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COMMUNITY NEWS

December
2012 - 1

This community newsletter is sent out usually twice 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 BOARD INFO

HANGING BASKETS HUNG

The Tawa Community Board had been working on the hanging baskets project for quite some time and, finally, on a recent Tuesday evening more than 50 were put into place one by one in the main shopping area on the eastern side of the Main Road in Tawa.

Thanks to board members Chris Reading and Cr Justin Lester who did all the hard work in organising the baskets, and Brian Frampton (ITM Tawa) who provided assistance in screwing in the hooks onto which they would be secured. There was a substantial amount of behind-the-scenes work like arranging funding, obtaining permission from the various owners of the buildings between Drummond's Pharmacy and the Library, as well as overseeing the installation of the irrigation system.

Seven locals uplifted 50+ hanging baskets from where they had been stored temporarily and hung them outside the Main Road shops last week. They look superb and add a real touch of class to our central shopping area. As teething problems with watering the plants are still being sorted, you may even be blessed with a drip (or more) of water if you walk immediately under the baskets in the immediate future!



TAWA PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The second annual Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards ceremony was held by the Tawa Community Board last week. The awards recognise "true leadership, citizenship, contribution to school life, etc" at each of Tawa's six primary schools, plus the Intermediate.

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 re-presented to the school principal or a staff representative. This is kept at the school and updated each year.



From left in above photo: Nasan Jenkin, Yr 8 Tawa Intermediate; Jasmine Waitere, Yr 6 Hampton Hill School; Keller McDonald, Yr 6 St Francis Xavier School; Sarah Crow, Yr 6 Greenacres School; Mayor Celia Wade-Brown; Sienna Hendrikx, Yr 8 Tawa School; Joe Walker, Yr 6 Redwood School; TCB Chair Malcolm Sparrow; Jessica Rayner, Yr 6 Linden School; Isabel Warden, Yr 6 Tawa School; Eden Garside, Yr 8 Tawa Intermediate.

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO

TAWA PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CITIZENSHIP AWARDS (contd)

The awards ceremony was attended by family members of the winning students, the principal and a teacher or two from each school, plus Tawa Community Board members. Kirsty Dibley, 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 this week's *Porirua CityLife News* for individual pics. They also provided the group pic.

TAWA STATION

In case you didn't see the official Tawa Community Board newsletter which was delivered to most (if not all) households in Tawa last week, here's what was said about Tawa Station:

Demolition of the existing station building will start on Wednesday 26 December and there will be no trains on the Kapiti Line from then until Thursday 3 January 2013. During that period trains from Tawa Station will be replaced by buses leaving from Duncan St. The station will be closed for around four months.

A replacement structure along the lines of that shown in the diagram (at right) will be built. Work will also be carried out to the pedestrian overbridge overbridge. This may be closed for a couple of hours at a time on certain days. Contractors will be working with the schools to allow access when necessary for pupils.



Tawa Community Board has met with Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) to look at options, for example finding alternative parking, and/or a shuttle bus during peak times to link to an adjacent station. In recent weeks community board members and historical society members have also had a number of discussions with GWRC regarding the art designs that will appear on 16 panels at the re-built station.

Further information will be distributed by GWRC as the re-build plans are confirmed.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON GRASSLEES RESERVE UPGRADE

Grasslees Reserve will be getting a makeover next year, and Wellington City Council would like to hear your ideas for the park. The Council has come up with a concept plan and has outlined its ideas in a brochure which is available at:

http://www.wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay/publicinput/2012-11-grasslees.html?utm_source=MailingList&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Wellington+City+Council+Web+Alert+-+Consultation

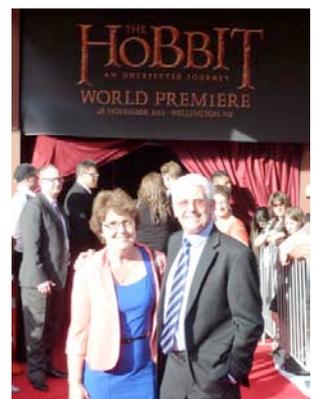
Your ideas on how to improve the park are welcomed. The deadline for feedback is 5.00pm on Friday 14 December 2012.

WORLD PREMIERE OF "THE HOBBIT"



Tawa was "officially represented" at the premiere of *The Hobbit* last week by the chair of the Tawa Community Board, Malcolm Sparrow, who received an invitation to the ceremony. Other board members, viz. Councillors Ngaire Best and Justin Lester, were also official guests on the big day.

Various other Tawa people were spotted in the crowd (see photo at left).



TAWA LIONS 2012 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Tawa Community Christmas Parade was held on Saturday 1 December and, once again, was a great occasion with lots of participants and a good crowd to see them go by. Thanks to all the hard work on the part of the Lions Club of Tawa in organising the event.



TAWA ROTARY CAROLS IN THE PARK – SEE YOU THERE!

At Grasslees Reserve on Tuesday 4 December. Barbecued sausages and drinks will be available from 6.00pm and/or bring a picnic pack and enjoy the beautiful summer evening! The band will play from 6.30pm, and carol singing will go from 7pm to 8pm (approx).

The Wellington Male Voice Choir, the Tawa Intermediate choir, and Gracenotes from Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa, will all be taking part.

The wet weather venue is the Tawa Intermediate hall – check www.tawalink.com if in doubt.

TAWA ROTARY “TOOT FOR TUCKER”

Early evening on Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th December, members of Tawa Rotary, Tawa Lions and Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade will be out in the streets of Tawa collecting donated non-perishable food items to build up Christmas stocks for the Tawa Food Bank.

When you hear the fire engine’s siren and other associated noise in your neighbourhood, you’ll know what it’s all about. And you’ll already have all your goodies ready to bring out!

The photo shows Rotarian and Tawa Community Board member Robert Tredger securing one of the advertising hoardings in place.



NEIGHBOURS’ WEEKEND IN 2013

It’s still more than three months away but we’ll be making a big weekend of “Neighbours’ Day Aotearoa” in Tawa in March 2013, the same way that we did this past March. The aim is to have more than 50 streets in this neck of the woods getting together again with their neighbours in some way or another any weekend that month – maybe just having fish & chips together, sharing brunch, or rolling out a few barbecues to cook and eat together.

The photo shows some of 40 residents in Brasenose Place who enjoyed a recent street barbecue.



TAWA COLLEGE'S COMMUNITY SERVICE "BRILLIANT"

"Overall it went off brilliantly! This lot of Year 10s is one of the best yet." Those were the reactions of Nick Brown, the Tawa College teacher responsible for organising around 300 Year 10 Tawa College students to carry out "community service" in Tawa very recently. They assisted seniors (mostly) with work they needed done around their house and section. 40 to 50 jobs were completed over four days last week. In particular Mr Brown praised their attitude and "willingness to do it".

From the Ed.: I was working in my office at home last Tuesday morning when I heard a considerable amount of noise coming from my neighbours' backyard. It went on for a while. The penny finally dropped that it was one of the Year 10 teams out doing their thing. They were just finishing off when I dropped in to say hello and take the inevitable photo. And like most teenagers, they were working with garden tools they'd never before had occasion to use, to pull out weeds and tidy up the section. My neighbour, Barbara, sent the following wording to the college:

"Thank you once again for sending your students to help around our section. We had four really pleasant and hard working boys, escorted by Carol Brown who also worked the whole time. We were impressed by the good manners and helpful attitude of the students and they were a pleasure to have at our place. Husband Jim was excited to find that the lads were rugby league players. He had many years playing, refereeing and then administration work with the Wellington Rugby League. It all made a good talking point during their drink break. Many thanks once again for including us on your list for gardening help. The students were a credit to Tawa College."



In the photo (L to R): Turi, Aljay, Niah and Cisco (aka Frank the Tank)

TAWA-LINDEN PLUNKET FREE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday 5 December, 10am-12pm at St Christopher's Church Hall. There will be free food, Harriet the Clown, and a visit from Santa. Parents are asked to please bring a small wrapped, gift for their child from Santa.

TAWA CRAFT MARKET

The last Tawa Craft Market for the year is on Saturday 8 December at Tawa Community Centre, Cambridge Street, 9.30am-1.30pm. A great chance to get some amazing Christmas gifts from great local crafters. Choose from jewellery, woodwork, children's clothes and accessories, cards, dolls clothes and toys, plus NZ-themed items and Christmas decorations, etc.

TAWA ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Sunday 9 December, Tawa College hall at 2.30pm. The concert theme is "Music for Children and the Young at Heart". With A Children's Overture, The Carnival of the Animals, Toy Symphony, the theme from Pirates of the Caribbean, Pas de Deux from the Nutcracker Suite, The Sound of Music, A Pooh story (flute solo) and Christmas Visions. Soloists: Craig Utting and Sasha Sneyd.

COMBINED CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

As has been the case for the past 50 years or more, a combined Christmas Day service will be held at 9.30am in the Tawa College hall. Hosted by Tawa Baptist and Salvation Army Churches. Enquiries to 232 8448 or 232 8023. All welcome. Bring your own orchestra!

TAWA COLLEGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The programme for 2013 is now in the planning stages. New programmes and new tutors are being sought. If you have an interest in tutoring or would like to learn something that is not already being offered, please contact Judith Havill, the coordinator, on 232 7163 or comed@tawacollege.school.nz

REDWOOD SCHOOL DUATHLON

Redwood School held its annual student Duathlon at the school on Sunday 25 November. Over 300 students participated in four different races. The day was a huge success and was made possible by great support from parents, teachers and staff.

A Sports and Fitness Expo occurred on the field during the event with participation from Pack and Pedal, Shoe Clinic Porirua, Tawa Softball, City Fitness, Tawa Squash Club, Pilates, Tawa Swim Club and Easy Swim as well as performances from Tracey Odell School of Modern Dance, Shake the Fat, Zumba by Neena and Big Air. Kaffee Eis and Fat Frog sold fantastic food and drink.



Thank you to all the residents of the area for their patience and support during the event.

NEW CO-ORDINATOR AT TAWA COMMUNITY CENTRE

A new coordinator, Angela Rampton, is now in charge of the Tawa Community Centre. She joins the centre from the Carter Observatory but has previous experience in community roles. As quoted in last week's *Porirua CityLife News*, Angela says: "I would love to see this community centre being full of people in the community, all coming together and using this fabulous space."



"Angela loves Tawa's bright and vibrant community and hopes to build the community centre up next year through working with various groups."

COMMUNITY CONSTABLE RETURNS

Sarah Riddering started her role as Tawa's community constable in mid-2011. After a number of months away on maternity leave, she has returned to policing in Tawa for three days a week. Tawa comes under the Kapiti-Mana policing district. Sarah first started with the Porirua Police almost eight years ago, and has been involved in "general policing duties". It's great to have her back.



The Tawa Police base operates out of the Tawa Community Centre, 10am to 4pm each week day. The phone number is 232 3160. Around 25 volunteers take turns manning the base – and they're always on the lookout for more!

COUNTDOWN SUPERMARKET TO OPEN IN FEBRUARY

The new Countdown supermarket "up at Takapu Island" is aiming to open its doors to the public on Tuesday 13 February 2013.

The new store manager is Melanie Rae who has had a number of years' experience with Countdown.

The photo at right which was taken mid-November is already out of date!



WANTING TO LEARN TE REO?

If you're interested in learning Te Reo or improving what you already know, classes are likely to be held Wednesday evenings in 2013 at the community centre – beginners' class year 1 and an advance year 2 class. Contact Kura Goldsmith on 232 4808 or email kura.goldsmith@gmail.com.

REGULAR BREAK-INS TO CARS AT REDWOOD STATION

A number of responses were received regarding the article in a recent newsletter about vehicles being broken into at Redwood Station. We are pursuing this further and will provide more details once we have something further to say.

FROM MIDDLE EARTH TO THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN

Four Tawa College students departed on Sunday for a ten day fully funded exchange to Japan. The students, part of a group of six sent by AFS Pasifika, will be joining up with 70 other New Zealand students in Auckland, and hundreds more from around the world once they arrive in Tokyo.

In Japan the students will participate in cultural activities and trips, visit the earthquake zone and spend three days in a Japanese school whilst being hosted by a local family.

For Kristine Mellars and Teagan Bridges this is an opportunity to practise their Japanese language which they have been learning at school, whilst Maddy Arnold and Ariana Solomon are focusing more on the culture. One thing all the girls agree on is they would love to get the opportunity to visit the shops.



Standing in the shadow of Gollum at Wellington Airport are Kristine Mellars, Teagan Bridges, Maddy Arnold and Ariana Solomon.

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HOSTING EXCHANGE STUDENTS WITH AFS PASIFIKA



Morgane

Age: 16

Native Language: French

Interests: swimming, judo and watching rugby

Length of stay: 10 months

Morgane's friends describe her as being a very friendly girl, always smiling, talkative and pleasant to be around. She is a swimmer and practices several times a week with her local club. Morgane has done extensive travelling with her family on holidays and is now looking forward to her own experience in New Zealand. She is deeply interested in other cultures, travelling the world and aspires to be a surgeon one day.

AFS Pasifika is currently looking for families to host wonderful students (like Morgane) from around the world. If you have love to share with a secondary age student a long way from home, then you are just the type of family we'd love to hear from.

We are currently looking for families to host students for 5 to 10 months beginning at the end of January 2013. Tawa families have proven to be wonderful hosts for AFS students and we'd love to encourage more families to join in the intercultural fun.

Families that join AFS Pasifika will be fully supported by our network of passionate volunteers and will be included in the fun activities that the group runs monthly.

If you are interested in finding out more about hosting a student, please email afspasifikaporirua@hotmail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KIWI COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Community-based charity Kiwi Community Assistance was a joint winner of *The Dominion Post* Readers' Choice Charity Donation, awarded at the recent Wellingtonian of the Year Awards.

According to the *Stuff* website: "A week before its first birthday, Tawa-based charity Kiwi Community Assistance was shocked to discover it had won \$5000, and \$5000 worth of advertising in *The Dominion Post*."

The charity began after Tawa woman Tracy Wellington and her husband, Phil Davies, watched the television documentary "Inside Child Poverty" and decided to take action. They gather donations of household goods, clothing, toys, books and food, and give them to families in need.

DONATIONS OF CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT WELCOME

Pregnancy Help Greater Wellington is based in the community of Tawa. We service the wider Wellington region. We are a non-profit group who are part of a national organisation called Pregnancy Help.

Our core service is helping women and their babies with clothing packs up to size 1 and the loan of bassinets for four months. We also offer to our clients any other items that we have been donated. We help women throughout the Greater Wellington region. All of our services are free.

Donations of clothing and equipment are always gratefully received as this enables us to continue our work with local mothers in the Tawa community as well as the wider Wellington region. Our office is at 139B Main Road, Tawa (opposite Oxford St) and our opening hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 9am to 2pm. We can be contacted on 232 5740.

Adios

Malcolm Sparrow

On behalf of TawaLink.com

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

info@tawalink.com www.tawalink.com

232 5030 or 027 232 2320

“It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.”

“When I'm finally holding all the cards, why does everyone decide to play chess?”

“The fact is that in order to do any thing in this world worth doing, we must not stand shivering on the bank thinking of the cold and the danger, but jump in and scramble through as well as we can.”

– Sydney Smith

This newsletter is emailed to around 1200 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.

From the Ed.

I was lucky enough to be invited to the World Premiere of "The Hobbit" – one of the few so-called perks in my current role in the community.

I'd never walked on the red carpet before. Fortunately there were so many others with us that we didn't stand out. "Invited guests" all entered the red carpet in Allen St, an offshoot of Courtenay Place. Whereas Ministers of the Crown turning up in their chauffeur-driven BMWs were driven to the front of the line, ordinary types like us joined a long queue to proceed through security. (See the pic).



Once we hit Courtenay Place, the more important people including Wellington city councillors turned left and headed towards the Embassy and all the action. Those "further down the ladder" turned right and sauntered, along with many other low-brow invitees, in the direction of the Reading cinema complex. But it was nice to feel that at least I was "on the ladder" on this particular occasion. Earlier on, whilst I was milling around waiting for Karen to arrive from work, a young schoolgirl glanced at me and asked if I was famous. I didn't have the heart to kid her along – and answered truthfully that I wasn't.

As we headed away from the action, several of those heading towards it passed us by – Sir Peter Jackson, James Cameron, Elijah Wood, Mark Hadlow, and a bunch of other stars whom I confess I didn't immediately recognise (and even now don't know exactly who they are).



No-one asked for my autograph. I thought I'd take the initiative and offer it to one or two hopeful autograph hunters lining the route, but decided I wouldn't bother. The really famous never have to offer theirs.



Many of the diehards seeking autographs, photos and close contact with the real stars had been waiting a very long time for their special moment. We were fortunate to have them walk right past us without any real wait on our part.

What was also special was posing for our own photo on the red carpet. And we weren't the only ones. It was obviously a unique experience for many of our fellow travellers doing the same thing. Our daughter had told us we had to get such a photo. It wasn't difficult to do so. We weren't exactly heading anywhere fast. And that's a photo we'll treasure for a long time.

The movie itself was brilliantly compiled. Amazing special effects and great New Zealand scenery, especially the South Island mountains. But it was the whole occasion and the way that Wellington people had climbed aboard that made it so memorable. And yes, in case I haven't already said so, I do feel privileged to have been part of it all. For me it will probably never happen again.