



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

KENEPURU STATION STAYING OPEN

In our late August newsletter we mentioned the possibility of Kenepuru Railway Station having to close because at that stage it seemed that more than \$1 million was needed to bring it up to scratch.

The good news is that Wellington Regional Council has now advised "the possible closure of Kenepuru Station has been averted". The maintenance work required to the eastern platform (where it's slumping) and to re-surface the platform can be effected for just \$320,000.

Thanks to KiwiRail and the regional council for agreeing to split this cost to ensure the station stays open for business.

A great result for the local community!



THIS YEAR'S TAWA LIONS CHRISTMAS PARADE

The 2011 Tawa Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday 3 December at 2pm. As in previous years the parade will start at Tawa School grounds, proceed along the Main Road to Surrey Street, then back along Oxford Street to finish at Tawa School.



The parade will involve bands, floats, community groups, MG & vintage cars, clowns and Santa. The parade is proudly organised by the Lions Club of Tawa for the benefit of the Tawa community. Tawa Lions would love to hear from any enthusiastic community groups wishing to be part of this fun parade. Call Ken Coad on 232 2475 or 027 249 2952.

WE'VE HEARD of a local woman's mother whose travel plans to Tawa have been made around the date of the parade – to ensure she gets to see it. She's coming here from the northeast of England. We'd be interested to hear of any potential parade attendee who'll be travelling further than that to see it!

THE OLD CALTEX SERVICE STATION PREMISES

We have received the following advice from Simon's Amcal Pharmacy:

"It's now official. Simon's Pharmacy are moving into the old Caltex site in November. We are thrilled that this site will be put to such good use for the Tawa community, and we are offering free parking to Tawa Medical Centre patients while they are visiting their doctor. It also means that people have much easier access to the pharmacy after seeing their doctor.

Parking has always been an issue in our current site, and with the new site there will be almost 20 parks available, with dedicated disabled and parent parking.

Work is well under way in getting the building ready for our shopfitters, and we hope to get Ministry of Health signoff for the site in early November for a mid-November opening."

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO

Just in case you've forgotten who's on your community board, here they are once more:



| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Cr Justin Lester | 021 247 8312 |
| Cr Ngaire Best | 232 9000 |
| Alistair Sutton | 232 2873 |
| Robert Tredger | 232 5982 |
| Malcolm Sparrow (chair) | 232 5030 |
| Chris Reading | 232 8130 |
| Graeme Hansen (deputy) | 232 4360 |
| Margaret Lucas | 027 765 0570 |

A new brochure giving details of what the community board actually does and what it has achieved in recent years is now available at the library and the community centre.

Or see www.tawalink.com/tawacommunityboard.html.



TAWA POOL MAINTENANCE CLOSURE

We ran the following in July. In case you weren't aware of what's going on, here it is again:

Tawa Pool's five yearly maintenance closure will mean the pool is out of action from 10th October for approximately six months. The main areas of work will be the replacement of the roof and the installation of a vapour barrier and acoustic ceiling. Other programmed work includes replacing window bays, resurfacing floor areas, improving access to the mezzanine area, tile repairs, pump, motor and pipe work maintenance, heating and ventilation maintenance, and general interior painting.

The work will enable the facility to be more energy efficient, lower noise levels and maintain the general interior of the complex.

The Council's six other swimming pools will be open and available, the closest of these being the Keith Spry Pool in Johnsonville.

As the pool will be closed for a significant period of time, customers will be kept informed of progress and when the pool will be reopened. Information on the closure can be found on our website www.wellington.govt.nz.

P.S. from the Editor: The above information has been supplied by Tawa Pool which comes under Wellington City Council jurisdiction. That's probably why no mention has been made of the "other pool" up the road, Porirua's Arena Aquatic Centre (a Porirua City Council facility). That pool is also available to Tawa users.

KENEPURU STATION

See article on first page.

MEDIA RELEASE RE THE NEW SUPERMARKET

Eye-catching, free New World shoppers' bus starts early November

A free bus to take Tawa shoppers to New World supermarkets in nearby areas will start in early November and continue for as long as the Tawa area is without a full service supermarket.



The New World bus will be eye-catching as it drives the local roads sporting brightly coloured "clever baskets" images on its sides. Destinations will be New World Porirua and New World Churton Park when it opens later this year.

A small temporary supermarket will open in Tawa Mall, also in early November, to provide a modest range

of essential food needs while the full service New World supermarket is being developed nearby.

The temporary supermarket will be operated by brother and sister team Cameron and Nicole Hogg who, with their parents Neil and Robyn, will own and operate New World Tawa when it opens in mid-2012. The Hoggs currently own New World Feilding.

“We’re really looking forward to becoming part of the Tawa community and have received some very positive feedback from Tawa residents wanting to use the free bus,” Cameron said.

“We’ve advertised for a bus driver, ideally someone with heaps of personality who enjoys looking after people. We’ll inform everyone about the bus timetable and route closer to the time.”

The bus and temporary supermarket services will begin a few weeks ahead of the closure of the Woolworths Tawa supermarket whose lease runs out on November 30. Foodstuffs (Wellington) Cooperative Society Ltd has bought the site.

Details about the development of New World Tawa are contained in the supermarket’s newsletter being delivered to Tawa, Grenada North and Takapu Valley households from October 5-6.

See an electronic version of the New World newsletter at www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html

WOOLWORTHS’ CLOSING DATE

The most up-to-date information we have is that Woolworths in Tawa will close (for the last time) at 10pm on Monday 7th November – NOT at the end of November, despite that date being mentioned in the New World newsletter being distributed this week.

THE FUTURE OF TAWA JUNCTION

We have received the following information about the future of the former Tawa Junction in Surrey Street:

“In short what’s proposed is a conversion of the property to a very attractive, landscaped office park of up to 9000m² taking advantage of the large workforce from Johnsonville to Kapiti – 250 car parks – the railway station on the doorstep – a single level building built to 100% of the building code – no fault line or tsunami threat, etc. Hopefully an opportunity for some local residents to be able to avoid the daily commute and save on travel, parking costs, etc.

It’s proposed there’ll be a café on site – but with around 600 people (a very approximate estimate) working from there it should also help make the Tawa shops and New World a little more successful than has previously been the case with the suburb emptying out each day.

If all goes to plan this should be completed by late 2012.”

Queries can be directed to Chris Gollins on 470 3913 or 021 422 227 (Commercial Consultants Limited t/a Colliers International).

DARROCH’S HARDWARE CLOSING DOWN

You may have seen the article entitled “Last of the old-school” in the September 13 edition of a certain local newspaper. That’s where this photo originates – thanks *Kapi-Mana News*.

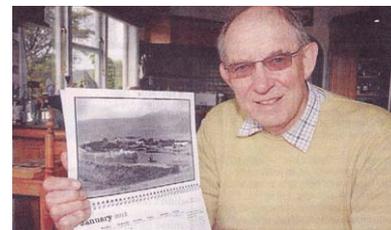


David Darroch has been in the hardware business on the Main Road of Tawa for more than a quarter of a century. But now it’s all coming to an end. The “uneconomic” state of his business is forcing him to shut up shop at the end of November. In the meantime he’s hoping to sell all his remaining stock and is discounting it by 20% in an endeavour to do so.

David served on the Tawa Community Board from 2007 to 2010 and continues to be the board’s “liaison” with Camp Elsdon.

TAWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR

The Tawa Historical Society has produced its first calendar with photos of various Tawa scenes over the years, from 1901 to 1965. This photo, courtesy of *Kapi-Mana News*, shows the society's chair Bruce Murray with the 2012 edition. It is now available from the library at a cost of \$20.



COMING UP:

ART & CRAFT EXPO – Sat 8 October

Free entry. 9am to 3pm at the Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge St, Tawa. Hosted by Tawa Art and Craft Society (Inc). Stalls, demonstrations, workshops. For more information contact Aileen Wood (President) on 232 6024. Application forms at the Tawa Community Centre or Tawa Art & Craft Society.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME – Mon 10 to Fri 14 October

At St Christopher's Anglican Church. For children 5 to 11 years. 10am to 12.30pm each day. Phone 232 8448 for details.

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING – Thurs 13 October

At the Tawa Community Centre at 7pm. Members of the community are welcome to attend.

"BABY BOOMING!" – Sun 30 October

The Tawa Orchestra makes a song and dance about it. Featuring soloists from the Music Learning Centre in Redwood, Tawa, and music of Handel, Gliere, Respighi, Lehar, Lennon and McCartney, and Oscar and Hammerstein.

2pm in the Tawa College Hall. Entry by donation.

REDWOOD SCHOOL DUATHALON – Sat 12 November

Redwood School will be holding a student on the Saturday mentioned (rain date of 19th November) starting at Grasslees Park at noon till 4.00pm. Participants will be on the footpaths along Duncan Street from the railway overbridge to McLellan Street, McLellan Street to Davies Street and Davies Street to the park. They will not be crossing any streets. There will be 50 marshals ensuring students' safety along the route, and no roads will be closed. We ask that all residents on the race route take extra care when pulling out of their driveways. All residents along the race route will receive a notice asking for their patience and extra vigilance during the race.

"KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR – ONE DAY YOU'LL NEED THEM"

The following is available on the WCC website, to do with a recently-launched Council initiative:

Mayor Celia Wade-Brown and Councillor Stephanie Cook launched a new Wellington City Council grant initiative this past Tuesday evening to encourage community preparedness. The Community Preparedness Grants pool is worth \$100,000, and was agreed in the Annual Plan process in June 2011.

Mayor Wade-Brown says the whole idea behind it is to build stronger communities and encourage neighbours to get to know each other, because in times of emergencies they're likely to be the ones who can help first.

"The people who live closest to you are the ones who can help first. You'll never know when you might need their assistance, or when they'll need yours," says Mayor Wade-Brown.

"Get to know who might be particularly vulnerable in a time of emergency, find out who has accessibility needs, and see if any medical staff live on your street. Knowing this information is crucial in times of need for you and your neighbours."

Social Portfolio Leader Councillor Stephanie Cook says, "We've learnt a lot from Christchurch over the last year, and what we've found is that neighbourly contact and help has proved invaluable for people living there."

"Just knowing the people that live three doors down from you can be a great help in times of emergency. Whether you're going to help them, or seeking help, being on first name terms and also being aware of their strengths and vulnerabilities can make all the difference in a life-or-death situation."

"The kind of activities that bring people together of all ages and interests could include a community fair, community art project or a community garden, and these grants can assist with projects like this," says Cr Cook.

Projects must be for a particular street or block of flats, a cul-de-sac or a few streets, and it must be open to everyone in that area. All projects must somehow promote community resilience and contribute to the neighbourhood's preparations for an emergency.

There's \$100,000 available this year for this grants pool. There are two rounds a year - one ending at the end of this month, and the other at the end of March 2012. To be eligible for a grant, applicants need to be linked to a recognised group - for example an incorporated society or a charitable trust. Applicants that don't know any in their area should phone the City Council on 499 4444 for guidance.

NOTE: If you're interested in discussing this further in regard to your part of Tawa, feel free to give me, Malcolm, a call. Bear in mind that if you're thinking of applying for a grant, applications (for the first round of grants) need to be in by the end of October.

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've been told that the weather here was great last week. Having returned from the USA at the weekend (where we were in t-shirts and shorts most the time), we're hoping that this week's not-so flash weather is only fleeting and we're in for a great summer. No harm in dreaming!

Our time away made me appreciate how much we have going for us in New Zealand. Whilst I always enjoy spending time in America, it does seem to be a much more "complex" place in many respects. Life in NZ is "easier" on the whole and probably less inequitable. We do have it pretty good. And, as they say, you can't beat Wellington on a good day!

Most of our time was spent in four different states: southern Utah, Colorado, South Dakota and California (Anaheim). Disregarding the last of those four (where interaction with genuine locals is minimal), my observations, and I've said this before now, are that Americans (about whom one can never generalise, but that's exactly what I'm doing) are a very friendly bunch, more outgoing than Kiwis, more vocal, and really don't have much of a "cringe factor". Sometimes they should have! And there's little doubt that more of them these days know where New Zealand is than was the case 20 or 30 years ago.

They do have more than their fair share of grossly overweight people. Some of that possibly stems from the helpings they get dished up. The size of cone ice creams and various takeaway portions is often much greater than we're used to here. Having said that, we were able to dine out - at reasonably "basic" restaurants and fastfood establishments - for considerably less cost than we pay here. That was lots of fun.

I enjoyed the highway system and being able to sit on 120km/h. As for American drivers, they are generally a pretty courteous bunch and somewhat more inclined to give way to other traffic or pedestrians, in particular, than is the case here.



We definitely prefer the system we're used to where the advertised price of a product or service is usually the "final" price, as opposed to having a sales tax added to the advertised price. Or in the case of a service, having both tax and tip additional. I don't necessarily object to voluntarily paying a tip if good service has been rendered, but I don't like it when it's the expectation. Much simpler in NZ in that regard!

Much of our time was spent enjoying the outdoors. An American friend who has lived in New Zealand commented that both his country and ours are equally beautiful in terms of superb scenery. The difference is that in New Zealand we don't have to go far to enjoy it. In the U.S. it's much more spread out. That sums it up well.

Zion National Park in Utah is amazing. Bryce Canyon a little further up the road is unique – "a helluva place to lose a cow" (a famous quote). Mt Rushmore in South Dakota lived up to my expectations. A standard-size cone ice cream there was big enough for the both of us (Karen and me). Other parts of South Dakota were also great to visit – the Badlands, the Black Hills and



Sturgis. Back in Colorado we took the cog train to the top of Pike's Peak, "America's Mountain", at 14,110 ft. There are dining facilities and a large gift shop at the top. Potential for Mt Cook?



The wildlife fascinates us too. Experiences such as stopping the car in the Rockies for Malcolm to jump out to take his 150th photo for the day, then to turn around to see a "massive" elk crossing the road and pause just behind our vehicle – unforgettable! As was the number of motorists who simply halted their cars in the middle of the road to gawk at the same critter.



A few days earlier we had been driving in Custer State Park, SD, marvelling at a solitary buffalo or two and hoping to see a whole lot more, when we went over a rise and suddenly came across hundreds of the beasts dotting the meadows alongside the roadway. And as anywhere in a nation of 300 million people, we weren't the only ones out of our vehicles to witness the spectacle.



We enjoyed the novelty of "everyday" squirrels and chipmunks, as well as less common wildlife like pronghorn antelopes, prairie dogs and marmots. And from our car in the drive-through safari park we photographed a host of bears, as well as white Arctic wolves and reindeer and more – all separated from each other of course!



Las Vegas was great for the two shows we got to. I think it's a novel place to visit but it's a mad-house really, and certainly way down my list of favo(u)rites. High on the list however is Disneyland and, as always, a magical place to be. In addition to the various rides, they do parades and the accompanying music superbly well, and I have a few great clips of Mickey's brilliant "Soundsational" parade.

But all good things come to an end. This "report" was only intended to be two or three paragraphs. I got a little carried away. So it's over and out from me.

"Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad."

"Don't argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience."

*"True civilisation is where every man gives to every other every right that he claims for himself."
– Robert G Ingersoll*

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.