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COMMUNITY NEWS

April
2013 - 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

THE END OF THE TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD?

You may be aware that big changes are being proposed for "Regional Governance" in the Wellington region. Two main options are being discussed. One further option is to keep things pretty much as they are right now.

The two options both propose one "united" council across the region, instead of the present six or more councils.

The first option would have one level of decision-making with at least 27 councillors elected from local wards. A new Porirua ward (which would include Tawa) would have four councillors, none necessarily from Tawa. Some community boards could, in theory, be established where communities demonstrate support for them and the council agrees. However the chances of the Tawa Community Board continuing in its present format are reasonably remote.

The second option would have two tiers of decision-making – a governing council plus local boards. There would be a minimum of 20 councillors elected from local wards. Three councillors would be from the new Porirua ward, including Tawa.

Both options would see seven wards across the Wellington region, with Tawa and Glenside North part of the new Porirua ward encompassing 68,500 people. Option 2 (above) would include, in addition to three or four councillors in each ward, a "local board" in each ward comprising nine members. The Tawa Community Board would be replaced by the local board whose responsibility would be the whole of the new Porirua ward.

The Tawa Community Board cannot see how "absorption" into the new Porirua ward can be of benefit to this community. However it's up to local people to express their views.

YOU'RE INVITED to a community meeting at the Tawa Community Centre at 4pm on Sunday 7 April to learn more about the proposed changes. What are your views about Tawa becoming part of the new Porirua ward? Will there be a place for the Tawa Community Board in the future? Does there need to be? Come and have your say.

DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN:

It's not the first time there's been a cloud over the future of the Tawa Community Board. In August 2006 the Wellington City Council proposed abolishing the community board. The Tawa community rose up in support of the board, forwarding more than 550 individual submissions to the Council which duly changed its mind.

The photo from 2006 shows board member Robert Tredger expressing a view about the board echoed by many others in the community.



TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

TAWA STATION UPDATE

(supplied by Greater Wellington Regional Council)

Since we last updated you, our contractors have been very busy. Although it may appear that nothing much has happened, rest assured that essential work is being carried out to allow the final stages of the build to take place.

Over the last few weeks excavations have been carried out for the repair of the platform fronts. This work allows for strengthening of the platforms and replacement in places where needed.



New drainage has now been installed on the platform and this should prevent pooling.

New building foundations have now all been prepared and poured, allowing the concrete pre-cast wall units to be installed around the signalling equipment area. See above photo.

Improved lighting is now in place on the platform and in the car park area.

Offsite construction has begun on the roof structure which is to be lifted onto the building by crane at a date yet to be confirmed. See at left of above photo.

Another major part of this project is the removal and replacement of traction poles which are part of KiwiRail's ongoing traction supply renewal programme.

Work has been carried out on the pedestrian overbridge. Three of the main bearers are being replaced and the bridge itself is being painted.

The final designs for the 16 printed graphic panel designs have now been agreed. The results will speak for themselves once presented at the opening of the new station.

We are on target for the station to be re-opened at the end of April but a firm date is still to be confirmed.

WATERING THE HANGING BASKETS

As stated in the email we sent to the community last week, the Council requested that we stop our minimal watering of the hanging baskets in our central shopping area. This was in line with their ban on all outdoor watering because of current drought conditions.

The options at that point were to manually water the flowers using "unofficial" water (water that wouldn't otherwise be used) to ensure they stayed alive and continued to provide the pleasure they'd brought to so many – or to let them die. It all depended on the community response to our request for volunteers to take turns at watering the plants on a weekly basis. We had a brilliant response! Around 35 people indicated their willingness to take their turn watering – more than we actually needed.

A roster has now been drawn up and manual watering has been taking place each evening since last Friday.

An email we received yesterday reads: "I was talking to the people doing the watering today as I walked back from the station – what a great community effort!" That sums it up precisely.





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



If you can share your skills you can be a trustee

Becoming a school trustee could be one of the most rewarding roles you have.

Being a school trustee is an important role that needs people with a range of skills and experiences, who believe in making a positive difference to our children's learning. Step forward and nominate yourself or someone you know by filling out a nomination form available from your school.

Learn more at www.trustee-election.co.nz



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, Kilmorie
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.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MEETING – "IT'S OKAY TO HELP"

Tawa Community Centre is holding a community meeting to raise awareness of what can be done to help victims of domestic violence, Thursday 4 April 7.30-9.30pm at the community centre. More details on the previous page.

BOARDS OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS

Tawa has six primary schools, an intermediate school and the college. Each will be looking for Boards of Trustees members in elections taking place next month. Maybe you could put your name forward! See the notice on the previous page which states "Becoming a school trustee could be one of the most rewarding roles you have". Also see www.trustee-election.co.nz.

FROM MOTELS TO APARTMENTS

Aaron Court Motel (corner of Main Road and Redwood Ave south) closed at the end of March and transformed itself into Redwood Apartments. It will operate as rental accommodation only and will no longer be available for short stays.



HOP In
= **Holiday DrOP In**



Come in for morning tea and company in the School Holidays

Everybody is welcome!

Want to keep warm with a cuppa?

Feel like having nice company and a chat?

Need some space and activities for your pre-schoolers?

Then join us on

Tue 23 April and Thu 2 May 10am-12 noon

At Tawa Union Church, Elena Place

(Toys and activities for pre-schoolers provided)

Enquiries to Heidrun 232 2197 or Karen 232 3436

POPPY DAY COLLECTION

Poppy Day this year will be on Friday 19 April. All monies from the sale of poppies are used exclusively for welfare purposes for Returned Service veterans in the area in which the monies are collected, in this case Tawa. It is therefore very much for the benefit of our community.

ANZAC DAY OBSERVANCE THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2013

This year's Tawa Community ANZAC Day observance will commence with a parade which will assemble at the New World car park at 9.30am and march off to the Tawa RSA at 9.45am.

The Civic Service will be held in the Tawa RSA Hall, 89 Oxford Street, at the completion of the parade (approximately 10am). This is a Tawa community commemoration and the public are most welcome to march in the parade, attend the service and pay tribute on this special day of remembrance.

ENGINE BRAKING ON THE MOTORWAY

There have been occasional complaints about the noise generated by trucks using engine braking on the motorway during the course of the night when we're all doing our best to sleep.

Based on the advice received from NZTA, there may be little that can be done about this: "Under the Land Transport Act a Road Controlling Authority can only ban the use of engine brakes in an area with a speed limit less than 70km/h."

Unfortunately some people, particularly residents living close to the motorway, do lose sleep over this one. If you're someone who does, please email a brief note to info@tawalink.com. We'd be interested in hearing from you.

THE GREAT ST EDMUND CRES EASTER EGG RACE

In overcast weather which didn't affect the speed of the course, some 21 Easter egg aspirants of St Edmund Cres in Redwood battled for line honours and supremacy in the Great St Edmund Cres Easter Egg Race.

Split into three age groups – under 5 years, 5-10 years and over 10 years – some 21 children battled for the honour of "fastest egg in the street".

Organisers were street residents Dolly Seow Ganesan and Caroline Durney who were kept busy with registrations and judging of the best decorated egg.

Over a 25 metre course groomed to exacting standards by course marshal Ramesh Ganeson, the winning time was 20 seconds for a hard-boiled Easter egg rolling unaided over 20 metres.

"This was just a follow-on from the successful BBQ we had recently on Neighbours' Day," said Bill Russell, principal organiser of Neighbours' Day activities in his street.

"We have a lovely street and we want to enhance it even more," said another resident.



Photos: Participants in the Great St Edmund Easter Egg Race

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



PET OF THE WEEK

“The road to success is always under construction.” - Lily Tomlin

“It’s so simple to be wise. Just think of something stupid to say and then don’t say it.”

“Dogs feel very strongly that they should always go with you in the car, in case the need should arise for them to bark violently at nothing, right in your ear.” - Dave Barry

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.

Is this how the system works?

Once upon a time the government had a vast scrap yard way out in the backblocks. A Government official speculated that someone might steal from it at night, so they created a night watchman position (GS-4) and hired a person for the job.

A bureaucrat said, “How does the watchman do his job without instruction?” So they created a planning position and hired two people: one person to write the instructions (GS-12) and one person to do time studies (GS-11).

Then Government said, “How will we know the night watchman is doing the tasks correctly?” So they created a Q.C. position and hired two people, one GS-9 to do the studies and one GS-11 to write the reports.

A bureaucrat asked, “How are these people going to get paid?” So they created the following positions, a timekeeper (GS-09) and a payroll officer (GS-11) and hired two people.

Then Government said, “Who will be accountable for all of these people?” So they created an administrative position and hired three people: an Admin. Officer (GM-13), an Assistant Admin. Officer (GS-13) and a Legal Secretary (GS-08).

Another bureaucrat said, “We have had this command in operation for one year and we are \$18,000 over budget, we must cutback overall cost,” so they laid off the night watchman.