



232 territory

COMMUNITY NEWS

March 2013

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

THE MOST NEIGHBOURLY SUBURB IN WELLINGTON?

If the number of neighbourhoods gathering together this month over a barbecue or pot luck meal, a picnic or a "high tea" (as in one case) is anything to go by, then Tawa must be rated as the most neighbourly suburb in Wellington! Around 48 neighbourhoods are getting together to share a barbecue or similar in March 2013 as part of "Neighbours' Weekend in Tawa".

There were eight street gatherings a couple of weekends ago and 16 were scheduled to take place last weekend. However one or two were postponed because of wet weather on the Sunday.

That leaves 24 or more this Saturday and Sunday, the official weekend for "Neighbours' Day Aotearoa".

All up it's been another tremendous effort on the part of the Tawa community.

The concept has been driven locally by the Tawa Community Board with support from the Lions Club of Tawa and the local Ratepayers' Association. It's about building a community before you need one.

We've had lots of positive feedback:

"As we've had four lots of new people move into our street in the past 12 months, it was a good opportunity to make those families feel welcome."

"[We met] people we had never met before, some we knew. We've started our contacts list and plan another event mid-winter. Our event was a huge success."

"Many were meeting their neighbours for the first time, which was a heart-warming experience. We recorded names and phone numbers and will be much better able to help each other if the need arises."

See some of the reports now online at www.tawalink.com/neighbours_street_list2013.html.

THE END OF THE TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD?

Under the Local Government Reform proposals which came out recently, Tawa would join with Porirua as one ward and the Tawa Community Board would probably cease to exist.

You're invited to a community meeting at 4pm on Sunday 7 April at the Tawa Community Centre to discuss whether Tawa needs its own community board or not. *cont'd*



Duval



Brasenose



St Edmund

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

TAWA TO JOIN PORIRUA?

As already mentioned, one of the Local Government Reform proposals is for Tawa to join Porirua as one ward.

In terms of the whole “amalgamation” question, there are two options, other than retaining the status quo (with improved efficiencies).

OPTION 1:

The first option is one council across the Wellington region with a single tier of decision-making and, other than the Mayor, 27 (or possibly 29) councillors elected from local wards. Some community boards could, in theory, be established at the discretion of the new council – where communities demonstrate support for them and the council agrees.

OPTION 2:

The second option is one council with two tiers of decision-making – a governing council and local boards. Other than the Mayor, there would be 20 (or possibly 22) councillors elected from local wards.

Both options would see Tawa and Glenside North become part of a Porirua ward encompassing 68,500 people.

Under option 1 the Porirua ward would have 4 councillors and no further representation unless one or more community boards were to be established.

Under option 2 the Porirua ward would have 3 councillors and, beneath that, a local board comprising nine members.

The Tawa Community Board does not have an official preference for either option at this stage. We’re asking for community members to let us know your views. The proposal under both options is to ‘absorb’ Tawa into the Porirua ward.

Under option 2 nine local board members would represent 68,500 people. Under the present set-up the Tawa Community Board with eight members (including two Wellington city councillors) represents a community of 14,900 people.

Malcolm Sparrow, Chair of the Tawa Community Board, does not see how absorption into the Porirua ward can be a good thing for the Tawa community. “However what’s important right now,” he says, “is for the voice of the local community to be heard. This has major ramifications for Tawa. Come to the meeting and let us know what you think.”

WATERING THE HANGING BASKETS

In light of the current water restrictions in the Wellington region, watering Tawa’s hanging baskets has been drastically reduced. The plants are currently receiving little more than 30% of their previous amount of water. We have discussed the issue with Wellington City Council officers and are abiding by their instructions.

The watering is now being done on a low-flow dripfeed basis that has been cut back from twice a day to once a day and for a shorter period of time, just enough to keep the plants alive. The only alternative is to stop watering them completely and let them die. Should the water situation worsen, that is something we may have to consider further down the track but hopefully it won’t come to that. At this stage we believe the right measures are being taken.

Whatever the case, in another couple of months, maybe sooner, the baskets will be sent away for replacement plants.



TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

FUNDING THE HANGING BASKETS

The hanging baskets in the Main Road shopping centre are an initiative of the Tawa Community Board. They were included in our current three-year "Community Plan", part of which includes enhancement of the town centre. A lot of time and effort was spent seeing the baskets put into place. We have since received a huge amount of positive feedback. They do add something extra – a splash of colour – to the centre of Tawa.

The initial funding came from a special Mayoral fund for initiatives such as this. We are hopeful that most of the funding in the future – the contents of the baskets needing to be replaced every six months – will come from the community in some way or another. The Rotary Club of Tawa and the Lions Club of Tawa have both indicated their willingness to look at one-off grants to ensure the continuity of this asset to the Tawa community. Other funding suggestions would be welcomed.

CAN YOU HELP WITH A WORKING BEE?

It's come to our attention that some of the graves at Tawa Cemetery are completely overgrown with ivy and small trees. So it's a good opportunity for us as a community to band together and tidy things up. We're looking at Saturday morning 13 April, 9-11am.

There is probably a couple of hours' work that needs doing for a team of, say, 15 willing helpers. Our role will be to cut away the overgrowth, and Council has agreed to cart the debris away. So how about it?

Please email Malcolm on info@tawalink.com to indicate that you can assist. We'll let you know closer to the time what tools you'll need you to bring.

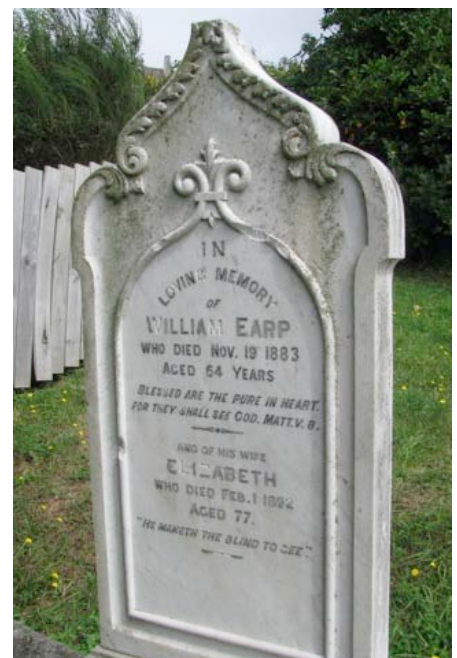


WILLIAM & ELIZABETH EARP

Towards the end of last year we reported in this newsletter that the Council's Regulatory Processes committee had agreed with the Tawa Community Board's recommendation that the short road heading up from the roundabout towards the supermarket at Takapu Island should be called William Earp Lane or Place.

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

William & Elizabeth Earp were buried at Tawa Cemetery more than 120 years ago as can be seen in this photo taken in February 2013.





DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MEETING "IT'S OKAY TO HELP"



You are invited to a Community Meeting about how to help stop Domestic Violence in our Community.

Speakers: Jude Simpson - Domestic Violence Survivor
Community Constable - Sarah Riddering
Stephanie Edmond - from the 'It's Not Ok Campaign'
MC: Murray Lucas - Principal of Tawa College

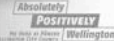
Thursday 4 April, 7.30-9.30pm

Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge Street, Tawa

Supper provided. For more information or to register your interest contact Angela or Hinetai on 232-1682 or tawacc@wcc.govt.nz



For more details visit Wellington.govt.nz or call 499 4444



At Greenacres School
62 Raroa Tce, Tawa

23 March 2013

Includes a Garage Sale

Saturday 23 March 11 AM - 2 PM

Easter Egg hunt LUCKY DIP SILENT AUCTION
COCONUT SHY MYSTERY BOTTLES PLANTS
Toy trains Merry-go-round TOYS
BOUNCY CASTLES SPONGE THROW CAFE
Fire Service Fill-a-bag clothes
Hair Braiding SMASH PALACE CAKES
POLICE Sports zone Petting Farm
Pony RIDES SPIDER BIKES Spin THE Wheel
1.30 PM EASTER HAT PARADE

TAWA RECREATION CENTRE PROGRAMME

Tawa Recreation Centre, Tawa College, Duncan Street, Tawa | For ages 5-12 years | To book phone 232 2260

Monday 22 April	Tuesday 23 April	Wednesday 24 April	Thursday 25 April	Friday 26 April
It's a party! Play pass the parcel, musical chairs and other party games Make fruit kebabs Inflatable fun and relays	Take part in 'Tawa Rec's Got Talent' competition Play tag games	Trip Day We are going to Aotea Lagoon for some playground fun Then we are going to solve the mystery at the Police Museum	ANZAC Day No programme	Bake ANZAC biscuits Create a poppy and take part in our quiz Play football and basketball
Monday 29 April	Tuesday 30 April	Wednesday 1 May	Thursday 2 May	Friday 3 May
Board game challenge Ball and balloon challenges Sing star challenge	Try a new style of dancing Make a clay candle holder Inflatable fun	Trip Day We are going to LaserForce to play as many games as we like Unwind with a DVD	Team challenge day Design a team flag and badges Race your team to the finish line	Tawa Rec's Top Dessert Chefs Be part of a team to bake an award winning dessert Burn off the energy in our inflatable race games

School holiday programmes also available at:

ASB Sports Centre
72 Kemp Street, Kaitiaki
For ages 5-12 years
To book phone 830 0500

Karori Recreation Centre
251 Karori Road, Karori
For ages 5-10 years
To book phone 476 8090

Nairville Recreation Centre
Cnr Cookayne Road and Lucknow Terrace, Khandallah
For ages 5-10 years
To book phone 479 2022

Cost per day	Recreation centres	ASB Sports Centre
Non-trip days 8.30am-3.30pm	\$30	\$35
Trip days 8.30am-3.30pm	\$40	\$45
Aftercare 3.30-5.30pm	\$12	\$13

Bookings open 12 March 2013. All holiday programmes are OSCAR approved.

BACK ISSUES OF THIS NEWSLETTER

To see back issues of "Tawa News", look up www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html. They go back as far as April 2009.

THANK YOU FROM PLUNKET

The Plunket Annual Appeal Week 2013 was held recently (4-10 March) and was very successful for Tawa-Linden Plunket. You may have seen collectors out during the week at New World, Countdown and Take Note.

We would like to say a massive thank you to each of them for letting us collect and for supporting Plunket. We raised almost \$1,000 – money which will go towards some renovations to the current Plunket rooms in Linden Avenue, creating another consulting room for the nurses to use from the current kitchen, and installing a kitchenette. This is a much needed job to accommodate the nurses so they can carry on providing their awesome services to babies and their parents in Tawa-Linden. Thanks to everyone who donated!

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Joining a club to do Scottish country dancing opens up a world of fitness, friendship and fun. The Linden Club meets every Monday 7.45-9.30pm at the Tawa Baptist Hall, Main Road.

No partner is required. Just wear casual clothes and soft shoes. For further information contact Philippa on 496 2102 or just come along any Monday night.

EXERCISE INDOORS THIS WINTER

Marching – Stretch & Flex to Music at your own pace. Tawa Rugby Gym Thursdays from 10am to 11am. \$4 – pay as you go. For more information contact Val on 232 5981.

GETTING OLD

I've sure gotten old. I've had two bypass surgeries. Also a hip replacement; later new knees.

I've fought prostate cancer, and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, I take 40 dozens of medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts.

I have bouts with dementia. I have poor circulation and barely feel my hands and feet anymore. I can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. I have lost all my friends.

But thank God, I still have my driver's licence!

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 always try to cheer myself up by singing when I get sad. Most of the time, it turns out that my voice is worse than my problems."

"If aliens saw us walking our dogs and picking up their poo, who would they think is in charge?"

"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen." - Michael Jordan

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.

Back issues of the newsletter are available at www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html.

Musings from the Ed. (Warning: he's grumbling today)

I've decided to register for "Spread the Word" next week. It's a 3½ hour session on "Promoting your community event or programme", run by the Wellington City Council. According to their blurb I will find out "What really makes people turn up" and "How to work with the media", amongst other things. I think I need all the help I can get, particularly with that second aspect.

Neighbours' Day/Weekend in Tawa is very successful. If all the street gatherings "registered" with us go ahead, it'll mean there are 48 taking place in Tawa in 2013. There might also be one or two we don't know about. Whatever the case, it's a great effort on behalf of almost 50 neighbourhoods in our community.

In fact I believe it's worth "shouting about". Like many Tawa people, I enjoy reading about our community in the newspaper, both local papers and *The Dominion Post*. For that reason, as well as to publicise the event and to encourage more streets to participate, I have sent several articles and relevant photos of Neighbours' Day in Tawa to all of these newspapers.

A good writeup appeared in the *Kapi-Mana News* towards the end of February (as mentioned in the last edition of this newsletter), and brief mentions of the event have appeared in other papers since. It would have been great to have seen another article more recently, but that hasn't happened.

By the way, well done to the Greenacres School Mad Hatters' Gala committee on securing front page coverage of their big event tomorrow (Saturday) on the front pages of both *Kapi-Mana News* and *Porirua CityLife News* this past week. That's certainly one for the books! All the best for tomorrow.

My biggest gripe – and I realise I probably said the same thing at this time last year – is with *The Dominion Post* who appear to show little interest in what's happening in Tawa unless it's something negative. At least that's the perception. To be fair, they did send a reporter out this way in March last year to do an article on Neighbours' Day in Mexted Tce. It would have been great if that had made it into the newspaper itself. Unfortunately it only appeared online. If you're interested, it's still there at www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/6629512/Suburbs-get-behind-Neighbours-Day-events.

Over the past two weeks I have sent *The Dominion Post* five "reports" on Neighbours' Day activities in Tawa, along with an interesting photo or two. I was hoping for coverage on the *Capital Day* page, if nowhere else. It would have served a dual purpose – both giving credit to the 48 organisers of street get-togethers in Tawa (again a significantly great number than the rest of Wellington combined), along with encouraging other neighbourhoods to jump on board the event. I do think it would have provided a more interesting read than the space they devoted earlier this week to a certain councillor who was prevented from leaving a council meeting to get himself a drink. That particular incident was so trite I cannot fathom why it gained several column centimetres at the expense of reporting the community spirit at work in a practical way in so many neighbourhoods in Wellington's northernmost suburb.

But that's how it is. I do appreciate the effort that local journalists make to cover various events in Tawa. And I might even pick up a tip or two at next week's "Spread the Word" session on how to penetrate the seemingly impenetrable gates of *The Dominion Post* in terms of coverage of Neighbours' Day in Tawa.



"The things I learnt on this workshop meant my programme went from half-full to an over-flowing wait list. Thanks for all your help."