



# COMMUNITY NEWS

January 2012

*This community newsletter is sent out usually 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 COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Tawa Community Board has \$15,000 to be made available to worthy local causes. If your club or group, school or church, is considering applying for a grant from the Tawa Community Board, you have very little time in which to do so. Applications close at 5pm on Tuesday 31st January.

The Tawa Community Grants Fund is designed to assist voluntary projects in Tawa. Grants may be for charitable, educational, welfare, community development, cultural, recreational, sporting, activity development, equipment or training programmes. Grants may also be given to people representing New Zealand in a recognised sporting or cultural event.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be based in Tawa
- show that their project will directly benefit the Tawa community
- not have excess reserve funds
- meet all criteria on the Tawa Community Grants application form.

For further details, see <http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/grants/profiles/tawacomm.html> or call the WCC grants team on 803 8525.

## FOOD BANKS IN TAWA

In our "Toot for Tucker" article in the Christmas issue of this newsletter, we talked about the "Tawa Food Bank". It has been rightly pointed out to us that there is more than one food bank in Tawa. The "Toot for Tucker" collection in fact boosted the Salvation Army-based food bank.

There is also a St Vincent de Paul food bank operating out of the Catholic Church in Tawa. It distributes hundreds of food parcels every year to Tawa residents. That being the case, local people in need of assistance have more than one option available.

It was heartening to see the generosity of Tawa residents when the "Toot for Tucker" collection took place last month. As previously reported, a total of 2190 items of food was collected, along with \$1140 in cash.

## STREET BARBECUE - MEXTED TERRACE WEST

Street barbecues are a great way to get to know your neighbours a little – and, as we all know, everybody need good neighbours! The report below is from Melissa Secker on behalf of two Mexted Tce households who organised a barbecue in their street last month.



"Earlier this year, a group of residents at the west end of Mexted Terrace (Linden) formed a neighbourhood support group. As a result of the Christchurch Earthquake it seemed that residents had to work together in ways they'd never imagined, in order to 'get through' the disaster. We saw a need to find out more about the people who lived around us. So, in a way, the earthquake in Christchurch was a catalyst for setting up our neighbourhood support group. There are of course many other benefits, outside of a disaster situation, to being part of a neighbourhood support group!

After a couple of very successful meetings, we decided it would be a good idea to organise a more 'social' get-together and so a BBQ was arranged for Sunday 4th December. Tui Park Kindergarten, also located in the street, kindly allowed us to host the event there. Just before the start time of 4pm, those who'd offered up their BBQs wheeled them down the street to the kindergarten. Everyone brought along some drinks, their meat to cook and something to share - like a salad, pasta or potato dish. The food was splendid and we had enough to feed a small army!

Nine households made it along to the BBQ and that was 31 people in total (including children). We also invited other residents not already in the neighbourhood support group. Three of those households joined us at the BBQ. Two of the Tui Park Kindergarten teachers also came along, as did Jim Higgins (Tawa Neighbourhood Support Coordinator).

I'm sure I speak on behalf of all those who attended, when I say how enjoyable it was. We mixed and mingled, ate well and got to know each other a little better. After a couple of hours we packed up the BBQs, cleaned up and returned home only a few doors down.

We'd like to encourage other streets to form groups such as ours. Then aim to host an event in late March to coincide with Neighbours' Day Aotearoa, mentioned in previous newsletters."

## **TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO**

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD**

Things have been a little quiet with the Tawa Community Board over the holiday period. However the board would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the coming year. And do make contact with us with any suggestions or concerns you may have.

In the event of a streetlight not working or some other maintenance issue, your first port-of-call is the WCC call centre on 499 4444. They're normally "on to it" reasonably quickly. If you do encounter an ongoing problem, feel free to make contact with a community board member. See their contact details at: [http://www.wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay/meetings/comgroup/Tawa\\_Community\\_Board/profile.html](http://www.wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay/meetings/comgroup/Tawa_Community_Board/profile.html)

### **TAWA COMMUNITY GRANTS**

As per the article on the first page, community groups applying for a grant from the Tawa Community Board need to have their application in by 31 January 2012.

### **NEIGHBOURS' WEEKEND IN 2012**

It's now less than two months away. "Neighbours' Weekend" in late March 2012 will be a big occasion in Tawa. We're aiming to see at least 50 streets in our community 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.

(More details on page four of this newsletter.)



## FOR THE LOVE OF MY BROTHER, WILF

The following has been supplied by keen motorcyclist David Visser:

My family and I emigrated to New Zealand in 1996 and came straight to Tawa. We have enjoyed living here ever since.

My brother, Wilf, is terminally ill with the devastating Motor Neuron (ALS) disease. I feel compelled to raise awareness of Motor Neuron (ALS) in New Zealand, and help my brother in South Africa. I hope to raise \$30,000. I'll motorcycle the length of New Zealand, Bluff to Cape Reinga, in three days over Waitangi weekend 2012. The MND Association have shown strong support for my idea.

The MND disease Wilf is suffering is in the advanced stages now, but he is strong in mind and spirit as he looks to God for day to day strength. He remains an encouragement to me and to all who know him. I speak to him fairly regularly on Skype, and we still joke around, but also speak openly about his situation. No doubt we both have our moments, but overall he is an inspiration. I always feel uplifted after speaking to him. I thank God for initiating this project and His guiding hand.

For more information about this project and on how to sponsor my ride, please click on the following links:

[http://www.silver-bullet.co.nz/images/for\\_the\\_love\\_of\\_my\\_brother\\_RIDE\\_SCHEDULE.pdf](http://www.silver-bullet.co.nz/images/for_the_love_of_my_brother_RIDE_SCHEDULE.pdf)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqmcW51RZtw>

<http://www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/fortheloveofmyBrotherWilf>



## BE CAREFUL (WITH DOGS & KIDS) IN THE PORIRUA STREAM

The following comments (which have been abbreviated) were received from a concerned member of the local community:

"I heard of a dog walker who'd recently had to take their dog to the vet for an operation because it had cut its paw on some glass while 'playing' in the Porirua Stream part of Willowbank reserve. A lot of kids also play in this part of the stream, especially at this time of year.

The conversation with the dog walker included where to exercise dogs, as some areas (especially beach areas) have different restrictions for dog exercise during the summer months - and they referred to Island Bay and Plimmerton. When I mentioned the excellent areas that we have closer to hand in Tawa, including Willowbank, the above story came out which had put them off Willowbank. Dog owners also need to be aware of the requirements to keep dogs under control, i.e. on a leash (WCC bylaw), when in other reserves and public spaces."

## OFFICIAL DOG EXERCISE AREAS IN TAWA

Following on from the above report, here is a list of the official dog exercise areas ("Woof, Woof, Ruff") in Tawa. Dogs can be exercised off-leash, but owners/handlers are required to maintain control over them at all times.

1. Arthur Carman Park, Linden - open to dogs 1 November to 31 January only
2. Duncan Park, Linden Avenue - area between stream and Nathan Street
3. Grasslees Reserve, Main Road - western side of stream to Main Road
4. Taylor Park, Taylor Terrace - southern area of park behind badminton hall
5. Willowbank Park, Main Road - area north of scout hall and area on eastern side of stream



## "BEAT THE COLD"

Commences Thursday 9 February 10am-11am at the Tawa Rugby Club Gym, Lyndhurst Road. Walking-Stretch & Flex exercises to Music all indoors. \$3 per session, pay as you go.

Most suited to Seniors but no age limit.

Contact Val on 232 5981 or email [villapetite@xtra.co.nz](mailto:villapetite@xtra.co.nz).

## YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN IN NEIGHBOURS' WEEKEND IN TAWA

Residents of Mexted Tce West had a very enjoyable time socialising with their neighbours at a street barbecue early December. The same thing happened in Brasenose Place late November.



Streets barbecues are catching on in Tawa! They're great for getting to know your neighbours. What about your street?

**WE CAN HELP YOU** organise a get-together in your own street. It really doesn't take much effort at all! On the weekend of 24-25 March "Neighbours' Day Aotearoa" will take place - street barbecues will be happening up and down the whole of the country! There could well be 50 to 100 in Tawa!

**FIND OUT MORE** by joining us at a "get-together" of keen Tawa people at 4.30pm on Sunday 19 February at the Tawa Community Centre. We'll meet for one hour and give you tips and resources for running a successful barbecue (or similar) in your street. Hope to see you there!

In the meantime have a look at [www.tawalink.com/pic\\_week\\_2011-56.html](http://www.tawalink.com/pic_week_2011-56.html).

## LINDEN & TAWA SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUBS

Linden and Tawa Scottish Country Dance Clubs are running beginner classes starting in February. If you haven't tried this, you should.

It is fun, for all ages, good for fitness and brain health and friendship. We dance to great Scottish music. You don't need a partner. \$20 per course - wear casual clothes and soft shoes.

Classes for Linden Club are 7.30-9.30pm on Mondays: 14, 21 and 28 Feb in the Tawa Baptist Church Hall, Main Rd, Tawa. Contact Philippa on 496 2102.

Classes for Tawa Club are 7.30-9.30pm on Thursdays: 2, 9, 16, and 23 February in the Tawa Union Church hall, Redwood Ave, Tawa. Contact Maureen on 478 8055.

## LINDEN COMMUNITY MEETING

Come along and give us your ideas of what you would like to see happening at the Linden Social Centre. At the Linden Social Centre, 10 Linden Avenue, 7-8.30pm, Wednesday 22 February.

For more information call Melanie or Hinetai on 232 1682.

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

*"On this shrunken globe, men can no longer live as strangers."* - Adlai E Stevenson

*"The impersonal hand of government can never replace the helping hand of a neighbour."* - Hubert H Humphrey

*"Hear no evil, see no evil, and speak no evil - and you'll never get a job working for a tabloid."* - Phil Pastoret

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

## On a personal note .....

There's a saying which goes: "Whoever said you can't buy happiness forgot little puppies." If that's the case, then I've just bought a slice of happiness. We acquired a 9½ week old pup one week ago - a rather cute little female chocolate Labrador who's been named Abby.

What I like about Labradors in particular is that they're great with people, they're eternally grateful for any food that comes their way, they love walks, fetching the ball and going for swims. In short, they're a superb all-round dog.

I'm fortunate enough to spend a reasonable chunk of my working day at home. When I do go out, it's hard to beat the welcome I get when I return. That's one of the joys of owning a dog, as many an owner will testify.

Like most young pups Abby is full of mischief, too much so at times! When I sit down with her in the backyard (and constantly reprimand her for jumping all over me - there's a lot of training yet to be done!) I have to watch the strap dangling from the camera, the pen I might be holding, or any loose items of clothing in her reach like untied shoelaces. If I don't, they'll end up being chewed. And if she can snaffle whatever it is and bound off with it, she will!

House training has only just begun and there's a long way to go yet! Fortunately the large pen in which she's confined when she's indoors means that damage in that regard is limited. But based on past experience, we know that whilst she's "growing up" (which may well seem like forever), there'll be times when we feel like tearing out our hair when we discover household items chewed or washing torn from the clothesline, or whatever else our beloved canine critter deems is necessary to keep herself amused. Obviously the more time I can give her, the less bored she will get. Fortunately a reasonable proportion of her life at this stage is spent sleeping.

There will be lots of ups and downs ahead, but mostly ups - otherwise we wouldn't have been silly enough to have got her in the first place.

Puppy classes start in another week or so. Oh what fun! At this stage she seems too young and scatterbrained to be likely to learn anything! But, as they say, those classes are as much to train the owner as to train the dog.

And only another 3 to 4 weeks before she's been sufficiently "immunised" to enable us to take her to the park and to the beach and various other places where dogs and owners go for fun. Those occasions, along with their companionship and loyalty, are what make it special to share life with a dog.

