



# COMMUNITY NEWS

September  
2012 - 1

*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.*

## SPRING INTO TAWA MARKET DAY ON SATURDAY

"Spring into Tawa" Market Day is on this Saturday, 8 September, wet or fine, with 64 stalls selling everything from cakes and sausages to Filipino food, plants, jewellery and various gifts, and handing out information.

Throughout the morning there will be a variety of entertainment including Harry the Clown tying balloon animals, a bouncy castle for the kids, the Red Hackle Pipe Band, various dancers, and "Tawa Goes to Town" singers. There will also be events inside and around the Library including a Chinese cooking demonstration. And emergency services including the Fire Brigade and Police will be taking part, so with all that variety, there should be something for everyone. See tawalink.com for details – and see you there!



## A PRIZE FOR THE BEST NAME FOR THE PATHWAY

You'll know by now that a competition is being held to come up with a name for what is currently known as the "Tawa Shared Pathway". The **Rotary Club of Tawa** is offering a prize – dinner vouchers or Warehouse vouchers worth \$200 – to whoever comes up with the best suggestion for a name for the walkway.

*See page 2 of this newsletter for more about this.*

## TAWA GOES TO TOWN - TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

"Tawa Goes to Town" is again the theme for this year's **Tawa Schools' and Community Music Festival** which takes place in the Michael Fowler Centre on Tuesday 18 September at 7.30pm. This vibrant multi-media show will feature 600 singers from Tawa's six primary schools, Tawa Intermediate, and Tawa College's Dawn Chorus, as well as an adult choir from the Tawa community and beyond.



The programme features a variety of songs, and includes arrangements of classics from the 60s, 70s, and 80s through to Gaga and Perry. Some songs are left as choral numbers, while others are accompanied by dancers, choralography, props and special effects.

Don't miss this showcase of song, dance, lighting, sound, involving a community coming together to form a spectacular evening's entertainment. A \$80 show for only \$26 a ticket for adults and \$14 for children under 14. Tickets are now available from Ticketek at this address - <http://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=TAWAGOES12#.UC7qMkRLc3Y>

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE OUR FUTURE!

We're all invited to a meeting this Wednesday evening, 5 September, to discuss how we want Wellington to look in the years ahead. Meetings are being held around the region regarding the future of local government – is "amalgamation" a good idea? The powers-that-be do wish to hear our views. The Tawa meeting kicks off at 7.30pm at the Tawa Union Church in Elena Place.

As Sir Geoffrey Palmer (chair of the Regional Review panel) has stated: "We may not be able to control the future, but we can influence it." Community board members will be there.

*See the poster on the next page.*

# Discuss the future of the Wellington region

## Tawa community meeting

Sue Driver from the Wellington Region Local Government Review Panel will be present to discuss issues relating to the future of local government in the Wellington region.

Come along to join in the discussion.  
Tea and biscuits will be served afterwards.

**Wednesday 5 September, 7.30pm-9.30pm**  
**Tawa Union Church, 6 Elena Place, Tawa**

See [www.wellingtonregionreviewpanel.org.nz](http://www.wellingtonregionreviewpanel.org.nz) for more information and how to make a submission.  
Submissions close 5pm, 21 September 2012.



## A PRIZE FOR THE BEST NAME FOR THE PATHWAY! (contd from page 1)

The Tawa Shared Pathway is now almost completed between Redwood Station and Linden Park. The exceptions are the route through Grasslees Park (where work is due to start any day) and across the railway line at the back of Tawa Pool.

A date for officially opening the first section of the shared pathway, with the Mayor of Wellington, Celia Wade-Brown, "turning on" the pedestrian railway crossing has been set for Saturday 27 October at 1pm. The Tawa Stream Walkway Committee will announce the official name – the winning suggestion – at the opening ceremony. The winner will also be invited to be part of this occasion.

**ENTER THE COMPETITION:** As stated on the first page of this newsletter, the **Rotary Club of Tawa** is offering a prize – dinner vouchers or Warehouse vouchers worth \$200 – to whoever comes up with the best suggestion for a name for the walkway. The suggested name should reflect the history and the community that it passes through.

Send your suggestion(s) to [info@tawalink.com](mailto:info@tawalink.com) or drop them in to the Library. The title of your entry should be "Name for Shared Pathway". Please include your own name, address and phone number. These details will remain confidential. Entries close on **Friday 14 September**. Only Tawa residents, adults or children, are eligible to enter. The winner will be photographed for publicity purposes. Any questions should be directed to Brett Gillies on 232 5078.

*The Dominion Post, Saturday 25 August, 2012*

### THE DIARY

Tawa's Rotary Club is hoping to crowd-source a new name for the rather plain sounding "Tawa Shared Pathway". The path, which is almost finished, goes between Willowbank Park and Kenepuru Railway Station and is due to be officially opened on October 27. The five-kilometre path is intended to provide a safer cycling route and encourage more people to get about on foot or by bike to nearby streets and key spots such as the shopping centre and schools. To encourage Tawa locals to come up with a great name for the path, the Rotary club is putting up a prize of dinner vouchers or a \$200 voucher for The Warehouse for whoever comes up with the best one. So if you live in Tawa and think you have the perfect title for the path, email [info@tawalink.com](mailto:info@tawalink.com) or drop your entry into the Tawa Library. Entries should include your name, address and phone number. The competition closes on Friday, September 14.

## **TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO**

### **THE RE-BUILD OF TAWA STATION**

Members of the Tawa Community Board and the Tawa Historical Society met with GWRC (Regional Council) people at Tawa Station last week to discuss the "replacement structure" at the station. Our concerns about security and providing adequate shelter appear to have been taken on board, and there is likely to be seating for more than 30 bods.

The Tawa community now has the opportunity to provide input on the art designs that will appear on as many as eight large panels at the re-built station. A real Tawa flavour will be sought, both current likenesses as well as something of the historical record.

### **THE AMALGAMATION QUESTION**

The Tawa Community Board met with Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Sir Wira Gardiner from the Local Government Review Panel last week to discuss the amalgamation issue and where community boards fit into all of this. Sir Geoffrey appears to be very much of the view that boards play a vital role in looking after the interests of local people.

This week the Tawa Union Church is hosting a public meeting for all of us to find out more about the amalgamation issue. See details on the previous page.

### **MEETING WITH THE MAYOR**

The chair of the Tawa Community Board is privileged to be able to meet with the Mayor of Wellington, Celia Wade-Brown, twice a year to bring her up-to-date in person on what's happening in Tawa and to discuss matters of concern to this community. The most recent meeting took place last week when several relevant issues were brought to her attention.

### **HANGING BASKETS**

Progress continues to be made with the hanging baskets which are being installed outside the shops on the Main Road between Drummond's Pharmacy and the Library. They will be in place and blooming by November.

### **PROGRESS WITH TAWA POOL**

A re-opening date has just been set, Saturday 17 November at 1pm. More details to come.

## **WANNA SEE SOME COOL HOT RODS?**

The next Guide Dogs Fun Run will start at Tawa Temporary Supermarket (the soon-to-be New World Tawa). Sunday 16 Sept 1-2.30pm around 80 hot rods and special interest vehicles will assemble to start the mystery run, which includes challenges. All funds go to the Royal NZ Foundation for the Blind. There will be auctions of items donated by Repco the major sponsor, Bluebridge, and others. Organised by Capital Rodders, this is the 8th year the event has been run, and the first time it has started in Tawa. Last year it raised \$1500. Donations can be made at Tawa Temporary Supermarket or to collectors on the day.



## **VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR STREET COLLECTIONS IN TAWA**

Pink Ribbon Appeal - Friday 12 & Saturday 13 October

To volunteer, see [www.onlineregistration.co.nz/pinkribbon](http://www.onlineregistration.co.nz/pinkribbon) or free phone 0508 105 105.

NZ Foundation for the Blind - Friday 26 October

To volunteer, see [www.blindweek@rnzfb.org.nz](http://www.blindweek@rnzfb.org.nz) or free phone 0800 120 250

Both these collections are being co-ordinated by the Tawa Lions Club.

Enquiries to [communityactivities@xtra.co.nz](mailto:communityactivities@xtra.co.nz) or phone Alastair on 232 7936.

## **NEW ZEALAND SHAKEOUT**

Dan Neely, manager for Community Resilience at the newly established Wellington Region Emergency Management Office, has sent us the following:

"I'd like to keep you in the loop about New Zealand Shakeout - a nationwide earthquake drill taking place at 9.26am on Wednesday 26 September. The purpose of the drill is to reinforce Drop, Cover & Hold, the correct actions to take during an earthquake. People who live, work or play in a tsunami zone would then need to evacuate to higher ground.

As a country, we are aiming to get one million people signed up to Shakeout on this day. Wellington City Council will be participating in the event and will be encouraging its networks to sign up as well.

It takes only a minute to register. More information online at [www.shakeout.govt.nz](http://www.shakeout.govt.nz) or see [facebook.com/wemonz](https://facebook.com/wemonz)"

## **"GOOD SORTS" IN TAWA**

Most Sunday evenings I get to watch "Good Sorts" at the end of the news on TV1. They are short stories about ordinary New Zealanders who are making a difference in their communities. Many are very inspiring.

For whatever reason (Murphy's Law?) I missed a recent Sunday when a Tawa couple, recipients of this newsletter, and their orchestra were featured. Maybe you saw it. If you didn't, it can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIjg9OS4Rx8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIjg9OS4Rx8). Thanks for letting us know about it, Craig.

## **DR VICTOR SHIELDS IN TOWN**

Dr Victor Shields, of Maltese extraction, is a psychologist and theologian who will be speaking in Tawa later this month. The venue is Our Lady of Fatima Church, cnr Lyndhurst & Main Roads, at 7pm.

- 25 September: Good Grief and Coping with Stress
- 28 September: Forgiveness and Gratitude
- 2 October: Fighting Back Adversity
- 5 October: How to say No without feeling Guilty

For more information please contact Tony on 232 4809 or email [malta\\_assn@hotmail.com](mailto:malta_assn@hotmail.com).

## **MICHELLE HEADING TO ITALY**

Michelle Hickman, 18 in October, is a year 13 student at Tawa College, or at least she was until recently. Her subjects at school this year have been English, Media studies, Music, Classics, and Food & Nutrition.

This Thursday, 6 September, Michelle heads off to Italy on an AFS student exchange programme. When asked how she's currently feeling about heading into "the unknown" for 10 months, her response is "I'm not quite sure - at this stage it all seems a bit surreal."

She will be arriving in Rome and heading to Avezzano, a town of about 42,000 people, an hour away in the mountains in central Italy. Michelle has been taking Italian lessons for a few months but admits she doesn't know too much yet. As her host family doesn't speak much English, she says "...it will be a challenge to begin with, but hopefully that will force me to pick up Italian faster."

Michelle has been assigned to a Science school in Avezzano. "As I haven't taken Maths or Science in two years, it will be very different to what I am used to, including the fact that they take 11 subjects over there and have school on Saturdays!"

"I hope to achieve an understanding of the world from a different cultural perspective, a new way of life, more confidence, a new language, and new relationships with people from all over the world. I arrive back in New Zealand in July 2013 and plan on getting a full-time job for 7-8 months before starting uni in 2014, but am not sure what I will study."

All the best, Michelle, and safe travels.



## TAWA PIPPINS IN ACTION

Pippins is the youngest section of the Girl Guides (5 and 6 year olds). Ten Pippins and their dads had a lovely sunny afternoon's planting this past Sunday (Fathers' Day) alongside part of the Tawa shared pathway between Tawa and Redwood Stations, just south of the BMX bike track. This portion was previously covered in blackberry bushes, and the Pippins were keen to beautify the area with native vegetation to encourage more birdlife into the area. The girls enjoyed digging with their dads - and squealing at the worms they uncovered!

The trees were supplied by Wellington City Council and the Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves, with Richard Herbert (FoTBR) preparing the ground for planting and giving a little talk to the girls.

A big thank you to both Richard and to Norm Robertson for organising the memorable event, and to Damien Hewett (the dad who put them all in contact). If you want to know more about Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves, see [www.tawabush.wellington.net.nz](http://www.tawabush.wellington.net.nz)



Clockwise, from top left:

Taylor with dad Ray;

Rosie with FoTBR guru Richard Herbert;

India & Lyra find a worm;

Lara with dad Rob;

Celeste with dad Shane.

## SQUASH CLUB INVITATIONS

### Mums n Bubs Squash (+ coffee)

Learn to play squash, have fun with the kids and meet some new people over a tea or coffee.

Every Thursday from 9.30-11.30am (including school holidays except Xmas).

Only \$5 per week or introduce a new friend to squash and pay 2-4-1.

All equipment provided.

Tawa Squash Club, 67 Main Road, Tawa (next to St Francis Xavier School).

To register or for more info, contact Peter Bowers on 232 8200 or [info@tawasquash.co.nz](mailto:info@tawasquash.co.nz)

### Tawa Squash Small Nix (5-8 year olds)

Have fun on court with your kids.

Basic racket skills, co-ordination, of fun & running.

Parent involvement essential.

Sundays 3.15 - 4pm.

No charge, non-marking shoes required.

Tawa Squash Club, 67 Main Road, Tawa (next to St Francis Xavier School).

To register or for more info, contact Peter Bowers on 232 8200 or [info@tawasquash.co.nz](mailto:info@tawasquash.co.nz)

## TAWA RECREATION CENTRE

### Women's Social Netball League

Get a group of your friends together and enter a team for a weekly dose of fun and fitness. Registrations for Term 4 are open through to 12 September. League commences on Wednesday 17 October. Contact 232 2260 for more information.

### October School Holiday Programme

Registrations are now being taken. OSCAR-approved programme. Contact 232 2260 to register your children or for more information.

## NORTH WELLINGTON VOLUNTARY SERVICE AWARDS

Two Tawa people were amongst the recipients of North Wellington Voluntary Service Awards, the ceremony for which was held in Johnsonville this past Saturday night.

Congratulations to Marian Bezett (Tawa Women's Institute) and Terry Roche (Lions Club of Tawa) on receiving awards. These awards are overseen by the Hon Peter Dunne, MP, and are run every year.

Marian Bezett is in the middle of the front row in this photo. Terry Roche was out-of-town on the night. Other recipients were from Johnsonville, Newlands, Ngaio and Khandallah.



## TAWA COLLEGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION CELEBRATES ADULT LEARNERS' WEEK

Adult Learners' Week is held 3-9 September. During this week there will be a display of students' work in the Tawa Library. This will include oil and watercolour paintings, woodwork, felting, patchwork, sewing and flax weaving.

On Saturday 8 September, which is also "Spring into Tawa", there will be demonstrations by tutors in the library from 10am-12pm. These will include Raranaga - Flax Weaving, Woodcarving, Patchwork, Felt Making and Chinese Cooking. The tutors will be available to talk to you about their subject and there will be information there should you wish to enrol in a term 4 class. The term 4 brochure will be available at the time.

At noon there will be musical items from the Irish Whistle tutor and T.U.I. (members of The Ukulele Institute - a group formed from the Tawa College Community Education Ukulele classes).

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 or 027 232 2320

*“A smile is a language that even a baby understands.”*

*“All our dreams can come true – if we have the courage to pursue them.” – Walt Disney*

*“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.” – Albert Einstein*

*This newsletter is emailed to around 1200 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.*

## **OPINION PIECE – WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT TAWA?**

“What do you think is great about Tawa?” is the question that has been asked of a range of local people over time. Their answers appear on [www.tawalink.com/greatabouttawa.html](http://www.tawalink.com/greatabouttawa.html). One recurring theme is “community”. In fact that word (or “people”) appears in almost every response.

Allan Todd, Tawa's “elder statesmen”, has been quoted as saying: “Community is the heart of Tawa. Tawa is a village, and everyone gets along – but it is not suited to people who do not want to get involved.” (See [www.tawalink.com/story\\_of\\_a\\_suburb.html](http://www.tawalink.com/story_of_a_suburb.html)).

On the very first page of the TawaLink website I use the description: “Very much a family-oriented community ...”, and elsewhere I make the claim “Tawa has to be one of the best suburbs in New Zealand in which to bring up a family.” And I stick by that.

I really like this quote from Kieren Gera, former head girl at Tawa College: “When I think about Tawa I think about a small community that isn't too small that everybody knows everybody, but small enough that everyone has a connection with someone. There's not an exclusive feel to Tawa. It's such a good place to grow up in.” That too is on the first page of the website.

And one more, from *Doing Justly - Tawa College, the First Forty Years* (2001) by Ken Edgecombe: “Tawa – home to so many families, with its parks, its church steeples, its rugby club, tennis courts, bowling green, village shops, library and swimming pool and its eight schools. At the very heart of the community is Tawa College, standing proudly on the hill above Duncan Street, still the local secondary school where almost everybody goes and which has built up such a fine history over more than forty years.”



So what makes Tawa, population of 14,900 including Grenada North and the Takapu Valley, such a great place to live? Here's my list of 21 (in no particular order):

- A good range of schools, nine all up, which work together well.
- A highly-regarded College. The fact that local children go through local primary schools and on to Tawa Intermediate (with its excellent reputation), and the vast majority then move next door to Tawa College. Good quality education and all very self-contained!
- The Tawa Schools' & Community Music Festival involving 350 singers from six primary schools, plus the Intermediate & College choirs, along with 80 adult singers, a total of around 600 performers. The end result is a one-off singing and dancing spectacular in the Michael Fowler Centre every two years. What other single suburb in NZ achieves anything like that?
- The Tawa Music Centre (based at Tawa Intermediate) where around 300 children have the opportunity every Saturday morning to learn to play a musical instrument.
- The Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards which give senior children in the six primary schools and the Intermediate school the chance to receive recognition for their contribution to school and community life.
- A good range of churches (12 buildings) on or near the Main Road, plus another half-dozen or so congregations, without whose work with youth, seniors, families, the needy, etc, we'd be that much poorer.
- A wide range of sports clubs – rugby, football, hockey, cricket, softball, swimming, bowling, tennis, squash, badminton, etc. Most have their own premises in this suburb.
- The number of people involved in the voluntary sector including the likes of the Community Police Base and Tawa Community Patrol – and the fact that the biennial Tawa Community Civic Awards gives us the opportunity to thank them all for that they do.
- Service clubs like Lions and Rotary whose fundraising activities (like the Lions' Saturday Market and Rotary's annual Book Fair) raise tens of thousands of dollars, much of which is pumped back into this community.
- Active and vibrant groups like U3A Tawa and Probus in which hundreds of local seniors contribute and learn.
- The fact that the "village" has a geographical heart, a central point, which includes a library, community centre, and a variety of small shops, as well as what promises to be a community-focused supermarket.
- The general sense of community and willingness to connect with fellow residents that resulted in more than 50 street gatherings across Tawa over Neighbours' Weekend in March, more than the rest of Wellington combined.
- A range of parks and reserves, in particular Willowbank which is one of the nicest around with its children's playground, picnic tables and picturesque stream, etc. Grasslees is also very pleasant.
- Tawa's two most prominent landmarks – the Tawa floral sign and the bucket tree.
- Ready access to Takapu Valley, a very pleasant rural setting, right at our back doorstep.
- The Tawa Shared Walkway which is still being developed. Parts of it are already getting lots of use. Some of us are very much looking forward to the portion between Redwood Station and Willowbank being developed.
- A number of tracks through the nearby bush. We're privileged to have them so close.
- The regular sight and sound of tui, kereru and fantails in this neck of the woods.
- Our proximity to central Wellington – 12 to 15 minutes by car or train. And only 7 to 8 minutes to shopping malls north or south of us, and 10-15 minutes to the nearest beach.
- A good train service and five railway stations from Kenepuru in the north to Takapu Road in the south. Going by train to big events at the Stadium can be a special occasion in itself.
- And, of course, the Tawa Community Board which brings matters of community concern to the attention of the Wellington City Council, as well as instigating and supporting initiatives that build up community connectedness – which in turn make this a great place to live!