

NEIGHBOURS' WEEKEND IN TAWA

1. Purpose of Report

To inform the Board of the success of Neighbours' Weekend in Tawa on 24-25 March 2012.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

1. *Receive the information.*

3. Background

Neighbours' Weekend in Tawa was supported by the Tawa Community Board along with Tawa Neighbourhood Support, the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association, the Lions Club of Tawa and the Wellington City Council.

In October 2011 the organising committee stated: "We're hoping to make a big deal of it [Neighbours' Day] in Tawa. Our aim is to see more than 50 streets involved in some way." With assistance of an Emergency Preparedness Grant of \$2500 from the Wellington City Council, that goal was achieved.

More than 50 streets confirmed they would be involved in "neighbourhood gatherings", mostly barbecues, but a few afternoon teas or pot luck dinners, on both Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th March. A handful had their get-togethers the previous weekend, a few the following weekend. The important thing was the getting together with neighbours, no matter when it happened!

As it turned out, the less-than-favourable weather on Saturday 24th meant that several barbecues scheduled for that day were postponed to the following day which, fortunately, turned out to be very pleasant.

As at 4th April we had received feedback from 46 events. We have yet to hear from five which were scheduled to take place this past weekend (31st March & 1st April).

We were very encouraged by the number of local people from different walks of life who came on board and took the opportunity to organise some sort of get-together with their neighbours. It all stems from the importance of “building a community before we need one”.

Most people seemed to enjoy the chance to meet socially with their neighbours. One recurring theme in the feedback we received was the desire in many streets to get together again from time to time. Many organisers have compiled lists of those in their neighbourhood to enable local residents to “better look out” for each other.

From one of the 50+ street organisers: “It was a great effort that the Tawa Community Board made in helping us bring our neighbourhoods and Tawa community closer together.”

And from the Mayor herself in a news item on the WCC website entitled *Tawa Goes All Out for Neighbours' Day*: “I’m thrilled so many Wellingtonians are taking part, and hats-off to Tawa in particular. Their enthusiasm is really impressive.”

A very successful community project which will hopefully be repeated – driven by the community board – and involve many more streets in the years to come.

Report prepared by: *Malcolm Sparrow, Tawa Community Board*