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COMMUNITY NEWS

May
2013 - 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 STATION OPEN AGAIN

The new-look Tawa Station was open for business again this past Monday, having been closed for the best part of five months.

Demolition of the old building started on Boxing Day. A lot of foundation work was undertaken which included re-doing the platform before the new structure was built.

Workmen have been particularly busy in the past few days ensuring that the station was completed in time for trains to be stopping again as from Monday.

The Tawa Community Board and the Tawa Historical Society worked closely with the Greater Wellington Regional Council to ensure a "satisfactory" replacement for the former 75-year-old station which had been left to deteriorate beyond repair.

Richard Noakes of the Regional Council comments: "It was a great project to work on and very much a group effort that has certainly given us a quality finish and a standard to look to for the future."

However it was a tad unfortunate that trains were not using the station for much of the "first day back" because of the derailment further down the track early in the day.



Redwood resident Caroline Challands was on the train when it started to leave the tracks: "It was just going crazy. The train was going from side to side and up and down. It felt like it was out of control and was going to crash." She continues: "I saw the guy next to me bracing himself against the seat. I thought that was a good idea, so I did that too. I also heard a lot of girls screaming. I thought that was a good idea and I did that too! No-one seemed to be injured but we were all rather shaken. I think I'll stick to the new trains from now on!"

TAWA WINS NATIONAL AWARD

You'll already be aware of the "Enhancing Communities" award that the Tawa Community Board won at the nation-wide community boards' conference at Wanaka the weekend before last.

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TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

MORE ON TAWA'S AWARD

... contd from previous page

The "Community Boards' Best Practice Awards" recognise excellence in the implementation of projects and initiatives in local governance. A winner is chosen in each of three categories, one of those being "Enhancing Communities".

The board was thrilled and honoured to win the award in that particular category, considering the high quality of the various entries from throughout New Zealand. However it was actually won by the whole community of Tawa – by all those neighbourhood-minded individuals who had organised barbecues (or similar gatherings) in their own streets in conjunction with Neighbours' Weekend in both 2012 and 2013.

The award has been mentioned in this week's "Our Wellington" page in the *Dominion Post*, and on page 4 in *Kapi-Mana News*. Well done Tawa!!!



FIRST YEAR OF ULTRAFAST BROADBAND ROLLOUT IN TAWA

Work is nearly complete for the first year of the UltraFast Broadband (UFB) fibre rollout in Tawa. Chorus contractors have been working for several months in Tawa streets to complete the laying of fibre ducting in two major work areas within the suburb.

By June this year residents in these areas will be among the first to be able to take advantage of UltraFast fibre broadband services. The streets where this work is coming to completion are:

Frederick St, Lincoln Ave, Wilfred St, Olivia Cres, Hampton Hill Road, part of Franklyn Road; McKeefry Grove, Lane Cres, Proctor Lane, Magdalen Street, Pembroke Street, St Edmund Crescent, Linacre Way, the start of Oriel Ave (at Redwood Ave end) and the majority of Redwood Ave.

Tawa residents can enter their address into an online tool at www.chorus.co.nz/maps to find out when UFB will be available at their address.

This is a multi-year programme. Work for the next year of the UFB rollout is due to commence in July. Over the next twelve months Chorus will deliver fibre to Grenada North from the motorway interchange up Main Road through to Linden.

To find out more about the UFB rollout see the Chorus website at <http://www.chorus.co.nz/ultrafast-broadband>.

– report supplied by Chorus

SYNTHETIC CANNABIS IN THE COMMUNITY

As advised in the eNewsletter earlier this month, all six dairies in Tawa have been visited to ascertain which do or don't sell synthetic cannabis products. Whilst these products are currently not illegal, we have heard from local residents of the immense damage they can cause. One example: "[They have] wrecked his work, health and finances, and his whole family is suffering as well from his behaviour."

Five out of six Tawa dairies have indicated they are no longer selling synthetic cannabis products. One still does.

The press release from Hon Peter Dunne's office on 30 April 2013 includes the comment: "..... I encourage pressure on dairies and other outlets that sell them."

TAWA PROBUS HOSTS DISTRICT EVENT

The Tawa Probus Club recently hosted the annual district Information (Training) Day. The event was opened by Mayor Celia Wade-Brown who acknowledged the value and contribution of Probus clubs to their communities.

About 100 representatives attended. These were drawn from 35 clubs in the lower part of the North Island, with attendees participating in breakout groups for presidents, treasurers, secretaries and leaders of activities. The day ended with an open forum and afternoon tea.



The Tawa Bowling Club's premises, venue for the event, were transformed with displays of flowers, banners and other decorations.

Probus clubs are for people who are retired or semi-retired, or perhaps have not ever been in the work force. They provide an excellent opportunity to meet others. The local Tawa Probus Club is flourishing. It meets monthly for socialising, morning tea and a guest speaker – all for an annual subscription of only \$25.

Optional outings are also part of the Tawa Probus Club's activities. A recent day out was to the Wairarapa to go through the Cobblestones Museum in Greytown. Other activities on the calendar are visits to Government House and the Police College respectively.

Despite having a healthy membership, the club still welcomes new members. For more details contact membership secretary Val Campbell on 232 7936.

- report prepared by Paul Mears, president (Combined) Tawa Probus Club 2013-14

AUDITIONS FOR LIGHTS, CAMERA - MURDER

Auditions on Sunday 2 June at 2pm, Linden Social Centre, 10 Linden Ave, Tawa.

LIGHTS, CAMERA – MURDER is written and directed by Margaret Stevens. It will be performed on 29–31 August and 5–6 September. This is a an audience participation murder mystery with meal attached to whet the appetites in all directions – well perhaps not all – even though some of the script is decidedly dubious and has some very dodgy entendres.

All those straight-faced and straight-laced, please do not come to the audition.

If you think you are:

1. sufficiently gorgeous - or near enough
2. sufficiently talented - or near enough
3. sufficiently brainy enough to remember the odd line or two - most important
4. sufficiently aged, like a good bottle of wine, between about 25–75 but can still hobble along without a stick

.... please come along and audition for this hilarious production which was last performed, most successfully, at Wilton House about ten or so years ago. The play is a take-off of the "Beauty and the Beast" show that ran for years on NZ television.

We have two Roses (Vita Wentforth, Beebee Osipovna) and two Thorns (Antonio Rosa and Torquil Itis) and others. Their solutions to social problems can be rather inventive and off the wall. Come along and find out!

Characters are larger than life and we need 5 men over 25ish and up-ish – and ditto, 5 women, plus one girl, late teens – early twenty-ish.

We spend quite a bit of rehearsal time asking each other sticky questions and ad libbing – so the characters become well defined and the actors do not get the heeby jeebies about having to mingle with the audience and answer mostly dumb questions about their murderous propensities! Great fun!!

Enquiries to Ross Pedder, 232 7147 or 021 647 125, or rpedder@xtra.co.nz.

NEW PRINCIPAL AT TAWA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Carolyn Stuart completed her time as principal of Tawa Intermediate School at the end of last term. She has taken on a new role as Education Sector Lead at Network for Learning.

Helen Moran is currently acting principal at the school.

A new principal will take up his role at Tawa Intermediate at the start of term 3 (end of July).

Here is his bio:

"I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself to the Tawa Intermediate School community. My name is Brendon Henderson and I am currently the Principal at Newlands Intermediate School, a position I have held for six years.

My wife, Allison and I have two school-aged children, Ashleigh and Lucas. We live in Whitby but have had many connections to Tawa.

I am particularly intent on (passionate about?) adding value academically to our young people but also recognise the opportunities and benefits that sport, the arts and cultural performance provide everyone.

I am very much looking forward to joining the staff as we continue to provide high quality educational outcomes for the students. Tawa Intermediate offers an environment where the students are active learners, the staff are committed to excellence and the parents and Board want nothing but the best for their children in a future focused environment.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for giving me the privilege of leading your school. Thank you."

Brendon Henderson



We've also learned that Brendon (aka Mr Henderson) went through Tawa Intermediate and Tawa College (in his day, of course) before spending time in Southland. "He has fond memories of these schools." (How could he say anything else?).

SUCCESS CLIMBING THE SKY TOWER

The Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade's 2013 Sky Tower Stair Challenge Team have returned from Auckland, tired but happy!

The brigade members raised a total of \$6,354 for the Leukaemia & Blood Foundation Charity of New Zealand, with the grand total raised being \$482,692. (See "Your chance to sponsor local firefighters" in the newsletter of 18.04.13 at www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html).

The team would like to thank all those persons and businesses who sponsored them or donated funds.



Photo L to R: Tawa firefighters John Pitchford, David Logan, Bridgette Strid and Mark Osborne.

YOUTH PARLIAMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Every three years all MPs select a young person to represent them at a Youth Parliament. In 2010 Tawa College's head girl at the time, Keiren Gera, was chosen to represent the Hon Peter Dunne, MP for Ohariu.

In 2013 Tawa College Year 13 student Jit Singh has been chosen to represent Mana MP Kris Faafoi at this year's Youth Parliament on 16 & 17 July. Youth MPs have the opportunity to debate legislation, sit on select committees and ask parliamentary questions of Cabinet Ministers.

SPORTS BAR AND CAFÉ OPENING



The new 15 Sports Bar & Café, on the site of the former Skipping Bull, was officially opened on Wednesday evening of last week. Sporting "celebrities" Christian Cullen and Ricki Herbert both have a stake in the new complex and were present on the occasion. Certain others there on the night are shown in the photo at right: Malcolm Sparrow (Tawa Community Board), Lucy Newrick (Revolve Fitness), Robert Tredger (Tawa Community Board), Lallit Rajpal (Code of Dental Excellence).

"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. The concert theme is "Fantasies and Fairytales" with:

Hansel and Gretel Overture (Humperdinck), Midsummer Night's Dream incidental music (Mendelssohn), Selection from Iolanthe (Sullivan), The Love of Three Oranges March (Prokofiev), John Williams highlights, and A Night on Bald Mountain (Mussorgsky)

With special guests: TUI – The Ukulele Institute, "Celebrating the Ukulele, Celebrating the Song"
Admission by donation. All welcome.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

A thanksgiving service is to be held at Tawa College on Wednesday 29 May 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.

WINTER WARMERS

Join us for activities followed by morning tea with stimulating company:

- 6 June Tai Chi - exercises
- 13 June Jim and Maxine Cunningham speaking on their recent stay in Christchurch
- 20 June gentle exercises led by instructor
- 27 June card-making and board games



Thursdays in June, 10–11.30am at Tawa Union Church, Elena Place

Gold coin donation

Everybody is welcome!

Enquiries to Heidrun 232 2197 or Karen 232 3436



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

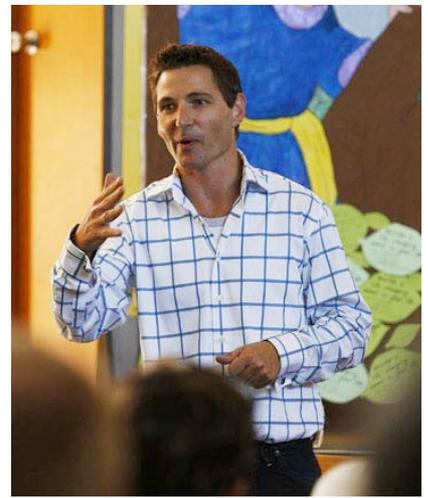
Time: 7-9pm

Supper provided

Gold coin donation

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

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



WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Hayley Balmer, a local Early Childhood Educator with over 18 years of experience, will be offering the following workshops in Tawa this term for parents of 2-5 year olds:

EARLY LITERACY – Raising a reader

7.30pm on 23 May and 4 June; 9.15am on 5 June

EARLY NUMERACY – Building a solid numerical foundation

9.15am on 19 June; 7.30pm on 20 June and 2 July

Each session is 2 hours long and is offered three times so you can find a time that suits. There is a charge of \$20 which includes comprehensive notes.

Her goal is to inspire, encourage and equip you as parents.

Please contact her on hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz for details and to book.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION SEMINAR(S)

Revolve Fitness is presenting a series of seminars over the next few months. Content consists of general exercise guidelines and nutritional advice about portion sizes, food types and how to eat healthily in 2013. Featuring guest speakers Nutritionist Jordan Crosbie and Exercise Consultant Lucy Newrick. At the Tawa Community Centre. Free entry!

Upcoming dates: 18 June, 16 July, 20 August.

UPDATE ON TAWA TABLE TENNIS CLUB

The Tawa Table Tennis Club is now based in the Porirua East School hall, 8 Martin Street, Porirua. Play takes place each Wednesday night until the end of September, commencing at 7pm.

If you would like to know more, contact Evan Watkin on evanwatkin@hotmail.com.

SPICER LANDFILL COMMUNITY MEETING

Apparently some Tawa residents have noticed increased “smells” from the landfill in recent years. There is an opportunity coming up for local people to hear more about recent and planned work at the landfill and to express any concerns they may have.

The Spicer Landfill Community Liaison Group is holding a community meeting on Wednesday 12 June, 11am to 12.30pm in the Bamiyan meeting room, 6th Floor, Porirua City Council Administration Building, Hagley Street, Porirua.

If you're interested in attending, RSVP to Carol Freeman, Spicer Landfill Financial Administrator, on 237 3588, by Monday 10 June.

TEMPORARY SPACE AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY GROUP(S)

The space used by New World's Tawa Temporary Store is currently available for community groups to use on a temporary and/or short-term basis – free of charge.

There are no tables and chairs in the old store, but if your group is interested in using the building, please email Nicole.Hogg@foodstuffs-wgtn.co.nz for more details.

NEW WORLD SUPPLYING GOODIES TO COMMUTERS AT TAWA STATION

Members of Tawa New World's management team were seen handing out goodies and flyers to commuters at Tawa Railway Station on the morning of its re-opening on Monday last.

A great start to the first day of the week for those heading off to work in town – until they got closer to the city where trains were held up due to a derailment (mentioned earlier) and subsequent on-board delay. The snacks would definitely have come in handy at that point!



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

“Measure a thousand times and cut once.” – Turkish proverb

“You’re happiest while you’re making the greatest contribution.” – Robert F Kennedy

“A doctor can bury his mistakes but an architect can only advise his client to plant vines.”
– Frank Lloyd Wright

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.

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

Musings from the Ed.

For a while I was including a few comments – sometimes quite a few – about my dog, Abby, at the end of every second newsletter. I haven't done so since late February. So time for an update!



In reality there really isn't a lot to say that hasn't already been said. That's probably a good thing because many of my earlier tales recounted the mischief, albeit mostly minor, into which she, as a relatively scatterbrained pup, had got. Fortunately there haven't been any really noteworthy "incidents" of late. Less exciting reading I know, but a little less stress-free for her owners!

Abby is now 18 months old and enjoying life as much as ever. Apparently the "puppy stage" is not meant to last more than a couple of years. However I've heard more than once that it may take considerably longer for her to get close to being a relatively "sensible" dog! I'm inclined to believe the latter.

She still is not able to walk past a slipper without picking it up and trotting off with it, whereupon she quietly lies down with the expectation that we'll notice her transgression and retrieve the said object.

Other times it'll be evident there's something in her mouth that shouldn't be there. We'll pry her jaws apart, tilt her head towards the floor and out will fall a coin or a screw or part of a peg or whatever. Little has changed in that respect!

Another aspect that may not ever change is her overwhelming excitement at the prospect of a walk. I only have to step into sight with my jacket in hand or donning a shoe. She assumes it's time to get ready for an outing. Unfortunately for her she's sometimes misread the situation and I tell her in no uncertain terms that "nothing's happening". That doesn't necessarily dampen her enthusiasm, probably because her grasp of the English language is somewhat restricted. Or maybe she's simply an eternal optimist!

Whatever the case, she seems incapable of controlling herself. She cannot keep still. Her whole body wags (or more accurately, "rocks") with excitement. I quite like it really, although her display of expectancy is obviously misplaced when she's got the wrong end of the stick (no pun intended).

She absolutely loves her bush walks. It's great exercise for both of us and we're very fortunate to live so close to the Redwood Bush. It's pretty much a daily routine. Our next expedition is only minutes away, so time for me to sign off and get outside to enjoy the outdoors once again with my loyal canine companion!



P.S. Some time later. We're back from the walk on this very pleasant afternoon. The bush seemed full of tui song – they were very much in full voice today! No doubt meaningless to a dog passing through but, for me, an added bonus to the enjoyment of a walk in the local bush.