



COMMUNITY NEWS

July 2011 - 1

This community newsletter is sent out on the first and third Wednesdays of each month (or thereabouts) on behalf of tawalink.com, Tawa's community website since 2002.

WANT A STALL AT SPRING INTO TAWA MARKET DAY?

This year's "Spring into Tawa" Market Day will be held on Saturday 10th September. Information has now been emailed to those previously involved and those who have indicated that they may want to run a stall this time.

Details for prospective stallholders are available at www.tawalink.com/springintotawa2011.html. If you as an individual or your club/group/school/church wants to book a stall at this year's event, check out the webpage or email Malcolm on info@tawalink.com.



DEFIBRILLATORS IN TAWA

In our last newsletter we talked about the lifesaving device that is the defibrillator, and the need to have these units readily available in our community. When someone is having a cardiac arrest, a defibrillator will deliver a controlled electric shock to the heart, which stops the spasms and allows a return to normal contractions. Otherwise the cardiac arrest could well be fatal.

Defibrillators in Tawa are currently located at:

- Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade - more than one
- Tawa Medical Centre
- Linden Medical Centre
- Tawa Pool
- Power Systems Consultants, Level 2, 210 Main Rd (just above Simon's Amcal Pharmacy)
- Mervyn Kemp Library
- Tawa Community Centre
- Dress-Smart

There is now one more defibrillator in Tawa, currently on site at Drummond's Pharmacy. This unit has been sponsored by the Tawa Community Board.

The photo shows the defibrillator being handed to Tawa Community Board members Margaret Lucas (left) and Chris Reading by Red Cross training coordinator Lesley Jacobson.

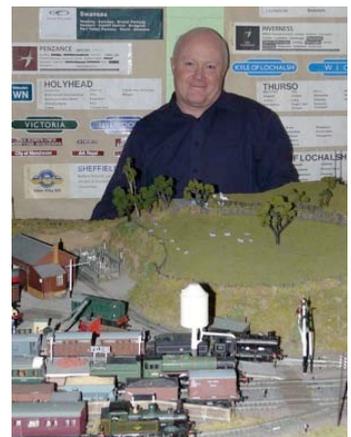


AN AUTHOR(ITY) ON TRAINS

David Parsons is a "train enthusiast" with quite a collection of railway memorabilia - books, signs, posters and whatever else to do with rail travel and, of course, his own model railway setup. He not only photographs trains - see www.tawalink.com/pic_week_2010-30.html - he writes about them as well.

If you've been on the commuter train into Wellington lately, you may well have seen the poster advertising David's latest book (his third), "Wellington Railways: Colonial Steam to Matangi", published April 2011.

You can read a whole lot more about David and other interesting Tawa people at www.tawalink.com/tawa_people.html



ROTARY BOOK FAIR

You should have received the pictured flyer in your letterbox last week. It's asking for donations of clean and cared-for books, CDs and DVDs for the Tawa Rotary Club to sell at its annual book fair on 23/24 & 30/31 July.

You can drop them off at Harcourts, Mexted Motors or Drummond's Pharmacy. If you have too many to deliver yourself, phone Ann Dale 232 8827 or Doug Burrus 232 7894 or Brian Henry 232 5893.

This is Tawa Rotary's biggest local fundraising opportunity each year. Almost half the proceeds are directed to the Life Education Trust, the remainder to various groups including several in Tawa. \$18,400 was raised at last year's Book Fair.

NEW WORLD SUPERMARKET IN TAWA

Also in your letterbox you should have received information about the proposed Tawa New World supermarket.

The following press release has been sent to us from Foodstuffs. It probably repeats the information in the flyer, but in case you missed that, read on:

It's a New World for Tawa. A big new supermarket and shopping mall is on the way to add a vibrant and friendly place to shop in Tawa's town centre. Foodstuffs Wellington plans to redevelop the current supermarket in the block between Main Road and Oxford Street into a full-service New World Tawa supermarket which will open in mid-2012.

The lower North Island cooperative of owner-operated stores is telling Tawa, Grenada North and Takapu Valley residents all about the development with a newsletter placed in household letterboxes on Tuesday and Wednesday, 28 and 29 June.

"What's there right now has become too small to offer the quantity and quality of goods the growing community of Tawa needs," Foodstuffs Wellington Property Manager Ian Hutchison said. "We're spending \$12 million to fully upgrade the entire supermarket and adjacent mall complex inside and out and will increase the supermarket area by one third to 3,200 square metres. Work will start in November when the current supermarket is due to close."

The existing mall will be remodelled into several attractive tenancies, the final number depending on demand. Together with New World Tawa, the mall will be a great place to shop. The whole area will be more convenient and inviting for shoppers with an attractive new entrance and realigned pedestrian crossing. The present pedestrian walk-through will become part of the design of the building so people passing through will have a well-lit and safe right-of-way from one side to the other and easy access to the supermarket.

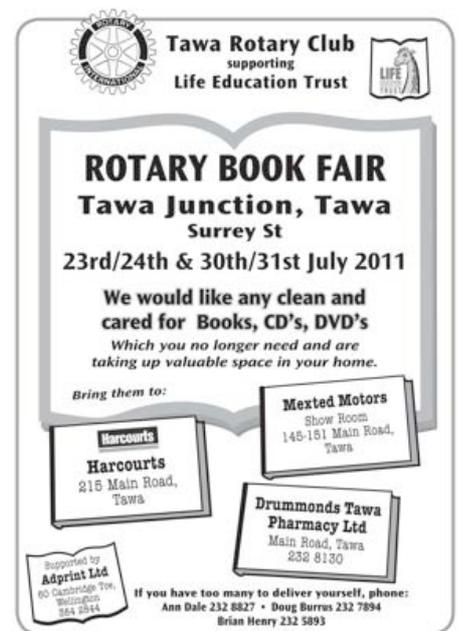
Mr Hutchison said the carpark would be made easier for motorists to use with an additional vehicle crossing on Oxford Street for "exit only".

New World will provide a free bus service for shoppers while the supermarket is being redeveloped. "While we're building, we will make it possible for people to do their grocery shopping with a regular free New World Shoppers' Bus starting in November. This will take shoppers from the mall to New World in Porirua and also to the New World Churton Park supermarket once it opens.

A freepost feedback form is included in the newsletter so shoppers can let Foodstuffs Wellington know how often they would use the bus, which days and which times of the day are the best for them to shop for their groceries. "We hope to receive plenty of responses by the end of July so we can work out a timetable that's as convenient for Tawa shoppers as possible," Mr Hutchison said.

Tawa shoppers with Fly Buys cards will receive Bonus Points offers designed specially for them while they shop at Porirua and Churton Park New Worlds. Instant Fly Buys cards will be available so shoppers can join up.

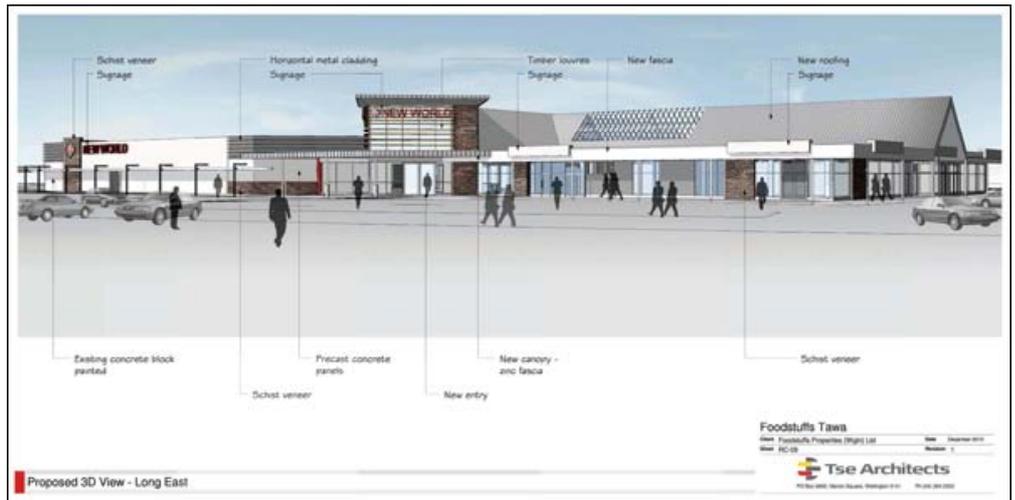
"We'll keep residents informed by newsletter as the supermarket and mall project progresses," Mr Hutchison said.



Shoppers can also stay in touch by visiting the website www.newworld.co.nz/tawa. Extra copies of the newsletter are available on request from lynsey@morrispr.co.nz or by contacting Foodstuffs Wellington Property Manager Ian Hutchison at ian.hutchison@foodstuffs-wgtn.co.nz.

The Tawa Community Board has been liaising closely with Foodstuffs to ensure they are aware of Tawa residents' concerns in regard to our being without a supermarket for several months.

There has been talk of a "convenience store" being set up whilst the new supermarket is being constructed. A press release in that regard has now come through, as set out here:



Temporary mini New World will fill gap while supermarket being developed

A temporary 'mini' foodstore will be set up in Tawa Mall for residents to buy groceries locally while the New World supermarket is being developed nearby.

Vacant space in the mall will be used for the temporary store so residents are not left without a convenient place to shop, Foodstuffs Wellington Property Manager Ian Hutchison confirmed today.

"We will not gain access to the existing supermarket until November 30 this year when we will begin completely modernising and expanding the interior and exterior," Mr Hutchison said. "We are mindful of the gap that will be created with our upgrade work and will establish a temporary foodstore in the vacant Tawa Mall premises."

"This temporary store will open prior to the current supermarket closure and will carry a modest range of essential food needs. Details are still being finalised and we will include further information in our next newsletter delivered to households in and around Tawa."

Foodstuffs Wellington is also planning a New World Shoppers' Bus to run regularly between the mall and Porirua and Churton Park New Worlds. It is seeking feedback on shoppers' potential use of the bus with a freepost feedback form enclosed in its recent newsletter to Tawa, Grenada North & Takapu Valley households.

FRIENDS OF TAWA BUSH RESERVES WORKING BEES

The Friends have around 1,000 trees to plant in reserves around Tawa at working bees during July and August. If you are interested in helping, your assistance would be much appreciated. Please contact Richard at herbert.r@xtra.co.nz or 803 7878 for details. And if you are still receiving your milk in cartons, these would also be welcome to be recycled into growing more trees for future years' plantings.

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES

This concert, run on an annual basis at Tawa College, features the school's instrumental groups. Those who ventured out in the cold and miserable conditions last Wednesday evening were no doubt impressed by the array of talent on offer, with the likes of a concert band, jazz band, guitar players, percussionists and an orchestra comprising both Tawa College and Tawa Intermediate students (as per the photo) all making for a very enjoyable evening.



TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE

• PROFILE OF A COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER

Robert Tredger



Early life ... Born in Middlesex, near London, and grew up there.

Lived in Tawa since ... 1987, when I first came to New Zealand.

Family ... Married to Dianne, and we have two sons, David (19) at Victoria University and Matthew (17) in his last year at College.

Work experience over the years ...
Spent 33 years working for NCR Systemedia Division, 20 years in Africa and the Middle East before being transferred to New Zealand in 1987.

Interests and hobbies ... Trustee and Patroller of Tawa Community Patrols, Rotary Club of Tawa, Tawa Stream Walkway, Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves, Tawa Historical Society, Tawa Ratepayers' Association, and walking marathons as well as training others to do so.

Which sports team(s)? Southland Stags - because most of the team are born and bred in Southland and they produce some wonderful players. My wife's family have lived in Southland for five generations.

On the Tawa Community Board since ... 1995

Why the community board, and what do you do on it?

Having spent many years living and working in countries where democracy was not highly rated, and then settling in NZ, buying a house, finding a wife and starting a family, I thought it was time to put something back into the community. I stood for the Tawa Community Board 16 years ago and have been on the board ever since.

Previously Chair, Deputy Chair and various other positions.

Responsibilities: Tawa Grants, Tawa Borough Scholarship Trust, Communications, Tawa Community Civic Awards, and liaison with Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves.

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD COMMUNITY PLAN

Lots of local people are probably wondering where they can get hold of the Tawa Community Board's latest "Community Plan". This is the 16-page document which sets out what the board is wanting to achieve in Tawa in the next 2 to 3 years. It's actually quite readable!

The answer to the question is either at the Mervyn Kemp Library (aka the Tawa Library) or by going online to: www.tawalink.com/tawacommunityboard.html

ARTHUR CARMAN'S SUITCASE

This is the name of the latest book published by the Tawa Historical Society. Arthur Carman lived in Tawa from 1932 to 1982 and served on the then Tawa Borough Council for seven terms, a total of 21 years. There's a mine of information in the book which was 'launched' at a function at the Tawa Community Centre this past Monday evening. A number of dignitaries were present including the Hon Peter Dunne, and the Society's patron, the former Mayor of Wellington, Kerry Prendergast (pictured), who gave a short speech.

Also in the photo are the book's authors, Bruce Murray and David Wood - world-famous in Tawa.



NEED A HAND FOR A FEW HOURS?

A team of five from BNZ Tawa are looking for a 'project' in which to get involved sometime in the next three months. They have been to Longview Rest Home and put down paving, and they've been to a local playcentre to clean, garden and dig out their sandpits. If you're elderly or disabled or if you're a club or a charitable organisation that could do with a helping hand one Saturday or Sunday, contact Karen at Karen_M_McLean@bnz.co.nz.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

Cooking & Craft and Science Holiday Programmes for children aged from 4-12 are being offered by Hayley Balmer, a teacher in Redwood, Tawa on 19, 20 & 21 July. Each session is different and children can come for as many sessions as they like. All groups have limited places and a reservation is necessary. Sessions are 3 hours long and cost \$23. Extra childcare is available outside of session hours. Email hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz for further details.

NEW POLICE CONSTABLE IN TAWA !!!

We have just been informed that Tawa's new community constable, Sarah Riddering, will be commencing duties here on Monday 18 July. At long last!

ORANGE DAY PARADE

Road patrollers from various primary schools in Tawa, as well as from other parts of Wellington (the "signs out, cross now" kids who monitor pedestrian crossings outside schools), took part in this year's Orange Day Parade this past Friday. The parade started outside Parliament and headed along Lambton Quay, eventually arriving in Civic Square. Participants then congregated in the Town Hall where they were addressed by a police representative thanking them for the job that they do.

There are 24 children who assist with road patrol duties at Redwood School. 22 took part in this year's parade, as seen in these photos. They came up with their own catchphrase - SSP stands for "Super Safety Patrollers".



ACCOMMODATION ON THE GOLD COAST

Fancy a 5-night stay at The Towers of Chevron Renaissance on the Gold Coast? Tawa School won this fantastic prize from Entertainment Book Publications and are using it to raise funds via Trade Me. The prize is for a four star one bedroom apartment - with a full kitchen so you can save money on meals. It is worth \$1,075 but the Trade Me reserve is only \$200, so there is the opportunity for a bargain. There is also the opportunity to upgrade to a 2 bedroom apartment for another \$200.

The accommodation must be taken by 1 June 2012. The dates that it can be booked are on the auction.

The Trade Me auction number is 389148022, or look in International Accommodation section of Trade Me. Please note this auction is for the accommodation only, not flights. Tawa School will use the funds raised to help build a sandpit for the junior classes.

Tawa School is still selling Entertainment Books and they can be ordered from the following website: www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/105142. They can even be delivered to your door for a small fee.

WHAT DO YOU CALL SOMEONE WHO LIVES IN TAWA?

The options to date are Tawaite (as in Tawa-ite) or Tawinian or Tawanese or Tawaiian (as in Hawaiian). Based on the amount of feedback (or lack thereof), it would seem that most of us don't really care. Those who do (care) tend to favour Tawaiian which has apparently been around for some time, regardless of whether you've heard of it before or not!

Adios

Malcolm Sparrow

On behalf of TawaLink.com
(loosely under the umbrella of the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association)
info@tawalink.com www.tawalink.com
232 5030 A/H or 027 232 2320

"To be content with a little is hard; to be content with much is impossible."

"I value the friend who for me finds time on his calendar, but I cherish the friend who for me does not consult his calendar." - Robert Brault

"Just because nobody complains doesn't mean all parachutes are perfect." - Benny Hill

This community newsletter is emailed to more than 1000 Tawa households, businesses, schools, churches and clubs/groups (anyone who has an interest in the community of Tawa) on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, or thereabouts. If there's anything you'd like to include in the next newsletter, please let us know. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, please send us an email requesting that your name be deleted from our list.

OPINION PIECE ON "COMMUNITY TOGETHERNESS" - please read!

The Dean of ChristChurch Cathedral, Peter Beck, has talked about the worst of times (like the earthquakes in Christchurch) bringing out the best in people. In this morning's newspaper All Black Dan Carter is quoted as saying, "If there can be any positive to come out of such a disaster, it's the fantastic sense of community which has built up." But that leads to the question: is a natural disaster a prerequisite for a community to really "pull together"?

The experts tell us that those communities that are connected and know their neighbours have a definite advantage in the event of a disaster. But I suspect that a number of us quite like the idea of "knowing our neighbours" without the threat of a disaster providing the incentive. There's nothing to stop "neighbours looking out for neighbours" even in good times. We're better off as a community when that does happen!

Ask people in Tawa what they like about this place, and a response along the lines of the "sense of community" is what you'll invariably get. And yet I think it's still possible in this community to not feel a sense of connectedness, to know hardly anyone else in the same neighbourhood.

When I lived in Christchurch in the early 90s I organised a Neighbourhood Support Group involving 15-20 households at our end of the street. We "got together" 3 or 4 times a year, as I recall. And I'll never forget one older gentleman telling me, "You've brought the street alive, Malcolm." I'm not sure that it was quite as exciting as that! However to my shame I've done nothing similar in my own street in the 15 years I've lived in Tawa. I think it's partly because the lounge in my house isn't nearly as big as the one in Christchurch was. Having said that, there's the end of our cul-de-sac where we could set up our barbecues on the street 2 or 3 times each summer if we wanted to! Maybe I'll work on that one, and hope the weather plays its part.

I know of a Neighbourhood Support Group in Linden that has just "kicked off again" recently. And there are a small number of streets in Tawa that hold their own street parties occasionally, perhaps in the run-up to Christmas. However the number of Neighbourhood Support Groups is definitely smaller than it once was. We're busy people and it takes people with get-up-and-go to set up such a group and keep it going.

I'm very interested in your feedback. Do you see merit in a Neighbourhood Support Group in your street, or even a once-a-year street party? Answering in the affirmative does not mean that we'll be asking you to organise it! I, and possibly others, are willing to put a lot of effort into setting up mechanisms to help create a greater sense of connectedness, etc, in the community of Tawa, but only if people are interested! And I'd really like to hear from those in streets which do already hold their own get-togethers, parties or whatever.



Please let me have your comments. Any would be helpful! Email malcolm@tawalink.com.