



COMMUNITY NEWS

Mid-May 2011

This community newsletter is sent out on the first and third Wednesdays of each month on behalf of tawalink.com, Tawa's community website since 2002.

INCREASING THE FREQUENCY OF THIS NEWSLETTER



You may not be aware that this free eNewsletter has been sent out about once a month to the good people of Tawa (and some perhaps not so good) since 2005. In the early days it was emailed to "... more than 300 Tawa families, businesses, schools, churches and clubs/groups (anyone who has an interest in the community of Tawa) every six weeks or so." Today it goes to just over 1000 Tawa email addresses each month. However that leaves more than 80% of Tawa residents who don't get it!

The purpose of the eNewsletter is simply to keep local people informed of what's happening in our community because there's a lot that doesn't get reported in the local rags. Having said that, we do appreciate the coverage that both *Kapi-Mana News* and *Porirua CityLife News* give to Tawa events.

Getting to the point, I will be aiming in the future to send out an eNewsletter on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. That will give those who send me news items a better idea of the time frame to work with. If you have something you wish to be included in this newsletter, please send it through no later than the Monday of those weeks, preferably sooner.

DOING OTHER PEOPLE A FAVOUR

As was stated above, this eNewsletter is sent to more than 1000 local email addresses. The sad thing is that a small number bounce back every month because people have changed their email address and forgotten to tell us. That's where YOU come in. If you enjoy speaking to people on the phone and have an hour or so available each week, you could help us obtain those updated email addresses. You'll be doing people in the community a favour by ensuring they keep themselves informed of what's going on around them!



For more details please contact Malcolm on info@tawalink.com or 232 5030.

TAWA HISTORY WEEK

The Tawa Historical Society will once again offer the community a Tawa History Week early June. It consists of four talks on topics related to Tawa's history, and will be held each day at 10.00am till 11.00am from Tuesday 7 June to Friday 10 June 2011 (in the week following Queen's Birthday). A cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit commences the proceedings (at 10am).

Topics for each day are now listed on the tawalink.com website.



NEW PRINCIPAL AT REDWOOD SCHOOL

Mrs Sue Goodin is Redwood School's new principal. She has been teaching for 25 years, nine of those at Tawa Intermediate before taking over as Deputy Principal at Redwood School where she is now into her tenth year. She knows the school quite well!

As was stated in last month's eNewsletter, Redwood School is the biggest of Tawa's six primary schools and is held in high esteem in the community, providing a 'traditional' education (i.e. it teaches the basics well). Expect to see a continuation of the same high standards at the school!

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD SNIPPETS

• COMMUNITY BOARD CONFERENCE

Malcolm Sparrow (chair) and Graeme Hansen (deputy chair) were at a recent community board conference in Rotorua. Community board members from all around the country took part, from as far afield as Bluff & Te Anau and Coromandel & Northland. They learned a great deal regarding how other boards operate and picked up numerous tips which they believe will benefit the Tawa community. We'll start putting them into practice soon!

For example, lessons learned from the Christchurch earthquake:

It is important to improve neighbourhood communication before the event. Build street connections, etc. Communities that are connected and know their neighbours have an advantage in a disaster.

• TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD COMMUNITY PLAN

The Tawa Community Board has finalised its Community Plan, a very readable document which basically sets out what the board hopes to initiate or achieve in the next while.

The list includes:

- artificial turf
- engaging with Foodstuffs re proposed new supermarket
- playground upgrades
- public toilets (Linden)
- Takapu Island, providing information about
- Tawa Community Civic Awards
- Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards
- Tawa railway station restoration
- Tawa Shared Walkway, keeping tabs on
- Tawa town centre, beautification/upgrade
- plus monitoring Willowbank/Johnsonville cycleway/walkway, the Link road and Spicer Forest

• DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN

The Tawa Community Board has just put in a submission to the WCC's 2011/12 Draft Annual Plan, commenting on 17 different aspects. Some of those are as follows:

- concern about the proposed residential rates increase of 6.2%. Too much!
- full support to the establishment of an artificial turf in Tawa/Grenada North in 2014/15
- request for a public toilet block in Linden
- support for WCC attempts to stem graffiti
- request for funding for the Middleton Road Cycle and Walkway
- opposition to plans to increase CBD parking fees and decrease hours of free parking
- concern about insufficient Park and Ride facilities in Tawa
- opposition to the Council's proposal to spend \$20m on a deep water pool

• ROADING AND PARKING ISSUES

The Tawa Community board is very much involved in making recommendations to Council on roading matters and parking restrictions in Tawa. Graeme Hansen is primarily responsible for this portfolio. The photo shows him (at left) discussing Roy St with Charles Agate, WCC traffic engineer.

In recent times the board has dealt with roading/parking issues in Rawson St, Duncan St, Hinau St, Collins Ave, Lyndhurst Rd, and at least two locations on the Main Road.



MORE COMMUNITY BOARD INFO

• NEW WHEELIE BINS

The new WCC wheelie bin service started this week. It is for recycling of plastics, paper and metals on a fortnightly basis. Glass will be collected using the existing 45-litre green bins on alternate weeks to the wheelie bins. Hopefully it'll be straightforward in your street!

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD



From left:

Cr Justin Lester
Cr Ngaire Best
Alistair Sutton
Robert Tredger
Malcolm Sparrow (Chair)
Chris Reading
Graeme Hansen (Deputy)
Margaret Lucas

WHY A COMMUNITY BOARD?

- A community board has an obligation to "promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of its community".
- A board has its fingers on the pulse of the community and makes local decisions on local issues for the benefit of local people.
- Your community board members are Tawa's own elected representatives, the ones you can talk to in your own community.

COUNTDOWN SUPERMARKET AT TAKAPU ISLAND

Yes, it's true that Progressive Enterprises is looking at building a Countdown supermarket at Takapu Island, the large vacant piece of land at the southern entrance to Tawa.

The plan for the new supermarket comes as Woolworths Tawa will be closing its doors later in the year as the supermarket's lease is expiring and unable to be renewed.

It's still early days, but the intention is to build a 4,200 square metre supermarket located on the convenient transport route. The store will feature 251 car spaces and extensive planted and landscaped areas. The planned Countdown Tawa will be a larger format new generation Countdown store offering customers a greater range of products compared to the existing Woolworths store, along with Countdown's great specials and prices.

Countdown is committed to providing ongoing employment to Woolworths Tawa team members, and additional team members will be required upon completion of the Countdown store. There will also be construction jobs throughout development and opportunities for local contractors and businesses.

- wording supplied by Progressive Enterprises

Also see the **OPINION PIECE** by Richard Herbert at the bottom of this newsletter.

SPRING INTO TAWA MARKET DAY

It's only 115 days away – on Saturday 10th September. We'll be sending out information later in June. Contact us if you haven't previously been involved and want to be this time.

A WHIRLWIND ADVENTURE - THE DOWNUNDER WORLD CHALLENGE



Ex-Tawa College student Andrew Strugnell has recently arrived back in Wellington after spending the last 3½ months visiting 13 countries and creating a travel documentary. The community of Tawa was instrumental in Andrew's success in winning the all-expenses-paid *Downunder World Challenge* through Facebook, and he is especially thankful for Tawa College's immense voting force to tip the scales in his favour.

"'Incredible' is the best word I can use to describe the last few months. From hiking up to Machu Picchu, playing with African kids, and taking a stroll in the

countryside of Windermere, to masquerades in Venice, Turkish baths and flaming curries of Sooti village. The adventure has not finished yet as I look forward to the opportunity of sharing all of these amazing memories with you in the *Downunder World Challenge* series on YouTube. The future of this video series may even make some screen time on television. My ultimate goal in producing this series is to enlighten people about the amazement of travel, and draw attention to stories that need to be heard from people who are not as fortunate as us in New Zealand."



Andrew worked alongside TEAR Fund NZ sponsored projects abroad in Uganda, India and The Philippines. Canon New Zealand also sponsored the trip in the form of lending the latest professional camera equipment to aid in documenting his travels. Look out for regular video updates as posted on www.youtube.com/strugsnotdrugs.

NEW WORLD SUPERMARKET

You will already be aware that Foodstuffs will be establishing a New World supermarket on the site of the current Woolworths supermarket when it closes late November. Because several months will pass before the new supermarket opens its doors, a lot of concern has been expressed in the community about the lack of a supermarket in the intervening months. Here is what Foodstuffs has to say:

"We are looking at establishing a Foodmarket in the vacant Tawa Mall premises. This temporary store will be trading from later this year (October/November). The store will carry all essential food lines and will measure about 600m².

Public access to the market will be via the existing pedestrian walkway. Our Design Team are currently working through the details."

REMEMBER ...

In the future this eNewsletter will be sent out on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. If you want items included, please send them through at least a couple of days beforehand.

TAWA SWIMMING CLUB OPENINGS

Tawa Swimming Club currently has openings in its junior competitive swim squads. If your child is interested in swimming as a sport and has the basic skills of all 4 strokes please contact our head coach, Mat Woofe, on 027 316 2218 or email coach@swimtawa.org.nz to discuss options and arrange an assessment.

Tawa Swimming Club is a developing force in the world of competitive swimming, recently finishing 11th out of 78 clubs at the National Age Group Championships. Our current swimmers are representing Tawa regionally, nationally and internationally. They are very ably coached by Mat Woofe, himself an ex NZ representative swimmer who has extensive experience in coaching including at an international level.

Take this opportunity now to be part of an exciting sport. Alternatively if you are not quite ready for squad training we do have spaces in our community club night programme. Contact our Club Captain on captain@swimtawa.org.nz for more information. Or visit our website at www.swimtawa.org.nz

THE OLD CALTEX SERVICE STATION PREMISES

The former service station premises on the corner of the Main Road & Essex St was bought by Devon & Patterson Flooring Xtra who currently operate out of Rewa Tce. They were intending to use it for themselves but have had an approach from another retailer with whom they are currently in negotiations. Although it's very likely that this deal will be going ahead, it won't be finalised for another 2-3 weeks. Assuming it does, will probably be November before the new business is operating.

In the meantime the lot has been tar-sealed and a few olive trees planted around the periphery. The current building will be retained, painted on the outside and revamped on the inside. It should look "quite nice" by the time it's done. There will be off-street parking for the new business which will relieve pressure on the Main Road.

We'll bring you more details once we know more.

Adios

Malcolm Sparrow

On behalf of TawaLink.com
(loosely under the umbrella of the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association)
info@tawalink.com
www.tawalink.com
232 5030 A/H or 027 232 2320

P.S. I will be in Christchurch next week playing what small part I can in helping with the aftermath of the earthquake, centering on the eastern suburbs. I spoke to a friend in Christchurch a couple of nights ago and was told that his brother who lives in South Brighton is not expecting to have sewerage facilities restored until the end of the year. Until then it's the good old chemical toilet!

A number of Tawa residents, particularly those involved with Wellington or Porirua Emergency Management, have already spent time in Christchurch providing assistance in practical ways. We might try and bring you some of their stories.

If you wish to see a large number of high quality "red zone" photos, they are available here:
<https://picasaweb.google.com/RossBeckerNZ/2011April27IntoTheChristchurchRedZone#slideshow/5602374866487170338>

Interesting to note that the Wainuiomata Community Board recently ran their own community event to specifically raise funds for "Christchurch earthquake relief". Their initiative brought in almost \$6000. Well done to them!

"When real people fall down in life, they get right back up and keep on walking."
- Michael Patrick King

"If the world seems cold to you, kindle fires to warm it." - Lucy Larcom

"Be sincere; be brief; be seated." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

This community newsletter is emailed to more than 1000 Tawa households, businesses, schools, churches and clubs/groups (anyone who has an interest in the community of Tawa) on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, or thereabouts. If there's anything you'd like to include in the next newsletter, please let us know. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, please send us an email requesting that your name be deleted from our list.

*This **OPINION PIECE** was received from Richard Herbert, well-known Tawa resident, first thing this morning (Wednesday).*

RE THE PROPOSED SUPERMARKET AT TAKAPU ISLAND

WCC have given notice this week of a Notified Resource Consent application:

"To construct and operate a Countdown supermarket on the site with a gross floor area of approximately 4,200m². The proposal also involves the development and use of associated car parking and servicing areas."

The Public Notice was in the *Dominion Post* Public Notices on Monday and in the *Kapi-Mana News* Public Notices today, Wednesday. This and further details can also be found at <http://www.wellington.govt.nz/news/publicnotices/details/3-main-road.html>. Details are also available at the Tawa Library. Submissions about the proposed application must be received by **4.00pm on Thursday, 14 June 2011**.

I recommend we encourage as many public submissions as possible supporting this application (as it will likely also receive negative submissions from other business interests), **BUT WITH CONDITIONS**.

Some such conditions that I recommend submitters include in their own personal submissions may be those along the following lines

1. Park 'n' Ride car parking

The original scheme's proposal for the 'Takapu Island' development block allowed for the development of some car parking to be set aside as Park 'n' Ride car parking. As we all know, the existing Takapu Road rail station Park 'n' Ride car parking is at a premium during weekdays when supermarket parking is probably in less demand, being busier at weekends. I believe that an ideal compromise can be made if a proportion of the parking of at least 50 spaces could be allowed as all-day Park 'n' Ride car parking during the weekdays. With the arrival of the new trains this year and further suburban development in the northern suburbs, along with the continued high petrol price, we can only expect to see continued uplift in patronage of the suburban train network. The co-location of the Takapu Road rail station in conjunction with the supermarket development makes this area ideal as a local transport hub transfer point. How pedestrians cross Takapu Road (or under the rail bridge) between the Takapu Island site and the Takapu rail station site will also need to be considered.

2. Porirua Stream Restoration and Porirua Harbour Restoration protection

The Porirua Stream runs along the western boundary of this property and then through Tawa and into the Porirua Harbour. Every endeavour should be made to protect this vital waterway (of which there are few remaining in the Wellington City) from further ecological damage, and take this opportunity to enhance this waterway however possible. Both Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington have all recently signed up to a Memorandum of Understanding for the Restoration of Porirua Harbour and this development lies in the catchment of the Porirua Harbour. So let's lead the way on how commercial land developments can make a positive contribution to the restoration of waterways rather than a negative one.

It is a well known fact that waterways are most stressed and ecological systems damaged when there is earthworks and development activity in their vicinity, mostly due to the runoff of sedimentation and other pollutants from the hard surfaces such development produce (roofs and bitumen car parking and roading surfaces). Some good work was done as part of the earth works undertaken to date by the previous developer under the conditions of their earthworks resource consent. At least similar conditions should also apply to this proposal during its development phase and ongoing, to ensure that every effort is made to minimise sedimentation runoff and that suitable collection and filtration systems are put in place to maximise the quality of any water that ends up in the Porirua Stream waterway. Also to ensure that the embankment above the stream is planted and maintained with WCC-approved indigenous tree species; and that the riparian area along the sides of the stream is also planted with accepted native species for such areas to help restore the ecological system of the Porirua Stream rather than worsen its current state.

3. South Tawa Ecological Corridor Restoration

Prior to the desolation of the 'Takapu Island' block through the clean felling of the existing prior vegetation and associated earthworks to level the site, the 'Takapu Island' block provided a 'green' stepping stone in the 'green' corridor across the southern end of Tawa between Marshalls Ridge (and the Outer Greenbelt) and the Grenada-Horokiwi ridge green belt (and thence to Belmont Regional Park). While it is never going to return to this condition, the opportunity should at least be taken to encourage the developer during the final development of the site to include prolific planting of trees and other foliage, at least on the boundaries of the site and wherever else the proposed development might allow.

4. SH1 Motorway driving distractions

Such a huge development is going to become a very bright in-the-face driving distraction (day and night) to drivers travelling north on the motorway to and past Tawa. The original scheme's proposal for the 'Takapu Island' development block depicted a lot of tree plantings along the motorway boundary and motorway shoulder that in time would provide a visual barrier between vehicles travelling on the motorway and other activities and buildings (including advertising signage) that may be on the supermarket site. So far these plantings have not occurred, neither on the 'Takapu Island' development land nor on the SH1 land. It is recommend that they be included in this development proposal.

5. Other transport considerations

There are probably others much more qualified than I who can comment on the effects of the high traffic volumes to/from a supermarket, crossing a stream of traffic off a major motorway and whether the recent roundabout traffic calming is going to work under higher traffic volumes. And the effects of the B-train logistics delivery trucks which already routinely bowl over the signage around the Tawa Main Road - Cambridge Street roundabout in getting to the existing Tawa Woolworths site.