

TAWA COMMUNITY NEWS



Christmas 2013

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 LIONS CHRISTMAS PARADE

"Everyone loves a parade," they say. I don't know if that's true, but Tawa's annual Christmas parade is always well supported. That proved to be the case once again last Saturday afternoon with a wide range of participants and lots of locals there to cheer them on! It was a great celebration on another sunny day in Tawa.

If the above wording sounds familiar, it's because that's the precise wording on my Facebook page (www.facebook.com/malcolmsparrownorthern) where I've posted 20 photos of the parade.

It goes on to say: Thanks to the local Lions Club for organising the event and thanks to all those who took part. The small selection of photos below (displayed full-size on the Facebook page) capture some of the many community groups who joined in.



TOOTING FOR TUCKER IN TAWA

You may have heard the Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade fire trucks and members of Tawa Rotary, Tawa Lions and the Salvation Army making a din in your street on Tawa's western hills on Tuesday evening, or last week on the eastern side. They were out collecting donated food items for the Salvation Army-based Tawa Food Bank. On the second evening a considerable number of local Cubs helped as well.

Over the two nights 3188 items of food were collected and \$670 in cash which will be used to boost food bank stocks even further.

Thank you Tawa!!! Another great effort, the third time "Toot for Tucker" has taken place in our community in the leadup to Christmas. Again, many thanks to all those who contributed to the food bank project.



CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM THE TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD



From left:

Cr Justin Lester
Jack Marshall
Graeme Hansen
Marg Lucas
Robert Tredger (chair)
Richard Herbert
Alistair Sutton
Cr Malcolm Sparrow

The Tawa Community Board wishes one and all the compliments of the season, and safe and happy holidays.

Board members were each invited to provide a short statement as to how they'd be spending Christmas and/or include a Christmas greeting:



Robert Tredger (chair):

"I wish you all an enjoyable and safe Christmas and New Year. For some this is an opportunity to spend time with family and friends, and to take the time to relax, and/or make plans for next year. For others it could mean finishing some of those jobs still to be completed from this year's plans! We shall no doubt be doing both. We will also take the opportunity to walk the nearly completed Tawa Valley Pathway. Whatever you do, I hope you enjoy yourselves."

Richard Herbert:

"Looking for something new to do in Tawa in the holidays? Take a walk or cycle along the Tawa Valley Pathway, or a walk amongst the cooling atmosphere of the bush reserves in Tawa. As many will have noticed, the Tawa Valley Pathway is progressing well and the final leg at Willowbank will be completed in March. If you or a community group you belong to would like to help in planting trees or mulching, or generally help with the Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves working bees in enhancing the wonderful bush reserves around Tawa, please contact me. Take time to enjoy nature during the holiday season and marvel in the reason for the season."
herbert.r@xtra.co.nz 027 445 5942

Justin Lester:

"I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas, a restful break and a happy New Year. My wife Liz and I will be staying in Wellington with our girls and will be hosting friends from Europe who are having their first New Zealand Christmas. Hopefully they'll enjoy the lamb and pavlova, but I'm not sure how they'll fare in their first attempt at backyard cricket!"

Marg Lucas:

"Seasons greetings. Thanks for your support with the election. Tawa is a great community to be part of and to serve. Have a refreshing festive season."

Jack Marshall:

"I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I hope you enjoy a safe and relaxing break with family and friends. Christmas is always a wonderful time in our little suburb, with the Pohutukawas in bloom and the Norfolk Pine lit up. Hopefully the excellent weather we have enjoyed in Wellington over the past few summers continues. I'm looking forward to working hard for Tawa, and ensuring that our voice is heard in 2014. Meri Kirihimete ki a koe me te whānau, Merry Christmas to you and your family."

Malcolm Sparrow:

"We'll be staying with my wife's sister's family in Christchurch. On Christmas morning we'll unwrap the presents, go to a Christmas service and have a big midday Christmas dinner. In the afternoon we'll visit my parents on the other side of town and enjoy an early tea. We'll then head out to rellies near Woodend, hopefully in time for cricket on the back lawn. That'll be followed by an outdoor barbecue with more eating, and back into town later in the evening. Nice relaxing day! Wishing you the same!"

GRASSLEES RESERVE UPGRADE

Quoting directly from a recently-released WCC report: "Grasslees Reserve is getting a makeover. In early January, work will start on a project to upgrade the park, with a new bridge and better access to Porirua Stream.

The upgrade, funded through a \$550,000 grant from the Charles Plimmer Bequest and \$90,000 from Council budgets, includes new park entrances and paths, a basketball half-court and a new playground. The dog exercise area will be fenced along the Main Road and two barbecue and picnic areas added.

Grasslees Reserve was developed after Tawa Borough Council purchased the land in 1958. It contains a memorial to ethnographer Elsdon Best, one of New Zealand's foremost writers on pre-European Maori life, who was born at the original Grasslees farm in 1856. The Tawa Valley Pathway runs through the reserve.

The park upgrade means the playground will be closed for up to two months, and other areas will be off limits at various times but we aim to keep the shared path open."

TAWA VALLEY PATHWAY

The construction of the pathway at Linden Park to connect between Findlay Street around the back of the Wrestling Gym along the edge of Linden Park and over a new bridge across the Porirua Stream, and thence to Keneperu railway station, was completed in November.

Currently the sections of the pathway through the Redwood railway station carpark are being widened with the northern carpark work to be completed before Christmas and work in the southern carpark being undertaken during January.

The final section of pathway to be completed is at Willowbank Reserve where another bridge will be constructed across the Porirua Stream beside the railway bridge, linking with paths constructed to Boscobel Lane and to the south railway platform. This work will commence at Willowbank mid-January and is expected to be completed late March, weather permitting. During this construction it is likely that there will be some disruption to the access to Willowbank Reserve under the railway bridge at times.

– supplied by Richard Herbert, FoTBR



The photos show members of the Lions Club of Tawa who helped plant some 300 trees on 2nd November alongside parts of the Tawa Valley Pathway at Linden Park at the end of Findlay & Gee Streets. Tawa Community Board and Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves' member Richard Herbert liaised with the Wellington City Council for the supply of the trees.

UPDATE ON WILLOWBANK DAMAGE

The tree stump was removed from the Porirua Stream at the bottom of Taylor Terrace a few weeks back. However there is still work to be done grinding the stumps. Given the size of these, specialist equipment is required and the Council is expecting this to be available at the end of January. As soon as this is done, the tracks and pathways will be reinstated, with planting to follow next winter.

MUSIC ON THE EASTERN HILLS

Apparently Porirua City Brass are playing along Woodman Drive this Friday evening, starting at the top of Woodman Drive and working their way downwards by foot from 7.30pm. This is a joint fundraiser between the youth band and senior band. In return for music to your ears, donations will be sought en route.

IN THE LOCAL PIPELINE

You may already be aware that major extensions will be taking place at DressSmart before long. We'll provide further details once we have something more precise to report.

In regard to Burger King being added to the Z service station at the southern end of the Main Road, we haven't been able to obtain confirmation that this is actually going ahead. Neither can we confirm that the service station will be closed for a number of weeks during construction, despite several attempts on our part to clarify the situation. As they say, watch this space!

And sadly, it seems that a Westpac presence won't be with us for too much longer. We have it from a reliable source that the Tawa branch will be closing at the end of January.

MEANWHILE TAWA RSA IS ALIVE AND WELL

From Tony Clark, Tawa RSA President: "We are aware of rumours circulating in the community that the Tawa RSA is closing. We would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that this is not the case. We welcome new members. You can join as a Returned, Service or Associate member. We have a local caterer who provides excellent meals on a Friday evening and a Sunday Roast once a month.



We would like to thank the Tawa community for all their support in 2013 and wish you a Merry Christmas. We look forward to your continuing support in 2014. With commemorations for the centenary of WW1 beginning in August 2014, there will be a number of activities for this. We intend to involve the community in these. For more information email the Secretary at tawa.rsa@xtra.co.nz."

ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL FUNDRAISER FOR FILIPINO VICTIMS

The Filipino community and children at St Francis Xavier School have produced a recipe book which can be purchased for \$10. This is a fundraiser for the Philippines typhoon victims. The book contains favourite family recipes that are easy to follow and make. Give Metua a call on 232 3836 to arrange to pick up your copy.



CHRISTMAS GATHERINGS

Your opportunity to get together with other locals to focus on what Christmas is really all about.

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December:

- 6.00pm at St Christopher's Anglican – Christingle Family Service
- 7.00pm at Our Lady of Fatima – Christmas Vigil Family Mass
- 8.00pm at Tawa Baptist Church – Coffee, Cake and Carols
- 10.30pm at St Christopher's Anglican – Carols and Communion
- 11.30pm at Our Lady of Fatima – Carols, followed by Midnight Mass
- 11.30pm at Tawa Union Church – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Christmas Day, Wednesday 25 December:

- 8.30am at St Peters' Anglican, Linden – Eucharist
- 9.00am at Tawa Union Church – a New Zealand Christmas
- 9.30am at Tawa College – sponsored by Tawa Baptist and Salvation Army churches B.Y.O. Orchestra
- 10.00am at St Christopher's Anglican – Family Service & Communion
- 10.30am at Our Lady of Fatima – Christmas Day Mass



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

All the best

Malcolm Sparrow

On behalf of TawaLink.com
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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.

"One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly." – Andy Rooney

"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" – Bob Hope

"I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world." – Norman Vincent Peale

FROM THE EDITOR

As I'd read comments about the absence of Christmas decorations on the streets of the CBD, I went for a walk along Lambton Quay a couple of days ago to see for myself. It's true, there's very little to be seen! It's not beginning to look a lot like Christmas at all! There was scant evidence of the festive season in most shop windows, although it appeared a certain number displayed tinsel or a decorated tree inside – based on a passing glance on my part. Having said that, the outside of the venerable Kirkcaldie & Stains store on the other side of the road featured more Christmas fare than the rest of the retailers put together. All credit to Kirks!

On the same afternoon I took a wander along the Main Road shops in central Tawa. About half acknowledged the season in some way in their shop frontage, even if it was little more than a reindeer graphic! Good on all the local retailers for that!

The prize for the biggest "feature" in Tawa goes to the Village Bakery for their Christmas greeting shown at right. Drummond's Pharmacy are also highly commended for their Nativity display.

And well done to the Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade for their firefighting Christmas lights set-up at right.

A very Merry Christmas from the pooch

