



# COMMUNITY NEWS

December 2011 - 1

This community newsletter is sent out in the first and the third weeks of each month on behalf of tawalink.com, Tawa's community website since 2002. The newsletter is supported by the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association.

## TAWA PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Tawa Community Board has just held its inaugural Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards ceremony at the Tawa Community Centre. The awards recognise "true leadership, citizenship, contribution to school life, etc" at each of Tawa's six primary schools, plus the intermediate school.

The Mayor of Wellington, Celia Wade-Brown, presented each winning Year 6 (or Year 8) student with a small trophy, a laminated certificate, and a book voucher from Take Note Tawa. A wooden shield with the winner's name engraved on it was presented to the school principal or a staff representative. This will be kept at the school and updated each year.

The ceremony was attended by family members of the winning students, the principal and/or a teacher from each school, plus Tawa Community Board members, approximately 60 people in all. Elyjana Roach, joint winner of this year's "Tawa Borough Scholarship" at Tawa College, gave a short talk towards the start of proceedings, and the Mayor concluded the occasion by thanking the winners for the way in which they've already contributed to their schools and community, and encouraging them to continue to do so in the future.



See page 5 of this week's *Porirua CityLife News* for a very informative article and individual pics.

From left: Rachael Lockhart, Yr 6 Redwood School; Archie Moran, Yr 6 Tawa School; Chloe Johnston, Yr 8 Tawa School; Connor Spinks, Yr 8 Tawa Intermediate; Mayor Celia Wade-Brown; Anna Rayner, Yr 6 St Francis Xavier School; Jessica Hill, Yr 6 Greenacres School; Jahde Karauna, Yr 6 Hampton Hill School; TCB Chair Malcolm Sparrow; Joshua Mallon, Yr 6 St Francis Xavier School; Mercedes Vincent, Yr 6 Linden School.

## TOOTING FOR TUCKER IN TAWA

On two days this week, Wednesday 7 & Thursday 8 December, a food collection for the Tawa Food Bank is taking place - "Toot for Tucker". Members of Tawa Rotary, Tawa Lions and Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade are out in the streets of Tawa from 6.30pm to 8pm collecting donated non-perishable food items to build up Christmas stocks for the Tawa Food Bank. When you hear the horns or the siren, race outside and load up the passing trailer with as much as you can!

Photo: collecting food Wednesday evening in Westra View.



## TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO

### • PROFILE OF A COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER

#### Alistair Sutton



- Early life ...* Born in Wellington
- Lived in Tawa since ...* I have lived in Tawa for 31 years.
- Family ...* Married to Leanne with a daughter Jayda who turns two at the end of this month.
- Work experience over the years ...* First full time job was at United Video Tawa, which I did for a couple of years, before embarking on a career in Banking in which I am currently in my eighth year, holding numerous roles from Branch Teller, IT Support, and Fraud Manager. I am currently a Senior Online Fraud Analyst.
- Interests and hobbies ...* Family rates number one, but in my spare time I homebrew, make my own cheese, cook, garden, snowboard, travel & read.
- Which sports team(s)?* Hurricanes & All Blacks. Adopted teams Stormers & Springboks, having spent a year living in Capetown.
- On the Tawa Community Board since ...* October 2010
- Why the community board, and what do you do on it?*  
I am passionate about Tawa having lived here for the majority of my life, and now raising my own children in Tawa. I want to fight to keep Tawa and as Tawa. I also am a younger voice for the people of Tawa and believe I can bring a different perspective to the Board. On the Board I am on the Grants committee and the Communication committee.

## TREES AT THE SOUTHERN END OF TAWA

We received feedback from a couple of people who weren't particularly impressed with the removal back in July of more than a dozen trees at the southern end of the Main Road – in the vicinity of the Tawa floral sign. The Wellington City Council has planted three new trees to replace the ones on the land immediately in front of the floral sign.

The other nine or ten trees were on the level above the road, on Arohata land owned by the Corrections Department. We approached that department asking whether they were considering planting replacements. Their response is below:

*"The trees were removed for safety and prison security (systems) reasons.*

*For your information the Department has been engaging with our neighbours in Sunrise Boulevard, in regards to land management issues associated with Arohata Prison.*

*Work included such things as:*

- clearing of streams*
- repairs to boundary fencing*
- gorse control*
- planting of a buffer zone, with further plantings planned for next winter.*

*Currently there is no funding available to undertake further plantings at our boundary. However it is proposed to seek funding next financial year to tidy up the front entrance to the prison site, with some minor plantings above Willowbank Road. Noting that the height of trees may be limited by the various prison security systems.*

*Thank you for bringing the concerns of the Tawa community to our attention."*

## TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO - contd

### TAWA PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The inaugural awards ceremony went off well. Full details are on the first page (in case you missed them, which is hardly likely).

### TAWA COMMUNITY GRANTS

A reminder that community groups applying for a grant from the Tawa Community Board need to have their application in by 31 January 2012. Download the form at [www.wellington.govt.nz/services/grants/index.html](http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/grants/index.html)

### COLOURED LIGHTS ON THE MAIN ROAD

The recent Tawa Community Board newsletter – the printed version which was delivered to every household in Tawa – mentioned the lights on the Norfolk Pine outside the library, and how good they look.

You'll probably also have noticed the coloured globes on the light standards in the middle of Tawa – especially lit up for Christmas. These were the result of the efforts of the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Assn and were funded by the Lions Club of Tawa on their 40th anniversary as a gift to the citizens of Tawa.

### NEIGHBOURS' WEEKEND IN 2012

It's more than three months away but we're intending to make a big weekend of "Neighbours' Day Aotearoa" in late March 2012. The aim is to have at least 50 streets in Tawa getting together with their neighbours in some way or another over that weekend – maybe just having fish & chips together, sharing brunch, or rolling out a few barbecues to cook and eat together.



## BARBECUE IN BRASENOSE

It's really not too difficult organising a neighbourhood barbecue in your own street. I know – we had one in my street, Brasenose Place, a couple of Saturday evenings ago. Other than mentioning the idea to three lots of neighbours in person, the only promotion was a flyer in all the letterboxes in the street 12 to 14 days before the event, plus a little sign planted in the grass verge a few days beforehand.

The weather was ideal on the night and 37 people took part in our street barbecue, 13 out of 19 residences. It was a great occasion, people speaking to others they'd never met before. One lot of new neighbours had the chance to meet others in the street.



I have also started a neighbourhood list of names, house numbers, phone numbers, etc. Once that's been completed and okayed by everyone, I'll distribute it to each participating household.

## **TAWA MUSIC CENTRE AGM AND END-OF-YEAR CONCERT**

At the Tawa College Hall 8.45-10.15am. All are welcome. The AGM is short and the concert is an opportunity to see and hear what happens at the Tawa Music Centre. Parents attending are kindly requested to remain for the entire concert as it is discouraging for children to have to perform as people are leaving the hall. We appreciate your support.

## **COOKING AND CRAFT HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES**

These are being offered for children aged from 4 - 12 by Hayley Balmer, a teacher, in Redwood, Tawa on 19 & 20 Dec and 25 - 27 January. 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. Email [hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz) for further details.

## **ANOTHER HANDYMAN**

In our last newsletter we included details of a couple of handymen offering their services. Here's another one:

*I would like to offer my skills for the person who requires a handyman.*

*I'm a semi-tradesperson, as I'm still studying. For example I've just finished building a wooden fence for someone. I'm also a qualified welder. At my parental home I do all sorts of jobs including making small repairs, etc.*

*My name is Henri Hudson. My contact phone no. is 232 9940, or mobile 021 046 6390. I have a link on Trade Me, actually looking for odd jobs to do around the place:*

*<http://www.trademe.co.nz/Browse/Listing.aspx?id=413423189>*

## **SUPPORT TAWA SWIMMING CLUB AND/OR TAWA COLLEGE**

If you're shopping at Pak & Save Porirua, you can support Tawa Swimming Club.

If you're shopping at New World Porirua, you can support Tawa College.

Tawa Swimming Club and Tawa College are two of a very small number of community groups in the Porirua Basin who will receive a share of \$5000 donated by Anchor.

When you purchase Anchor Milk at either Pak & Save Porirua or at New World Porirua, you will be given a token to place in the box of the group you support. The number of tokens received by either party determines how big their share of the \$5000 will be.

Voting finishes at the end of February 2012.

## **HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR**

Kia ora! I would like to personally wish everyone a safe, healthy, green and prosperous holiday season – time with loved ones is the most important thing.

The first year of my mayoralty has been exciting, rewarding and certainly very busy. The Council has been addressing important challenges and I look forward to continuing to work for you and Wellington.

2011 has seen crucial aspects of Wellington's future take shape: We approved our long-term vision, *Wellington Towards 2040: Smart Capital*, delivered a robust Digital Strategy, and developed an Economic Strategy to set a course for prosperity. Our Long Term Plan is currently underway, setting the priorities for the next ten years. There will be full consultation in 2012; I encourage you to be informed and involved – please check our website for details – [www.wellington.govt.nz](http://www.wellington.govt.nz). Rugby World Cup 2011 went smoothly in Wellington and visitors really appreciated the welcoming friendliness of Wellingtonians.

Last month I hosted a meeting of Central New Zealand's local government leaders to work together on mutual needs and interests – transport, water, tourism and job growth are key issues that we can tackle together.

The Council continues to work on number of other important issues – earthquake strengthening, climate change, and our emergency management plans. It is vital to continue to plan for the future of our city; to keep it economically strong, safe, and a place where people want to live and work, while being frugal and interactive.

I recognise this has been a trying year for many and I hope you have some respite and enjoy your family over the holiday season.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who help at schools, soup kitchens, reserves and in many, many ways – it is hugely important to support each other.

Celia Wade-Brown, Mayor of Wellington

Adios

### **Malcolm Sparrow**

On behalf of TawaLink.com

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

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*"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing."* – Helen Keller

*"You will never 'find' time for anything. If you want time you must make it."* – Charles Buxton

*"Hot water is my native element. I was in it as a baby, and I have never seemed to get out of it ever since."* – Dame Edith Sitwell

*This community newsletter is emailed to around 1100 Tawa households, businesses, schools, churches and clubs/groups (anyone who has an interest in the community of Tawa) in the first and the third weeks of each month. 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.*

### **THE GREEN THING** *(received as an email, and reproduced almost exactly as it was received)*

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologised and explained, "We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days."

The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations." She was right – our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilised and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts – wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand new clothing. But that young lady is right. We didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house – not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right. We didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus, and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

You really don't have to forward this on to another selfish old person who needs a lesson in conservation from a smartass young person. *[I changed the first few words in the above line – Ed.]*

Remember: Don't make old people mad. We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to piss us off.

*The above does not necessarily reflect the views of the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association, nor does it necessarily reflect the views of the Tawa Community Board, nor does it necessarily reflect the views of Malcolm Sparrow, the editor of this mostly independent community eNewsletter, although he's pretty much sympathetic to the points being made. Just don't take it too seriously!*