

27 November 2009

## **A WIN IN THE BY-ELECTION; A LOSS OF THE ROLE AS COMMUNITY CENTRE COORDINATOR**

As you will probably be aware, Malcolm Sparrow (the writer of this newsletter) won the by-election for a place on the Tawa Community Board. I will be officially sworn in at the next Board meeting on Thursday 10 December. As the Council believes there would be a conflict of interest in regard to my role as coordinator at the Tawa Community Centre, I am resigning that position.

My decision to stand in the by-election, knowing that a win would mean the end of my time at the Centre, was not made lightly. It is with a huge amount of regret that I am stepping down. As I said in my election circular, "I am very much involved in and committed to this community ..." Because circumstances have limited what I could achieve at the Centre, I stood for the Board to allow me to continue in an "official capacity" in the community. It had always been my intention to stay and see the Community Centre develop and expand, and hopefully I can help that happen in my new role with the Community Board.

Looking back, I am pleased to have got to know a lot more local people whilst at the Centre. I have also had the privilege of dealing with (and in many cases, "becoming friends with") Tawa residents from a variety of backgrounds whom I might not have otherwise met - Sri Lankans, Filipinos, Maori, Samoans, Fijians, Indians, Cook Islanders, Kiribati, Maltese, etc. The pot luck meals we held every three months were a good chance to mix with a wide range of members of our community. Thank you to those who contributed to seeing our pot luck meals well-attended and well worthwhile.

I would also like to thank the team of volunteers who regularly serve at the Centre for a couple of hours every week. They're primarily retired people who lead active lives and contribute to the community in many ways, not least their involvement at the Centre.

Tawa has a huge amount going for it. I am impressed by ...

- the fact that there are more than 130 clubs & groups based in Tawa/Linden catering for a wide range of interests
- how well the schools here work together, culminating in the Tawa Schools' & Community Festival every two years
- the number of people involved in the various churches, including three church groups who meet at the Centre
- how large and effective the local U3A group is, catering for hundreds of seniors

I have asked a number of locals in recent months what they like about Tawa and one answer that invariably comes through is the "sense of community", the village feel, etc. My aim, amongst other things, is to do the best I can in continuing to develop and improve that.

## **COME AND HAVE YOUR SAY THIS COMING MONDAY EVENING**

The Tawa Community Board is Tawa's mouthpiece in dealing with the Wellington City Council. "We can go in to bat for you!" is the catchcry. The Board is currently putting

together its first "Community Advocacy Plan" and needs **YOUR HELP** with this. You can be proactive and let the Community Board know how you think it can make Tawa a better place for all of us who live here. **GET INVOLVED** - the meeting ("get-together" sounds better!) is 7.00pm on Monday 30 November at the Tawa Community Centre.

"There are people who *make things happen*, there are people who *watch things happen*, and there are people who don't even know what happened."

## **TAKAPU ISLAND ROUNDABOUTS**

The roundabouts are actually a NZ Transport Authority project paid for by the people who own Takapu Island. As the roundabouts have now been completed, the NZTA is currently carrying out a safety audit. That will presumably include looking at the height of the raised earth on the right as one enters Tawa from the motorway - where you're looking to see who is coming under the "motorway bridge". You know where we mean? A few complaints about this have been received. It does in fact obscure one's vision. Maybe that's the intent, to slow us down (more than necessary?). Hopefully they'll be able to lop a metre or two off the top so we can actually see who's racing towards us from our right.

STOP PRESS: Apparently a digger has been working there in the last day or two, possibly rectifying the problem.

## **LINCOLN AVE PARKING**

Road markings indicating designated parking spaces are now in place in Lincoln Ave (near the Main Road). The Tawa Community Board has been working in conjunction with the City Council for quite some time in getting this sorted. Our friends from Parkwise will be "keeping an eye" on things for a while when they're in the area.

## **CHRISTMAS IN TAWA**

28 sleeps to go! Despite the busyness of the season, it's still a fun time of the year for most of us!

You may have noticed that the Norfolk pine is lit up (at night, that is) and it does look good. Here are some pics from a previous year:

<[http://www.tawalink.com/pic\\_week\\_0219.html](http://www.tawalink.com/pic_week_0219.html)> (The lights don't actually alter a whole lot from one year to the next, so these pics are still an accurate record). The coloured lights on the lamp posts in the Main Road central shopping centre have also been switched on, and also look rather impressive.

Apparently the house on the hill at the southern end of Redwood Ave near the Main Road is already ablaze with Christmas lights. Must get down and have a look! No doubt the good folks in Woodman Drive will be getting all theirs up and running too, if they haven't already.

### **Tawa Lions Christmas Parade**

Saturday 5 December: The parade will start at 2pm, with participants assembling at Tawa School at 1pm. The parade route is from Oxford Street on to the Main Road (by Mexted Motors), through the town shopping centre, on to Surrey Street and ending at Tawa Junction carpark. All community groups and businesses are welcome to participate. Contact Mike Baker on 232 6406 with any queries.

### **Tawa Rotary Carols**

Tuesday 15 December: The Tawa Rotary Club will again be hosting a public carols

evening to celebrate Christmas. At St Francis Xavier School commencing at 7.00pm - on the school grounds if the weather is suitable or, if not, in the school hall. A family event at which everyone is welcome. Members of the Wellington Male Voice Choir, along with other local choirs, a brass band, keyboards, guitars, etc, will provide the leads for a "community sing-along". Songsheets will be handed out.

There will be a sausage sizzle from 6.15pm (at the Carols) with soft drinks also available for sale. As in past years the event will also be used to invite donations of cash and/or foodstuffs for the Tawa Food Bank. To see pics of last year's Tawa Rotary Carols, go to: <[http://www.tawalink.com/carols\\_2008.html](http://www.tawalink.com/carols_2008.html)>

### **LOCAL AWARD WINNERS** *(this report received by email)*

It's great when any person or firm in Tawa wins an award. Cathryn & Mark Warburton, husband and wife team of Acacia Law, a Tawa-based Intellectual Property law practice won the Sustainability section in the recent Porirua Rotary Club's Westpac Porirua City Business Excellence awards. Originally 600 firms were nominated in 11 different categories so this is really a great achievement. Congratulations!

### **TAWA SCHOOLS' & COMMUNITY FESTIVAL**

"The most spectacular event Tawa holds as a community" - that's how one local school principal described it. The festival (mostly very enjoyable music and various effects) is a biennial event, and the next one is only 42 weeks away! Watch this space.

Malcolm Sparrow

On behalf of TawaLink.com <[info@tawalink.com](mailto:info@tawalink.com)>

<<http://www.tawalink.com>>

232 5030 A/H or 027 232 2320 or 02 232 232 00

*"The miracle is this - the more we share, the more we have."* - Leonard Nimoy

*"It is better to give children a rule to break than to give them no rules at all."*

- Tipper Gore

*"The surprising thing about young fools is how many survive to become old fools."*

- Doug Larson

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 3 weeks or so. 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.