
REPORT 15
(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.*

APPENDIX 1

CHAIR'S REPORT - AS AT 3 November 2011

Since our 13 October meeting:

COMMUNITY ENEWSLETTER

This continues to be sent to 1000 Tawa email addresses twice a month. Snippets from the community board are usually included.

PRINTED NEWSLETTER

We've previously agreed (perhaps only unofficially) to publish and distribute a minimum of two community board newsletters each year. One went out in March 2011. The other one this year will need to go out by the end of November and we're starting to work towards this. A local community group has been tentatively teed up to distribute the printed newsletter to some 4600 local households.

Next year's first edition could go out in perhaps March or April, with a heavy emphasis on the Tawa Community Civic Awards which will be only 2-3 months away at that stage.

TAWA PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

In the past week or two I have been in touch with the six primary schools in Tawa and the Intermediate, reminding them that we'll need the name of their "winning student" by mid-November in order for us to get certificates made and the engraving done on the plaques, etc.

Each school will have the option at that stage of notifying the "winning student" themselves and inviting them and their parents to a 30-45 minute awards ceremony on Wednesday 30 November at the Tawa Community Centre. Alternatively I have offered to visit the school to do nothing more than announce the name of the winner – followed a week or two later by the official ceremony at the community centre.

The Mayor will be presenting the awards and giving a short speech at the awards ceremony. Each school principal and/or a school staff member will be invited. Community board members will also be invited.

TAWA COMMUNITY CIVIC AWARDS

We have appointed a group to oversee this – Robert, Ngaire and Malcolm. Margaret wasn't at our last Board meeting but is also happy to be part of the group.

One possibility is to hold the ceremony in "Volunteer Awareness Week" which is the third week in June. That would be Thursday 21 June if we hold it on a Thursday evening.

APPENDIX 1

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

Ngairé & I took part in a discussion on Wednesday 19 October (our third such meeting in recent months) regarding neighbourhood support/ community preparedness in Tawa. Others involved were Jim Higgins (Neighbourhood Support coordinator in Tawa), Alistair Campbell (Tawa Lions Club) and Rob Gregory (Porirua Police rep). Sarah Riddering (community constable) was absent this time.

The project we have taken on board for Tawa is to make a big weekend of “Neighbours’ Day Aotearoa” in late March 2012. The aim is to have at least 50 streets in our wider community getting together with their neighbours in some way or another over that weekend – having a barbecue together or whatever. The WCC recently invited applications from interested neighbourhood groupings for a “Community Preparedness Grant”. Under the Tawa Ratepayers umbrella a substantial grant has been applied for, primarily to enable extensive publicity of this event closer to the time.

COMMUNITY BOARD STAND AT SCHOOL GALAS IN NOVEMBER

Greenacres School has its gala on Saturday 19 November 11am to 2pm. Tawa School has its fair on Saturday 26 November 11am to 2pm.

I have been negotiating with both schools for the community board to have a stand at their fair/gala. The purpose of the exercise is to enable the community board to raise its profile by liaising more closely with members of the community – by simply talking to people and handing out the new TCB brochure, etc.

At this stage Tawa School has agreed, and we’re waiting to hear back from Greenacres as to what is an acceptable arrangement.

TAWA PROGRESSIVE & RATEPAYERS’ ASSOCIATION MEETING

As committee members of the Association, Ngairé & I attended its monthly meeting on Monday 10 October.

MEET THE CANDIDATES MEETING

Robert & I were part of the audience at a meeting on Wednesday 2 November in which seven candidates standing for both the Mana & Ohariu electorates had their say. Limited value in terms of our community board roles, but a useful opportunity over supper to rub shoulders with various members of the Tawa community.

NEW SUPERMARKETS IN TAWA

Liaison has continued with both Foodstuffs and Countdown regarding the new supermarkets they’re intending to build within our boundaries. Information has been conveyed to the community via the eNewsletter, as well as in the local rags.

APPENDIX 1

The “Tawa temporary supermarket” (under Foodstuffs) opened its doors on Wednesday 2 November. On its first day, Robert, Chris and I (and possibly others) individually introduced ourselves to the management. The new store is bigger than I expected, well-priced, and will go quite a way to filling the gap in the market when Woolworths closes on Monday 7 November. The shoppers’ bus to Porirua has also started its run.

Foodstuffs’ communication and relationship with the community board in regard to the building of the temporary supermarket has been excellent. I believe the board has done a good job in conveying to Foodstuffs the concerns of the community about the closing of Tawa’s one and only supermarket, and Foodstuffs have listened and responded well.

Management of the new store has reiterated its intention of being an integral part of the Tawa community which, to paraphrase their wording, is not too dissimilar to Feilding from whence they have come.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

An older woman reported that she’d injured herself some weeks ago whilst going down the pedestrian walkway towards Hinau St from Linden Station. A combination of dew and/or smooth surface caused her to have a bad fall resulting in the breakage of a bone or two. She has suggested that handrails should be installed in this walkway for use by older people. This suggestion has been passed on to KiwiRail who have advised they will look into this and report back. I’m keeping tabs on this.

Concern has also been expressed about Arohata’s “rather savage tree-cutting exercise” – the felling of a significant number of trees on prison land at the southern entrance of Tawa (back in July). The question of re-planting or landscaping plans was raised, and the suggestion made that “... 6 foot pittosporums planted zigzagged would shield their unattractive fencing and buildings from view within a year or two’s growth”. This is being referred to the Arohata authorities.