



COMMUNITY NEWS

September 2011

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.

SPRING INTO TAWA MARKET DAY THIS SATURDAY

It's almost upon us – this year's Spring into Tawa Market Day – on Saturday 10th September.

Join in the fun 9am to 12.30pm at the Main Road shopping centre. There will be more than 50 community stalls selling everything from cakes and sausages to books, rubber stamps and various gifts - and a pipe band, clown, dancing girls, Morris dancers, a girls' barbershop quartet and other entertainment. There's something for everyone. Come and enjoy the morning.



If you're needing change, Westpac Bank in the plaza will be open the whole morning from 8.30am especially for that purpose. Good on them!

SNOW PICS

There are now 175 snow pics on the website featuring more than 40 different Tawa streets or settings. They're at <http://www.tawalink.com/snow.html>. It's obvious that most of us were totally blown away (so to speak) by the snow that blanketed us so fleetingly. Never were so many photos taken in such a short space of time – like a 90-minute period late on the Sunday afternoon.

The other impressive statistic is the number of hits on the webpages. In the four days after the last newsletter mentioned that the snow pics were available for viewing, 400 "hits" were recorded. That's some kind of record for our humble little site!



Again, thanks to everyone for their contributions. It was all a lot of fun, and it was picturesque while it lasted. We can just be thankful we're not buried in a couple of metres of the stuff for months on end!

THE OLD CALTEX SERVICE STATION PREMISES

As we've previously pointed out, the former service station premises on the corner of the Main Road & Essex St was bought by Devon & Patterson Flooring Xtra who currently operate out of Rewa Tce. They are still in the process of on-selling the site. As negotiations haven't yet been finalised we have nothing further to report.

A WORD OF CAUTION

A local woman told me two or three weeks back that she was approaching the supermarket in Tawa when a youngster grabbed her handbag off her shoulder and ran off with it. Apparently someone gave chase but to no avail. The moral of the story is that whilst 95% or more of people are decent sorts, there are always a small number who aren't. Unfortunately that results in our having to "adapt our lifestyle" to protect ourselves from those few – keep a firm grip on your handbag (although not all of us have one), don't leave it loose in your supermarket trolley, never leave anything of value (like a laptop or camera) in a locked car. And so it goes on

As they say, be careful out there!

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO

• PROFILE OF A COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER

Malcolm Sparrow

Early life ...

Born in Christchurch. First 43 years spent there, apart from three years overseas stint in early 80s.

Lived in Tawa since ...

October 1996.

Family ...

Married to Karen. We have two daughters - Becca who's teaching at Tawa School and married to Ben, and Nicola (18) in her first year at Vic.

Work experience over the years ...

Been involved in insurance industry; publishing (layout and marketing) and, more recently, various community work.

Interests and hobbies ...

Community life in Tawa - besides working as chair of the community board, I maintain the TawaLink community website. Involved with Tawa College Board of Trustees, Tawa Ratepayers' Association and Rotary Club of Tawa. Family and church life. Also interested in general web stuff, photography (NZ scenes, especially South Island) geography & travel (US & UK), bush walks, armchair sports fan.

Which sports team(s)?

The Crusaders (blame it on my roots) and, to a lesser degree, Tottenham Hotspur.

On the Tawa Community Board since ... 2005-07, November 2009 to present.

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

The Tawa Community Board exists to serve the community of Tawa, and I enjoy being part of that. I have been chair since November 2010. Responsibilities include communication, roading, Tawa Grants, Tawa Community Civic Awards, Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards, general community engagement, Neighbourhood Support.



APPROVAL FOR COUNTDOWN TO PROCEED

This is the wording the Tawa Community Board received from the Wellington City Council:

"A decision has been made by Commissioners to approve the resource consent application for a Countdown supermarket at 3 Main Road, Tawa (known as Takapu Island).

Key issues in the decision were effects on the vibrancy and vitality of the Tawa town centre; building design and landscaping; traffic effects (including pedestrian access to the site); and effects on the Porirua Stream. Having regard to the advice of economists (in conjunction with legal advice re relevant case law pertaining to trade competition) the Commissioners found that the proposal would not have significant adverse economic effects on the Tawa town centre and that predicted population growth and demand would allow recovery of trade levels within a relatively short period.

The decision was consistent with the Council Officer's recommendation, but included additional conditions around stormwater quality and pedestrian access to the site. The conditions require an audit of the safety and functionality of pedestrian access to the site and give the Council the ability to review conditions of consent to determine if additional pedestrian safety measures are required.

The decision has been sent to the applicant and submitters today. The applicant or submitters can lodge an appeal (to the Environment Court) within the next three weeks."

Contd on next page

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO – contd

We (the community board) have discovered the following is part of the package:

"A proposal to upgrade the Main Road/Willowbank Road/Boscobel Lane intersection by installing a roundabout (at the applicant's expense) to a design agreed to by Council and NZTA prior to commencement of the supermarket activity."

Three roundabouts between the offramp from the motorway and the floral Tawa sign – only a few hundred metres – will be somewhat unique in terms of New Zealand roading!

WOOLWORTHS' CLOSING DATE

Whatever you may have heard regarding Woolworth's intended closing date, the following is what we have been told officially. The last trading day for Woolworths in Tawa will be Sunday 6th November - two months from the date this newsletter is being sent out! And, in case you're interested, from the same date there are only 110 days until Christmas!

COMING UP:

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING – Thurs 8 September

At the Tawa Community Centre at 7pm. Members of the community are welcome to attend.

SPRING INTO TAWA MARKET DAY – Sat 10 September

Details earlier.

HAMPTON HILL SCHOOL OPEN DAY – Mon 19 September

"Spring Celebration". Contact the school on 232 6509 for more details.

OVER 60s LUNCH – Mon 19 September

From 11.30am in the Emmaus Centre (back of St Christopher's Church). Lunch is followed by a time of "entertainment". A donation of \$5 towards costs is appreciated. Please contact the church office on 232 8448 or Christine Goodin on 233 9464 or email christinegoodin@xtra.co.nz for transport or further information.

ART & CRAFT EXPO – Sat 8 October

Free entry. 9am to 3pm at the Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge St, Tawa. Hosted by Tawa Art and Craft Society (Inc). Stalls, demonstrations, workshops. For more information contact Aileen Wood (President) on 232 6024. Application forms at the Tawa Community Centre or Tawa Art & Craft Society.

ENJOYING DESSERT AT ROTARY

The Rotary Club of Tawa meets every week. Like their fellow service club, the Lions Club of Tawa, they do a lot of good in the community. A previous newsletter mentioned the annual Book Fair at which \$19,000 was raised for community projects in Tawa and beyond. The photo shows Rotarian Martin Garcia enjoying dessert. To set the record straight, dessert plates at Tawa Rotary are actually quite small. This one was the exception. To quote Martin: "All desserts should be that size."



MORE FEEDBACK ABOUT NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

"About 8 years ago we initiated a late January get-together for the residents of the then reasonably new development in our street. While we haven't met every year since then, we've had several very successful gatherings which have enabled the residents to work out who lives where and even to enjoy one another's homes. Your newsletter is a prompt to make sure we organise another gathering this year as we have had a few new arrivals since our last gathering."

CONGRATULATIONS ...

You may have seen in yesterday's paper that Tawa people Karel & Mirjam de Raad had done rather well with their "Winning Wheel" ticket from Mac's Photo & Lotto Shop.

The Tawa Historical Society gets most (if not all) its publications printed by the de Raads' printing business, Porirua Print, and the Society regularly reports how good Karel & Mirjam are to deal with.

So it's nice to see "deserving people" have good fortune come their way, as in this case. We hope they have a great holiday when the time comes!

Adios

Malcolm Sparrow

On behalf of TawaLink.com

(loosely under the umbrella of the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association)

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232 5030 A/H or 027 232 2320

P.S. There won't be a mid-September newsletter. I will be out of the country at the time. But before anyone starts casing my joint (so to speak), I'll tell you that it will continue to be lived in!

If you're interested in knowing where I'm going, the details follow. If you're not, that's fine with me. Skip this section and go to the quotes further down.

The temperatures where my wife and I are heading currently range from mid-20s to low 40s. That'll be a nice change! My "bucket list" includes Mt Rushmore (you know, where the heads of four U.S. presidents are carved into the rockface) and, all going well, we'll be there in person in less than two weeks' time. We head to Las Vegas this Wednesday, then to Zion & Bryce National Parks (Utah), Denver, Rapid City (South Dakota), Devils Tower (Wyoming), and Colorado Springs, finishing with three days at the Magic Kingdom in Anaheim before heading home to a glorious spring. I love driving in the USA and we'll be doing plenty of that. See you at the start of October.



I genuinely regret the fact that I won't be here for Spring into Tawa Market Day. I trust it goes well for everyone involved. I'm sure it will.

"We need people talking to each other ... we're much healthier and stronger when we do that."

- Roger Sutton, CERA chief

"A bird does not sing because it has an answer; it sings because it has a song."

- Chinese proverb

"What great thing would you attempt if you knew you could not fail?" - Dr Robert H Schuller

"It is not the years in your life but the life in your years that counts." - Adlai Stevenson

"Advice for the day: If you have a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle: Take two, and KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN."

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.