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COMMUNITY NEWS

April
2013 - 2

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

TELL COUNCIL – IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO!!!

If it's important to YOU that Tawa retains an effective 'voice' into the future, it is important that YOU tell the Council that! There's a very simple method outlined below.



With the proposed changes to local government in the Wellington region, in future days there may be no community board to represent Tawa. There may or may not be an adequate replacement.

TAKE 2 MINUTES TO MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN.

You could complete the official submission form which has more than 20 questions. To fill in the questionnaire, go to <http://haveyoursay.regionalreform.org.nz/> That could take several minutes which is fine if you're happy to do that.

However a quick and simple option is to

Email info@regionalreform.org.nz with your views.

One or two sentences may be all it takes. You could say something like this:

"I do not have strong views on the amalgamation issue but I believe it's important that, whatever happens, Tawa does not lose its community voice."

ALTERNATIVELY you could say:

"I support option 1"* and, if you wish, give a brief reason for doing so, OR say

"I support option 2"* and, if you wish, give a brief reason for doing so, OR say

"I support the status quo with improved efficiencies" and maybe give a brief reason why

IN EACH INSTANCE go on to say something like this:

"Whatever happens, it is important to me that Tawa people still have a strong community voice."

You will need to provide:

- your first and last names
- your email address
- please also say you're from Tawa

See *<http://regionalreform.org.nz/The-Models> for information about the various options.

Every email (submission) counts. Please send your comments to the email address above.

THE IMPORTANT THING IS FOR AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS IF TAWA IS TO CONTINUE WITH A VOICE INTO THE FUTURE!!!

For details about the recent community meeting on this issue, see the next page.

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

WELL DONE TAWA ON SUPPORTING OUR MEETING!

Around 125 people attended a recent Tawa community meeting on the question of 'amalgamation' and where the Tawa Community Board might fit into the mix.

Bruce Murray from the Tawa Historical Society gave a short overview on the history of local government in Tawa. This was followed by Brian Hannah from the WCC giving a presentation on the Regional Governance Reform options (otherwise known as 'amalgamation' proposals).

When a straw poll was taken at the end, there was minority support for options 1 & 2 – both involving a single council across the region). The overwhelming majority indicated their preference for the status quo.

When the question was asked whether we'd like to be part of a Wellington ward (as we are at present) or part of a new Porirua ward, the overwhelming majority indicated their preference for the Wellington option.

When a public meeting organised by the Porirua City Council on the 'amalgamation' issue was held in Cannons Creek a few days before the Tawa meeting, around 30 people turned up, of whom approximately half were Councillors or Council officers – according to an article in the *Kapi-Mana News*.

Tawa Community Board members Malcolm Sparrow and Robert Tredger attended a similar meeting in Titahi Bay last week. There were 33-34 people at that, with at least ten from the Council.

This week the same two board members, as well as Crs Ngaire Best and Justin Lester, were at a "Regional Governance Reform" meeting (the same issue again) in Johnsonville, run by the Wellington City Council. That was attended by 25 people, about one-third of whom were "from the Council".

To get 125 people (very few of whom were "from the Council") at the Tawa meeting was, quite simply, a brilliant turnout! Thanks everyone for your support.

WATERING THE HANGING BASKETS

As reported in our most recent newsletter, around 35 people indicated their willingness to be involved in manually watering our hanging baskets when the Council's ban on all outdoor watering was in place.

As it turned out, we drew up a roster with four different people watering the plants each evening, and the Wednesday Guides taking charge on Wednesday evenings.

With the watering ban being lifted last week, our automated irrigation system has now been switched back on again.

Thanks to all those who played a part in keeping the flowers alive!



TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

UPDATE ON TAWA STATION

(supplied by Greater Wellington Regional Council)

The new-look Tawa Station will re-open on Monday 20 May.

The brand new station building features a range of distinctive panels showcasing Tawa's rail history and unique natural environment. As well as decorating the station the panels protect waiting passengers against wind and rain.

Along with the new building the station platforms have been strengthened and repairs have been carried out on the overhead pedestrian bridge.

Footnote:

The roof for the new station has been constructed in the station carparking area. It is likely to be lifted into place next week, but this will be dependent on the weather.

The panels featured below will line the outer walls of the new station. A plaque, or similar, will provide details of what each picture is. Some are more obvious than others.



TAWA PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

A community board representative has recently visited each of Tawa's six primary schools, plus the Intermediate, speaking to the senior students about the Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards and encouraging the Year 6 (or Year 8) students in each school to strive to be the winner of the award.

Each session was 7-8 minutes long and was "visually enhanced" with a billboard of last year's winners (as in the pic at right being shown to Hampton Hill students), along with the wooden shield located in each school's office block.

The shields list the names of successive years' winners, with the awards having started in 2011. The ceremony itself will take place at the end of November with Mayor of Wellington presenting the award to each winning student.



YOUR CHANCE TO SPONSOR LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS

Bridgette Strid is a member of the Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade and is currently training for the Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge in Auckland on Saturday 11 May.

This will be her third year competing in the event, and this time she will be getting her hair shaved off in the hope of raising a lot for the charity. It is currently about half a metre long (see the photo).



The Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge is a fundraising initiative for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer NZ (LBC), who support children and adults diagnosed with blood cancers in New Zealand, along with their families. It is a charity which receives no Government funding for its work.

There are three other Tawa members Bridgette will be competing alongside - John Pitchford (back right) and Mark Osborne (back left) who have both participated before, and David Logan who'll be competing for the first time.

The hair-removing operation will take place at approximately 6.30pm on Friday 3 May at the Tawa Fire Station. You can be there to support Bridgette, or visit the Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade's fundraising page at http://www.firefightersclimb.org.nz/view_group_event_profile/441

Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade also has an active Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tawa-Volunteer-Fire-Brigade/215455908516537>.

SERVICE OFFERED BY LOCAL JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

A Justice of the Peace is now available at the Tawa Community Centre each Monday from 10am until 1pm, except on public holidays.

Justices of the Peace can:

- Witness signatures.
- Certify copies of documents (both the original and the copy must be provided by the client).
- Take statutory declarations
- Swear or affirm Affidavits

Please bring identification with you. Do not sign any documents before meeting with the JP.

Justices of the Peace can also be located through the JP website at <http://www.jpfed.org.nz/>.

Use the "Find a JP" tab or enter <http://www.jpfed.org.nz/Find+a+JP.html>. Enter your postcode or suburb and a list of JPs in your area will be displayed.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION

Poppy Day this year will be on Friday 19 April. All monies from the sale of poppies are used exclusively for welfare purposes for Returned Service veterans in the area in which the monies are collected, in this case Tawa. It is therefore very much for the benefit of our community.

ANZAC DAY OBSERVANCE THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2013



This year's Tawa Community ANZAC Day observance will commence with a parade which will assemble at the New World car park at 9.30am and march off to the Tawa RSA at 9.45am.

The Civic Service will be held in the Tawa RSA Hall, 89 Oxford Street, at the completion of the parade (approximately 10am).

This is a Tawa community commemoration and the public are most welcome to march in the parade, attend the service and pay tribute on this special day of remembrance.

TAWA CEMETERY WORKING BEE

A team of 12 volunteers spent the best part of two hours last Saturday morning clearing a lot of overgrowth from the back of Tawa Cemetery.

Most of the cemetery is well maintained. It was just the rear portion

that needed attention,

and considerable progress was made on the day.

A few hidden gravestones were uncovered including that of Henry Francis Hooper who died in July 1891 at the age of 38, and his wife Elinor Susan who died in April 1938 at the age of 85 (photo at left). That gravestone was lying flat and completely covered with vegetation and soil. Satisfying to bring it to the light of day again.



Thanks to the all those who pitched in, and thanks to Richard Herbert from Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves who gave clear instructions to some of the botanically-challenged on what exactly to do. That's Richard in the gumboots on the right.

YOUNG SPEECHMAKER CONTEST

The Lions Clubs of New Zealand offer youth 16-20 years of age the opportunity to participate in a public speaking competition. Entrants must have attained seventeen years of age and not have had their 21st birthday by **1 December 2013**.



Entrants will be required to deliver a prepared speech of not less than five minutes or more than six minutes. The topic is at the discretion of the contestant. Penalty points apply for under and over time. An additional impromptu speech of not more than two minutes on a topic determined by the judges will also be delivered by each contestant. Penalty points apply for over time.

District Finals will be held throughout New Zealand on a weekend late May - end June 2013 to determine two winners per district. These winners will travel to the National Finals in Auckland on **17 August 2013**. All travel to the Finals is at the expense of New Zealand Lions Clubs. The National Finalist will be required to deliver the two speeches as aforementioned. The National Final will be held in Auckland on **Saturday 17 August 2013**.

An overall National winner will be determined at this contest and their prize will be a four to six week trip to the United States/Canada. Air travel, accommodation and meals will be met by Lions Clubs International and our sponsor. 1st Runner Up will receive a trip to Australia and 2nd Runner Up will receive a placement at the Lions International Youth Camp at Rotorua in December 2013/January 2014.

If you are interested in this contest please contact Keith Kenderdine on 234 8551 or by email on tawalions.youth@lionsclubs.org.nz.

TAWA MIDWEEK BADMINTON CLUB

WHEN – Tuesday and Thursday mornings 9.30am to 11.30am

WHERE – Wellington North Badminton Courts, next to Redwood Railway station, just south of the tennis courts. Excellent facilities – 6 courts available.

Everyone welcome. Just come along or phone Pip on 232 1561. Your first visit is free.

BOARDS OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS

Tawa has six primary schools, an intermediate school and the college. Each will be looking for Boards of Trustees members in elections taking place next month. Maybe you could put your name forward! As their advertisement states, "Becoming a school trustee could be one of the most rewarding roles you have". Also see www.trustee-election.co.nz.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION SEMINAR

Tuesday 23 April, 7.00pm at the Tawa Community Centre. Free entry!

Featuring guest speakers: Nutritionist Jordan Crosbie and Exercise Consultant Lucy Newrick.

HOP IN = HOLIDAY DROP IN

Come in for morning tea and company in the School Holidays. Everybody is welcome! Tuesday 23 April and Thursday 2 May, 10am to 12 noon.

Want to keep warm with a cuppa? Feel like having nice company and a chat? Need some space and activities for your pre-schoolers? Then join us at Tawa Union Church, Elena Place. Toys and activities for pre-schoolers provided. Enquiries to Heidrun 232 2197 or Karen 232 3436.



"FOSTERING RESILIENCE IN TEENS"

Youth Wellbeing Study Community education Evening (organised by the Tawa College PTA).

7.00pm on Wednesday, 22 May 2013 in the Tawa College Hall, Duncan Street, Tawa.



The aim of this evening is to identify ways to build resilience among young New Zealanders. Resilience is being able to bounce back from difficulties, learn from them to be stronger and more confident in the face of new challenges. During this evening we will expand on what it is to be resilient, strategies for improving resilience, and fostering resilience in young people.

PARENTING SEMINARS IN JUNE

Brain Research and Learning: What Parents Need to Know ... with Leading Maori Academic, Educator, Researcher, Parent – Nathan Mikaere Wallis from Christchurch.

Preschool & Primary Years: Tuesday 11 June

Secondary Years: Wednesday 12 June

Place: Tawa College Hall

Time: 7-9pm

Supper provided

Gold coin donation

Sponsored by Tawa Community Board, a Tawa Community Trust and Tawa College

Enquires to Marg Lucas: margaret.lucas@wellingtonrtlb.school.nz



Adios

Malcolm Sparrow

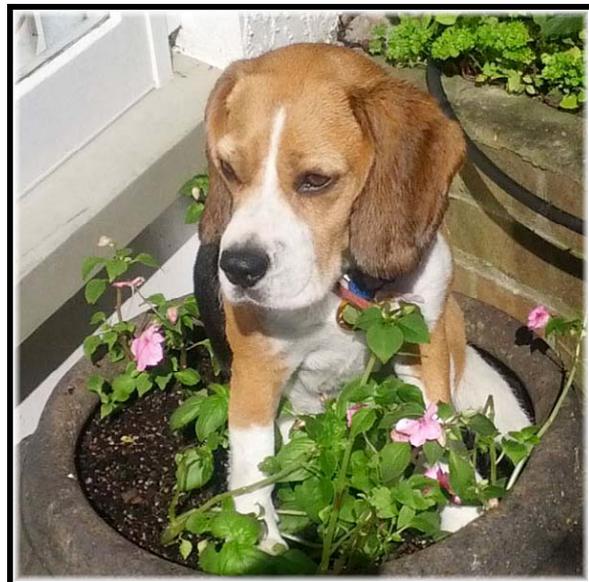
On behalf of TawaLink.com

(loosely under the umbrella of the

Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association)

info@tawalink.com www.tawalink.com

232 5030 or 027 232 2320



PET OF THE WEEK

Daisy Armstrong, 6 year old beagle

“Being quiet is fine because most people don’t listen anyway.”

“There is a difference between knowing the path and walking the path.”

“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

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 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 who will be biking the Otago Central Rail trail later next week

BUYING LOCALLY?

You’ve possibly seen the front page of this week’s Kapi-Mana News to do with the local butchery closing down. According to the report, the butchery owner isn’t happy that his business hasn’t had the support it has needed in recent months to survive. “It’s almost like the community isn’t a community here. They don’t support local,” he says.

Is buying locally a part of what makes a thriving community? It may be part of the equation, but only one part. In my opinion there is a whole lot more to what constitutes a ‘real’ community than just that aspect. Many, if not most, Tawa people would agree that this is a great community in which to live. There’s a lot of ‘connectedness’, there’s a vibrant community spirit, more streets in Tawa got together for “Neighbours’ Day” than anywhere else in Wellington, etc, etc. The word ‘community’ (in a positive light) comes through repeatedly in feedback I receive.

But back to buying locally. It’s not necessarily a straightforward issue. I think that most people make their purchasing decisions based on convenience and price, and not necessarily in that order. The reality is that it’s obviously more convenient to buy meat, fruit & vegetables, and a Lotto ticket when making other purchases at the supermarket, than to visit four separate stores. Presumably that’s what most people do and that’s what has resulted in the downturn for the butcher with two local supermarkets now up and running.

It’s a cruel business world out there. For the sake of the Main Road retailers I wish it was different. I don’t buy Lotto tickets but I like to think I would make the effort to support a certain long-established local Lotto store if I did. Easy to say, I guess.

Then there’s the business of which supermarket to support. There are people, my family included, who do most of their grocery shopping at New World Tawa because, amongst various other reasons, that supermarket is at the heart of our community (at least geographically) and I suspect that, on the whole, the centre of Tawa would be considerably worse off without it.

I also give the owners of that supermarket credit for supporting the community with their temporary store for the 11 months Tawa was without a supermarket last year. And I recall a free shuttle bus service being provided to a full-size supermarket for those without transport. The Tawa community has also been provided with BBQ packs as prizes for Neighbours’ Weekend in Tawa. For me the word ‘loyalty’ features in there somewhere, although no doubt there will be those who would regard that way of thinking as simply being naïve. I also believe there are instances in which that supermarket could have done things better, so I certainly do not have a blind allegiance.

I’m aware that a certain number of people leave the area to do their grocery shopping in Porirua. Presumably that’s all about price. I think it has little to do with convenience or service, or a “pleasant shopping experience”. Fair enough. Like most people, I don’t like paying more than I need to and therefore endeavour to shop strategically, buying when on ‘special’, etc.

I received an email last week from one local resident concerned about the butchery closing, and asking what we as a community could do to support it. At that stage it was simply too late to even think about it.

But is there anything concrete we can do to support local businesses? I could harp on in every edition of this newsletter, encouraging people to buy locally. Would that make an iota of difference? Probably not. Some of us might make a concerted effort to buy locally (in the same way that some of us patronise a certain local supermarket). That might help a little. I’m really not sure what the answer is.

As the article in the *Kapi-Mana News* says, “Loyal customers are a huge help but Tawa small shopkeepers need to band together to attract new custom ... a plan could be formulated to turn Tawa into a shopping destination like Petone.” There’s merit in that. Maybe the Tawa Community Board and Main Road retailers need to get together to talk. We have to start somewhere!