



COMMUNITY NEWS

Mid-February
2014

This community newsletter is sent out usually twice each month on behalf of tawalink.com, Tawa's community website which has been supported by the Tawa Residents' Association since 2002.

NZTA PROPOSALS FOR THE TAWA AREA

On Friday 7 February I (the Ed.) sent the following email to the 1200+ local recipients of this newsletter:

By now you'll probably be aware that the NZ Transport Agency is contacting Takapu Valley residents to advise them of the possibility of a two-lane highway being constructed through their valley to link up with the yet-to-be-built Transmission Gully. At the same time Tawa residents are being contacted by NZTA with the advice that the alternative to the Takapu Valley option is to widen the motorway through Tawa. Both proposals would have major effects on residents and are causing huge concerns and resulting in some very upset people - with just cause!



Three individual maps - as presented to individual residents in Cecil Road and Ongley Cres - joined together to show how their properties are likely to be adversely affected.

Members of the Tawa Community Board (including the writer) have been speaking with many of those affected. At this stage the board has not been briefed by NZTA and has limited information about the proposals. However we will continue to work closely with community members in both Tawa and the Takapu Valley, all of whom live within the Tawa Community Board's "jurisdiction".

COMING UP:

- At its monthly meeting this coming Thursday evening, the Tawa Community Board will be receiving an NZTA briefing. This meeting is open to the public, although only board members may ask questions at the time. The venue is the boardroom at the Tawa Community Centre at 7pm.
- NZTA is also providing the opportunity to view and discuss their proposals at the Linden Social Centre on Wednesday 26 February between 3pm and 8pm.



A BARBECUE IN YOUR STREET?

A number of us will be getting together to throw around a few ideas about running a neighbourhood barbecue (or similar). You can contribute or, if you haven't already run a street get-together, you can just listen.

So if you would like to know more about running an event in your street for Neighbours' Weekend in March, or if you've previously done so, join us at the Tawa Community Centre 4.30-5.30pm on Sunday 16 February. Queries to 232 5030 or see www.tawalink.com/neighbours.html.

It's a fact that streets in which neighbours know each other are the "places to be", both in terms of everyday connectedness and in times of crisis!

BARBECUE IN KIWI CRES

On the subject of neighbourhood barbecues, six families in Kiwi Cres joined together on Sunday 2 February for a barbecue hosted by Tina and Scott. They're planning a bigger one for Neighbours' Weekend in March.

The photo shows Scott (left) and Terry filling in their "Everybody needs good neighbours' cards" which, ideally, every single one of us should be carrying in our wallets, containing details of our own immediate neighbours!



AN ARTIFICIAL TURF IN TAWA – TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

Representatives of the Tawa Community Board have met with local rugby and football representatives to discuss the Wellington City Council's proposal to defer funding for an artificial sports turf in Tawa for perhaps four or five years, or perhaps indefinitely.

A further meeting is scheduled for this week. It will involve the community board (including the two councillors), Tawa College and Tawa Intermediate principals, and local rugby and football representatives being addressed by Cr Paul Eagle (chair of WCC's Community, Sport & Recreation committee) and having the opportunity to discuss matters with two or three Council officers who will be present.

As stated in our most recent newsletter: **"If Tawa people feel strongly about this issue, it is up to you to let the Council know your views.** Submissions to the Council on the draft annual plan (under which funding for the artificial pitch would be either included or excluded) can be made from 11 February through to 11 March." That is when individuals and/or groups in the community have the opportunity to express their views.

Further comment will be made in the next edition of this newsletter.

PROGRESS AT WILLOWBANK

You will know that a number of pine trees came crashing down at Willowbank Park in last June's storm and that many of those still standing were subsequently removed. The damaged pedestrian bridge was repaired after a number of weeks but restoration of the track linking the bottom of Taylor Terrace to the Main Road and Takapu Station hasn't yet taken place.

WCC's Parks & Recreation have advised that they are expecting a contractor to be providing them with a costing for the restoration work about now, with the intention being that the job should commence within three weeks.

In another area of Willowbank Park, construction of the pedestrian bridge at the southern end of the Tawa Valley Pathway - Ara Tawa is scheduled to start this week. We'll be keeping an eye on progress!

TAWA MUSIC CENTRE

On Saturday 15 February Tawa Music Centre enrolment will take place at Tawa Intermediate School Hall, Ranui Terrace, Tawa, from 9.00am-10.30am. Tawa Music Centre provides group music tuition for Years 1-8 children from 5 years of age. (Restrictions may apply as stated in the prospectus.)

Classes are held on Saturday morning at Tawa Intermediate School. Fees \$60 per half year. Instruments include: Recorder, Cello, Guitar, Saxophone, Keyboard, Brass, Flute, Clarinet, Piano, Violin, Drums. Music Appreciation and Music Theory are also taught.

Further enquiries to Marianne Peacocke on 233 0541 or Martin MacLean on 232 9897.

TAWA COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Tawa Community Board has \$15,000 to be made available to worthy local causes. If your club or group, school or church, is considering applying for a grant from the Tawa Community Board, you have very little time in which to do so. Applications close at 5pm on Friday 28 February.

The Tawa Community Grants Fund is designed to assist voluntary projects in Tawa. Grants may be for charitable, educational, welfare, community development, cultural, recreational, sporting, activity development, equipment or training programmes. Grants may also be given to people representing New Zealand in a recognised sporting or cultural event.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be based in Tawa
- show that their project will directly benefit the Tawa community
- not have excess reserve funds
- meet all criteria on the Tawa Community Grants application form.



For further details, see <http://wellington.govt.nz/services/community-and-culture/funding/council-funds/tawa-community-grants> or call the WCC grants team on 803 8525.

NORTHERN MAKERS GROUP STARTING THIS MONTH

Interested in joining like-minded geeks on cool projects? Want to find out more about what you can actually do with a Raspberry Pi/Arduino/Linux computer? Looking for inspiration or help with your current project?

Interested in demonstrating/sharing how you've used Open Source or open hardware for your projects? Looking for others who have your technology interests?

Northern Makers is a new group that aims to bring together people of all ages who are interested in learning and sharing about fun, creative uses for technology, and in meeting up with fellow geeks. The first Northern Makers meeting will take place on Saturday 22 February at Tawa Community Centre, between 10am and 12noon. Bring a computer or a cool technology project to work on or to demonstrate or just come along. Coffee, tea and biscuits provided. \$5 cover charge.

Updates and news on further developments via <http://northernmakersnz.blogspot.co.nz>. For more information, and especially if you're planning to attend, please contact Jon Chamberlain 232 9207 a/h or jonachamberlain@gmail.com

LESS MESS ONLINE

Local Tawa business Less Mess has gained media attention lately with a successful online video and even an ad on TV during Seven Sharp! The video and ad have been made for an online advertising campaign for Rabodirect called CommonCents, and local Professional Organiser Steph Knight was invited to be part of it.

Steph started Less Mess two years ago and can help you declutter your home, get you organised, create better storage solutions, maximise your space, or help prepare your home for the real estate market.

Here are the links to the video if you would like to see Steph in action and pick up some helpful tips:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8BGERUT9Fc>
<http://www.commoncents.co.nz/how-de-cluttering-your-living-space-saves-money/>

You can contact Steph via www.lessmess.co.nz

CRYSTAL SHOP OPEN IN TAWA

On Monday 10 February Healing Light Crystals opened in Tawa.

Director Donna Harrington-Clews has been working with crystals for many years, hosting crystal parties, working as a crystal healing therapist and running a crystal stall at a local market. She is now branching out and opening up her own shop. Healing Light Crystals will be selling crystals (tumbled to large pieces), jewellery, crystal lamps, singing bowls, books and much more.



Come in, have a browse and a chat with Donna. All first purchases will enjoy 10% discount but mention this article and you will receive 15% discount.

Healing Light Crystals, Shop 3, 210 Main Road, Tawa (in "Tawa Plaza", leading to New World).
Mon to Fri 9am till 5pm, Sat 9am till 2pm.

REVOLVE FITNESS

U3A classes are run at Revolve Fitness (Tawa Plaza) every day but Wednesday. A fantastic, qualified Instructor is always there to guide and explain use of gym environment. Everyone welcome. Contact Mark Anderson for more information on 027 458 8674 or holistic.fitness@xtra.co.nz.



PARENTING COURSE

The Parenting Children (0 - 10) Course. Children do not arrive with an instruction manual. No role we undertake is more important than parenting. This course will equip parents with long term strategies to build a healthy family life.

Topics covered include:

- Building strong foundations
- Meeting our children's needs
- Setting boundaries
- Teaching healthy relationships

Dates: 9 March - 6 April 2014 (5 weeks) Time: 3 - 5pm

Contact: Tawa Anglican Church office on 232 8448 to book (admin@tac.org.nz).

Free onsite Children's Activities, so bring the whole family.



Z TAWA RENOVATIONS

Z Tawa is closed temporarily for "exciting renovations". It will re-open in April 2014 and will sell Z Espresso Coffee along with petrol (well, quite separately actually).

It will obviously be a completely new set-up. This photo was taken on the last day of January. There is now nothing left of the old buildings.



TAWA RUGBY'S OPENING DAY

TRFC is organising an "Opening Day" for the start of the 2014 season on Saturday 29 March involving a number of matches and a host of entertainment. More details in the next newsletter.

TAWA JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Registrations for the 2014 season are open now!

This year registrations will be processed online. Even if you are a returning player, you are required to complete the online registration form to ensure you receive a login and password.

The link for the online registrations, as well as some instructions on completing the pages, are available at <http://www.tawafootball.org.nz/Juniors/Registration.aspx>.

For those who would like to register and pay in person we will be holding a registration afternoon at the Redwood Ave clubrooms on Sunday 16 February from 12 noon - 3.00pm, and during the evening on Tuesday 18 February from 6.00pm - 8.00pm. We will have a number of laptops available so you can access the registration forms online. Uniform will be available for purchase on the Sunday afternoon.

We are looking to have the Sunday registration afternoon as a family open day for both junior and senior club families. Weather permitting we'll have the BBQ running with drinks and refreshments available. There will be a variety of games available for the kids so they can have a kick around during the afternoon.

If you need any help with the registration process please email juniors@tawafootball.org.nz



FUN FITNESS CLASSES FOR SENIORS

Tawa Fitness Centre delivers a Young @ Heart programme which encourages seniors to be more active. These affordable classes are currently delivered in a circuit training format with the focus on improving cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength & endurance.



The current classes run on a Tuesday & Thursday at 10.30am.

Due to the success of the Young @ Heart programme we are expanding it and are pleased to be delivering two new classes – Balance & Balls (improve balance & co-ordination) and Flexibility & Core (improve flexibility and tone the midsection). These classes will run on Monday & Wednesday at 10.30am starting 17 February.

Our Young @ Heart programme is specifically designed for Seniors and delivered by experienced qualified trainers at the affordable price of \$5/class. Come and join us Monday through to Thursday at 10.30am.

Need more information? Please contact Tawa Fitness Centre, 82 Main Road Tawa, ph 232 8500, email: tawafitnesscentre@clear.net.nz. Hope to see you soon.

TAWA MUM ANNOUNCED AS HUBBARDS 'AMAZING' LOCAL HERO

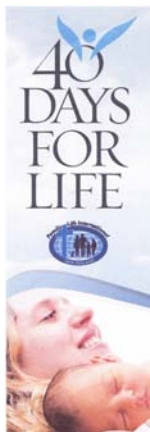
Tawa-based Tracy Wellington and husband Phil Davies founded the charity Kiwi Community Assistance after watching the television documentary "Inside Child Poverty New Zealand". They've now been chosen as one of three heroes in the Hubbards Box of Amazing competition. As well as being given \$5000 from Hubbards, it's now the New Zealand public's turn to throw their support behind Tracy by voting for her at the Hubbards Facebook page facebook.com/hubbards.

"Tracy shows us all what we're capable of as individuals in our communities. She saw a problem and wanted to help," says Kimberley Thorpe from Hubbards. "Her passion and ability to work closely with other charities is making a huge difference in her community."

Kiwi Community Assistance distributes donated goods (clothing, household items) and food parcels to families in need in the North Wellington/Porirua area. Tracy sacrificed her accounting job to devote 60 hours a week, unpaid, to people in need.

"We provide a hand up, not a hand out – distributing food, clothing, footwear, furniture and whiteware for free, to families in the Wellington region. The donations are distributed through existing charities," says Tracy. "I'm thrilled to be a Hubbards Amazing Hero and will use the funds to secure rental for a warehouse to store our non-perishable donations before they're distributed."

Make a Vote. Make a Difference. Support Tracy at www.facebook.com/hubbards. Voting is open until 28 February and you are able to vote once a day. Also, don't forget to pop along to your local supermarket to buy a box of Hubbards Amazing Passionfruit & Vanilla Muesli. For every pack sold, Hubbards are donating 60c. So help Tracy increase the kitty and support this amazing cause.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE

From March 5th through April 13th, you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40 day vigil on the public footpath outside Wellington Hospital, and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach.

If you'd like more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact Amie in Tawa, ph 973 5003 or amiefouhy@gmail.com, or Clare at clare.fli@xtra.co.nz. Also check out fli.org.nz/40daysforlife2014.

Adios

Malcolm Sparrow
Wellington City Councillor (Northern)
On behalf of TawaLink.com (supported by the Tawa Residents' Association)



"I've reached the age where my mind wanders and I don't know if it's coming back."

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." – Albert Einstein

Travel advice: If you step on a plane and recognise a friend named Jack, don't yell out: "Hi Jack!"

Items for this newsletter should be sent to info@tawalink.com. Queries to 232 5030 or 027 232 2320. Please type in email Subject Line: "Item for Tawa newsletter".

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 would like to receive the newsletter, please send us an email requesting that your name be added to our list.

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

PLEASE BE AWARE that many of the items/articles in this newsletter have been sent through by members of the Tawa community and have been published 'unedited'. They may not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor.

THE FINE FOLKS at the Rotary Club of Tawa do an awesome lot of good in this community. Over the course of the year they raise many thousands of dollars which is directed to various community causes. For example, the most recent re-planting of the hanging baskets in the Main Road shopping centre was funded by Tawa Rotary, at a cost of \$1200+.

Their biggest fundraising exercises are the giant book fair held each July (raising around \$20,000) and "liquor management" at various events at the Stadium which brings in several thousands of dollars more.

This past weekend a substantial number of Tawa Rotarians kept an eye on goings-on at the various food outlets and bars at the Stadium. They assist in ensuring that alcohol isn't served to either 'minors' or to those who have drunk too much already.

The writer served the Friday afternoon shift. Some Rotarians serve all four shifts, two per day, an exceptional effort! It's always fun seeing the amazing array of costumes on display, some of which are shown in these photos. I have my doubts that the hamburger actually got to sit down!

The photo above right shows a certain individual about to present the cup to the winning team, or at least pretending to! In reality this shot was taken two days before the Sevens, at the civic reception which was held for the participating teams in Civic Square.

