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Kia ora,

the cover picture for this newsletter is from Rob. The photo is of two New Zealand falcons sitting on their neighbours' roof. They stayed up there for ages despite noisy traffic and building work going on.

Find the latest news from our council and local community groups, information on the upcoming Tawa goes to Town and the Vibrant Tawa residents' association.

We also have the regular book, history, and garden corners.

The *5 minutes with ...* this month is with Paul.

Even though there will be no newsletter in June, due to my trip to Europe, please keep sending all your news, events, and pictures to newsletter@tawa.org.nz. We love seeing your stories, especially those that celebrate our local residents.

We hope you will enjoy reading about all the good stuff that is happening in our vibrant community.

Have a good weekend from us all at the Tawa Residents' Association. Our next meeting, the AGM, will be on Monday June 10, at 7:30 pm at Tawa Squash Club. All welcome.

Monique

Big thanks to WCC for continuous financial support with the Residents' Association administration costs!



TAWA GOES TO TOWN

Tawa Goes To Town is back for 2024. The last show that went ahead was in 2018, then COVID came along and large groups singing together was not feasible due to social distancing. Tawa Goes To Town is a musical event that involves all of the schools in Tawa. The last show had 700 performers and an audience of 1635, mostly from our Tawa Community.

Tawa Goes To Town 2024 will take place in the Michael Fowler Centre on September 23 at 7pm. Primary school students in year 5 + will start singing rehearsals at Tawa College on Wednesday 12th June.

The Community / Adult choir rehearsals will start on Sunday 16 June in the Tawa College Music Department. There are no auditions for this choir. The first week we will start taking registrations and issuing music from 3.30pm. Rehearsals will be 4 - 5.30pm on Sunday afternoons until show time rehearsals at Tawa College. Adult choir in the Music Department. All are welcome. There will be a cost of \$20 toward music.



VIBRANT TAWA

Tawa Residents Association

Many of our residents might well wonder what the Tawa Residents Association actually does apart from meeting every couple of months. As I stand down from the role of President/Chair after nearly ten years I look back with gratitude for the contributions so many are making/have made and satisfaction at the following successful activities the Association is or has been instrumental in:

Spring into Tawa – our annual street gala

Tawa News – our monthly community on-line newsletter

Community Garden – located in Oxford Street

Potted Colour- the hanging baskets along the Main Road

20 minute neighbourhood – what do you need for a good life in our community

AED signage – 14 signs showing the location of defibrillators

BBQ at Wall Park, Linden – the refurbishment of a much neglected park and the installation of an electric BBQ

Street art – the installation of murals in central Tawa

The Committee is constantly on the look-out for initiatives and activities that enhance the community of Tawa and for those who can spare a little time to participate in the on-going development of Tawa.

You are welcome to join us on the next meeting, Monday 10th June at the Tawa Squash Club, 7.30pm or email vibranttawa@gmail.com.

Tony Hassed

TAWA RSA

Thank you so much to the Tawa community that supported our Poppy Day collection. Surprisingly we raised more this year than last year. In these adverse times this is very humbling. These funds go directly to Tawa RSA trust fund for supporting veterans. If you know of any serving or ex-serving personnel please advise them they can reach out to us for support by coming to the clubrooms at 89 Oxford Street or emailing us tawa.rsa@xtra.co.nz.

The turn-out for the ANZAC Day parade was also very pleasing. Don't let ANZAC Day be the only day you come to our clubrooms. We are a family friendly organisation that welcomes new members.

We are planning more community events so follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with upcoming events. https://www.facebook.com/RSA_Tawa.

The next of these will be a quiz afternoon on Sunday 9th June. \$10 per person, teams of up to 6 people. Register your team now by emailing us at tawa.rsa@xtra.co.nz. Start time 2.30pm, bar open from 2pm.

We will have a mid-winter Christmas meal on Sunday 23rd June. \$25 per person, children 5-12 half price. With live music, it will be a great event. To book tickets please email us at tawa.rsa@xtra.govt.nz with your name and the number of your party, and we will send you payment details. Would be great to see you there.





FROM THE COUNCIL

Kia ora Tawa. There is much to cover this month as council makes critical decisions on the long-term plan. The news from the council is a case of the Good, the Bad and the Ugly:

The positive news for the long-term plan is that council officers are no longer suggesting the roll out of paid parking in the 2024/25 year. Instead, they propose a report on how suburban parking meters could be implemented in future. Whilst this result is a big improvement, it's disappointing to still see the proposal in the LTP given 77% of the 3,722 submissions received were in opposition.

A particular thank you to the residents of Tawa along with Newlands and Johnsonville. Your overwhelming voice in the consultation has given these charges the punt - for now.

The bad or good news (depending on your perspective) is the Council has decided to upgrade the roundabout beside the Tawa Library adding two pedestrian crossings. This was done with the support of the Community Board but over objections of the Tawa Business Group and the Tawa Fire Service with the latter having raised questions about the safety of these crossings. Cr Randle opposed this decision while Cr McNulty voted in favour of this change.

Turning to "the Ugly", as you read this, the Councillors are now "considering public feedback" on the proposed Long Term Plan. This will all be decided at the council meeting on Thursday 30 May which should be a doozy covering:

- How much we should give to Wellington Water to fix the pipes
- Whether we should sell the Airport Shares
- Whether we should upgrade our waste collection to include recycling green waste and food scraps
- How much the rates will need to increase to pay for the above and a lot

Between now and Thursday there will be some serious lobbying between councillors to ensure the most important items are included (for Northern Ward councillors this includes funding for the Grenada North Sports upgrade and toilets for Linden).

As always feel free to get in touch if you have a local issue you wish to discuss.

Tony & Ben

Tony.randle@wcc.govt.nz

Ben.mcNulty@wcc.govt.nz



TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD

It has been another busy month for the Tawa Community Board. Top of our priority this month was submitting to Council on the Long Term Plan on key issues impacting our community, such as paid suburban parking and advancing plans and funding for Grenada North Park. Thank you to all who have made your thoughts known to us.

We are currently planning a community pot-luck dinner to beat the winter blues and have scheduled in the evening of Sunday August 18th. Save the date and we'll follow up with some more information in the coming newsletters.

The detailed designs of Willowbank Reserve play area are now out for consultation. Please have a look at the plans and provide your feedback to Council here: <https://www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/willowbank-reserve-play>. You are also welcome to provide us with any feedback directly.

A reminder we meet the third Monday of every month at Tawa Community Centre at 7pm. Reach out any time at tawacommunityboard@wcc.govt.nz. We are on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/tawacommunityboard> and you can now even follow us on Instagram @tawacommunityboard

Find the upcoming meetings of the board here: <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/committees/tawa-community-board>

Contact the board here: tawacommunityboard@wcc.govt.nz

Please report any Spicer Landfill odour complaints on the Porirua Government website, here: https://porirua.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling/spicer-landfill/spicer-landfill-odour/landfill-odour-complaint-form/?fbclid=IwAR3ferg_NetcTd31beBJd8Er73Uo4qPrb_B-BGIt-O83-QAcjL0Hdy-lmo

If you see a water leak, please check here to find out if it has been reported yet: <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/resources/maps/job-status-map/> If it is not visible on the map, you can report the leak here: <https://services.wellington.govt.nz/report/>

WILLOWBANK RESERVE

The Willowbank Reserve play area is due for a refresh and we would like the local communities feedback on the final design!

This engagement follows a previous survey about the Willowbank Reserve play area refresh, from October 2023. We asked the Tawa community to give us an idea of what they'd like to see in the renewed play area, as well as their likes and dislikes about the current site.

At the same time, Council had also conducted a review of the city's Dog Policy. As part of that consultation, the public was asked to consider the removal of a portion of the Willowbank Reserve dog exercise area, and the relocation of the Willowbank Reserve play area. While the majority of people who submitted on the Dog Policy Review consultation were in favour of the shift, feedback from the Willowbank Reserve play area pre-engagement survey preferred the existing site due to its unique features.

The proposed design featured here is the result of both of these public engagements.

After submissions close, the Play team will consider your feedback and use it to finalise the design for the renewed Willowbank Reserve playspace.

The key features of the proposed concept, based on community feedback, include:

- A theme referencing the tuna (eels) that live in the local stream
- A flying fox
- Junior module with slide
- A Tower with climbing opportunities and two slides
- ["Dancing snake" rope swing\(External link\)](#)
- Nature play area on the embankment
- Swing set, including an inclusive swing seat & basket swing
- New safety surfacing, that incorporates the tuna theme around accessible equipment
- Amenity planting
- New or refurbished furniture
- A connecting track linking the existing Ara Tawa shared path (asphalt path) to the bridge

Here is a link to the consultation page: [Willowbank Reserve Play Area Renewal | Let's Talk | Wellington City Council](#)

To give your feedback on the Willowbank Reserve play area draft design, please let us know your thoughts in the survey.

Or, you can send an email to playgrounds@wcc.govt.nz.

Submissions close at 5pm on Sunday 9 June.

SPRIG + FERN TAWA

Since April Rachel and John have taken over Sprig + Fern Tawa. They have made some exciting changes to the site already.

Sprig + Fern Tawa has also just released their Gold Card menu. Dine with them between 11.30am to 5.30pm, show your gold card and you can enjoy the deals this community pub has to offer.

Smaller portions, lower prices, hearty meals – every day of the week.

Call 04 232 1111 or email tawaadmin@sprigandferntaverns.co.nz to make a booking.



HISTORY CORNER

History Corner – Tawa Flat CDB about 100 years ago

Last month's historical image showed Tawa's central business district in the early part of the 21st century.

This month we are going back about 100 years to when the CBD was located around the Oxford Street and Main Road intersection. This print is one from the Tawa Historical Society's collection and came to us from a former resident.

Richardson's General Store and Post Office was the centre of Tawa Flat's universe at the time. It was close to the school in Oxford Street and there were a few houses nearby. It was also reasonably close to the then railway station located on what is now the southern end of Duncan Street. The major residential developments elsewhere in the area were still a few years away, with Tawa Flat's population being scattered on properties along the valley.

The Main Road at this time was part of the main highway between Wellington and Auckland, so the petrol bowser would have served not just locals.

The Tawa Historical Society is keen to obtain and preserve images as apparently mundane as this to maintain a record of life in the area. If you have any images from the earlier part of the 20th century please get in touch with us so that we can preserve that record for future generations.

David Parsons
Chairman, Tawa Historical Society



KETE UPDATE

In preparation for our KETE Takapū Community planting season this year, a group of our Student Leaders had a session with Steve at Te Rito Gardens in Porirua, learning about climate change and the importance of planting trees for carbon sequestration. They spent some time talking about how by taking action for te taiao, through tree planting, they have a role in making a difference to

process!

For those of you who don't know, Te Rito Gardens' mission is, "Manaaki Tangata, Manaaki Whenua, Haere Whakamua." It is a Trust that facilitates a training and work environment that empowers people with skills, knowledge and confidence to go forward.

They are a social enterprise that also grows and sells NZ native plants - their range of plants for sale can be found here on their website: <https://www.terito.org/our-plants-directory>



Planting at our Takapū Community Planting Site

There is a total of 14 planting sessions planned. So far 220 students have attended (5 sessions) with another 500 or so students scheduled to attend over the next month. By the end of the Takapū plantings for schools we should hit around 700 students this year. Community plantings are planned later in the season.

As always when the schools come up to the site, we impress on the students the connection with Ngāti Toa's aspirations for the restoration of Te Awarua o Porirua, the place of the Takapū stream as the puna within the catchment, and the difference that their mahi is making to the future of the area. "We are growing a forest!"

MARY POTTER

Message from Mary Potter Hospice Tawa

We would love your good quality homewares especially linen and warm sheets, duvets and rugs.

If you have good quality donations of any salable items we would love you to donate them to us.

Many thanks

Sara and Jannene



BOOK CORNER

Winter has come! A perfect time to curl up with a good book, reflect and be

Our good book is 'Saltblood' by Francesca De Tores. Karen has read and highly recommends, "A truly captivating historical novel based on the true life of Mary Read... Full of adventure and heartache, beautiful and sensitive."

For reflection and inspiration, a wonderful, guided journal can offer great assistance, our picks...

Piki te Ora; Your Wellbeing Journal, by Hira Nathan & Jessie Eyre is brightly illustrated by Huriana Kopeke-Te Aho. For 8 years and up, with a wonderful array of activities that inspire you to learn more about yourself and the world. Waitohu by Hinemoa Elder, released on 4 June, is a truly beautiful companion to her two previous books Aroha and Wawata.

"Kia ora! Welcome to Waitohu - a journal where the Māori lunar calendar invites us to write about our lives in a new way. This writing journey is fueled by the whakataukī (proverb) 'ka mua, ka muri', 'walking backwards into the future.'" taken from penguin.co.nz.

Finally, a wonderful new arrival, Colossal Words for Kids by Colette Hiller and Tor Freeman, 75 definitions written in an entertaining way allowing for many moments of epiphany.

Happy reading and writing

Rowena

<https://www.tawabooksandpost.co.nz/collections/book-corner>



CAROLYN'S GARDEN CORNER

So many bulbs eg daffodils, iris, freesias, hyacinths, anemones and muscari have been planted in the last few weeks so now we can turn our attention to the queen of the bulb garden, the tulip.

Due to the retirement of the owners at Van Eden tulips in 2023 we have seen a dramatic reduction in the variety of tulip bulbs available to the home grower this season. Consequently there has also been a large price increase with some suppliers.

We have lost many favourites but some lovely new types have appeared too. I understand that a couple of the current bulb suppliers are planning on growing more in their own fields to help fill the gap so hopefully next year we will once again enjoy a greater variety.

We never know from year to year which kinds will be available so it is a real shame that very few tulips keep from year to year in our climate.

Darwin hybrids are more likely to come back for a second year but with smaller flowers. By the third year they have usually gone.

2024 seems to be the year for travel. I have several friends heading off overseas this year and a couple of them were fortunate enough to make it in time to see tulips growing in the Netherlands. Keukenhof gardens must surely be the epitome of bulb garden design and I have been lucky enough to enjoy the beauty albeit via friends' photos.

Those who have come to our spring garden open days will have seen how much I enjoy playing with colour. I do try and colour theme my garden year round but the clear bold colours of tulips give such a great impact when planted into pots alongside favourite companions.

If you have a pot larger than 30cm you can plant in 2 layers. Fill the base of the pot with a few cms of mix, add late flowering tulips, cover with 8-10 cms of mix, place another layer of bulbs, this time earlier flowering ones, and then cover with mix to the top. Usually I overplant them with the lovely blooms of forget me nots, primulas, violas, pansies and wallflowers. These annuals will provide colour in the lead up to the bulbs flowering and also may provide a bit of froth at the base of the stately tulip blooms.

By planting early, mid and late flowering varieties of bulbs you can have tulips in bloom over about six weeks from mid-September to late October.

We are thinking of trialling an earlier opening this year in Spring so I have added to our collection of daffodils. I am looking forward to their cheery yellow and white blooms in late August and September.

Also new this year will be a river of blue in our blue and white garden at the side of the house.

In our new raised beds, which held dahlias during summer, I have planted muscari and single and double blue anemones.

I have been trying to do this for a couple of years. Unfortunately, the previous wet seasons meant the anemone corms rotted in the ground before germinating. This year I decided to try and fool nature by planting the corms in seed trays back in March and keeping them under cover until they sprouted. Once they were a few centimetres tall I transplanted them into the ground. Hopefully the new free draining beds and setting growing plants will help circumvent their demise over winter.

There is much to look forward to but only if you get out there and make it happen.

Wrap up warm, don the gloves and gumboots and head on outside. A dreamy spring garden is but a few bulbs and weeks away.

Happy gardening,

Carolyn

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067872369384>



Bold, bright blooms of tulips. Plant now for a spectacular display in September/October.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Have a look at all the Wellington City Council projects and proposals that you can give feedback on. Find them all here: <https://www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz>

www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz

One of them is on our Willowbank Park: <https://www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/willowbank-reserve-play>



TAWA BID

businesses and organisations throughout Tawa. If you're looking for a change or a new challenge, check it out: <https://www.tawabusiness.co.nz/jobs>

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram for all the latest updates on new businesses in Tawa, special events and useful Tawa-based information. You can find the Tawa Business Group on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/tawabusiness>, and on Instagram here: <https://www.instagram.com/tawabid/>.

LINDEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

We are pleased to welcome Ha Nguyen back to the Linden Community Centre for six months. Ha will shift from the Island Bay Community Centre to Linden in early June until the end of November, and will be the coordinator on site Monday-Friday during this time.



TAWA LIBRARY

Did you know that all the Wellington library branches have Te Reo names that were gifted to us? You can find them all [here](#)

Mervyn Kemp (Tawa) is Te Takapū o Patukawenga.

Te Takapū o Patukawenga was a cultivation located in the valley of the Porirua Stream (originally Kenepuru) in the vicinity of the present Takapū Road.

The patch of land here was claimed by the chief Te Patukawenga, of Ngāti Mutunga, who moved into the Waikanae area, from Taranaki, alongside Te Ati Awa and Ngāti Tama in the heke Niho Puta, before proceeding towards Pipitea. At this place above the Porirua valley, Te Patukawenga exclaimed 'Ko taku takapū tēnei' — this is my belly -i.e. place of food supply.

References

- [Adkin, G. L. \(1959\) The Great Harbour of Tara.](#) (pp. 84, 103).
- Dom. 4/6/1929- H M Christie.



TAWA INNER WHEEL

Saturday 26 May was our Annual Mighty Quiz at the Borough. Proceeds to the Tawa Salvation Army Food Bank. Watch this space next month for photos. We thank businesses in Tawa for their very generous support of Tawa Inner Wheel.

The Inner Wheel Club of Tawa meets the third Wednesday each month. Would you like to know more about the wonderful International Women's Organisation? Inner Wheel was founded 100 years ago in Manchester, England on 10 January 1924. There are clubs throughout the world.

New Zealand Inner Wheel are selling a beautiful rose called Friendship to celebrate 100 years of International Inner Wheel. The rose will be available in June. \$50.00.

Orders and payment details to tawaiwtreasurer@gmail.com
Or phone 021 369 115



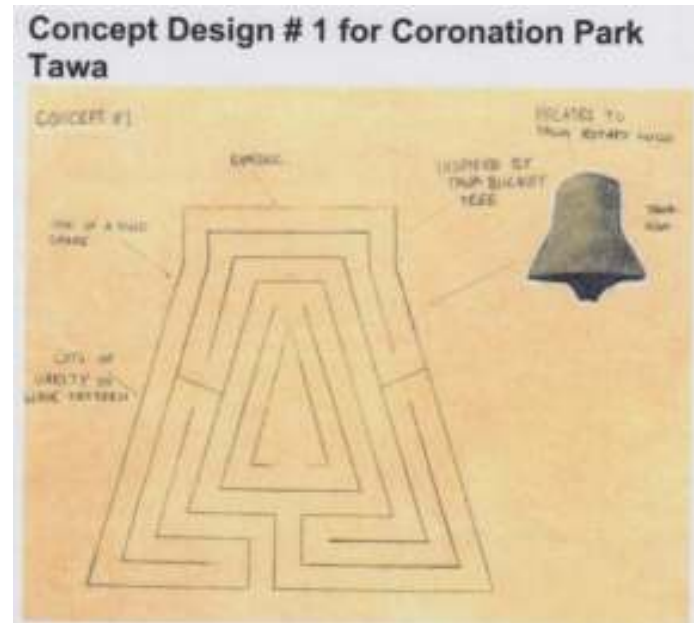
TAWA ROTARY

Exciting news! Tawa Rotary is to provide a Peace Labyrinth for our suburb. Work will commence in the next couple of months. Location is to be Coronation

Tawa Community provided by Tawa Rotary as a commemoration of our 50th anniversary in 2020.

Tawa Rotary is looking for new (or old) members to boost our ranks. We have some interesting and engaging projects coming up as well as the opportunity for social activities with a great bunch of people. For more information email tawarotaryclub@gmail.com

Upcoming events: June 9 tree planting working bee, Woodburn Reserve, Takapu Road 1pm. All welcome to participate. Please BYO spade.



Almost at tradition status

Each year Tawa Rotary, with the support of the Tawa community, backs Foster Hope's annual winter pyjama drive. This year the collection bin outside New World Tawa was overflowing with donated winter pyjamas before its existence had even been publicised, suggesting the drive is fast becoming an early winter tradition for Tawa.

Elizabeth Sutton, the Winter PJ Drive co-ordinator for Tawa Rotary, pictured left with Lyn Calman (Ray White) and Ashley Jackson (New World Tawa), would like to thank those who were so prompt to donate. The club is looking forward to further donations of winter pyjamas for 0-16 year olds in foster care over the coming winter months.





Looks like Countdown is having a name change.

Free drop in session

Have questions about wills and how to make one? Have questions about enduring powers of attorney? Walk in to see us, Gibsonsheat Lawyers, and ask a question at Johnsonville Community Centre 3 Frankmore Avenue, between 12.30 and 4.30 on Fridays 7, 14 and 21 June.



Very cute milk bucket letter box!

5 MINUTES WITH...



5 minutes with Paul Langham

Can you tell us something about your life growing up?

I was born in the UK, more precisely in St Margarets, Twickenham (within walking distance to the rugby ground). I was fortunate to be raised very near the Thames, within walking distance along the towpath to Kew Gardens, Richmond Park and numerous other parks so it's no wonder that I was interested in nature and sport. I still have the programme for the Barbarians v All Blacks at Twickenham in 1974.

I was educated at Hampton Grammar School where I displayed an aptitude for maths and sciences, as well athletics and playing rugby. During that time, I also achieved gold in the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme. My other passion was music, particularly jazz, and with a few friends started a jazz appreciation society at school.

Can you tell us something about your life after finishing school?

After school I embarked on a career in computers which was very new at that time (mid 1960's). It was a very interesting time, very different from today's technology. I continued working on computers/IT all my working life.

I met Jane at work and we married in 1973. We moved to Southampton for work. Before long, our family began to expand and then we were six. I was invited by an associated company to apply for a job in Wellington.

We packed our bags and headed south arriving in Wellington Easter 1987. There was some apprehension from a couple of the children, but that was soon dispelled when we arrived. We set about looking for place to live and Tawa seemed to have a good vibe, so we bought a house there and have lived here ever since.

The children all grew up and moved away to various parts of the globe, but they've now all come back and settled into Tawa and contribute to the community significantly, and now there's another generation making its mark.

I joined 'Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves' and one of the early tasks I undertook was using my GIS skills in the proposal to put to the council to purchase the land which is "The Forest of Tawa/Te Ngahere-o-Tawa. I also collaborated with Gil Roper on the maps in his book, "The Parks and Reserves."

Whereas the reserves were covered in terms of pest control the majority of Tawa comprises private properties. In 2017 a small group of people came together to address this issue, and so 'Pest Free Tawa' was formed. The majority of the people were experts in conservation (DOC, Zealandia, MPE, etc.), and, being retired, I had time (and a fondness for making things). To date we've supplied traps to 825 households and eliminated over 2200 rats, over

When we first moved to Tawa it was a separate borough with its own identity. Over the years it's lost its independence and has been merged into Wellington City. I very much hope it can retain this identity and not become just another suburb.

I reserve judgement on what my favourite NZ destination is because, despite going somewhere different most years, we haven't been everywhere yet and places are very different.

In addition to environmental and conservation work I've also volunteered at the Linden Kai Kitchen from its formation. I also play the saxophone.

NEXT TRA MEETING

The Tawa Residents' Association's monthly meetings are open to the public. 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 every other month, at 7.30 p.m. The next meeting is June 10.

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

We look forward to meeting you!

Elizabeth, Jackson, Judith, Monique, Miriam, Peter, Richard, Susan, and Tony



Monique
The Tawa Residents' Association

This email was sent to chris@owdjim.gen.nz

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