



COMMUNITY NEWS

August 2011 - 1

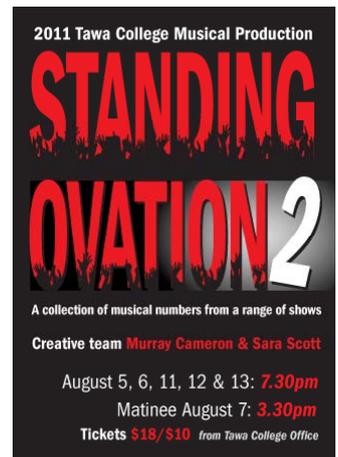
This community newsletter is sent out on the first and third Wednesdays of each month (or thereabouts) on behalf of tawalink.com, Tawa's community website since 2002.

STANDING OVATION 2

"... a truly amazing evening. We attended last evening and were absolutely amazed at what can only be described as a thoroughly professional production complete with all the bells and whistles. Tawa College and all who were involved in the preparations and many hours of rehearsals are a credit to our community and I only hope the press pick up on this and give some richly deserved credit." That was part of the feedback received last time around (in 2009). And there's no reason to believe that this year's "Standing Ovation 2" won't be just as memorable!

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.

Come and enjoy song and dance from Mary Poppins, Chorus Line, Jesus Christ Superstar, Glee, and Oklahoma - just some of the finger-clicking, toe-tapping numbers designed to ensure you more than get your money's worth on the night! 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.



ROTARY BOOK FAIR

The Tawa Rotary Book Fair is over for another year. It was held over two weekends this time around, and it looks like more than \$19,000 (nett) has been raised. Thanks to Doug Burrus and his team for the many hours of effort that went into making this the success that it was. This is Tawa Rotary's biggest single fundraising opportunity each year. Around half of the proceeds are directed to the Life Education Trust, and the other half to worthy groups in both Tawa and elsewhere, like Wellington Free Ambulance. There are a number of Book Fair pics available at http://www.tawalink.com/pic_week_2011-33.html.



CONGRATULATIONS TO SHONA MURRAY

Shona Murray (see www.tawalink.com/shona_murray.html) won the cup for "Accompanist of the Year" at the National Brass Band Contest in Auckland last week. It was totally unexpected, she tells us, and she feels very honoured to have received it. Shona wants to thank all those who contributed to the citation.

For those who don't know, Shona has been the Musical Director and the driving force behind the Tawa Schools' and Community Festivals, from their origin in 1979 through to 2010. Shona stood down as Head of Music at Tawa College in 2005 but continues to play an instrumental role (pun not necessarily intended) in the life of music at the College.



TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO

• PROFILE OF A COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER

Chris Reading



Early life ... Born in Masterton

Lived in Tawa since ... 1981

Family ... Married to Lesley. Two grown-up children, Emma (nurse) and Nicholas (chef).

Work experience over the years ... Pharmacist for 35 years.
Owner of Drummonds Tawa pharmacy since 2000.

Interests and hobbies ... Joined Tawa Rotary in 2000, President Tawa Rotary 2005-6.
Author of three books on wine and beer making. Amateur wine and beer judge since 1986. Current president Wellington Wine Makers and Beer society. Past member of Tawa Toastmasters.

Which sports team(s)? Hurricanes, but did they sack the wrong hooker?

On the Tawa Community Board since ... 2007

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

I saw a need to ensure Tawa's voice was heard in Wellington. Chair of Tawa Grants and Tawa Borough Scholarship; liaison with Foodstuffs and Progressive Enterprises; Tawa town centre beautification; Arts & Culture portfolio.

WANT A STALL AT SPRING INTO TAWA MARKET DAY?

This year's Spring into Tawa Market Day will be held on Saturday 10th September.

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 at www.tawalink.com/springintotawa2011.html or email Malcolm on info@tawalink.com.

You need to get in smartly. Places are starting to fill up. You may not get your ideal spot if you leave it too late. Stallholder applications are meant to be in by Friday 26th August.



FEWER TREES AT THE ENTRANCE TO TAWA

We knew that two pine trees at the southern entrance to Tawa were to be chopped down but, as it turned out, the number of trees felled was actually 13. The first photo below was taken on Monday 11th July, the "after shot" a week or two later.

Apparently the Council had been monitoring these trees since one fell over during a storm. They were scheduled for removal sometime this year. It is hoped that replacement trees will be planted (on the lower level only) by the end of this month.



CHILDREN'S CLOTHING & TOY SALE

Don't forget Tawa-Linden Plunket's monthly committee meeting on Monday 8th August. If you'd like further details, email Tina on tawaplunket@gmail.com

And on Saturday 27th August, 1pm to 3pm, you're welcome along at Tawa-Linden Plunket's quality pre-loved children's clothing and toy sale at the Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge St, Tawa. Gold coin entry.

TAWA SUCCESS AT NZ DIVISION 2 SWIMMING COMPETITION

Tawa Swimming Club recently sent a small team of 7 swimmers to the New Zealand Division 2 Competition, held in Rotorua from 20-23 July. From the 71 clubs at the meet Tawa finished **3rd** overall!

The seven Tawa swimmers, Meghan Allan, Andrea De Atouguia, Mikayla McPhee, Ruslan Cowley, Calvin Jones, Kurtis Imrie and James McCarthy swam 38 individual events between them and brought home 23 medals (5 gold, 7 silver and 11 bronze). Individual medal winners were: Meghan Allan (2 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze), Andrea De Atouguia (5 bronze), Mikayla McPhee (3 gold, 2 silver) Kurtis Imrie (3 silver, 3 bronze) and James McCarthy (1 bronze). In addition James and Ruslan were part of the Wellington Regional Freestyle relay team which won silver.

Five of these swimmers who train out of Tawa Pool under coach Mat Woofe, will now join with other club members to swim at the NZ Short Course Championships being held in Wellington from 6th to 9th August.



Andrea, Meghan, Mikayla, Kurtis, James, Ruslan, Calvin

Adios

Malcolm Sparrow

On behalf of TawaLink.com
(loosely under the umbrella of the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association)
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"To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target."

"The nice part about being a pessimist is that you are constantly being either proven right or pleasantly surprised." - George F Will

"The probability of life originating from an accident is comparable to the probability of the unabridged dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing shop." - Edwin Conklin

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.

KNOWING YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Around 70% of people in New Zealand think that it's important to feel a sense of community with other residents in their neighbourhood. That figure might be even higher in a place like Tawa.

There are different levels of "community connectedness". **Which suits your street best?**

● **POSSESSING A BASIC LIST:** At the minimum it makes sense for every "grouping" of 10 to 15 houses in Tawa to compile a list providing the names of the householders, their street number, phone number, cell phone number, possibly email address, and the number of people in each household. Each of the households in that group of 10 to 15 would have their own copy of the list. It would be for their use only. They would know the names of their neighbours, how to contact them, and how many people need to be accounted for in the event of a crisis.

● **LIST, PLUS ANNUAL OUTDOOR GET-TOGETHER:** This is the next step up. In addition to the basic list mentioned above, the residents of the previously-mentioned 10 to 15 houses would roll together 3 or 4 barbecues once or twice a year - either in someone's backyard, on the grass verge out the front or at the end of the cul-de-sac. There are some streets in which this is already happening.

The possibility of a couple of specific weekends each year, perhaps late November and late March, being promoted as **TAWA NEIGHBOURS' WEEKEND**, might provide the extra incentive for people to organise such a get-together in their own street. In fact all that would need to be done would be to encourage the other households in the street to join the occasion. Rather than individuals having their own barbecue at home, they would simply join together with a group of neighbours out on the street (so to speak). There is already a Neighbours' Day Aotearoa which takes place in late March. A whole bunch of streets in Tawa could be part of this next time.

● **A FULL NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT GROUP:** This is the ideal in many respects but needs an enthusiastic coordinator to organise and keep the momentum going. It may well mean getting together 3 or more times a year in somebody's house. Many neighbours actually enjoy being part of such a group, but it does require one or two people to be the ones "in charge".

There are about 144 streets in Tawa and more than 4600 households. There is potential for more than 400 "neighbourhood groupings" in our wider community. At the minimum it would be great to see that number of "basic lists" in existence.

HERE'S A REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE IN TAWA:

"When we moved to Greenacres in January 1995, we got a knock on our door and the neighbours said we were the latest people to move in. One other family had recently moved in too so they were having a street barbecue to welcome us, which was really nice. It's a cul-de-sac, only 13 houses, so we all just drag small tables and chairs up to the top of the street and enjoy getting together. Those neighbours subsequently moved and we found ourselves organising the street barbecue. I encouraged another couple to help with this so our two families organise them now. In the winter, if someone moves in, we have a dessert evening at our home and those are very well attended too. If we have a spur-of-the-moment (good weather) barbie, we often have it in the other couple's backyard. We stay out quite late in the summer evenings. It's really nice, people come and go when they can.

I have a register of all the phone numbers, including mobile and email addresses. Everyone gets an updated copy when we meet. Even when we send an email invite we always put a note in the letterboxes as well. We all do try to look out for one another, help with transport to doctors, hospital, child-minding etc. The children in the street know they can come to any of our homes and feel safe.

If you live in a street of more than say 15 houses, you don't need to invite the whole street, just the houses that are close to yours on either side of the street."

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN IN YOUR STREET?

WHAT'S ALREADY HAPPENING? LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY.