



# COMMUNITY NEWS

November 2011 - 1

*This community newsletter is sent out in the first and the third weeks of each month on behalf of tawalink.com, Tawa's community website since 2002. The newsletter is supported by the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association.*

## "SENIOR" AND NEED SOME WORK DONE?

Could you do with a hand with some work that needs doing at your place, or know someone else who might? If you're senior or "less able" or genuinely need a hand in some way, we can help. For a few days, 29 November to 2 December, around 300 Year 10 Tawa College students will be working (under adult supervision) in the local community. If you need weeding done, windows cleaned, scrub cleared, car washed, fence painted, or other work done around your house, then give Tawa College a call now. In case you were wondering, there's no cost involved - this is a simply exercise in "community service" within the Tawa basin.



This is the fourth year in which this project is being undertaken in the Tawa community. The college would like every Year 10 student to be involved in giving something back to their community. To book students to help at your place, call the Tawa College office on 232 8184 or email [nbrown@tawacollege.school.nz](mailto:nbrown@tawacollege.school.nz).

## TAWA TEMPORARY SUPERMARKET OPEN

A number of us have already been into the new "temporary supermarket" and been impressed by what's on offer. It's obviously nowhere near the size of a full supermarket but, as a "fill-in measure", it's probably bigger than what we might have expected and prices appear very reasonable. The staff are also very welcoming.



The new shoppers' bus started operation this week. You may have seen it around the place. It leaves Tawa Mall for Porirua New World each weekday at 9.30am, 10.30am & 12.45pm, and on Saturdays at 10am.

## TAWA SCHOOL FAIR

Come and vote at Tawa School on Saturday 26 November and check out the fun of the fair at the same time, 11am to 2pm. Real coffee, great food, entertainment and the famous (well, in Tawa anyway) Spooky House. Entry is free. It will be on, rain or shine.

## THIS YEAR'S TAWA LIONS CHRISTMAS PARADE



The 2011 Tawa Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday 3 December at 2pm. It 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.

## TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO

### • PROFILE OF A COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER

#### Margaret Lucas

*Early life ...* Born in Lower Hutt

*Lived in Tawa since ...* 2002

*Family ...* Married to Murray with two boys, Caleb & Nathanael, both at university, Otago & Auckland.

*Work experience over the years ...* Taught in primary schools for 11 years (incl 8 years in a Catholic school in Wainuiomata) and then part-time. Moved to Levin for 6 years before coming to Tawa 9 years ago. Moved into special education, the past 5 years working as an itinerant advisory teacher supporting teachers of students with learning difficulties.

*Interests and hobbies ...* Faith, family, tramping family holidays, exercise (whether it be swimming, running or biking), sewing, homecrafts.

*Which sports team(s)?* Brainwashed by my household into supporting Motherwell [Scottish football team – Ed.] Passionate about watching whatever sports my kids are playing, whether it be football, lawn bowls or running a half marathon in Elmo suits.

*On the Tawa Community Board since ...* October 2010

*Why the community board, and what do you do on it?*

To act as an advocate to ensure that Tawa gets a fair deal from the Wellington City Council. A group of people encouraged me to stand for the board following my involvement with the submission on infill housing in Tawa. At the end of 3 years I would like to see a "Turf in Tawa" (the artificial turf as in the ePetition earlier in the year).



## TAWA TEMPORARY SUPERMARKET

Foodstuffs' communication and relationship with the Tawa Community Board in regard to the building of the temporary supermarket has been excellent. The board has done its best to convey to Foodstuffs the concerns of the local community about the closing of Tawa's one and only supermarket, and Foodstuffs appear to have listened and responded well.

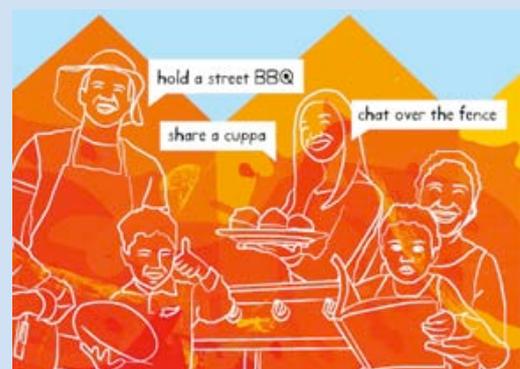
Management of the new store has confirmed its intention of being an integral part of the Tawa community which, in their opinion, is not too dissimilar to Feilding, the town from which brother and sister managers, Cameron & Nicole Hogg, have come.

*Also see article on first page.*

## NEIGHBOURS' WEEKEND IN 2012

It's still four months away but we're intending to make a big weekend of "Neighbours' Day Aotearoa" in late March 2012. The aim is to have at least 50 streets in Tawa getting together with their neighbours in some way or another over that weekend – maybe just having fish & chips together, sharing brunch, or rolling out a few barbecues to cook and eat together.

We'll be talking more about this in the weeks and months ahead.



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

The team from Storage Solutions (2002) Ltd at 76 Main Road, Tawa, won the "Highly Commended" award in the Small Business category at the Porirua City Business Excellence Awards held on Friday 28 October at Te Rauparaha Arena.

Congratulations, from left to right in photo, to Tony, Fiona (holding award), Sharon and Anne.



## DC FITNESS INNOVATIONS TAWA – YOUR LOCAL GYM



Yes there is a gym in Tawa! We could be one of the best kept secrets in Tawa even though we celebrate our 9th birthday on 9th November. We are located at the south end of Tawa on the Main Road opposite Holyoake Industries, across the bridge between UFBA and Super Liquor. If you go past BabyStar you have gone too far!

Come down and visit us. Mention this article and get a free one week trial. Opening hours Monday to Friday 6.00am to 8.00pm, Saturday & Sunday 8.00am to 2.00pm. We would love to see you and discuss your health & fitness goals. Call us on 232 8500 or email [dcfitness2002@clear.net.nz](mailto:dcfitness2002@clear.net.nz).

## HAVE A GO – SPRINGFEST

Saturday 12 November at Waitangi Park (Wellington), 10.30am to 2.30pm.

It's a free day (although we ask for a koha) with a number of activities to try out for the first time or to reacquaint yourself with - Zumba, Ki o Rahi, casual volleyball, jump rope. There will be an organised walk along the waterfront or a guided walk into the town belt and up Mt Victoria.

Ki o rahi is the action-packed traditional Maori ball game (which Tawa College has been playing). It will be just the ripper version, not tackle. Saturday parking in town is free for two hours, plus it's near the buses and not too far from the train station.

Because it is our event we can ensure that it has healthy food and drink to offer and will be smoke-free.

The event features in the family section of the WCC Outdoor Festival booklet.

## TAWA PEOPLE

Who was Chief Fire Officer in Tawa, a voluntary role, for 30 years? The individual concerned still plays an important part locally in co-ordinating the Community Patrol team and sourcing finance to ensure its ongoing operation.

You may or may not know the answer to the above question. Even if you do, there's lots more interesting detail in our "2 Minutes with ..." interview at [www.tawalink.com/tawa\\_people.html](http://www.tawalink.com/tawa_people.html)

## TAWA WALKING AND CYCLING PATHWAY ON TRACK

*The following is from the WCC website - dated 3 November 2011:*

The development of a new walking and cycling path for Tawa residents has taken another step forward after the completion of the second stage of the shared pathway.

A 5km pathway is under construction from Willowbank Park to Kenepuru Railway Station. The path will follow the rail corridor and will track the course of the Porirua Stream for much of its length. The most recently completed section of the pathway is between Redwood and Tawa train stations. Over the past year, sections of the path have been constructed along Findlay Street, Duncan Street and Luckie Street. Around 2km of the pathway has been developed so far and Tawa residents are already making use of the route.

Wellington Mayor Celia Wade-Brown says she is pleased to see the new walking and cycleway taking shape. "It's great to see people using the path already and once it is completed many more people will be encouraged to walk and cycle in their neighbourhood." The Council's Walking, Cycling, Motorcycling and Safety Portfolio Leader, Councillor Bryan Pepperell, says the path creates a safe walking and cycling route which provides the local community with better access to the five train stations along the path and links to reserves, community facilities and shops. "Children at the schools near the pathway will also have an attractive off-road route they can use to get to and from school," he says.



Walkway construction in Luckie St - 17 October 2011

Construction will soon begin in McLellan Street and Beauchamp Street with a pedestrian crossing over Linden Avenue to link to the recently constructed path on Findlay Street. A cross-valley link between Hampton Hill and Tawa College will then be created. This will include the development of a path from Victory Crescent to Main Road, an upgraded pedestrian crossing on Main Road, a pathway through Tawa Pool car park, and a new crossing on Duncan Street. This crossing, in front of Tawa College, will be constructed during the summer holidays. Speed bumps will be placed to the south of the crossing to reduce vehicle speeds on Duncan Street in order to make the pedestrian crossing safer.

A ramp and pedestrian crossing over the railway line near Tawa College is also planned. The ramp construction will occur in early 2012 while the Tawa Pool is closed. The railway crossing will be completed as part of the last stage of the cross-valley link in mid-2012. Construction has been scheduled to fit in with KiwiRail's work programme.

"We're very proud of the new route," says Brett Gillies, the Chairman of the Porirua Stream Walkway Committee. "It's great to be working with the Council on this project which will have lasting benefits to our community."

The path will be completed by late 2013 and the committee plans to involve local schoolchildren in a competition to name it. The \$3.5 million project is jointly funded by Wellington City Council and the NZ Transport Agency, which is meeting 53 percent of the cost.

## **COMING UP:**

### **TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING – Thurs 10 November**

7pm at the Tawa Community Centre in Cambridge Street.

### **REDWOOD SCHOOL DUATHALON – Sat 12 November**

Redwood School will be holding a student duathlon 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.

### **OVER 60s LUNCH – Mon 14 November**

From 11.30am in the Emmaus Centre, back of St Christopher's Church. 232 8448 for details.

### **BRIAN WEBB KINDERGARTEN GARAGE SALE – Sat 19 November**

At the kindergarten in Victory Cres, 9am to 12.30pm.

### **GREENACRES SCHOOL MAD HATTERS' GALA – Sat 19 November**

At the school in Raroa Tce, 11am to 2pm.

### **TAWA SCHOOL FAIR – Sat 26 November**

At the school in Oxford St, 11am to 2pm. See article on first page.

## HANDYMAN SKILLS?

Are you in a position to assist or know of someone else who might be?

The following request has just been received: "From time to time I need basic home maintenance work done around the place, and may not have the time or skills to do it myself. The problem is that standard tradesperson rates are just too expensive, and the jobs do not normally require that level of skill.

Question: Are you aware of anybody who may do this sort of general handyman work on a part-time basis, or over a weekend to earn some extra dollars, etc? If so, I'd be keen to hear about it."

If you can provide an answer (or assistance), please email Malcolm on [info@tawalink.com](mailto:info@tawalink.com).

Adios

### Malcolm Sparrow

On behalf of TawaLink.com

(loosely under the umbrella of the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association)

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*"Peace of mind is not the absence of conflict from life, but the ability to cope with it."*

*"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."* – Jim Elliot

*"The English instinctively admire any man who has no talent and is modest about it."* – James Agate

*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) in the first and the third weeks of each month. 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.*

### Car travel in the USA (only a little to do with Tawa)

Last month I talked about air travel in New Zealand, and how it's so much "easier" than in the USA. However I concluded by saying that I love automobile travel in the USA.

I first got to drive on the "right" side of the road when I embarked on a big American road trip with two friends back in the early 1980s, more than half a lifetime ago. We travelled more than 20,000 kms over three months and I got to do around one third of the driving. That was long before the days of GPS navigational aids! I've been fortunate enough to have had a few visits to the US since, but for considerably shorter periods of time. These days we'd be lost (literally) without our GPS unit. Makes it so much easier.

I do enjoy driving in America. It can be a fraction unnerving initially, constantly reminding oneself to stay on the other side of the road. Somewhat easier if my wife's with me. We take turns driving, and remind each other to keep to the right, especially in the first few days after arrival. It's always easier when there's other traffic around. Follow the car in front and stick to the side of the road it's on!

In my opinion, driving long distances in the USA is considerably more enjoyable than it is in New Zealand, especially at holiday time. The road from Tawa to the Waikato or Tauranga would be so much more pleasant if it wasn't for other traffic! It's all too often that one gets stuck behind a large truck or a stream of traffic sitting on 90km/h or a car towing a boat or caravan or whatever. Some slower Kiwi drivers are polite enough to let traffic behind overtake at the first available opportunity, but all too many don't.

Travelling a comparable distance in the US on a four (or more) laned highway is so much more "relaxing", even with lots of trucks about. Set the cruise control and rip along at a legal 75mph (120km/h) without traffic in front causing too many holdups at all. Admittedly there's the occasional instance when driving through flat and uninspiring landscape (like southeastern Wyoming) can cause boredom to set in. But mostly it's interesting enough to be a fun experience.



Out on the highway and particularly in suburban streets, American drivers seem to me to be a relatively courteous bunch on the whole. In my limited experience of driving in England, drivers there also seem pretty polite. However back in New Zealand we're not so good in that department. The question has often been asked why the average Kiwi who's generally so amiable and relaxed by nature becomes so much more aggressive behind the wheel of the car. However I think that our road manners are perhaps starting to improve (as a matter of necessity) as traffic densities continue to increase.

I'm always intrigued at how often American drivers, without any compulsion to do so, give way to pedestrians in those massive outdoor shopping carparks. Sometimes on the street as well.



I was also very intrigued this past September at the number of motorcycles, almost all Harley Davidsons, being ridden in the "countryside" and the various national parks mostly by old boys 50+, often with a number of others, usually without full riding gear, and quite often in just shirt and jeans with no helmet.

Looked like a whole lot of fun, and with the weather in which to enjoy it!



I'm also a "plate-spotter", one who keeps an eye on car registration plates, bearing in mind that each American state has a different plate to the state next door, and many are rather colo(u)rful. On my US travels I not only notice them, I photograph them. My wife still doesn't quite know why. The only explanation I can give is that I enjoy doing so.

And although it's probably not fashionable to say so, I like big American automobiles. They're a dying, close to extinct, breed and definitely thirsty on the gas, which is undoubtedly the reason there are so few around these days. But there's still something special about them, maybe the nostalgic factor as much as anything.



When it comes to filling the car with gas (petrol), the pleasing thing is that the dollars turn over much more slowly on an American bowser than they do here. We filled up an empty tank for only \$US45 (\$NZ56). Although locals think it expensive it to be paying \$US3.40 and upwards for a US gallon, we didn't mind at all, considering that's the equivalent of only \$NZ1.12 a litre.



What isn't straightforward at American gas stations is getting the petrol into the car in the first place. We never quite knew what to expect when we pulled into a petrol station. Almost always we were obliged to pay in advance. That was fine if the pump accepted our *debit* card, our preferred method of payment. However I'm not sure if it ever did accept it. If we used the *credit* card, the machine would sometimes demand a US zip code as well, which of course we didn't have. So it was into the store itself to pay in advance. "How much are you buying?" "We won't know until we've filled up!" I remember on a previous visit having to queue (or line up as they say) to hand over the credit card in advance, and then queuing again to finalise payment after filling up. Rather a slow process on that occasion!

Much simpler to fill up and pay afterwards as we do here, unless of course you're at the local BP station and there are half a dozen people in front of you to buy their Wild Bean coffees. Maybe that's why I mostly visit Shell and make use of my Woolworths discount voucher. But now that they've shut their doors for the last time, I'm not quite sure what I'm going to do! Certainly I'll be patronising the new "Tawa Temporary Supermarket" as much as possible, and might just have to learn to use whatever petrol discount coupons they happen to offer - which may mean back to BP!