February 2015

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 1200 other Tawa residents on neighbourly.co.nz. You can opt for daily updates or weekly updates from that site.

GETTING TOGETHER WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Time to start thinking about a barbecue (or similar gettogether) in your street in conjunction with Neighbours' Day which is traditionally held at the end of March.

In Tawa we're encouraging people to organise something simple any time from mid-February onwards. It's just a matter of rolling out a couple of barbecues and everyone (your neighbours) bringing their own food & drink and seating. You could think about pooling desserts.





There's been discussion in the past few days on the Neighbourly website about Neighbours' Day events



in Tawa, and at this early stage nine local streets have already indicated they'll be taking part. They are Balliol Drive/St Hildas Glade, Brasenose Place, Hillary St (and nearby streets), Kereru Bend, Lupin Tce, St Catherines Tce, mid-Sunrise Blvd, lower Victory Cres and upper Victory Cres.

We will supply an advertising sign for your street (as shown), plus name tags and balloons – if you'd like all those. Simply let us know your street name and the date of your event.

Call us for more information or see www.tawalink.com/neighbours.html for "Three simple steps to running a barbecue in your street".

"A MOST NEIGHBOURLY LOT IN TAWA"



The above was the heading given to an article which you may have seen in last Tuesday's *Dominion Post*. The gist of the article is that more people in Tawa have joined the Neighbourly community website than in any other New Zealand suburb! On Wednesday 4 February the

A most neighbourly lot in Tawa

NEMERICAL

His disease and the second of the second of

number of Tawa members on the site reached 1200!

Neighbourly is a place for local people to connect online, to discuss local issues, publicise events, exchange recommendations on local services, and ask all sorts of questions which hopefully others can answer!

CONNECTING WITH TAWA ON 'NEIGHBOURLY'

Recent discussion includes:

| • Supermarket checkout - self checkout or assisted? | 45+ replies |
|--|-------------|
| • Do you feel safe in Tawa? | 30+ replies |
| Juggling primary & intermediate dropoffs | 30+ replies |
| Internet connection down | 25+ replies |
| • Tawa Intermediate letters for new year 7 students | 15+ replies |
| Tawa Bush walk a real hidden gem | 15+ replies |
| Tupperware new and used for sale | 10+ replies |
| Neighbours' Day street gatherings | 5+ replies |
| First car wanted | 5+ replies |
| Very hungry Monarch caterpillars! | 5+ replies |
| Current vegetation fire risk | 5+ replies |

- Fireworks!!!
- High Rises in Tawa
- Free Dance classes in Tawa
- Tawa College uniform requests

Organisations & Groups:

 there's a separate section where local Organisations & Groups list their details

Coming Events in Tawa:

Wed 11 February - Spicer Landfill smells meeting
 Sat 14 February - Tawa Music Centre enrolment
 Sat 14 February - Safer Plates opportunity

Sat 21 February - First of many Neighbours' Day street barbecues in Tawa

Sun 22 February - Join our craft club - cardmaking and scrapbooking

Sun 1 March - Open Mic afternoon

Mon 9 March - Support Tawa Swimming Club movie fundraiser

Thu 12 March - Foxcatcher Movie Fundraiser for Tawa-Linden Wrestling Club

Neighbourly enables local 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?

CONCERNED ABOUT THE SMELLS?

There has been considerable discussion on Neighbourly about unpleasant smells in Tawa which are being attributed to Spicer Landfill, just "over the hill" (literally). We're providing local people with the opportunity to hear what those in charge are doing to ensure that the smells are eliminated or at least minimised. A low-key meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 February 7.30pm at the Linden Social Centre.

We've asked Peter Keller, Solid Waste Manager, Porirua City Council, and Brendon Cribb, Landfill Manager, EnviroWaste Services Limited, plus a couple of representatives from the Greater Wellington Regional Council to speak to us and answer questions. Questions posted on the Neighbourly website will be addressed first. Others asked from the floor will also be answered if time allows.

"SUPER CITY"? WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?

The Tawa Community Board is organising a meeting to provide local residents with information about the proposals for "Reorganisation of Local Government in Wellington". In other words, the pros and cons of a so-called Super City. The community board will in due course be writing a submission which it hopes will represent the views of the Tawa community. This is your opportunity to come and express your opinions!

The meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 February at 7.30pm in the Tawa College hall.

Printed copies of the "Advantages and Disadvantages of the proposal" as prepared by the Local Government Commission, together with details of the proposed number of councillors and local board members will be available beforehand at the Library and at the meeting on the night.

There will be a short briefing at the meeting summarising the "reorganisation" proposals, followed by a question time.

GREATER WELLINGTON COUNCIL SHARED DECISION-MAKING THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS
RESPONSIBLE FOR HIGH-LEVEL MATTERS AFFECTING THE

THE LOCAL BOARDS
RESPONSIBLE FOR DECISIONS AFFECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The purpose of the exercise is not to promote any particular option, but to assess the views of the Tawa community on this very important issue.

See wellington.govt.nz/your-council/news/2014/12/draft-proposal-to-reorganise-councils-in-region for more information in the meantime.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAWA SWIMMING CLUB

The weekend before last saw 45 swimmers from the Tawa Swimming Club compete at the Wellington Long Course Championships. These championships attract swimmers from as far south as Otago and as far north as the Waikato (200 of the competitors this year came from outside the Wellington region).

Tawa competed hard and finished 3rd club overall (out of approx 30 clubs) with a total of 69 medals and numerous other top 10 finishes (all top 10 finishes earn points for the overall tally). This is a tremendous result - up from last year's 4th placing and 57 medals.

EZY MOVERS AT TAWA COMMUNITY CENTRE

Exciting promo for the month of February. Free entry – that's right! Come along and join Tracey for a fun, low impact exercise class to keep the joints and muscles moving.

At the Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge Street, 9.30am Fridays in February, free!



TAWA COLLEGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Community Education at Tawa College will be commencing the week of Monday 9 February. All enrolments can be made through the website www.tawacomed.co.nz Brochures have been delivered but if you didn't get one, go to Take Note Tawa or the library.



This year there will not only be the 10am Pilates classes on a Wednesday at the Tawa Community Centre but also 11am Yoga classes on a Tuesday.

Some of the new classes for term 1 include

Singing for Joy, Cake Decorating, Persian Cooking, Altering Clothing, Scottish Country Dancing, Pottery, Upholstery, Picture Framing for Art Work and Compost Making.

If you are in Spotlight in Porirua, look out for the Patchwork display of the quilts that will be taught in term 1. You can also obtain a copy of the needs lists.

- Music Classes include Orchestra, Ukulele, Guitar, Musical Keyboard and Singing for Joy;
- Cooking Classes include Indian, Chinese, Italian, Modern Asian, Persian and Cake Decorating;
- Art Classes include Painting Landscapes, Painting or Drawing Portraits, Acrylic Painting and Drawing, Mixed Media and Picture Framing for Art Work;
- Fitness Classes include Yoga, Pilates, Bollywood and Scottish Country Dancing;
- Craft Classes include Sewing, Patchwork, Woodwork, Upholstery, Roman Blinds, Overlocking, Necklace making, altering Clothing, Digital Photography and Knitting;
- Gardening Classes include Growing Vegetables, Compost Making and Garden & Outdoor Living Spaces;
- Personal Development classes include Healing Stress, Change Your Thinking, Change your Life, and Keys to Achieving Health, Harmony and Balance

College-age students are able to attend, and young students can enroll with a fee-paying, participating adult.



TAWA MUSIC CENTRE ENROLMENT



If your primary or intermediate school-aged child is interested in learning a musical instrument this year, come along to Tawa Music Centre's enrolment day on Saturday 14 February 9.00-10.30am at Tawa Intermediate School Hall. Full details are in the prospectus which your child will bring home from school this week.

TAWA COMMUNITY GARDEN PROPOSAL

As mentioned in the December newsletter, a group of 15-20 local residents has been continuing to meet to discuss a community garden site in Tawa. The group is now looking at the possibility of developing a community garden at the street end of Coronation Park (as in the photo).

If you're interested in meeting with the group or would like to know more about this proposal, email Robyn Parkinson on robroo@xtra.co.nz



HAYLEY JOHNSON ACADEMY OF DANCING

Established 22 years in Tawa • Double studios in Rewa Terrace (near the Tawa Medical Centre)

• Fully qualified and registered • Very competitive rates

Enrolments and Enquiries to:

Sue Warren 021 119 5876 or email sue@salience.co.nz

Neroli Hunt 021 123 0519 or email nerolinz@gmail.com

Hayley Johnson dancing_dudes@hotmail.com (underscore) www.hayleyjohnson.com

"Shooting Stars" Dance class for all groovy 3 & 4 year olds who love to dance

NZAMD Jazz & Contemporary: All ages ISTD Tap & National: All ages Hip Hop: All ages

Boys and Girls welcome • Specialist Adult Tap and Pilates Mat Classes • Competition Classes

We have three dance troupes: The Junior and Senior Jazz / Hip Hop groups who regularly take the winning prizes at local dance competitions and "Southern Lights" our National dance troupe who perform at many Galas

Pilates Mat Classes: Friday mornings 9.00-10.15am All welcome

Come along and find muscles you didn't know you had!! Have a great stretch out and feel reinvigorated

Teachers Hayley Johnson, Principal: Ballet, Contemporary, Pilates

Neroli Hunt, Deputy Principal: Ballet, Tap, National

Kerry-Anne Gilberd, X Principal with the RNZB: Senior Ballet, Private Lessons

Stacey Mountford & Sophie Greig: Jazz & Private lessons

Tracy Tunupopo: Hip Hop

PETER DUNNE'S NEW ELECTORATE OFFICE

Ohariu MP Peter Dunne formally opened his new electorate office in Tawa last week. The office at 220B Main Road, Tawa, phone 232 5381, will be open Mondays to Fridays from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, and Mr Dunne will be holding regular Saturday electorate clinics there as well.

The office will be staffed by Sue Locke, who has worked for Mr Dunne for many years in his Johnsonville and more recently Maungaraki offices.

"Electorate boundary changes meant I had to close the Maungaraki office, so Tawa was the logical place to



establish a second office, to work alongside my existing office in Johnsonville. This will be the first time there has been an MP's electorate office in Tawa, so I'm expecting it to be busy," he says.

Local councillors, business and community leaders attended the opening function.

U3A TAWA OFFERS COURSES FOR THE NEW YEAR

The New Year of U3A Tawa begins with a number of new courses. There are 10 different topics dealing with technology for both beginners and those experienced with computers.

Several Travel Talks explore Argentina, Turkey and Winter holidays to Pacific Islands. A new offering is a group that listens to classical music and hosts lunch in private homes. Carolyn Marshall presents a further series on English Literature, and Mary-Lyn Boyes takes a break from her usual Katherine Mansfield talks to examine War-Time Poets.

U3A TAWA contd

Some new talks in the Historical genre are: Reading Darwin, Church and Society Changes, the Tabernacle of Moses, and A Whole Society at War. Michael Holland gives a light-hearted layman's guide to Church Art and Architecture.

A number of Health Issues are dealt with: Arthritis, CPR, Dealing with emergencies. Many courses are ongoing: Books, Fitness, Games (Indoor and Outdoor), Choir, Opera, Botany, Gardening, Theatre and Film Outings, several Arts and Crafts and Discussion Groups.

The philosophy of U3A is that learning is a sharing of expertise. People with knowledge in a specific field volunteer to lead a course or series of talks and the members choose to attend. There is no charge for attendance (apart from a small donation for use of the church hall if such is used) nor are the leaders paid. However, there is an annual subscription of \$10 to join the U3A which entitles members to attend any number of courses.

The U3A movement (originally the University of the 3rd Age) was established in the 1970s in France and is now active throughout the world. Unlike a University, however, it has no entrance requirements, it does not hold exams nor does it award diplomas, degrees or certificates.

People who would like to join U3A Tawa can consult the website: www.u3a.gargal.net. Enquiries to Jancis Potter on 232 3915 or for registration apply to "The Membership Secretary, U3A Tawa Inc, P.O. Box 56069, Tawa 5249." Information is also available at the Tawa Community Centre.

SHAKE THE FAT

Agreat fun way to dance yourself slim, meet new people, be part of a great team - if you love to to dance and have a passion for the 'old' music (as well as a few new ones), then this exercise programme is for you

Thursdays:

Tawa Community Centre at 7.30pm, starting February 12th

Mondays:

Arena Fitness Porirua at 7.30pm, started late January

Enquiries:

Sara 027 530 2340 or 232 8209 Lisa 027 239 6503 See you there - bring a friend



SUPPORT TAWA SWIMMING CLUB

Monday 9 March at 7.30pm at the Lighthouse Cinema, Petone.

Tawa Swimming Club has a team of between 5 and 8 swimmers attending the National Division 2 Competition being held in Dunedin from 18 to 21 March. A movie fundraiser is being held to help subsidise the cost of this trip. The movie is The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. Tickets will be on sale within the next few weeks.

If you would like to reserve a place now please RSVP and you will be contacted when the tickets are ready. The price is still be finalised - will be between \$20 and \$25 a ticket and will include either supper or a goodie bag. Drinks will be available for purchase from the Lighthouse Bar/Cafe.

POSITIVE FEEDBACK ABOUT "TAWA'S CHRISTMAS TREE"

We received this email recently: "I want to say a big thank you to all involved in organising our beautifully-lit Christmas tree in Tawa for yet another year. It was so special for me to look out every evening from my lounge and to be able to see the lights twinkling.

The first thing my Auckland grandchildren asked when they arrived was if the lights were still on 'my tree' and insisted on staying up to see them!

Please pass on my thanks to those responsible and long may our Tawa recognition of Christmas remain."

Ed.: A thank you email has been sent to the WCC who maintain these lights. Both the Tawa Community Board and the Tawa Residents' Association played a substantial part in arranging for the lights on the Norfolk Pine and on the Main Road lampposts in the first place.



Linden Park, Tawa

9.00 am onwards

SRI LANKAN CRICKET CARNIVAL & FAMILY FUN DAY

Come and join the Sri Lankan Dance Academy at Linden Park on Sunday 8 February at 9am onwards to warm yourself up for the ICC World Cup! 16 men's teams, 4 women's teams and 4 junior teams will be playing for the Cup and Plate finals.

There will be activities for the entire family and free cricket coaching sessions for junior boys and girls. Limited number of slots, so be quick to contact organiser Pradeep Silva on 027 421 3847 or Navin Herath on 027 0819 5641.

Sri Lankan street food will be available to purchase throughout the day.

ENHANCING YOUR WELLBEING

Take a big step towards enhancing your wellbeing and the quality of your life!



It's time to enrol for classes with Brenda Stickley, expert in Movement Education. Classes significantly improve your movements, reducing effort and strain, lower your risk of injury, and restore the pleasure of free easy movement in daily life. Five classes times to choose from and held weekly at the Linden Social Centre. More information at www.getmovingwithbrenda.co.nz

SING FOR PLEASURE

- o Five Thursday evenings in early 2015
- o 7-9 pm, 26 February to 26 March
- o No music-reading skills needed
- o No singing tuition required
- o It's not a choir: just a chance to sing together
- o Enjoy the fun and benefits of group singing
- o Sing around the grand piano in the Music Centre
- o A wide variety of songs each evening
- o Total cost: \$75

Pianist and Tutor:

Guy Jansen, with professional musician friends, including a bass player, instrumentalists and a soloist.

Register your interest by emailing Judith at comed@tawacollege.school.nz Enrol through www.tawacomed.co.nz And do let your friends know about this

opportunity.

INTENSIFIED HOUSING IN TAWA?

There was an article in the newspaper on Monday entitled "Karori and Tawa next targets for housing". http://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/home-property/65660177/Karori-and-Tawa-next-targets-for-housing is where you can read it online.

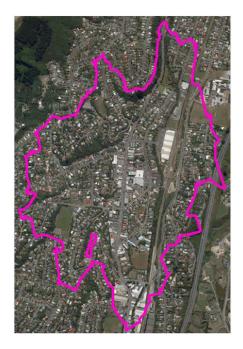
A local resident on Neighbourly made reference to the article and commented in response: "What a shame it would be to lose our 'village' feel."

In my capacity as city councillor, I (the Ed.) made these comments:

"It's all about striking the right balance. Limited 'intensified housing' may not be a bad thing if it's done right, i.e. designed and planned well. There are older people in Tawa who wish to downsize and find a smaller place in which to live in Tawa. Unfortunately there are so few options that they're having to leave the area. I know of various ones close to home who have been in that situation.

Another factor to consider is that a few hundred more people living in the central Tawa area may well be a good thing in terms of a larger customer base for our shopping centre and supporting other local facilities.

The Council is well aware of public resistance in Tawa to the 'intensified housing' concept if it isn't handled well, certainly the fact that locals are very concerned about excessive building height, i.e. 3 or 4 storeys.



I agree that we do not wish to lose our 'village feel'. That's a very important factor to most Tawa people. The Council will be consulting with the community. We need to listen to the proposals, consider them carefully and ensure that we achieve the best possible outcome for the community as a whole."

Initial discussion of this issue is taking place at Council's Transport and Urban Development committee meeting this Thursday. See http://wellington.govt.nz/~/media/your-council/meetings/Committees/Transport-and-Urban-Development-Committee/2015/02/TUD_20150205_AGN_2788_AT.pdf for the agenda, pages 47-58. Consultation with Tawa residents will take place in April.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - TAWA YOUTH MENTORING OPPORTUNITY

The Ngātahi Hapori (A Community Together) programme works to empower school leavers in the Tawa area to make positive training and employment choices that enable them to maximise their potential. The programme is supported by Tawa College, Tawa Rotary and Tawa Lions.

Ngātahi Hapori A Community Together



Our inspiration for this programme came from the successful youth project in Otorohanga. In December 2014 the pilot programme in Tawa celebrated its first year. We plan to continue growing the programme so that we can offer this support and guidance to many more of our school leavers.

The aim of the mentoring programme is to match adult volunteers who can commit their support and guidance to a young person to help them to achieve positive academic, career and personal goals. Training is provided for mentors both in relation to the programme and to assist mentors in their role. Please note that character checks will be carried out for all mentor roles.

If you are interested in finding out more about this mentoring opportunity please email your name, contact details and any questions you may have to mentoring@tawacollege.school.nz or alternatively phone Murray Lucas at Tawa College on 232 8184.

60 SECONDS WITH Murray Lucas

"At the very heart of the community is Tawa College, standing proudly on the hill above Duncan Street, still the local secondary school where almost everybody goes and which has built up such a fine history over more than fifty years." - Ken Edgecombe

At the helm of Tawa College is Murray Lucas who has been principal for almost 13 years. Very much a hands-on principal, he is committed to the Tawa community where he lives with his wife Margaret who is deputy chair of the Tawa Community Board.



Early life

Lived in Tawa for my first 21 years - with my parents at 39 Duncan St till age 17 - then in Wilmshurst Place. I lived right across the road from the College when it was being built, and had 100m to get to school.

Education

Tawa College student 1966-70, Victoria University 1971-74 - MSc (Hons), Christchurch Teachers' College 1975

Family

Married to Margaret with two adult sons, Caleb & Nathanael.

Work experience over the years

"I've been in education all my life." Started teaching career at Tawa College in 1976. There until 1981 teaching maths, science, chemistry, physics, applied maths. Head of Economics by the time I left. Naenae College 1982-87. Hutt Valley High 1988-96 (acting deputy principal just before I left). Deputy principal and principal of Horowhenua College 1996-2002. Principal of Tawa College since April 2002.

Interests and hobbies

Always been passionate about all sports, both watching and participating, especially football, cricket and golf. I like tramping and stamp collecting. Another thing I enjoy doing is cryptic crosswords. Also my family and church, and I have a heart for youth activities.

Favourite sports team?

Ipswich Town Football Club in England (Ipswich won the English league title in 1961-62, the FA Cup in 1978, and the UEFA Cup in 1981 - Ed.)

Favourite musical group?

Simon and Garfunkel - not only great sound but excellent lyrics.

What is/are your favourite holiday destination(s) in New Zealand?

St Arnaud, Nelson Lakes National Park; Masons Bay, Stewart Island; Abel Tasman Coastal Walkway.

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

Completing the Oxfam 100 kilometre walk around the Taupo area in 2008;

The Teach-athon over 28 hours in May 2009 which raised money for the World Vision 40-hour Famine. 38 kids stayed the distance;

Being part of a College that "turns young people around". The development of Restorative Practice and its positive impact on the College.

What are three things you would like to do before you die?

To contribute positively to bringing equity to New Zealand society;

See Restorative Practice implemented across all schools in New Zealand;

To play every golf course in New Zealand whether it's a major city course or a minor rural one.

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. Email mandy.russell@wcc.govt.nz and put 'Join' as the subject to receive regular updates.

Adios

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



"No-one can help everybody, but everybody can help someone."

"It is scientifically proven that people with more birthdays live longer."

"You can't do much about your ancestors, but you can influence your descendants enormously."

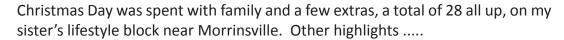
This newsletter is emailed to around 1250 Tawa households, businesses, schools, churches and clubs/groups (anyone who has an interest in the community of Tawa), usually in the first and the third weeks of each month.

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.

On a personal note

Most of us are well and truly back into the working year again, with some having had more of a break than others. Karen and I were fortunate enough to spend a couple of weeks out of town, enjoying a few days in each of Morrinsville, Tauranga, Auckland and New Plymouth.



Tauranga: biking along a shared pathway, kayaking on the harbour, a stroll around the Mount, and a solo walk to the summit before breakfast another day, plus checking out a community garden in Otumoetai.

Auckland: New Year's Eve fireworks on the Sky Tower, an evening jaunt to the

top of One Tree Hill (along with dozens of others already there), and Cornwallis Beach (which I'd previously never heard of) and nearby beaches out west.

New Plymouth: the light display at Pukekura Park, cycling the award-winning 11 km New Plymouth Coastal Walkway to the 'stunning' (as per the tourist guide) Te Rewa Rewa Bridge, with lots of pohutukawa trees in bloom, and great views of Mt Taranaki for once!

We live in a beautiful country and it's always fun getting out and making the most of it!





