Tapawera & Districts
Informer

November 2026

Informer, PO Box 15, Tapawera
email tapawerainformer@gmail.com

TDCC Update

The Op Shop is OPEN! There are so many folk to thank for the lovely acts of support and donations over the past few months that we can't possibly list you all here, but just know that we are very appreciative indeed. The shop is already buzzing, with goods flying in and out, and the shop proving a hotspot for community connection.

And we are already expanding! With the op shop goods in their new site, the big room in the Community Centre became free, so we are now accepting donations of larger non-electrical items in good condition, such as stairs, furniture and ladders. We will post photographs of items received, on both Facebook and in the Op Shop, so folk can express interest. Hopefully this will mean that locals can access good quality furniture without travelling to town. We are also keeping a list of what folk ask for, and will put a shout out if we can't source the items through networking.

Do call in and have a look; see what all the fuss has been about, even if you aren't looking for a purchase.

A HUGE thank you to Kieri who had the vision, and encouraged folk to help out. And how you responded, through free labour, donated goods, cash, or buying raffle tickets. Every project has a driver, and in this case Kieri very successfully took the wheel, and got us there.

Community food kete: This wonderful asset is about sharing the bounty of our gardens, and foodstuffs that are excess to what you need. We encourage anyone with spare produce or canned foods to drop them off. And even if you've nothing spare right now, do take a look at what's there; the bounty is for everyone.

And sticking with food for a moment, in 2024 the foodbank freezer was offered to TDCC, and it has been in the Community Centre kitchen ever since. Recently foodbank asked for it, and we were delighted to see the freezer relocated to be used for its original purpose.

While you are in the area of the Op Shop, do check out the Tiny Gallery; it's well worth a look!

Sealing in front of Community Centre. Well, the supposed beautification funding for this (or anything else) turned out to be an illusion. John Gully apologised for the misunderstanding.

Regarding the sealing, the surface is deteriorating and will continue to do so without re-sealing work. The proposed cost is well-discounted, so it has become clear that we need to accept the opportunity. Therefore, TDCC has decided to complete the re-sealing work from its own funds.

During the discussion, a resident noted that trucks parking on the Village Green loop are breaking up TDC's seal. It is a legal road, and there is limited space for off-road truck parking in the village, but we understand that the trucking companies are generally very responsive when residents raise the issue directly.

Regarding funding, one of the blocks we face is that TDC doesn't like to fund projects which are not on public land, but we argue that the TDCC site is for the community, by the community, just like TDC-funded sites in Upper Moutere are. Tapawera Community Centre is in a form of public ownership and, as such, should be supported by TDC.

Community Centre: The Earthquake-prone Buildings legislation has been passed! TDC is awaiting the finer detail, so we have our fingers crossed that it will continue to be positive.

Public facilities: We are pleased that TDC has now put the Memorial Hall details and booking contact onto their site map, which will make it easier for folk to find.

TDC also responded promptly and positively to our request regarding better Public Toilet and roadside 'No entry' signage in the village and the work was completed in less than two weeks! We have been advised that the tap outside the public toilets will be extended to provide public potable water for water bottle refill.

Regarding a Dog Park, a member of the community has suggested that there may be a suitable area behind the shopping precinct. TDCC currently has no favoured site as we are just starting the process prior to consulting with the community.

Paperwork: TDCC's AGM will be on 17th November, 7pm at the Rugby Club Rooms. The audited accounts are done, and we will be proposing passing of the newly revised constitution. Members had a lot of input into not only the changes, but also the process for getting there, so we are hopeful that it reflects what the community is comfortable with. The draft document can be viewed on TDCC's website, or upon request from TapaweraTDCC@gmail.com

Facilitated meetings with Tapawera Connect: During the facilitated meetings it became clear to us that we needed to be talking to TC's policy makers i.e. the Trustees, rather than delegated staff. We asked for four actions: That their website be corrected to more accurately reflect their statistics, that TC communicate their structure to the community, that they ensure their staff/volunteers stop 'throwing stones' on social media, and that we meet with the Trustees. Unfortunately at that point TC decided to

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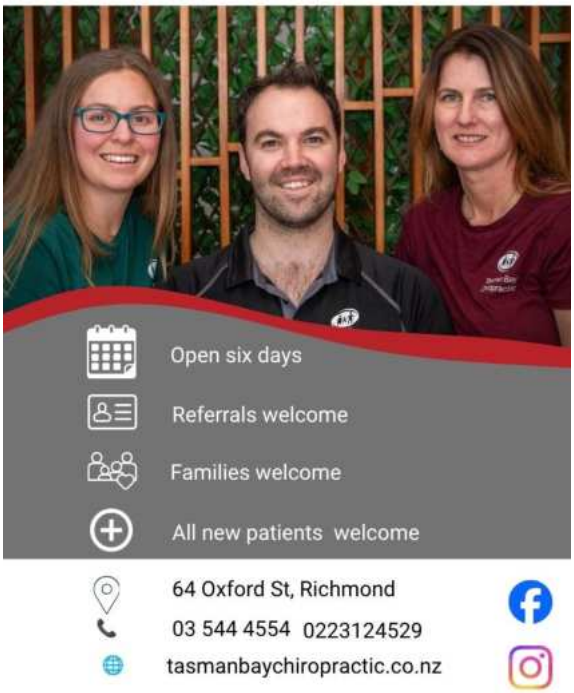
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TDCC Update cont.

withdraw from the facilitation process. From our perspective the door remains open, and the facilitator has thanked us for the goodwill we brought to the table. We remain hopeful that other pathways can be found so that the two organisations can co-exist in a cohesive community, and realise the potential benefits.

Dart Ford, Forestry trees, Tadmor gravel issue etc.: After so much promise, we were feeling as though we had gone almost back to where we began, after the responses we received only reflected what we'd received from staff in previous months, and the suggestion that we will only resolve these issues by picking away at them. We do not accept that issues TDC photographed and acknowledged back in 2022 have not even made it into a timeline of works. Almost every issue is a health and safety one, and needs permanent resolutions in order to save Council time, Ratepayers' money and residents' future distress. TDCC's concern is also the cost of reactive work as opposed to proactive work.

But there is hope; we are meeting with a Council Manager, at his invitation, in November to go over the issues around roading, rivers, gravel, trees etc. again. Interaction with the Manager is very good; building that relationship is important and will bring results for the district.

Recently, a resident put in a service request regarding the end of Totara Street where the trucks have difficulty turning, and Downers have been out to measure up; these types of issues are part of their existing contract so the outcome is likely to be positive.

Sadly, we have, yet again, had to answer questions from TDC staff regarding our community mandate and how we communicate with the community. In response, we have made it very clear that TDCC is the only organisation advocating for Tapawera which is elected, has a constitution, holds meetings open to all adult residents, publishes its minutes, and forwards information to and from outside agencies. Boringly, the issue of what age our members are has also re-arisen, implying we only represent the oldies. An audit of membership data shows that of the approximately 100 TDCC members, 31% are 70+, 30% are in their 60s, and 39% are under 60yo, which is pleasing. It is disappointing that we, as Officers of TDCC, are having to defend TDCC's role in the community to external agencies, including to the DIA and TDC. Maybe it's time for the folk who are feeding them this stuff to desist.

Cycle trails: Despite TDC advising us that there is no money to resolve the section from the village to the bridge, we understand that a solution is in sight. Currently our kids can't safely ride their bikes out of the village; our concerns are with them more than with touring adults. During the original trail building stages our area missed out on much that other areas within Tasman District got e.g. native tree planting, and our section was never completed, so it will be good to see this section done.

Community noticeboards and map: We finally received a copy of the draft proposed noticeboard map for the Village Green. Unfortunately it's clear that the requirements information had not been passed along to the organiser of the map, nor that the Kohatu board was part of the project, and this has caused some dismay. In addition, the draft had errors e.g. the regimental stag had turned into a horse. Disappointingly, TC's response has been to put the whole project on hold.

TDCC's role, as with any public infrastructure projects, is to ensure that the information is correct and that the detail meets the needs of the community and local businesses. Hopefully the organiser will be willing to work with us to get the best outcome for the locals and visitors alike.

Shedwood Bush Access: We believe it's important for the community to be involved before any changes are proposed. Community members have been very clear to TDCC as to the importance of the Totara Street access. Village residents in particular value both access-ways. The Totara Street access is protected by law. The second access is not on a legal road as some folk believe, but it does cross the legal road at one point.

And just to clarify, the Reserve area is not part of the tenths settlement.

Locky Dock proposal: We have advised TDC of the possibility of another option which would not involve any community cost or TDC resources. We hope to have more info in the coming weeks. The TC proposal is to have it on TDC land, but TDC has assured us that it can't happen until we have community support.

Residents have told us that they believe locals shouldn't be paying for the on-going costs and power, and John Gully agrees, saying you won't be; TDC won't be covering this. If you buy an electric bike or car, you cannot expect TDC or communities to pay for your power. We have asked TC to pause while we work through the process.

Emergency event caravan: One such caravan is situated at Richmond, funded by Whakatu Rotary, and could be available to this community in an emergency event situation, assuming it can get here.

TDC Chairs meeting. Our Chairman, Roy Bensemann, attended the TDC Community Chairs meeting recently. The Mayor spoke about TDC, Local Govt., Government impacts on councils, and potential changes coming. TDC is spending lots of staff time on Govt. requirements which may change; time which sucks money from essential infrastructure work, but is legally required. Roy reported that it was good to network with other Chairs. He spoke to the meeting about our concerns regarding roads, rivers, communication and representation. The lobbying around

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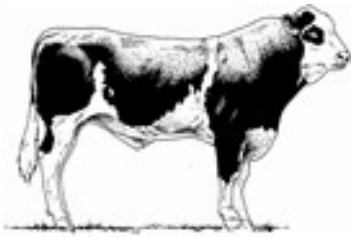
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TDCC Update cont.

TDC representation for this ward will need to start very soon as we will need to fight to keep at least one rep for Lakes/Murchison, despite ours being the largest geographical area, stretching down to Maruia. All the other areas have more than one rep.

TDC's Long Term Plan: yes, the process is underway, and you are all invited to their Long Term Plan workshop coming to Tapawera. Please take the time to read the material from the workshop that TDC held recently with TDCC, which is available on TDCC's website or by emailing TapaweraTDCC@gmail.com. We invited TC to that workshop also, so their input is included.

Rates: Councillors are working on ways to ensure increases are steady rather than big hits. They are also keen to separate out the water component of rates, as water makes up 5%.

Roadside mowing: NZTA is doing no roadside mowing or rubbish collection on NZTA roads i.e. State Highways, due to costs. The concern for this area is the increased risk of fire. TDC has chosen a different path, intent on completing 2 – 3 mowings over the year.

And now for some fun - Light **up Tapawera & Districts for Christmas**: After TC withdrew, we were concerned that we might have to leave this amazing initiative for next year. But of course, some folk had other ideas! They suggested that a non-competitive initiative should be encouraged. So here we go!

What could you do to decorate some part of your front yard, gate, or letterbox in December? Or maybe you have a shed, tractor or knoll in the paddock that invites some colourful fun? Maybe a tiny scene only visible through a peep-hole, or a grand gesture with inflated candy canes and Kiwi in bright red hats?

Whatever your idea, the op shop is keen to receive and make available donations of decorations to assist residents of Tapawera and the valleys to take part. Check out the flyer posted elsewhere in this Informer. Let's do it! Spread the joy! And give someone the gift of a smile :)

WAKEFIELD & DISTRICTS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

We're lucky to welcome two great additions to our team at the practice. We have two new nurses who I am sure you will get to know over time. They have written a little about themselves.

Morgan



Kia ora, my name is Morgan, and I'm excited to be joining the team at Wakefield Health Centre as a Practice Nurse.

I was raised in Richmond and studied nursing at NMIT, graduating in 2019. I have experience in both hospital and community settings, and for the past three years I have been working at a small general practice in Nelson.

Outside of work, I enjoy keeping active, spending time outdoors and catching up with family and friends.

I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and getting to know the local community.

Danique



Kia ora Wakefield! My name is Danique, and I'm excited to be joining the team at Wakefield Health Centre as a Registered Nurse.

I graduated with my Bachelor of Nursing from NMIT in 2024 and have since gained experience in rural primary healthcare, where I've developed a passion for providing compassionate, patient-centred care to people of all ages. I particularly enjoy wound care and supporting people to manage their health and wellbeing.

I'm looking forward to getting to know the Wakefield community and continuing to grow my nursing knowledge and skills.

Outside of work, I'm a busy mum of two and enjoy spending time with my family. I'm really looking forward to becoming part of the Wakefield community and caring for you and your whānau.

And two more arrivals….

Congratulations to Dr Asanga and his wife Chnae who have just had two beautiful twin daughters. As I write this Asanga is enjoying some time with the new additions to his family.



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Field Trip: How Willows Help with Floods at Hinetai Hops

"You can't stop the water — but you can stop the debris that does the damage," Dean shared when he hosted twenty-four local landowners at a field trip to his hop farm in Tapawera on Thursday 3 September.

Motueka Catchment Collective organised the field trip, Planting for Reducing Flood Impacts, following on from our Flood Risk Workshop in Tapawera in May.



Dean Palmer giving his talk

Dean was quick to say he's no willow expert, just that he's worked out, through trial and error and a few floods, what works on his place. By retiring some of his riverside land from production, he's created a buffer between the river and the hop farm which he says significantly reduced damage to his hop farm in last year's floods.

Dean plants his willows on an angle to the flow, in overlapping lines in this buffer area so there's no clear gap for debris to get through. But it's not just about the trees. Bare ground scoured out badly in the floods, while rank grass (tall, thick and coarse) held his land together. He says his do-it-yourself approach has worked well and been pretty cost effective, although he's had to spend a bit putting right some earlier planting decisions.

Helen Forsey from Tasman District Council reminded us that there are quite a few rules about planting and removing willows and these rules are to prevent damage to your own land and downstream. Her key piece of advice is to ring the Council and talk it through before you plant or take any out.

Jacky Friedman and Eric Appleton from Appletons Tree Nursery shared what they've learned from years of growing willows and poplars. They plant rooted poles and reported they get close to 100% survival. They mostly use male trees to keep seed spread down, and certainly not crack willow, which is very weedy and spreads easily. The latest thinking is shrub willow at the water's edge, tree willow a bit further back, then poplars or natives. Appletons also kindly gave away some of their willow and poplar poles, so plenty of people went home with something to plant.



Tim Leyland with poles from Appletons Tree Nursery

After a picnic lunch by the hop poles, David Arseneau from the Council finished with the bigger picture. Council planting has gone from around 5,000 or 6,000 poles a year to 50,000 or 60,000, with a 10 to 12 year plan to rebuild the river's resilience.

Dana Carter from Motueka Catchment Collective summed up the recurring themes from the event:

"One thing that came through loud and clear is that willows aren't the answer everywhere," she said.

"They're brilliant because they're so easy to establish and grow fast, with strong soil binding roots — but that same trait makes them weedy, so they're a poor choice near ecological or restoration sites downstream, where even the newer varieties can spread."

"Natives are the better call there, just on a longer timeframe."

The idea for the event is that the community can learn from each other.

"Peer to peer learning is often very effective in rural communities," Dana says.

"But our event also included other aspects the community needs to know - best practice planting technique and species choice, through to right tree right place principles, as planting can affect the catchment downstream."

Thanks to Dean and the Hinetai Hops crew for hosting, and to everyone who spoke.

You can watch videos of the talks, and read the longer story, at motuekacatchment.org.nz

Motueka Catchment Collective

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Golden Bush Garden Club

It was a beautiful morning on Thursday 8th October @ 8.15 when the bus left Tapawera with a couple of stops on the way to pick others up.

First stop was Miyazu gardens, where some more met us, having travelled by car. It's always a pleasure visiting Miyazu. The mother duck and twelve wee ducklings obviously thought so.

Next stop was Queens Gardens and the Suter Art gallery. Good to see the area getting some well deserved TLC. By this time the sun was getting very hot. That time again to think about slip, slop, slap.

Lunchtime @ Melrose House. We received a warm welcome, prompt service, a great selection and all agreed the meal was excellent.

A quick look upstairs and around the garden before heading to our last stop @ Lyn Petersons gorgeous wee hidden treasure garden. It's obvious to see where Lyn gets all her cuttings for the club auctions.

The club bus trips are always good value and fun. A HUGE thank you to Sue Wadsworth for being our driver

Next month's meeting is on 12th November @11am, Cornerstone Roses. 144 Lodders Lane Riwaka.

Please bring a chair, lunch, thermos and money for a raffle. No auction as rose plants will be for sale. Eftpos available.

Francine





Tapawera Hotel is alive and well!

Congratulations and welcome to the new owner, Peter Godwin.

Many local folk have already benefited with employment opportunities, and by the time you are reading this the Hotel will have been opened on several occasions.

It's great to see a previously-popular destination back in business, benefiting the community.



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Tapawera Connect Community Update

Plenty of Ideas Planted at the Spring Show!
What a fantastic weekend at the Tapawera Spring Show! A huge congratulations to the Spring Show organising committee and everyone involved! From the creative competition entries and impressive displays to the fantastic community atmosphere, what a brilliant weekend! We know how much hard work goes on behind the scenes, and it certainly paid off. **Well done to everyone who made it happen!**

The Tapawera Connect team loved catching up with locals, sharing what we've been working on and hearing your ideas for our community.

Plant an Idea, Take Some Seeds
Our idea board was a hit! We invited people to share their big dreams, little improvements and everything in between, and by the end of the show, it was covered in suggestions.

Swimming facilities topped the star voting, with 13 stars across ideas including reopening the school pool and having a heated outdoor pool.

Getting our local swimming facilities back up and running publicly has been on our radar for some time, so it was fantastic to have community conversations back it up. With summer approaching, we're keen to work alongside the Tapawera Area School Board of Trustees to see what we can do to get the pool open for community use.

Other ideas included better playgrounds, a McGazzaland-style bike and scooter track, more flowers around the village, a dog park, a pedestrian crossing outside the school, community transport and improved facilities and support for seniors.

Of course, this wasn't a scientific survey, but the conversations and connections were incredibly valuable and gave us great ideas for projects to support or help coordinate.

Locky Dock in Tapawera
We shared a sneak peek of the proposed Locky Dock, a secure bike parking and charging station planned for near the public toilets, alongside the Great Taste Trail in Tapawera. It'll be a great addition for cyclists and local businesses, encouraging visitors to stop, explore and spend more time in our village.

We're also exploring local sponsorship opportunities and would love to hear from businesses interested in being part of this exciting addition to Tapawera.

If you'd like to know more about sponsorship, or have any questions or concerns about the project, please get in touch with Rach Moffitt at rachel@tapaweraconnect.org. If you would like to know more about Locky Dock, visit www.lockydock.co.nz or spot the new Locky Dock stations on Queen Street!



Village Signage – Thanks for Your Feedback!
We also displayed the draft village signage and received some helpful feedback, including tweaks to local names and labels, such as changing "Petrol Station" to "NPD Tapawera" and "Tapawera Settle Camp Ground" to "Tapawera Campground".

We'll incorporate these suggestions before finalising the design. We have also discussed updating the Kohatu signage, which we hope to explore once the village signage project is ticked off.



What's Next?

We'll look more closely at the ideas gathered and explore opportunities to turn them into action.

That's what community-led development is all about: **local people sharing ideas, working together and making good things happen.**

A huge thank you to everyone who stopped by, shared an idea or had a chat.

You planted the ideas. Now let's see what we can grow together!







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Tapawera Connect Community Update cont.

Speaking of… Things Are Growing at the Community Gardens!
Exciting progress is underway at the Tapawera School and Community Gardens, with **Tunnelhouse Tech working on our new tunnelhouse!**

Funded through the Department of Internal Affairs' Community-Led Development Programme (CLDP), the tunnelhouse will create a fantastic space for learning and growing.

It will provide a hands-on horticulture classroom for students, a space to grow food and flowers (we heard your Spring Show suggestions!), and somewhere to propagate native trees for restoration projects at Shedwood Bush and other local areas.

It's a brilliant example of how one project can bring together education, food resilience, environmental restoration and community connection.

Come Grow With Us!
The Community Gardens are for everyone, and we'd love more locals to get involved! Whether you're a keen gardener or just want to give it a go, everyone is welcome.

Join our monthly working bee on the first Saturday of every month and help grow something great for our community!

What's Next for Our Community Facilities?
While the original community hub project is no longer going ahead, the good news is that the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) has indicated the **$500,000 originally allocated could still be available for another community project**, subject to a new proposal and approval.

We're now exploring whether this funding could help support renovations or upgrades to existing community buildings in our area. With the funding available only until June 2027, we're working to identify projects already in the pipeline so we can put together a proposal.

We're currently reaching out to local groups and organisations with community facilities, particularly those with renovation plans already underway, to explore where this potential funding opportunity might make a difference.

There's still plenty to work through, and while nothing is guaranteed, we're determined to explore how this opportunity could benefit our community.

Let's Keep the Conversation Going!
Have an idea, a project in mind, or want to get involved in something happening locally? We'd love to hear from you!

Tapawera Connect is here to help bring people, ideas and opportunities together.

Get in touch with Rach at rachel@tapaweraconnect.org for a chinwag about your ideas.

Knead to Belong

The theme for Mental Health Awareness week this year was Belonging Matters. But what does that look like? Research shows that a strong sense of belonging is closely linked to better mental health outcomes and we all deserve to feel like we belong.

After the success of decorating shoes last year for Mental Health Awareness Week, we thought about what we could do for fun this year and came up with '**Knead to Belong'**. It was all about getting together, learning about making pizzas, and enjoying ourselves in the process.

We had fun tossing our pizza dough in the air, adding our favourite toppings and sitting down afterwards to have a chat over our creations. We had 13 lovely people of all ages, from children right through to a couple of ladies in our seniors' group, and it was really nice to sit down together and get to know others in the community.

A huge thank you to Aaron and Julie, who hosted our group at Pizza Plus. Aaron was brilliant at showing us the finer points of pizza making, while Julie did a fantastic job of cooking our pizzas to perfection.

Most importantly, we believe we achieved what we set out to do – bringing people together, having a few laughs, sharing good food and sharing a space where everyone could feel welcome and included.

Sometimes, belonging can be as simple as sitting around a table, sharing a meal and having a yarn. And that's exactly what **Knead to Belong** was all about.

Jan, Janine and Rachel



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Tapawera Community Food Kete: It's for Everyone!



For the community, by the community.

Share the bounty of your gardens, or any unopened in-date foodstuffs lurking in your cupboards, that are excess to what you need.

And, regardless of whether you can contribute, don't forget to call in and see if there's something there for you.

Check it out, beside the Community bookshelf on the Community Centre veranda @ 95 Main Road.

Tapawera CONNECT

Senior's Snippets with Janine Leeden, 0277525975

COME ON FELLAS, YOU GOTTA GET OUT MORE!

A group of interested women excitedly elected to join in a day of new experiences on offer, to participate in Age Concern's 50th Jubilee and International Day of the Older Person on 1st October. We carpooled to Wakefield and joined Jackie from AC 'on the buses' (Reg Varney she is NOT) for the connection that would take us out to Founders Heritage Park, Nelson. For those with Super Gold Cards, there is free travel between 9am and 3pm, and many from 'over the hill' were taking advantage of that great opportunity. It was great to be sitting as a passenger and enjoying the scenery with lots of fun banter as more and more joined the journey. We didn't have to change buses until we got into Nelson, at the new bus interchange, which was modern and well laid out. Age Concern had organised a free shuttle bus to run throughout the day out to Founders. As we arrived early in the proceedings we decided to wander along to the Miyazu Japanese Gardens and have a look. I don't think any of us had been there before and what a peaceful retreat it was; so calming and well maintained with cherry blossoms starting to come into their own and the wisteria arbour starting to bloom too. It was beautiful and we all noted what a lovely calm setting it would be for a picnic.



We then headed back to Founders, and again three out of six long-term residents admitted that they'd NEVER been there?! Hey, it's free for local residents, and ratepayers pay for the upkeep, so why not take advantage of these facilities? There are so many things to see and do that would appeal to everyone! There were refreshments, food and entertainment laid on for the day. All agreed we had a thoroughly enjoyable, and cheap, day and are keen for more adventures beyond Tapawera.



While the flu has certainly taken its toll on our community, we need to take advantage of these opportunities to get out and about while we are well and create some great memories and strengthen friendships. That's what gets you through the tough times.

FRIDAYS we continue our Sit and Be Fit exercises at St Peter's Church, 10am, while we plot some more adventures.

Getting on top of animal pests on rural properties

Thursday 26 Nov
9am - 1pm
234 Stanley Brook Road



For farmers and rural landholders looking to get on top of possums, rats, deer, pigs and goats.

Cam Speedy, one of NZ's most experienced animal pest control specialists, shares practical strategies that work on farm: animal behaviour, trapping principles, making the most of your time and gear, managing the deer balance, and tackling harder pests like pigs.



Plenty of equipment options demonstrated too - AT220s, DOC200s, DOC250s, bait stations, lures and baits, plus plenty of chances to swap ideas with other farmers. Subsidised traps for sale too.

Lunch provided.

beef+lamb new zealand

Register now!

Scan the QR code or email dana@motuekacatchment.org.nz

MOTUEKA CATCHMENT COLLECTIVE

Now's Your Chance!



If you think you might enjoy restocking shelves, sorting donations, or maybe even serving customers, the Tapawera Op Shop would love to hear from you!

We welcome folk who are either happy to volunteer on their own, or would prefer company; we really don't mind. If you can offer anything from an hour a week or more, do let us know, as every bit helps. Maybe you have a friend who would like to help alongside you; time together for a great cause!

Absolutely no qualifications or experience required; we will show you how it works.

To find out more, call in when we're open, see Kieri at the 4 square, or give Trish a call on 0279198685.

We're Expanding Already!

Tapawera Op Shop is now accepting donations of those good quality, clean, larger items, like furniture, rocking horses, wheelbarrows etc.



They will go into the Community Centre's front room, where we will photograph them to advertise on Facebook and in the Op Shop. The hope is that local folk won't have to travel so far to source good quality non-electrical items, including beds, drawers, chairs etc.

If you have (or need) any suitable items, please contact either Kieri at the 4 Square, or Trish 0279198685.

A Little Box of Joy: Tiny Tapas Art Gallery Opens in Tapawera

TINY TAPAS art gallery

Next time you're strolling past the Kiwi Station Building in Tapawera, you might notice something new. Tapawera has a new home for local art, and while the Tiny Tapas Art Gallery might be miniature in size, it hopes to bring a dose of creativity to the heart of our community.

Tiny Tapas was built on a simple idea: art doesn't need a huge, fancy gallery to make a lasting impression. Local residents Ana Solo and her partner, Danny Sugar, dreamed up this miniature stage for local talent, hoping to sprinkle a little extra joy and inspiration into our everyday routines.

They say it takes a village, and bringing this community-micro-gallery to life was a true Tapawera team effort! Roger over at our local MenzShed poured so much love and care into building the gallery box, using mostly up-cycled materials, before teaming up with his fellow sheddies to get it perfectly set in place.

A massive shoutout goes to the community that backed this dream: the Tapawera Connect Community Led Development team and Sugarcube Studios for their generous support. Getting all the logistics sorted was just as collaborative, with site consent from TDCC, a security camera kindly permitted by the Tapawera & Valleys Historical Society, and Wi-Fi generously provided by NPD Tapawera.

Tiny Tapas just launched its very first exhibition, thanks to the wonderful artists who offered up their work for the debut showcase: Ainoa Mathov, Ana Solo, Angela M Miller, David Carson, Janine Leeden and Megan White. Going forward, the little gallery will feature a regularly rotating lineup celebrating the creative talent across our region.

Join Our First Community Event! Want to be part of the gallery yourself? Join us on the **8th of November** and come draw your very own miniature self-portrait! We will provide the paper, drawing supplies and tiny frames. Enjoy complimentary drinks and biscuits while you create with your neighbours. After the event, your masterpiece will be featured in an exhibition inside the Tiny Gallery!

So, whether you're on your daily walk, grabbing a coffee, or just passing through town, we invite you to pause, peek inside, and experience art on a miniature scale. If you spot a tiny masterpiece you simply must have, you can reach out to the artists directly (prices and details are available on the ARTISTS page on the website).

Come celebrate the little things!

For more information, to join the mailing list, or to follow the gallery's journey, visit www.tinytapasart.nz or follow along on Instagram at @tinytapasartgallery.

Light Up Tapawera!









But don't stop there...





Let's light up the Valleys too!



This Christmas season, how will you decorate your front gateway, letterbox, or tree up on the knoll???

Will it be stars, baubles, tinsel, antlers, or even Santa himself.....
Maybe something from afar, like Ukraine's spider-web trees, the glowing parol lanterns from the Philippines, poinsettias from Mexico, or karavakia (small decorated wooden boats) from Greece?

From the tiniest peek-through scene in a letterbox, to the grand gesture of a fully-lit 3000-bulb scene; we welcome them all.

The Op Shop is providing a space for the community to share/swap/obtain decorations, so feel welcome to drop off anything you can spare, or call in to see what we have for your Light up Tapawera project.

So come on Tapawera and Valleys... let's do it!
Share the joy; give someone the gift of a smile this December.

(Another Tapawera & Districts Community Council initiative).

Beyond the Baton
A Bit of Nostalgia from Tony Stephens

There's a fart in the room. Like any good fart, everybody knows its there but nobody wants to acknowledge it. This particular odour reeks of self-righteous and autocratic control tinted with a punitive aftertaste, and has spread district wide.

A wee bit of Trumpism right here at home. Despite authoritative murmurings to the contrary the odour lingers …

So let's head away from this stink and head to wherever the 'Breeze refreshes while it cools' to quote from the late great Max Polglaze. The rugged Baton Valley will do.

There was a gold rush here 150 odd years ago where nuggets were to be found in abundance. Now there's another Rush to the Baton – it comes in the form of mountain bikes with the Baton being the remote outback section of the Great Taste Trail. I've had occasion in recent times to attend a couple of events celebrating the Baton where Richard the unofficial "Mayor" of the Baton quoted his wonderfully descriptive poem 'End of the Road'. End of the road it might be but it's not the end of the valley. Baton valley headwaters climb up into the Mt Arthur Range where it drains a significant portion of that Range. If there's one name associated with the head of the valley it's Flanagan. Frank Flanagan.

I feel privileged to have got to know Frank in the last few years of his life. He was born in the later era of gold mining of the Wangapeka Valley. His father William (Billy) Flanagan was stablemaster at the township which existed at what is now called Courthouse Flat. One of the local mountains is still called Billies Knob after him as he ran sheep on its lower slopes.

Frank's association with the Baton came when he got the (runholders lease???) to run stock in the extensive tussock basins at the head of the valley. He (like many others who had other backcountry leases) would run stock up there in the spring and leave them for the summer, bringing them down again before winter. Cheap grazing, what could be better?

Frank was a wonderfully colourful character bursting with great Irish wit and humour – always the latest joke on hand in most conversations. His wife Joy was much the same, they were the ultimate "Hard Case" couple. Anyone who knew them for any length of time I can guarantee will be able to tell of a "Frank and Joy" story.

He being a butcher had a contract to supply meat to the early forestry workers camp up Golden Downs. Being a practical man he'd deliver the meat to the camp at night time for the simple reason that there would be no blowflies around. Hence he acquired the nickname the 'Midnight Butcher'.

Anyway, back to the Baton. Having stock up there Frank built a hut slightly below the bushline adjacent to the river as a base. Crude it was, but it was shelter for his many visits for mustering and stock checks with a bit of hunting thrown in. He'd often go up of an evening of a weekend to check his stock, sometimes finishing the last of the track by the light of a candle in a tin can.

A year or so after his death D.O.C., with a lot of help from Motueka Tramping Club, built a new hut next to Frank's.

So it came to pass that not long after the new hut was built I arrived there of an evening on some mission or another (can't remember what). The weather was starting to gust and cloud over and cooling down quickly. Faced with the choice of two huts – new spacious one – shiny floor and walls – sealed windows – spacious 10 bunk area and best of all a solid steel wood burner for warmth – compared with Frank's …….hovel? (sorry Frank) it was a no brainer.

So when the weather closed in, I was ensconced there for a day or so in comfort – original mission a no goer. Time spent eating with multiple cups of tea – reading and ruminating and working on a small written project I had in mind. At night sensing for sure Frank's presence – I'm sure I heard him stomping around outside debating in which hut he was to camp in. As one does in times of boredom and melancholy I penned a little tribute to Frank.

As I sit here tonight, pondering my plight,
Listening to foul weather rage,
Sipping my tea, feeling wonderfully free,
I'll scribble a few words on this page.

Now the weather I've had been abysmally bad,
Mother nature in bad mood so foul,
With rain sleet and snow and a wind that did grow
Ever louder to a crescending howl.

In this charged atmosphere, I thought I could hear
On the wind a soft Irish like voice
Moaning and sighing, sounds like someone crying ……
…… crying out with an agonizing choice.

For two huts were here now, but would they allow
An old Drover to stay at the new?
I sat here and froze, as the thought then arose,
Had a spirit come up for the view?

Had he walked up that track, once more in pitch black,
Had his ghost sometime managed the climb?
Just to be here, in a place held so dear'
For a last look to hold for all time.

Would he cast far and wide, with purposeful stride,
For the last of his gold tussock muster,
Gathering his stock from this high country block,
With nary a fanfare or fluster.

He'd head to the top, with many a stop.
Stirring memories of way back when.
These treasures he'll store, and hold evermore,
For he'll not be back here again.

There through the door, above the loud windy roar
The sound of his hobnailed leather?
I looked up from my stool, thought Frank was no fool,
Wouldn't be up in this bloody weather.

Thanks for the memories Frank

TAPAWERA COMMUNITY

Craft & Market Day

LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH









10am–2pm

In front of the community centre across from the Four Square

Bring along your crafts, produce & unwanted items to sell

Contact: Kieri Williams on FB Messenger or 027 325 9871

Sunshine, Smiles and Success at the Tapawera Spring Show

The Tapawera Spring Show was a fantastic success, bringing together families, locals and visitors for a wonderful day of sunshine, community spirit and country fun.

With the sun shining, plenty of delicious food to enjoy and heaps of people coming through the gates, the school ground was buzzing with activity. There was something for everyone, and the friendly atmosphere made it a great day out for the whole community.

One of the highlights was, of course, the gorgeous animals on display and in the show ring. From the excitement of the animal competitions to the opportunity to get up close to some beautiful animals, there was plenty to keep visitors entertained.



The show also provided a wonderful opportunity for local families, schools, community groups and businesses to come together, catch up with friends and celebrate everything that makes our rural community special.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who helped make the day such a success. From the organisers and volunteers to the exhibitors, stallholders, sponsors and everyone who came along to support the event, your time and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated.

The Tapawera Spring Show is a wonderful celebration of our community, and this year's event was a great reminder of what can be achieved when everyone gets behind a local occasion.

With sunshine overhead, happy faces all around and plenty of memories made, it was certainly a Spring Show to remember!

Kia ora, Moghrey Mie,

Week 3; Term 4:

Six more weeks left this year!

I hope you all had a good long weekend break last week, the weather was awesome and I hope you relaxed, perhaps got away and had some quality family time.

People often ask me what is my down time like, I love to go fishing so spent some time in the Sounds, not catching that much but just getting away is good on its own.

As we approach the end of the school year, there is still lots to achieve and lots to do. By the time you read this, we will have completed our Junior TOSI Tournament down in Murchison and hopefully performed to the best of our abilities. The students have been working hard for a long time on this and we are all looking forward to it.

As a prelude to this multi-sport event, we took our two junior volleyball teams over to the Year 9/10 tournament in Motueka last week, and had some Year 8s in the team also. The girls were amazing, winning their first 3 matches before losing very closely to a Year 10 Motueka team in the semifinal. Paige was voted player of the tournament by the other coaches in the female section and Logan for the male section. A huge achievement for these individuals and the teams.

The boys won 3 out of their first 4 matches to get themselves into the final and came out as winners of the entire tournament. A great effort, real team work, awesome encouragement from all and a pleasure to coach.





WHAT SHOULD LIFE IN TASMAN FEEL LIKE OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS?

With the support of Tapawera and Districts Community Council, Tasman District Council will be hosting an informal community workshop.

Thursday 12 November, 7.00 pm,
Tapawera Rugby Club Rooms

We will explore seven topics shaped by what communities have told us and Council's responsibilities. We want to hear what matters to Tapawera – its strengths, challenges and priorities – and what might be missing.



What we hear will help Council understand the community's perspective as it develops the next 10-Year Plan.

I would like to say a huge thankyou to everyone that helped organize and attend the school Spring Show recently. I had not been to it before, so was looking forward to seeing what it looked like. It was great, so many people, so many events, stalls and hospitality available.

I hope you enjoyed it as much as me. We raised nearly $10,000 for the school and this money is being put aside to try to purchase a new school mini bus for the students and community.

A massive shout out and thank you to our local 4 Square, who provided the prizes for our grocery grab raffle and thankyou to everyone for supporting this, which again will go to the mini bus fund.



Coming up in the next few weeks are some very important dates:

- Senior Prizegiving - Thursday November 5th at 6.30 pm (Shedwood Hall)
- Senior Leavers Assembly - Friday November 6th at 2pm (School Hall)
- Teacher Development Day - Monday November 16th (No school for students that day)

Please get your tickets for the Senior Prizegiving from the office, students are free but still need a ticket, whanau and friends are $10 a ticket which also includes a full sit-down meal as we try to fully recognize some amazing achievements throughout the year by this group of Year 11-13 students.

Junior Prizegiving - Year 1-10 is on the last day of Term, Friday 13th December in the school hall at 10.30am

End of year school reports are starting to be compiled by staff at present and will be sent out electronically on Wednesday December 11th. If you wish to have a hard copy, please just tell the office and we will print one for you.

I am exceptionally pleased to see how our NCEA results are progressing across the years 9-13, a massive upturn from last year's results, which reflect so well on the students' attitude to study and also the great work staff are doing to lead and support this achievement.

The physical improvements to our grounds and teaching areas continue apace.

- Next week our Hospitality area is having a complete rebuild, to be completed ready for Music in the Mountains
- In term 1 and 2, our Hard Materials, Digital Technology area is having a complete rebuild to produce an area that can offer all the modern curriculum areas required.
- Also in Term 1, we are having a new Science Lab in the place of our very old one, again great for our new science curriculums
- Our Library and Admin block is getting a major uplift
- Our new Tunnel house is now complete and ready to be kitted out for the Garden area and our new Horticulture curriculums
- Our "old art room" is being converted into a new Ako Hub, for learning support across the whole school age range

This equates to just over $1,000,000 being invested into the school and local community in 2027.

Classes and class lists are being worked on at present by staff and SLT and we are aiming to share these with students and whanau in week 6. I can tell you we will have an additional primary class and classroom next year as our numbers grow and rebound from a couple of quiet years and we will have two senior primary classes instead of this year's just one.

Thank you for all your ongoing support of the school, staff and students. We do appreciate it, we know we are not perfect but we aspire to be so, we also want to be the "Best we can be" and I hope you are able to see all of the changes, initiatives and consolidation of the great things we do and offer here at Tapawera Area School.

Slant as shee

Andy Ashworth

Book Discussion Group
Meet: 4th Thursday in month, 10am
Contact: Adrienne Baigent 021408892

Federated Farmers
Contact: Harry Matthews - Field Rep - 0275078901

Golden Bush Garden Club
Meet: 2nd Thursday of month
Contact: President, Linda Milsom 02102510945, or Shirley Percy 5224924

Golf
Meet: every Sunday, Ladies 9 hole every Tuesday
Contact: Gary Oldham ph. 0278080578

Historical Society
Contact: Barbara Carleton ph. 5224317

Informer
PO Box 15 Tapawera
Email tapawerainformer@gmail.com

Justice of The Peace
Peter Phillips ph. 5224313
John Ellis ph. 021 522429
Brent Hodkinson ph. 5224381
Susan Fenemor ph. 0275224009 (text during school hours)

Kohatu Life Group
Sharing faith and fellowship
Meeting Wednesdays @ 10:30am during school term
Contact: Ian & Karilyn 0274 950 470

MENZSHED
Contact: John Wilmshurst ph. 5224616

Netball
Contact: Susan Fenemor ph. 0275224009 (text during school hours)

Ramblers
Meet: each month
Contact: Shirley Percy ph. 5224924

Shedwood Hall bookings
Contact: Tania Higgins ph. 5224587

St Andrews Church Stanley Brook
Services every Sunday. Cup of tea afterwards.
Contact: Lee Winter ph. 5224160

St John – Tapawera
For emergences Dial 111,
Email info@stjohn.org.nz

Tapawera & Dist. Community Church
St. Peter's Tapawera: no services at present
Contact: Church office 03 541 8883
wakefieldanglican.@xtra.co.nz
Urgent enquiries to Andrea 0024169386

Tapawera Food Bank
Contact: Suzzi Lankshear ph. 0277491063

Tapawera & Dist. Community Council
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of month, 7pm Tapawera Community Centre, email: TapaweraTDCC@gmail.com

Tapawera Community Centre
Email: tapaweratdcc@gmail.com

Tapawera Connect
Contact: Rachel Moffit ph. 027 460 8728, email: rachel@tapaweraconnect.org

Tapawera Creative Fibre
Meet: every Wednesdays, 10am-2pm, Memorial Hall
Contact: Catherine Hesketh ph. 027 522 4266

Tapawera Jujutsu Club
Contact: Tony Hammersley ph. 02108811607

Tapawera Op Shop
Currently closed

Tapawera Playcentre
Meet: Mon & Thur, 10am -12:30pm Memorial Hall ph. 5224456

Tapawera Rugby Football Club
Bookings: ph. Judy Benjamin 5224445

Tapawera Sport & Recreation Society
Contact: Judy Benjamin ph. 5224445

Tapawera Volunteer Fire Brigade
Contact: Dean Millar Chief ph. 0279651399; Ted Oakly Deputy Chief ph. 0210704033

TAS / Community Library
Mon-Fri 10:30am-1:30pm. Contact: Kelly Library ph. 5224337/ext. 213

TESSI
Contact: Bruce Whyte ph. 0211567851

Visual Arts Society Tapawera
Contact: Dallas Robinson ph. 5224984

Yoga with Josie
Wednesdays 6-7pm school music room (school term only).
Contact: Josie Orr: 027 612 5813

Wakefield Police
Senior Constable Jamie White – jamie.white2@police.govt.nz
Senior Constable Matthew Berquist – matthew.berquist@police.govt.nz
Sergeant Craig Clayworth – craig.clayworth@police.govt.nz

What's on November

4 Kohatu Life Group, 10:30am Wednesdays, weekly in Nov Ph 0274 950 470

8 Draw your tiny portrait, 10am-1pm, by the Kiwi Station Museum

10 Tapawera Talking Café, 10-11:30am, St Peter's Church

10 Digi Drop-in Session, School/ Community Library, 11am-1pm

12 Garden Club, 11am, Cornerstone Roses, 144 Lodders Lane Riwaka

17 TDCC AGM, Rugby Club rooms, 7pm

20 Articles for Informer close 5pm

24 Tea and Talk, St Peter's Church, 10:00am - 11:30am

24 Bible study, St James Church, 797 Tadmor Valley Road, 6pm

26 MCC event, Getting on top of animal pests on rural properties, 9am-1pm, 234 Stanley Brook Road

29 Craft and Market Day, Village Green, 10am-2pm

GP & Nurse at Tapawera Clinic

(during school term time):

GP clinics – Mondays 9am – 12 midday

Nurse clinic – alternate Tuesday mornings - phone 541 8911 for dates

Wakefield Police
Non-emergency line – 105 (can ask to be put through to on-duty officer)
Emergency – 111