

TAWA MEMORIAL: Report to the Tawa Community Board 14 August 2014.**Background**

In 2008 the Society proposed that a memorial should be placed somewhere in Tawa to publicly commemorate those 13 men who gave their lives in the service of their country – two in the South African War (1899-1902); five in WW1 (1914-1918); and six in WW2 (1939-1945). In this venture we worked together with the Tawa Community Board (TCB) and the Tawa RSA. An architect was engaged and produced a fine plan, but the estimated cost of the proposed memorial (at the time that the Global Financial Crisis was beginning to bite) was deemed too high, so the project was put on one side. Its agreed site, however, at the northern end of Oxford Street, was not forgotten. It should also be noted that it has always been our view that this project should be for the erection of a Memorial, not a War Memorial.

Recent activity

With the events surrounding the commemoration of WW1, this matter was again raised in late 2013, and, with the support of the TCB and the RSA, application was made for a Tawa Community Grant, and to the Mana Community Grants Foundation (MCGF) for financial assistance for this project. From the Tawa Community Grant we received \$1580, and from MCGF, \$10,000. The TCB has found a further \$4-7000 to assist this project. So at the moment we have a starting fund of between 15,580 and \$18,580.

The plan ahead

The overall cost could be in the vicinity of \$70-80,000. With that in mind, the current proposal is to build the memorial in stages. Enough money is at hand to undertake stage 1, which will involve the finalisation of plans; clearance of the actual site; and preparation of the 'outline' and base of the memorial; and perhaps some paving. It may take three or four stages to complete the project. Once we know of the stages, we may be able to apply for money for each stage, thus allowing the project's construction to flow from one stage to the next.

Approval in principle

We have received, from the WCC Manager of Open Spaces and Parks, draft *Landowner approval in principle* documentation. We understand that means that WCC are happy for the project to proceed, subject to a number of conditions of which they have notified us. Most of the conditions are standard. Two of the conditions we will need to discuss with WCC. They relate firstly to the Council declining to give approval for the removal of one tree; and secondly, to requiring us to raise all the money necessary for building the Memorial before any work can commence. Our architect is preparing material for us regarding these matters, and we will have discussions as soon as possible with the WCC Manager.

Other documentation:

1. Architect's drawings
2. Design statement.

Note

This is not a Tawa Historical Society project. We are simply taking a lead because we are an Incorporated Society, and therefore can make applications for funding. The project should be seen as a community effort, led by the TCB, THS, and Tawa RSA.