



COMMUNITY NEWS

July 2011 - 2

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.

NEW POLICE CONSTABLE IN TAWA

Tawa's new community constable, Sarah Riddering, was "officially" welcomed to her new role at a morning tea for Tawa Police base volunteers this past Monday morning. Sarah has been with the Porirua Police for six years, with previous involvement in "general policing duties".



As of this week she is based in Tawa. On behalf of the local community we welcome her on board.



The Tawa Police base operates out of the Tawa Community Centre, 10am to 4pm each week day. The phone number is 232 3160. Around 25 volunteers take turns manning the base. A number of them are shown at left with Constable Sarah Riddering and Sergeant Dean Silvester (behind Sarah).

STANDING OVATION 2

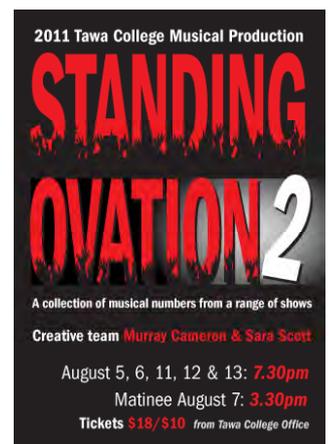
Following 2009's popular Standing Ovation, Tawa College is bringing part 2 to the stage, opening on August 5th. Songs from Mary Poppins, Chorus Line, Jesus Christ Superstar, Glee, and Oklahoma are just some of the finger-clicking, toe-tapping numbers that will wow the audience.

With 78 Tawa College students this is a much larger production than last time. Students from years 9 to 13 will entertain with tap, ballet, hiphop, solos, duets and large choral numbers.

Murray Cameron (see www.tawalink.com/murray_cameron.html) has once again collected a fine group of songs and arranged them in a way that exhibits the strengths of the singers and musicians from the college. Sara Scott (see www.tawalink.com/sara_scott.html) has the best of the college dancers and has been able to fill the stage with many exciting dance numbers.

Whereas last time we went to the Wellington Railway Station and performed Do Ri Me, this time North City Plaza was the venue for a "dance off" in the food court.

Tickets are on sale at the college, \$18 adult and \$10 child. Fri 5th & Sat 6th at 7.30pm, Sun 7th at 3.30pm, Thu 11th, Fri 12th & Sat 13th at 7.30pm. Don't miss this fantastic Music & Dance spectacular! Something for all the family.



VOCAL FX IN KANSAS CITY

Vocal FX is a Wellington-based male barbershop chorus with strong links to Tawa. Their director is Charlotte Murray, very much a Tawa identity. The average age of those in the choir is 23.

They have been in Kansas City, Missouri, competing in the International Barbershop Chorus competition, and gained 7th place! In the 2009 competition (their first time as participants), they gained 10th ranking, so were three places better on this occasion.

Charlotte was one of eight directors to be presented with a "Master Director" award. She is the first woman to have been given this award, and the first from outside the U.S. - positive recognition for so much hard work on her part and those in the chorus. Well done to them all!



MIB IN SECOND PLACE

The Musical Island Boys who won the Collegiate (under 25) section three years ago gained second place in July 2011 in Kansas City in the International Barbershop Quartet contest (by .4 from the winners). None of the boys is yet 25 years old. An amazing performance in Maori/English of "Now is the Hour" in the Final gripped all those in the stadium as well as friends and family around the world watching via the webcast. They are the first group in history to sing in a language other than English on the international barbershop stage.

Photos: From Tawa College Champions to International Stars. Congratulations to the Musical Island Boys.

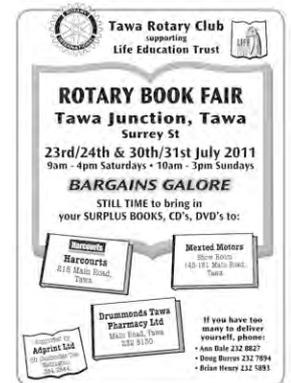


ROTARY BOOK FAIR

It's on this weekend, as well as next weekend, at Tawa Junction from 9am to 4pm on the Saturdays, and 10am to 3pm on the Sundays.

Once again the Fair is in support of The Life Education Trust whose mobile classroom and teaching programme are well known to local children and parents.

There will be tens of thousands of books to choose from, covering a wide range of topics and authors. These include lots of children's books priced from only 50c each. Most other books are only \$2-3 each and upwards.



TAWA COLLEGE HEAD BOY



Tawa College has a roll of more than 1400 students. That's equivalent to 10% of the population of Tawa. Head boy at the school is Tony Zhou. As a year 13 student Tony usually wears "college mufti" to school rather than full uniform as in this photo. On this particular day his lunchtime had been spent in meeting with head prefects from other colleges in the Porirua basin, five in all, along with Kris Faafoi, MP for Mana. The purpose of the exercise was to discuss issues relevant to the Porirua region, particularly for youth.

Tony plays a major part in the likes of the Breakfast Club, a "social get-together" for various students before school on a Wednesday morning, one of the many responsibilities which go with the role of a head student.

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

REVIEW OF GERMAN YOUTH CHOIR'S PERFORMANCE

Last month this newsletter wrote about a German choir, "Christophorus Kantorei Altensteig", that was to perform at Tawa College.

I, Lindis Taylor, am one of three music critics who, in the face of the serious decrease in the amount of classical music reviewed in the newspapers (I was critic on *The Evening Post* for 16 years and till recently on *The Dominion Post*), set up a website in which we attempt to cover most of the significant concerts in the Greater Wellington region. We write some 30 reviews a month.

Two of us were at the concert, and Rosemary Collier wrote a review which was posted on the website the following day. If you are interested in seeing it, go to <http://middle-c.org/2011/06/top-german-youth-choir-on-tour-revelations/>

- supplied by Lindis Taylor

THIRD BOOK BY LOCAL AUTHOR

Linden resident, Thomas (Wayne) Devine (see www.tawalink.com/thomas_devine.html) has launched his third thriller, *Relinquished*. The novel has been published through the Australian branch of Xlibris Corporation. It is available both as a paperback and an e-book.



A story-thread about wildlife smuggling runs throughout *Relinquished*. It has been described by critics as a great read ... exciting ... intriguing ... absorbing ... with a riveting thriller element.

In the book, an Australian graduate, Michelle Apperton, disappears while working on a conservation assessment of two islands in the rugged Marlborough Sounds. Ben Arthur, a New Zealand university lecturer, has to defend his innocence of any crime and convince the police that tuatara poachers abducted her.

You can support local business by buying your copy of *Relinquished* through Take Note Tawa.

FAREWELL TO THE WARBURTONS

It is with great sadness that Mark and Cathryn Warburton and their children James (8) and Grace (5) and Nana (Val Nel) leave Tawa in the next few months. This family has been part of Tawa for nearly a decade and have loved being involved in this amazing community.

Mark sang in the Wellington Male Voice Choir for years (before work commitments ended that pleasure). He has also been an active leader in both the Salvation Army and St Christopher's Children's Church programmes. Mark and Cathryn are currently on the Board of Trustees of Tawa's very own Montessori Primary school. Cathryn is also on the Board of Tawa School, as well as being that school's volunteer chaplain/counsellor.

Mark and Cathryn established their patent attorney and law firm Acacia Law (www.acacialaw.com) here in Tawa and it has gone from strength to strength, gathering local and international business awards, and even being mentioned in parliament for its contribution to the New Zealand economy. Acacia Law has always been a trans-Tasman firm, and while its headquarters is shifting to Brisbane, it will continue to have a presence in Tawa and will continue to service the local innovation community.

The Warburtons are offering a reward of \$2000 to whoever introduces them to a buyer of their house in Brasenose Place, and if you have a child at school, they will also donate \$1000 to your child's school. See www.trademe.co.nz listing no 390277620, or ring 021 771 401 for details.

TAWA RSA BUSINESS HOUSE BOWLS

The Business House Bowls Competition is open to all members of the community. It is an opportunity to try your hand at 'Bowls'. This season will consist of ten games to be played on every other Wednesday. First game commences on Wednesday, 12 October 2011.

We invite you to take part, either by way of a work team or a community team. You need to have a squad large enough to supply 3 people (all non bowlers) for each of the ten evenings of this season. Anyone who can hold a bowl is welcome. If you can find a 'seasoned' bowler to lead your team, that is a great bonus. Otherwise contact us and we will supply you with one.

The \$20 entry fee per team payable game by game covers the 'after match' sausage sizzles and allocated prizes at the completion of the competition. Games start at 6pm sharp so please arrive a bit earlier. We finish at 7.20pm and then it is straight in for the sausage sizzle. You can still get home in time for your favourite programme or stay a while for the team debrief.

This is our opportunity to introduce people, in a relaxed way, to play lawn bowls - on one of the best greens in Wellington. To register a team, or for more info, please contact either Graham Allnutt on 232 4056 or Alastair Miller on 0274 862 880 or 232 5788 (Tawa RSA).

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO

WHY A COMMUNITY BOARD?

- A community board has an obligation to “promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of its community”.
- A board has its fingers on the pulse of the community and makes local decisions on local issues for the benefit of local people.
- Your community board members are Tawa’s own elected representatives, the ones you can talk to in your own community.

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD



From left:

Cr Justin Lester
Cr Ngaire Best
Alistair Sutton
Robert Tredger
Malcolm Sparrow (Chair)
Chris Reading
Graeme Hansen (Deputy)
Margaret Lucas

TAWA POOL MAINTENANCE CLOSURE

Tawa Pool’s five yearly maintenance closure will mean the pool is out of action from 10th October for approximately six months. The main areas of work will be the replacement of the roof and the installation of a vapour barrier and acoustic ceiling. Other programmed work includes replacing window bays, resurfacing floor areas, improving access to the mezzanine area, tile repairs, pump, motor and pipe work maintenance, heating and ventilation maintenance, and general interior painting.

The work will enable the facility to be more energy efficient, lower noise levels and maintain the general interior of the complex.

The Council’s six other swimming pools will be open and available, the closest of these being the Keith Spry Pool in Johnsonville.

As the pool will be closed for a significant period of time, customers will be kept informed of progress and when the pool will be reopened. Information on the closure can be found on our website www.wellington.govt.nz.

P.S. from the Editor: The above information has been supplied by Tawa Pool which comes under Wellington City Council jurisdiction. That’s probably why no mention has been made of the “other pool” up the road, Porirua’s Arena Aquatic Centre (a Porirua City Council facility). That pool is also available to Tawa users.

EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENT

In our February newsletter we informed you that “... the public toilets at the entrance to Willowbank will be getting a major revamp [which will include] opening up the structure into the reserve, enhancing visibility of the stream and installing Exeloo pre-built toilets.”

They’re now finished and they do look rather plush. Go and visit the brand spanking new toilet block. A voice even tells you what to do! And in such a lovely setting!



WHO KNOWS ABOUT TAWA FOOTBALL CLUB'S EARLY YEARS?

This September the Tawa Football Club is 40 years old. Members are looking at putting together some early history of the club. If anybody has any information or photos of the club's early years when it was based in the old huts at Taylor Park, please contact Brian Mann at supabri@xtra.co.nz.

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

"A psychiatrist is a fellow who asks you a lot of expensive questions your wife asks for nothing." - Joey Adams

"A good hockey player plays where the puck is. A great hockey player plays where the puck is going to be." - Wayne Gretzky

"Do what you feel in your heart to be right - for you'll be criticised anyway. You'll be damned if you do, and damned if you don't." - Eleanor Roosevelt

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.

MORE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

In the last newsletter the question was asked: Would it be beneficial to us in Tawa to know our neighbours better, to have a greater sense of 'connectedness'? Or is that only important after a disaster strikes. Feedback was requested. Thanks to the dozen or so who did respond. Here's what one Linden gentleman had to say:

"Thank you for sending me your Tawalink ... and for mentioning our Neighbourhood Support group. We had a great first meeting. There was a good attendance and in our ten households no-one had met everyone before. There was a real enthusiasm, I felt, for continuing to meet.

A little bit of personal experience ... We have lived for the greater part of our working lives in Papua New Guinea - a country about which we hear much more bad news than good news over the media. We can honestly say that we have never lived behind barbed-wire security fences, security guards or guard dogs. In fact in our last 8½ years in PNG, when living in the coastal town of Wewak, we didn't even have a boundary fence to our property. The secret - good neighbourly relationships. Our neighbours were our community support.

One Christmas, early on in our stay in Wewak, our Australian single lady colleague was 'hassled' by young drunk men around her flat below ours on Christmas Eve. She almost rang the police but refrained. She hit on the brilliant idea of us throwing a 'street party' for these same young men, all in their teens and twenties. We did this. We got a list of their names and wrote personal invitations. We asked them to come for a game, a video or a speaker and a meal in our garden. About 30 came. It was such a success, we did this every few months. The attitude of 'our street boys' changed dramatically. From then on we were 'Uncle' and 'Aunty' to them, even when they were high on drugs or drunk on alcohol.

So I'm a strong supporter of community togetherness."