



# COMMUNITY NEWS

Early  
March  
2012

This community newsletter is sent out usually 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.

## IS YOUR STREET JOINING IN?



We hope that by this stage you'll be aware that "Neighbours' Day in Tawa" is fast approaching. But the big question is ... **IS YOUR STREET JOINING IN?**

Neighbours' Day (or Neighbours' Weekend) takes place on 24-25 March. At the time of this being written we're pleased to report we have 35 streets in Tawa who have confirmed they'll be taking part - by hosting a street barbecue, lunch, afternoon tea or similar on (or near to) Neighbours' Weekend.

The residents in those streets will dine together, meet new people (ones who live probably only a few doors away) and very likely have a thoroughly enjoyable time.

However the fact is that, as things stand, more than 75% of the streets in Tawa will not be taking part in this special weekend. Much of the reason we're pushing Neighbours' Weekend to the extent that we are is "... to build community before we need one." That way of thinking is something positive that has come out of

the earthquakes in Christchurch.

It's not too late to join in! Basically all it takes is you and a neighbour agreeing to roll out your barbecues to the grass verge or to the end of the cul-de-sac and cooking and eating together. Others in your part of the street can be invited in person or by flyers in their letterboxes. Simple as that! **What about you being the person who ensures it happens in your own street!**

## WIN A BBQ PACK FOR YOUR STREET

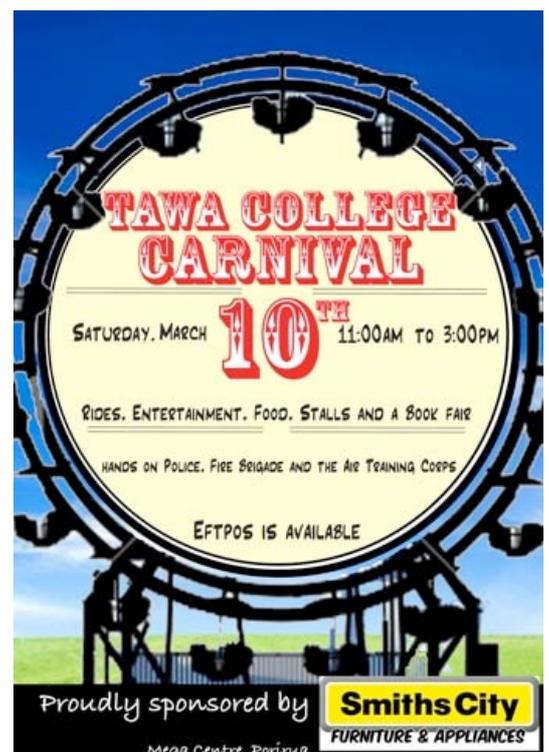
The Tawa Temporary Supermarket (run by very community-minded people) is giving us three BBQ packs which comprise the likes of sausages, bread, tomato sauce and a few other BBQ goodies. We will put into a hat the names of all those streets which have registered for "Neighbours' Weekend in Tawa" by this Sunday. Three streets will each win one of those packs to use on the day of their barbecue.

**Make sure your street is part of the action!**

## TAWA COLLEGE GALA

As you can see in the graphic at right, Tawa College is holding a gala (or carnival if you prefer) this Saturday, 10 March, from 11am to 3pm. There will be food, rides, competitions, stalls, and various entertainment - proudly sponsored by Smiths City Furniture and Appliances, Porirua.

This is a fundraiser for the college netball team's trip to Brisbane in July 2012.



## TAWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

The Tawa Historical Society is holding a meeting for both its members and members of the public at the Tawa Community Centre on Monday 19 March 2012 starting at 7.30pm.

Meet to discuss, question, and give feedback concerning the proposed 2012 programme:

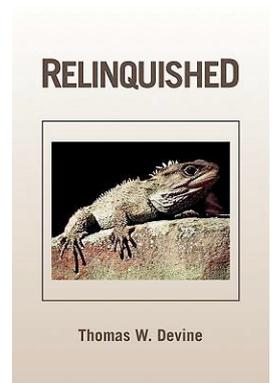
- Tawa History Week 2012, featuring an exhibition of photos from about 1900 to 1960 of Tawa Flat. Some maps and portraits may also be included.
- Publication of Vol 3 of Best of Tawa.
- Preparation of material for booklets on the Ranui Golf Club, 1923-1929, and on the Tawa Town Hall.
- A booklet giving info/directions regarding a walk through Tawa along the Old Porirua Road.
- An information board in Willowbank Park.
- Another historical calendar?
- Support for the conservation/restoration/renovation of the Tawa Railway Station.
- Booklets on the Mexted farmhouse in Rewa Terrace, and the Brown farmhouse, Main Road?
- A book of historic photos of Tawa Flat with a page commentary on each?
- The work of our Archivist.

If you have a pet project or have wondered what the Tawa Historical Society does, this would be an ideal time to meet informally with members of the society.

## "RELINGUISHED" BY THOMAS W DEVINE

Tawa author, Thomas (Wayne) Devine, has donated four copies of his last novel, "Relinquished" to the Wellington and Porirua libraries. Auckland author, Tina Shaw, describes it as "a riveting story". Tauranga freelance editor, Andrew Killick, said it was "exciting, intriguing and absorbing - a good read".

Thomas encourages you to borrow the book and enjoy his fictional tale about an Australian, Michelle Apperton, taken captive in New Zealand's rugged Marlborough Sounds by tuatara poachers.



## TAWA COLLEGE'S "REALISE THE DREAM" STUDENT

Adrina Venayagam was one of 19 secondary school students from around New Zealand selected for the Genesis Energy "Realise the Dream" event organised by the Royal Society of New Zealand in December 2011. Genesis Energy's "Realise the Dream" is a prestigious week-long event where students are rewarded for undertaking an outstanding piece of science research.

Adrina spent months working on her science project and this led to her being selected for "Realise the Dream". She researched the effect of smoking on the human lung capacity, surveying 20 smokers and 20 non-smokers with a peak flow meter. Each participant took three vital breaths (a deep, hard blow) and three tidal breaths (a normal breath). Adrina found a major difference in smokers' and non-smokers' lung capacities - 10% of the smokers she surveyed were in the danger zone when smoking, tar and chemicals damage the lung vessels.



During the week in December 2011 Adrina and the other participants travelled by coach from Auckland to Wellington. Activities included a day visit at the Liggins Institute, Auckland; Genesis Energy, Tokaanu; Dairy NZ, Hamilton and Massey University, Palmerston North. The week concluded with a cocktail awards evening at Government House in Wellington. Adrina said "The highlight of the trip was being able to learn about the science New Zealand has to offer."

PHOTO: Malcolm Alexander, General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Genesis Energy; Adrina Venayagam, "Realise the dream" 2011 participant; His Excellency, The Right Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae.

## TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO

### TAWA POOL RE-OPENING DELAYED

The pool was closed last October for the roof to be replaced and for the pool's scheduled five year maintenance.

Although renovations were on track to be completed by mid-April, re-opening the pool has unfortunately been delayed.

We have been informed: "Although some earthquake strengthening was allowed for in the original contract and this has been completed, further work has been identified. This requires analysis by the engineer as it will need to comply to the new standards."

It could now be June or even later before the pool is re-opened.

### PROPOSED COUNTDOWN SUPERMARKET AT TAKAPU ISLAND



We ascertained the following from Progressive Enterprises a couple of weeks back:

"Regarding the new Countdown Tawa development, we've just closed the tenders and we're working through the process of selecting a construction contractor at the moment.

We hope to begin work in March, and with everything going to plan we'll have our doors open for trade by the end of the year."

PHOTO: Starting to erect signage at Takapu Island.

### TAWA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE CEREMONY

Cr Best and the chair of the Tawa Community Board attended a ceremony recently at the local fire station when medals and/or bars were presented by the Hon Peter Dunne, MP for Ohariu, on behalf of the Fire Service to local volunteer firefighters in appreciation for the service they provide to this community.

A banner on display in the fire station emphasises that the Fire Service is involved in a whole lot more than just fighting fires. It also entails Urban Search & Rescue, helping with cardiac arrest, storms and flood damage, hazardous substance disposal, as well as attending motor vehicle accidents. And it is carried out in Tawa all on a voluntary basis!



### POSSIBLE DELAYS TO TAWA PROJECTS

The Council [has previously] confirmed funding for two artificial pitches in the northern suburbs, \$1.875m for Alex Moore Park in 2013 and \$1.45m for Tawa or Grenada North in 2014, designed to ensure an even geographical spread across the city. However due to financial constraints Council staff are now proposing to reverse the earlier agreement and push back Alex Moore Park by one year and Tawa/Grenada North by three years, despite protestations that the current situation severely disadvantages northern suburbs residents.

- from Cr Justin Lester's "Northern Suburbs Update"

We'll let you know the outcome of this in due course.

Another proposal is to delay work on Tawa's Shared Walkway which will ultimately provide pedestrian and cycle access from Willowbank in the south to Porirua in the north. Whilst good progress has been made on this to date, the concern is that if it is stopped, it may never be started again. Again, we'll keep you informed of developments.

## **TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO - *contd***

### **NEIGHBOURS' WEEKEND IN 2012**

It's now only two weeks away on 24-25 March. We're aiming to see a good number of streets in our community getting together with their neighbours in some way or another over that weekend – having fish & chips together, sharing brunch, or rolling out a few barbecues to cook and eat together. Will you be part of it?

(More details on the first page of this newsletter.)

### **TAWA COMMUNITY CIVIC AWARDS**

This year the Tawa Community Board is again organising the Tawa Community Civic Awards which recognise the immense contribution volunteers make to our community.

Publicity will begin shortly and the awards ceremony will take place on Friday 22 June. In the meantime you could start thinking of the people you consider worthy of an award.

## **FRIENDS OF TAWA BUSH RESERVES AGM**

You are invited to the Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves AGM. Following the brief formalities of the AGM there will be a talk by Bruce Murray on the topic of "The changing landscape of Tawa – an historical perspective".

Bruce has long had a love of history, and association with the Tawa area, being a long time resident of Tawa for 45 years, and for 13 years the principal of Tawa College. Since retirement almost 10 years ago Bruce has been chairman of the Tawa Historical Society and has authored a number of books about Tawa.

Bruce upholds that we should have "A wider appreciation of our past so as to build well for the future".

At the Tawa Community Centre boardroom, 5 Cambridge St, Tawa, on Wednesday 14 March at 7.30 pm. Enquiries to the Secretary, Wayne Pincott 232 4676, [secretary@tawabush.org.nz](mailto:secretary@tawabush.org.nz).

Can you help? We need additional volunteers to:

- periodically replenish our possum bait stations (you will need to be in good enough physical shape to clamber up and some down steep slopes - a great activity to do with adventurous children!)
- support our monthly working bees to assist with weeding and planting trees, and developing and maintaining tracks within the bush reserves around Tawa.
- provide admin support to compile a periodic newsletter for members, or write up submissions to local body authorities on environmental policy that might affect our area.

## **TAWALIN INDOOR BOWLS CLUB**

We are always looking for new members and have an existing membership of 30 very friendly and sociable locals. The club meets on Monday nights at the Redwood School hall at 7.15pm and usually finishes at 10pm. The season started on 6 March and runs through to 24 September. There is coaching for all beginners and supper is included. Transportation can be organised.

For more information, the following people can be contacted: Jan Ferguson 232 7583, Terry Roche 232 5263 or Graham Tyler 232 6349.

## **TAWANUI INDOOR BOWLS CLUB**

With winter approaching it also means that the indoor bowls season is starting soon. If you want something to do for a couple of hours one night a week, which is cheap, involves some competition and friendly people, then this might be for you. All playing equipment is provided. You just need flat, soft-soled shoes.

The Tawanui Indoor Bowls Club's opening night is Monday, 12 March at 7.15pm. Our clubrooms are situated at the Tawa Bowling Club on Davies Street (just before the pool). If you can't make opening night, then come along one of the following Monday nights.

If you'd like more information please contact Dale Lang 478 1505 or Grant Rayner 232 5335. We'd love to see you.

## **TAWA MIDWEEK BADMINTON CLUB**

New members are welcome at Tawa Badminton Hall, Taylor Park, Tawa - south of the Redwood Station carpark, past the tennis courts. We have a purpose-built hall with six courts. Playing badminton is a good way to keep fit indoors during the winter. Play starts at 9.30am Tuesdays and Thursdays during winter. Thursdays only until 5 April.

Casual and subscription memberships available. Contact Val 232 7936 or Pip 232 1561 or come along on the day. First day free.

## **BRIDGE LESSONS AT KAPI-MANA BRIDGE CLUB**

Would you like to keep your mind active? Get out more? Try something new? Meet more people? Gain a social skill? Fancy a bit of a challenge?

Try bridge - surely the world's most popular card game - and there are plenty of reasons for the popularity. Bridge appeals to all ages and all skill levels. Kapi-Mana will be running a series of ten lessons for beginning players or for those wanting to update their bridge knowledge. The sessions are run on Monday evenings at 7.30pm starting 19 March, cost is \$50 which includes notes and club membership to 31 March 2013. For details call David on 233 1866, or turn up on the night.

## **NEW RED CROSS SHOP IN TAWA**

It's only just opened! The Red Cross shop will be a great place to find quality, recycled clothes, accessories and homewares. We will have a great range for ladies, men and children, and the clothes are sourced around Australasia.

The shop is still looking for volunteers who are able to commit to a weekly four-hour shift, working in both the back room and on the shop floor. Full training will be provided, so interested people can pop in to the store and pick up an Application Pack. The shop is in the Tawa village (where Darroch's Hardware used to be), and will be open Monday to Friday 9-5, and on Saturday 10-3. Alternatively, you can phone Red Cross on 0800redcross for more information.

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

*"Make it positive whenever possible."*

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

*"There is always hope when people are forced to listen to both sides." - John Stuart Mill*

*This newsletter is emailed to around 1100 Tawa households, businesses, schools, churches and clubs/groups (anyone who has an interest in the community of Tawa) usually 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.*

### **On a personal note .....**

I'm very pleased that more than 30 individuals are interested enough in organising a barbecue (or similar event) in their own street in conjunction with "Neighbours' Weekend". These people see the value in getting to know their neighbours better and meeting those in their street they don't already know.

I read on the "Neighbours' Day Aotearoa" website of a 2008 survey which concluded that around 72% of New Zealanders are interested in getting to know their neighbours better. I'm not sure what that says about the other 28%! I guess there will always be those who don't feel the need to make 'friends' of their neighbours, or perhaps are very shy or maybe are just downright grumpy! A bit like the man who saw me put a "Do you know your neighbours?" brochure into his letterbox last week. My daughter and I delivered more than 2000 of those "Neighbours' Day Aotearoa" leaflets between us. I felt that the brochure should go into every letterbox, whether it stated "No Circulars" or "Addressed Mail Only" or whatever. Some reading this might think I should have respected that "Addressed Mail" request. However my reasoning was that no right-thinking person would say no to the assistance of a neighbour in the event of a crisis striking. Thus all would get the brochure, bearing in mind its content was simply neighbourly stuff. A different story if it had been an advertising flyer or a real estate promo or similar!

Anyway I heard an "Excuse me" after delivering to that "Addressed Mail Only" letterbox. I turned around and he said, "Excuse me, would you remove that." (He might have said "please". I can't remember). I responded quite sincerely, "Okay. Can I hand it to you in person?" "No," he said. Now if I'd been a fast thinker I would have asked him if he would have accepted the help of his neighbours in the event of a crisis. But I didn't. My question was somewhat more simplistic. "Are you interested in your neighbours?" was all I could muster. And unsurprisingly his response was "No". We left it at that.

Fortunately the majority of us have a more positive attitude to our neighbours. I would be 'wrapped' if that translated to a lot more people being involved in barbecues/get-togethers in their streets this coming Neighbours' Weekend!

### **And on a different note .....**

The pup is now 16 weeks old (approaching four months) and sitting when she's told, staying when she's told (mostly), and usually coming on cue. We've made a huge amount of progress in the "house training" department too, but I'll spare you the details (other than to say I no longer have a whole lot of "cleaning up" to do when she gets up in the morning from her overnight slumber in the laundry. We're not the sorts who would ever have an animal sleeping in our bedroom!).

The current "downside" is that the chewing will get worse whilst she undergoes the transition from baby teeth to permanent ones, and that's supposed to be happening around now.

We still have newspaper on the floor in strategic locations (just in case). However sheets of newspaper shredded into half a hundred pieces does not make for a tidy living area! The word "menace" has sprung to mind more than once as I growl at her for the tenth time for chewing on and undoing my shoelaces - on the shoes I happen to be wearing at the time. We have to keep reminding ourselves not to place the mail within her reach, or fruit, or drinking glasses, or socks - or anything else she can snatch, which happens to be most things really.

One of her worst habits is not properly swallowing her last mouthful as she moves away from her water bowl. As a consequence water spills out the sides of her mouth and all over the floor. "Her mother never taught her to drink properly," Karen says, and that about sums it up.

She's been with us little more than six weeks now and like it or not, I think we've reached the stage where it wouldn't be much fun living without her. That's probably a good

way to be as I expect we're stuck with each other for another 12 years or more. At least I hope that's the case!

