methods.

This will be held at Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge Street, Tawa on Thursday 12th November from 10.00am to noon. There is a materials cost of \$2.00 each.

Please book with Alison on 027 437 9215 or wiseowlalison@gmail.com by Tuesday 10th November.

**U3A Tawa Ramblers** are planning a visit to the Botanic Garden finishing with coffee at the Lady Norwood rose garden on Friday 13th November at 10.00am.

Please book with Shirley Williamson on 04 232 6746 or jdwskw@actrix.gen.nz by Wednesday 11th November. She will tell you know the meeting point.

Bring your gold card for the train and cable car.

**U3A Tawa Travel Adventures** will have an illustrated talk about an exciting overseas trip.

This will be at St Christopher's Church, 165 Main Road, Tawa on Friday 13th November at 10.00 to 11.30am. There is a hall cost of \$2.00 each.

Please book with Alison on 027 437 9215 or wiseowlalison@gmail.com by Wednesday 11th November.

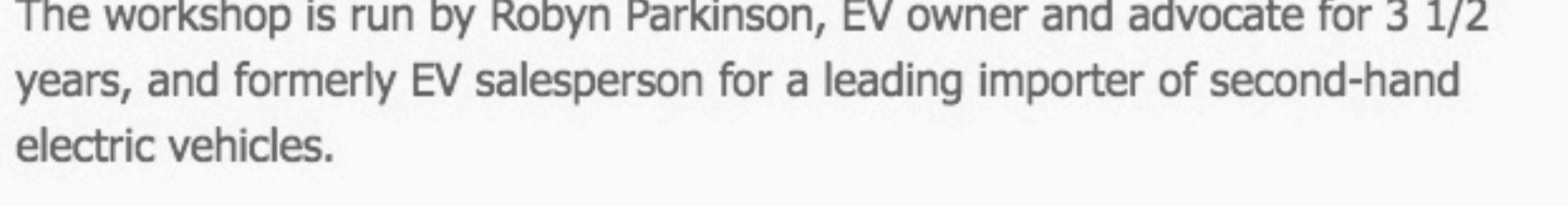
**U3A Tawa Ukulele** is a very popular group of players who enjoy making music at Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge Street, Tawa. We invite you to come along on Friday 13th November at 1.30. There is a room cost of \$2.00 each.

Please book with Alison on 027 437 9215 or wiseowlalison@gmail.com by Wednesday 11th November.

## EV BUYERS' WORKSHOP

Thinking your next vehicle might be electric? Come to a free workshop run by Sustainable Tawa, a group of passionate locals promoting all things sustainable and supported by the Tawa Residents Association.

The workshop is run by Robyn Parkinson, EV owner and advocate for 3 1/2 years, and formerly EV salesperson for a leading importer of second-hand electric vehicles.



Sustainable Tawa

## The EV Buyers' Workshop

Wednesday 18th November 2020, 7.30pm—8.30pm

Venue: Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge Street, Tawa

Curious about going electric for your next car?

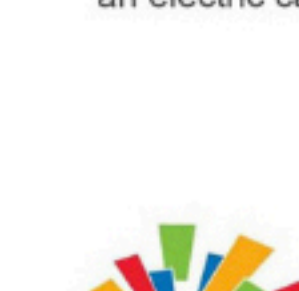
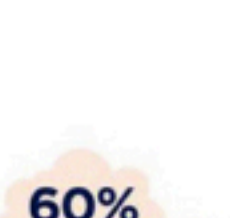
This workshop will help you answer key questions:



- What's so good about EVs (Electric Vehicles)?
- Is an EV right for me?
- What do I look for?
- Where would I charge?
- Will it save me money?

### Did you know?

According to the Ministry of Transport, an electric car has:



Sustainable Tawa on Instagram: @sustainabletawa

and Facebook

Supported by the Tawa Residents Association.

## 2 MINUTES WITH ..... Jo Murray



*Where were you born?* Wellington

*Where did you grow up?* Tawa, Wellington

*Where were you educated?*

Tawa Primary, Tawa Intermediate, Tawa College, Victoria University, Massey University.

*How long have you lived in Tawa?*

I've lived in Tawa all except 11 years of my life. I moved into Wellington City a year into my Victoria University days, and lived there until Robbie and I bought our first house in Johnsonville in 1992. We then bought in Tawa about a year before Jess was born in 1998, and haven't ever left.

*What do you like about Tawa?*

It's a quiet area, close to town and close to Porirua, also close to the motorway. There's a great community here. It has good facilities like the community centre, railway stations and shops close by.

The community from young through to old – it's a real mix. There are great schools from pre schools through to intermediate and college. We've also been involved in lots of sports clubs and activities that kids can get involved with here. I love the fact we have the best of both worlds being so close to both Wellington and Porirua. I also love all the off-road walkways on our back door step in Tawa, Porirua and Wellington.

*What about family?*

Robbie Kerr – husband; Jess (22) and Melie (20)

Jess started her first year teaching this year at Tawa Intermediate and is loving it. She is also a contracted NZ cricketer playing for the White Ferns.

Melie is playing cricket professionally for the White Ferns and the Brisbane Heat in the Women's Big Bash League, and is studying part-time at Massey University.

The final addition to our family was last year when the girls finally talked us into getting our dog Willow. I'm still not quite sure how we ended up saying yes but luckily we haven't regretted it.

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

I've worked in sport most of my working life. I started at the Hillary Commission (now known as Sport NZ), then spent 6 years working with Murray Mexted setting up the International Rugby Academy (IRANZ). From there Robbie and I set up Kelly Sports NZ and Kelly Club which included running modified sports programmes so kids could try a range of sports after school and during school holidays. After selling that business I worked for Athletics Wellington and Wellington Hockey. I now work as a personal development manager at the NZ Cricket Players Association working primarily with the Wellington Firebirds and Central Stags men's teams.

*What are your interests and hobbies?*

I love all sports – it's always been a passion of mine as long as I can remember. My main sports were cricket and netball but I've enjoyed getting involved in other sports while Jess and Melie were growing up including football and athletics. I spent about 10 years volunteering in athletics helping run the Olympic Junior Athletics Club that's based in Tawa. I loved being able to give back and get involved in our local community through sport. We've all made lifelong friends along the way.

I love getting out for walks and runs every day, exploring the many off road tracks we have around Tawa, Porirua and Wellington. A weekend isn't complete without having a good catch up with friends at cafes around the region too. Local Authority in Porirua is a favourite on the weekend – owned by Cam Dunlop who grew up in Tawa (right next to City Fitness).

With Jess and Melie playing cricket around NZ and overseas it's given us a good excuse to do a bit of travel as well which I love. I always take my walking/running shoes to explore the places we go.

*Favourite sports team?*

I probably have to say the Wellington Blaze and the White Ferns, don't I! Tawa has been very well represented in both these teams, with Sophie Devine leading the way. Tawa Intermediate and Tawa College have always been hugely supportive of girls' cricket which has shown in the number who have gone on to higher honours.

*Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?*

There are so many New Zealand bands – great to be able to support local these days! Six60, L.A.B., Drax Project, Bennee. And for extremely local, I have to mention a couple of the barbershop groups my sister Charlotte works with – MIB and Vocal Effects. They've both achieved on the world stage for a number of years now and I know how hard they work to achieve at the level they have.

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

For many years January was spent heading to Colgate Games (athletics events), followed by Hawke's Bay cricket camps with other families and their kids. Because of this Hawke's Bay holds special memories of long hot summers, and time spent with extended family, and our friends who are pretty much like family to this day. When I was growing up we usually camped at Hahei in the Coromandel so that's definitely somewhere we've talked about returning to one day too. And I did a number of cycling holidays around NZ in my younger days which gives you a real appreciation into just how beautiful our country is.

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

Hard question, but in looking back I am pretty proud that there were a group of us who started the Olympic Junior Athletics Club in Tawa which grew to become the largest junior athletics club in the Wellington region with over 300 members. It showed me what can be achieved with a group of passionate volunteers. And that even though it was hard work at times, it was worth it for the experiences the kids and the adults got out of it.

I'm also proud of our two girls Jess and Melie. Jess for her resilience with her health and injury setbacks, including how she approaches life with the Type 1 diabetes and the remnants of Bells Palsy. It hasn't ever stopped her achieving her goals, including representing NZ in cricket and getting her Masters in Teaching and Learning. With Melie she set a goal at 9 years old to make the White Ferns and because of that she's had amazing opportunities to play for teams overseas and travel the world. What we love though is that she is much more than just a cricketer. With incredible support from Tawa College she achieved highly academically even though her in her final two years she had to do a lot of her work remotely. She also made lifelong friends there who, along with family, are very important to her.

*What are two or three interesting things about you that local people may not know?*

I am the only person in my entire family who is not a teacher. My two sisters (Charlotte and Susie), my brother Duncan, their other halves are all teachers. My parents Bruce and Shona were too. And our eldest daughter Jess is a teacher now too. They all absolutely love what they do.

Some will and some won't know that when I was in my early 30s I got breast cancer when Jess and Melie were little. I was one of the lucky ones who found it early and with an operation, chemo and radiation I'm still here today. The main reason I am mentioning this is to encourage anyone reading this to do your yearly checkups that doctors and the medical profession advise, and if you notice anything out of the ordinary, don't delay. The sooner you get onto things, the better the outcome.

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

I've never really been a huge goal setter, so this isn't something I think about much. Because of what I went through in my 30s I'm just thankful to be here, and it's made me make the most of every day.

## TAWA UNIFORM DRIVE

It's that time again, to support your local community by donating any Tawa College and Tawa Intermediate uniform items you no longer need. This is the second year of this initiative, which was very successful last year, and continues to help families and students throughout the year. Uniform items will be available for a small koha at a drop-in session to be confirmed.



## TAWA UNIFORM DRIVE

Once again, please help your local community by donating Tawa College and Tawa Intermediate uniform items you no longer need.

Please drop clean, tidy items to:

- Tawa Community Centre (M-F: 9am-1pm/2-4.30pm)
- Linden Community Centre (M-F: 10.30am-1pm/2-5pm)

More details to follow about when items will be available.  
Call Mandy 0211467236 or Steph 0275319161 for more info.

Ngā mihi

Malcolm Sparrow  
info@tawalink.com  
027 232 2320



*"No one ever complains about a speech being too short!" – Ira Hayes*

*"My goal this weekend is to move ..... just enough so people don't think I'm dead."*

*"The only scenario where you really need a landline today is when you're trying to find your smartphone."*

*"If there is any one secret of success, it lies in the ability to get the other person's point of view and see things from that person's angle as well as from your own." – Henry Ford*

