



COMMUNITY NEWS

mid-March
2014

This community newsletter is sent out usually twice each month on behalf of tawalink.com, Tawa's community website which has been supported by the Tawa Residents' Association since 2002.

MAJOR DELAYS LIKELY FOR TAWA COMMUTERS!

Many local people do not seem to realise how big an impact the NZTA (NZ Transport Agency) proposals for the Tawa area are likely to have on Tawa people in one way or another!

WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT by expressing a view to NZTA by the end of this month. It only needs to be a couple of sentences on a blank piece of paper (well, blank until you've started writing on it!). Send your wording by post or email to: Petone to Grenada Link Road Team, Freepost 225938, PO Box 5084, Thorndon, Wellington 6145 or email petone2grenada@nzta.govt.nz.



Tawa Community Board chair Robert Tredger studying the NZTA proposals.

There are many in the wider Tawa community who believe that neither proposal C (widening SH1 through Tawa) or proposal D (building a new two-lane highway through Takapu Valley) can be justified. NZTA is suggesting that the yet-to-be-built road from Petone to Grenada will be used by perhaps 30,000 vehicles each day. That extra traffic, they argue, will necessitate the motorway being widened (option C) or the new highway being built (option D).

Estimates of additional traffic are merely that - estimates! There is little evidence to suggest that consideration has been given to the reality that car usage on the whole is starting to trend downwards. Whilst Transmission Gully and the Petone to Grenada proposals have been on the table for a considerable time, options C and D have seemingly appeared out of nowhere! Some are suggesting that NZTA's proposals have been inadequately thought through. Many would like to see them removed from the table as quickly as they arose!

Those of us who don't live anywhere near SH1 or Takapu Valley will not escape the adverse effects of the proposals being put forward. Trying to head out of Tawa onto the motorway (SH1) to travel into Wellington on a weekday is likely to become a nightmare! One proposal will see thousands of additional vehicles using the roundabouts at Tawa's southern end to head onto the motorway towards Porirua. There will quite possibly be major, major delays at these roundabouts!

A recent meeting of residents from both Tawa (those living near the motorway) and Takapu Valley agreed to work together to see an end to both proposals. The consensus was that neither option C or D is warranted! They would like the support of fellow residents, most (if not all) of whom will be affected in some way or another, to state that both options should be withdrawn.

ALL YOU NEED DO is send a simple note or email to NZTA expressing your views. Every "submission" counts!



Travelling out of town. With thousands more vehicles using this roundabout - as the two vans are doing - there are likely to be scores of vehicles backed up behind the pickup truck and the hatchback, making it difficult to head south out of Tawa.

NEIGHBOURLY STREETS

These are the 40+ streets/neighbourhoods in Tawa which are having, or have already had, a Neighbours' Day get-together of some sort or another this month (March 2014).

If your street's not listed, it's not too late for you to organise something in your neighbourhood. It can be done quite simply. Email info@tawalink.com for more information.



Balliol Drive
Carleton Tce
Duncan St (nos. 12 to 17)
Greyfriars Cres (lower)
Kiwi Cres (lower)
Mexted Tce East
Pembroke St (upper)
Redwood Village
St Annes Square
Sunrise Blvd (mid)
Turriff Cres (lower)

Beauchamp St
Chester Road (mid)
Duval Grove
Hillary St
Magdalen St
Mexted Tce West
Pikitanga Close
Rembrandt Ave
St Catherines Tce
Sunrise Blvd (upper mid)
Turriff Cres (top)

Bishops Glen
Coates St (north)
Florio Tce
Katarina Grove
Mascot St
Oxford St (mid)
Ranui Tce (Int school end)
Romney Square
St Edmund Cres
Sunrise Blvd (top)

Brasenose Place
Colonial Grove
Gladys Scott Place
Kereru Bend
McKeefry Grove
Oxford St (15 to Cambridge)
Ranui Tce (Kowhai to Collins)
St Aidans Way
St Johns Tce (lower)
Tui Tce

NEIGHBOURHOOD BBQS UNDER WAY

A neighbourhood barbecue was held in Kereru Bend last Saturday. "It was a great evening with about nine families. We have regular get-togethers with many of those that couldn't make it." The photo below left shows the street cake made for the occasion and which was well received. Credit to Sarah Dawson and Alyx Hoy for the baking and decorating.

Meanwhile the good folks across the valley in Colonial Grove decided to postpone their barbecue scheduled for Sunday evening. However a number turned up anyway and 13 neighbours had a great time together. Because some weren't able to be there that time, they've decided to have another this coming Sunday evening as well!



HOSTING AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

STS Student Travel Schools are seeking typical Kiwi families who are busy, friendly, interested in other cultures and willing to welcome an STS exchange student into their family.

New Zealand families come from all walks of life and all cultural backgrounds, that's what makes up our country. Our exchange students are keen to live in a typical Kiwi family and join in your family lifestyle while going to the local high school. Therefore we welcome all families willing to offer one of our exchange students a bed to sleep in, their meals each day and treat their host son or daughter as a member of their own family. Exchange students have their own spending money and medical insurance. While your exchange student is learning about New Zealand culture, your family members will learn about theirs. What a great way for your children to learn about another country!



STS has European Exchange students who require local host families now for a semester or year-long exchange for the 2014/2015 school year here in New Zealand. STS provides a token donation towards costs of \$100.00 a week for hosting one of their exchange students. If you are interested in hosting a STS Exchange student please call Lesley now on (04) 528 5224.

Call us today to start your adventure! STS Student Travel Schools, PO Box 1399, Invercargill 9840. Email us at sts.nz@xtra.co.nz or call 0800 991 991. Website: www.sts-education.co.nz.

BRIDGE LESSONS

The Kapi-Mana Bridge Club is holding a series of 10 lessons starting from 17 March at 7.30pm at its Club Rooms, 8 Linden Avenue, Tawa. Cost is \$50. For more information contact David on 233 1866.



Friday 14 March – Rain or Shine!!!

5.00pm to 8.00pm

Victory Crescent, Tawa

Parking available on Victory Crescent and Hillary Street



FREE WORKSHOPS

Venue for all workshops: The Emmaus Centre, St Christopher's Anglican Church, Main Rd, Tawa.

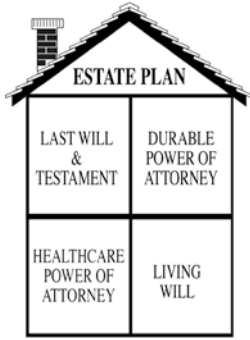
Bookings: phone Tawa-Linden Anglican Church office on 232 8448 or email admin@tac.org.nz

EARLY CHILDHOOD OPTIONS

There are so many options to choose from that it can be bewildering for parents as they try to decide on the best childcare for their pre-schooler. Come along to have the choices demystified and be informed about what is available in Tawa.

Presenters include: Beanstalk Kindergarten, ABC Childcare Centre, Tawa-Linden Playcentre & PORSE

Date: Wed 19 March 2014, 7.30 - 9.30pm



ESTATE PLANNING

We don't like to think about dying but it is one of life's certainties and it is good to be prepared so that those left behind can be well cared for and your wishes can be respected. WILLS, POWER OF ATTORNEY AND BEQUESTS are important topics to be addressing whether you are young or old. Come along to be informed about them.

Presenters: Denise Brown from Public Trust and Tony Biss from the Anglican Diocesan Office

Date: Wed 26 March 2014, 7.30 - 9.30pm

WOMEN'S SOCIAL NETBALL LEAGUE

Registrations for the Tawa Recreation Centre's Women's Social Netball League open on Wednesday 12 March. Get in quickly. The league is open to the first ten teams to register.

Phone 232 2260 for more information.

LOCAL DEFIBRILLATORS

The last newsletter provided details of the nine locations where defibrillators can be found in Tawa.

Please note the following:

- The defibrillator usually available at Drummond's Pharmacy is not currently there. It is located at Tawa College for the meantime.

LOCAL CONSTRUCTION WORK

There's activity going on in at least four different spots in Tawa right now (that we know of):

The Z service station at the southern end of the Main Road is being completely re-built.

A total overhaul of the playground at Grasslees Reserve is currently taking place, and a pedestrian bridge across the stream is being put in place.

A pedestrian bridge across the Porirua Stream at Willowbank is also being constructed. This is at the start of the Tawa Valley Pathway - Ara Tawa.

And further along Willowbank Park, work is under way to restore damage near the pedestrian bridge to Taylor Tce, "left over" from last June's storm.

60 SECONDS WITH Loren Marley

Like many students in Tawa, Loren started her schooling at a local primary school, continued on to Tawa Intermediate, then headed next door to Tawa College where she is this year's head girl.

Where were you born? Wellington

Where did you grow up? In Tawa

What schools have you been at since you first started school?

Redwood, Tawa Intermediate and Tawa College.

What subjects are you doing this year at college?

Art design, art painting, art printmaking, P.E., maths.

What are you hoping to do when you leave school?

Become a police officer. I come from a long line of police officers with my dad, and his dad, and so on. My mum nearly became a police officer as well. So not only have I been inspired to follow in the family footsteps, I also want to help people. I am also very fitness orientated, so being a police officer really brings together both.

What does being a head student actually involve, any particular responsibilities?

Helping and encouraging younger members of the college community to get involved in school life. Also organising school events and activities..

What are your interests/hobbies? Netball, football, touch, dancing, art.

What do you like about Tawa College?

The real community atmosphere. Everybody would go out of their way to help another member of the school or staff.

Favourite sports team and/or sportsperson? The All Blacks.

Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Umm, my favourite holiday destination would have to be Rotoma. It is 20 minutes out of Rotorua and has the cleanest lake in New Zealand I love it for all the water sports and fishing and that sort of stuff.

Any accomplishments/achievements in your life (to date) that give you much satisfaction/pride?

Becoming head girl.



Tawa Community Centre

A friendly place to pop in during the hours of 9am-1pm on weekdays,
or hire a room or hall for your community group / birthday party /
meeting at reasonable rates.

Like us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/TawaAndLindenCommunityCentres>
or email mandy.russell@wcc.govt.nz and put 'Join'
as the subject to receive regular updates.

INSPIRATION BY JUDGE WALKER

- supplied by Carole Brown, HOD Transition & Careers, Tawa College

I just thought I'd share this with you. On Wednesday 5 March 2014 I attended a business breakfast at Pataka sponsored by the Mayor of Porirua, Nick Leggett, and Partners Porirua. The guest speaker was Judge Walker who sits in the Porirua Court with Jane Kelly. He specialises in Youth Court work, and domestic violence. He said that 80% of the cases he deals with are alcohol and drug related, mostly alcohol. Increasingly there are mental health issues, Dyslexia, and Foetal Alcohol (FAS) influences and we must deal with these underlying factors.

In Youth Court he said it was rare to find two parents or other whanau supporting the child (14 to 17). It was usually just a stressed solo mother, or the child in court on their own. He talks to these young people and they all have dreams, but they are drifting because they cannot see how to progress through to the dreams. Often there is no-one at home to teach them the basics: get up, go to work every day, be on time, etc. For many of these young people going to work is not the norm, there is just no example of it, and no connections with someone who cares enough to show them.

He reflected that this is a community problem, not a national one, i.e. it happens nationally but the solutions are within each community. The resources exist within each community and the community must take ownership of the issues. He also said we should not underestimate the mentoring that goes on casually at work in tea breaks from older workers. Often the child is better off in work than on a myriad of courses. It is a matter sometimes of having someone who cares to help them get that first contact with work.

I felt that everything he said endorsed our move to mentor our school leavers through our Ngatahi Hapori (A Community Together) initiative, and that we are on the right path to support and be part of this community project. We welcome anyone from the Tawa community who would like to join us on our pilot scheme as a mentor to one school leaver. I can be contacted on cbrown@tawacollege.school.nz for further information.

"It takes a Village to Raise a Child"

Adios

Malcolm Sparrow

On behalf of TawaLink.com (supported by the Tawa Residents' Association)



"Life is too short to remove a USB stick safely."

"Shine, even when you least feel like it. You just might brighten someone's day."

"What will I do for public transport? I will improve the economy so you can find good enough work to be able to afford a car." – George W Bush, US President, campaign speech

Items for this newsletter should be sent to info@tawalink.com. Queries to 232 5030 or 027 232 2320. Please type in email Subject Line: "Item for Tawa newsletter".

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 no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please send us an email requesting that your name be deleted from 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.

You may have seen the article entitled “Everybody needs good neighbours” on the Wellington City Council’s *Our Wellington* page (A7) of this week’s *Dominion Post*. It was a good article encouraging people to get involved in Neighbours Day this month, and it mentioned some of the activities taking place across Wellington around Neighbours Day. What it didn’t mention was the impressive effort in Tawa of large numbers of street get-togethers for Neighbours Day!

In response to the article, I sent the following comments to the WCC:

“In the past few moments I’ve received a comment from a local resident expressing disappointment that no mention was made in that article of Tawa’s effort in regard to Neighbours Day. They made the point that if Miramar or Newtown or wherever was hosting more than 40 individual street get-togethers for Neighbours Day, very likely that would have been mentioned. But when it’s Tawa, it tends to be overlooked.

I must admit I’m inclined to agree. I’ve previously expressed my view that the primary purpose of Neighbours Day is to encourage people to get together with their immediate neighbours. The article on the OWP concentrates on community get-togethers. Whilst such get-togethers are great, they cannot fulfil the function of giving people the opportunity to get to know one’s immediate neighbours, which is what Neighbours Day is designed for.

Having said that, both types of get-together serve a very worthwhile purpose but, in my humble opinion, more recognition should be given to those suburbs (Tawa or wherever else) that are making a concerted effort to bring neighbours together in individual streets, the real goal of Neighbours Day!”

- With or without “recognition” on OWP, I think it’s brilliant that so many good people in Tawa are doing a great job in organising a barbecue or afternoon tea for their neighbours in individual streets in “this wonderful suburb” (as it was described in an email I received yesterday). That’s what Neighbours Day is really all about!

- Malcolm Sparrow

“A good community will come together and support one another in times of adversity.

A great community will come together and be supporting one another before adversity strikes!”

STOP PRESS: NEW BRIDGE AT GRASSLEES

Just minutes before this newsletter was about to be sent out, the following email came through from Ross Krivan: “Some photos taken yesterday when the men were putting the new bridge in place [at Grasslees Reserve]. We happened to be passing when this took place.”

