



COMMUNITY NEWS

February
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.

YOUR CHANCE TO BE NEIGHBOURLY IN TAWA!



In case you weren't aware, there's a get-together this Sunday afternoon to plan for Neighbours' Weekend in Tawa in late March.

How 'neighbourly' are we in Tawa? This 60-minute get-together is designed for everyone who thinks it's a good idea to know their neighbours and to have a natter with them over a barbecue once or twice a year.

Neighbours' Weekend is your opportunity to do just this. We're hoping to see a barbecue (or similar) in a whole lot of streets in Tawa on one of these two days – Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 March.

The purpose of this initial get-together is to share ideas and resources for the barbecue in your street. See you in the Tawa Community Centre boardroom at 4.30pm on Sunday 19 February.

NEW WORLD SHOPPERS' BUS

The shoppers' bus which up until now has been transporting locals to the New World supermarket in Porirua will shortly begin a service to the New World supermarket in Churton Park as well.

You are more than welcome to call Barry, the friendly driver, on freephone number 0800 829 2287 for details. Copies of the timetable will also be available at the Tawa Temporary Supermarket.



TAWA COLLEGE GALA

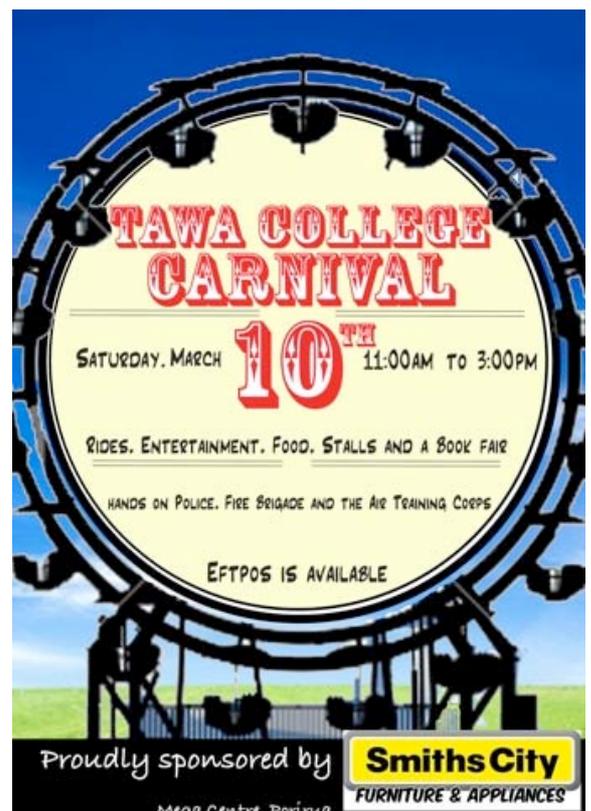
As you can see in the graphic at right, Tawa College is holding a gala (or carnival if you prefer) on Saturday 10th March from 11am to 3pm. There will be food, rides, competitions, stalls, and various entertainment - proudly sponsored by Smiths City Furniture and Appliances, Porirua.

ASPIRE TOUR TO MAPUA

Tawa's Aspire Big Band is touring to Mapua on 24-26 February - as a goodwill cultural exchange - after the community suffered an economic downturn followed by flooding.

We will be giving a master-class at Waimea College on the Friday afternoon, followed by an early evening concert (to suit senior citizens). The next morning we will be doing an education show on Icons of the Big Band Era. In the afternoon we will put on free outdoor entertainment, then at night will be doing a 1940s themed dance.

We will play at the Mapua Sunday morning market before driving back to the ferry.



MANA TIAKI IN TAWA

Mana Tiaki's Community Kapahaka has just started up again and takes place every Thursday after school at the Tawa Community Centre. Details are available on their newly upgraded website at <http://www.manatiaki.maori.nz>.



NEW BASKETBALL CLUB IN TAWA

A basketball club has been set up in Tawa to provide a place for those in the Tawa community and surrounding areas to play basketball.



Part of its establishment was to facilitate the transition from college basketball to adult basketball, as there was little in terms of accessible places for players to go once they finished school. We welcome any adults wishing to play the sport.

For 2012 we are looking at entering teams into Wellington Basketball Association's Leagues held at the new ASB Stadium in Kilbirnie. We are also intending to run a Social League at the end of the year for those who want to just give it a go in a relaxed setting. More information on the Social League will be available from July onwards.

In the long term we would also like to have a junior basketball programme in the community, although at the current time our focus is on getting ourselves off the ground as a Club. We are currently in discussions with Tawa Intermediate to see where we can offer assistance, and we will be in contact with local schools when a junior programme is ready to be implemented.

We have started a fundraising campaign which will happen over the next couple of months to help ourselves get started, and appreciate any support we receive from the Tawa community. This fundraising will help with covering tournament registration fees, uniforms and court hire for trainings at Tawa Recreation Centre.

If anyone would like to join one of our teams for the Wellington Basketball Intercity/Midweek Leagues, please fill in a registration form and pay the relevant fees by Thursday 8th March.

You can get a registration form through one of the following ways:

Come visit us on a Thursday night from 8-10pm at Tawa Recreation Centre before 8th March. This is an open training as well, so anyone is welcome to join in. Request a registration form by emailing tawabasketball@gmail.com.

Contact Duncan Moore on 233 1162 or 027 325 0638, or Devan McDonald on 232 3319 or 027 714 6421.

TAWA COLLEGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

Coming up:

PARENTS AS DRIVING COACHES

Tuesday 13 March from 7-9pm with Peter Sheppard. Fee \$25.

Development of the adolescent brain is critical when it comes to learning to drive. Research confirms parents can play a significant role in shaping and influencing adolescents when learning to drive a motor vehicle. Tips on the learning to drive process and driving techniques to ensure a path of lifelong safe driving.

EMERGENCY PREPARATION

Tuesday 13 March from 7-9pm with Graham Nel Disaster Prepare Ltd. Fee \$30.

Providing practical advice and assistance setting up family emergency plans and emergency supplies. A first aid kit will be given to all participants.

ROAD CODE REFRESHER

With Peter Sheppard. Fee \$20.

Class 1 on Tuesday 20 March from 4-6pm or Class 2 on Tuesday 20 March from 7-9pm.

New road rules are commencing on 25 March. This is a chance to make sure you know about all these changes as well as refreshing all road rules.

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO

TAWA POOL RE-OPENING

The pool was closed in early October for the roof to be replaced and for the pool's scheduled five year maintenance.

The lifeguards have been employed at Thorndon and Khandallah summer pools during the closure, and the teaching staff are working at Keith Spry (Johnsonville) and Karori Pools.

The renovation project is currently running close to schedule and the grand re-opening party will be held on Friday 14th April.



Watch this space for more details.

NEIGHBOURS' WEEKEND IN 2012

It's now just over one month away on 24-25 March. 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 – having fish & chips together, sharing brunch, or rolling out a few barbecues to cook and eat together. Will you be part of it?

(More details on the first page of this newsletter.)

RENEWAL OF PLAY AREA IN RAROA PARK

The City Council has advised us that work is expected to begin at Raroa play area in early March and take 3-4 weeks to complete. The renewed play area will comprise four new swings, a traditional play complex that is accessible for children aged approximately 18 months through to around ten years old, and a refurbished four seater "whirl" spinner.

While the renewal is under way the park will be accessible to the general public with a portion fenced off to allow work to be undertaken safely.

TAWA COMMUNITY CIVIC AWARDS

This year the Tawa Community Board is again organising the Tawa Community Civic Awards which recognise the immense contribution volunteers make to our community. These awards have previously been held in 2006, 2008 & 2010.

Publicity will begin in another month or so and the awards ceremony will take place in late June. In the meantime you could start thinking of the people you know – those involved in some sort of voluntary capacity in Tawa – whose names you could put forward for an award.

GIRL GUIDE BISCUIT MONTH

Beginning 1st March, these iconic biscuits will be on sale in Tawa. There will be a stall outside the Tawa Lotto shop on Wednesday 2nd March from 5pm, Saturday 5th March and Saturday 12th March all day. Girls will also be going door to door to sell biscuits on Saturday 5th March in the Tawa area. Please only give money for biscuits to girls in guiding uniform.

For more information or to order biscuits please contact:

Robyn Daghish, District Treasurer, on 232 3197 (evenings)

Katy Hedges, Biscuit Co-ordinator, email tawa@girlguidingwn.org.nz



EARTH174's NEW SHOP IN TAWA

Three Japanese businesspeople were welcomed into cosmetics company Earth174's new boutique at 210 Main Road, Tawa, last Thursday, as part of a Maori blessing ceremony for the shop. Earth174 has been manufacturing natural cosmetics in Tawa and has built a strong relationship with the Japanese importing company Mariri thanks to its use of manuka honey, a valued ingredient for health conscious Japanese consumers.

A manuka branch was therefore an appropriate offering to the Japanese trio, which Mariri owner Yoshiya Suzuki happily accepted.



"We very very much love New Zealand and Maori culture - probably more than anyone else in Japan," he told Earth174 owners Kareen Holland and James O'Hare at the ceremony.

Ms Holland started making cosmetics 10 years ago and met Mr Suzuki's daughter while selling her products at Wellington's weekend markets. She started making skincare, hair and beauty products after working in the film industries as make-up artist for 23 years, including stints on television shows *Xena*, *Hercules* and *The Strip*.

Ms Holland's products are made entirely from New Zealand ingredients including kawakawa and harakeke. She opened her first stop in Victoria Street, Wellington, two years ago and hopes her new Tawa location will attract custom from as far north as Kapiti.

TAWA-LINDEN PLUNKET CLOTHING & TOY SALE

Tawa Linden Plunket Preloved Children's Clothing and Toy Sale takes place at the Tawa Community Centre Hall, 5 Cambridge Street, Tawa, Saturday 10 March, 1.30-3.30pm. Entry by gold coin donation.

Fantastic bargains on new and pre-loved baby and children's clothes, toys, books and accessories. For more information contact Lynsey on 232 1438.

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

"Passion, not pedigree, will win in the end." - Jon Bon Jovi

"I nod to a passing stranger, and the stranger nods back, and two human beings go off, feeling a little less anonymous." - Robert Brault

"I can never stand still. I must explore and experiment. I am never satisfied with my work. I resent the limitations of my own imagination." - Walt Disney

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

"More fun than you ever imagined." That's how they advertise the tractor ride which travels 9 kms along the coastline to the gannets at Cape Kidnappers in Hawkes Bay.

I think they're right. It *is* more fun than you expect it to be – being towed on a wooden trailer along the rocky shoreline behind a 1949 tractor, every so often veering into the sea itself. The journey is as much a part of the experience, moreso perhaps, as the destination which is where you encounter, up close, thousands of amazing gannets, noisy and smelly as they are. Interesting information about the geology of the area is provided along the way by friendly, down-to-earth drivers. That's on top of learning about the gannets themselves whose first-ever flight, once they take to the air, is across hundreds of kilometres of ocean to Australia, from whence they return a few years down the track, like true Kiwis acknowledging their roots.

We're currently hosting a German student who's attending Tawa College for just one term, and it was to Cape Kidnappers that we took her at Waitangi weekend. I think she thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It's something that, in my opinion, every New Zealander should get to do for themselves at least once in their lifetime. It was the second time for my family. We first got there nine years ago. Perhaps I shouldn't mention the 25-minute, mostly uphill, walk at the end to reach the actual nesting colony, because I wouldn't want that to put anyone off!

The Cape Kidnappers experience features in 39th place in "I Love You New Zealand – 101 Must-Do's for Kiwis", a book I thoroughly recommend. It's a treasure trove of places New Zealanders need to see for themselves. We really do have so much on offer in this awesome little country. More on that in future editions of this newsletter.



And on a different note

The pup is now 13 weeks old and starting to obey a few commands – when it suits! Still a long way to go in regard to "house training". And we have to keep an eye on loose objects lying around the place, otherwise we see her running off with them (and sometimes we don't). In recent times such objects have included my sandal, a pair of socks, a screwdriver, a hacksaw blade (silly me for inviting her into the garage), a ball of wool and a spoon. Not to mention a loose internet chord. Unfortunately she'd chewed most of the way through that before we noticed. Only \$30 worth!

Now that we can take her out and about, she's been up to Brasenose Park a few times – on a secure lead I might add – as well as being introduced to the Porirua Stream at Willowbank and the beach at Whitireia Park. There's a big world out there for her to explore and we've only just started!



Look what I've got!



Catch me if you can!