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Kia ora,

A big thank you for all the kind and positive messages we received after the January newsletter, they are very much appreciated!

In this newsletter you will find updates such as the On Demand bus and Main Road slip, new services including a jigsaw library, as well as community groups and classes.
We hope you enjoy reading about all the good stuff that is happening in our vibrant community.

If you have news and/or pictures to share, please email us on newslettertawa@gmail.com!

Ngā Mihi and greetings from us all at the Tawa Residents' Association,

Monique

Share Tweet Forward

See www.tawalink.com/newsletters.html for issues before 2022.

See https://tawa.org.nz for recent issues.

WALL PARK UPDATE

The new Wall Park area in Linden has had an amazing facelift and is looking great. The Tawa Residents' Association is aiming to get more seating added to the park. Adding a community BBQ is also on the wish list and we are looking into options for funding.

NEW ON DEMAND BUS FOR TAWA

Local residents are excited about the new On Demand bus service, starting in the Wider Tawa area for 12 months from March!

The On Demand service does not have a set route, and will have flexible pick-up and drop-off locations.

The On Demand service uses a technology platform and its own app to make bookings, take payments and schedule pick-up and drop-offs. There will be more information available about how to use the app which we will keep you updated about.

- All travel on the On Demand service is within the Tawa suburb and is one fare zone.
- The fare per ride is $2.50 per person.
- SuperGold card holders travel free during off-peak journeys only.
- Children under 5 ride free, but a seat must be booked for them.
- Other concessions and discounts do not apply.

Find all information about the On Demand bus for Tawa and how to get the app here: https://www.metlink.org.nz/news-and-updates/plans-and-projects/metlink-on-demand-pilot-tawa-suburb/

Picture credits metlink.org.nz

GREENACRES SCHOOL 50 YEARS

Happy 50th birthday to Greenacres School! The school was opened 50 years ago on 2 February 1972, but not on the present site. It opened on the site of what is now Tawa Intermediate School, in buildings known then as the Side School. It was a few weeks later (Easter) until the move to the present site took place when the grounds were completed.

Greenacres School is located in Raroa Terrace. It is the only Tawa school located on the eastern side of state highway one. The teaching and learning across the school incorporates the Greenacres 4Cs Curriculum: Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity.

Unfortunately, celebrations are postponed due to Covid but there are plans to make the occasion later in the year.

Source: https://www.greenacres.school.nz

The foundation students and staff, picture credits https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=4812553712191240&id=487707304675924

BIG SLIP ON THE MAIN ROAD

A major slip happened on Tuesday the 15th of February on the Main Road. The road will remain closed to through traffic between McLellan Street and Victory Crescent due to concerns about the stability of the large land slip.

Work is still in progress to clear a large slip on the Main Road.

Picture credits WCC

Picture credits Michelle Van Looy

FLOODING PICTURES WANTED

The Greater Wellington Region Council is asking the public to please email any photos of flooding during the recent storm. Pictures are used to improve flood modelling and to predict how communities could be impacted when a big storm happens.

You can email your pictures to *info@gw.govt.nz*.
Add as much information as you can, especially the time, date and place they were taken.

Picture credits Brenda Wordsworth

JIGSAW LIBRARY

Have you got some jigsaws to donate or swap? Tawa Community Centre is keen to start a free community jigsaw library. You can help make the library a reality by donating any used jigsaws you may have.
The library will start once there is an initial stock of 50+ jigsaws.
Tawa Community Centre is open 10am–1pm and 2–3pm every weekday.

Donations are already coming in for the new jigsaw library.

BATTERY RECYCLING STATION

On February 14th, the Wellington City Council launched a recycling programme to divert used household batteries from the landfill. All community centres now have a recycling station for batteries. You can drop off your empty batteries at the Tawa Community Centre, Monday till Friday 10am–1pm and 2–3pm.

This is great news as batteries contain harmful chemicals, which can leach into soil and waterways if they go in the landfill. It also saves valuable resources. Batteries contain lots of useful elements, such as metals, plastic and some of the chemicals, which can be re-used.

Note that under our Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw (2020), disposing of batteries (including household batteries) in kerbside waste is no longer permitted.

You can read more about it here: https://wellington.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling-and-waste/reducing-your-waste/battery-recycling

Mandy Russell showing us the new battery recycling station at the Tawa Community Centre!

AGM TAWA BUSH RESERVES

The Tawa community are warmly invited to the AGM of the Tawa Bush Reserves Inc. The meeting will be on Wednesday 9 March 2022, at 7.30pm, at the Tawa Union Church lounge.

Paul Ward will be the guest speaker. Paul is the founder and driving force behind Capital Kiwi, which aims to re-introduce kiwi to Wellington's West Coast. The catchment area for this project spans 23,000 hectares from Red Rocks in the south, including the hills behind Tawa, to Whitireia Park. The area contains 4500 stoat traps, making it the largest community-owned stoat trapping network in Aotearoa.

Paul will give an update and the next steps on the Capital Kiwi project and provide ways in which people can assist in helping introduce kiwi to the Tawa Reserves.

Paul Ward, from Capital Kiwi will be the guest speaker at the AGM on 9 March. Picture credits TBR Inc.

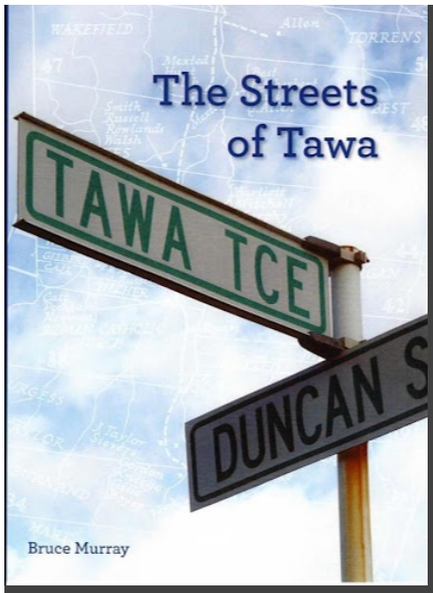
TAWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

In November 2021, the Tawa Historical Society launched its latest publication on Tawa. This was 'The Streets of Tawa' 2nd edition, written by Bruce Murray. Bruce has a longstanding and detailed knowledge of Tawa and is the author of several books pertaining to Tawa's history. 'The Streets of Tawa' (2005) was the first book published by the society and as new information has been acquired, the publication has been updated.

The Tawa Historical Society is grateful for the service provided to the community by Tawa Books & Post and the Tawa Library as outlets for the sales of this publication. They have willingly sold copies without any commission, and this has assisted in helping defray printing costs.

From mid-February, copies will be available through the Tawa Library at $25 cash per copy. Alternatively, copies can be ordered through Ken Woodgate, Secretary, Tawa Historical Society: ken.woodgate@xtra.co.nz

Tawa Historical Society is a non-profit organisation and seeks to defray the cost of printing information on the history of Tawa through the sales of its books.



The streets of Tawa 2nd edition by Bruce Murry is now available.
Picture credits THS Inc.

JILL DAY

Our Tawa local Wellington City Councillor Jill Day has decided not to seek re-election in the Takapū Northern Ward at October's local body election.

Jill was the first Māori woman ever elected to serve on the Wellington City Council and soon after became Deputy Mayor in 2016.
She has worked hard and has had a role in:

- Te Tauihu, a te reo Māori policy to make Wellington a te reo Māori city by 2040.
- Establishing mana whenua seats at Council committees and creating a Māori Ward for Te Whanganui-a-Tara for 2022 and beyond.
- Increasing the funding for Māori development.

In the Takapū Northern Ward, she is pleased with what has been achieved during her time on the Council. It was great to see the Linden Community Centre open its doors again in 2019 after years of neglect. Likewise, getting the Alex Moore Park sports hub off the ground was a highlight, as was delivering a vital upgrade to Pukehuia Park in Newlands, and seeing work on the Frank Kitts Park playground in the central city finally get underway.

Jill came to Council as a parent and teacher with deep concerns about the housing crisis, especially as it affects young people across the city. While it is never easy to fix a problem left unaddressed by successive generations, she is pleased to have been part of a Council that, over both terms, has made some important steps and continues to advocate and make decisions that tackle growing inequality.

We wish her all the best and thank her for her endless efforts!

Our Tawa resident Jill Day is not seeking reelection.
Picture credits Jill Day

FROM THE BEEHIVE

We encourage our politicians and councillors to reach out to us.
This month we received news from our Ohāriū MP Greg O'Connor, and from Mana electorate MP Barbara Edmonds.

A message from Greg O'Connor:
"As your MP I divide my time between the electorate and Parliament. The two worlds look very different at the moment, with peaceful, safe Tawa looking very different to the disruptive protest currently outside Parliament.
I am encouraged by the messages of support I am receiving from Tawa and Linden residents; can I suggest that letting local and social media, Police and even politicians of all parties know of your disapproval of this attack on our democracy would be welcome.
Despite this and Omicron, the business of Parliament goes on, and this week, among many other things, we are working on bills to introduce drug driving tests, incentivise people to purchase low and no-omitting vehicles, re-writing the Aviation Bill, and even raising the minimum wage.
Democracy is important, and we need to respect it. And we also need to get our boosters."

You can contact Greg with any concerns by giving him a call on 04 478 3332 or emailing him at greg.oconnor@parliament.govt.nz.

A message from Barbara Edmonds:
"We are working very closely with Tiaki who are the lead for our region, and whānau providers to ensure families and schools have support. Some other useful contacts are listed below:

- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, call Healthline: 0800 358 5453
- Testing locations: https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19/wellington/
- Social Service COVID Welfare Line for if you are required to self-isolate and need help with food or other services: 0800 512 337
- Tools on how to prepare your household: https://covid19.govt.nz/prepare.../be-prepared-for-covid-19/
- Targeted COVID Support Payment for businesses struggling with revenue during the Omicron outbreak: https://covid19.govt.nz/isolation-and-care/financial-support/

If residents of Linden are unsure where to go or what to do you can contact my office on 04 237 9842 and my team will try to connect you to our wider community of support."

The Beehive is the executive wing of the New Zealand Parliament buildings.

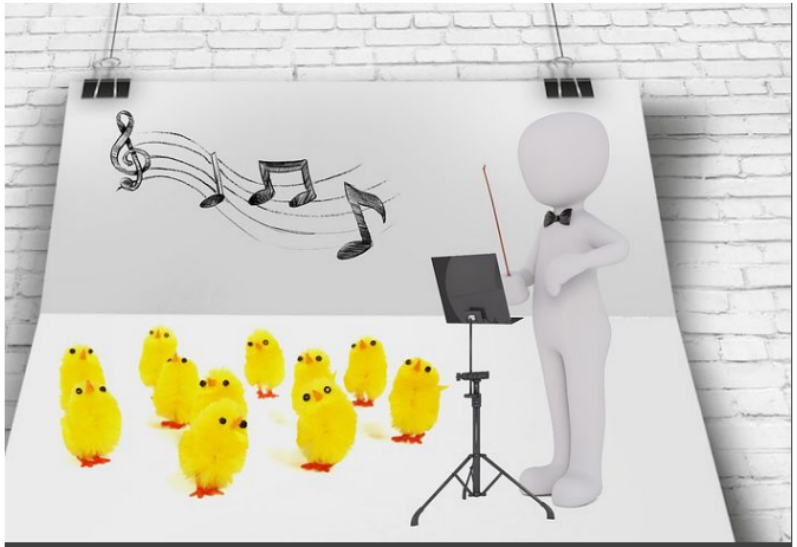
EASTER CANTATA

An Easter Cantata is being organised, featuring a community choir composed of representatives from the different Christian churches in Tawa. This will be held on Sunday 10 April. Interested Tawa residents are welcome to join.

The community choir will sing Hallelujah Chorus, His Yoke Is Easy, and And the Glory of the Lord from Handel's Messiah. The Cantata will also feature former Tawa College students who will sing arias/recitatives from the Messiah. The combined community choir will be conducted by Isaac Stone, choirmaster of Tawa College's award-winning Blue Notes.

While individuals/church groups are encouraged to have their own rehearsals, there will be combined rehearsals on the following dates: Thursdays 24 March & 31 March, Tuesday 5 April and Thursday 7 April, 6.30pm.
The performance and the combined rehearsals will be subject to the government's COVID-19 guidelines. Venue for the performance and rehearsals will be confirmed closer to the time.

For interested parties who want more information, please contact Janryll Fernandez at talk2janryll@gmail.com.



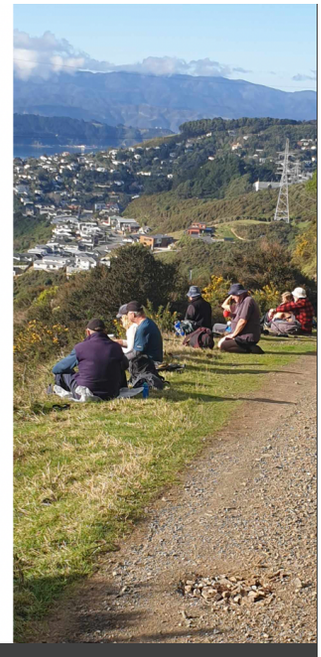
You are invited to join the community choir for the Easter cantata.

TAWA HIKERS

Sharon Johnson from The Tawa Hikers asked to post her message:
"We are a group of retired and semi-retired people who love getting out for a good hike. We hike in the bush, hills, and valleys for 4 - 5 hours every Thursday, which includes morning tea and lunch stops. Some members of the group have a great botanic knowledge and some members like to take photos, all of which we share with each other.

We are a friendly and welcoming bunch and are keen for new members to join us. We meet in front of the Tawa Rugby Club on Lyndhurst Road every Thursday at 9.15am with a day pack, good boots and poles for those who like to use them. We pool transport and give a koha to the car owner/driver for petrol.

If you would like to know more please contact Ian Kitto on 021 333414."



Picture credits Sharon Johnson

TAWA SCOUTS

We received a message from Hadyn Nicholls, the Tarikākā Zone Leader for Scouts Aotearoa.
"Tawa Scouts have space for boys and girls between the ages of 6-18. Keas age 6-8, Cubs 8-11, Scouts 11-14, Venturers 14-18.
Every year we help 13,000 young people in New Zealand enjoy new adventures, experience the outdoors, make new connections, and gain confidence. This includes outdoor activities and leadership. We ensure all those who want to join us on our adventure are able to.
We are also looking for Leaders at our group. We plan the terms, so you just have to come along and help. It is great fun and helps teach leadership and youth development."

Please email tawa@group.scouts.nz to get in touch.

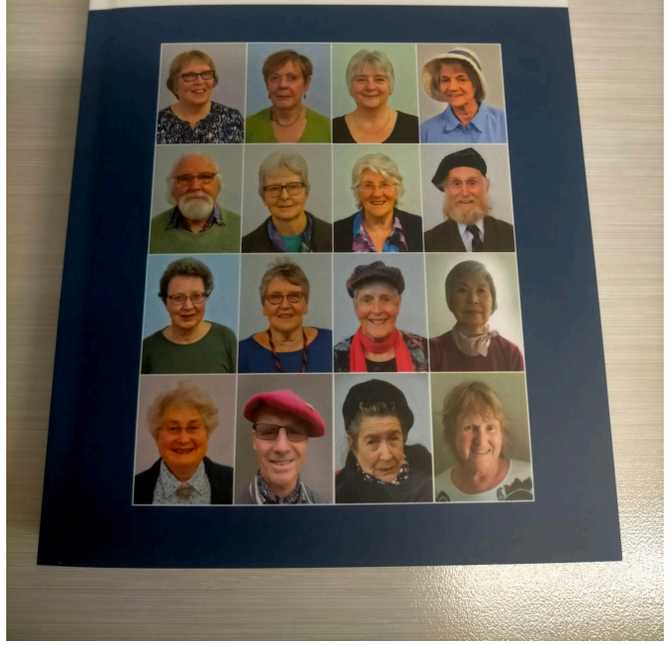
Tawa Scouts needs more leaders and has spaces available for children between the age of 6 and 18.

SHORT NEWS

The Potted Colour group (part of the TRA) organises the hanging baskets at the shops on Main Road. It's currently run solely by Richard Herbert and he could really use a few more volunteers. Please email newslettertawa@gmail.com if you can help.

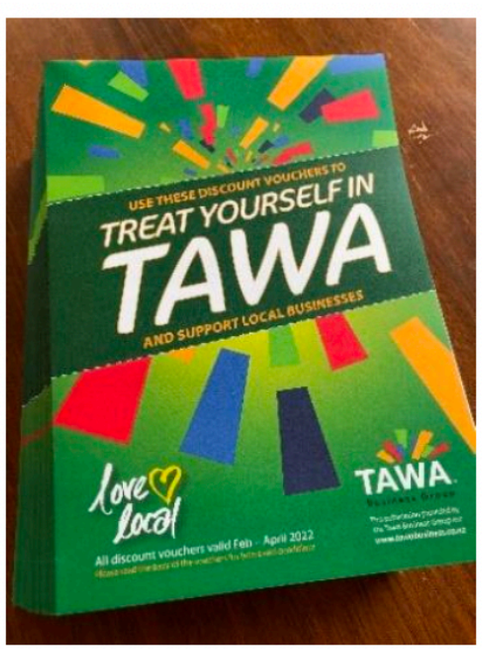
There were some power outages in the recent storm rolling over our neighbourhood. You can find information about power outages here: https://www.welectricity.co.nz/outages/show/1356290?fbclid=IwAR1ZTwzw-hWxaA5vGl30juIvPNAMypddMA7u2uNDLEgxkQzpRxhoXyaKOT4

It has been a challenging year for the Tawa Community Board. Board Chair Robyn Parkinson reflects on 2021. Read more here: https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=3740087046116220&id=627981383993484



The U3A Writing Group has published a book! You can have a look through it at the Tawa Community Centre.

Banners are currently being repaired and new ones purchased so that a roll-out of banners can be completed soon. All the banners that are still in situ will be assessed and either tightened or replaced as necessary.
Source: Tawa Business Group manager Bernadette Pallister



Have you received the latest edition of the Tawa discount flyer? It has been distributed to 28,000 households from Kaiwharawhara to Pukerua Bay! The flyer is also available at the community centre and library.

Spotted in Tawa!

Helpful neighbours added some extra signage.
Picture credits Stacey Richardson

DID YOU KNOW...

Did you know that you can contact the council about something that's broken, and report issues such as a missed rubbish collection or graffiti?

To report online, click here: https://forms.wellington.govt.nz/s3/Council-Fix-It-Contact-form
To download the FiXiT app, click here: https://wellington.govt.nz/report-a-problem

For any of the below circumstances considered urgent, report directly to the contact centre on 04 499 4444:

- Sparking or arcing lights or lines
- Major damage to poles and lines from a storm
- Lines down or low enough to be touched by cars or traffic (including tall vehicles like lorries)
- Exposed wires
- Power junction box open
- Any issue that could potentially cause injury or death

Report a problem like uncollected rubbish online or with the FiXiT app.

LOST & FOUND

- Lost: A rose gold and titanium ring, with the words "love, eternity, courage" on the inside.
- Found: A set of earrings were found on the ground next to the Linden cricket nets last month.

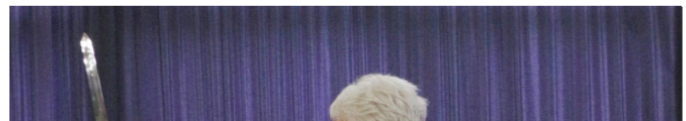
Please contact newslettertawa@gmail.com if you have lost or found these or other items.

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

Long time Tawa resident Brenda Wordsworth is running three Tai Chi classes a week at the Tawa Community Centre. Classes are on Wednesdays 6.15pm, Saturdays 9am and Tai Chi for Seniors on Fridays at 1pm. The classes cost $10 or $5 if unwaged. There is no charge for the first class.

In her classes you will experience tai chi and qi gong. Qi gong is older than tai chi, dating back as much as 3,000 years. The exercises have developed over time mainly to improve and maintain health and prevent disease. Tai chi, although originally developed as a martial art, has the same benefits. Both use slow motion movements to help you to relax physically, mentally, and emotionally. The movements can be adapted or even practised sitting in a chair so are suitable for everyone, whatever your age or physical ability.

If you enjoy tai chi and are up for the challenge, she also teaches tai chi sword and fan to further develop your skills. The friendly group welcomes new members all year round. You can contact Brenda at taichi.tawa@gmail.com or on 027 415 1161.
Read more about Brenda in our "5 minutes with..." below.



There are three weekly Tai Chi classes. Picture credits Brenda Wordsworth

Age Concern runs ‘Steady as You Go’ exercise classes around the Wellington region. These classes are designed to improve strength and balance, flexibility, general fitness and wellbeing and help prevent a fall.

Age Concern has an online class as well. You can find information and register for this here: https://www.acwellington.org.nz/saygoexercise/

Age Concern has an online class on 9.30am every Wednesday on Zoom.

5 MINUTES WITH... BRENDA

Can you tell us something about your life growing up?

I am 70 years old and have lived in Tawa since 1988. I was born in Somerset, England. We lived for a few years in Tiverton, Devon where my brother was born and father was the manager of an Ironmongers, known as a hardware store now I guess. We lived in a tiny cottage two up, two down with a large garden and I attended the primary school in a grim Victorian building with outside toilets. Later we moved into a council house which was a palace in comparison! When I was about 6 years old, Dad joined the police force and we moved to Bristol when he completed his training. Moving to a city was a shock for my mother who had only ever lived in the countryside or small towns! We moved house by exchanging our council house in Tiverton for one in Henbury, Bristol.

Later my parents were able to buy a brand new house in Shirehampton and when I was 11, I passed the 11 plus exam and went to one of the first comprehensive schools in England, where pupils of all abilities attended because it was the nearest! I enjoyed athletics, hockey and hiking and used to go away with my friends staying in youth hostels and hiking around the countryside. I also joined the Red Cross as a cadet and became VAD and earned my Grand Proficiency badge.

Can you tell us something about your life after finishing school?

At 18 I left home, not surprisingly, to train as a nurse at The Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel in the East End of London. If anybody has watched "Call the Midwife" you'll have a pretty good idea of what conditions in that part of London were like at the end of the swinging 1960s! We student nurses lived in a nurses' home, made lifelong friends and had some good times. And part of my obstetric training was spent in the community with the nuns. West End Theatres used to give us free tickets, so we would go "up west" to watch a play or show.

I met Richard when I was 21, we had a whirlwind romance and married less than five months after we met! I moved to Eastbourne on the south coast of England where he was living and I worked in the Intensive Care Unit of the local hospital, vastly different from the ICU's of today.

The 1970s being a time of social upheaval and change found us moving around following work opportunities and producing our four children all born in different towns. My youngest, coincidentally, was born in the same place as I was in Yeovil, Somerset.

How long have you lived in Tawa?

In 1987, we were again in an economically precarious state and investigated emigration. Richard was offered a job in New Zealand and we moved here in May 1988.

I think I experienced a culture shock akin to that my mother had experienced 30 years previously, when she moved from rural England to a big city! We were put up in the Bucket Tree Motel and given a state house in Greer Crescent as our first home. Our two girls attended Wellington Girls' College and the younger boys went to primary schools in Tawa and eventually Tawa College, and we have lived in Tawa ever since. We both worked in central Wellington and stayed in the suburb because we didn't have a car and relied on public transport, this was the biggest consideration. The children settled into the schools and made friends here and it seemed a safe and friendly suburb with plenty of activities. I worked at the Ministry of Health and stayed there until 2005, when I decided to return to health in a clinical setting and worked in a private hospital for eight years before retiring in 2015.

What do you like about Tawa?

After nearly 34 years in Tawa, we have seen plenty of changes, from it being a separate borough to becoming part of Wellington City, from being dry to having pubs, from shops closing early on Saturdays to seven day a week trading, all of which has made Tawa a vibrant place.

What would you like to see improved?

The one thing I would like to see is a social centre for teenagers to meet, chat, maybe play snooker, listen to music and generally socialise in a less structured way than organised activities like sport. I really appreciated having a youth club to go to when I was growing up, being able to get away from the family, but being in a safe place.

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

We have travelled to most parts of New Zealand and my absolute favourite spot is Golden Bay in the north of the South Island. We walked the Heaphy Track and walked back across the Island on the Wangapeka Track, which was quite the experience. The Wangapeka was very quiet and we only met one other party coming in the opposite way and a couple of hunters, quite a contrast to the Heaphy.

What achievements in your life give you the most satisfaction/pride?

I'd say I'm most proud of our adult children and our two grandchildren, though they are not exactly a result of my own achievements. Outside of the family I am proud of learning to ring church bells and being a bell ringer in England, and then starting to learn tai chi in 2006. My friend and I started Tawa Tai Chi in 2013 and when she moved away I continued running the classes by myself.

What are two or three interesting things about you that local people may

not know?
I have classes in the Tawa Community Centre three times a week. Wednesdays 6.15pm to 7.15pm, Saturdays 9am to 10am and a separate class for Seniors on Fridays 1pm to 2pm.
I would say tai chi and qi gong are my passion and I am always learning more and more about the arts. I love passing on what I learn to other people so that they too can see the physical and mental benefits for themselves.
Another passion is researching family history, which has led to reconnecting with family all over the world and a wider interest in history, including a slight obsession with historical novels!

What are three things you would like to do in the next 10 years?
In the next 10 years I hope to remain fit and active and visit my grandchildren in Melbourne once more. Thanks to a certain pandemic we haven't met up in the flesh for 3 years now!

NEXT TRA MEETING

The Tawa Residents' Association monthly meetings are open to the public. Feel free to come along! We are always open to new people joining the committee, helping out, or sharing ideas.

We meet upstairs at the Tawa Squash Club on the second Monday of the month, 7.30pm. You can find the agenda on our website here https://tawa.org.nz/agenda-for-meeting-8-november-2021/

We look forward to meeting you!

Tony, Robyn, Peter, Susan, Richard, Jill, John, Anna, Jackson & Monique

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TAWA Wellington

Monique
The Tawa Residents' Association

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