



COMMUNITY NEWS

November 2014

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

More regular community updates are available if you join more than 860 other Tawa residents on neighbourly.co.nz. You can opt for daily updates or weekly updates from that site.

'NEIGHBOURLY' BARBECUE

The 'Neighbourly' website sponsored a community barbecue in Tawa just over a week ago. It was a celebration of Tawa's hitting no. 2 spot in New Zealand in terms of 'Neighbourly' membership, now more than 860 locally. Held at the Linden Social Centre, the occasion went off really well with about 150 people enjoying tasty barbecued food, some ice-breaking activities and each other's company.



We had a questionnaire entitled "Who am I?" with interesting information that 40 different people had supplied, like: "I have had lunch with the Queen" and "I turn 40 next year and still play with toy soldiers" and "I am English and love football, especially Liverpool", etc, etc. That made it easier for people to bowl up to and talk with others they hadn't met before.

We are very grateful to 'Neighbourly' for sponsoring the event.

The winners of the three competitions are as follows:



"Who am I?" 1st prize of \$25 Warehouse voucher and Neighbourly mug to Catharine Gallen, pictured at right.

"How well do you know Tawa?" (photos of 40 different Tawa settings). 1st prize to Melissa Secker, pictured at left.



Guess the number of Jaffas. Kati Balmer's guess was the closest at 315. The actual number was 308. She won, you guessed it, 308 Jaffas!

TAWA BOROUGH SCHOLARSHIP

The college's academic prizegiving took place last Monday evening with various 'dignitaries' presenting certificates and various trophies to around 100 students in acknowledgement of academic achievements throughout the course of this year. Congratulations to all of them!



Former Tawa College principal, Bruce Murray, and the chair of the Tawa Community Board, Robert Tredger, presented the Murray Trophy and the Tawa Borough Scholarship (administered by the Tawa Community Board) to "... a student who has demonstrated all-round ability, with excellence firstly in academic endeavour, and secondly in sporting or cultural fields, and who in addition has given worthwhile service to the College and/or Tawa community".

Congratulations to this year's winner, Loren Marley (current head girl) pictured with Bruce Murray (left) and Robert Tredger.

“A HISTORY OF TAWA” - by Bruce Murray

Since 2005 the Tawa Historical Society has published a dozen books and booklets about Tawa. We have felt for some time that the process involved in researching and writing about a range of topics related to Tawa’s past has given us enough of a perspective to write a more general history of the Tawa district, including Takapu Valley.

“A History of Tawa” covers a period of more than five centuries. The opening chapter deals with the physical setting and the first inhabitants of the area. The remainder of the book follows a chronological path, noting the significant developments within the district since 1840. In particular, it chronicles such matters as the removal of the bush cover and its replacement by grass; the importance of the road to Wellington; changes in agriculture; the arrival of the railway; attempts at suburbanisation; the critical effects on Tawa of the Tawa Flat railway deviation and the motorway; the post WW2 boom in population; and the impact on Tawa of Johnsonville’s and Porirua’s shopping malls.

“A History of Tawa” contains 256 pages, and is liberally illustrated. It includes 65 photographs, 17 maps, 15 tables, and 11 illustrations, and has, for example, population figures which include results from the 2013 census, and photos not only back to 1865, but also recent panoramas and pictures. It is written by Bruce Murray, an historical geographer by training, a teacher of geography and history, and a Tawa resident for half a century.

Tawa is fortunate that its history has been well documented in the past. Elsdon Best’s newspaper articles of 1914, Porirua and they who settled it, was the first. Arthur Carman’s “Tawa Flat and the old Porirua Road” published in 1956, continues to be a goldmine of information. Ken Cassells’ “Tawa – Enterprise and Endeavour” of 1988, which recorded not only Tawa’s history but also the demise of the Tawa Borough Council, is similarly valuable. We believe that it is timely for a new, updated history of our district to appear, and that this latest publication will both complement and enhance the stories of the northernmost suburb of New Zealand’s capital city.

The cost of “A History of Tawa” is \$45.00, and it can be purchased from the Tawa Library on the Main Road, or ordered through the Tawa Historical Society’s PO Box 56-076, Tawa 5249.

CONNECTING WITH TAWA ON ‘NEIGHBOURLY’

Coming Events in Tawa (as posted on Neighbourly):

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Saturday 15 Nov | - Redwood School Gala |
| Sunday 16 Nov | - First Aid Course at Tawa College |
| Sunday 16 Nov | - St Francis Xavier School Fair |
| Wednesday 19 Nov | - After School Care Meeting with Kris Faafoi |
| Thursday 20 Nov | - Men’s Health Night |
| Saturday 22 Nov | - Tawa School Fair |
| Saturday 22 Nov | - Dine & Dance at Tawa RSA |
| Sunday 7 Dec | - Tawa Music Centre Concert and AGM |
| Tuesday 9 Dec | - Music Fundraiser Screening |

‘Neighbourly’ enables Tawa people to share information with each other and to become a more “connected” community. See www.neighbourly.co.nz.



ARE YOU KEEPING UP WITH WHAT’S HAPPENING IN TAWA?

TAWA COLLEGE'S ACADEMIC PRIZEGIVING

School finished last week for Tawa College seniors, years 11-13. It's now officially study time with NCEA exams beginning yesterday (Monday).

The college's academic prizegiving took place last Monday evening with various 'dignitaries' presenting certificates and various trophies to around 100 students in acknowledgement of academic achievements throughout the course of this year. Congratulations to all of them!

The names of the head prefects for 2014 were announced on the night. They are Josh Nightingale and Folau Vea (head boy and deputy) and Briana Boele van Hensbroek and Jess Kerr (head girl and deputy).



Josh



Brianna



Folau



Jess

DEFIBRILLATORS IN TAWA

Portable defibrillators (also known as AEDs - Automated External Defibrillators) are the only proven way to resuscitate a person who has had a cardiac arrest, prior to treatment being provided by medical experts. These units can be found in the following locations in Tawa:

- Tawa Medical Centre, Rewa Tce
- Linden Medical Centre, Hinau St
- Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade, Lyndhurst Road
- Tawa Pool, Davies St
- Tawa Bowling Club, Davies St
- Power Systems Consultants, Level 2, 210 Main Rd (above Mani's Hair Design, Tawa Paza)
- Drummond's Pharmacy, Main Road
- 24/7 Fitness, Tawa Mall
- Mervyn Kemp Library, cnr Main Rd & Cambridge St
- Tawa Community Centre, Cambridge St
- Outlet City, southern end of Main Road
- Tawa Community Patrol



The Rotary Club of Tawa recently supplied a defibrillator to the Tawa Bowling Club. The photo shows Pat Waite, Tawa Rotary's co-president, presenting the unit to Grant Traill, the bowling club's president.

TAWA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE OPEN DAY LAST MONTH

The Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade celebrated its 70th anniversary by holding an open day late last month which was well supported by the local community. NZ Fire Service, Wellington Free Ambulance and NZ Police participated on the day.



The photo at left features capable barbecue hands (L to R): John Hughes, Brett Gillies, Nick Swan and Mal Fyfe.



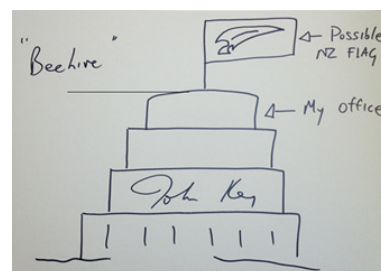
SCHOOL FAIR SEASON



SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER - REDWOOD SCHOOL GALA

Come join us for a great family day out at the Redwood School Gala on Saturday 15 November from 11.00am - 3.00pm. See the graphic below left.

We have an original sketch by the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable John Key being auctioned at 12 noon.



SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER - ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL FAIR

Sunday 16 November, 10am to 2pm. Come along and join in the fun of our school fair. Great stalls, great food, cakes, sweets, candy floss, plus cherry picker rides, bouncy castle, horse rides, hot rods and much, much more. Bring the whole family for a fantastic day out.



SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER - TAWA SCHOOL FAIR

11am - 2pm on Saturday 22 November. Jumble sale, cake stalls, food stalls, pony rides, vehicles, trains, entertainment and activity for all ages. See the graphic below right.

And have a chat with members of the Tawa Community Board at the board's stand!

**JOIN US AT THE
REDWOOD SCHOOL
GALA**

Saturday 15th November 2014
11:00am - 3:00pm
Redwood Avenue
Tawa

FOOD STALLS CRAFTS
EFTPOS MUSIC SPIN THE WHEEL
TOMBOLA GAMES DISPLAYS
GARAGE SALE INFLATABLES
LUCKY DIPS RAFFLES
COFFEE AND MORE

tawaschoolfair.blogspot.co.nz  Find us on Facebook

**TAWA
SCHOOL
Fair**

**22 November 2014
11am - 2pm
TAWA SCHOOL,
OXFORD STREET, TAWA**

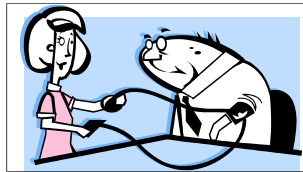
**Jumble sale, cake stalls, food stalls,
pony rides, vehicles, trains,
entertainment and
activities for all ages.**

Men's Health Night

Thursday 20 November
7pm

Emmaus Centre
St Christopher's Anglican Church
Main Road, Tawa

Blood Pressure Checks
Local Doctor
Q & A session
Information



Light refreshments

\$5 koha



Retired from work? Wanting to give back to Tawa?


Volunteer for the Tawa Community Patrol as a **Day Patrol** member.

You will be part of a team that, for a few hours a month, will act as the eyes and ears of the Police on weekdays across the Tawa Community. Full training is given.

This is a great opportunity to meet like minded residents who want to prevent crime and make a real difference in Tawa.



For more information, contact Mal on 232 4644 or email tawacp@hotmail.co.nz or visit www.tawacp.org.nz

 Like the Tawa Community Patrol on Facebook

TAWA LIONS CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday 6 December 2014 at 2pm.

Organising the parade this year is well under way and there's still time for community groups to join in by contacting either Ken Coad on 232 2475, kccoad@xtra.co.nz or Ron Baker on 232 7309, rwmg.baker@xtra.co.nz.

Discussions have been held with Wellington City Council regarding the use of their large flat deck trailers (as used for the Rugby 7s and Chinese New Year parades). If your group would be interested in using a trailer please contact Ken asap.



TAWA ROTARY CAROLS

This year's carols will be held at Tawa College on Tuesday 9 December. Barbecued sausages and drinks will be available from 6pm, with the carols starting at 6.30pm.

TAWA ROTARY "TOOT FOR TUCKER"

Members of Tawa Rotary, Tawa Lions, Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Salvation Army will be out in the streets of Tawa collecting donated non-perishable food items to build up Christmas stocks for the Tawa Food Bank on the evenings of Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 December.

When you hear the fire engine's siren and other associated noise in your neighbourhood, you'll know what it's about. And you'll already have all your goodies ready to bring out!



MORE PROGRESS IN TAWA

Another link in Tawa has been finalised. With the north-south Tawa Valley Pathway (Ara Tawa) completed earlier in the year, a comprehensive east-west link is now in place from the Hampton Hill area.

Access from Victory Cres to the Main Road has now been upgraded with a sealed walkway recently signed off, a full pedestrian crossing is now in place across the Main Road, and after heading through Grasslees Reserve, pedestrians or cyclists complete their traverse using the pedestrian railway crossing (at the back of Tawa Pool) opened a number of months back in conjunction with the Tawa Valley Pathway.



LAUNCH OF “A HISTORY OF TAWA”

Details of the Tawa Historical Society’s new book “A History of Tawa” (authored by Bruce Murray) is available on page 2 of this newsletter.

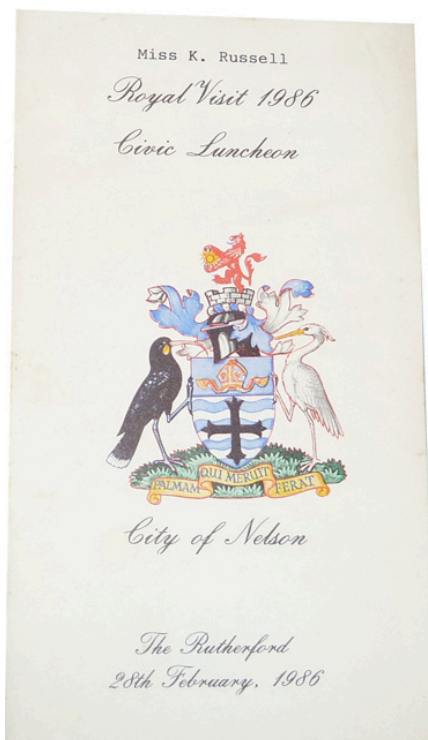
A function hosted by the Wellington City Council to launch the book took place at the Mervyn Kemp Library yesterday (Monday) evening with a number of local people present. Speeches were given by the Mayor, Celia Wade-Brown, and of course, Bruce Murray (see his profile on the next page). This is the 13th book about Tawa he has authored.



LOCAL WOMAN HAS LUNCH WITH THE QUEEN!

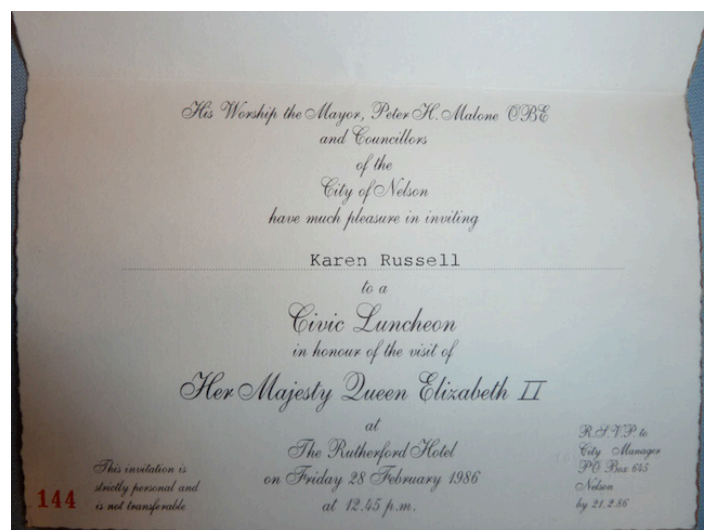
Prior to the recent ‘Neighbourly’ barbecue we had asked those attending to supply one fact that’s ‘special’ about themselves, or something ‘interesting’ they do or have done. Some responses were very down-to-earth, others rather intriguing or memorable or both.

“I have had lunch with the Queen” was one that caught our attention. Being a somewhat unique claim to fame, we were interested in knowing more. Local woman Karen Taylor really did get to dine in the Queen’s presence a number of years ago. Here’s how she recalls that special occasion:



“It was the royal tour in 1986 and there were a couple of hundred other people invited as well as me. I got selected to represent my very small country school so it was a big eye opener for me. A particular memory is that this occasion was the first time that I had tried olives. Unfortunately I thought they were grapes so my meat and three veg taste buds were very unprepared for the flavour. It was a long time before I ever tried another one!

While I didn’t get to actually meet the Queen I was seated at the same table as Sir Toss and Lady Woollaston. Not that I knew who they were at the time either!”



60 SECONDS WITH Bruce Murray

Bruce is one of Tawa's most prominent figures and the resident expert on the history of Tawa. He is the driving force behind the Tawa Historical Society and has authored a number of books published by the society, including the newly-released "A History of Tawa" mentioned earlier in this newsletter.

Early life

Born in Johnsonville. In Napier from ages 1 to 6, then Lower Hutt where I lived till I got married (apart from time away at university).

Lived in Tawa since

August 1964.

Family

Married to Shona. We have 3 daughters, 1 son, and 10 grandchildren, soon to be 11 - the first 11!



Work Experience over the years

Teacher and secondary school principal. Started at Hutt Valley High School 1964-65, Tawa College 1966-77 (I couldn't believe the difference when I came to Tawa College), Head of Social Studies by time I left Tawa College. Went to Naenae College as deputy principal in 1977, appointed principal after three years. Back to Tawa College as principal in 1989. Retired from there at end of first term in 2002.

Interests and hobbies

Local history, family history, garden railway, cricket, furniture making - I made furniture for all our kids. [When interrogated more about the cricket ...] Represented Wellington 1958-73, played for New Zealand five years, 1967-71, under captain Graham Dowling. Travelled to Australia, England, Pakistan and India as opening batsman - had to deal with the fiery, fast bowlers.

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

Don Bradman - he's the man! Between him and all other cricketers, there is daylight! That's what the Aussies say about him, and they're right.

Favourite team - the 1948 Australian cricket team captained by Bradman. They were just outstanding. I actually met him, a very nice man.

Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Hahei Beach (Coromandel). We used to go there for family holidays, wonderful!

What do you like about Tawa?

Its history, its community spirit, its village atmosphere, its schools ... that, I think, is a major reason for people coming here still. They're all good, the college, the intermediate, the primary schools.

What accomplishments/achievements in your life give you the most satisfaction/pride?

Being a teacher for 40 years. Teaching is a high calling and an honoured position.

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.

TAWA COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Tawa Community Board has \$15,000 to be made available to worthy local causes. The Tawa Community Grants Fund is designed to assist voluntary projects in Tawa. Grants may be for charitable, educational, welfare, community development, cultural, recreational, sporting, activity development, equipment or training programmes. Grants may also be given to people representing New Zealand in a recognised sporting or cultural event. Applications close late February.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be based in Tawa
- show that their project will directly benefit the Tawa community
- not have excess reserve funds
- meet all criteria on the Tawa Community Grants application form

For further details, see <http://wellington.govt.nz/services/community-and-culture/funding/council-funds/tawa-community-grants> or call the WCC grants team on 803 8525.

INTERESTED IN A COMMUNITY GARDEN IN TAWA?

There's a Tawa community garden setup / discussion group on 'Neighbourly' which now has 29 members. We've now had a couple of actual meetings to discuss what options are available to us. If you're interested in knowing more about the idea, check out the discussion on 'Neighbourly'.

JPs IN TAWA

There are a dozen or so Justices of the Peace in 'greater Tawa'. They're listed at www.jpfed.org.nz. When you go to that site, click on "Find a JP". On the next page put in postcode 5028 in the box on the left and, hey presto, you'll see an array of names including one in the Takapu Valley.

GOATS' MILK AVAILABLE

Fresh Raw Goats' milk is now available.

- Great for lactose-sensitive people
- More vitamins and minerals than normal milk
- \$3.50 per litre. Call or text Angela 027 490 4826
- Cheese making
- Locally grown (Takapu Valley) and milked daily
- Pre-orders essential

FIRST AID COURSE

On 16 November from 8.30am-5.00pm at Tawa College. This course teaches the first aider to assess the scene for hazards, the casualties for life-threatening conditions and be able to provide first aid. Covers CPR, bleeding, burns, poisoning, etc, and is suitable for the workplace, home or childcare. Meets the minimum qualification requirements for the workplace first aider.

Suitable for the new first aider or a refresher with new NZQA standards.

EZY MOVERS

Friday Mornings at the Tawa Community Centre Hall. Time: 9.30-10.20am. A lite pace senior fitness class involving low impact aerobic exercise and light arm and ankle weights.

Everyone is encouraged to work at their own intensity. Fun friendly atmosphere - come and give it a try. Cost \$5. Enquiries to Mandy Russell 232 1682 or mandy.russell@wcc.govt.nz

Adios

Malcolm Sparrow

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



"Life isn't about finding yourself. It's about creating yourself."

"The clever cat eats cheese and breathes down mouseholes with baited breath."

"Dear Optimist, Pessimist and Realist, While you guys were busy arguing about the glass of water, I drank it!"
Sincerely, the Opportunist.

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 near the start 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.

For back issues of the newsletter, see 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.

From the Ed.

A while back I was writing a few lines about my chocolate Labrador at the end of the occasional newsletter, particularly when she was young and rather mischievous.

At the age of 18 months I wrote: *"She still is not able to walk past a slipper without picking it up and trotting off with it, whereupon she quietly lies down with the expectation that we'll notice her transgression and retrieve the said object.*

Other times it'll be evident there's something in her mouth that shouldn't be there. We'll pry her jaws apart, tilt her head towards the floor and out will fall a coin or a screw or part of a peg or whatever. Little has changed in that respect!

Another aspect that may not ever change is her overwhelming excitement at the prospect of a walk. I only have to step into sight with my jacket in hand or donning a shoe. She assumes it's time to get ready for an outing. Unfortunately for her she's sometimes misread the situation and I tell her in no uncertain terms that "nothing's happening". That doesn't necessarily dampen her enthusiasm, probably because her grasp of the English language is somewhat restricted. Or maybe she's simply an eternal optimist!

Whatever the case, she seems incapable of controlling herself. She cannot keep still. Her whole body wags (or more accurately, "rocks") with excitement. I quite like it really, although her display of expectancy is obviously misplaced when she's got the wrong end of the stick (no pun intended).

She absolutely loves her bush walks. It's great exercise for both of us and we're very fortunate to live so close to the Redwood Bush. It's pretty much a daily routine. Our next expedition is only minutes away, so time for me to sign off and get outside to enjoy the outdoors once again with my loyal canine companion!"

Abby was half her present age when the above was written. In one week's time she will be three years old and a mature, sensible and well-trained dog. Yeah right! Most of what I wrote about her at the age of 18 months still holds true. Perhaps she doesn't swipe slippers quite as often as she used to. However she still does it on the sly from time to time! And perhaps we don't retrieve quite as many foreign objects from her mouth as we used to. But it still happens occasionally.



Her excitement at the prospect of a walk is as profound as ever. And as for food, she literally cannot keep her rear end still - it does a little jig on the floor - as she sits awaiting the 'Yes' command before diving into her evening meal as though she's gone for days without being fed.

Like most dogs, she's a great companion. And it's hard to beat the greeting a dog will give on your return from just a few hours away. She really is excited to see her master return! And I'm (usually) very pleased to see her too.

