

*This is a 'monthly' newsletter on behalf of the Tawa Community Centre and TawaLink.com (Tawa's community website).*

2 April 2009

Hello again

We're well into autumn, which goes without saying, and the days are definitely getting cooler. We turn our clocks back one hour this weekend, and that will make it really seem like winter's on the way. I've actually come across one or two people lately who've told me they prefer cooler weather to warmer weather. That just confirms how different we all are! I'm definitely not one for too much cold.

I regularly hear from people how great a community Tawa is. Amongst other things, I'm impressed by how much there is on offer here for the likes of senior citizens. For example, U3A Tawa involves almost 500 people regularly meeting (in groups of 5 to 35 or whatever) to learn and discuss topics of common interest. And they're starting to use the Tawa Community Centre more and more!

At the other end of the spectrum, Tawa is a community where almost all the kids who attend one of the six primary schools in the valley go on to Tawa Intermediate, and the vast majority (around 93%) continue on to Tawa College. That particular feature of life in Tawa ties the community together in a unique sort of way, the exception rather than the rule in urban communities in New Zealand.

If you can possibly give your support to the Colonial Knob Fun Run/Walk mentioned below, I'd encourage you to do so. I expect that most of us will be walking up the hill, but those who are masochistic enough to run up are perfectly entitled to do so!

This newsletter was meant to have gone out in mid-March, but unfortunately it was delayed for various reasons, not least being major computer problems my end-of-the-line. Anyway here it is.

## **COLONIAL KNOB FUN RUN/WALK**

The whole community is invited to join in the fun run/walk up Colonial Knob this Sunday, April 5th at 1pm. This is being organised by Tawa College in conjunction with World Vision's 40 hour Famine. For a registration form and more details, go to <<http://www.tawalink.com/intro.html>>. You can register now or on the day.

This is a great chance to get some exercise, to show a little community spirit, and to help raise funds for a great cause.

## **SCHOOLS IN TAWA**

Do you know how many schools there are in Tawa? We'll make it easier by giving you a multiple choice option: 7 or 8 or 9 or 10. The answer is towards the bottom of the page.

## **RECENT POT LUCK MEAL**

Our first "Tawa Community Pot Luck Meal" in 2009 took place on Saturday, 28 March, with our biggest attendance yet, around 95 all up.

On this occasion representatives from the local Police base, the Volunteer Fire Brigade, TEMG (Civil Defence) and the Tawa Community Patrol joined us for the meal and spent a short time informing us what it is they do in the Tawa area. As each of these groups plays a part in keeping our community safer, it is useful for us to know who they are and to thank them for the voluntary service they perform.

A couple of pics of the occasion can be found here:

<[http://www.tawalink.com/pic\\_week\\_2009-09.html](http://www.tawalink.com/pic_week_2009-09.html)>

## **HELICOPTER AT THE COLLEGE**

It's not every day one gets to go to school in a helicopter. But that's exactly what happened last Friday morning when Mary Woolston flew in to Tawa College in an Air Force helicopter. She's no longer a student there, but was the deputy head girl in 2004 and was invited to be the guest speaker at last week's "Academic Prizegiving" at the College.

She and a number of crewmen flew to the school in an RNZAF Iroquois helicopter which drew a lot of attention from the students as seen here. Most of us have never sat in a helicopter, let alone flown in one. Many of the schoolkids, and some of the adults, at least had the opportunity to sit in the craft even if it did just stay on the ground. Some of us were too busy taking photographs. Oh well, one of these days perhaps ...

## **NEW JUDO CLUB**

The Newlands Judo Club has commenced classes at the Linden Scout Hall in Kowhai Park, Hinau St.

Ages 7 to 10 from 4.30 - 5.40pm

Ages 11 to 14 from 5.45 - 6.55pm

Seniors ages 14+ from 7pm

Enquiries to Bill Slykerman on 478 3920 or email [bill.slykerman@judo.wellington.net](mailto:bill.slykerman@judo.wellington.net)

## **SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME**

The Tawa Recreation Centre's April School Holiday Programme runs from 14-24 April for ages 5 to 12. To book phone 232 2260.

## **SUBWAY IN TAWA**

You'll probably be aware that Subway is coming to Tawa, next to the Mary Potter Hospice Shop on the Main Road, more-or-less opposite United Video. They'll be opening in 3-4 weeks' time, late April, if all goes according to plan. Good stuff!

## REPORT FROM THE TAWA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

This report was supplied by the local Fire Brigade in mid-March when this newsletter was meant to have been sent out. I take the blame for the fact that it (this report) is not quite up-to-date!

Members of the Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade attended the following fire calls in the period 1 January to 12 March 2009:

Structure fires	3
Vegetation fires	5
Miscellaneous fires	5
Rescue, Emergency, Medical Calls	3
Flammable liquid, gas incidents	1
Special service calls	2
Good intent calls	1
False alarms	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>

The new Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon Dr Richard Worth, recently visited the Fire Station and was very impressed with the brigade and station. He commented on our new fire appliance and the new gymnasium area. The Brigade has been very fortunate to receive assistance in funding the gymnasium area from the Freemasons. We also have an application to the Tawa Community Grants (Wellington City Council) and New Zealand Community Trust for further assistance in completing the gymnasium project. Dr Worth commented on how pleased he was to see we were helping ourselves as much as possible.

Upcoming projects/events: The Brigade will be part of the Tawa ANZAC Day events, marching to the RSA.

## TAKAPU ISLAND UPDATE

The Tawa Community Board has had several discussions with the engineers and the developers of Takapu Island in respect of the road changes proposed for that part of Takapu Road between the rail bridge and the motorway.

The proposal approved by the New Zealand Transport Agency, and funded wholly by the developers of the proposed Takapu Island development, involves:

- installing a roundabout at the intersection formed between Takapu Road and the exit of the motorway from Wellington and the entrance to the motorway to Porirua.
- installing a roundabout at the entrance to the new development.
- reducing the speed limit to 50 km/h between the rail bridge and the motorway onramps.

It is anticipated that the works will:

- not impact on the Willowbank Reserve
- take until late May 2009
- not adversely affect traffic flow into and out of Tawa
- temporarily route traffic onto the northern side of the entrance to the development while the existing road is built up to the same level as the new road.

The Tawa Community Board, the developers, the engineers and the contractors are all communicating to ensure that Tawa residents and road users are not unduly inconvenienced during the road changes. Hopefully the new layout, which includes better signage, a new storm water system, far improved lighting and a much higher quality of skid resistant asphaltic paving, will produce a higher degree of safety and benefit us all.

The Tawa Community Board will continue to liaise with residents and are happy to answer questions. More information can be obtained by calling Robert Tredger on 232 5982 or Graeme Hansen on 232 4360.

*- supplied by Robert Tredger, chair of Tawa Community Board*

## **SCHOOLS IN TAWA**

There are actually 9 schools in Tawa, with a total student population of around 3,300. If you got the answer right, you can reward yourself with a chocolate bar.

In alphabetical order, those schools are: Greenacres, Hampton Hill, He Huarahi Tamariki (the School for Teenage Parents), Linden, Redwood, St Francis Xavier, Tawa, Tawa College, Tawa Intermediate.

## **FRIDAY LUNCHEONS AT THE TAWA COMMUNITY CENTRE**

If you're in the neighbourhood at 12.30pm on a Friday, come and join us for soup, toast (bread if you prefer), and chocolate bikkies at the Community Centre. It's a good chance to have lunch with a few others - and it's only \$3.

## **ROOMS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Tawa Community Centre has three main areas available for hire to community (or commercial) groups. Use of these facilities has been increasing over time, which is great, and there are some week-time evenings when we have a completely 'full house' - 3 or more groups in residence at one time.

There are still plenty of spaces available for meetings/get-togethers, particularly during the daytime, and some weekend evenings. Feel free to come and have a look for yourself! More details on our webpage: <<http://www.tawalink.com/tcc.html>>

## **EVENTS FOR OUR MESSAGE BOARD**

You may have noticed the message board outside the Community Centre as you've been heading to the supermarket. If you'd like anything included on that (short and to the point), please forward us the details, particularly if it's a big occasion like a wedding anniversary or anyone's birthday.

We're getting feedback as to how many people do actually look at it as they're going past. Heaps of schoolkids go by every weekday and, as for drivers, do take a quick look but remember to keep your eyes on the road! We don't want to be responsible for any pile-ups in Cambridge Street.

## COMING UP:

Sunday 5th April: **Colonial Knob Fun Run/Walk**  
Monday 6th April: **Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers Association meeting**  
Monday 6th - Wednesday 8th April: **Totara Production** at Redwood School  
Wednesday 8th April: **Tawa Community Board meeting**  
Thursday 9th April: **Term 1 ends**  
Friday 10th - Monday 13th April: **Easter break** (but no doubt you already knew that)

**Full details** of all the above are available at  
<[http://www.tawalink.com/coming\\_events.html](http://www.tawalink.com/coming_events.html)>

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*"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible."* - The 13th Dalai Lama

*"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."* - C S Lewis

*"One day, someone showed me a glass of water that was half full. And he said, 'Is it half full or half empty?' So I drank the water. No more problem."*  
- Alexander Jodorowsky

This community newsletter is emailed to around 600 Tawa households, businesses, schools, churches and clubs/groups (anyone who has an interest in the community of Tawa) every month or so. If you do not already receive it and would like to, please send an email to [info@tawalink.com](mailto:info@tawalink.com) requesting that your name is added to our list.