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COMMUNITY NEWS

November
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.

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO

TAWA POOL OPEN AGAIN (AT LAST)

The Mayor of Wellington, Celia Wade-Brown, has been in our neck of the woods again – this time to re-open Tawa Pool on Saturday 17 November, after it had been closed for 13 months for refurbishment, a new roof and earthquake strengthening.

The pool originally opened in the 1970s. Participants at the re-opening were invited to dress in 1970s gear, and a small number made the most of the opportunity to do so, as in some of the pics below. Left to right: Graeme Hansen (Tawa Community Board deputy chair), Mayor Wade-Brown, board members Robert Tredger, Cr Justin Lester, Cr Ngaire Best, and Margaret Lucas (in 1970s Tawa College uniform).



Proceedings began with a Maori welcome involving children from local schools. Graeme Hansen, representing the community board, then invited the Mayor to officially re-open the updated complex. Many of the large number present eventually made the most of the opportunity of a free swim.



Left: Tawa Pool manager Shaun Pallett (at right) with team members from The Breeze.



Right (top): the Maori welcome early in the piece; (below): ending up in the pool.



TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

MORE ABOUT TAWA POOL

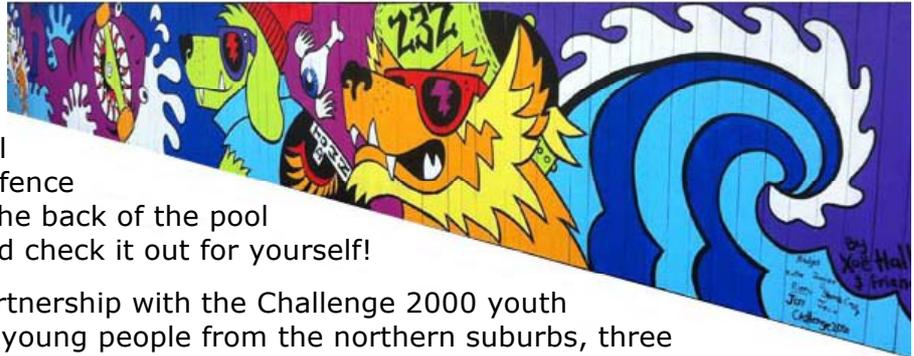
It was the community who rallied together in the 1970s, with the support of the then Tawa Borough Council, to build Tawa's own swimming pool, despite stiff opposition. The organising committee went by the name of TOPA – Tawa's Own Pool Appeal. Two surviving TOPA stalwarts, Ian Greenwood (left), and Murray Jensen, were present at the re-opening ceremony.



Today's community owes them a great deal for what they achieved despite the odds.

PAINTING OF THE MURAL

On the same weekend as the pool re-opening, a mural was painted on the wooden fence alongside the skatepark at the back of the pool complex. Feel free to go and check it out for yourself!



Artist Xoe Hall worked in partnership with the Challenge 2000 youth organisation and a group of young people from the northern suburbs, three of whom attend Tawa College.

The mural design includes skateboarding dogs hanging by the pool, watching shark and fish tale skateboards splash around in the water. It is made up of bold colours and black line work, and has key references to Tawa – 232 and the Pink Pineapple bakery's fried chicken.

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD NEWSLETTER

The Tawa Community Board produces two official printed newsletters each year, one in March/April and the other in November. They are distributed to almost all 4600+ households in the Tawa basin including Grenada North. So look out for a copy arriving in a letterbox near you very soon!



TAWA STATION

See the official Tawa Community Board newsletter (mentioned above) to see where we're currently at with the rebuild of Tawa Station.

TAWA PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The ceremony will take place at the Tawa Community Centre on Friday 30 November with the Mayor of Wellington presenting awards to the winning students from all six primary schools in Tawa, as well as to two students from the Intermediate. Names of the winning students are listed in the official Tawa Community Board newsletter (mentioned above).

HAVE YOUR SAY ON GRASSLEES RESERVE UPGRADE

Grasslees Reserve will be getting a makeover next year, and Wellington City Council would like to hear your ideas for the park. The Council has come up with a concept plan and has outlined its ideas in a brochure which is available at:

http://www.wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay/publicinput/2012-11-grasslees.html?utm_source=MailingList&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Wellington+City+Council+Web+Alert+-+Consultation

Your ideas on how to improve the park are welcomed. The deadline for feedback is 5.00pm on Friday 14 December 2012.



REDWOOD SCHOOL
2012
DUATHLON

Sunday 25 November

The duathlon starts at noon. Racers will be biking/scootering along the parking areas of Redwood Avenue and McKeefry Grove, as well as running along the footpaths in those streets. Redwood Avenue and McKeefry Grove WILL NOT be closed, however there will be no parking allowed on the street on the day.

As well as the race there will be 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.

The school would appreciate the support of all residents in the area for this fantastic event for their students.

TAWA LIONS 2012 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARADE

Not long now until the Tawa Community Christmas Parade on Saturday 1 December. Entrants for the parade should 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.

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).

If wet, the backup venue is the Tawa Intermediate hall – check www.tawalink.com if in doubt.

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!

COMBINED CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

As has been the case for the past 50 years or more, a combined Christmas Day service will be held at 9.30am in the Tawa College hall. Hosted by Tawa Baptist and Salvation Army Churches. Enquiries to 232 8448 or 232 8023. All welcome. Bring your own orchestra!

NEIGHBOURS' WEEKEND IN 2013

It's still four months away but we will be making 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!

"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" and genuinely need assistance with essential work that you need done, Tawa College may be able to help.

For a few days, 26 to 30 November, 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 book before it's too late. 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 fifth year in which this project is being undertaken in the Tawa community. To book students to help at your place, call the Tawa Community Centre on 232 1682 or the Tawa College office on 232 8184 or email nbrown @tawacollege.school.nz.

TAWA COLLEGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The programme for 2013 is now in the planning stages. New programmes and new tutors are being sought. If you have an interest in tutoring or would like to learn something that is not already being offered, please contact Judith Havill, the coordinator, on 232 7163 or comed@tawacollege.school.nz

TAWA CRAFT MARKET

The next Tawa Craft Market is being held on Saturday 24 November at Tawa Community Centre, Cambridge Street, 9.30am–1.30pm. A great chance to get some amazing Christmas gifts from great local crafters. Choose from jewellery, woodwork, children's clothes and accessories, cards, dolls clothes and toys, plus NZ-themed items and Christmas decorations, etc.



The last market for the year will be held on Saturday 8 December.

YOU CAN SUPPORT KIWI COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Kiwi Community Assistance has been nominated by Tawa New World for "Anchor Growing Communities".

Here's how it works. Anchor has allocated funds to local supermarkets around New Zealand, to be distributed amongst three local community projects of the supermarket's choice. Over a three month period (starting this month), customers who visit the supermarket are given the choice of these three local causes to donate to. When a shopper purchases Anchor Milk they will be given a token, which they then place in a specially designed token box for the cause they wish to support. At the end of the period, the money is distributed proportionally according to the number of tokens each cause receives.

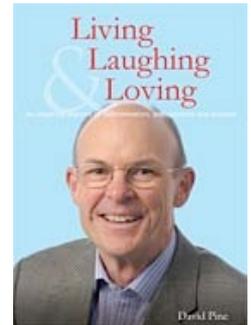
So if you're buying Anchor Milk, please keep Kiwi Community Assistance in mind.

WANTING TO LEARN TE REO?

If you're interested in learning Te Reo next year or improving what you already know, there's talk of classes being held on Wednesday evenings at the Tawa Community Centre – beginners' class year 1 and an advance year 2 class. Contact Kura Goldsmith on 232 4808 or email kura.goldsmith@gmail.com for more details.

FORMER TAWA RESIDENT WRITES NEW BOOK

You may remember the Pine family who lived in Tawa from 1969 until 2002. David Pine has just published an autobiography, "Living, Laughing and Loving". The book covers David's early life in Otago, the years he and Marg spent working and raising their family in Tawa, and David's working life. There are other chapters on diverse subjects such as how to run a successful business, and dealing with bereavement. David hopes the book will be inspirational and motivational.



"Living Laughing and Loving" is available at Tawa Take Note, 181 Main Road.

From the Ed.: David and Margaret now live in Whitby. I hadn't met David until just the other day. However I, and no doubt many other locals, well remember Margaret from her time at Tawa Central Kindergarten. And, as a matter of interest, their son Jason was the MC at the recent Tawa Music Festival, Tawa Goes to Town, as he was at the previous festival in 2010.

P.S. I've almost read the whole book. It's very interesting, a very worthwhile read.

MORE MEMORIES OF TAWA

"When I was a postie in the late 1960s I would usually have a drink at the dairy at the top of Ngatitōa St – actually it's probably Larsen Cres since it is beyond The Drive. That dairy was also the place where an overflow bag of mail was left when there was too much to carry in one load from the Post Office in the Main Road. It was later a dance studio for a while. The building is still there. It was always attached to a house so has become part of it.

The dairy in Bell St was similarly useful to the postie.

I don't think there was ever a butcher shop in Lyndhurst Rd – Lincoln Ave perhaps. And yes, definitely one in Bell St next to the dairy.

My memory of Friday night shopping was going with Dad to the dairy in Main Road just south of Oxford St (half the shop that it currently is) and buying malt extract for home brew. It was kept in a large barrel and Dad re-filled his 7-pound tin. On cold nights it seemed to take forever for the thick goop to drain out of the barrel.

Saturday morning at Jardens' hardware was very busy in the 1960s. They had a special licence to open Saturday morning – they had to close Wednesday afternoon to compensate. There were many handymen developing their houses and the only time they could get to the hardware shop was Saturday morning."

From Allan Holden who has lived most of his life in Tawa.

REGULAR BREAK-INS TO CARS AT REDWOOD STATION

From the Ed: Vehicles parked at Redwood Station are broken into all too often. The most recent *Kapi-Mani News* records 12 vehicles in Tawa being broken into in the period 1-14 November, eight of those at Redwood Station. The number of vehicles broken into throughout the whole of Porirua in the same period was six.

It hit close to home when a family member's car was one of the statistics at Redwood Station at the end of last week. The rear right window was smashed and, in the process of the offenders trying to hotwire it and presumably steal the vehicle for parts, the ignition was wrecked. The car was left undriveable although nothing was taken from inside it.

Let's put it bluntly. People who do this sort of thing are scumbags with absolutely no concern for others! Unfortunately they are out there, and somehow we have to prevent them doing what they do. It doesn't help that cars are parked in relative isolation at this station. Nor that there seem to be no CCTV cameras there. We need to pursue that aspect further, and we will.

Another possibility is to look into community patrols at Redwood Station. However that would require an awful lot of people if the station is to be monitored 8 or 9 hours every weekday.

If your vehicle has been broken into at Redwood Station in recent months or you simply wish to express your opinion, please let me have your feedback or comments. It certainly isn't a pleasant experience for anyone to return to their car after a day at work and find that it's been broken into. What should we be doing to ensure this doesn't keep happening?

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

"Think like a man of action and act like a man of thought." – Henri Bergson

"Whoever said that nothing was impossible obviously never tried slamming a revolving door."

"The wisdom of the community always exceeds the knowledge of the experts." – Harold Flaming

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.

From the Ed.

I've reported on Abby, our chocolate labrador, a number of times over the 10 months she's been part of our family. And there are people who actually take the time to read about her, based on comments I've received here and there.

She has just turned one. That doesn't mean she's any more mature than she was before reaching that milestone. Quite simply, she isn't, but she's lots of fun regardless.



Fortunately nothing out of the ordinary has happened recently which would make for a good story but which would be very frustrating to experience at the time – like a birthday cake being partially or fully devoured by the beloved canine family member. That happened twice with our previous labrador, Kelly. Not to say it's not a possibility with Abby, but maybe we're just more careful these days!

As it happened, she spent her first birthday at the boarding kennels, not that she minded. Karen and I were in Christchurch for Show Weekend. There would have been little merit in leaving Abby at home to guard the fort. Labradors really aren't bred to be guard dogs, nor would she instil fear into the heart of offenders at Redwood Station should we decide to have her patrolling there with us.



I enjoyed the Canterbury A & P Show. Highlights were seeing Prince Charles about 75m away – well, only a bit of a highlight really. More fascinating though, leading up to the Grand Parade (of hundreds of farm animals), was the Shetland Pony steeplechase with youngsters racing short-legged ponies full tilt and leaping over 30-40cm hedges and hurdles. Priceless!