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COMMUNITY NEWS

May
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

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS

I'm not sure if we'll ever know how many local people sent an email to the Regional Reform address expressing their views about the amalgamation issue.

What I do know is that several people who made their views known "copied me in". And a number I've bumped into in the supermarket and elsewhere have told me they sent an email to make the powers-that-be aware of their opinion.

Not everyone has strong views on the amalgamation issue itself. However most were very concerned that, whatever happens, Tawa continues to have a "strong community voice".



The feedback received from the wider Wellington community will guide local councils in the recommendations they make to the Local Government Commission in terms of amalgamation in the greater Wellington region, and what form it should take, if any. It will be a few weeks before we hear anything further on this.

So to all of you who took the time to express your views in writing, a big thank you. Your efforts do count (most of the time). The Tawa Community Board would very likely have been abolished in 2006 if the local community hadn't risen "en masse" at the time with many hundreds of individuals submitting their views in writing to the Council.

An example of one of the submissions on the current "amalgamation" issue is shown below.

A COPY OF A SUBMISSION FROM ONE LOCAL RESIDENT

Dear Council

I would like to give my opinion on the amalgamation issue for the Tawa Community. Tawa definitely needs to continue to have a strong independent voice within the new Council setup.

I have lived in the Wellington region all of my life. I have lived in a variety of suburbs within Wellington (Khandallah, Upper Hutt, Hataitai) and now live in Tawa with my husband and two children. My daughter is at Redwood Primary School and my son is at Tawa College. We have lived in Tawa for about 10 years now and I would have to say it is probably the most supportive community I've lived in. As a family we feel very much a part of this amazing community.

The Tawa Community Board has contributed to this in many ways. When our street decided to set up a Neighbourhood Support Group (NHS), in the wake of the Christchurch Earthquakes, a Tawa Community Board representative and the local NHS group coordinator helped to get it off the ground, attending some of our initial meetings. We now have a much stronger support network in our street and hold regular meetings and social events.

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TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

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During 2012 and 2013 the Community Board initiated, coordinated and supported Tawa's effort for the National Neighbours' Day campaign. Having about 50 streets participate, by hosting BBQs or other such events, was an incredible achievement! The Tawa Community Board were instrumental in this campaign being successful!

Every time there is an event in our community, or a local issue that needs discussing, visibly clear signage is erected at all entry/exit points around Tawa. Communication is certainly a strength of our Community Board. We also have a very full and interesting Tawa Community Newsletter that is put together by the Board Chairperson. We are fully informed of all issues related to our community. The Tawa Link website is also an excellent source of information for local residents or visitors to Tawa.

Recently, when there was a water shortage in Wellington, the lovely hanging baskets in our local village shopping area were at risk of dying, because the automatic watering system had to be switched off. The Tawa Community Board encouraged volunteers to carry out a manual watering system and then coordinated the roster for this. As a result, our hanging baskets are still flourishing today. It was great to see the volunteers on ladders watering the baskets. This provided many opportunities for locals to stop and thank them for their efforts. What great community spirit was fostered by the Tawa Community Board!

These are only a selection of examples of why it is essential for Tawa to retain an independent voice in the new Council structure. It would be a great shame to lose Tawa's community voice as a result of the amalgamation proposals that are currently on the table.

I believe that there needs to be a dedicated group within the new structure that is specifically focused on the needs of the Tawa Community! This would ensure that the wonderful features of the Tawa Community are retained and secured for future generations.

I hope you are able to see the value of an independent Tawa Community voice in the new Council structure.

Regards

Melissa Secker
Tawa Resident

REMUNERATION FOR COUNCILLORS AND COMMUNITY BOARDS

The Wellington City Council has advised: "Contrary to the impression that may have been given by yesterday's [Friday 3 May] front page story in *The Dominion Post*, Wellington City Councillors are *not* set to receive a 9% salary increase after the 2013 elections."

In actual fact the "total pool" available for payment to elected members will be only 1.7% more than previously. Specifics are not easy to come by because many councillors are currently paid extra, over and above their "base salary", for chairing various committees. It is the Remuneration Authority, not the Council, who determines all this.

What is clear is that the Remuneration Authority has decided the following:

Remuneration for the Mayor will decrease \$3300 (2.0%) from \$161,600 to \$158,300.

The new base salary for each Wellington City councillor has been set at \$76,600.

Remuneration for each Tawa Community Board member will increase \$35 (67c per week) from \$8465 to \$8500, a rise of .04%.

Remuneration for the Tawa Community Board chair will decrease by \$4165 (19.7%) from \$21,165 to \$17,000.

You can draw your own conclusions about the value placed on community board members and the role of chair.

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

TAWA RAILWAY STATION

As advised in the mid-April newsletter, the new-look Tawa Station will open for business on Monday 20 May.

An official opening ceremony will take place in early June.

The roof for the new structure was finally lifted into place in the wee hours of Wednesday 1 May. Around 6pm the previous evening some of us saw the crane starting to hoist the roof and thought that that was the real thing. In fact it was just a trial run.

The actual operation could only take place between midnight and 4am when no trains were using the line – and in favourable weather conditions. Obviously it wasn't too blustery through the night (as had been the case on previous dates when they'd hope to lift the roof over the tracks and into place), as it was secure in its new, permanent position on the Wednesday morning when we checked.



SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

In the most recent edition of this newsletter, the Editor concluded with a few comments about buying locally and supporting local businesses.

Having received a certain amount of feedback, the community board is now looking at liaising more closely with the local business community. We're arranging an initial get-together with a few business owners later this month to throw a few ideas around and look what options are available to help "revitalise" business in the heart of Tawa.

The following is from an email we received recently from a local business owner:

Thank you for your positive comments re the Kapi-Mana News article regarding the butcher closing.

I do not live in Tawa, however have been in business here for over 41 years now. I have found and still do, that people in Tawa are very supportive in shopping locally. Yes, it would be great to have a shopping area like Petone and I support that. However, in doing so we need to have a more diverse village atmosphere to enable this to happen. Tawa therefore needs to be a destination for this to happen.

Competition is good for business, it enables us to grow. After all, we have six salons here!

I love having my business here and with eight offices in our family building, feel we are supporting the local business community. There is always room for improvement. As I have already mentioned, we need to be diverse.

We are loyal here in Tawa - not everyone is abandoning the main street!

Maureen Bowring
Haircraft Centre Ltd
192 Main Road
Tawa

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

SYNTHETIC CANNABIS IN THE COMMUNITY

The following is from a press release from the Hon Peter Dunne's office on 30 April 2013. This matter is an ongoing problem in the Tawa community and many others.

Associate Health Minister Peter Dunne today announced a Temporary Class Drug Notice banning more substances found in tested samples of K2 synthetic cannabis.

The ban on two substances, which will come into effect on Thursday 9 May, brings to 35 the number of substances banned under temporary notices, and more than 50 products containing those substances are now off the market.

"This is another blow to the industry and one of many we have delivered - but I fully acknowledge it is more of the cat-and-mouse game until we can deliver the killer punch in August when the Psychoactive Substances Bill will become law," Mr Dunne said.

"What this ban will do in the meantime is force more of the K2 product off the shelves and that is the best outcome we can have at this point with a product that is clearly bad for people."

Mr Dunne said that the industry and the outlets that sell it have "no integrity whatsoever". "There is no goodwill and there is no decency in this industry, and that is why we are legislating. They prove day-in and day-out that they cannot be trusted."

The two substances being banned are BB-22 and 5F-AKB48, and both have been found in K2 products. From [when the new law becomes effective] it will be illegal to import, manufacture, sell or supply the substances, with penalties of up to 8 years' imprisonment.

"The Health Ministry considers that these particular substances pose a risk at least comparable to other already banned synthetic cannabis substances, therefore I have made the decision that it needs to be banned," Mr Dunne said. "And I encourage police enforcement of these bans at every opportunity, and I also encourage community pressure on dairies and other outlets that sell them."

Murray Lucas (Tawa College principal), Sarah Riddering (Tawa community constable) and Malcolm Sparrow (Tawa Community Board chair) have jointly visited all six dairies in Tawa to establish which do or don't sell these products. Most say they don't. We were previously aware of two that didn't. Some of the others say they have recently stopped doing so.

Those dairies that don't sell these products are likely to be displaying a poster in the future indicating that they don't, that in this particular instance ethical concerns for them are more important than profits. We would urge you to support those dairies and not the others.

TAWA U3A (UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE)

Whether you're interested in social leisure, pastimes or more academic pursuits, there are U3A activities to satisfy you. Over 30 courses, lectures or activities are under way in various venues around Tawa. For instance there's been a series on Flower arranging, another series on Opera, lectures on Tawa History, Scottish History, Computer History and on "Offences and Correction in Early Wellington".

Four lectures on "Maori Society in Early 20th Century" begin on Tuesday 14 May.

Music features in several classes: "Music Nostalgia" begins on Tuesday 21 May; "The History of Western Music" begins on Thursday 23 May, and "Tawahine Voices" (the Women's Choir) presents its first concert for the year in the Union Church Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29 May. All course details and contacts for more information can be found at www.tawalink.com.

U3A TAWA COURSES	
February - June 2013	
1. ANCESTRY SEARCH: Helping you discover your ancestry with a family history researcher. The course is held twice a month at 10am from 27 February. Contact: Susan Turner 234 7102. Fee: \$100.00.	
2. ART: ARTS: An introduction to art, covering painting, drawing and sculpture. There is a limited number of places for this course so book early. For a list of courses and fees visit the website: www.tawalink.com . Contact: Susan Turner 234 7102.	
3. BOOKS: This is a series of programs designed to help you discover the world of books. For a list of courses and fees visit the website: www.tawalink.com . Contact: Susan Turner 234 7102.	
4. BOWLS: An introduction to bowls for those who are new to the sport. Contact: Susan Turner 234 7102.	
5. BOWLING: An introduction to bowling for those who are new to the sport. Contact: Susan Turner 234 7102.	
6. CHIEF: CHIEF: This course is designed to help you understand the role of the Chief in the Māori community. Contact: Susan Turner 234 7102.	
7. CHURCH: CHURCH: This course is designed to help you understand the role of the church in the Māori community. Contact: Susan Turner 234 7102.	
8. COMPUTER: COMPUTER: This course is designed to help you understand the role of the computer in the Māori community. Contact: Susan Turner 234 7102.	
9. CRAFTS: CRAFTS: This course is designed to help you understand the role of crafts in the Māori community. Contact: Susan Turner 234 7102.	
10. DANCE: DANCE: This course is designed to help you understand the role of dance in the Māori community. Contact: Susan Turner 234 7102.	
11. DRUGS: DRUGS: This course is designed to help you understand the role of drugs in the Māori community. Contact: Susan Turner 234 7102.	

ABOUT THE RED HACKLE PIPE BAND

The Red Hackle Pipe Band was informed on 11 March 2013 that: "After careful consideration the Grading Advisory Panel has recommended that you go up a grade on the basis that the standard of your playing is such that you are likely to be competitive in the new grade." The band is accordingly now grade 3. This was after coming in as a very close runner-up in the National Championships in Timaru.



The band has learner classes in the bandrooms in Taylor Park, behind Redwood railway station, from 6.30pm on Tuesday nights followed by band practice at 7.30pm until 9.30pm. Learner classes are taken by top class pipers and drummers.

The Red Hackle Pipe Band performs in a number of parades each year - Christmas parades, ANZAC Day, etc. It also competes in various competitions during the contest season. In the season just finished it competed in Palmerston North, Turakina, Napier and Timaru, and next season, starting in December, will be competing in Turakina, Palmerston North, Wellington and Tauranga.

On ANZAC Day the band led the parade to the Tawa RSA and entertained after the service. From there it went to the Porirua RSA and entertained for a while.

The band's next parade looks like being "Spring into Tawa" in September although it could yet be asked to perform somewhere before then.

Pipe Major Dave Welsh is in charge. Under his leadership the band has gone in three years from Grade 4b to 4a and now to Grade 3. Members are eagerly looking forward to competing in the new grade in the coming season.

Numbers in the band have grown steadily. Last year there were three side drummers. In the coming season there may well be 9 or 10 drummers and 17 pipers.

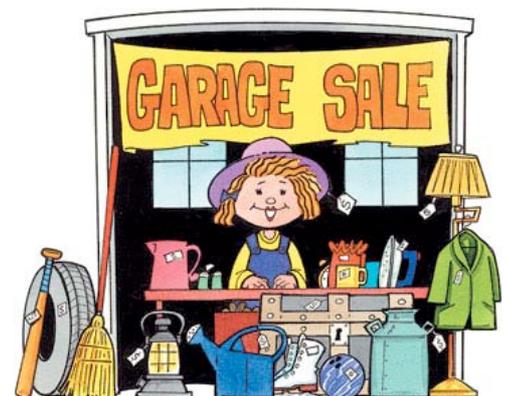
SUNRISE BOULEVARD GARAGE SALE

Saturday 11 May, 8am to 12pm.

We are holding a street-wide Garage Sale. There are at least 6 houses on the street taking part in this, so come grab a bargain.

The houses taking part will put red, yellow, & blue balloons on their letterbox @ 8am.

Each family holding a Garage Sale will be supporting the Salvation Army Food bank, by donating five much needed everyday items, which can be used to help the community.



TAWA COMMUNITY PATROL OPTIONS



Making Tawa a safer community

Interested in daytime patrolling?

Choose any day - Monday to Friday

2 hour shifts

Call Terry Poynter on 232 9910
for further information

SPORTS BAR AND CAFÉ OPENING

The new 15 Sports Bar & Café, on the site of the former Skipping Bull, will be opening on Friday 10 May at 6pm with live entertainment.

TAWA CRAFT MARKET

The next craft market will be held in Saturday 18 May 9.30am – 1.30pm at the Tawa Community Centre, Cambridge Street, Tawa.

Come down and support these wonderful crafters and get yourself a great gift from the person who made it. We have everything from cards, jewellery and Maori items, to clothes and gifts for everyone!

Free parking and entry – although we will have a donation bucket for the Life Flight Trust. Further details or to have a stall, contact Toni on 232 4370 or email inot_ynotstoker@xtra.co.nz.

"FOSTERING RESILIENCE IN TEENS"

Youth Wellbeing Study Community education Evening (organised by the Tawa College PTA).

7.00pm on Wednesday, 22 May 2013 in the Tawa College Hall, Duncan Street, Tawa.



The aim of this evening is to identify ways to build resilience among young New Zealanders. Resilience is being able to bounce back from difficulties, learn from them to be stronger and more confident in the face of new challenges. During this evening we will expand on what it is to be resilient, strategies for improving resilience, and fostering resilience in young people.

TAWA ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Tawa orchestra's first concert of the year is at 2pm on Sunday 26 May in the Tawa College Hall. Entry by donation. All welcome.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

A thanksgiving service is to be held at Tawa College on Wednesday 29 May 2013 at 4.30pm in the college hall to mark the passing of past Principal of Tawa College, Mr Brian Charles Walker, after a long and courageous battle on 29 January, aged 84. Brian was the third Principal of Tawa College from 1982 until his retirement in 1989. The service is being held to honour Brian's contribution to Tawa College and the college invites all past and present students, parents, staff and members of the community to join them in celebrating Brian's lifelong dedication to education.

The service will be followed by light refreshments. Please RSVP to the Principal's Secretary at secretary@tawacollege.school.nz prior to Friday 24 May 2013.

PARENTING SEMINARS IN JUNE

Brain Research and Learning: What Parents Need to Know ... with Leading Maori Academic, Educator, Researcher, Parent – Nathan Mikaere Wallis from Christchurch.

Preschool & Primary Years: Tuesday 11 June

Secondary Years: Wednesday 12 June

Place: Tawa College Hall

Time: 7-9pm

Supper provided

Gold coin donation

Sponsored by Tawa Community Board, a Tawa Community Trust and Tawa College

Enquires to Marg Lucas: margaret.lucas@wellingtonrtlb.school.nz



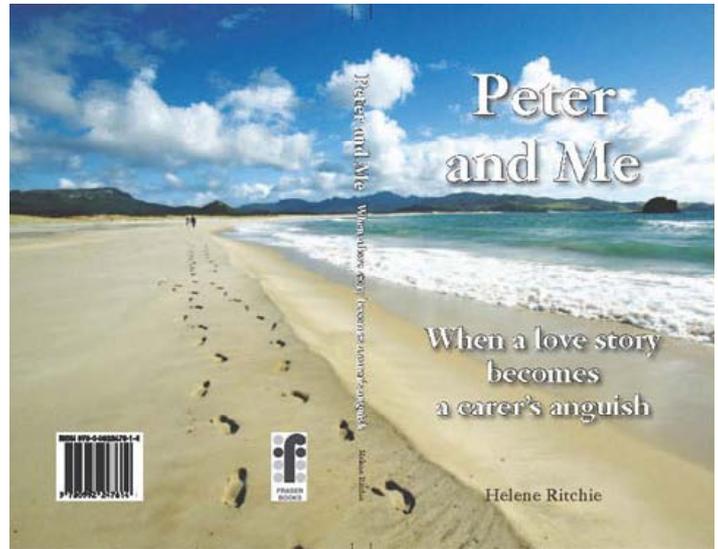
PETER AND ME: WHEN A LOVE STORY BECOMES A CARER'S ANGUISH

The Book

They first met when Helene was 18 years old. Together for nearly 40 years, this is the story of their relationship through Peter's intense last four years involving 24/7 care, the impact of a degenerative illness and a failing ad hoc health system. It aims to give a voice to isolated and exploited carers, especially those in private homes, and to expose fundamental issues about humanity and failed systems. It calls for a Royal Commission of Inquiry and a 'bipartisan' Parliamentary response to produce viable solutions.

The Author

Helene Ritchie was Wellington's first female deputy mayor and is currently the capital's longest serving city councillor. In those roles, she has successfully championed many social justice and environmental issues. She led the campaign for the Capital to be nuclear weapon free, and the major Wellington civic centre project. A registered psychologist, she has, as an elected member of the Health board, campaigned to significantly upgrade mental health hospital facilities. However, the greatest challenge she has faced was as a "carer" of her husband Peter who died in 2001 from a complex and chronic illness.



AFS & GREENACRES SCHOOL WALKING TOGETHER

Recently Greenacres School held a Walk to School morning. It was a great morning made more special by the inclusion of AFS Pasifika students walking with the kids. For the AFS students it was a chance to return to their old school, walk with their younger cousins, or share about their own culture.

In the photo Vero Solanes from Argentina walks to school with Greenacres School students, Jordan Gunn and Liam Skipworth, along with Walk to School Mascot, Jack the Kaka.

AFS NEEDS HOST FAMILIES

AFS Pasifika is looking to place students from France, Italy and Spain in the Tawa area from mid-July until early September.



We guarantee local support for both the student and the family, fun events for the whole family, and a wonderful intercultural experience for the family. If you are interested in finding out more about hosting with AFS, please contact Howard on afspasifikaporirua@hotmail.com.

A MAN AND HIS DOGS

If you're out and about in the middle of Tawa in the middle of the day, you may well have seen Steve Bates walking his dogs. He's the caretaker at Redwood School. Working a "split shift" means that he has time off during the day to walk them both. In fact they get walked twice a day on most days.

The photo shows Steve with Hayley at left (maybe a distant relation to Lassie) who is a 2-year-old rough collie, along with Laddie who's a 1-year-old border collie.

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

"Your imagination is a preview to life's coming attractions." – Albert Einstein

"Love the trees until their leaves fall off, then encourage them to try again next year." – Chad Sugg

"If you don't have a positive attitude in business and in life, you will never, ever be successful."

– Donald Trump

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 you do not wish to receive the newsletter, please send us an email requesting that your name be deleted from our list.

On a personal note

I don't get down to the Southern Lakes district every year. I wish I did, especially in the autumn. However Karen and I have been lucky enough to holiday there in both April of last year and again this year. On this occasion it tied in with my riding the Otago Central Rail Trail with some friends from Christchurch.

Riding the rail trail had, I guess, been on my "bucket list". And when the chance arose to do it, I grabbed the bull by both horns (or more appropriately, the bike by both handlebars).

Before riding the trail, Karen and I had two days based in Arrowtown and three days based in Queenstown. I'm a sucker for autumn colours and I expect there's no better part of New Zealand in which to enjoy them than in the Central Otago/Southern Lakes district. I walked the track alongside the Arrow River one morning (actually I did it two successive mornings) and recall thinking to myself, amidst the trees in all their autumn splendour, "This is probably as close as it gets to paradise on earth". Anyway that was my opinion at the time and is another way of saying I rather was rather enjoying my surroundings at that particular moment. Pretty much on a par with snow-capped mountains in terms of scenic beauty.

We met up with our friends in Clyde and biked from there to Alexandra along the river trail instead of the rail trail for that segment. And we were very pleased we did. We rode through autumn-coloured trees (well, around them if you want to be pedantic) with a carpet of golden leaves underfoot for much of the way. It was superb.

The trees alongside the Clutha River at Alexandra were at their glorious autumn best, always worth seeing. From there we biked to Chatto Creek for lunch, and on to Lauder after a brief excursion into Ophir (famous for its record winter temperature of 21 below). I'd quite like to visit there mid-winter sometime.

The next day saw us through the Ida Valley to Oturehua (place names with meaning to those who have biked the trail, and to few others) and on via Wedderburn to Ranfurly. We experienced our only unpleasant weather after Wedderburn when we rode into rain. Fortunately we had started "downhill" (really only a gentle incline) and with the wind behind us, that was the fastest 13 kms of the trip.

The last day was the longest in terms of distance biked, at 60 kms. However it didn't seem like it. More autumn colours and various changes in scenery ensured a high level of enjoyment still. We lunched in Hyde, one of many central Otago towns ever grateful for rail trail business. Without the trail some of those smaller towns would quite possibly no longer exist.

We made it through to Middlemarch by mid-afternoon and were both glad yet sad it was over. As one who really doesn't do much cycling I was pleased that my legs had coped as well as they had. My rear end had been a little sore at times, but I'd always expected that to be the case.

It was a great ride. I'd like to go back some time and perhaps cycle certain segments again, along with allowing more time to explore some of the nearby towns like Naseby and St Bathans. It's a superb part of the country and, to anyone who's wondering or not whether they should ride the trail, I'd thoroughly recommend it! I might even be able to offer a few tips!



L to R (top row): Arrow River; Clyde; Lake Hayes

L to R (bottom row): river trail between Clyde and Alexandra; near the midway point on the rail trail; former Hyde Station (building for sale if anyone's interested)