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# COMMUNITY NEWS

July  
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

### VARIOUS ISSUES ON THE GO

The role of the Tawa Community Board, amongst other things, is to act as a go-between between local people and the city council. On that basis we regularly get asked questions about local issues and/or receive suggestions in regard to making improvements in the community.

Here are a few issues we're currently dealing with:

#### PIKITANGA RESERVE

The suggestion has been made that trees should be planted (or artificial screening installed) to reduce the effects of the wind, particularly the southerly, sweeping through Pikitanga Reserve.

We have approached the Parks & Recreation people at the Council. It seems that trees for various projects are allocated many months, sometimes up to a year, in advance. They will know within a month or two what trees, if any, might be available in the short term.

Otherwise it could be some time before any improvements are made at this park.



#### PINE TREES AT WILLOWBANK

There will be very few local people who don't know that a considerable number of large pine trees were blown down at the southern end of Willowbank Park during the storm three weeks ago. Although the remaining trees were given an initial inspection, we've requested that they be checked again to ensure further ones are not likely to topple in the next high winds. If necessary, some or all of those still standing trees may need to be removed.

We're also endeavouring to find out when the trees that have already fallen are likely to be cleared to enable pedestrian access from Willowbank to Taylor Tce again.



#### LIGHTING ON THE PATHWAY

Those who walk the segment of the Tawa Valley Pathway – Ara Tawa between Redwood and Tawa Stations on a winter's evening will know that it can be rather dark along there. The question has been asked about some sort of lighting being installed. Apparently KiwiRail is very specific about "... no lighting being permitted within the rail corridor" which is where that particular section of the pathway is located.

There's a possibility that some sort of "low subdued lighting" might be the solution. However that's not likely to happen in the near future. The situation may be reviewed if enough concern is shown by members of the community to warrant doing so.

## **TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD INFO (contd)**

### **THE HANGING BASKETS**

Out with the old, in with the new!

You may have noticed that the hanging baskets have not been hanging lately. They were taken down recently. The baskets containing the new flowers have now arrived and will be hung up very shortly.

The plan is for members of the Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade to install the baskets in place on a Wednesday evening when they have their weekly get-together. This is dependent on it not pouring with rain at the time. Watch the empty spaces(s).



## **THE FUTURE OF THIS NEWSLETTER – please read**

A community newsletter in some shape or form has been emailed to the Tawa community by Malcolm Sparrow since 2005. In those days it was sent to around 300 people. Today that number is 1200, in addition to more than 70 “out-of-zone” – other suburbs of Wellington, plus former Tawa residents who now live on the Kapiti Coast, Bay of Plenty, Canterbury or wherever, as well as a small number overseas – Australia, Cyprus, Germany, USA, etc – ones who like to keep in touch with this neck of the woods.

These days the newsletter is sent out twice a month (most months), other than a single issue in January. For the next few months there will be a subtle change. It will be signed off by Ron Baker, the secretary of the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers’ Association. It will still be compiled by Malcolm Sparrow and sent out from his computer. However his name will not be seen in the newsletter because he is standing as a candidate for the Council in the Northern Ward. Got that?

The reason for this is to ensure that during the official election campaign which starts shortly, no one individual benefits from the newsletter. This is in keeping with the guidelines of the Electoral Commission.

The elections will be over and done with by mid-October. After that date, regardless of the election results, Malcolm Sparrow’s name is likely to be associated with the newsletter again.

## **TAWA PROGRESSIVE & RATEPAYERS’ ASSOCIATION AGM**

The AGM is in the boardroom at the Tawa Community Centre, 7.30pm on Tuesday 13 August. Note your diary now. Be early to ensure you get a seat!

## **TAWA ROTARY CLUB ANNUAL BOOK FAIR**

Tawa Rotary Club will again be holding a book fair in support of Life Education Trust and other charities. The same venue as previous years, Tawa Junction (at the eastern end of Surrey St), will be used with plenty of parking available and, above all, thousands of books to choose from. These cover just about every subject and a very wide range of authors. There will also be other items, such as CDs and DVDs. Most books are only \$2-3 each.

Sale days are the weekends of 20 & 21 July and 27 & 28 July, with the store open from 9.00am till 4.00pm on the Saturdays and 10.00am till 3.00pm on the Sundays.

Meantime, if you have any unwanted but clean and well-looked after surplus books taking up space on your bookshelves, you are invited to take them in to Mexted Motors, Drummond’s Pharmacy or Harcourt’s Tawa Real Estate. These companies are supporting



the project by providing

## DAYTIME COMMUNITY PATROL

The Tawa Community Patrol has recently extended its operations at the request of Porirua Police and is now providing a daytime patrol during certain days of the week. Mal Fyfe and Trevor Ross are pictured this week undertaking a patrol in the central Tawa retail area.

The Police have identified "hot spots" in the area which are being targeted by the Patrol. These include railway station car parks, streets where storm damage has occurred, school proximities and the retail strips in Tawa and Linden. The Patrol acts as the "eyes and ears" of the Police and reports anything suspicious.



If you are interested in volunteering your time for this activity, contact Brett Gillies on 232 5078 (evenings) or email [tawagillies@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tawagillies@xtra.co.nz). Full training is provided by the Police.

## SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

It's always (with few exceptions) good to buy locally and to support businesses based in Tawa. To find out who they are, see [www.tawalink.com/businesses.html](http://www.tawalink.com/businesses.html) where details of 30 local businesses are now listed.

Any Tawa-based businesses, whether they be retailers or self-employed tradesmen, etc, are invited to include their basic details (see the examples on the web page) free of charge. Email [info@tawalink.com](mailto:info@tawalink.com).

## PROMOTING THE HOME FIRE SAFETY PROGRAMME



### MESSAGE FROM THE TAWA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE:

The Tawa Operational Support team is available to visit the residences of Tawa to provide advice on home fire safety, and to supply and install the new 10-year smoke detectors for a donation of \$25 each.

The team now has a direct email address for contacting them at [tawastation@fire.org.nz](mailto:tawastation@fire.org.nz). Anyone can drop us a line with their contact details, requirements and the best time to call them.

## FREE HEALTH SEMINAR

FREE seminar – Great Health for over 50s, 7pm Tuesday 16 July at the Tawa Community Centre.

Featuring exercise and nutrition guidelines for Health and Wellbeing. Keep active and have the energy you want, with meal ideas and correct portion sizes.

## GOT A MUNTED TRAMPOLINE LYING AROUND?

Here's a suggestion from a local resident: "As with many other residents of Tawa, our trampoline flew into next door's garden during the storm. Thankfully the neighbours were very kind about it, and we retrieved it all the following day. We hoped to re-build it, but a couple of the metal poles had sheared. Everything else is fine though.

It would be good to get in touch with others who had flying trampolines because they might have other damaged bits. We would be happy to buy their poles - if compatible. This way at least some people may be able to have a useable trampoline at the end of it, and others would have a few bucks to put towards their replacement. It would also save hundreds ending up at the dump."



Email [pevelinedrummond@hotmail.com](mailto:pevelinedrummond@hotmail.com) to discuss this further.

## HOP IN = HOLIDAY DROP IN



Holiday fun for caregivers and preschoolers.

An opportunity for adult company while your pre-schooler plays in a safe environment.

Plenty of toys and activities! Morning tea available!

Everybody is welcome! Join us on Thursdays 18 and 25 July, 10am to 12 noon, Tawa Union Church, Elena Place.

Enquiries to Heidrun on 232 2197 or Karen on 232 3436.



## HOLIDAY FUNCLUB

Holiday Funclub: Cooking and Craft Holiday Programmes for children aged 4-10 years in Redwood, Tawa on 17, 22 & 24 July 2012. Morning and afternoon sessions are 3 hours long and cost \$24 (extra childcare hours available). Email [hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz) for further details.

## SUPPORTING ALLERGY NEW ZEALAND

Over the next four months, for every \$25 spent at New World Tawa, customers will receive a stamp on their "Go for Gold" stamp card. When they reach a \$200 spend in-store, they will receive a New World Tawa support dollar, which customers are able to donate to the school or preschool of their choice – in this case Early Years Redwood.

All New World Tawa support dollars will be added to a running track dedicated to, in our case, Allergy New Zealand. You can see our progress as it is recorded on a running track on an aisle floor at New World Tawa.

At the conclusion of the promotion, the value of New World Tawa support dollars on the running track will be donated to Allergy New Zealand. Additional monthly draws will also take place throughout the duration of the Go for Gold promotion.

Allergies affect up to a third of New Zealanders and if untreated have a significant impact on quality of life, particularly for children. Early Years Redwood Ave will put your sponsorship contributions towards Allergy New Zealand, helping to make a real difference in the lives of thousands of Kiwi children and their families.

## A MAN AND HIS DOG



They say that dogs can sometimes look a little like their owners. However with Brett Gillies (left) and his best mate, Noah (the one with the blue covering), it would take a vivid imagination to see any likeness.

Noah is pictured at the top of Colonial Knob.



Brett walks up there every weekend to keep fit. It's not clear whether Noah accompanies him every time or has more sense.

The photo of Brett was included in this newsletter last November when, as chair of the Tawa Shared Walkway committee, he spoke at the opening ceremony for the Tawa Valley Pathway – Ara Tawa. Noah hasn't featured in this newsletter before now.

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

*“An ounce of accomplishment is worth a ton of good intentions.”*

*“A smile is a gentle curved line that sets a lot of things straight.”*

*“Keep your eye on the ball, your shoulder to the wheel, your ear to the ground. Now try to work in that position.”*

*Musings from the Ed. (the last for a while) .....*

It's important that we keep a Tawa voice at the Council table – that at least one of the three Northern Ward councillors is Tawa-based. With this in mind I have declared my intention to stand as a candidate for Council and have recently started on the election trail. In the process I'm meeting a wide variety of people, all part of the community we call home.

There's a lot of truth in the saying, “An ounce of accomplishment is worth a ton of good intentions.” As I say on my website, [www.malcolmsparrow.com](http://www.malcolmsparrow.com), “I am cautious about making promises that may be beyond my power to keep. I prefer to point to my track record and suggest that the effort I have made in getting things done in Tawa over the past three years would be put into getting things done in the ward as a whole.”

I think people are slightly cynical about grandiose promises made by politicians in an effort to capture votes. Another saying comes to mind: “Vote for those who promise least. They'll be the least disappointing.”

Having said that, I do have specific goals and aspirations. Some are set out on my website. In a nutshell, I have put a lot of effort into my community over time and will continue to do so. We live in a great city in a great country, and I will keep on working to the best of my ability in making it an even better place to live.

– Malcolm Sparrow



*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](http://www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html).*