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COMMUNITY NEWS

November 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.

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO

TAWA VALLEY PATHWAY IS THE NAME

And so it came to pass that the Mayor of Wellington, Celia Wade-Brown, opened the now-completed portion of the Tawa pathway a couple of Saturdays ago. The name chosen for the walkway is "Tawa Valley Pathway". The winner of the naming competition, Mavis Woodman, has been presented with a \$200 cheque by Robert Tredger on behalf of the Rotary Club of Tawa (see photo). She has generously donated her prize money to the Linden Plunket rooms. The extended walkway name includes "Ara Tawa" (Tawa Path).



Cr Ngaire Best and Brett Gillies (walkway committee chair) both spoke at the opening ceremony before the Mayor cut the ribbon. The 50+ participants then proceeded to follow Brett, Celia & Ngaire across the newly-opened pedestrian crossing across the tracks, along with local resident Karen Bewick in her wheelchair.

Karen Bewick says: "Using the Tawa-Redwood section of the pathway has helped me to gain confidence in my chair and during that time I have noticed many people, young and old and in-between, passing along [the walkway]; lots with wheels and lots without. It is my favourite place to go and I am delighted to be able to travel further now that the pathway is being extended and the crossing is open."



We've subsequently received comments from nearby residents about the loudness of the bells at the crossing. That's being looked into and the hope is that the volume will be turned down considerably in the near future.

From the Ed: Congratulations to the Tawa Stream Walkway committee for a job well done (so far). I think the Tawa Valley Pathway is a great asset for Tawa. And the link across the railway lines at the back of the pool is brilliant for schoolkids and users of the pathway as a whole.

One very pleasant evening last week I got on my bike and rode the route from Redwood Station to Linden Park. It took less than 9 minutes (too quick really!) and I passed a number of other users along the way. On Sunday afternoon I walked the same distance - 35 minutes one way. That was just right.



TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

MORE ABOUT THE TAKAPU ISLAND STREET NAME

In the last newsletter we invited input on a name for the new cul-de-sac leading up to Takapu Island. This is the short road heading up from the roundabout towards the yet unfinished Countdown supermarket. No more than 10 people provided feedback and no name is a clear frontrunner.

The options in that newsletter were:

- Elsdon Best (Place/Lane, etc)
- Graeme Sutton (Place/Lane, etc)
- Mitchell (Place/Lane, etc)
- Patukawenga (Place/Lane, etc)



Various other relevant names have since been suggested:

- Steele (Place/Street, etc)

Thomas Steele and Douglas Steele followed the William Earp family (see below) in owning the land which includes today's "Takapu Island". Arthur Carman's book "Tawa Flat and the Old Porirua Road (1840-1982)" apparently has several references to this family's ownership of the land in question.

- Takapu Island (Place/Street, etc)

Obvious reasons.

- Te Kai Lane

It brings in the food aspect, seeing the street will be leading up to a supermarket.

- William Earp (Place/Street, etc)

William Earp, Elizabeth his wife, and their three children were one of Tawa's early settler families, arriving in Tawa Flat in 1855. He purchased the land which includes today's "Takapu Island". William Earp played a part in establishing Tawa Flat School, and it was probably he who planted the "Bucket Tree".

The Tawa Community Board will be discussing the issue at its meeting on Thursday 8 November and deciding which name(s) to recommend to the Wellington City Council. Councillors may choose to either agree with or ignore the board's recommendation.



TAWA POOL RE-OPENING

As seen in the graphic at right, Tawa pool is re-opening on Saturday 17 November with the Mayor starting proceedings at 1.30pm.

This was a related article under "Our Wellington" in The DominionPost on Tuesday 6 November, page A7, as seen at left.



ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL FAIR

SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER 11AM - 3PM

HEAPS OF FUN
ACTIVITIES FOR
EVERYONE:

STALLS

GARAGE SALE
great bargains
to be found

TOYS

Preloved
Clothing

SWEETS

FOOD STALLS
Traditional
food plus
surprises

BOOKS
Children's
and Adults

CARNIVAL

Crockery Smash, Tombola,
"Soft Toy" Shy, Duck Fishing
and much more

ACTIVITIES

FUN FOR THE
LITTLES

FACE
PAINTING
Hair Braiding

Quick Fire
RAFFLES

Petting Zoo

Cherry Picker
rides

Hot Rod
Rides

CAFE

Real Coffee,
Cakes &
Slices

INFLATABLE
SLIDES and
bouncy castle

CHILD MINDING
available

Main Road, Tawa. Parking and access
also available from McKeefry Grove.

EFTPOS
AVAILABLE



TAWA SCHOOL

Fair

**24 November 2012
11am - 2pm**

**TAWA SCHOOL,
OXFORD STREET, TAWA**

Jumble sale, cake stalls,
food stalls, Ponies, Rides, Motorbikes
and inflatable activities for all ages...

**the SPOOKY HOUSE
AND LOTS, LOTS MORE!**



REDWOOD SCHOOL
2012
DUATHLON

Sunday 25 November

Starting at noon, this is an exciting event that not only promotes fitness and health for Redwood School children but also raises important funds for our school. As well as the race, we will have a large jumpy castle course, gymnastic performances by Big Air, performances by Tracey Odell School of Modern Dance, Zumba by Neena, stalls manned by City Fitness, Shoe Clinic, Tawa Softball, Pack & Pedal, Easy Swim, Tawa Swim Club, Tawa Squash Club Pilates and more.

We are also excited to announce that Lachlan Davey, New Zealand Duathlon, Triathlon and Cycling champion, will be on hand to present trophies to the winners of each year's race. We will have food stalls and raffles on the day. While the race is only open to our students, everyone is invited to visit the sports and fitness expo on the day.

Racers will be biking/scootering along the parking areas of Redwood Avenue and McKeefry Grove. They will be running along the footpaths of Redwood Avenue and McKeefry Grove. Redwood Avenue and McKeefry Grove WILL NOT be closed, however there will be no parking allowed on the street on that day.

We appreciate the support of all residents in the area for this fantastic event for our students. We would like to ask that all residents on the race route take extra care when pulling in and out of their driveways, and also ask for your patience and extra vigilance during the race. Parking is available at the Redwood Park car park, at the entrance to McKeefry Grove, along Oriel Avenue and Pembroke Street. Residents on the race course will receive two notifications in their letterboxes prior to the race.

GO TAKE A HIKE IN THE WELLINGTON RAIN FOREST!

The Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves in conjunction with Greater Wellington Regional Council have arranged a tour of the Wainuiomata Water Collection area and walk through the beautiful pristine forest which is some of the best pre-European lowland rain forest in the lower North Island.

The tour starts at 9.00am at 10 Whitcher Grove, Wainuiomata on Sunday 11 November, and participants will be guided by a Greater Wellington Park Ranger. As you will walk up to 11 kms, anyone taking part should be moderately fit and be prepared for bush environment. The walk may take up to 3 hours. No dogs are allowed.

This is a beautiful walk that will be of interest to people who appreciate the importance of our native forest and the efforts of our forefathers to protect such an important resource.

The tour is limited to 50 people, so the first bookings are all that can be accepted. People interested in joining the walk should email paice@wave.co.nz without delay and provide name(s) and contact home number. Enquiries to Brett Gillies on 232 5078 or Chris on 232 2407.

BRIAN WEBB SHOPPING EVENING

Brian Webb Kindergarten is hosting a shopping evening on Thursday 15 November from 7-9pm at Tawa Baptist Church hall, 229 Main Road. \$2 entry includes coffee and supper. There will be a variety of stalls selling crafts, cosmetics, children's clothing, confectionery and much more.



IRISH COMMUNITY DANCE

When: Saturday 17 November
Where: Redwood School Hall, Tawa
Cost: \$20 Single - Door Sales \$25
Time: 7.30pm to 11.30pm

With Live Irish Band
"The Jimmies"

Come and join in the fun and learn some Irish-style group dancing

For tickets phone:
Ruth 232 9043 or Mary-Clare 021 973129

Flat Shoes recommended
Delicious Supper & Non-alcoholic drinks provided

TAWA PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

These awards were held for the first time in 2011. The awards recognise "true leadership, citizenship, contribution to school life, etc" at each of Tawa's six primary schools, plus the intermediate school.

The Mayor of Wellington, Celia Wade-Brown, will be presenting each winning Year 6 (or Year 8) student with a small trophy, a laminated certificate, and a mayoral handshake (!) at the awards ceremony to be held at the Tawa Community Centre on Friday evening, 30 November. The wooden shields presented last year and currently displayed at the various schools will be updated with the new winners' names and presented to each school's principal or a staff representative.

NEIGHBOURS' WEEKEND IN 2013

It's still four months away but we're intending to make a big weekend of "Neighbours' Day Aotearoa" in Tawa in March 2013, the same way that we did this past March. The aim is to have more than 50 streets in this neck of the woods getting together again with their neighbours in some way or another any weekend that month - maybe just having fish & chips together, sharing brunch, or rolling out a few barbecues to cook and eat together. Watch this space!

TAWA LIONS 2012 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Lions Club of Tawa reports that planning is well under way for this year's Tawa Community Christmas Parade, to be held on Saturday 1 December. Tawa Lions has organised this parade each year since 1999 when it was taken over from the then business association.

Past parades have generally been well supported by various community groups, says parade convener Alastair Campbell, and this year should be no exception. Any business, organisation or community group that wishes to participate but has not already been approached should contact Ken Coad on 232 2475.

Entrants for the parade assemble at Tawa School in Oxford Street at 1.00pm, with the parade commencing at 2.00pm. The parade route is from Oxford Street on to the Main Road (by Mexted Motors) through the town shopping centre and on to Surrey Street. Road traffic will be diverted through Tawa, Duncan and McLellan Streets for the duration of the parade, until around 2.45pm.

This community activity is funded by Tawa Lions Saturday Market, with assistance from Wellington City Council and Mana Community Grants Foundation.

TAWA ROTARY CAROLS IN THE PARK

At Grasslees Reserve on Tuesday 4 December. Barbecue sausages and drinks will be available from 5.45pm and/or bring a picnic pack and enjoy the beautiful summer evening! The band will play from 6.30pm, and carol singing will go from 7pm to 8pm (approx).

TAWA ROTARY "TOOT FOR TUCKER"

"Toot for Tucker" took place in Tawa for the first time last year. It was a brilliant success with 2190 items of food being collected for the Tawa Food Bank (see the photo at right), and \$1140 in cash. It will be taking place again early evening on Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th December.

Members of Tawa Rotary, Tawa Lions and Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade will be out in the streets of Tawa collecting donated non-perishable food items to build up Christmas stocks for the Tawa Food Bank.



So if you hear the fire engine's siren and other associated noise in your neighbourhood, you'll know what it's all about. And you'll already have all your goodies ready to bring out!

TAWA COMMUNITY LIGHT PARTY

Approx 300 children, 30 parents and 30+ helpers took part in the Light Party on Wednesday evening, 31 October. The night started with a sausage sizzle and lots of yummy food and drink. Entertainment was provided by Zappo the magician, St Ukes – Tawa's own ukelele band, Action 7 - a music/dance group from Aotea College, and The Monochromes - Tawa New Life band. The Talent Quest featured some great local talent. There was also face painting, balloon sculptures and lots of spot prizes throughout the evening.

The organisers would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the local businesses who sponsored this event or donated goods. Also thanks to the wonderful bakers and helpers who took part to make it a fun night for all.



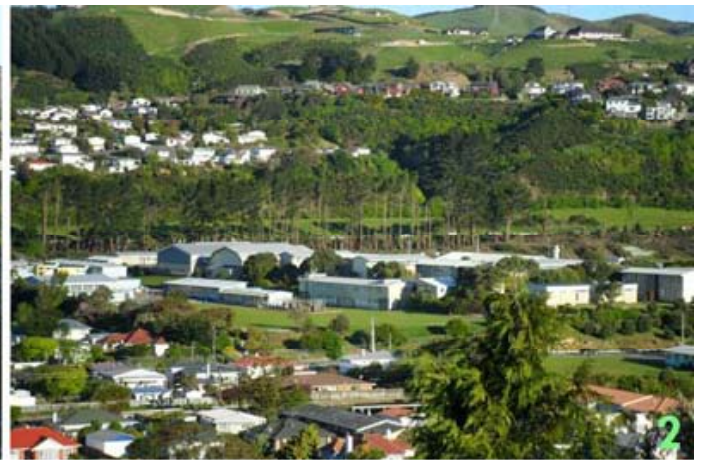
THE TREES CAME A-TUMBLING DOWN

In case you missed it, there was a news item on Wednesday 17 October about pine trees that, as a result of strong winds, had fallen onto the northern motorway from the land alongside Tawa College. The report can be found here: www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/northern-suburbs/7828749/Fallen-trees-block-SH1-in-Tawa. Traffic was backed up from mid-afternoon onwards on the motorway.



The writer can testify to the delay as he happened to be travelling back to Tawa from town that afternoon. His photographic records show that he was caught up in motorway traffic alongside Johnsonville at 3.54pm, and it was another 37 minutes later before he entered Tawa. In normal circumstances that would have taken five or six minutes.

Because of safety risks, 70+ trees have been felled over the past three weeks. They are now all down. The photos below, "as seen from Fyvie Ave", were sent this way by a helpful resident.



CHANGING OF THE GUARD AT TAWA SCHOOLS

There are six primary schools in Tawa – Greenacres, Hampton Hill, Linden, Redwood, St Francis Xavier and Tawa. The principals of three of those schools are moving on at the end of this year. It doesn't usually happen in "threes". That's just how it is on this particular occasion.

Greenacres: The new principal will be Shirley Porteous, currently deputy principal at Fergusson Intermediate (Upper Hutt). She comes with 17 years' management experience at three different schools. The current principal, Graeme Schofield, is retiring after 26 years at Greenacres.

Hampton Hill: The new principal will be Kelly Scott who is currently deputy principal at Linden School and has taught there for six years. The current principal, Lou Bray-Burns, will be heading to Kapiti School.

Linden: The new principal will be Melanie Dean who comes this way from Miramar North School. The current principal, Christine Brown, will take up the reins at Raroa Intermediate.

TAWA COLLEGE MUSICAL SUCCESS

You may or may not be aware that Acafellas, the boys' barbershop chorus at Tawa College came second (to Auckland Grammar) in the National Barbershop Secondary Schools' competition which was held at the end of last term. The Tawa College boys came in ahead of any other Wellington boys' chorus, which presumably makes them the best in the Wellington region. The girls also did well in an extremely competitive national girls' competition.

TAWA BOROUGH SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

The end-of-year academic prizegiving (years 11-13) took place at Tawa College this past Monday evening. It included city councillors Ngaire Best and Justin Lester presenting prizes, along with heavyweights Hon Peter Dunne MP (Ohariu) and Kris Faafoi MP (Mana).

Former Tawa College principal, Bruce Murray, and the chair of the Tawa Community Board, Malcolm Sparrow, respectively (and respectfully) presented the Murray Trophy and the Tawa Borough Scholarship (administered by the Tawa Community Board) to "... a student who has demonstrated all-round ability, with excellence firstly in academic endeavour, and secondly in sporting or cultural fields, and who in addition has given worthwhile service to the College and/or Tawa community".

Joint winners in 2012 were Kirsty Dibley and Esther Holt who, as it so happens, have been this year's head girl and deputy head girl at Tawa College.



School officially finished for seniors at the College yesterday (Wednesday), and the students will now all be diligently studying for exams taking place over the next few weeks.

MORE ABOUT PETROL STATIONS IN TAWA

From the Ed: I commented in the last newsletter that when I came to Tawa to live in October 1996, there were either five or six petrol stations here, and I proceeded to name the five I could recall. Although I didn't specifically ask for it, I have since received feedback from almost 20 individuals on this subject, obviously those with "long memories" in terms of how things once were in Tawa. Fascinating really!

It seems that we once had eight petrol service stations in this neck of the woods. I'm not sure whether, perhaps 20 or 25 years ago, they were all operating at the same time. It's possible they were, or maybe seven out of the eight were. Whatever the case, the information provided by so many helpful individuals is summed up below. I can't vouch for its accuracy! The petrol stations are listed from north to south: (* indicates the two still in business today).

Linden Motors (1984) Ltd	Cnr Linden Ave & Beauchamp St	Mobil
R & W Butters Motors (now Motoring Plus Services)	39 Hinau St	Caltex
Weldon's (?) (now Tawa Mowers & Heating Services)	242 Main Road	BP
Kelly Motors as it was at one stage (now Simon's Amcal Pharmacy)	189 Main Road	Caltex
Mexted Motors	145 Main Road	Mobil
BP Connect Tawa	Cnr Main Road & Tawa St	BP *
Redwood Motors	Main Road opp Redwood Ave north	Mobil
South Tawa Motors (at one stage)	18 Main Road	Z (formerly Shell) *

CORNER DAIRIES & BUTCHERS IN TAWA

From the Ed: Information came through to me, not only about former petrol stations in Tawa, but about other aspects of life as it was. Colin Judd – who grew up in Tawa and still lives locally – provided lots of useful information regarding dairies (the convenience store variety).

He recalls there used to be dairies in Beauchamp St, Bell St, Mexted Tce, northern cnr of Melville & Oxford Sts, Tawa Tce, Stephen St, Ngatitooa St and Redwood Ave. The only dairies that I (the Ed.) recall from 1996 onwards are the one in Redwood Ave between Pembroke St and Lane Cres where the child care centre is now, and the one in Bell St. I believe there was also a smallish New World supermarket at one stage in the above-mentioned location in Redwood Ave, and I recollect a building on the corner of Stephen & Duncan Sts that presumably was once a dairy.

There are still a handful of buildings in residential surroundings in Tawa that look like they were dairies or similar once upon a time – in Beauchamp St, Mexted Tce, Ngatitooa St, etc.

Colin goes on to mention butcher shops that once operated in Beauchamp St, Collins Ave, Bell St, Lyndhurst Road (where Harcourts are now) and, he thinks, Redwood Ave.

He says there also used to be a dry cleaner in Beauchamp St.

More from Colin: "I can remember walking home from [Tawa] College and buying ice blocks, chippies and lollies from the dairy in Beauchamp St."

"I also remember [in College days] a friend telling me to buy a pie from the dairy in Tawa Tce as it could be heated up in about two minutes, ready to eat. I said nah, bull s... . So, one lunch time a few of us went to the dairy, purchased a pie and sure enough it was heated up within two minutes to just the right temperature to eat without burning the inside of your mouth. I asked Tony, the dairy owner, what the machine that heated up the pie was called. He told me it was a 'microwave'. None of us had ever seen or heard of one before."

"Another thing some people will remember is Essex St running from the Main Road through to Oxford St. To build the mall that is there now, they had to move houses. It was a thriving mall before North City was built. Thursday late night and Saturday morning shopping in Tawa was really busy during the 60s and part of the 70s."

"What is now Café Addict [in the current Plaza] used to be a shoe shop. Then it was Tele Art Electronics who sold tvs, stereos and home appliances, etc. Johnny Ramshodt used to own Tele Art. He moved the business to where the video shop is now before turning it into a video shop."

Back to the Ed.: We could make a book of memories of Tawa. In fact someone already has. Rather appropriately it's entitled "I Remember Tawa", published in 2002 and authored by Barbara Adams, my next-door neighbour. See www.tawalink.com/barbara_adams.html.

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

"I like work. It fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours."

"An acre of performance is worth a whole world of promise." – W D Howells

"Why pay money to have your family tree traced; go into politics and your opponents will do it for you."

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.