

*This is a follow-up to the newsletter sent out last week on behalf of the Tawa Community Centre and TawaLink.com (Tawa's community website).*

29 July 2009

## **PROPOSED CUTS TO COMMUNITY EDUCATION FUNDING**

*The following is from a concerned local resident:*

There is a meeting at Pember House, Hagley St, Porirua, at 9am tomorrow (Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>) with MP Winnie Laban and Labour Leader Phil Goff to enable you to have your say about the proposed cuts to night class funding.

Tawa has had a wonderful Adult Community Education programme running from Tawa College for many years - Judith Havill and her team of tutors and the thousands of learners in the Tawa basin are going to lose this resource if we are not vocal and don't fight this decision by the Government.

If you can't make the morning meeting, there is a similar meeting at 6pm at the Newlands Community Centre, Bachelor St, Newlands.

## **'STANDING OVATION'**

There is still time to get your ticket to Tawa College's major production. The feedback confirms that it's a great show and one which most people will enjoy, whether you have kids involved in it or not. I don't, but will be there on Friday night and expect to thoroughly enjoy it. The last performance is Saturday evening.

## **FROM THE TAWA SQUASH CLUB ...**

Tawa Squash club are embarking on a \$40,000 upgrade of their shower facilities in August. Funding has been secured from Mana Community Grants Foundation, Tawa Community Board and NZ Community Trust together with proceeds from a garage sales, club member donations and interest-free loans from club members.

We are hosting the inaugural Wellington Women's Squash Tournament at the Tawa Squash Club Friday 25<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2009. We have secured significant sponsorship so prizes will be attractive and are expecting a full draw with some entrants having to be balloted out.

## **PETER DUNNE'S CLINIC**

The Hon Peter Dunne MP holds a 'clinic' every six weeks or so at the Tawa Community Centre. It's an opportunity for local people to speak to him on a one-to-one basis about any matters of concern. He's there this coming Saturday morning (1<sup>st</sup> August). You do need to book a time however. Call his office on 478 0076.

## **TAKAPU ISLAND**

After our newsletter last week, we received this from a local resident, Peter Hunt:

*"I realise it is not for you to answer but I would like you to pass on to the Community Board and the Council members who represent this area how appalling it is that an earthworks as large as that being undertaken at Takapu Island with its destruction and change to the Tawa environment can happen without any explanation as to what's going on. How can such a disfiguration of our landscape be a non notifiable activity? And why is it our representatives cannot tell us what's happening?"*

Peter Hunt's email was forwarded to Councillors Ngaire Best & Hayley Wain, and to Community Board chair Robert Tredger.

Ngaire has been on a Pacific holiday and is due back about now, so hasn't exactly been in a position to respond. Robert is in very much the same boat (no pun intended because it can be assumed both parties traveled by air - independently of each other). Hayley's been left holding the fort (so to speak). Here's her response, and thanks for getting back to us, Hayley:

*"Takapu Island is owned by a private developer. The land had been zoned residential (which would have allowed residential development to occur), however the developers undertook a private plan change. The private plan change sought to alter the zoning from residential to suburban centre. There was an appeal lodged to the plan change which has since been resolved.*

*The developers applied for an earthworks consent which was non-notified. Our Council officers make the decision as to whether a consent should be non-notified or notified (the decision is not made by politicians). This consent was subsequently granted.*

*The roading changes are on public land but the roads between the motorway and the bridge come under the New Zealand Transport Agency's (NZTA - formerly Transit) control. Hence NZTA could impose conditions on the developer for the communication of roading plans to the public (however I am unsure what conditions have been imposed).*

*I realise that there has been concern expressed by a number of Tawa residents about the lack of communication with the public on this development. As it is a private development it is up to the developer to decide if they wish to communicate their intentions to the public. As the roading changes do not impact on WCC land the Council have no scope to insist on a communications plan. The Tawa Community Board have also expressed these same concerns with the developer and are trying to keep up-to-date with changes to the development timeframes, etc.*

*Once the earthworks and road works have been completed the developer will apply for a Resource Consent to develop the site. This may be notified. However an assessment will be made by Council officers when an application has been lodged. In terms of the landscaping aspects of the development, that will be considered at this stage and conditions may be imposed by Resource Consent Commissioners."*

Malcolm Sparrow

On behalf of the Tawa Community Centre and TawaLink.com

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*"Great people create great acts of kindness." - Cervantes*

*"Neither you nor the world knows what you can do until you have tried."*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

This community newsletter is emailed to around 700 Tawa households, businesses, schools, churches and clubs/groups (anyone who has an interest in the community of Tawa) every 2-3 weeks. If you do not already receive it and would like to, please send an email to [info@tawalink.com](mailto:info@tawalink.com) requesting that your name is added to our list.