
NEIGHBOURS' WEEKEND IN TAWA

1. Purpose of Report

To inform the Board of the success of Neighbours' Weekend(s) in Tawa in March 2013.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

1. *Receive the information.*

3. Background

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

We used a small amount of funding left over from a grant we had received from Wellington City Council towards Neighbours' Day in 2012. The main expenses incurred in 2013 were for billboards and street notices promoting the event in individual neighbourhoods, and to a lesser degree for name tags and balloons which we supplied to each participating neighbourhood.

48 Tawa streets/neighbourhoods confirmed they would be involved in "neighbourhood gatherings", mostly barbecues, but a few afternoon teas or pot luck dinners, on one of three weekends in March 2013. On 9-10 March eight took place, on 16-17 March there were around 15 (at least two were postponed by one week because of unfavourable weather on the Sunday afternoon), and the remainder were held on 23-24 March.

As at 4th April we had received feedback from 60% of those scheduled to take place. We are aware of three events that were either postponed beyond March or didn't eventuate.

Several streets recorded more than 40 residents taking part and, without having received complete details at this stage, we would estimate that around 1000 local people were involved in Neighbours' Day events in Tawa in March 2013.

People enjoyed the opportunity to meet socially with their neighbours. At least two streets ran their own versions of "The Amazing Race", 15 questions about people and houses in their own streets.

The Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade and Tawa Community Patrol were also part of the action in a couple of streets, with local kids being given the chance to squirt the fire hose themselves. The warm weather meant that it really didn't matter that one or two got thoroughly soaked in the process.

Many organisers have compiled lists of those in their neighbourhood to enable local residents to "better look out" for each other.

From some of the organisers:

"As we've had four lots of new people move into our street in the past 12 months, it was a good opportunity to make those families feel welcome."

"[We met] people we had never met before, some we knew. We've started our contacts list and plan another event mid-winter. Our event was a huge success."

"Many were meeting their neighbours for the first time, which was a heart-warming experience. We recorded names and phone numbers and will be much better able to help each other if the need arises."

"Sincere thanks goes to the Tawa Community Board who again took on the leadership of the preparation for Neighbours' Day by organising an initial public meeting, informative emails, street notices and resources etc. It was a great effort the board made in helping us bring our neighbourhoods and Tawa community closer together. We look forward to doing this again in 2014."

This is the second time we've promoted Neighbours' Day in Tawa. Whilst the number taking part in 2013 was down a fraction on last year, it was still a very successful community project which will hopefully be repeated – driven by the community board – in the years to come.

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