



COMMUNITY NEWS

Late
January 2014

This community newsletter is sent out usually twice each month on behalf of tawalink.com, Tawa's community website since 2002.

A BARBECUE IN YOUR STREET – WHAT A GREAT IDEA!

Most Kiwis like the idea of knowing their neighbours better, and running a neighbourhood barbecue is one of the best ways of achieving that. It's actually very simple to organise, with lots of benefits!

You may already be aware that the Tawa Community Board – on behalf of the whole community of Tawa – was recognised with an “Enhancing Communities” award last May in recognition of Tawa hosting 50 barbecues (or similar gatherings) in conjunction with Neighbours' Weekend in both 2012 and 2013.



In other words, Tawa is already known for being a very neighbourly suburb. We want to keep building on that, with more and more streets getting involved in Neighbours' Weekend in March, any weekend in March. So start thinking about it now and watch this space!

Here's some of the feedback we've received from those who have organised street barbecues in Tawa:

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

“We discussed what we would do in an emergency”

“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.”

“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 talked about the need for self-dependence and mutual aid, and recommended everyone has water, food, gas, etc, for keeping themselves going for at least three days should there be a disaster.”

HANGING BASKETS RE-HUNG



Doug Burrus of Tawa Rotary and
Chris Reading, former TCB member

It was just over a year ago, December 2012, when the hanging baskets on the Main Road between the library and Drummond's Pharmacy were first put in place. There has been a considerable amount of positive feedback since then, with the baskets originally being a Tawa Community Board initiative.

The flowers in the 50 odd baskets need replacing every six months at a cost of \$1200+ each time. They were replaced with new plants five days before Christmas 2013, with credit due to Tawa Rotary who provided funding and the necessary manpower on the day.

ENSURING AN ARTIFICIAL TURF IN TAWA?

In April 2011 this community newsletter reported as follows:

“The ‘Turf in Tawa’ ePetition containing 1725 names was officially presented to Wellington City councillors by Tawa Community Board member Margaret Lucas on Thursday last week, along with a paper version with 510 signatures, a total of more than 2200 signatures.

..... Councillors agreed yesterday to the installation of an artificial turf in Johnsonville in 2013/14, followed by Grenada North/Tawa in 2014/15. Not as soon as we'd like but there is the possibility that this could be brought forward if additional community funding can be identified earlier.”

NEWS KAPI-MANA NEWS, APRIL 26, 2011 5

Budget set for new artificial sports turf

By KRIS DANDO

Tawa or Grenada North will have an artificial sports turf by 2014.

A meeting of Wellington City Council earlier this month confirmed a \$1.45 million budget for the facility for the 2014-15 financial year. However, councillor Justin Lester, who has been supportive of a turf for the northern suburb, says this may happen earlier if community funding can be secured.

Along with Nairville and Te Whaea (completed) and two under construction at Wakefield Park, Wellington College and Alex Moore Park (Johnsonville) are the next “cubs off the rank”. Further sites like Karet and North-

land have been proposed but Mr Lester says the Tawa community mobilised well to put their case forward.

“We had a range of options that came back from council officers – this was after Tawa Community Board members Margaret Lucas, Malcolm Sparrow and students from Tawa College presented superbly. I’m really happy, from both a sporting perspective and for the people of Tawa.”

Over 2200 signatures were gathered online and in hard copy for a petition to have an artificial turf in the suburb, insisting this would lead to a fairer spread of facilities across the city.

Mr Lucas says they were “delighted” with the outcome, which came after they received a mandate from residents.

“It’s the community saying ‘we are interested in having a facility’ and we’re worthy recipients. It’s very exciting and going to be huge for sports clubs, especially in the middle of winter.”

She says some clubs will likely prefer the siting of a turf at Grenada North, but as a community board they are open to looking at Tawa College as well. Issues like frequency of use and closeness to public transport are factors that need to be considered.

Redwood Park has been discounted because rugby and softball already use much of the grass area.

Sponsorship will also be sought so the construction timetable can be accelerated. If extra funding and the location can be locked in soon, Mr Lester says there is talk of building it next year.

He would like to see the turf built at Tawa College, saying the isolation of Grenada North may expose any facility up there to vandalism, whereas something within a school’s grounds is not as likely to face this problem. He is optimistic a site can be chosen soon.

The grass looks greener: Tawa residents Margaret Lucas, left, Bernadette Kune and Malcolm Sparrow are excited to hear they will soon have an artificial sports turf nearby. Photo: EMMA BEER

Clipping from
Kapi-Mana News
April 26, 2011,
confirming WCC
funding for Tawa’s
artificial turf

However you may have seen the front page article in last week’s *Wellingtonian* newspaper (January 23, 2014) with its sub-headline reading: *“Artificial pitch funds removed”*. The main reason given for the Council’s proposed change of mind appears to be that *“The Wellington Region Sports Field Strategy did not recommend an artificial turf in Tawa because two of them had been laid in Porirua and there was one under construction at Alex Moore Park, Johnsonville.”*

It is important to note that no final decision has yet been made. The proposal is to defer funding in the meantime and review the situation in another four or five years.

If Tawa people feel strongly about this issue, it is up to you to let the Council know your views. The Tawa Community Board took the lead on this issue in early 2011 and is likely to be doing so again now. Submissions to the Council on the draft annual plan (under which funding for the artificial pitch would be either included or excluded) can be made from 11 February through to 11 March. That is when the community has the opportunity to express its views.

Further information will be included in the next issue of this newsletter.

BRINGING THE BIRDS BACK TO TAWA

The Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves would love some help with bringing the native birds back to Tawa. Our pest control work requires the regular placement of bait and the checking of traps. This involves regular walks along set routes in the Tawa valley and reporting back the results. A great way to help our local ecology and take some walks in the regenerating bush. We have a friendly team who would be very happy to talk through this task. If this is of interest, please contact Grant Willis on 232 4878 or willis_family@xtra.co.nz. More can be found at www.tawabush.wellington.net.nz.



Bellbird - photo by Anya Mowll of Tawa

BIKING THE TAWA VALLEY PATHWAY (from the Ed.)

I completed my first full bike ride of the “Tawa Valley Pathway – Ara Tawa” the week before last, riding from Willowbank Park as far north as Porirua Station. It was a sunny evening with a cool northerly wind blowing. The intention was to take a few photos along the way and that’s what I did.

contd

BIKING THE TAWA VALLEY PATHWAY (contd)

The bridge at the end (or start?) of the pathway at Willowbank hasn't yet been constructed. After parking in the Willowbank carpark I had to cross the Porirua Stream (photo 1) using the existing bridge, and then head uphill on the other side. A little further on I reached the spot where the "completed" pathway is waiting for the new bridge to be built, some time in the next couple of months. Onwards through the trees (2) to Redwood Station with work on the pathway being carried out in the northern carpark (3).

Unlike some summer's evenings, there was hardly a soul to be seen on the stretch of pathway between Redwood and Tawa Stations (4). Moments later I reached the railway crossing between the college and the pool just as the bells started ringing - all part of the experience! The train came and went quickly (5).

Knowing that Grasslees Reserve is currently undergoing a major overhaul, I was interested in observing progress to date. The play equipment in the play area had all been removed (6). Completely new play gear, mostly timber, has since been constructed to replace the "old" plastic play equipment (photo 7 - Grasslees in early January). And a bridge is to be built across the stream to link up with the dog exercise area and yet-to-be-built barbecue facilities on the other side.

From there the pathway is basically a glorified 3-metre wide footway along Luckie St, Beauchamp St (8) and Findlay St to Linden Park. At that point it was nice to be "off road" again and crossing the bridge across the stream (9) to ride the newly-completed stretch of tarmac to Kenepuru Station where the pathway officially peters out (10). That's where Porirua City begins, and there's an existing, albeit rougher track right up to central Porirua. It heads past pleasant stream terrain (11) on one side and the railway track on the other before you arrive in central Porirua (12) a few minutes later.

The ride northwards took 45-50 minutes with several stops for photos and other dilly-dallying. The return leg took less than 20 minutes with just one photo stop and the wind on my back. The pathway is an easy excursion right on our doorstep and one I'd happily recommend, for either cycling or walking.

Footnote: As it turned out, I repeated the ride just a few days later on the Saturday morning, this time accompanied by Councillor David Lee who was interested in seeing the shared pathway for himself.

Go to www.facebook.com/malcolmsparrownorthern if you wish to see enlarged versions of the photos below.



TAWA COLLEGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Tawa College is now only one of two schools in the Wellington region (the other being Wellington High School) who still run a Community Education Programme. If you want it to continue in the community then you need to support it. Most courses are open to senior students. Younger students can attend with a fee-paying adult to accompany them. It was not long ago when there were 22 schools in the Wellington region running courses.

Tawa College Community Education Term 1 Programme is now out and enrolments are being accepted. Enrolments can be made online through www.tawacommed.co.nz or call into the college office or post a brochure (obtained from local libraries, Take Note or New World Tawa).

TRAVEL: If you are planning to travel this year there are language courses especially designed for travellers in French, Spanish or Chinese, and later in the year in Malay.

FOOD: For those of you interested in food there are cooking courses in Indian, Chinese, Modern Asian, Italian, Vegetarian, Bread and Easter Buns, Indian Sweets as well as Cheese Making in Halloumi, Ricotta, Feta and Mozzarella or an Organic Home Gardening course for you to grow your own food.

NETBALL SUPPORT: For parents (teachers and senior students) who are interested in supporting a school netball team there is a special course to help you gain the confidence and tools to have a season plan for coaching and management. The course will cover rules, expectations, fundamentals, basic games strategies, team building, player rotation and training plans.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MORE: Some of the Personal Development courses include Advanced Reading Skills, Classical Studies, Managing Stress and Positive Thinking, as well as Art and Craft courses in Photography, Interior Design, Sewing, Patchwork, Needle Felting, Felt Brooches, Flowers, Oil Painting, Drawing, etc.

If you have any questions please contact Judith at comed@tawacollege.school.nz or 232 7163.

HOP IN = HOLIDAY DROP IN



Holiday fun for caregivers and preschoolers. An opportunity for adult company while your pre-schooler plays in a safe environment.

Plenty of toys and activities! Morning tea available!

Everybody is welcome! Join us on Thursday 30 January 10am to 12 noon, Tawa Union Church, Elena Pl. Please email Heidrun on Heidrun@xtra.co.nz if you wish to attend.



MUSICAL PLAYGROUP

A music/playgroup for preschool children and their minders (formerly POPs)



The music session with the children includes singing, rhythm, movement, playing instruments, learning positional language, colours and counting. There's a creative morning tea for both children and "real" coffee for the adults! It is a very caring and friendly group.



Sessions 2014:

Fridays: 14 Feb, 11 Apr, 13 June, 8 Aug,
17 Oct, 12 Dec; 10.30 am to midday.

Venue: Tawa Union Church, Elena Place.



Contacts:

Rona Belcher 232 4675, Barbara Russell
232 5831 and Elspeth Chiles 232 4554.

U3A LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAMME FOR 2014

Tawa U3A rolls out 39 new courses for the New Year, most of which will begin during February. Many popular courses continue but there are always a few new topics to capture your attention. You may want to consider "For the Bible Tells Me So"; "Dog Walking Group"; "English Homes and the People who Lived in Them"; "English Literature"; "Excel Computer Class"; "An Extraordinary Life (The Life, Times and Music of Prominent Composers)"; "The Shroud of Turin"; "Southern Ocean Expedition".

More information can be found on the new website: www.u3a.gargal.net.

PORIRUA BRANCH OF NZ SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

The branch meets on the second Wednesday of the month, February to November inclusive, at 7.25pm in the Helen Smith Community Meeting Room, Pataka (Norrie St entrance). Visitors are warmly welcomed to meetings, where the branch asks for \$2 per visit to assist with meeting costs. For more information contact Gill on 233 8863.

FLOWER SHOW IN LOWER HUTT

Local garden lovers may be interested in going along to the last Flower Show to be held at the Lower Hutt Horticultural Hall in Laings Road, Lower Hutt (adjacent to the Hutt City Town Hall). The hall and the Town Hall are expected to be demolished soon after the Show to make way for a new Town Hall and Conference Centre in 2016.

The Show is to be held on Saturday 8 February from 11am until 4pm and on Sunday 9 February from 10am until 4pm. Entry charge is only \$2.50 for adults, with children free. It will feature a wide range of flowers, including displays of begonias and fuchsias, many of which will be for sale.

FREE FAMILY FUN

Come and join us for
an afternoon and try

CELTIC DANCING

Suitable for everyone from
8 years to adult.
Bring soft soled shoes

**Saturday 1st February
from 2 - 4pm**

**Tawa Baptist Church Hall
229 Main Rd, Tawa**

Contact Philippa to find out more
Phone 472 9510

www.lindenscd.org.nz



CELTIC DANCING WITH LIVE MUSIC

Classes to get you started

**Mondays 7.30-9.00pm
3, 10, 17, 24 February**

Just \$20 for the 4 classes

**Tawa Baptist Church Hall
229 Main Rd, Tawa**

No partner required,
just wear soft soled shoes

Contact Philippa to find out more
Phone 472 9510

www.lindenscd.org.nz



LAUNCH OF NORTHERN WOMEN, BUSINESS NETWORK GROUP

To get the new year started, we are launching a new informal Business Network Group for Women, Northern Women.

It will be based in Porirua and is open to all self-employed women, those in business, and those planning to be. We'll have monthly meetings where you can let others know about your services, display your flyers and products, meet with other women, listen to a speaker, have coffee ... and some fun.

Join us for our launch meeting:

WHEN: Friday 21 February 2014, 9.00-11.00am

WHERE: Kiwi Room, North City Shopping Centre, Suite 402, Level 4, Titahi Bay Road, Porirua, Wellington (come in at the food court entrance, turn left and go up the stairs or lift)

COST: \$10 includes tea, coffee, biscuits plus a chance to display your flyers and products

SPEAKER'S TOPIC: Networking techniques - meeting, forming and developing

REGISTER: Let us know if you are coming so we can cater for the correct number. You can contact us on admin@chrysalisforwomen.com

INFORMATION: Details are on the website www.chrysalisforwomen.com and on Facebook under Northern Women

AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT CLASSES

Was your New Year's resolution to get fit and lose weight? Then when you went for a run or a brisk walk you got sore? Discover how to move freely from your pelvis so you can exercise without damaging yourself, so your New Year's resolutions can become a reality.

Weekly Awareness Through Movement classes start 18 February at 6pm at the Tawa Community Centre, Cambridge St. Cost \$104 for 8 weeks. To register please email Janine@janinearcher.co.nz.



YEAR OF THE HORSE

**CHINESE NEW YEAR
CELEBRATION**

Celebrate the Year of Horse with a performance by the Chinese Seniors Community Choir and Tai Chi group. Please bring a plate to share.

**MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY, 10:30am-12 noon
TAWA COMMUNITY CENTRE**

For more information contact Mandy on 232 1682 or mandy.russell@wcc.govt.nz



For more details visit Wellington.govt.nz or call 499 4444



Absolutely
POSITIVELY
In Wellington
Wellington

ARE YOU PREPARED?

It's well worth having a Grab&Go Emergency Kit in a readily accessible position in your house. In fact, it might make sense to have more than one. They are available from certain supermarkets and from council service centres for around \$70.

Each kit contains

- First aid kit
- Dynamo-powered torch and AM/FM radio with siren
- Multifunction knife (with can opener)
- 5-in-1 Survival whistle (whistle, compass, signal mirror, waterproof match holder, flint)
- 2 Drink bottles (500ml)
- 2 Light sticks
- Emergency blanket (gold/silver 2.1m x 1.6m)
- Note pad and pencil
- Rain poncho



- 2 Dust masks
- Leather work gloves
- Fabric dressing strip – wound plaster (6cm x 1m)
- 10 Water purification tablets
- Deck of playing cards
- Zip lock plastic bag for important documents
- Civil Defence checklist brochure

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLASSES

Have you ever tried Scottish country dancing? It is fun, good for exercise and social interaction. It also keeps your brain active. You do not need a partner or special dress. A pair of soft shoes is all you need.

Tawa Club will be running classes for new dancers in February. We will meet in the Redwood Centre, Tawa Union Church Hall, Redwood Ave, Tawa from 7.30pm to 9.30pm on 13, 20 and 27 February. \$20 for the course. Contact either Desiree Patterson 478 3077 or Maureen Robson 478 8055.



Feldenkrais Method®

feldenkrais.org.nz

Gentle exploratory movements that:

- Release pain & tension
- Improve balance & coordination
- Regain youthful posture & movement

GET MOVING with BRENDA

These classes are for you if you are noticing that you are starting to "feel your age" and the activities that you want to do are not so easy and fun anymore.

Aging doesn't have to be about aches & pains, poor balance, inflexibility.

Discover how to change your age!

Brenda is a qualified & experienced teacher who has a clear fun style that makes your class enjoyable.

Check out Brenda's website for details, or contact her at 232 9364

www.getmovingwithbrenda.co.nz

change your movement
change your life

CLASSES AT THE LINDEN SOCIAL CENTRE

START WEEK OF 10th FEBRUARY

CLASS TIMES to choose from

Monday 9:15am Monday 7:00pm Tuesday 5:30pm
Wednesday 9:15am Thursday 5:30pm

Adios

Malcolm Sparrow
Wellington City Councillor (Northern)
On behalf of TawaLink.com (supported by the Tawa Residents' Association)



Items for this newsletter should be sent to info@tawalink.com. Queries to 232 5030 or 027 232 2320.

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." – Walt Disney

"If life was fair, Elvis would be alive and all the impersonators would be dead."

"A husband is someone who, after emptying the trash, gives the impression he just cleaned the whole house."

Did you hear that just before Christmas an honest politician, a generous lawyer, and Santa Claus were riding in the elevator of a very posh hotel. Just before the doors opened they all noticed a \$50 note lying on the floor. Which one picked it up?

Santa, of course, because the other two don't exist!

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 would like to receive the newsletter, please send us an email requesting that your name be added to our list.

Back issues of the newsletter are available at www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html.

PLEASE BE AWARE that many of the items/articles in this newsletter have been sent through by members of the Tawa community and have been published 'unedited'. They may not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor.