



232 territory

COMMUNITY NEWS

January
2013

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

A BARBECUE IN YOUR STREET IN MARCH? FIND OUT HOW

"A very easy to run event, with many benefits for the whole street. Plans are under way to do it again."

"It was a good excuse to catch up with existing neighbours and to meet the new families who have recently made [our street] their home."

"We met people we hadn't before ... Kids now know more kids to play with."

"Some people knew each other well, but getting together was beneficial for those of us who leave the neighbourhood each day to go to work."

"We are all keen to keep the neighbourly spirit alive and we heard repeatedly "LET'S DO THIS AGAIN!""

This is some of the feedback from last year's Neighbours' Day events in Tawa.



WE ARE DOING IT AGAIN! Make sure YOU join in! We're hoping to see 75 barbecues or afternoon teas being held in the streets of Tawa this coming March.

- It's really quite simple organising a barbecue in your street. We're getting together soon to throw around a few ideas and to provide a few tips. Some of those who ran a barbecue in their own street will be sharing the secrets of their success. To find out more, YOU ARE INVITED to join us at the Tawa Community Centre late Sunday afternoon, 17 February, at 4.30pm. We promise to be finished by 6pm. Call Malcolm on 232 5030 with any queries.

TAWA COMMUNITY GRANTS EVENING

Tuesday 12 February 7.00-8.30pm at the Linden Social Centre.

Approximately \$15,000 is available to assist voluntary projects in Tawa. Individual grants normally range from \$300 to \$2000. Funding may be for charitable, educational, welfare, community development, cultural, recreational, sporting, activity development, equipment or training programmes. Funding 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 and show their project will directly benefit the Tawa community.

Full criteria, access to the online funding portal and past allocations can be found on the WCC website at <http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/grants/calendar.html>.

An information session will be held on the date mentioned above. Registration is not necessary. If you require further information or would like to discuss your project, feel free to contact a funding advisor on 803 8562.

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

TAWA STATION REBUILD

The following was received from the Greater Wellington Regional Council on 29 January:

The Christmas block on the North Island Main Trunk (NIMT) line saw the beginning of construction work at Tawa station. Signalling equipment was successfully relocated to a new location on the existing platform and demolition of the Tawa station building was completed in just one day. Other works were carried out such as under track crossings installed for storm and waste water pipes, removal of the platform surface and trenching for both new lighting ducts and platform storm water drainage.

Protective scaffolding was also installed to protect construction workers and to allow the site continued operation during normal train operations.

Current works now include excavations for the new building foundations, CCTV ducts for the new security system and foundations ready to receive the new light columns when ready to be installed. Over the next few weeks preparation works will continue with the pouring of the slab foundation for the building and platform strengthening works.



Thanks to David Parsons (first three) and Bruce Murray for the photos.

VIDEO OF MURAL BEING PAINTED

You will be aware of the mural that was painted on the wooden fence alongside the skatepark at the back of the Tawa Pool complex in November. There is now a link to the project on the Council's City Arts website, including a timelapse film. Have a look at: <http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/arts/publicart/temporarystreet.html>.

TAWA RECIPIENTS OF QUEEN'S SERVICE MEDALS

Congratulations to two Tawa recipients of Queen's Service Medals in the New Year honours list.

Quoting directly from the "Stuff" website at <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/local-papers/kapi-mana-news/8150210/Porirua-and-Tawa-residents-receive-New-Year-honours>:

"Also receiving QSMs were Shona Murray and Graham Goss, both from Tawa. Mrs Murray, who received the honour for services to education and music, taught at Tawa College from 1977 to 2011 and established the suburb as a strong centre of music, particularly choir. She was the driving force behind the Tawa Schools and Community festivals, held since 1979.



Mr Goss, meanwhile, was involved with the establishment of the New Zealand Federation of Brevet Clubs. The clubs provide fellowship and welfare for those who served in air crew and their dependants after World War II. He was also involved with the fundraising and establishment of museums at the Ohakea and Wigram bases."



Also see a further article in *The DominionPost* about Shona Murray here: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/capital-life/8196055/Music-career-ends-on-a-high-note>. The photo above right is from that page.

TAWA RUNNER COMPETING IN JAPAN

Olympic Harrier runner and Tawa resident, Michelle Van Looy, is off to Japan shortly to compete in a marathon.

The WCC website at <http://www.wellington.govt.nz/about/international/sistercities/senshu.html> reads:

"Through Wellington's sister-city link with Sakai, every year a Wellington marathon runner can take part in the Senshu International City Marathon in Japan. Sakai is one of the host cities of this major running event.

In mid October each year, Wellington City Council and the Wellington Sakai Association ask for entries from marathon runners to represent the capital in the marathon the following February. In 2013, we are looking for two marathon runners to represent Wellington."

Michelle Van Looy was lucky enough to be selected in the draw. She is off to Japan shortly and will let us know how she gets on. In the meantime she tells us "It's been quite tough training for a winter marathon in blazing sunshine although it was only 10 degrees at 6.15am today [Tuesday]."

All the best to Michelle!



TEACHER AIDE REQUIRED FOR TAWA INTERMEDIATE

Tawa Intermediate is looking to appoint another teacher aide to work with some of their students who need extra support with their learning. If you love being with kids, are patient, willing to set clear expectations and happy to work in a technologically-rich learning environment, then we want to hear from you. Please send a letter or email to Carolyn Stuart, principal@tawaint.school.nz, outlining your interest and experience for this part time position. Applications close Thursday 7 February.

IT'S HAPPENING AT MERVYN KEMP LIBRARY

Baby Rock and Rhyme starts again at Tawa Library on Friday 1 February. Each session starts at 9.30am, and is a fun-filled half-hour of singing, reading and dancing together. We would love to see you and your child (or grandchild) aged 0 to 2. For more information, please contact staff at Tawa Library on 232 1690 or see <http://www.wcl.govt.nz/about/branches/mervyn/whatson.html>.

For older children, our Preschool Story Times take place every Monday at 10.30am. If your children enjoy reading books on their own, encourage them to try our Summer Reading Challenge - check out the details on our special children's website <http://www.wcl.govt.nz/kids>.

BUY A SAUSAGE ON SUNDAY

Tawa-Linden Plunket Toy Library is running a sausage sizzle outside Bunning's Porirua on Sunday 3 February from 9am till 3pm or so. If you're in the neighbourhood and need a bite to eat, you know where to go.

UNWANTED FRUIT?

A branch of Community Fruit Harvesting was established in Tawa in September 2011. Those involved are now on the search for fruit trees, abundant with fruit that is either unpicked or unwanted, for volunteers to collect and redistribute to food banks and other charity partners. Community Fruit Harvesting works with KCA (Kiwi Community Assistance) based in Tawa, as well as Kaibosh Food Rescue in Wellington.

They will also help the owners of trees who are unable to pick the fruit themselves by giving them some back. Another benefit is that it helps to keep gardens clear of rotting fruit.

Local volunteers are being sought to assist with picking fruit and to make jams/preserves for food parcels.

Email pickfruitnthwellington@gmail.com or call Julie on 027 240 6606.

BALLROOM AND LATIN DANCE CLASSES

This class is for beginners every Tuesday from 6.30pm to 7.30pm in the Redwood School Hall at the back of the school in Redwood Avenue. The dances taught are a Scottish country dance, the Waltz, Foxtrot, Cha cha cha and Rock 'n' Roll.

The cost is \$110 (students with ID \$90) for an 8-week term. Cash or cheque only on the night, so please arrive 10 to 20 minutes early. Please note that we also do wedding lessons that will amaze and impress your friends and family, especially choreographed to your song. Bookings for this are essential by phoning Michael on 971 1790 or emailing supremedance@gmail.com.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Joining a club to do Scottish country dancing opens up a world of fitness, friendship and fun. Beginner classes are available in most clubs, the local ones being Tawa and Linden. Tawa meets on Thursdays and beginner classes are from 7 February from 7.30 to 9.30pm, and Linden on Mondays from 7.00 to 7.45pm before the club starts at 7.45pm, commencing on 7 March. Come and join us.

Contact Maureen 478 8055 for Tawa, who meet in Tawa Union Church Hall, Redwood Ave, and Philippa 496 2102 for Linden, who meet in Tawa Baptist Church Hall, Main Rd, Tawa. No partner is required. Just wear casual clothes and soft shoes.

SUMMER FLOWER SHOW IN LOWER HUTT

A display of flowers and plants by growers from around the Wellington area will be held at the Lower Hutt Horticultural Hall (next to the Town hall) on Saturday 9 February (11am till 4.30pm) and Sunday 10 February (10am till 4.30 pm). Amongst the exhibits, there will be great displays of Begonias, Fuchsias, Dahlias, Bonsai plants, etc. There will be a wide range of plants for sale, growing demonstrations, and a café where you can sit down and get something to eat or drink. Only \$2.50 entrance fee (children free).

A Saturday visit is recommended as the "Weetbix Triathlon" on the Sunday will mean limited parking. If you're attending the triathlon, come in afterwards and rest amongst the flowers!

Do you have a tree with unwanted fruit?



COMMUNITY FRUIT
HARVESTING

Don't let it go to waste!

We will pick it and donate it to people in need.

If you:

-  Have a fruit tree
-  Can pick fruit
-  Make jam or preserve fruit
-  Are a charity that needs fruit

Contact



Community Fruit Harvesting
027 2406606
pickfruitnthwellington@gmail.com
www.pickfruit.co.nz

GOOD NEIGHBOURS IN MEXTED TERRACE

From Ossie Fountain, Joint Street Coordinator in Mexted Terrace:

"I have been especially encouraged by our Neighbourhood Support group activities in our Mexted Terrace group. We've had several valuable meetings, mainly around the theme of earthquake preparedness. We were glad that our Deputy Coordinator was able to attend the local Emergency Preparedness meeting (in October) when I could not and brought back material we were able to share with our group. Thank you for alerting us to that.

We have had two main occasions to invite the whole street to get together - the Neighbours' Weekend when we held a picnic, and just recently, Tui Park Kindergarten opened their doors to us for a pre-Christmas barbecue. We have had minor and major crises among our street's families this [past] year and it has been good to be able to support people in these situations in some small way."

MAILBOX BACK OUTSIDE THE SUPERMARKET

This photo was taken on 22 January, a few days after the writer first spotted the mailbox back in place. We had been told it was coming back, and at one stage we thought it would be reinstated before Christmas. It wasn't, but it's there now.

Thanks to New World management and Cr Ngaire Best who both played a part in seeing it happen. So make sure you use it!



NEED A HOUSESITTER?

This email came through yesterday: "My family and I will be returning to live in Tawa [from the UK] approx 27 February, and our furniture doesn't arrive until 18 March, so we are looking for somewhere to stay between these dates."

Please email Kim at kimilena@gmail.com if you can assist.

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

Do you have arthritis?



Linden arthritis group clinics

Date: Thursday 14 February 2013
Venue: Linden Social Centre
10 Linden Avenue
Linden
Wellington

Come along to our information session to learn about pain management, medications, exercise and much more! Registrations are essential, as places are limited.

10.30 am	Osteoarthritis
12.00 pm	Rheumatoid arthritis
2.00 pm	Fibromyalgia/polymyalgia
3.30 pm	Osteoarthritis (to be confirmed)

For more information or to register please call 0800 663 463 or email zoe.mcgavock@arthritis.org.nz.

Donations gratefully received.

“I’ve learned that you shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands, you need to be able to throw something back.” – Maya Angelou

“The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings; the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries.” – Winston Churchill

“If you’re being chased by a police dog, try not to go through a tunnel, then on to a little seesaw, then jump through a hoop of fire. They’re trained for that.”

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.

It’s helpful to get feedback on articles in this newsletter. Amongst other things, it means that people are reading what’s been written!

I’ve had a number of comments over time in response to my musings about Abby, the family dog. She’s the chocolate labrador we procured just over a year ago, 9½ weeks old at the time. My descriptions of her ‘antics’ often strike a chord with those in a similar situation, or remind others of how it used to be for them before their dog finally grew out of that somewhat stressful puppy stage – which at times appears to be never-ending!

The following email came my way just before Christmas: “I love hearing about Abby! Our cavoodle Max will be 1 in January, and we got him at the end of March! He is just adorable, but so mischievous! I enjoy hearing Abby stories because it gives me hope for Max! He too loves to sneak things and chew them as much as he can before being caught. I’m now realising our Mad Max is not a bad dog, just a normal puppy! They really are such wonderful family members, and as I am now on holiday, I can guard my belongings!”

Like Max, Abby still has a long way to go.

“No eating screws. They’re bad for you.” That was my daughter’s admonition as she extracted the said item from inside the canine mouth a couple of days back. We’re currently undergoing kitchen renovations which means there are a number of loose items about the place, items that for whatever reason seem irresistible to a young dog. I retrieved a nail from her mouth a short while later.

We usually spot it when she’s chewing on a foreign object. It can be a little like emptying a money box. We tip her head towards the floor, pry apart her jaws and out tumbles a coin or two. But who knows what happens to those objects that disappear without our being aware? One can only speculate.

She found a partly eaten plum the other day, from where I have no idea (see bottom photo). It’s a well-known fact that a labrador never passes by the opportunity of food. In this case she obviously didn’t particularly like the taste because she merely nibbled at it, toying with it for quite some time – like a cat does with a mouse – before it finally when down the hatch.

It’s been a good summer for taking her to the beach at Whitireia Park, the river at Kaitokhe and the stream at Willowbank. We were at the latter just yesterday, as were at least four other dogs in the area specifically earmarked for their kind. Chasing each other around was a great way to see them exercise, racing in and out of the water, just about bowling their owners at times. Not a good place to be for anyone who doesn’t like dogs! They certainly know how to enjoy life and have a knack of adding that something extra to those privileged enough to be their ‘masters’.

P.S. Just after I completed the above, I stepped into the lounge (the doors of which I thought I had shut a short while ago for no other reason than to keep Abby out) and found myself extracting a packet of rubber tap washers she was in the process of decimating. And so it goes on

