
REPORT 10
(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 over the 2010/2013 triennium is attached as appendix 1.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

- 1. Receive the information.*

Final report from the chair:

I would like to think that most people in Tawa have heard of the Tawa Community Board. Obviously some will have a better understanding than others of what the board does.

When the existence of the Tawa Community Board was reviewed by the Wellington City Council in 2006, one view that came through strongly from local people was that the board didn't liaise particularly well with the community. Many locals valued having a community board to represent Tawa's interests (to the degree that strong local support for the board was the major factor in councillors changing their minds on that issue and voting to retain the board), but there was a strong feeling that the board should make more of an effort to communicate better with the community. I think that has happened in the ensuing years.

In the past three years the community board has "kept in touch" with the local community as follows (and some of this was a continuation from the previous triennium):

- We compile a printed newsletter twice a year and this is delivered to all 4800 households in Tawa.
- Community board information is included in the newsletter which is emailed twice most months to 1200 local residents as well as to more than 50 who live out-of-town. 50-60 copies of the newsletter are printed each time and made available at the central supermarket and at the library. Because this newsletter happens to be compiled by the current chair of the community board (officially under the umbrella of the local ratepayers' association), it isn't clear to some people that it's not an official TCB publication. On the whole that's not necessarily a bad thing in that it keeps the name of the community board in front of its many recipients.
- The board has a table and display stand at one or two school galas each year, as well as at the annual "Spring into Tawa" Market Day. This is a good opportunity for local people to see photos depicting projects and events the board has been involved in, and for board members to liaise with people in the community.
- We organise a community meeting at least once a year, usually around a particular theme. In 2012 we held a meeting to discuss the future of the Tawa Railway Station. This was attended by around 80 people. In the same year we co-organised an Earthquake Resilience meeting attended by the same sort of number. Earlier in 2013 we called a meeting to

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discuss the “amalgamation” issue, with more than 120 at that.

- In 2011 we compiled a pamphlet “Introducing the Tawa Community Board ... Working for the Tawa community since 1989”. This provides information about the community board, who we are, what we do, etc. It is available at the library and the community centre and at various functions in which we are involved.
- A certain amount of information about the Tawa Community Board is available on the tawalink.com website. There is a link to that from the Tawa Community Board page on the Wellington City Council website.

Tawa Community Board achievements this triennium:

- We have continued with the biennial Tawa Community Civic Awards. The awards in mid-2012 were the fourth occasion on which these have been run. Nominations were received for 52 different people or groups, plus another 11 for the newly-introduced Tawa Rotary Young Employee award. The Mayor of Wellington, Celia Wade-Brown, presented each nominee at the Awards Ceremony with a certificate “in acknowledgement of your contribution to the community of Tawa”. This is a great community occasion and it is always inspiring reading through the nominations which come in, summarising the efforts that many people put into making this a great community in which to live.
- In 2011 we ran the Tawa Primary Schools’ Citizenship Awards for the first time. These are a yearly event and are being run again in November 2013. They recognise “true leadership, citizenship, contribution to school life, etc.

Early each year the TCB chair speaks about the awards to years 5 & 6 children at all six of Tawa’s primary schools, as well as to all 500 kids at the Intermediate school – encouraging them all to be good citizens and to strive to be the winning student from their school (both a boy and a girl qualify at Tawa Intermediate). At the ceremony itself, held at the community centre at the end of November in the past two years, the Mayor has presented the awards to children from all seven schools. Family members, school representatives and community board members also attend.

A week or two later I have presented a framed photo to the winning student at each of those schools, at full assemblies in most cases.

- Neighbours’ Weekend in Tawa has perhaps been our biggest success story, at least from my point-of-view. The initial organising committee in late 2011 comprised Cr Ngaire Best and me from the community board, a Police representative, a Neighbourhood Support representative

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and a Tawa Lions' Club representative. At the start of 2012 we ran a community meeting with around 55 attendees, encouraging people to organise barbecues or similar in their own streets later the following month. 51 street gatherings (barbecues, pot luck meals, etc) subsequently took place in conjunction with Neighbours' Day Aotearoa, more than the rest of Wellington put together. In total, between 1100-1200 Tawa people took part, many meeting others in their own street for the first time.

In March 2013 the number of barbecues or similar, organised as part of Neighbours' Weekend in Tawa, was just under 50.

At the end of February 2013 I submitted two entries for the Community Boards' Best Practice Awards, the winners of which would be announced at the Community Boards' Conference to be held in Wanaka in May. One entry was for the Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards in the "Engaging Communities" category. The other was for Neighbours' Weekend in Tawa in the "Enhancing Communities" category. There was one other category in which we did not submit an entry.

The competition was strong, but I was incredibly pleased for the Tawa Community Board to be declared the winner with its Neighbours' Weekend in Tawa entry. It was an honour for the board and a credit to all the organisers who ran events in their own streets, playing their part in fostering community spirit in their own neighbourhoods.



The certificate and trophy have been attached to the wall in the boardroom at the Tawa Community Centre.

- In 2011 Margaret Lucas led the community board in actively campaigning for a "Turf in Tawa" which, with more than 2200 individuals backing the board's petition, resulted in the Wellington City Council agreeing to the possibility of an artificial turf in Tawa/Grenada North in the 2014/15 year.
- The Tawa Community Grants subcommittee has the privilege of approving grants to local community groups from a pool of \$15,000 each year. The largest grant in 2011 was \$2453 to the Tawa Swimming Club. In 2012 \$3000 went towards the cost of running the Tawa Schools' &

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Community Music Festival. The Tawa Community Patrol was the recipient of \$2500 in 2013. All great community causes!

The board has also financed a defibrillator in Tawa.

- The community board had a good working relationship with Foodstuffs prior to Woolworths closing and whilst New World Tawa was being constructed. We gave our full support to the temporary supermarket (and to the shuttle bus service) which tided people over for almost a year before the new supermarket opened. I was subsequently asked to give a short speech at the official opening of New World Tawa in November 2012.
- Following our community meeting in April 2012 on the future of Tawa Railway Station, Cr Ngaire Best and I, along with two Tawa Historical Society representatives, had a series of meetings with the Greater Wellington Regional Council to agree on a design for the replacement railway station building. The panels on the new building which depict a number of Tawa scenes, both current and historical, were a direct result of our input. We were very pleased with the “end product”. I was honoured to make a short speech at the opening of the new station in May this year.
- When it came to the “amalgamation” issue, the community board hosted members of the Regional Review panel at our own session in Tawa. On another occasion several board members sat with WCC councillors at their table to hear members of the Regional Review panel. And as stated earlier, we held a public meeting in Tawa to present the options to the community and to gain community feedback.

Whatever happens down the track regarding “amalgamation”, I believe the community board will do its best to ensure the interests of the Tawa community are well served.

- Led by Chris Reading and Cr Justin Lester, the Tawa Community Board can take credit for the installation of 50 hanging baskets which were put in place outside Main Road shops in the central shopping area in early December 2012, resulting in a significant amount of positive feedback.
- We have fully supported construction of the Tawa Shared Pathway – Ara Tawa. We assisted with the naming competition and played a part in the official opening ceremony.

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- We have forwarded a number of written submissions to the appropriate authorities each year. More often than not, Robert Tredger has taken the lead with these. Some of the topics on which we have submitted are:
 - Greater Wellington Regional Council 2012-2022 Draft Long Term Plan
 - Wellington City Council 2012-2022 Draft Long Term Plan
 - Local Government Reform in Wellington
 - Wellington City Council Representation Arrangements for the 2013 Local Authority Elections

I have sat alongside councillors at the Wellington City Council table from time to time when matters in which Tawa has a major interest have been discussed.

- Deputy chair Graeme Hansen has met regularly with roading officers at various sites in Tawa to discuss parking or traffic issues. I have been part of those discussions at times.
- We met with council officers to inspect progress with the refurbishment of Tawa Pool. Board members attended the official re-opening ceremony in November 2012 at which the deputy chair gave a speech.
- We assisted with the Tawa walkway naming competition and played a part in the official opening of “Tawa Shared Pathway – Ara Tawa”.
- We had the opportunity to recommend a name for the new street leading up to Takapu Island. Because of its historical significance to the area, our suggestion was accepted by the council. The new street has been named William Earp Place.
- Under the umbrella of both the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers’ Association and (unofficially) the Tawa Community Board, Ngaire Best and I have organised “Spring into Tawa” Market Day each September in recent years, a much-valued annual community event.
- In recent months we have been working alongside local retailers/business people with a view to coming up with ideas to boost Tawa as a shopping destination. The intention has been to play our part in resurrecting the Tawa Business Association and to see it taking the lead in working towards revitalisation of the central shopping area, with the community board working alongside and assisting where we’re able.

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- In recent months we have been working alongside WREMO (Wellington Region Emergency Management) and local stakeholders to draw up an action plan as to how Tawa would best respond in the event of a major disaster. The community board would be expected to play a major leadership role in Tawa in such an event. Once the action plan has been finalised, it will be delivered by WREMO to every local household in the form of a brochure.
- The chair has had the privilege of presenting the Tawa Borough Scholarship prize at the Tawa College academic prizegiving in early November each year. The winner of that award has subsequently given a short speech at the Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards later that month.
- I have met with the Mayor of Wellington twice each year to discuss Tawa-related matters. I have also met with the WCC Chief Executive, with the Area Commander for the Kapiti-Mana Police, local bank manager, local supermarket management, various journalists, Council officers, library management, community centre staff, members of the community, etc. I have been a guest at Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade functions and at the end-of-year Police Pay Parade in Porirua.
- In my role as chair I was honoured to be a guest at the World Premiere of *The Hobbit* late last year in central Wellington.
- I was privileged to attend the Community Boards' Conference in Rotorua in May 2011 along with Graeme, and the conference in Wanaka in May this year with Robert. We listened to many excellent presenters and benefitted from discussions with fellow board members from all around New Zealand. These conferences are well worth the investment of time and money.

In conclusion:

It's been a good three years and I will miss serving in the role as chair of the Tawa Community Board.

As for the future, I believe the community board needs to maintain its close rapport with the local community. We are currently doing that reasonably well. And I certainly hope the awards ceremonies and community events organised by the board continue well into the future.

What we aren't doing so well is ensuring the workload is spread evenly across the board. That may have been a failing on my part in not encouraging greater

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participation from those with less experience than others. The importance of identifying the strengths of various board members and using them accordingly was stressed at the most recent Community Board Conference I attended. Definitely an area in which there is room for improvement.

One uncompleted project is listing the names of previous board members, right back to 1989, in some format in the boardroom at the community centre. Names of borough councillors dating back to the early days should also be there. In my opinion there should be a record on the walls of all those who have served the Tawa community in this way.

The Tawa Community Board is an integral part of this great community. I have been honoured to serve as its chair. All the best to those who serve on the board in the next three years, and particularly to whomever takes on the reigns as chair.

Malcolm Sparrow
Chair, Tawa Community Board 2010-13
4 September 2013