May 2021

TAWA
Wellington

COMMUNITY NEWS

This newsletter has been sent out monthly since 2005.
See www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html for back issues.

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD BY-ELECTION

Do make sure that your vote in the Tawa Community Board by-election is 'in' by noon on **Friday 7 May 2021**. The by-election result will be known a few hours later.

The candidates (in case you've forgotten) are Malcolm Alexander, Michael Blank, Tim Davin, Janryll Fernandez and Clint Schoultz.

Full profiles of the candidates are available at https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/elections/2021-tawa-community-board-by-election

Some have been asking why there are no female candidates. The simple answer is because no women chose to stand on this occasion!

In the nine Tawa Community Board elections (including four by-elections) since 2004, this is the first time there have been no female candidates. In fact in the 2017 by-election three out of the five candidates were women.

For the period October 2019 to January 2021 the composition of the Tawa Community Board was four men and four women (six elected board members and two appointed city councillors). One female board member has since stood down, thus the by-election.

The Tawa Community Board as at early 2021, L to R: Cr Jill Day, Cr Malcolm Sparrow, Anna Scott, Richard Herbert, Graeme Hansen, Robyn Parkinson (chair), Jackson Lacy (deputy chair).

YOUR CHANCE TO COMMENT .....

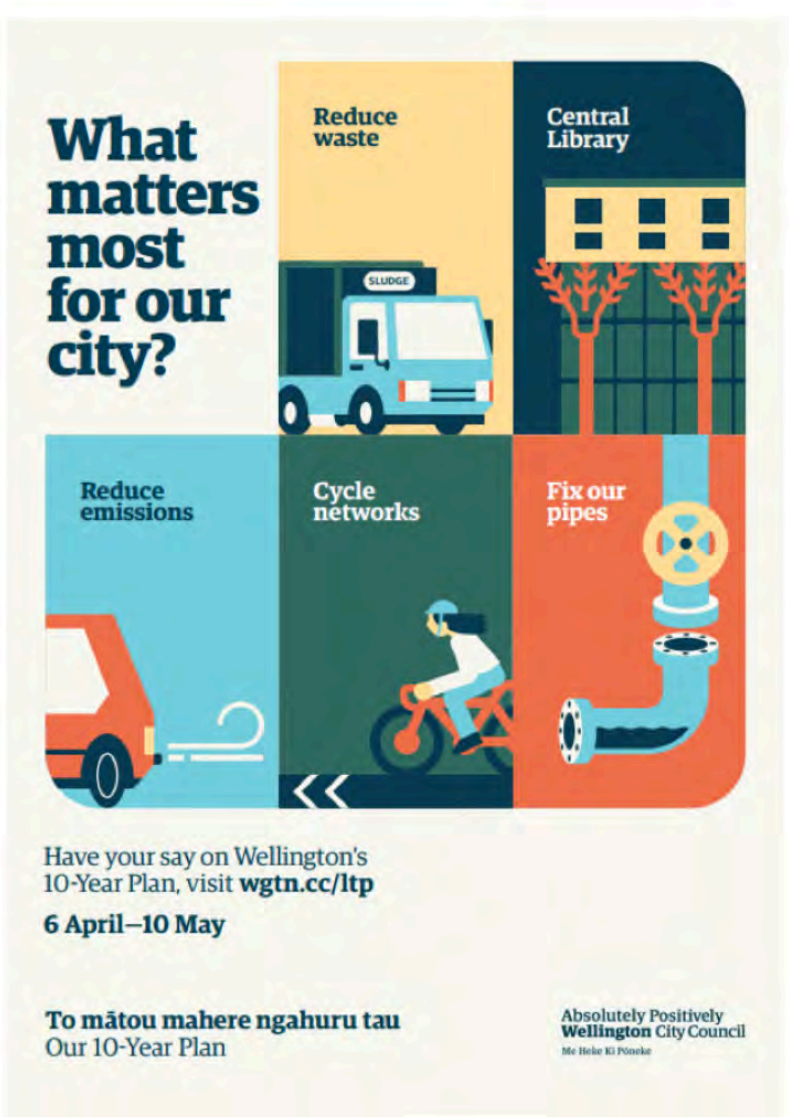
Every three years the Wellington City Council reviews its Long Term Plan. This sets the direction for the next 10 years, outlines what Council will be investing in, how much it may cost and how this will be funded. This happens after consulting with the community. It provides guidance on how Council will make Wellington an even better place to live, work, play and visit as we go into the future.

Your feedback must be in by 5pm on Monday 10 May. People can:

- Make an online submission at www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz
- Download a submission form from the website and email it to policy.submission@wcc.govt.nz
- Fill in the submission form and send it to (free post):

Freepost 2199
Long Term Plan
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140

- Drop off a completed submission form to Arapaki Manners Service Centre at 12 Manners Street or at any library
- Make an oral submission


What matters most for our city?
Reduce waste
Central Library
Reduce emissions
Cycle networks
Fix our pipes
Have your say on Wellington's 10-Year Plan, visit wgtn.cc/ltp
6 April–10 May
To mātou mahere ngahuru tau
Our 10-Year Plan
Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council

STUDENT VOLUNTEER ARMY IN TAWA

Tawa College pupils are pleased to announce the establishment of the first Student Volunteer Army unit in Tawa.

The SVA is a New Zealand student movement that was born after the Christchurch earthquake in 2011. The organisation has no military affiliation and is an education charity run for students, by students, which is focused on providing volunteer work for their community.

The SVA has developed from a rocky start when Sam Johnson initiated his army of volunteers for urgent help in the response to the Christchurch earthquakes. It has now evolved into a nationwide award platform where students are offered opportunities to help out in the community and get recognised for it.

The SVA student award which Tawa College has joined endeavours to recognise student volunteer efforts in the community. The SVA Service Award is currently operated in 160 secondary schools across New Zealand. It is a five level badge system which records and tracks students' voluntary work against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

In 2015 the United Nations General Assembly set a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". Students at the end of their school service are able to download a summary of their service which can then be used as part of their CV.

Typically the SVA has been involved in the following areas around different communities of NZ. However this list is not exhaustive.

- Animal Rescue Shelters
- Food Pantries
- Local Libraries
- Retirement Homes
- Red Cross Volunteer
- National Parks Cleanup /Preservation Efforts
- Homeless Shelter
- After School Tutoring
- Dog Walking

If you have any ideas on how the Tawa College SVA can help you or our school/community, please contact aroberts@tawacollege.school.nz. We are keen to begin projects this term.

We are asking students to join this term, week 1, and giving them a list of volunteer work which they could take part in. We have been collating this during the school holidays. So let us know of any jobs which you think could be of interest and how many students you need, as well as time required for the task.

TAWA BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Around 80 people attended the recent business breakfast at The Borough hosted by the Tawa Business Group and the Rotary Club of Tawa. The guest speaker was a man who has become, over the past 14 months, one of New Zealand's most recogniseable faces, the Directory General of Health, Dr Ashley Bloomfield. As it happens, Tawa is where Ashley Bloomfield grew up.

He gave a very interesting talk about his earlier life and the role he has played in the public eye since early 2020, never expecting as a public servant to become as well known to the New Zealand public as has happened! And, being the unassuming individual that he is, he is still getting used to seeing his face on the occasional t-shirt and being stopped on the street by people wanting to take a selfie with him!

When referred to as the "curve crusher", he turns that around and thanks the "team of five million" for their combined efforts in that regard. And, as he rightfully warned us, it still isn't over yet!

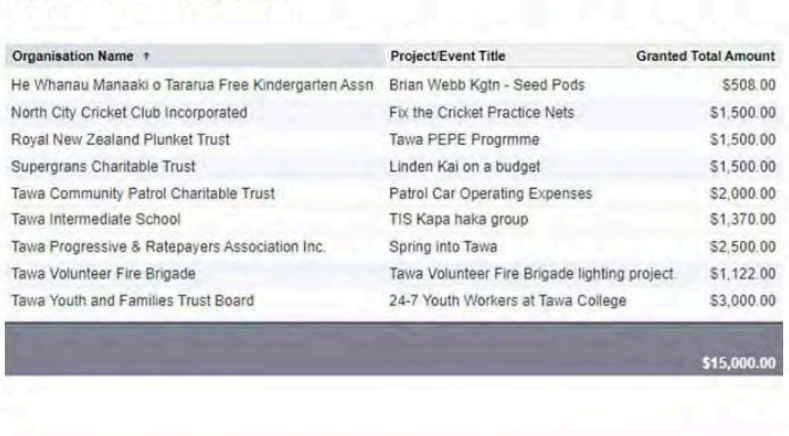
TRACKS IN TE NGAHERE O TAWA

A new track is currently being constructed in Te Ngahere o Tawa (Forest of Tawa), access to which is gained from 58 Kiwi Cres. There will be one "shared track" for walkers and uphill cyclists between Kiwi Cres and the Meridian road at the top of the hill. There will also be a track primarily for mountain bike riders which we understand will be built by the Mana Cycle Group. It may be 3-4 months away before the tracks are completed.

irepool
15 15 15
Access closed for safety reasons

TAWA COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Tawa Community Grants Fund is designed to assist projects within the jurisdiction of the Tawa Community Board area (including Takapu Valley and Grenada North). Approximately $15,000 is available to allocate each year. The Tawa Community Board's Grants sub-committee at its meeting last month approved the following grants:



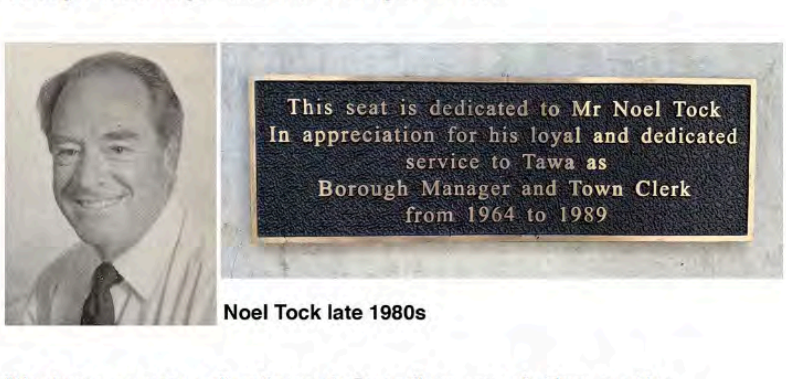
Organisation Name ↑	Project/Event Title	Granted Total Amount
He Whanau Manaaki o Tararua Free Kindergarten Assn	Brian Webb Kgtn - Seed Pods	$508.00
North City Cricket Club Incorporated	Fix the Cricket Practice Nets	$1,500.00
Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust	Tawa PEPE Progrmme	$1,500.00
Supergrans Charitable Trust	Linden Kai on a budget	$1,500.00
Tawa Community Patrol Charitable Trust	Patrol Car Operating Expenses	$2,000.00
Tawa Intermediate School	TIS Kapa haka group	$1,370.00
Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers Association Inc.	Spring into Tawa	$2,500.00
Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade	Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade lighting project	$1,122.00
Tawa Youth and Families Trust Board	24-7 Youth Workers at Tawa College	$3,000.00
		$15,000.00

PASSING OF NOEL TOCK

"Noel Tock was Tawa's Borough Manager (Chief Executive in today's terms) and Town Clerk from 1964, when he started as deputy town clerk, through to 1989. He made a huge contribution to Tawa in that time, and that has now been commemorated with the installation of a plaque in the new outdoor barbecue area at the Tawa Pool."

The above wording appeared in the October 2020 edition of this newsletter. See http://www.tawalink.com/2mins/tawanews-oct2020.pdf The article went on to say "Noel Tock lives in Waikanae. Unfortunately his health is failing and he is unlikely to get to Tawa Pool to see the plaque for himself. Details of his contribution to Tawa are outlined in Ken Cassell's 1988 book "Tawa – Enterprise and Endeavour"."

Sadly Noel Tock passed away on 25 April, the day of his 90th birthday. Our condolences have been forwarded to his family. Tawa owes him a huge thanks for his dedication to this community for more than two decades before the borough was amalgamated with Wellington in 1989.


This seat is dedicated to Mr Noel Tock
In appreciation for his loyal and dedicated service to Tawa as
Borough Manager and Town Clerk
from 1964 to 1989

Noel Tock late 1980s

"Noel was an outstanding Borough Council manager in Tawa and he maintained strong loyalty to his staff, councillors and Mayors. As Tawa's last Mayor I was very indebted to Noel for his Council leadership, for his advice and support and his commitment to the well-being of Tawa over several decades, before our merger with Wellington City in 1989." – David Watt, Karori
[as seen at legacy.com]

NEW STORES IN TAWA

A recent post on Vibrant Tawa's Facebook page listed a few stores that have opened for business in Tawa's central shopping centre in recent months. They include:

Urban Biker NZ
Golden Rose Nails
Little Annie Monthly Pop-In Portraits
Skye Candle & Body Care

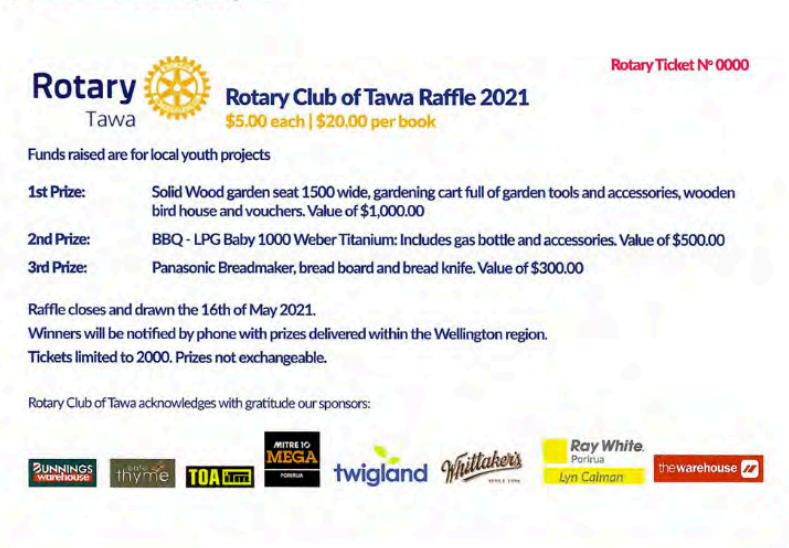
..... and the new name for Take Note Tawa is Tawa Books and Post.

ROTARY RAFFLE TICKETS

Time is running out to buy a ticket from the Rotary Club of Tawa in the club's big raffle in 2021. Funds raised from the raffle will be going to local youth projects.

Tickets will be sold again this coming Saturday 8th May, from 10am to 5pm outside the New World supermarket.

See www.tawarotary.org.nz



Rotary Tawa

Rotary Club of Tawa Raffle 2021
$5.00 each | $20.00 per book

Rotary Ticket Nº 0000

Funds raised are for local youth projects

1st Prize:	Solid Wood garden seat 1500 wide, gardening cart full of garden tools and accessories, wooden bird house and vouchers. Value of $1,000.00
2nd Prize:	BBQ - LPG Baby 1000 Weber Titanium: Includes gas bottle and accessories. Value of $500.00
3rd Prize:	Panasonic Breadmaker, bread board and bread knife. Value of $300.00

Raffle closes and drawn the 16th of May 2021.
Winners will be notified by phone with prizes delivered within the Wellington region.
Tickets limited to 2000. Prizes not exchangeable.

Rotary Club of Tawa acknowledges with gratitude our sponsors:

SUNDAY ROAST AT THE RSA

The next Sunday Roast at the RSA (northern end of Oxford St) will be on 9th May which happens to be Mothers' Day.

$25 per head. Two meats, roast and steamed veges with dessert. Starting from 5.30pm. Guests are welcome as well. You will need to sign in at the door.

To book, please see https://www.facebook.com/events/476038910272352 or write your name down at the clubrooms by Friday 7th May.

TAWA UNION CHURCH MEN'S GROUP

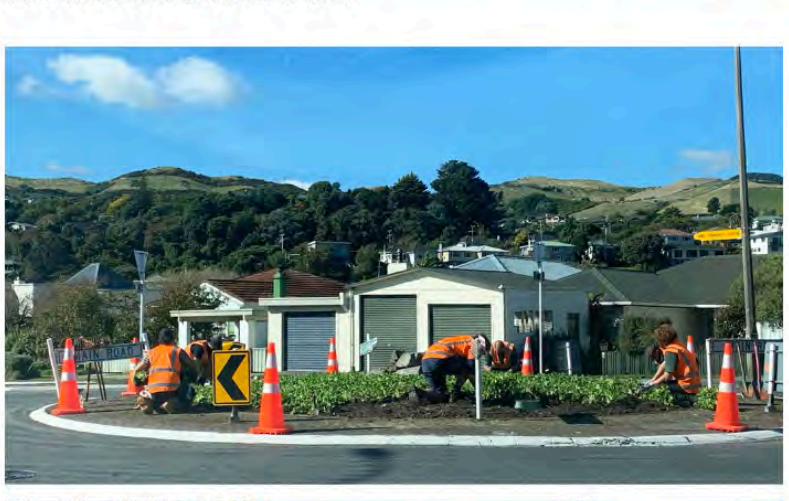
Lucie Desrosiers will speak at Tawa Union Church on Friday 21st May about the Stebbings Valley development. Lucie is Wellington City Council's Principal Advisor, City Design and Planning,

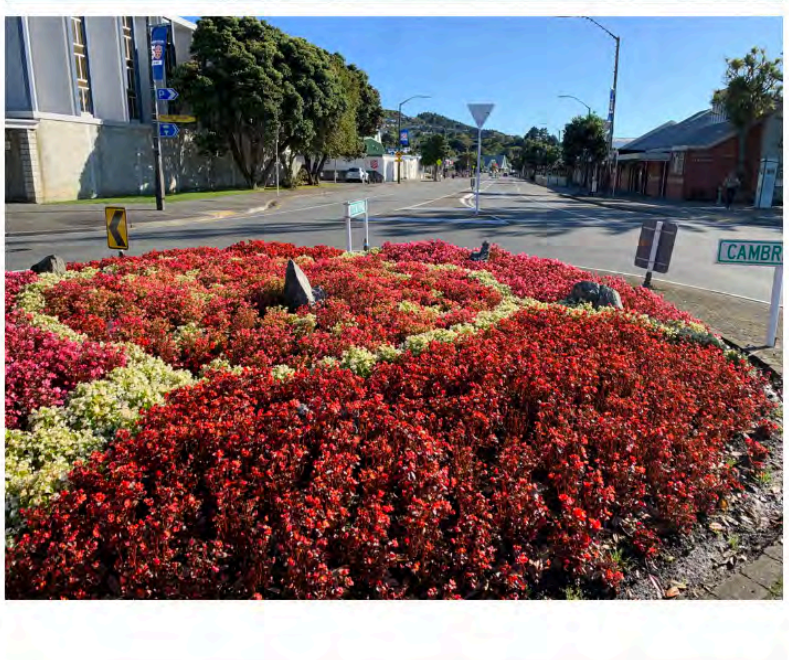
Join us over a 'cuppa' at 9.30am. All welcome.

KEEPING TAWA BEAUTIFUL

Many of us may take them for granted, but our parks, gardens and roundabouts (of which there are a few in Tawa) would not look so good without Council's gardening team doing the great job they do on an ongoing basis.

The first photo below was taken last week. The second one shows how good this roundabout can look at its best.





ADVANCE NOTICE

The Tawa Community Civic Awards were last run by the Tawa Community Board in 2018. They will be held again on 23 September 2021.

The awards allow us to publicly thank those in the Tawa community who volunteer in some way or another to improve the quality of life for the rest of us.

Most of us know people who assist in sports clubs, schools, churches, or perhaps in a community group. You will soon have the opportunity to provide details of such an individual or group worthy of receiving an award from the Mayor of Wellington at a special ceremony in Tawa.

2018 awards ceremony

ANZAC DAY PARADE

The Tawa Anzac Day parade started at the New World carpark at 9.45am and proceeded to the northern end of Oxford St to the Tawa Memorial, where the service was held. Again there was an impressive crowd turnout for such a special occasion.

Thanks to Richard Herbert and John Plunkett for the photos.

1899 1902 SOUTH AFRICAN WAR
1914 1918 WORLD WAR I
1939 1945 WORLD WAR II

4 MINUTES WITH .....
TAWA COLLEGE HEAD PREFECTS

In 2014 **Harrison Wong** was the Redwood School Year 6 winner of the Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards, based on "citizenship qualities" and his positive contribution to school life. In 2021 Harry (as he prefers to be known) is in Year 13 and the head boy at Tawa College.

Where were you born?
I'm a third-generation Chinese, born and bred in Wellington.

Where did you grow up?
I've always been a Tawa boy, growing up in Redwood, in the same house and alongside the same people since primary school, so it's lucky I love it here.

What schools have you been at since you first started school?
Tawa Montessori Preschool, Redwood School, Tawa Intermediate and Tawa College. Happens to be the same as the head girl, Eleesha, I just can't escape her!

What subjects are you doing this year at college?
English, Geography, Maths, Biology, and Earth and Space Science.

What are you hoping to do when you leave school?
Up until last year, I wanted to be a Professional Skier, Instagram Influencer, and Rollercoaster Operator. However, this year, I've discovered an interest in journalism and uncovering stories that need to be shared.

What does being a head student actually involve, any particular responsibilities?
For me, the role is more than just a title, but an opportunity to spread my driven "go-getter" attitude across the school. This involves motivational assembly speeches, leading the prefect team with ambition, and making sure I get stuck into any school challenge. It's not all serious, there are lots of fun perks, from Valentine's Day concert appearances, being a judge for the Talent Show and being looked up to by juniors.

What do you like about Tawa College?
Although TC is a place for learning, our Kaupapa is so much more. Tawa College offers regular entertainment which I would say exceeds most other schools. Things like The Survivor Challenge, TC Feud and Inter-form class competitions really lighten the mood of school and make this place such a cool environment.

What are your interests and hobbies?
Photography is a hobby that I have inherited from my dad's genes. I've fallen in love with taking landscape and wildlife photos because they capture such special moments that enhance my appreciation for nature. It's almost like a therapeutic meditation.

I also love anything outdoors from tramps in the holidays, ocean swims at golden hour and morning running. Something about the fresh air at the crack of dawn gets me going and is the reason I get out of bed early on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for the AM Mayhem running club.

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?
Michael Jordan has been my all-time idol. His "go-getter" nature had him chasing down championships and becoming an absolute machine on the court.

Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?
Kendrick Lamar, his tracks are bangin'.
[For older readers, Wikipedia states: "Kenrick Lamar Duckworth (born June 17, 1987) is an American rapper, songwriter, and record producer. Since his mainstream debut in 2012 with Good Kid, M.A.A.D. City, Lamar has been regarded as one of the most influential artists of his generation." – Ed.]

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?
Franz Josef down in the South Island. Its captivating views of the glacier and the boundless Southern Alps are truly magical and will always be my paradise away from home.

What accomplishments/achievements in your life (to date) give you much satisfaction/pride?
Last year I completed Outward Bound. Not only was this 3 weeks in the middle of nowhere, but was also 3 weeks of physical scrutiny, conquering limitations, and overcoming challenges that I initially thought were impossible. The confidence, courage and integrity that I gained from this adventure gave me a sense of pride within myself. Some would even say I came out a "changed man".

Any two or three things you would like to accomplish in the years ahead?
Completing an Iron Man is a challenge that I've always wanted to take on. I'll have to hit the gym a bit more first though!

The head girl at Tawa College in 2021 is **Eleesha Silva**. Like the head boy, she has gone through the school system in Tawa and is now in her last year at college before heading off to university.

Where were you born?
I was born in Wellington at Wellington Hospital after my parents migrated to New Zealand from Sri Lanka in the late 90s.

Where did you grow up?
I was raised here in Tawa my whole life as all my family lives here too.

What schools have you been at since you first started school?
Like I said I've always been a Tawa girl attending Tawa Montessori, Redwood School, Tawa Intermediate School and now Tawa College. Funnily enough I've gone through my whole school life with fellow Head Boy Harrison Wong which made it extra special to go through this new experience with him too. Though he may say that he just can't get rid of me!

What subjects are you doing this year at college?
This year I made quite a switch with my subjects, dropping all my science subjects. Now I take 5 subjects, English, Maths, Music, History and Legal Studies which are much more catered to my interests.

What are you hoping to do when you leave school?
Like the majority of my classmates, I don't have a set plan for my future. I'm tossing up between Victoria and Auckland University with the possibility of studying Law.

What does being a head student actually involve, any particular responsibilities?
When I first was awarded the title I was terrified, I had been striving towards this goal but I didn't actually know what it entailed. Now with one term under my belt I'm beginning to truly understand what it means to be Head Girl. I am a representative of my school and the leader of the amazing prefect team who have been a massive support. We organise events including our Valentine's Day Celebrations and Club Day. I attend all Principal Assemblies, Tawa community events, and sometimes breakfast at the Wellington Club. Though to me, I believe my responsibility as Head Girl is to make school as interesting as it can be rather than a 9am-3pm chore of school work (even though that is important too!).

What do you like about Tawa College?
What I love about Tawa College is that it's a real mixing pot of all different types of young people. I love getting to know all the different backgrounds and ethnicities of the students. Tawa College allows everyone to express themselves which I love through our Kapa Haka and Pasifika groups or our A-Z queer/ally group which is something that is very unique and special about us. Our school is very welcoming and accepting because of our lovely staff and students creating an environment specific to us.

What are your interests and hobbies?
I really enjoy my music and art. I play piano, clarinet, and sing, and do my best dabbling in painting and drawing. Although I wouldn't say I'm the most talented musician or artist, I do these activities as a way to escape my busy life, it's a very nice way to relax.

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?
Growing up in a Sri Lankan household I was programmed to love cricket. My dad may not like to hear this but although I entertain cricket if I have to, my favourite sport to watch is rugby. I love watching our All Blacks smash it every game!

Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?
Those who know me know that I am the biggest One Direction fan of all time. My whole childhood I was obsessed with 1D and I still am, although nowadays I'm a big fan of Mr Harry Styles!
[For older readers, Wikipedia states: "Harry Edward Styles (born February 1, 1994) is an English singer, songwriter, and actor. He joined the boy band One Direction which went on to become one of the best-selling boy bands of all time." – Ed.]

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?
I haven't been able to travel across New Zealand as much as I've wanted. Some of my favourite places to go though are Tauranga, Hawkes Bay and Martinborough for the beautiful weather!

What accomplishments/achievements in your life (to date) give you much satisfaction/pride?
Well being Head Girl is an achievement that I'm very proud of. But apart from that, I'm very proud that I've learnt to become fluent in my mother language Singhalese, it's something that I really value living in NZ. Some other achievements that give me satisfaction are achieving my Black Belt in Karate, distinction in music exams, and being accepted in the Model UN conferences.

Any two or three things you would like to accomplish in the years ahead?
In the coming years I really hope to travel more if the pandemic allows it and explore the world. I would love to get more involved in Model UN as it is something I've really come to enjoy. As for now, getting through the year giving it my 100% is what I'm looking to do.

KIA ORA FROM YOUR M.P.

This is an update on what's happening from an Ohariu Electorate and Central Government perspective, and how these things impact on Tawa.

Obviously Covid control and recovery dominates. We have cause to reflect on how well NZ has done when we see the international situation. Spare a thought for our many fellow constituents who have relations in India especially, where the official, let alone the unofficial death toll is horrific. They are feeling helpless watching from afar as the situation deteriorates, and would appreciate some support.

Meanwhile we in New Zealand have tentatively opened our borders with Australia and shortly the Cook Islands. Although we haven't yet heard Australian accents echoing down Tawa Main Road, our tourism sector which was badly hit by Covid, is preparing for a winter influx of them.

I was able to organise Dr Ashley Bloomfield to speak at a Tawa Business and Rotary breakfast recently, and he certainly impressed as much in person as he does in the media. He spent his formative years in Tawa, so certainly had a context for his talk. What he has really done is show New Zealand what a capable, professional public service we have, important here as Tawa is home to many hard working public servants.

Housing continues to be a major focus, and recent changes mean the Tawa business area in particular will be permitted to accommodate more high density housing. Done properly, this can be a real asset, and means the next generation can remain and bring up their families here. Currently high prices and lack of availability are preventing this.

The Health Reforms announced last week are designed to ensure efficiency and consistency in treatment. We in Ohariu, situated between two major hospitals run by the same DHB and working together, get a generally more efficient service utilising the different expertise at each hospital, rather than replicating the services. That is the basis of the reforms.

I'm very keen to hear from Tawa constituents on these and any issues, so please make contact either by phone, email, social media, or call in and see me.

Phone 04 478 3332, email greg.oconnor@parliament.govt.nz
Address Unit 2, 18 Moorefield Rd, Johnsonville; Facebook /GregOhariu.

Also feel free to approach me if you see me about in my wee red Austin 1300.

Greg O'Connor, MP for Ohariu.

You need two $5 bills. The child who drops the money first loses and the winner keeps the money - hours of peace. You can thank us later.

"I don't know how to act my age. I've never been this age before."

"Whatever you do, always give 100%. Unless you're donating blood."
– Bill Murray

"Life will change only when you become more committed to your dreams than you are to your comfort zone."

"Some people's idea of free speech is that they are free to say what they like, but if anyone says anything back, that is an outrage." – Winston Churchill

MARTY, I'VE JUST GOT BACK FROM THE YEAR 2099..
THEY STILL HAVEN'T FINISHED TRANSMISSION GULLY...

Ngā mihi

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