
REPORT 13
(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.*

CHAIR'S REPORT covering April 2013

MATTERS ON THE GO

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW

A community meeting was held at the Tawa Community Centre late on Sunday afternoon 7 April to give people the opportunity "... to learn more about the proposed changes. What are your views about Tawa becoming part of the new Porirua ward? Will there be a place for the Tawa Community Board in the future? Does there need to be? Come and have your say."

Bruce Murray from the Tawa Historical Society gave a short overview on the history of local government in Tawa. Brian Hannah, WCC Strategy Manager, then gave a 40-minute presentation on the Regional Governance Reform options (otherwise known as 'amalgamation' proposals). This was followed by approx 30 minutes of questions and answers. More than 120 people were present.

When a straw poll was taken at the end, there was minority support for options 1 & 2 – both involving a single council across the region). The overwhelming majority indicated their preference for the status quo.

When the question was asked whether we'd like to be part of a Wellington ward (as we are at present) or part of a new Porirua ward, the overwhelming majority indicated their preference for the Wellington option.

The community board's submission on Regional Reform was sent in on Friday 3 May. It is attached as part of this month's agenda.

BOARD NEWSLETTER

The first of two newsletters for the year was printed and distributed this month to all 4600 households in Tawa.

COMMUNITY ENEWSLETTER

Two editions went out in April. Community board issues covered were Regional Reform, Tawa Station, watering the hanging baskets, and Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards.

TAWA PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

I spoke to the senior students in all six primary schools plus Tawa Intermediate about this year's Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards and how they might strive to be the winning student at their school.

APPENDIX 1

THE HANGING BASKETS

More than 35 people responded to the request for volunteers to manually water the flowers in the hanging baskets when outdoor watering restrictions were imposed by the WCC. 24 people were rostered (four each evening) to use “unofficial” water to keep the plants alive, in addition to the Wednesday Guides taking charge of Wednesday evenings.

Manual watering commenced on Friday 29 March with the possibility that this would need to be continued for 3-4 weeks. As it turned out, watering restrictions were ended less than 12 days later and the automated irrigation system was switched on again.

TAWA CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

The cemetery is reasonably well-maintained by the Council, particularly in terms of keeping the grass mown. However a concerned resident had indicated that a number of graves at the back of the cemetery were overgrown with ivy and other vegetation.

After meeting with Parks & Gardens representatives at the cemetery, I organised a working bee to spend a couple of hours tidying things up. That took place on Saturday 13 April with 12 people taking part, including Richard Herbert from FoTBR. Most of the work needing done was done, and at least two gravestones were uncovered, one that was lying flat and covered with both vegetation and soil. A good effort on behalf of community volunteers!

MEETING WITH THE MAYOR

The chair has the opportunity to meet with the Mayor twice a year to discuss matters of importance to Tawa. Issues discussed on this occasion were:

- the amalgamation issue
- changes to the running of the Tawa Community Centre. It's all a bit up-in-the-air right now.
- Neighbours' Day in Tawa
- watering of the hanging baskets
- Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards ceremony towards the end of the year.
I invited her to present these again.
- I handed her a copy of the community board newsletter.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS IN APRIL AND EARLY MAY

- 03.04.13 Tawa Community Grants meeting with Chris, Graeme, Alistair & Robert.
- 04.04.13 Meeting at the community centre on issue of Domestic Violence. There for short spell only. Robert and Justin there for whole of meeting.

APPENDIX 1

- 07.04.13 Community meeting at Tawa Community Centre on Regional Reform issue.
Most of rest of board also there.
- 08.04.13 At monthly meeting of the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association.
- 09.04.13 Went with Robert to meeting on Regional Reform run by PCC at Titahi Bay.
- 10.04.13 Spoke to Tawa Intermediate students about Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards.
Catch-up meeting with Tawa community constable Sarah Riddering.
- 11.04.13 Spoke to senior students at St Francis Xavier, Greenacres, Tawa and Linden Schools about Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards.
Tawa Community Board monthly meeting.
- 12.04.13 Spoke to senior students at Hampton Hill and Redwood Schools about Tawa Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards.
- 13.04.13 Working bee at Tawa Cemetery.
- 16.04.13 Went with Robert to meeting on Regional Reform run by WCC at Johnsonville. Ngaire and Justin also there.
- 17.04.13 WREMO meeting (at Turnbull St late afternoon) with Prof Daniel Aldrich speaking on Social Capital and its Role in Disaster.
Informal get-together of community board members discussing Regional Reform submission. Ngaire, Margaret, Graeme, Alistair, Robert & Malcolm there.
- 02.05.13 Twice-yearly 30-minute meeting with the Mayor.
Second round table meeting at community centre to discuss emergency planning in Tawa. Organised by Ngaire and Kerry McSaveney from WREMO.
- 03.05.13 Met with Bruce Murray and construction foreman at Tawa Railway Station to discuss art panels to go on new structure.

Malcolm Sparrow
Chair, Tawa Community Board
8 May 2013