



COMMUNITY NEWS

May
2012 - 2

This community newsletter is sent out usually twice each month on behalf of tawalink.com, Tawa's community website since 2002. The newsletter is supported by the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association.

PLEASE – WE'D REALLY LIKE MORE NOMINATIONS

Do *you* know someone who coaches a sports team or regularly gives a hand at the local school or volunteers in some other area of community life in Tawa? They're the kind of people who deserve the gratitude of the community – and that's what the Tawa Community Civic Awards are all about. It's Tawa's opportunity every two years to publicly acknowledge the volunteers in our midst.

We'd love to know who those people are. You can forward us their details and, in return, the Mayor of Wellington will present a certificate of appreciation to each of them at a special awards ceremony run by the Tawa Community Board next month.

Forms are available at the Library or go to this webpage: www.tawalink.com/tcca_2012.html. You can even fill in a Word document online if that's easier!

Nominations close at the end of this week, so please send in your form asap.

The photo (above right) at the Library shows Paul Mears from the Rotary Club of Tawa placing a nomination form in the box held by Malcolm Sparrow from the Tawa Community Board. Rotary is sponsoring a new category this time, the "Tawa Rotary Young Employee Award".



TAWA GOES TO TOWN THIS YEAR

We've been told that "Tawa Goes to Town" - the Tawa Schools' & Community Festival which usually involves 600-700 singers and dancers from all the Tawa schools, as well as adult participants – will be taking place this year on the evening of Tuesday 18 September at the Michael Fowler Centre.



Rehearsals will be starting in June - date to be confirmed.

Murray Cameron will be the Musical Director and Sara Scott the Choreographer. And, as usual, Jean Hollier will be doing a lot of behind-the-scenes organisation.

See www.tawalink.com/tmf.html for details of past shows.

TAWA ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Tawa Orchestra's Concert "From Great Britain", at 2pm on Sunday 27 May at Tawa College Hall, will feature music (from the four countries) including Hamish MacCunn's "The Land of the Mountain and Flood", arrangements of Andrew Lloyd Webber's music from "Cats" and "The Phantom of the Opera", "Themes from 007", and music from "The Lord of the Dance" and of Elton John from "The Lion King", Beatles' tunes, and Elga's "Pomp and Circumstance March No 4", and surprise guests.

Admission by donation. For further information, please email jillene.everett@xtra.co.nz or call 027 210 4790.

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO

TAWA COMMUNITY CIVIC AWARDS

See the first page if you haven't done so already.

SUBMISSION TO THE GWRC

The Tawa Community Board sent in a written submission to the Greater Wellington Regional Council's Long Term Plan earlier this month. This past Monday community board members Malcolm Sparrow and Robert Tredger spoke at the oral hearings.

The main points we covered were:

- support for greater co-operation between the various councils in the Wellington region and looking at what benefits might be obtained from some form of 'amalgamation'.
- a request for more 'park and ride' facilities at Tawa's railway stations. Some station carparks are overflowing, with no parking provision available for those wishing to catch the train any time after 9am. This issue does need to be addressed.
- support for the extension of pest control programmes.
- acceptance that the majority view in Tawa appears (reluctantly or otherwise) to be in favour of demolition of the current Tawa Railway Station building and replacement with a modern shelter. However we expressed concern that public opinion may have been steered in the direction of the lower cost option because people had been deterred by the alternative.

We suggested that the estimated cost and time involved in restoring Tawa station could be way off the mark - as it was with Kenepuru Station. Last August a figure of \$1m was bandied about as the expected cost of 'rectifying' that station. In the end the work that needing doing cost only \$320,000. We stressed that more accurate costings should be obtained by the Regional Council before a good decision could be made on Tawa Station.

MORE ON TAWA STATION

The Greater Wellington Regional Council will be discussing the fate of Tawa Railway Station at their meeting on Tuesday 29 May. We'll let you know when we hear anything further.

PROGRESS WITH TAWA POOL

There's a considerable amount of work yet to be done in renovating Tawa Pool. It may well be mostly earthquake strengthening at this stage, but it could still be a few months before the pool is open for business again.

Members of the community board (see the photo below) were given the opportunity last week to inspect progress for themselves. It's a huge undertaking, obviously far bigger than originally anticipated, but the end product will be a significantly improved version - fewer leaks, less earthquake-prone, etc. It's unfortunate that it's taking so long, but everyone is doing their best to see it completed. We should know soon when that will be.



TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

NEW WORLD SHOPPERS' BUS SERVICE TO END

It's been confirmed that because of low patronage, the New World Shoppers' bus service will be ending shortly. The decision has been made by Foodstuffs who have been providing this service. The bus has been making around three return trips a day to Porirua or Churton Park, but often with no more than two or three people on board.

The operators of the Tawa Temporary Supermarket point out that most grocery items are available in their store anyway. If anyone has special requirements or needs assistance in some way, they are only too happy to help - call co-manager Nicole on 232 3831.



A HOME FOR THE TAWA TABLE TENNIS CLUB

The Tawa Table Tennis Club needs a new home – a good-size hall in which they can set up their tables each week, along with storage space onsite for the tables. Can you help? If so, please email evanwatkin@hotmail.com.

ROCKING AND ROLLING IN REDWOOD

On Saturday 23 June at 7.30pm Harbour City Rock n Roll will be presenting an evening of Rock n Roll at Redwood School Hall. This will be a fun evening of learning RnR dancing with professional dancers in an enjoyable, friendly and supportive environment. It is a fundraising event for the club and '50s & '60s themed fancy dress dance.

DJ Daniel is the best RnR DJ in Wellington and will present an evening of great music. Tickets can be purchased through McPhee's Celtic Centre (cash sales only). Presale tickets are \$15 and door sales are \$20. So book early! There's no need to bring a partner. Do bring flat shoes to dance in, a towel, and water as it will get warm. Supper will be provided.

AFS INFORMATION EVENING

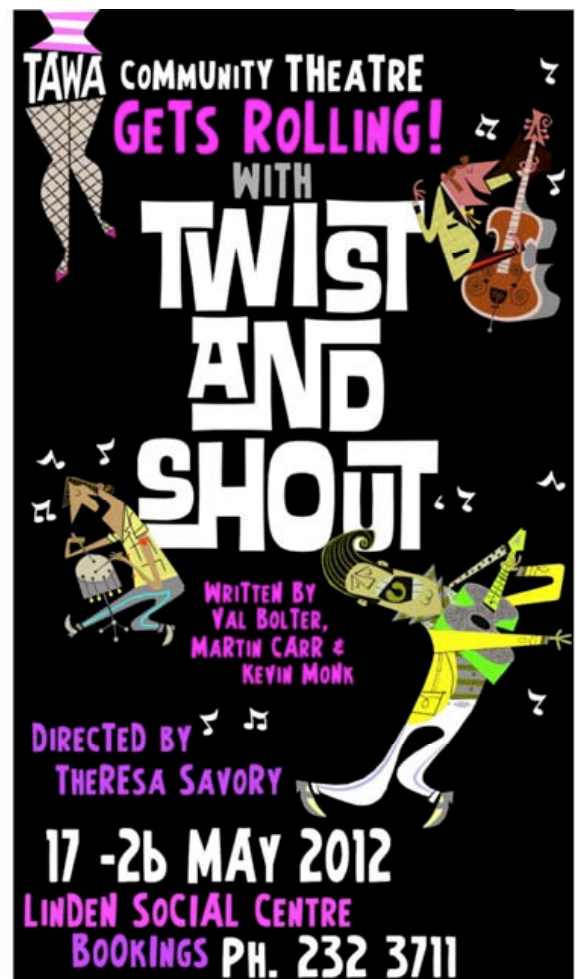
Tawa College, Thursday 24 May at 7pm.

If you have ever had any interest in an intercultural experience, then AFS Pasifika chapter invite you to join us for an information evening and photo exhibition. AFS is the industry leader in cultural exchanges and the volunteers are eager to share information with both students and parents regarding student exchanges, hosting an exchange student, scholarships that are available, exchanges for over 18s, and being involved at a chapter level.

An AFS intercultural experience may be more achievable than you think, so if you are interested in attending please email the number attending to afspasifikaporirua@hotmail.com.

TAWA COMMUNITY THEATRE

See details of latest production – on now – at right.



TAWA HISTORY DISPLAY

The Tawa Historical Society is holding a photographic exhibition at the Library from Tuesday 5 through to Friday 15 June. It will include panoramic views, photographs and topographical pictures of the whole Tawa area. This is a free exhibition which will be of interest to anyone wanting to see Tawa as it once was and how far we've come. For further information contact Bruce Murray, Tawa Historical Society chairman, 232 5374.

KIDSGAMES

KidsGames after-school programme is taking place on Friday afternoons until 29 June, 4 to 6pm at Tawa Intermediate. To receive a registration form please email Metua at parr@family.net.nz. Entry by donation.

Find out more about KidsGames through the website at <http://kidsgames.com>. The local KidsGames programme is being run by Tawa Anglican, Catholic and New Life churches.

Adios

Malcolm Sparrow

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

"In spite of the cost of living, it's still popular." - Kathy Norris

"If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." - Lewis Carroll

"There are three words I like to repeat to myself: glass half full. Just to remind myself to be grateful for everything I have."

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

Our pup, who usually responds to the name of Abby, is now six months old. She's maturing little by little, and really is improving in doing what she's told.

In her younger days she went to "puppy preschool" classes for four weeks. That helped with our teaching her the basic commands like "sit, stay, come", etc. She's now going to a further six weeks of obedience classes which, amongst other things, help in terms of getting her to behave in a somewhat civilised fashion when she's being taken for a walk.

It wasn't so long ago that a 400-500m walk was about as much as I could handle. Okay, I readily admit I'm not always as patient with her as I should be. But it seemed pretty much impossible for this dog to walk in anything resembling a straight line.

A dog's sense of smell is supposedly 40 times stronger than a human's. That being the case, the big wide world must present an amazing array of aromas. Probably explains why, when being taken for a 'walk', she would follow her nose and dart all over the place. More than once she'd squeal because I'd accidentally trodden on her paw as she shot across in front of me.

Obedience classes are designed for the dog's owner to do the learning. The amount of information available online is also very useful. One thing that's really hit home in recent weeks is how Abby the Labrador can be 'bribed' to do anything in return for a minor treat. Whereas previously she wouldn't come if it didn't suit her, she almost always does now because there's almost always a reward in it for her. Hopefully I won't still be needing to bribe her in two years' time, but you never know!

Her walking has improved to the extent that I took her this past weekend for the first time on my regular Saturday morning stroll down to the BP station for a coffee – for me, not her. The excursion is 17 to 18 minutes each way. She still pulls on her lead all too often, but a treat in return for responding to 'Abby, heel' means walking her is considerably more pleasurable than it used to be. And always exciting for her no doubt, but still a lot of learning yet to be done.

In the photo at top right she's tethered to a tree whilst I was inside getting my Wild Bean coffee. I felt the need to constantly look outside to make sure she wasn't chewing her way through her lead. She's not beyond doing that. Fortunately she didn't on this occasion.

I still don't trust her being in an inside room different to the one I'm in. There's always something she can chew on if I'm not there to keep a check on things. A few days ago she was in the lounge when no-one else was. When I tracked her down she had a sock hanging out of her mouth. Within seconds we'd done a trade. She handed over my dear wife's sock without any fuss in return for a small bikkie. Unfortunately she must have snaffled the garment a few minutes earlier because a considerable chunk was missing by the time I retrieved it. Into the bin it went. The owner was none too pleased!

We don't have too many things go wrong these days because our being 'alert' has become second nature. However that didn't stop her chewing through the thin chord of a battery charger recently (thankfully it wasn't plugged in at the time), or her constantly chewing on the carpet in the back compartment of the station wagon in which we transport her.

She went with us to the beach last Sunday afternoon, to a spot with no-one else around. She enjoyed the water to a limited degree and we let her wander up to 50 metres away on the sand. The intention was to see how well she would respond when commanded to come from that distance. I'm pleased to report that instant obedience was the result, and was accordingly rewarded with a treat. It pays dividends. See the bottom photo above.

As the online article says, what incentive is there for a dog to come if it means its fun is about to be curtailed? Reward it with a treat and let it go and enjoy itself some more (under watchful supervision, of course). We did, and both dog and owner were happy. And hopefully that will continue to be the case.

