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COMMUNITY NEWS

June
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 A GREAT FEW WEEKS FOR TAWA

In the past few weeks

Tawa Rugby Club has won the Swindale Shield

The new-look Tawa Railway Station has been opened

Tawa College barbershop choirs have taken out top prizes

Tawa Community Board has won a nation-wide award for "Enhancing Communities".

More details on page 3.



PROGRESS ON THE PATHWAY

The Tawa Valley Pathway – Ara Tawa is an ongoing project. It has been completed between Redwood Station in the south and Linden Park in the north, but there's still a substantial amount to be constructed at both ends.

Whilst the community board has been fully supportive of this project, all the credit must be given to the Tawa Shared Walkway Committee who have worked closely with the Wellington City Council in bringing it to where it is now.

The following update has come through recently from the Council:

"We are pleased to advise that construction has started on the next section of the pathway and is intended to continue through until it is completed in Willowbank Park. Work to be undertaken includes:

1. Commencement of construction of the path from Kenepuru Station south, on the east side of the stream to Linden Park. This work started on 20 May 2013.

2. Commencement of construction of the path from Redwood Station to Willowbank Park is expected to commence early June.

3. The contract for construction of the bridge over the stream at the north end of Linden Park has been awarded. Construction is expected to start late in June once materials are sourced.

4. Construction of the part of the path skirting Linden Park will be undertaken during September and into October, after the hockey season has finished and before the start of the cricket season. This has been scheduled to occur during the spring renovation period, to minimise the impact on the hockey and cricket seasons. However it is likely that some trees will be removed prior to this along the stream bank to allow for speedy construction during this limited time period.

5. Design work on a bridge to cross the stream at the Willowbank Park end of the pathway is in the detail design phase."

See <http://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/projects/tawa-shared-path> for more details.



TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)

OFFICIAL OPENING OF TAWA STATION

The new-look Tawa Station was officially opened last Thursday evening. A short ceremony took place, beginning with a Maori blessing of the new building. GWRC Councillor Peter Glensor MCed festivities and thanked GWRC officers for the great job they'd done, and also KiwiRail and NZTA for the part they'd played.

Malcolm Sparrow spoke briefly on behalf of the Tawa Community Board, as did Bruce Murray on behalf of the Tawa Historical Society. A dance troupe from Tawa College performed a dance routine to wind up proceedings.

The community board is appreciative of having been given the opportunity to work closely with the Greater Wellington Regional Council on the plans for the new building, particularly in regard to the 16 panels on the outside of the new structure. The designs on those panels feature the history of Tawa Station, rail travel through Tawa, and local flora and fauna including the iconic bucket tree and floral TAWA sign.

We are thankful for the input of each of the members of the community "committee": from the Tawa Community board, Ngaire Best and Malcolm Sparrow; from the Tawa Historical Society, Bruce Murray and David Parsons; also local resident Andrew Gray who is a landscape architect with the Porirua City Council. And thanks to GWRC's Richard Noakes with whom we worked very closely. As a certain speech concluded: "It's a job well done."



MEETING WITH LOCAL BUSINESS PEOPLE

A few local business people have been invited to a one-hour meeting this week to discuss the "future direction of business in Tawa". This is being initiated by the community board to discuss how local people can be encouraged to better support local businesses and to determine what strategies might be put in place to boost Tawa as a shopping destination.

Tawa Rotary will also be involved as they are keen on getting alongside the business community and assisting in some practical way.

To find about more about this, email Malcolm at info@tawalink.com.

NEW HANDS AT HELM OF TAWA COMMUNITY CENTRE

A new "advocate" (formerly known as a coordinator) has been appointed at the Tawa Community Centre. Mandy Russell started her new role on Monday 10 June, initially for four hours a day, 9am to 1pm. The intention is to extend these hours before long so that the centre is open six hours a day.



Mandy has lived in Tawa most of her life and has been involved in various community activities. She assists with Parent Fundraising Group initiatives at Redwood School, having previously served on the Brian Webb Kindergarten committee and with the Plunket car seat rentals scheme. We wish her well in her new role.

Changes made under a recent restructure will see the future running of the community centre come under the Libraries section of the WCC. Whilst in the past there has been very limited input from the local community in the running of the community centre, under the new council format this has already started to improve.

A GREAT FEW WEEKS FOR TAWA

As mentioned on the front page, it's been a memorable few weeks in the life of Tawa.

- We've previously heralded the nation-wide award for "Enhancing Communities" that the Tawa Community Board won just on a month ago in Wanaka.
- More recently the Tawa College boys' barbershop chorus **Acafellas** won first place in the 2013 New Zealand Young Singers in Harmony Wellington Regional Competition. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ev4h8junZk> to see them in action. The girls' barbershop choir **Maiden Tawa** was placed second at the same event. Well done to all involved!
- No doubt you will have already heard that **Tawa Rugby Club** has won the Swindale Shield for the first time in its 66-year history. An email was sent on behalf of the Tawa Community Board saying: "Congratulations to the team and all those involved in your big achievement! It's great for the Tawa community. All the best in the weeks ahead."
- And just last week, the new-look Tawa Railway Station was officially opened. Details are on the previous page.



Courtesy of www.stuff.com

TOP AWARD FOR GIRLS BRIGADER



On Sunday 2 June the 4th Tawa Company Girls Brigade held their mid year awards ceremony at Tawa Union Church. At this ceremony Anaseini Nuku was awarded the Pioneer Brigade Brooch, the highest National Award a Brigader can earn.

Anaseini joined Girls Brigade on 19 February 2001. Over the 12 years as a brigader she has earned all Junior, Senior & Pioneer badges and more.

Anaseini has worked hard over the years, doing well beyond the required hours of community and company service; she committed herself to the company and the church. She has earned the respect of her leaders by being selfless, caring and a role model to the girls and has made her leaders and family very proud.

Anaseini is presently working on her fourth, and final, Leadership Cheveron.

[Photo courtesy of Bryan Pannett of Tawa Union Church].

SYNTHETIC CANNABIS NO LONGER BEING SOLD IN TAWA?

As advised in our previous eNewsletter, just one local dairy was still admitting to selling synthetic cannabis products. We're now pleased to say that no dairies in Tawa are selling the products.

A check was carried out recently on that one particular dairy, and they say they're no longer selling K2 or similar products. We might just double-check on that soon but, assuming that's actually the case, Tawa is playing its part in making synthetic cannabis products harder to procure for those prepared to risk the damage they can cause.

A big thank you to all the dairy owners in the community who have taken a stand on this issue!

COIN CITY NOW OPEN

Address:

180 Main Road, Tawa, between Lotto shop and Red Cross shop

Opening hours:

Monday-Friday 9.30am to 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am to 4.00pm

Sunday Closed



PARENTING SEMINARS THIS WEEK

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

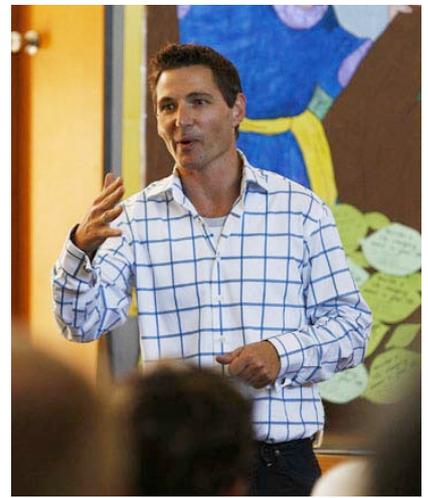
Time: 7-9pm

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



OPEN DAY AT REVOLVE FITNESS

Revolve Fitness, based in Tawa Plaza, will be having free blood pressure checks from 9am-3pm on Saturday 29 June at the gym. It's a day for all to come and check them out and have a look around. They will be happy to answer any questions. No obligation.



Revolve Fitness is also 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 seminar dates: 18 June, 16 July, 20 August.

NOTICE FROM AFS PASIFIKA

We are currently looking for a host family for one of our students through to December.

Bruna Chung, a girl from Brazil and currently a student at Tawa College, needs a new host family. If you or anyone you know would be interested in hosting Brunna please contact us on afspasifikaporirua@hotmail.com.

AIR CADETS OPEN EVENING

If you have a family member aged 13 to 15, the Air Training Corps may be of interest to them. A recruiting Open Evening is being held on Monday 24 June from 1830 hours.

Air Cadets is a worthwhile organisation helping teens develop self confidence and giving them the opportunity to learn new skills including the value of leadership. They are based in Mana and a lot of youngsters from Tawa attend, especially from Tawa College.

They are keen to add to their cadet numbers. Intermediate-aged children on the cusp of 13 years are also welcome at the recruitment evening along with their parents.

For more information see www.41squadron.org.nz or email recruiting@41squadron.org.nz.



TAWA JUNCTION

The buildings in the area known as Tawa Junction (at the eastern end of Surrey St) are being renovated. The current owner is a receivership company although the complex has recently been sold. However settlement doesn't take place until October this year.

In the meantime the Tawa Junction buildings are being overhauled with sandblasting, painting and construction work currently being undertaken. The new owner is hoping to see a "good class of retailers" based there in due course. They are already actively looking for tenants.

SUMMER CAMP FUN IN THE U.S. SUN

Trading gumboots for jandals is just one of the many changes young local woman Kyla-May Burkinshaw is now facing.

The former Tawa College student was one of hundreds of New Zealanders who applied to Camp Counselors USA (CCUSA) to work as a summer camp counselor in America this winter. Kyla-May, who has been placed by CCUSA at a camp in Arizona, is thrilled to have found a way to earn money at the same time as having an OE.

"I'm so excited to head to Camp Maripai, I can't wait to meet people from all around the world and experience life in a different culture!" she says.

Escaping New Zealand's winter and heading over for an American summer is a welcome bonus too. She will have time off during her camp placement, as well as thirty days following camp to explore the USA.

The camps, which are located right throughout the USA, are always seeking enthusiastic young Kiwis keen to participate on the CCUSA program.

"We send several hundred Kiwis over to summer camp annually and with around 1000 CCUSA camps to staff, we just can't get enough!", says CCUSA Country Director Liz Andrews. "Most of our camps are looking for skills that New Zealanders tend to have a lot of experience in anyhow from their own childhoods such as sports, performing arts, outdoor adventure, water sports and so on."

Kyla-May Burkinshaw credits CCUSA who have been with her "every step of the way" before heading off on her amazing journey, and will continue to support her with advice and assistance once in the USA too.

Applications for the 2014 season will open in September of this year and anyone interested in applying for the program should visit www.ccusa.co.nz or call 0800 USA Work for more information.



LOST A GREEN & WHITE SUN UMBRELLA?

We've been advised of a large green and white striped sun umbrella which has been stranded part way down the bank of the Poriria Stream, no doubt carried there by rising waters a weekend or two back. If this is yours or you know whose it might be, you may wish to retrieve it. Said object can be viewed from the bridge over the stream between numbers 88 and 90 Oxford Street.

COMING UP IN THE TAWA COLLEGE HALL

June Tunes - 7pm on Wed 19 June. A concert featuring the college's choral groups.

Beat the Winter Blues - 7pm on Wed 26 June. A concert featuring the college's instrumental groups.

Hey, lets get a team together for the legendary Tawa-Linden Plunket Quiz Night!

Saturday 15th June at the Tawa Cricket Club, on Gee Street

We'll need between 4 and 6 people for a team

It's BYO, snacks are provided

Doors open at 7.30pm, the quiz starts at 8

It's only \$7 per person and there are spot prizes and a raffle

I'll call Shonali on 232 7735 to book our place!

Plunket
whānau āwhina
caring for young families

Tawa-Linden Plunket Quiz Night

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

PRESS RELEASE from Malcolm Sparrow – Tuesday, 11 June 2013

Who will represent Tawa at the Council table once Cr Ngaire Best steps down at the end of this triennium? Local people are used to one of the three councillors serving the Northern ward being Tawa-based. That's not unreasonable considering Tawa makes up one third of the Northern ward's population and it's been the case since 1989 when Tawa first joined Wellington.

Tawa Community Board chair Malcolm Sparrow has decided to put up his hand to "take over" where Ngaire Best leaves off. From Ngaire: "Malcolm has worked hard in the Tawa community over the past few years and I wish him well in the campaign."

Malcolm Sparrow states: "I have served on the Tawa Community Board since 2005 with a 2½ year break whilst I managed the Tawa Community Centre. I am pleased with what the Tawa Community Board has achieved under my chairmanship this triennium. We have got things done."

"I am putting my name forward to represent Tawa and the whole Northern ward with the goal of getting things done as a Wellington City Councillor. My experience in the business world over the years and in community activities in more recent times will be very useful attributes to bring to the Council table."



"It is easy to make promises. It is hard work to keep them." – Boris Johnson

"Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm." – Abraham Lincoln

"Common sense is seeing things as they are, and doing things as they ought to be done."

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.