
REPORT 9
(1215/12/IM)

REPORTS BACK FROM COMMITTEES/PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Purpose of Report

To provide the Community Board members with a reporting back facility regarding their portfolio responsibilities and other activities they have been involved with as a member of the Tawa Community Board. A copy of activities covered by the Chair of the Board is attached as appendix 1.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

- 1. Receive the information.*

CHAIR'S REPORT covering May 2013

COMMUNITY BOARDS' CONFERENCE

This took place in Wanaka from Thursday evening till Saturday evening 9-11 May, with Robert and me attending. About 200 delegates were present. A full report will be given in another month or two.

For the Tawa Community Board the memorable aspect of the conference our winning the "Enhancing Communities" award. The awards ceremony took place at a dinner on the Friday evening. Our board had submitted entries in two of the three different categories available. There were six entries in the "Enhancing Communities" category, all high quality and all highlighting worthwhile projects undertaken by respective community boards.

Tawa's entry was on "Neighbours' Weekend in Tawa 2012". The entry was submitted before Neighbours' Weekend in 2013 had taken place. It was a huge honour for the Tawa community to win this award.

55-60 congratulatory emails (and one letter) have come through, mostly from regular Tawa people, as well as from Mayor Celia Wade-Brown and MPs Peter Dunne and Katrina Shanks.

TAWA COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Tawa Community Centre has been in operation since May 2007. The centre is about to appoint its fifth coordinator who will now be called an "advocate".

The community centre has been run by WCC's City Communities up until the last month or two, with very little input from the local community.

Changes made under a recent restructure will see the future running of the community centre come under the Libraries section of the WCC. Greater community input has already taken place with the chair of the Tawa Community Board invited to be part of the interviewing panel for the new advocate.

Rose Barker from Libraries has also suggested that I meet with her once a month to discuss community centre matters. The first meeting took place last week with Robert and me discussing a number of community issues with both Rose Barker and Jane Hill.

COMMUNITY ENEWSLETTER

Two editions were published in May. In addition to those, an "extra" went out announcing the "National Award for Tawa!!!" Community board issues covered were:

- Appreciation to those who had expressed their views on the Regional Reform issue
- Remuneration to Councillors and Community Boards
- Tawa Railway Station

APPENDIX 1

- Supporting local businesses
- Synthetic cannabis in the community
- Remuneration to Councillors and Community Boards
- First year of ultrafast broadband rollout in Tawa

MATTERS ON THE GO

SYNTHETIC CANNABIS IN THE COMMUNITY

Concern has been expressed about some of the six dairies in Tawa selling synthetic cannabis products. Whilst they are still legal they can apparently cause a great deal of harm. They are of great concern to Tawa College.

I met with Community Constable Sarah Riddering and Tawa College principal Murray Lucas one Wednesday morning to discuss this specific issue. The three of us subsequently called on each of the six dairies to ask if they sold these products and to express our concerns about the damage they caused in the community. Two dairy owners pointed out that they did not sell these products. Three others advised out that they were opting out of doing so.

Two weeks after our visit, one dairy is apparently still selling these products. Some community members have indicated that they may take the matter further, such is their concern.

ENGINE BRAKING ISSUES

Concern has been expressed about the noise from engine braking on the motorway. I have forwarded to Graeme any emails I've received. Comments from the community have been invited both in the community eNewsletter and in the Kapi-Mana News.

One or two journalists have been following the issue through but, at this stage, only three or four locals have communicated any concern to us. Greater pressure from the community would be needed before NZTA would give this issue any consideration.

MEETING WITH LOCAL BUSINESS PEOPLE

I am inviting a small number of local businesspeople/retailers to a meeting next week to discuss the "future direction of business in Tawa". This is being initiated by the community board following recent comments about the desire to see local people supporting local businesses and to ascertain what strategies can be put together to boost Tawa as a shopping destination.

Tawa Rotary will also be involved as they are keen on getting alongside the business community and assisting in some practical way.

APPENDIX 1

MEETING WITH LOCALS

Ngaire and I met (for the third time?) with a local family who have had an ongoing problem with unwanted water flowing through their front yard, the source of which is still undetermined. Various council officers have been dealing with the matter for more than two years. The issue is still unresolved. It may or may not be a “Council problem”.

I also met with a local woman who has expressed an interest in standing for the Tawa Community Board in the October election. She wished to know what was involved in serving on the board and went away with, I think it fair to say, most of her questions answered. Whether that means she will decide to stand remains to be seen.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS IN MAY

- 08.05.13 Met with community constable and Tawa College principal at the College. Subsequently called on all six dairies in Tawa.
- 09-12.05.13 Community Boards conference at Wanaka. Robert there too.
- 13.05.13 At monthly meeting of the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association.
- 15.05.13 Opening of '15' Sports Bar and Café in evening. Robert there too.
- 16.05.13 Attended farewell for outgoing Tawa Intermediate principal.
- 16.05.13 Tawa Community Board monthly meeting.
- 17.05.13 Attended farewell for Ross Bly, WCC Electoral Officer. Robert, Ngaire and Justin there too.
- 23.05.13 Spent afternoon as part of interview panel for new Community Centre Advocate.
- 24.05.13 Robert and I met with Jane Hill & Rose Barker to discuss community input into Tawa Community Centre.
- 30.05.13 Meeting with Nick Leggett, Mayor of Porirua.
- 30.05.13 Third round table meeting at community centre to discuss emergency planning in Tawa. Organised by Ngaire and Kerry McSaveney from WREMO. Graeme there too.

Malcolm Sparrow
Chair, Tawa Community Board
7 June 2013