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# COMMUNITY NEWS



Christmas 2012

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.

## THEY TOOTED FOR TUCKER

You may have heard the Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade fire trucks and members of Tawa Rotary, Tawa Lions and the Salvation Army making a din in your street either last week or the week before. They were out collecting donated food items for the Salvation Army-based Tawa Food Bank. On the first evening a number of local Cubs helped as well.

Over the four nights 3588 items of food were collected (66% more than last year) and \$1260 in cash which will be used immediately to boost food bank stocks even further.

There was something special about seeing children (as well as some not so young) waiting at the side of the road with a can or two of food as the "convoy" approached, and handing over their contributions to assist others in the community less fortunate than themselves.

Thank you Tawa!!! Another outstanding effort, the second time "Toot for Tucker" has taken place in our community in the leadup to Christmas. Again, many thanks to all those who contributed to the food bank project.



## TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO

### TAWA PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The previous newsletter reported on the awards ceremony which took place at the very end of November. The photos of each student receiving their award from the Mayor have now been framed and have been officially presented to the winning student in each of the seven schools.

The first photo (at right) shows the framed photos, and the second one shows the congratulatory sign currently in place on the Main Road near Sunrise Blvd.

### WILLIAM EARP (PLACE OR LANE) IT IS

The Tawa Community Board recommended that the name William Earp – one of Tawa's early settlers – be used for the new cul-de-sac leading up to Takapu Island. However Council officers preferred a different name.

In the end it went to a vote of the Council's Regulatory Processes committee. The Tawa Community Board presented its case in person, and councillors voted 4 to 1 in our favour.



## TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

### TAWA STATION

If you're a regular user of Tawa Station, you'll know by now that demolition of the existing station building will begin on Wednesday 26 December and there will be no trains on the Kapiti Line from then until Thursday 3 January 2013. During that period trains from Tawa Station will be replaced by buses leaving from Duncan St. The station will be closed for around four months.

According to Metlink's website at [www.metlink.org.nz/tawa-station-upgrade](http://www.metlink.org.nz/tawa-station-upgrade), from Monday 7 January 2013 a shuttle bus will run from the Tawa Junction temporary car park (in Surrey St) to link to Takapu Road station from 6.00-9.00am and 3.30-6.00pm on weekdays (except public holidays).

The reality is that 120 to 140 cars are currently parked at or near Tawa Station each weekday. When the station is closed, those commuters are being given the opportunity to park at Tawa Junction (only a stone's throw, as the crow flies, from the current Tawa Station carpark), and a bus service will transport them from there to allow them to catch the train at Takapu Road station.

There simply isn't parking available for a further 120 to 140 cars at the other railway stations in Tawa. Their carparks are already overflowing. The option proposed by Greater Wellington Regional Council may not be ideal, but they're hoping it will work.

### MORE ABOUT THE HANGING BASKETS

There was an article in the *Kapi-Mana News* last week about the new hanging baskets in the main shopping area on the eastern side of the Main Road in Tawa. Credit was rightfully given to Tawa Community Board member Chris Reading (at right in pic) and Wellington City councillor Justin Lester who "were instrumental in getting colourful baskets hung along Tawa's Main Road".

We have had heaps of positive feedback to date.

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NEWS

## A touch of green

By KRIS DANDO

It is hoped the hanging of 50 garden baskets along Tawa's Main St will make the area more attractive and attract shoppers, one of the men behind the project says. Tawa Community Board member and owner of Drummond's Pharmacy, Chris Reading, said he had been pushing for the baskets since the beginning of the board's triennium in 2010.

"We obviously have our priorities like the train station and community awards, but one of the ideas I put forward was these baskets."

"You see them when you drive through Carterton and Masterton, and I thought they would look good for our main street. It beauti-

fies the area, makes it look interesting and they are something the community can be proud of."

Northern Ward councillor Justin Lester lobbied to get funding and the \$5000 cost was covered via an application to the Wellington Mayoral Relief Fund. Mr Reading said the input of Brian Frampton from ITM had also been invaluable and he hoped a local service organisation or other group could cover future costs.

He said it would be about \$1 a week per basket to keep them maintained and occasionally replaced. They are hung from Drummond's down to the library.

One retailer and one landlady were against the project.

"The feedback we've been getting so far from retailers and the community is very favourable. There's the odd concern about what vandals might do and water coming through (an irrigation system keeps the flowers watered) but there should be few problems."

Mr Lester said he was in favour of investing in suburban retail centres.

"We want to get people to come and shop along the main street, make it a destination, rather than shopping malls. People donate their time to something like this, it's a great community project."

He would like to see it replicated in other high streets, such as Newlands.



Blooming baskets: Wellington City councillor Justin Lester and Tawa Community Board member Chris Reading, were instrumental in getting colourful baskets hung along Tawa's Main St.

### POST BOX OUTSIDE THE SUPERMARKET

The community board received this advice in early December: "NZ Post has agreed to reinstate the post box [near to the supermarket's main entrance], the paperwork has been sent to New World head office for sign off. Once the paperwork is complete they will install. They are hopeful that it will be in before Christmas."

### CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM THE TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD



The Tawa Community Board wishes one and all the compliments of the season, and safe and happy holidays.

And our thanks to *all of you* who work on an ongoing voluntary basis in Tawa, especially to:

- Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade
- Tawa Community Patrol
- Tawa Community Police Base Volunteers



## TAWA VALLEY PATHWAY A WINNER



At Cycle Aware Wellington's "Roll On Wellington" awards in early December, the Tawa Valley Pathway - Ara Tawa won the award for best new cycling infrastructure.

A report at <http://cyclingwellington.co.nz/2012/12/and-the-winners-are-drum-roll-please/> reads: WCC have built a largely traffic-free option for cycling through Tawa. This encourages families to walk and cycle more, and for residents east of the railway means it's easier to leave the car behind when they go swimming. It's off road, it links schools, and is an attractive route. "It's great to see WCC investing in projects like this that the community love - bring on more paths in the city like this one," says James Burgess.

We were told there was a photo in the *Capital Times* of Tawa Shared Walkway committee chair Brett Gillies and Cr Ngaire Best collecting the award, but we missed that. We'll have to make do instead with this one of Brett at the official opening of the pathway in late October.

## HOLIDAY CLOSURE OF SATURDAY MARKET

The Tawa Lions market held at DressSmart on Saturdays will be closed over the holiday period. The last day for 2012 will be Saturday 22 December and it will re-open Saturday 26 January.

## FREE HEALTH AND FITNESS SEMINARS

Revolve Fitness are running a series of free Health and Fitness seminars! Come along and learn something new and exciting about how the body works. Seminars include question and answer time. Starting January 2013 in the Tawa area. Revolve Fitness - [www.fitnessbyrevolve.com](http://www.fitnessbyrevolve.com)

## ESSENTIAL TREMOR SUPPORT GROUP

Would you like to meet with others in the community who have this condition? If you would like to meet socially with the aim of sharing information and experiences, please telephone Maureen on 232 4555. Anyone of any age is welcome.

## CHRISTMAS GATHERINGS

Your opportunity to get together with other locals to focus on what Christmas is really all about.

### Christmas Eve, Monday 24 December:

- 6.00pm at St Christopher's Anglican - Children's service (for all ages)
- 7.00pm at Our Lady of Fatima - Family Mass (children can dress up)
- 10.30pm at St Christopher's Anglican - Carols and Communion
- 11.30pm at Our Lady of Fatima - Carols, followed at 12 midnight by Mass
- 11.30pm at Tawa Union Church

### Christmas Day, Tuesday 25 December:

- 8.30am at St Peters' Anglican, Linden - Traditional Communion
- 9.00am at Tawa Union Church
- 9.30am at Tawa College - sponsored by Tawa Baptist and Salvation Army churches
- 10.00am at Our Lady of Fatima - Christmas Mass
- 10.00am at St Christopher's Anglican - Family Communion

**Wishing you a very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year.**



All the best .....

## Malcolm Sparrow

On behalf of TawaLink.com  
(loosely under the umbrella of the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association)  
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*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.*

*“Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.” – President Calvin Coolidge, 1927*

*“I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world.” – Norman Vincent Peale*

*“The supernatural birth of Christ, his miracles, his resurrection and ascension, remain eternal truths, whatever doubts may be cast on their reality as historical facts.” – David Friedrich Strauss*

*“In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season; the Christians called it ‘Christmas’ and went to church; the Jews called it ‘Hanukkah’ and went to synagogue; the atheists went to parties and drank. People passing each other on the street would say ‘Merry Christmas!’ or ‘Happy Hanukkah!’ or (to the atheists) ‘Look out for the wall!’” – Dave Barry*



From the Ed. ....

"It's time you started to grow up, Abby! You're almost 13 months old." That was me addressing our somewhat boisterous Labrador last week as I retrieved yet another item from her jaws. "Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah" was how it would have sounded to her.

There are occasions when we see her wandering around our lounge clearly intent on finding something to run off with, something she knows that she shouldn't be running off with. To be fair, it's probably not always easy for her to know what she's allowed to chew on and what she isn't, but I think she has a reasonable idea by now.

I got angry with her this morning when she raced away with a brochure in her mouth. It wasn't the snaffling of the paperwork that frustrated me – it wasn't an important document – but her refusal to come when told to do so or at least to stop in her tracks.

Staying put is what she often does once she's trotted off with a slipper in her mouth. If a slipper is absentmindedly separated from its wearer, Abby will quietly pick it up and very slowly walk off with it as though she's trying to stay unnoticed. Surreptitious describes it well. She will then turn and face us, waiting for the inevitable reprimand. Occasionally she'll make a game of it and run away, but fortunately she mostly stays put and allows the slipper to be retrieved, albeit reluctantly.

One naughty habit is to help herself to tissues out of the tissue box sitting on the low table in the lounge. It wouldn't be so bad if she cleaned up the resultant shredded mess, but she doesn't!

I'd have to say that in some respects she's showing signs of starting to "mature", and about time too! I sometimes leave her at the top of the stairs whilst I'm working in my office a short distance away, but only after ensuring she can't get into the lounge where there are all too many temptations for a young dog. I never used to leave her alone inside. However I do check every so often that she's still there, and usually she is. It's when she's not that I worry about what mischief she's got into.

She gets taken for a walk almost every day, a prospect which still generates immense excitement (for her, that is). The routine is down to the BP station every Saturday morning, and every few hundred metres she's rewarded with a treat of a little bikkie or two for walking well. On Sunday mornings we do the full Redwood Bush track via Peterhouse St. Walks during the week are at the end of the day and vary between the bush or, if I'm running short of time, 7-8 minutes at the local park.

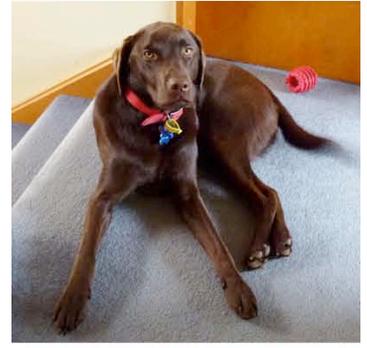
By the time the next eNewsletter goes out at the end of January, Abby will have been part of our family for just on a year. We've had our ups and downs but mostly it's been good fun. I don't think there's much argument over the assertion that of all God's creatures, there's none that is as committed a companion to a human being as a dog. And what greater expression of contentment is there than the wag of a dog's tail?

In conclusion I'll quote the piece I used in my writeup to farewell Kelly, our previous Labrador, in June 2011. It's very applicable:

"She is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are her life, her love, her leader. She will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of her heart. You owe it to her to be worthy of such devotion."

In my Christmas newsletter at the end of 2011 I stated: "We've had a family tradition for the past decade or more of spending Christmas in Tauranga every second year with my side of the family (being North Island transplants despite Southern roots), and in Christchurch every other year with Karen's side of the family."

This year we'll be in Tauranga with around 25 others (mostly family) on Christmas Day. We'll also have a few days in the Coromandel area. Here's to a nice relaxing break and glorious summer weather in which to enjoy it!



None of these photos was staged!