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COMMUNITY NEWS

February
2013 - 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

MAKING YOUR STREET A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN



Neighbours' Weekend is happening again in Tawa. In March last year 1100-1200 people in more than 50 streets in Tawa took part in barbecues, afternoon teas or similar. We're hoping that even more will be involved this coming March.

The Tawa Community Board is organising a "Tips for a Barbecue in your Street" at the Tawa Community Centre on Sunday 17 February, 4.30-5.45pm. We're meeting to throw around a few ideas and to provide a few tips. Some of those who organised a get-together in their own street last year will be sharing the secrets of their success.

Everyone who would like to be involved with a street barbecue or similar this March is welcome along. Call Malcolm on 232 5030 for more info.

QUERIES REGARDING TAWA STATION

In the last few days a couple of queries about Tawa Station have come through. They are paraphrased here:

"I always park at Tawa [station] to travel in to Wellington as I travel after peak times and there is little or no parking at Redwood or Takapu stations.

With Tawa station currently closed due to rebuilding, I have to walk to Redwood, Takapu or Linden as there is now no parking at these stations after work patrons have parked there.

Can a part of Tawa Station be utilised for passengers? After all, the station building is in the centre of the platform. Surely passengers could board and disembark at the south end of the platform well away from the station building."

Response from Greater Wellington Regional Council:

"Unfortunately it is not possible to use any part of the platform for regular train services during the construction period, although this was considered at the planning stage of the project. The following reasons explain why we cannot use the platform.

1. Because of the varying lengths of trains during operational hours it is not possible to allow trains to stop within a worksite.
2. Regardless of which end you think we can stop trains and allow customers to depart and board, they would still need to walk through an active worksite and this is unsafe.
3. Works are now in full progress at both ends of the platform, North end platform strengthening, South end bridge repairs.
4. There is no adequate walking surface to give safe passage to enter or exit; this has been removed for new foundations and platform works.
5. It would create a high risk of incident if the platform was to remain open and it would extend the construction period and cost."

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

ANOTHER QUERY REGARDING TAWA STATION

"I catch the 8.54am train from Linden to Wellington and the 3.44pm train from Wellington to Linden. When we go past Tawa station I look to see the armies of workers who are trying to complete the re-build of Tawa station in a timely manner causing the least disruption.

What I see is little progress, an average of one worker. Sometimes I am lucky and spot two workers.

Parking at Linden which was never easy is becoming more difficult. Why aren't the powers concerned making a more noticeable effort?"

Response from Greater Wellington Regional Council:

"It can appear that very little is being done at the time you happen to look at a construction site. Some of the reason for this is because of the restrictions imposed on us by running a peak service in order to not create any more disruption than necessary.

The times stated are still within the peak service and our construction staff are not allowed on tracks or able to operate heavy machinery until after the peak periods at each end of the day. We are also bound by the protection procedures and restrictions which do have a significant effect on the amount of time and construction activities allowed.

There is currently good progress with the project and it is running to the planned schedule of works. Foundations for the new building, and platform strengthening and levelling are the key areas being worked on at this stage.

Parking at Linden has always been difficult to say the least and this is not helped by the fact that there are few opportunities to create parking when neither land or funding is available. We would be glad to hear and review any suggestions on how we could improve or build additional parking."



ARTWORK ON PANELS AT THE NEW STATION

A small working group (including two community board members) has been deciding what "artwork" should be included on a number of exterior perforated panels which will be incorporated in the yet-to-be-built replacement structure at Tawa Station.

The panels will reflect Tawa's railway history and include pictures of former station buildings, samples of Tawa's flora and fauna, plus the iconic TAWA floral sign and a glimpse of the Bucket Tree. They may look something like the two examples pictured here (subject to finalisation).



TAWA BASKETBALL

Tawa Basketball Club will be holding Open Trainings for its Men's Teams on 21 and 28 February, 7.30-9.30pm at Tawa Recreation Centre. This will be followed by Trials during each Thursday in March (7th, 14th, 21st and 28th), again from 7.30-9.30pm at Tawa Rec Centre. For more information either contact Duncan Moore (027 325 0638) or visit www.tawabasketball.co.nz.

4th TAWA GIRLS' BRIGADE



The first night of the Girls' Brigade for 2013 will be an open night for girls 5–18 years and their parents.

WHEN: Monday evening 18 February from 6.00-7.30pm.

WHERE: Tawa Union Church - 6 Elena Place, Tawa

Girls are invited to come along, join the fun and bring a friend. We are a small company and we would welcome more girls.

Last year Lavinia Nuku gained the Brigader Brooch which is the highest award at National Level. Girls have great opportunities for leadership and can continue on to earn The Queen's Award - the highest International Award.



For more details contact Leanne Bridge on 232 8844 (Church Office) or 232 2031.

The photos below are of parts of the programme that were offered last year. The programme focuses on Physical, Educational, Social and Spiritual (Christian values).



Games



Self defence



Painting picture frames

TAWALIN INDOOR BOWLS

TawaLin Indoor Bowls Club nights start 7.15pm on Monday 11 March at Redwood School hall. New members would be very welcome. Coaching is available, plus transport if required. For more information phone any of the following: Jan Ferguson 232 7538, Graeme Munro 232 5407 or Terry Roche 232 5263.

IRON OUT THE KINKS

If you enjoy getting out in the garden but get stiff and sore afterwards, then join us to iron out the kinks. Recover your innate ability to twist, reach or squat with greater ease. This class of like-minded movers meets on Tuesdays at 6pm starting 12 February. For more details contact Janine Archer on 232 1363 or 021 111 2820.



SCHOOL IS BACK

The kids are all well and truly back at school now.

Tawa has six primary schools with around 1310 pupils all up (as at February 2013), Tawa Intermediate with almost 480, and Tawa College with more than 1475. That's a total of 3265 youngsters at school in our neck of the woods!

The pic shows St Francis Xavier children scooting down the hill to school.

POSITION AVAILABLE

A retired accountant is sought for the annual review of accounts for a local Body Corporate. Remuneration will be negotiable. Contact Mary-Lou on 232 2078 for more details.



get ready to make a masterpiece

For more than three decades, FamilyLife has been helping couples understand God's design for relationships. Now, in this fresh new video guided event, couples have the opportunity to look at their relationship in a whole new way. Weaving instruction from respected pastors and Bible teachers together with compelling stories, humorous vignettes, man-on-the-street interviews and more, The Art of Marriage will help couples apply what the Bible teaches about marriage in a powerful way. It's practical, funny, and straight to the heart.

For more information, visit FamilyLife.com/theArtofMarriage.

FAMILYLIFE
PRESENTS the art of 
marriage[®]
a six-session video event

Fri 8th March (7-9pm) & Sat
9th March (9am - 5pm)
EMMAUS Centre,
St Christopher Church, Main
Road, Tawa

\$65 per COUPLE
Includes Manuals, Supper,
Morning and Afternoon teas.
To register,
<http://artofmarriagetawa.eventbrite.co.nz>

HALF-PRICE SWIMMING AT TAWA POOL 12 NOON-2PM WEEKDAYS

Not applicable to Leisure Card holders

**PLEASE REGISTER AT TAWA POOL RECEPTION
OFFER VALID THROUGH TO 31 MARCH 2013**

Tawa Pool Davies Street, Tawa
Phone (04) 232 7041 | Wellington.govt.nz

Absolutely
POSITIVELY
ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL **Wellington**

WORM FARM WORKSHOP

We are building a worm farm at our centre for the community. Come along and learn how to build one for your home. Meagan from the Waste Minimisation team will teach us how, and Renee from the Sustainability Trust will answer any questions as well.



At Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge Street on Tuesday 26 February 10.30-11.30am. Tea and coffee provided. For more information contact Angela or Hinetai on 232 1682 or tawacc@wcc.govt.nz

PLANTING TRIALS IN TAWA



Residents adjoining Charles Duncan Reserve (north side of Fyvie Ave, close to the Main Road) were invited by Wellington City Council to join in a "planting trial" early February. Plants were delivered to those residents who were willing to meet on a certain day to plant a variety of natives in a designated area. It would then be their responsibility to water and look after "their plants".

The same exercise had taken place a few days earlier at Brasenose Park when around 30 people added 30 plants to a corner of the park. The photo at right shows local residents participating in the WCC initiative, assisted by a representative or two from the Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves.



The photo above was taken by Andrew Strugnell of his dad, Neil, leaning on a spade at Charles Duncan Reserve. See www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9W5N7JL6XM for a video clip of Andrew's.

See www.facebook.com/groups/brasenoseparkplantingtrial/?fref=ts for official photos of the Brasenose Park planting trial.

GREENACRES SCHOOL MAD HATTERS' EASTER GALA

Come along and enjoy the fun at Greenacres School Mad Hatters' Easter Gala 11.00am-2.00pm on Saturday 23 March 2013, rain or shine.

There will be loads of entertainment for the whole family, from pony rides, hair braiding, spin-the-wheel to craft stalls, fabulous food and our famous Mad Hatters' Parade. Grab a bargain at the garage sale or buy a ticket in our raffle with great prizes to be won.

AFS PASIFIKA WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS INTO TAWA!

After a busy summer AFS Pasifika are pleased to welcome six new students into the Tawa community for the 2013 school year. So far five have arrived and started their New Zealand education at Tawa College.

First to arrive was Vero Solanes (Argentina), followed by Secil Yildirim (Germany), Coni Vargas Reyes (Chile), Bruna Chung (Brazil) and Sarah Kostenbader (Switzerland). All except for Secil are here for the full year, while Secil will return home in June. We are sure they will have a wonderful time living in this community and will meet many of the warm friendly people who live here.

If you are interested in hosting a student, there are students arriving in July for 2-month exchanges. To find out more information about hosting, going on an exchange, or the events that AFS Pasifika hold, please email afspasifikaporirua@hotmail.com.



COUNTDOWN SUPERMARKET NOW OPEN

The new Countdown supermarket up at Takapu Island opened on Tuesday morning, 12 February. The opening ceremony included a stirring rendition of the national anthem from Year 12 Tawa College student Ellen van Looy, and speeches from Countdown management and Mayor Celia Wade-Brown before Hon Peter Dunne MP officially declared the supermarket open. Proceedings concluded with a haka from the Tawa College kapa haka group.



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

"Organised people are just too lazy to look for things."

"If we treat people as they ought to be, we help them become what they are capable of becoming."
– Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

"Most of the exercise I get is from standing and walking all day from one laboratory table to another. I derive more benefit and entertainment from this than some of my friends and competitors get from playing games like golf." – Thomas Edison, American inventor, 1847-1931

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.

Musings from the Ed.

Most of us are well and truly back into the "old routine" after time away and/or running at half tilt (if such an expression exists) through most of January. And we certainly can't complain about the run of weather we've enjoyed in these parts over the past while.

Karen and I had a couple of weeks away in Tauranga and the Coromandel over Christmas – New Year. Much of the country experienced a certain amount of rain at that time, and where we were wasn't spared. However it was still warm and we weren't too restricted in terms of outdoor activities, although we couldn't describe too many days as being ideal beach weather!



We got to ride on the Driving Creek narrow gauge "mountain" railway near Coromandel township, and we spent a few fascinating hours at The Waterworks in much the same vicinity. Both were new and enjoyable experiences which, as far as I am aware, are lesser-known attractions in terms of the overall New Zealand tourist scene. Another highlight was a boat trip from Whitianga to Cathedral Cove and beyond. One lesson I



learned was that it's not a good idea to sit down in a pool of water at Hot Water Beach with a cell phone in one's back pocket!

I got to spend a week in my old stomping ground of Christchurch which included riding through Bottle Lake Forest (northeast of the city), a favourite haunt of mine. I don't get out on my bike all that often in Tawa because I don't especially enjoy riding on hills. So I make the most of it on the flat in and around Christchurch. I also enjoy doing a circuit or two of Hagley Park, 20-25 minutes per loop if I recall rightly, and sometimes stop along the way to admire the photogenic Avon boatsheds which date back to the 1880s.



I was nearing Spencer Park at the upper edge of Bottle Lake Forest when I rode past a small fire amongst the trees. Initially it looked like little more than a bonfire but I couldn't see anyone tending to it. So I stopped and wondered what to do. Another cyclist stopped and we decided to dial 111 because this small fire certainly had the potential to turn into a big fire. They informed me it had already been reported and a fire engine was on its way.

After 10 to 15 minutes, with the fire growing ever larger and threatening to envelop nearby trees, I was wishing the fire crew would hurry and turn up. It took them a total of 20 minutes to get there, the explanation being that they comprised volunteers who had probably been at their own places of work before being called out to this emergency. I was just thankful they arrived before the fire had got out of control, which is what it did in several other spots near Christchurch around that time. The crew doused the flames in less than a minute, then spent another 15-20 minutes hosing down any further potential hot spots.

Back in Tawa I related the incident to Mike Farrand, chief fire officer for the Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade. He pointed out we should be thankful that their target is to get to most of Tawa within 7 minutes or so of being called out. And yes, I am thankful for our local fire volunteers. I think of them whenever I hear the fire siren in Tawa, and I feel good for living in a "small town" community such as this. The fire siren and those who rush to assist the moment it beckons are all part of what makes this place special.

It also hit home to me that we really don't have very much graffiti in Tawa, at least compared with some parts of Christchurch. I couldn't help but notice a plague of graffiti, a continuous eyesore, as I drove through the likes of Richmond/North Avon – on fences, traffic lights, shops, powerpoles, etc, etc. There is, after all, a reason for undulations in the roads in those neighbourhoods, but not for so-called tagging. So I'm very glad we aren't afflicted to nearly the same degree in Tawa – railway stations and the odd spot here and there excepted. And we can all play our part in ensuring it stays that way!