

Tawa News – February 2023

The Tawa Skate Park was reopened by mayor Tory Whanau recently. Our Tawa locals Steph Knight and Jill Day worked hard on making the upgrade happen. There is currently lots of demand for skate park upgrades across the city; the Tawa one is well-used and it was good to get it upgraded. There are plans to have it extended in the future as well.

Steph: "It was actually a bit emotional today, as our wee skate park project all came together at the official opening. Heaps of people of all ages, community leaders, Scouts on the BBQ, beginners, pros, families, skateboards, scooters, trikes, BMX, sunshine and smiles. This is phase one done... now a wee rest before phase two."

Read the full story here: <https://wellington.govt.nz/news-and-events/news-and-information/our-wellington/2023/02/tawa-skate-park>

Picture credits: Steph Knight

You have probably spotted artist Sheyne Tuffery painting in the alleyway around the corner from Gorgeous Goose Cakes. Vibrant Tawa Residents' Association worked together with the Tawa BID to get a new mural for Tawa. After a good clean (with thanks to Richard Herbert), Sheyne started with painting the wall black. He sketched in the birds and continued painting over the next week, aiming to finish this week.

Linden residents were treated to a fabulous party to celebrate the new Wall Park area. This is now a much used play and picnic area. During the party, 160 icecreams were enjoyed. A couple hundred sausages were given away as well.

“Test cricketer, educator, historian and author – Bruce Alexander Grenfell Murray, QSO died after a short illness last month aged 82, though his legacy is certain to endure through the thousands of pupils he taught, through the many books he wrote and, not least, through his talented family members, including White Ferns granddaughters Jess and Amelia Kerr.

Bruce Murray was a scholar and a gentleman. He completed his Masters thesis on the geography of Tawa, authored and co-authored many books on the history, geography and families of the Tawa district, and was a popular and highly respected school principal in the Wellington province between 1981 and 2002.”

The two paragraphs above were adapted courtesy of the New Zealand Cricket website.

Bruce Murray was very much a Tawa stalwart. He lived in Tawa for almost 60 years and was principal of Tawa College from 1989 until retiring in 2002. He had previously been both deputy principal and principal at Naenae College.

When asked in 2014 what achievement in his life had given him the most satisfaction, his response

was “Being a teacher for 40 years. Teaching is a high calling and an honoured position.”

He was chair of the Tawa Historical Society for 20 years until stepping down in 2021. In that time he authored or co-authored around 17 books on Tawa and its surrounds including the Takapu Valley.

Bruce was instrumental in establishing the Tawa Memorial in Grasslees Reserve at the end of Oxford St where Anzac Day services in Tawa are now held.

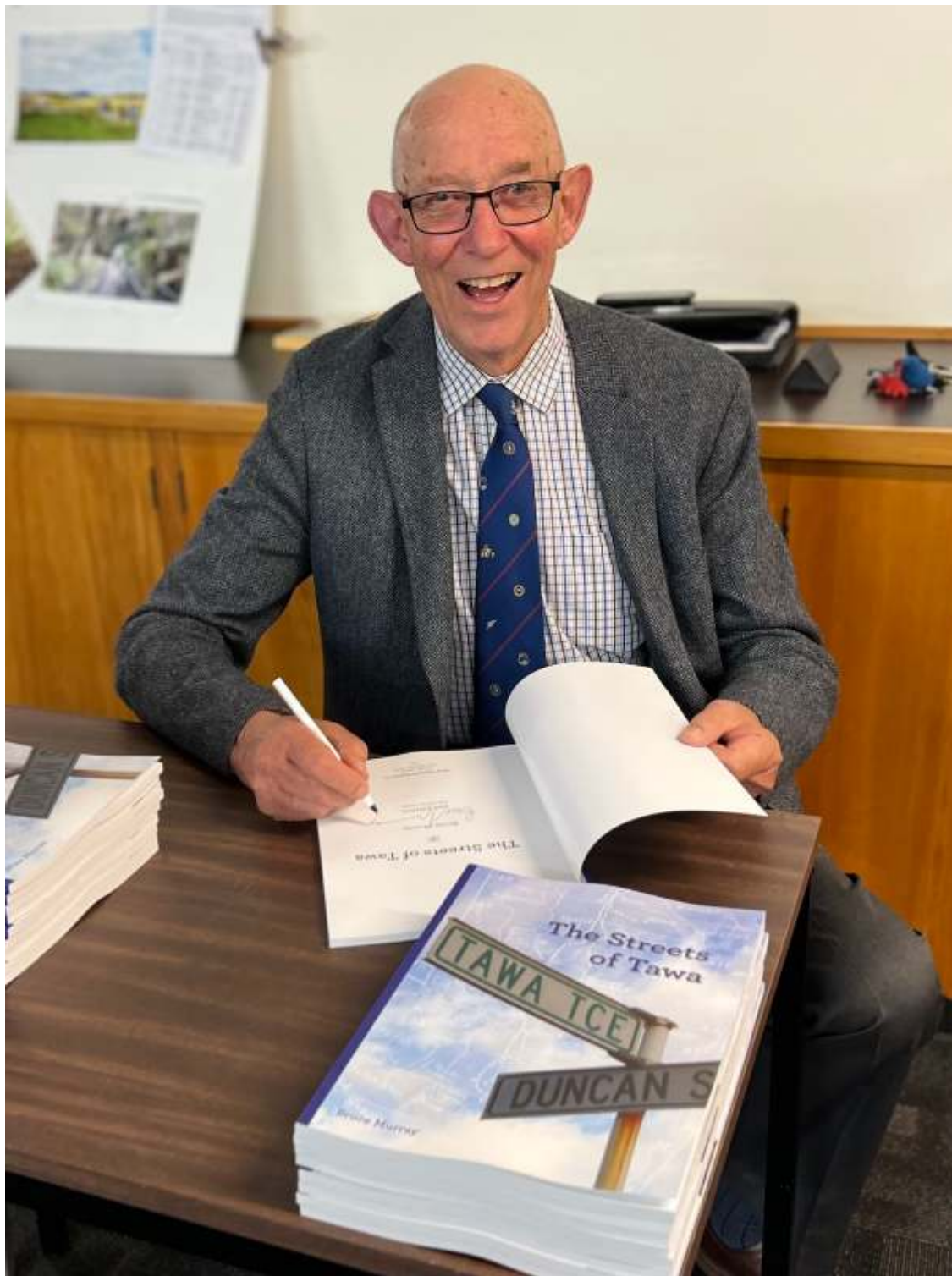
He was very much involved in Tawa Baptist Church where he was a deacon for 50 years.

In 2002, Bruce was appointed a Companion of the Queen’s Service Order for public service. For his contribution to the Tawa community he was presented with a Tawa Community Civic Award in each of 2006, 2008, 2014, 2016 (winner of the Heritage & Environment category) and 2021.

Bruce Murray represented Wellington in cricket 1958-73 and played for New Zealand 1967-71 under captain Graham Dowling. He travelled to Australia, England, Pakistan and India as opening batsman – “I had to deal with the fiery, fast bowlers.” He subsequently became involved in cricket administration in Wellington.

Bruce is survived by wife Shona (herself a “Tawa stalwart”), four adult children, three of whom live locally, and 11 grandchildren, known as “Poppa’s First XI”. He will be very much missed in this community.

With thanks to Malcolm Sparrow.



Bruce at the launch of The streets of Tawa. He authored or co-authored 15 book(let)s about Tawa.

Tawa local yoga studio Beyond Yoga hosted their first Yoga in the Park in the weekend. More than 50 yogis came to Willowbank Reserve. It was a great morning with first time yogis, seasoned practitioners, and even some kids!

Carolyn from Carolyn Campbell Garden Design welcomed lots of people to her garden last Sunday and raised \$257.50 for the cyclone relief fund. She also had a very cool visitor called Larry, brought by his owner Terene. Larry is an Eastern Australian blue tongue lizard, who lounged in the sun on the topiary garden lawn. Carolyn is planning to open again this Sunday if the weather is fine. This

time the donations will go towards buying tulips for her spring garden open days. Find the garden at 34 St Johns Terrace, open this Sunday from 10.30am until 4.00pm.

Our jigsaw library at the community centre is doing very well. Lots of people visit on Thursday mornings (10am-12pm) to have a chat and pick up some jigsaws to borrow. The volunteers had a nice pre-Christmas morning tea and are also looking for some more volunteers. Please contact Monique on vibranttawa@gmail.com if you are keen to help on Thursday morning or maybe a Saturday.

Over 600 puzzles and more are coming in every week! In fact, the jigsaw library is so popular that we need more shelving – do you have a shelf/bookshelf that you could donate to the community centre for our puzzle library? We are looking for shelves that are up to 2300mm high and have a depth of about 350mm.

Contact Gemma at tawacc@wcc.govt.nz if you have something you could donate.



Long serving Tawa College Teacher, Community Education Coordinator and Day Relief Manager, Judith Havill has retired. She is followed up by her cousin Jean Hollier who will be taking over the coordinator role and Kristen Gaunt will become her assistant.

You can read a *5 minutes with Judith* from 2018, when Judith got acknowledged for her work with a Tawa Community Service Award, here: http://www.tawalink.com/2mins/judith_havill.pdf. Judith is looking forward to attend the fabulous classes that local tutors run at the Adult Education College.

You can find all the courses here: <https://www.tawacommed.co.nz>

On Sunday, 5 March the Tawa Rotary Club will be marking the end of summer with a free late

afternoon picnic concert at the Grasslees Reserve, featuring the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band.

Their Concert Band will be playing music from the Americas (everything from Hollywood hits to South American rhythms) and their Jive Bombers covers band will play a selection of hits ranging from Stevie Wonder to Dua Lipa. Both bands will feature vocalists Barbara Graham and Stephanie Paris.

Tawa broadcaster, Jason Pine will be master of ceremonies for what will be great family entertainment and a toe-tapping soundtrack to a relaxing Sunday afternoon. It may even get you dancing!

There will also be performances by Tawa College music groups, including a Kapa Haka group and Grace Notes barbershop quartet, while Tū Mātau Ora will be offering traditional Māori games suitable for children and adults.

A \$2.00 sausage sizzle will supplement your BYO picnic basket. Tawa Rotary is grateful to Tawa New World and Whittakers for their support of this event.



The On Demand bus trial is three quarters of the way through and is being well used. Fortunately, not too much below what was predicted. The organisers are happy with this usage. There has been very positive feedback from the community about the service.

However, if we want to keep the Bus on Demand, we have to keep using it!

Find out how to use it here: <https://www.metlink.org.nz/news-and-updates/news/metlink-on-demand-pilot-tawa-suburb/>





Regular travellers on train services through the valley will have noticed that card/paper single, 10-trip and monthly tickets on the suburban passenger trains have recently been retired and replaced with plastic “Snapper” tickets. At the start and finish of each trip you now have to tag on and tag off so that the correct fare for your journey is charged to your Snapper card.

The traditional card tickets have been in use for about 140 years. A selection from the past 50 years or so are displayed here this month. Can you remember the various versions from the times when you commuted into Wellington or headed to the north?

For a small planned display of local history, the Tawa Historical Society is seeking to obtain some examples of older tickets that show “Tawa Flat”, rather than just “Tawa” as the journey’s starting point or destination. Such tickets would date from the 1950s or earlier. Do any readers of this newsletter have any “Tawa Flat” tickets tucked away in their collections of family history or ephemera at home? If so, please make contact with me so that I can arrange a time to photograph them for our collection.

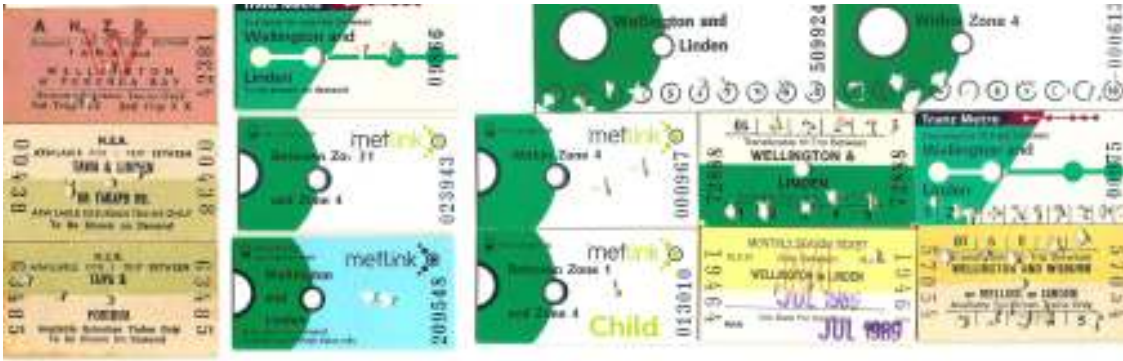
On a sad note, we in the Tawa Historical Society would like to acknowledge the recent death of Bruce Murray. Bruce wore many hats during his life. Within the THS he was a member from its inception in 2001, its Chairman for 20 years, and latterly, and all too briefly, its patron when he retired as chairman. We shall miss being able to call on his encyclopaedic knowledge of the valley and surrounds when researching a local history topic.

David Parsons

Chairman Tawa Historical Society

Contact David on tawaparsons@xtra.co.nz





Stormwater Management Strategy

Wellington Water are working with councils and mana whenua on a strategy for reducing pollution of local harbours, rivers and streams from stormwater.

Stormwater is rainwater that runs across land and hard surfaces such as roofs and roads into pipes and drains, or directly into streams, rivers and harbours. On the way, stormwater collects pollution such as litter, fertilizer, heavy metals and bacteria.

Find out more about their draft: [Stormwater Management Strategy](#).

Addressing our city's waste is one step we can take to reduce the impact of waste on our environment, and reduce our carbon footprint.

Read more about it and make your submission here:

<https://www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/zero-waste-future>



Firstly, we would like to say a huge 'Kia ora! Thank you!' to our local Tawa schools, college and parent community that supported our Back to School stationery packs this year. As a result we have donated \$1,475 to the participating schools.

Now to book news:

In the first week of Feb, I sat down with our local rep for Macmillan Publishing and discussed their exciting major book release this year, *Atlas: The Story of Pa Salt*, which “draws Lucinda Riley's Seven Sisters series to its stunning, unforgettable conclusion”.

Unfortunately, there was no insider information – only an important promise that everything, within their power, will be done to ensure *Atlas: The story of Pa Salt* will be instore on Thursday, 11 May 2023.

With that promise, we have excitedly set our price at \$29.99 (rrp \$37.99) and started pre-ordering

instore and online at <https://www.tawabooksandpost.co.nz> for our marvellous Seven Sisters series fans.

In that same week, *Birnam Wood* by Eleanor Catton was released. Having read and listened to Eleanor's interviews, plus reviews from those who had the privilege of reading it prior to release, both myself & Karen were keen to read it. Karen has got in first and can't put it down. "A definite fast pace, character driven thriller – I can see more Awards in Eleanor's future."

As always, looking forward to seeing you, our wonderful community in-store.

Rowena



Picture credits: Rowena from Tawa Books & Post

Help! At approximately 3.45pm on Saturday, my cockatiel Peachy flew away heading towards St Francis Xavier and Redwood Park. I had no idea she could fly over our house. We are on the corner of Redwood Ave and Lane Cres.

If any one finds Peachy, she knows her name and is tame, so can be picked up but will need a net to catch her if she flutters away. If you call her name she will respond by whistling. Peachy is three years old and not used to being outside. She CANNOT survive in the wild.

If you find her, please put her into a carton with water and some apple cores, pretzels, or if you have

some bird seeds that would be great, until I can come and collect her. If any one sees her or finds her please text me on 027 620 8991. Thank you!

From Elke Kubler



Peachy at home.

FRIENDS OF TAWA BUSH RESERVES

The next mid-week working-bee is scheduled for Tuesday 28th February, from 1.30pm. Please meet at Forest of Tawa, 58 Kiwi Crescent.

The objective of this working-bee is weeding tradescantia. Please park in Kiwi Crescent and walk up the shared driveway to the reserve entrance, we are about 50m up the main track from the gate. Recommended to bring: favourite weeding tools for tradescantia, boots, gloves, and clothing appropriate to the weather – a mostly shady area.

For further information or directions please contact Richard Herbert on 027 4455942.

Update from Councillor McNulty

Kia ora Tawa, I hope you had a good summer break and are feeling recharged as we get into 2023. As always, remember that Fixit is available report any problems to Wellington City Council ([Fixit - Wellington City Council](#)). Water

Wellington Water have launched a new tool that shows the status of any job in progress ([Job status map \(wellingtonwater.co.nz\)](#)). As you can see in Tawa alone there are over 50 leaks registered. Across the Wellington Region, over 80% of leaks fall into the Medium category which is why if you've registered a leak you may be waiting some time for repairs to be carried out. As WCC we are continuing to put investment into Wellington Water but the tight labour market and inflationary cost of materials constrain just how quickly WW can attend to repairs.





Rates increase

You've likely seen the news of a projected 12.8% rates increase this financial year. I won't sugarcoat it – it's painful. Our initial forecast was over 17% and we've been able to pull some levers around previous surpluses, debt repayments and leaky homes liability to bring the number down. We can pull on some things harder but it risks a credit downgrade which then will increase our costs of borrowing.

Costs of servicing debt, inflation and insurance are the major drivers of this increase in addition to a 30 year infrastructure program we are planning to deliver in the next decade. The recent Auckland floods and increasing impacts of climate change are going to continue to drive insurance pressures which puts us in a position of choosing between paying higher premiums (passed onto ratepayers) or self-insuring. Given the seismic risk in Wellington, self-insuring presents a major financial risk.

A personal view, our growth in rating units is one of the key ways to get our city on a sustainable financial footing. We currently have around 80,000 units (residential and commercial ratepayers) and growth in the last year was only around 0.6% (480~ units). I'm also hoping we will see more financing tools beyond rates and debt made available to councils' as part of the Future of Local Government Review.

There will be a public consultation period for the Annual Plan closer to June, as with any consultation I strongly recommend you make a submission to share your thoughts.

Ngā mihi,

Ben McNulty

Kaikaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Councillor

Takapū/Northern Ward

ben.mcnulty@wcc.govt.nz

We encourage our politicians and councillors to reach out to us with news.

From local **MP Greg O'Connor**:

"Tawa, and indeed Ōhāriu, largely escaped the ravages of Cyclone Gabrielle but it really is a time to ensure we have plans and contingencies. When the 6.1 earthquake hit Paraparaumu, I realized my phone was nearly flat and my power packs not charged. Tawa has excellent networks of community organisations which will no doubt activate quickly, but we need to ensure we can feed ourselves

and even others and have water on hand for those critical first days.

Declaring a National State of Emergency as we did enabled all the resources in the country to be mobilised to affected areas, and to empower and resource the locals. The people who we see fronting for local communities give us confidence that these emergency services local body people are competent and capable. The fact power and other services are so quickly restored and roads reopened again shows the quality of people involved in our infrastructure industry. This is a massive event and will require the efforts and focus of the whole country to restore the East Coast of the North Island. I'm confident we can, and New Zealanders will dig deep. Meanwhile, let's check on our own resilience and preparation. And share the grief of those who have lost loved ones."

You can contact Greg with any concerns by emailing greg.oconnor@parliament.govt.nz or calling 477 3332.

From Mana **MP Barbara Edmonds:**

"Since the last Tawa Newsletter was sent out, I have been promoted to Minister of Internal Affairs, Pacific Peoples as well as the Associate Minister of Health and Associate Minister of Housing. As Minister of Internal Affairs I was fortunate to be able to spend some time at the Fire and Emergency's National Coordination Centre and meet with the United Fire Brigades Association who are based here in Tawa. I got to see first-hand the incredible work that our firefighters are doing, and we are grateful to all our firefighters for their mahi.

My thoughts and aroha go out to all affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. I also wanted to thank all of those who have donated goods, money and prayers to help those in need. This serves as a reminder to make sure you and your loved ones are prepared, for information visit www.wremo.nz.

Barbara Edmonds

MP for Mana

Contact my office at mana@parliament.govt.nz or 237 9842."



The Beehive is the executive wing of the New Zealand Parliament buildings.

The next census is coming on March 7. Age Concern and Stats New Zealand are working together to help seniors complete their census forms. If you want to learn more about doing your census online, or just want some help with your census, come and see their friendly staff at their census events across the region – details below.

Remember, you can fill out the census as soon as you get your forms, and you can do it online or on a paper form. But if you need help, especially if you're asked to fill it in online, please come to one of the special events. There are some handy questions and answers below as well.

Call 04 499 6648 if you have any questions, or you can call Stats NZ directly on 0800 236 787.

Age Concern is hosting a series of events across the region to help seniors fill in their Census forms. These events will be held 1, 2 & 6 March, and are open to all seniors. You need to bring your online access code or the papers you received in the mail.

One event will be held at Linden Community Centre on Wednesday March 1, from 9.30am until 12.30pm.

Bunnings donates paint

Volunteers of the Tawa Squash Club this month have provided the final coat of paint to the exterior of their new court, which was commissioned last year.

The paint was sourced from Bunnings Porirua through their National Community Support programme. Not only did Bunnings generously donate 20 litres of Dulux paint, they also threw in three cans of graffiti remover – another great community initiative in Tawa.

Club Night at Tawa Squash is back

“The Healthiest Sport in the World” (according to Forbes Magazine).

When: Friday evenings during the school term (except when there is a tournament on). Cost \$5 non-members, free for members. FREE FIRST WEEK!

Where: 67 Main Road, Tawa.

Junior Club Night

5.00pm to 5.30pm: Small Nix, 5-8 years olds learning through fun squash activities some of life's foundations – balance, co-ordination, anticipation and agility.

5.30pm to 6.30pm: more experienced kiddies put through a series of activities under the watchful eye of coach Matt Green.

6.30pm to 7.00pm: casual squash under the watch of remaining parents. Also a chance to have a hit with senior members who may have come down a little earlier.

Senior Club Night

6.30pm to 7.00pm: a chance to have a casual hit if the juniors have vacated some or all of the courts – maybe even to have a hit with any keen juniors who just love taking points off their seniors.

7.00pm to 9.00pm: adult club night, having short duration casual hits with a variety of other club members, or just with a friend depending on individual's preference.

Some more experienced club members are on hand to pass on some tips.

Bar and Kitchen will be open from 5.00pm for dinner, snacks and refreshments.

For more info contact info@tawasquash.co.nz or call 04 232 8200.

2023 Registration for the Junior Rugby Season

Registration days have now been confirmed as the following:

Tuesday 7th March 5-7pm – this will also be the annual 'Canes in Clubs' Event

Saturday 11th March, 2-4pm

Wednesday 15th March 5-7pm

Please ensure that you have registered online before attending one of our events either via the link in the email you received (for returning players) or if you didn't receive the returning email or are new to the club please go to our website www.tawajuniorrugby.co.nz where you will find the link to register.

Registration days are an opportunity to ask questions, get sized up for a playing jersey, pay subs (if you still need to) and purchase socks and shorts.

Weight Restricted Tackle Grades: Please mark Saturday April 1st (9am-12pm) on your calendars as the Official weigh in and team photo. This will also be when these players will be given their playing jersey.

Season starts 28/29 April.

New manager at 24/7 Fitness

Zee Snyders was recently promoted to manager of 24/7 Fitness 35 Oxford Street (in the New World mall). She has a passion for bringing people together, working with people towards loving themselves and feeling strong and confident in their bodies. Being a personal trainer as well as the manager of the 24/7 gym allows her to get to know everyone on a personal level, help them with their physical needs, and what they need to make them as comfortable and content as possible at the gym.

She wants the gym to feel as if it's your second home, and that is why staff will welcome everyone with open arms. She has free Mondays during staffed hours where all are welcome inside to have a go in the gym. If you need any help or are not sure what to do within the gym, go find Zee to show you around, help with your workout, or come in and say hi, she loves a good chat!

Inner Wheel Tawa are collecting suitable clothing items for Hawkes Bay. These will be given to Inner Wheel Clubs in Hawkes Bay who will be working with agencies in the area. They are needing

new children's clothes, especially winter PJs, socks & undies, warm jerseys, etc. for children up to the age of 12. These can be left at Kd One Skincare & Cosmetics shop, 220A Main Road Tawa. A great big thank you for those who donated to the Salvation Army Tawa Christmas toy appeal. Inner Wheel donated \$1000 to the toy appeal to buy toys for the families in Tawa.



About 12 new jobs were added to the board at the beginning of this year. Please let Bernadette know if there are any vacancies in Tawa. She has received lots of good feedback from businesses – many local people are applying for jobs. There is now also a Business Improvement District (BID) up and running in Johnsonville – the selling point was the success here in Tawa!

Visit <https://www.tawabusiness.co.nz/jobs>.

Nicole McGeorge is a South African born, natural light photographer currently based right here in Tawa, with a passion for capturing life's special moments with the people you love. She specialises in portrait photography and has been in the industry for 13 years. "I believe that every photo has the power to tell a story, and I would love to use my skills and expertise to tell yours. My style is very natural and candid and I love using nature and beautiful landscapes to help set the scene."

To celebrate the launch of her new website, she is running a promotion for Tawa residents. Use the code HELLOTAWA with your enquiry, and you'll get \$50 off your photo session!

Mini session: \$150 (normally \$200)

Full session: \$250 (normally \$300)



Picture credits: Nicole McGeorge

Let me tell you a story about community supporting community...

Last year, Tawa Scouts lent their hall to Tawa Rotary for their book fair. In return, Rotary donated some funds to help the Scouts to purchase this beautiful gazebo. Because of this generous donation, today the Scouts were able to use their beautiful new gazebo for the first time, providing some much needed shade while they were donating their time cooking sausages at the Tawa Skate Park opening. We had a great day! We cooked, we handed out so many sausages someone had to go grab some more! We met the Mayor!

A huge thank you to Tawa Rotary for your support, and we look forward to many more opportunities to work with them and other community groups in the future.

From Nicola Griffin

Are you interested in supporting sustainability in Tawa? We are planning on setting up a drop-off point at the community centre for small metal and plastic recycling; this is mostly for lids, which can't go in regular recycling. We are looking for volunteers to drop the recycling off to the Sustainability Trust in town, and don't expect this to be a big commitment – one or two trips into town a year. If you're interested in getting involved, send us an email at tawacc@wcc.govt.nz or call us on 232 1682.

We've identified some gaps at the community centre for large and small rooms – if you have interest in running a programme or an event please contact us on tawacc@wcc.govt.nz or on 232 1682.

A reminder that we have a battery recycling station at the community centre – we accept [a variety of batteries](#) up to the size of laptop/mobile phone batteries as long as they are not leaking.

If you are involved in any community groups and projects Wellington City Council now have

various grant funds now open for applications – most of these go to the Pītau Pūmanawa/ Grants meeting in May.

This does not include Tawa community grants, which will happen a bit later this year (dates tbc). For more information visit the council website: <https://wellington.govt.nz/.../funding/funding-calendar>

Play Box soft launched

On 31 January 2023, The PlayBox was officially open to the public. They can freely use the toys inside the PlayBox and put them back once they are done. It is available 24/7 for the community.

Community Garden

Established in September 2022, the garden is used to supply some vegetables for the Kai Kitchen community lunch.

The community are also enjoying the vegetables day-to-day. Feel free to contact Fieza at Linden Community Centre to be part of the volunteer team.

The awesome team that organises Spring into Tawa is looking for some new amazing community heroes to come help out! They love putting this awesome event on each year and are a small but close knit team that has fun and gets it done! But they'd love some more help, so if you'd like to get involved, please reach out for more information.

They've got a range of roles so are keen to hear from anyone keen – but particularly keen to hear from people with an interest in entertainment or their zero waste journey.

Contact email: info@springintotawa.nz.



Picture credits: Zapdog

Many of you will be familiar with Brian Webb Kindergarten on Victory Ave as they have been in the community now for several generations. They need your help. Teachers are currently looking into

the history of the kindergarten and would love to hear your stories and/or see photos of your wonderful time over the years.

If you would love to share any old photos or history it would be much appreciated. Please send an email to BrianWebb@wmkindergartens.org.nz.



Rata tree in all its glory, you don't see a lot of these in Tawa.





Crafting Threads of Aroha is on every second and fourth Wednesday of the month, starting 25 January 2023, 10.15am to 12.00pm. Bring a project to work on, to share, or just come for a chat. Tea, coffee and venue supplied with thanks to Tawa Library.

Contact Mel Lyde (CTOA): 0274 896 612 or Wendy Jacobs: Tawa Library, Wellington City Council, 021 247 8271

Email: craftingthreadsofaroa@gmail.com





This pretty painting is one of many to be seen at the studio of Tawa local artist, Jill Sutton during the Porirua Arts Trail on 18 & 19 March. Find details here: <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2023/porirua-arts-trail-2023/porirua-mana>



We have some creative people in Tawa that are keen rock hiders. The rocks are painted and sometimes have a name on the back. They are meant for you to keep and enjoy or re-hide for others to find. These two were found in the Redwood Bush. There are several Facebook groups where you can record your find, for example [Wellington Rocks NZ](#).



Spotted by Harley Huf, hoping nothing serious happened to the driver of this NZ post vehicle.





Stunning hydrangea spotted in Tawa.



Manaaki Night is a biennial event hosted by Tawa College. It is an evening that encompasses speakers and stands from professionals and support groups around the theme of physical and mental health and well-being. It is a chance to come together as a community to listen and talk with specialists, and to gather information and support on all areas of your or others' health and well-being.

Organised by representatives from the Tawa College Manaaki PTA (Parent Teacher Alliance), Manaaki Night aims to build a supportive school community and a strong partnership between parents and teachers. It has the overall aim to increase health and well-being in our community and give people clear information about where they can go for help.

The first Manaaki Night in 2021 was a great success. In 2023 we have 18 stands and 5 fabulous speakers confirmed. There will be a sausage sizzle and entertainment on the night.

Please see our website <https://www.manaakinight.nz/> for more information. (Soon this will be updated with the speakers and Booths for 2023.)

Please contact Debby on (021 263 8659) if you are interested in having a booth or need more

information or email us on tawamanaakinight@gmail.com.

Everyone is welcome – entry is free.



Opinions are divided about the entrance to Tawa from the south.



Come and celebrate Neighbours Aotearoa Month with Ara Tawa Whānau Cycle Ride on Sunday 19th March. Join a fun, slow social bike ride along Ara Tawa from Tawa Skate Park to Willowbank Reserve Playground for a morning tea picnic and field games. BYO picnic, cups and a blanket. There will be some treats provided. There will be prizes, an opportunity to get to know your neighbours and get some bike assistance.

Meet at the grass patch behind Tawa Skate Park from 10am for a 10:30am start. Remember – safety on the shared path is paramount, so wear your helmet and always ring your bell when cautiously passing pedestrians.

RSVP and keep up to date through the Facebook event (including opportunities for discounted bike hire) here: https://www.facebook.com/events/6051826928193998/?active_tab=about or email miriammoorenz@gmail.com if you'd like to help volunteer on the day or want to RSVP.





Valentine's Day yarnbombing spotted in Tawa.



The amazing sunflower display is back, spotted in Tawa.

Did you know you can donate your curtains to Wellington Curtain Bank? If you are thinking of changing your curtains, don't throw them away! You can drop them off at the Porirua library. Read all about this, and other initiatives from Sustainability Trust, here: <https://sustaintrust.org.nz/donate-curtain-bank>





5 minutes with Miriam Moore from the Tawa Community Board

Can you tell us something about your life growing up?

I was born in Pōneke and grew up in Hataitai and Brooklyn. As soon as I turned 18, I went off to Tāmaki Makaurau for University, where I studied and worked for 10 years, with one year living abroad in Glasgow, Scotland. I returned to Wellington two years ago, to move back in with Mum and Dad as many of us sad millennials do. I've managed to detach myself again with my move to Tawa, but very happy with my decision to return to the best city in the world!

What can you tell us about your current daily life?

I work as an Urban Designer, which I absolutely love. My work spans from small projects like designing libraries, to large ones, such as spatial planning of towns and cities to help them become better places for their growing populations. I also sit on the Tawa Community Board and feel privileged to represent our community – you are always welcome to get in touch me or any of our members with any Tawa-specific questions, issues, and ideas at TawaCommunityBoard@wcc.govt.nz.

My partner Charles and I live together with our dog Marley. She is big, fluffy, and unaware of the reach of her tail, which has seen us lose a few wine glasses off the coffee table.

Outside of work I am a keen e-cyclist and love going everywhere by bike. I am a Wellington Phoenix superfan and you can catch me at all the men's and women's games at the Sky Stadium.

How long have you lived in Tawa?

I'm probably one of the freshest faces in Tawa, we moved in at the beginning of February. I've heard that once you move to Tawa, you never leave, so ask me again in 50 years.

What do you like about Tawa?

Where to start?

Of course, the community feel here is strong, I don't think you get it quite like this in other neighbourhoods in Wellington.

As a new resident who didn't know much about Tawa's town centre, I loved discovering Tawa Books & Post. My partner and I are big board game nerds, and they have such a great range. They even gave us an exclusive playing card for our favourite game.

Lastly, I love the proximity to the train network and Ara Tawa. I can walk, cycle or train to reach everything I need. The only thing I would like is for the network to be a bit more reliable...

What are two or three interesting things about you that local people may not know?

I never learned to ride a bike as a child, which is funny considering it's now 50% of my personality.

I whakapapa to Waikato Tainui. My pākehā ancestry is from Germany and Scotland, and I speak conversational German.

I once was a hand model. Great job with free manicures. Sadly, I've done too many dishes and these wrinkly palms just can't book jobs anymore.

The Tawa Residents' Association monthly meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be on Monday 13th of March. Feel free to come along! We are always open to new people joining the committee, helping out, or sharing ideas.

We meet upstairs at the Tawa Squash Club on the second Monday of the month, 7.30pm.

You can find the agenda on our website here: <https://tawa.org.nz/tra-meetings/>

We look forward to meeting you!

Elizabeth, Jackson, Monique, Miriam, Peter, Richard, Susan, Janryll & Tony