

Tapawera Community Centre Seismic Assessment

Following community consultations and drop-in sessions about the proposed new Community Hub for Tapawera, the TDCC realised there are mixed views about the future of the existing community centre. Some residents feel the centre could be renovated into the new hub, others believe it is well built and not earthquake-prone, some suggest it could be repurposed for other uses, while others think it might be sold to raise funds for a new hub.

To help the community make an informed decision, TDCC engaged Davis Ogilvie & Partners Ltd to carry out a **Detailed Seismic Assessment (DSA)** in line with New Zealand engineering guidelines (2017). The engineers were also asked to prepare **conceptual strengthening designs** to show how the building could be improved to meet earthquake safety standards (New Building Standard, NBS).

The assessment found the community centre is rated at **about 20% of NBS**. This places it in **Grade D**, meaning it poses **10–25 times greater risk to people's safety** than a modern building. The weakest parts are the roof-to-wall connections and the old unreinforced masonry (brick and concrete) walls.

Because it is below **34% NBS**, the **Tasman District Council classify the community centre as an earthquake-prone building**. TDCC will forward the assessment to TDC for their consideration. Under current regulations, owners (TDCC) have until **2047** to complete strengthening work.

Strengthening options have been outlined:

To reach 34% NBS (minimum legal standard): improve roof bracing and roof-to-wall connections, strengthen foundations and walls with timber supports, and secure the chimney.

To reach 67% NBS (a safer target): all of the above, plus add new internal bracing walls, build new foundation supports, and likely remove the chimney.

In summary: The community centre is **well below modern earthquake safety standards**. Strengthening will be required if it is to continue being safely used by the community. The cost of this work is not yet known, but is expected to be **significant**.

In the light of this new information TDCC will, in coming months, explore options on how best to utilise the building whilst ensuring public safety. Any decision making will be made in the context of the opportunities presented by the proposed new Community Hub and how to help build our vibrant, strong and resilient community.

Tapawera and Districts Community Council (TDCC) Committee Nominations and AGM

Please note that TDCC's AGM will take place on Tuesday November 11th 2025 in the Community Centre at 7pm.

If you would like to participate in the meeting, please ensure you have filled in the TDCC membership form.

Thanks to our newly revised constitution if you would like to nominate or elect committee members of the TDCC you have to be member. Membership is 100% FREE. All you have to do is fill out a quick form online:

@ <https://www.cognitofrms.com/TapaweraDistrictsCommunityCouncil/TDCCMembershipApp>

Or find the link on the TDCC page on the Tapawera Community website.

Nominations for the new TDCC Committee will open on November 1st and close on December 15th 2025. So make sure you have filled in the membership form if you want to nominate someone or be nominated.

More information on nomination process will be provided next month.

Tapawera Spring Show

We are looking forward to having a fantastic day at the Tapawera Spring Show!

The hall will be open on Friday 10th October from 4pm – 7pm to take entries. One entry per person per class. Entries to be staged by 10am in the School Hall on Saturday. Each entry is to be accompanied by a name inside a folded paper, with a section and class number on outside. Unnamed entries will be eliminated. Entry must be all exhibitor's own work.

Remember there are sections for pre-schoolers and adults to enter as well! Full schedule is also available at the Community Centre.

Animals that are entered into the Spring Show will need to be onsite by 11am and judging will take place from 11:30 – 12:30. Participants will need to be with their animals during judging and will need to answer questions about the care of their animals.

We will see you there!



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Material & adverts for Informer

All material is to be sent to either:

Informer, PO Box 15, Tapawera, 7055
or email- tapawerainformergmail.com

To be received by 5pm
20th of the Month

If emailing a word document please send in Word as an
attachment.

If sending an advert please save as a jpeg before sending.

Please check your emails to see your article/advert has
been received as sometimes there needs to be alterations.

Advertising rates for Informer

Standard ad	Pay monthly	Pay annually
1/4 page advert	\$39	\$343
1/2 page advert	\$54	\$475
Full page advert	\$78	\$686

Adverts that require editing may cost extra

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Tapawera CONNECT

Senior's Snippets October 2025 with Janine Leeden, 0277525975

We had a great turnout for our Retirees Recovery Roast Lunch at Kohatu Flatrock on Monday 15th September. 32 people registered and Deb and her couple of staff available on the day did a FANTASTIC job catering to us. The food was excellent. Many expressed they'd like to do that sort of thing monthly. It will be great to have a fit-for-purpose venue where we can cater for some more regular, low-key Senior's events, such as meals.



I would like to address some comments that keep coming through from some in the community that don't see the need for a Community Hub. It's true that not everyone wants to engage in these community events, however, submitting my quarterly figures to the relevant agencies that I'm accountable to (some, like ACC, who don't fund us, though expect regular reporting and accountability for our Sit and Be Fit class that comes under their national Strength and Balance programme) I see an obvious and growing need for a fit-for-purpose facility from which to run the programmes we are currently offering, with scope for more.

From January 2024 to July 2025 my regular activities alone catered to over 950 individuals, with names. That only included numbers for Sit and Be Fit, Tea and Talk as well as Wellby Talking Cafes. This didn't take into account the Youth, the Young Mums or other events that were organised and well attended during this period. It would be fabulous to have a facility, such as most other communities have, that are such amazing spaces for community connection and engagement. Places that are safe, dry and warm, with suitable kitchen and indoor bathroom amenities that will see us into the future.

Following our August **Tea and Talk** that had a short-notice change of venue, there was a resounding request for us to have it more regularly at **St Peter's Church**, as it was a more accommodating space where we could sit at tables in a cosier space. We shared a lovely morning tea together and there was lots of conversation. So, from this month we will now meet there on **the last Tuesday, 28th October**,

10-11.30am at St Peter's Church. We have permission to use that facility for now, though it only caters for cups of tea/coffee as there is no proper kitchen space and the toilet facility is outdoors with questionable safe access for Seniors.

Our October **Wellby Talking Cafe (which is for all ages) will be on Tuesday 14th October at the School / Community Library from 10-11.30am.** \$3 will help cover morning tea. Come along and meet up with some new friends or familiar faces over a cuppa. **Stay and catch up with the girls from Richmond Library with their 'Digi Drop-in' or borrow some books.**



Pride In Our Town

We asked Ruth how long she has lived around the Tapawera area and what brought her back here.

Ruth grew up on a sheep and beef farm at Kaka, which is on the Tapawera – Glenhope road. She travelled to school on the Tui bus, but as many did, she left school and left home to get a job.

She returned to the area when her two boys were young, and ended up living at Rakau amongst the hop gardens. That time she lived there for about 12 or so years.

Ruth has been a regular visitor to the area since both her sons have been living locally. She has always wished to live back in the area but the opportunity never arose until just recently. In mid-July she bought her son's place in Stanley Brook. Ruth has enjoyed renewing old acquaintances and has made a lot of new friends through the Friday exercise group, Welby Café, the old Community Centre and BBQs.

Yes, the rain came down and the water came up, but the neighbours called in to check she was all right. It was just so heart-warming, and it absolutely confirmed she was in the right place.

**GOLD COIN
ENTRY**

Tapawera

Spring Show

**11AM
-3PM**

**SATURDAY
11TH OCTOBER
2025**

**PET DAY
CAKE DECORATION
FOOD STALLS
ENTERTAINMENT
LEGO COMPETITION
AND MORE!**

TAPAWERA AREA SCHOOL

sreinert@tapawera.school.nz



WHAT IS PREDIABETES?

Pre-diabetes or impaired glucose tolerance is when your blood glucose levels are elevated more than normal but still less than diabetes levels. Most people have little or no symptoms. Some people can feel tiredness or increased thirst and urination. Prediabetes is identified with a blood test called HbA1c. This reflects how high your glucose levels have been on average in the last 3 months. In New Zealand pre-diabetes is classified with a result of 41-49. An HbA1c under 40 is considered normal and an HbA1c of 50 and higher is called diabetes.



Insulin is a hormone that regulates glucose peaks we have after eating. It basically functions as a specific key to store glucose in our body. With prediabetes the body becomes insulin resistant (the key does not work that well anymore) with as a result high glucose levels. Being overweight, certain genes, having had pregnancy related diabetes, stress, or an unhealthy lifestyle can increase the risk of insulin resistance.

When our blood glucose is elevated, we increase our risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes and Heart disease. The good news is that THIS IS REVERSIBLE!

For many people there will be some changes they can make in their lifestyle that can reverse prediabetes:

Healthy food choices and 30 mins of moderate daily physical activity will help to:

- Keep our blood glucose level in an acceptable level
- Reach and maintain a healthy body weight
- Keep our cholesterol in an acceptable range
- Reduce our blood pressure



These changes are not always easy, but we are here to help support your journey to health through your GP, practice nurses, health coach (Ollie), health improvement practitioner (Nicole), pharmacist or community education.

A medication called Metformin can also reduce insulin resistance, which can REVERSE PREDIABETES and even help some patients LOSE WEIGHT. Gastrointestinal side effects are not uncommon initially but for most people these settle with time. Speak to one of our nurses or doctors about whether this might help you.

WANT TO READ MORE - some great online resources to check out:

- <https://healthify.nz/health-a-z/d/diabetes-prediabetes>
- <https://www.diabetes.org.nz/pre-diabetes>

Your team at Wakefield Health Centre.

COME SEE us at the TAPAWERA SPRING SHOW on Oct 11th, we will be bringing the mobile clinic so come talk to us about any health concerns, ideas or questions and we'll do what we can to help :)

Food Skills for Resilience

A trip to the supermarket these days can be alarming, with many foods costing more than at the last visit. So I'm grateful that at primary school (many years ago) I learned to cook simple meals from basic ingredients, a most useful skill that's had lifelong application. When I was about 11 we went to 'manual training' once a week, boys to woodwork, girls to cooking, and I remember my father's amusement that the first recipe of my new manual training cooking book was 'A Cup of Tea'. I don't do many cups of tea these days - we haven't got a teapot so that recipe's no good now - but I do use the basic lessons from those days in much of my cooking. In addition to the actual cooking, we learned to plan a meal, follow recipes, optimise power use (cook more than one item in the oven when it's on), don't waste food, and so on, all as relevant today as ever. I expect today's curriculum has a similar focus.

A couple of weeks ago a group of school & community garden volunteers were reminiscing about how helping with cooking and gardening always used to be much more a part of home life than they are now. Our perception was that there's less time these days for helping at home, with fewer kids learning to cook and grow food; fewer learning those basic skills that will stand them in good stead throughout their lives. One significant benefit of home chores is that the fortunate kids who can cook and grow food at home are likely to be better placed to cope with some of the inevitable future climate change impacts. 'Food resilience' is a current buzz expression for a good reason.

Congratulations to Tapawera Area School for its fabulous **The Rivers 2024**. It's a great read that shows cooking and gardening are included in the school's many activities. Thanks to the entire school team for showing us such a great range of learning and sport in many spheres. And with so many smiling faces.



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Upcoming Talking Cafés
Tapawera School Community Library

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Tuesday 11th November, 10.00am-11.30am
Tuesday 9th December, 10.00am-11.30am

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Growing Community Roots and Green Shoots

The last two weeks of Winter 2025 have seen two community eco-projects completed in Tapawera - native tree planting at Shedwood Bush and fruit tree planting in Tawa and Rata Reserves. All up, local youth and their guardians planted over 100 trees that form a conservation corridor linking beneficial birds and insects between Shedwood Bush and Tapawera village reserves, including the Gateway garden.

Shedwood Bush is a remnant podocarp forest managed by DOC. The 'Jobs for nature' program started restoration work before passing on the role of weed and pest eradication to local volunteer group, Shedwood Bush Betterers, in 2024. Since that time, the group (with the help of Tapawera students) have logged over 300 hours of Old Man's Beard eradication, planting 400 native trees, and setting up a predator monitoring program under Fish & Game guidance. Possum, rat and stoat trapping will commence this month.



Kate Radloff (TAS Biodiversity Advisor) & Jacob Lucas (Fish & Game) tell TAS student tree planters about the need for possum eradication to protect their native tree planting at Shedwood Bush. 46 of 50 chew cards set out were found to have possum teeth marks.

There is a vital connection between the role of youth in the history and as future guardians of Shedwood Bush. From 1951, the Woodsman Training School in Tadmor taught forestry skills to 15-16-year-old cadets who then cut and crafted Shedwood's walking trails for practice. Today, Kate Radloff works tirelessly on propagating locally sourced seedlings, teaching the long-term benefits of ecology and organising plantings with Tapawera Area School & Kindergarten students.

A well restored Shedwood Bush will support a healthy home for locals like Tūī, Kererū, Pīwakawaka, Korimako, not to mention the return of Tomtit and Toutouwai (bush robin). Forestry harvesting has cleared enough of the valley floor for volunteers to start opening up new recreational trail routes. Look for us at the Tapawera Spring Fair on October 11 if you're interested in learning more about the restoration of this local treasure.



Tawa Place Playground has seen open green space transformed into a food and blossom-bearing landscape on the last Saturday of Winter 2025.

A mix of young and old volunteers made the most of a sunny morning to plant apple, apricot, feijoa, loquat, peach, pear and plum trees in three large mulched zones, plus five stand-alone trees in nearby Rata Reserve. These mulched zones are intended to be spray free and will allow further 'companion planting' of nitrogen-fixing and insect-bearing plants such as buckwheat, borage, comfrey and sunflowers amongst the fruit trees.

Funding for the trees and other materials has come from TDC Community Grants fund and the trees raised locally at Plant4life Nursery. Thanks also go to the Bonny family for the donation of a trailer load of mulch for the cause.

As the coordinator of these projects, Tapawera Connect maintain the relationship between these funders, donors and stakeholders (such as volunteers, neighbours and project leaders). We have another two years of Community Led Development funding remaining and plenty of ways to continue developing a resilient and sustainable Tapawera.

We need your ideas and support to continue making the most of this unique opportunity.

Mark Soper
tapinto@tapconnect.onmicrosoft.com



Tapawera Toy Library needs your support!

Our membership numbers have gone down but the expenses have gone up! To keep our little Toy Library going we need your support. Haven't visited us for a while? We are open Mondays 10:30 – 11:30 and also by appointment if Mondays aren't the best time for you. We have had the Toy Library in the community for 30 years, so let's keep it going. Contact Jan for any enquiries 027 391 5424

e ngā iwi e
haere mai!



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Tapawera School

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Tapawera Creative Fibre

Late snowfall, daffodils, lambs and lovely spring days a welcome change of season after our torrid winter.

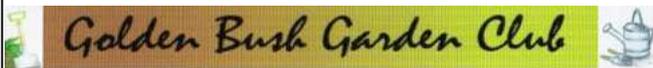
Group members have been busy with their crafting. This week we learned a new craft called Kimusaige an art form created in Japan to use up excess polystyrene used in packaging. Next Informer I hope to have some photos of our completed projects. Many thanks to Catherine for introducing us to this new craft.

Our proposed Mystery Tour has been postponed until February or March due to flood damage at the venues we were going to visit. Many thanks to Etta for her hard work on the mystery tour and maintaining her calm in the face of the numerous setbacks, including our choice of lunch venue being closed due to the owners being in Bali on that date.

I am starting to put together the numerous Log Cabin quilt blocks the group have created, destined for Cancer House in Christchurch.

No matter if you spin, sew, knit, crochet, or cross stitch, you are very welcome to join us at the Memorial Hall 10am – 3pm each Wednesday, or at 10 Totara Street 7pm – 9pm on a Tuesday evening.

Dallas Robinson



Our September meeting was held at the property of Shirley and Margaret in Tadmor Valley. It was amazing to see so much cheerful colour starting to emerge from the silt and damp or flooded conditions. As always, it was a delight to be there.

Following our August AGM, a donation was made to The Big Bake Up in Wakefield, in appreciation for their support of our community after the recent flood events.

Garden Club is always on the lookout for interesting places to visit, or to listen to interesting speakers. The gardens don't have to be 5 or even 3 stars but have the intent and purpose of developing. Maybe you've discovered an amazing park with interesting features, or been to a talk / workshop where you've listened to a speaker that inspired you. We're keen to explore the possibilities. Please get in touch.

Tapawera Spring Show is coming up on Saturday, 11th October, 11am-3pm, held at the school. Garden Club has offered to donate plants to be added to the school's plant stall. The proceeds of plant sales at the Show go to the

school/community garden. Please bring any potted and labelled plants you are willing to donate to our 9th October meeting and Linda will take them to the school on Friday. Anyone willing to help Linda give some time to set up the stall on the Friday would be most welcome.

Our next meeting on Thursday 9th October will be at the home of Nicola Allan, 'Thelma House' 434 Upper Stanley Brook Road. As usual there will be an auction and raffles. Bring a chair, cup and your lunch. See you there, Janine



Correction:

In last month's Informer we published a photo of Barbara McKay standing with Della. Barbara is from Golden Bay Rural Women, not St. Arnaud. Apologies for the mistake Barbara, and thank you again for your generous contributions. Nothing warms the heart like home baking!

Community Hub Update:

Great news!

TDC have approved the location for the future Tapawera Community Hub, within the Tapawera Memorial Park, a Council reserve, north of Matai Crescent (behind the 4 Square).

As such this will allow the project to continue to investigation and design stage.

TDC will be publishing a Newsline article for the 17 October edition on this.

It is exciting to have things progress to this stage after 5 years of consultations. The approximate start date for building is mid-next year. Now that the location has been finalised, our funding team will get busy helping us raise our community contribution amount. We have a special account set-up to receive donations which will be tax deductible. If you'd like to get in touch with the fundraising team, email our Fundraising coordinator (and Community Connector extraordinaire!) Della Webby: connect@tapconnect.onmicrosoft.com.

Happy Days!

Phoebe Quinlivan

Tapawera Connect Hub Coordinator



Senior Administrator /Finance

We are seeking a highly organised, versatile, and welcoming professional to join our team in a crucial, multi-faceted role. As the senior member of our school's administration, you will be responsible for a wide range of tasks spanning finance, executive assistance to the Principal, and front office support. The ideal candidate is a master of multitasking who thrives in a busy environment and is passionate about contributing to a positive school culture.

Essential Skills:

- Proven experience in a finance and comprehensive administration role.
- High proficiency in Google (Docs, Sheets, etc) and financial software (e.g., Xero,).
- Exceptional organisational and time-management skills with the ability to prioritise competing demands.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- A high level of discretion and the ability to handle confidential information with integrity.
- A positive, proactive, and friendly disposition.

Desirable:

- Experience with audit processes
- Experience working within a school environment.
- Familiarity with a New Zealand Student Management System (e.g., Helix).
- A current First Aid Certificate.

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Covered under the Support Staff Collective Agreement

How to Apply

If you are a motivated and skilled administrator who wants to make a real difference in our school community, we would love to hear from you.

Please submit your CV, including three referees and a cover letter outlining your suitability for the role to:

S. Coard, Principal
Tapawera Area School
Email: principal@tapawera.school.nz

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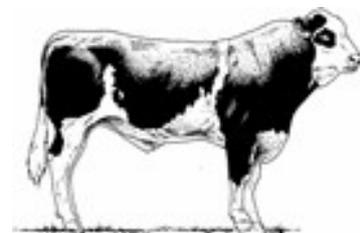
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Life Linc Counselling

Have you found yourself struggling with everyday things after the flooding in June and July? Do you feel like there is too much for one person to handle? Do you feel anxiety when the weather forecast is rainy? The recent weather events in Tasman have affected more than just our roads and fence lines. It has affected our hearts, minds and relationships with our whanau and community. Life Linc Counselling recognises that additional support is needed by those directly affected by the weather events and has been working to set up a system to answer that call for support.

We have spaces available in Motueka, Tapawera and Wakefield to take additional face to face counselling for the community. We also have secured funding to provide 7 free sessions of counselling per person who needs help. These can be in-person, online or by phone, depending on what works best for the client. With so much focus on recovering land, building fences and clean-up, there is often a mindset of pushing personal trauma to the back of our minds. It's easy to understand when lost income, damaged property and an uncertain future is right in front of us. The cost of counselling also oftentimes will cause someone to pause before calling. Life Linc Counselling has always been dedicated to removing financial barriers to access professional counselling, and with additional support from Lotteries funding, we have been able to remove the finances completely for flood victims.

We are encouraging people to reach out if they are experiencing anxiety, fear, depression or just need someone to talk to. Our counsellors are able to meet you where you are in your recovery journey and having a sympathetic ear to listen to you will help you find a way through. While looking for counselling through your GP or other healthcare provider, people often will have a long wait-time before being seen and the additional cost of a GP visit for the referral. This is not the case with Life Linc Counselling. You can self-refer through our website: www.lifelinc.co.nz or give us a call directly at (03) 548 2400. Just be sure to let us know you're enquiring about flood relief and we'll get you on the right track.

Life Linc Counselling believes in creating positive change in our community by enabling people to find more ease and joy in their lives and relationships. We have been in the Nelson-Tasman region for 51 years and have helped thousands of people through struggles and anxiety. You don't need to be at the end of the rope before seeking help; it is always better to reach out early. We are not an emergency service, but offer support to those in need through professional, confidential counselling. You can learn more about us by finding us on Facebook or checking out our website.



Tapawera Netball Club September News

Just like that the season has come to an end! We would love to send a massive thank you to our players, supporters and sponsors - Blue Rock Hops Glen and Sara, and Brian and Sarah Clayton, Fry Contracting Kevin and Andrew Fry, Tapawera 4 Square Sharon and Murray Williams and Bushend Farms Ltd Phil and Jocelyn Riley. Without you all, the season wouldn't have happened. We can't wait to see you next year.

Congratulations to all of our teams this year. On the 30th August we had our annual prizegiving, it was a great time to have all the teams together. You can see the results here:

Ferns Team:

Most Improved: Meeka MacDonald

Most Valuable Player: Aylah MacDonald and Ayarna Linstead

Tapawera Foursquare:

Most Improved: Ella Walker & Kasey Mitchell

Most Valuable Player: Paige Derbyshire

Tapawera Bushend Farms:

Most Improved: Brylee Biggelaar

Most Valuable Player: Maddie Pronk

Tapawera Blue Rock Hops:

Most Improved: Shakaia MacDonald

Most Valuable Player: Toni Derbyshire

Tapawera Fry Contracting:

Most Improved: Geinty Wells

Most Valuable Player: Aroha Collins

Club Trophies:

Best Defensive Player: Toni Derbyshire

Best Attack Player: Shakaia MacDonald

Most Committed Team: Tapawera 4 Square

Most Committed Family: Derbyshire

Contribution to Netball: Belinda Grice

Best Supporter Trophy: Renee MacDonald

Pins: Emma Bannister and Shimiela Streeter-Mantell

We have a **Tapawera Netball Club Facebook** page where we will update you on how our teams do throughout the season. We also have a new email address, so feel free to reach out to us at tapaweranetballclub1988@gmail.com.

Lissie Anglesey
Club Secretary

EXCLUSIVE



TAPAWERA 499 Tadmor Valley Road
Versatile Grazing/Hunting/Lifestyle

This exceptional property presents a wealth of opportunities! Whether you're seeking a weekend retreat, a site to build your dream home, or a place to park a tiny house or bus. Spanning approximately 6.5 hectares of flat land (52.14ha in total), it's currently used for grazing and supplement cutting, with six well-fenced paddocks (hot wires) that have comfortably wintered 40 cattle.

The land is well-equipped with excellent 4x4 tracks, a reliable gravity-fed water scheme, and a well. Infrastructure includes steel cattle yards, a three-bay hay and implement shed, and a lockable double garage featuring 3-phase power and a toilet. A diverse mix of mature pines (ideal for launching a firewood business) alongside manuka and native scrub brings natural character to the property. Wildlife such as pigs and goats are regular visitors, adding to its rural charm. Just a short drive from Tapawera, the location offers both convenience and a peaceful escape.

Whether you're after a lifestyle escape, a peaceful place to unwind, or a site with development potential, this property offers endless possibilities.

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VIEW By Appointment Only



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Tapawera Community Connection Update – October 2025

Do you want to connect to others in our community? Read on for information on what's been happening in our town and more fun ways to get involved.

Flood Relief Coordination

By the time this is published we will have wrapped up our flood relief coordination work. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who have supported our community by offering their time, energy or by donating goods.

Every little bit has helped and was hugely appreciated. The silver lining to these disasters was seeing our community pull together.



Simon from Foodstuffs, New World, delivering a pallet of stores to Della, restocking our foodbank.



Naralee, Natalie and David, feeling refreshed with donated Pete's Natural drinks after outstanding volunteer efforts.

Service & Support Connection

The Community Centre is still being staffed from 10am to 2pm on Monday to Friday and if you or any one you know needs any assistance or support, come and see us and we can point you in the right direction. **Community Centre**
Phone number: 027 436 1937

REMEMBER: Nicole Wilcox 0273 196 229 and Ollie Martin 0273 175 879 are available for free face to face health and well-being appointments in Tapawera or via phone.

Life Linc are also offering up to 7 free counselling appointments for anyone in flood hit areas who needs someone neutral to have a chat with www.lifelinc.co.nz.

Tapawera Spring Show

Saturday 11 October 2025, 11am to 3pm. Come along and support our community at this fun filled event! There will be animals, stalls, food, displays, competitions, entertainment, live music, car show and much more! The focus is on history, with some old school style fun. With just a gold coin entry fee, it's an affordable day out for the whole family.

Remember there are lots of adult categories to enter – from flowers, crafts, baking to photography – entry forms are in the show schedule. Extra copies available at the Community Centre.

Make sure you visit us at the Tapawera Connect Stall to see all the decorated shoes for the Mental Health Awareness Week – step towards each other programme and our Community Hub Fundraising Stall will have information, raffles and an old school 'throw the ball into the gumboot' game.

Workshops

Shoe Decorating Workshop & Competition

Mental Health Awareness Week: 6 October to 12 October 2025. To support our community in 'Stepping towards each other' while being creative and having fun, we are running a **FREE** shoe decorating workshop on **6th October 11am to 2pm** in the Community Centre. Snacks and drinks will be provided.



See the poster in this issue of the Informer. We will have a range of shoes and creative supplies available but please also bring along any of your own. We have three prizes to give away to the most interesting pairs. Decorated shoes will be displayed in the Tapawera Connect tent at the Spring Show.

Fermentation Workshop November 2025

Do you want to learn some simple inexpensive ferments to start healing your gut and immunity? Help to heal your digestion issues, heartburn, indigestion and more?

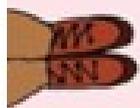


We are looking at offering a subsidised workshop in Tapawera during November. Please **contact me** for further information and to register your interest!

Della Webby, CLDP Community Connector
Connect@Tapconnect.onmicrosoft.com
Phone: 027 479 4420



Mental Health Awareness Week Nelson Tasman, 6 - 12 October 2025



STEP TOWARDS EACH OTHER



Tapawera Connect are supporting
Mental Health Awareness this year with the theme
'Step Towards Each Other'

Just for fun we are doing a FREE workshop, snacks & drinks provided

Monday 6th October 11am – 2pm

at the Tapawera Community Centre

bring in some old shoes

jandals, slippers, sneakers, high heels, gumboots etc
and decorate them.

You can bring your own materials or use what we have supplied.

There will be a display for the shoes at the

Tapawera Spring Show – 3 prizes are available

Please drop all decorated shoes to the
Community Centre by 2pm Friday 10th October

Contact Della Webby for more information

027 479 4420





Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor – Submission Guidelines

TDCC welcomes your thoughts, opinions and feedback. To ensure respectful, constructive and relevant discussion, please follow these guidelines when submitting a Letter to the Editor:

- Keep your letter under 400 words.
- Be respectful and civil, even when expressing disagreement. No hate speech, defamation or misinformation.
- Include your name and contact details.
- Email letters to tapawerainformer@gmail.com and tapaweratdcc@gmail.com by the first Tuesday of the month for publication in the following month's Informer.

Letters may be edited for length, clarity, or grammar, and may be referred for comment before publication. We reserve the right to decline letters that contain personal attacks, hate speech, discriminatory language or misinformation.

Letters are the opinion of the author and do not reflect the opinion of the TDCC or the Informer.

Dear Editor

I never intended to get in a public debate about the proposed new Hub but after the response to Barbara Barker's, Trish Palmer's and Susan Creedy's letters from Tapawera Connect I feel I must.

I think it is great that people are concerned about how our rates are spent, with the huge increases to our rate bill every year as well as the enormous debt the TDC now owes on our behalf, any responsible adult has the right to be concerned.

For Tapawera Connect to make the statement that the "impact on rates is a tiny drop in the ocean" is insulting and part of a culture of spending other people's money that has got out of hand in NZ. To also add, "Our current rates would not decrease if the Hub wasn't to go ahead, rather money would be reallocated to community projects elsewhere" is a continuation of that culture (if we don't spend it someone else will). Maybe it would be more prudent for the TDC to halt and review taking on more debt for "nice to haves" here or elsewhere, as the new Hub does include ratepayer funded loans. The policy that TDC will not fund an upgrade or renovation of existing buildings is a nonsense that needs to be challenged. This policy is well out of date and as ratepayers we need to demand common sense is used to make the most of what we already have in a cost effective way.

The consultation process is interesting as this has been used to show there has been an "overwhelming majority in support for the Hub, so those who are against the Hub are in the

minority". I guess those that strongly wanted the Hub in surveys and submissions to TDC were not worried about the details. I certainly had trouble finding any real info to make an informed decision. I had concerns on the future of our existing community buildings as they add character and history to the village, something other rural villages around NZ try to preserve.

It seems the new Hub is being presented as a done deal now but the detailed answers to the questions raised by Susan, Trish and Barbara and those I endeavoured to find are just not there. Certainly there is very little detail in the Q&A Tapawera Connect said to look at.

Roy Bensemann



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continued support"*



From the Principal's Desk

Tēnā koutou e te Whānau ki te Kura o Tapawera

Susan Ellis has resigned from her position at Tapawera Area School, effective January 15, 2026. Susan has dedicated an incredible 38 years of service to our school community. After much consideration, she has made the difficult decision to retire. We are immensely grateful for her contributions and unwavering commitment over nearly four decades.

We will be organising an appropriate farewell to celebrate Susan's remarkable career and acknowledge her impact on our school. More details regarding this will be shared in due course. Please join me in extending our best wishes to Susan as she embarks on this new chapter.
Sarah Coard

Our School Uniform: Thank You for Your Feedback!

Thank you to all the students, staff, and whānau who took the time to share their thoughts on our school uniform. With 132 responses, we received a wealth of valuable feedback that will guide our next steps. It's clear that while most of us support having a uniform, there are significant opportunities for improvement. Here's a quick summary of what you told us.

What We Heard: Key Themes Across all groups, the feedback was remarkably consistent.

Senior Exemption is a Priority: There is overwhelming support for allowing our senior students (**Years 12 and 13**) to be exempt from wearing the uniform

Cost and Quality are Big Concerns: Many families find the current uniform expensive and are frustrated with the poor quality of certain items.

Supplier Issues: The limited availability and inconsistent stock from our current single supplier is a major source of frustration for families.

The Problem Items: Polo Shirts and Jackets

You gave us very clear feedback on two items in particular:

The Light Blue Polo Shirt: These tops were identified as a key problem. You told us they are made of poor-quality material, stain very easily, and are difficult to keep looking clean and tidy.

The Fleece Jacket: The current fleece is not considered warm or practical enough for cold winter weather.

There is a very strong desire from both students and families for warmer winter options, including a **school hoodie** and the option to wear **plain navy or black trousers**.

Our Plan: What Happens Next

Your feedback has given us a clear mandate for change. We want you to know that we have listened, and we are taking action. Here are our immediate next steps:

Form a Review Group: We are establishing a uniform committee made up of staff, students, and whānau to lead this process.

Review and Replace Key Items: Our top priority is to find better alternatives. We will be immediately investigating:

Replacing the light blue polo with a darker, more durable, and easy-care option.

Introducing a warm and comfortable school hoodie or an improved jacket.

Allowing plain navy bottoms (trousers, shorts, skorts) that can be bought from any retailer to reduce costs and make things easier for families.

Involve Students: We are committed to using the detailed student feedback to ensure any new items are comfortable, practical, and something our kids will be proud to wear.

Gradual Roll-Out: Please be assured that any changes will be phased in over time. This will give families time to adapt and manage the transition from existing uniform items without financial pressure.

Thank you again for your valuable input. We are excited to work together to create a uniform that is affordable, practical, and fosters a real sense of pride in Tapawera Area School.

Ngā mihi, The Tapawera Area School Board

What is Emotional Regulation?

Emotional regulation is the ability to manage our feelings and how we express them. It's about recognising you're feeling a big emotion—like anger, frustration, or disappointment—and choosing how to respond in a healthy and constructive way, rather than letting the feeling take over.

Starting the Conversation at Home

Talking about feelings can be tricky, but it's one of the most important things we can do. Here are a few ideas to help you support your child with emotional regulation at home:

Name it to Tame it: Encourage your child to put a name to their feeling.

Simply saying, "It sounds like you're feeling really frustrated with that homework" or "I can see you're disappointed we can't go to the park" helps them understand their internal experience.



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Tapawera Community Craft and Market Day

Last Sunday of the month






Across the road from 4 Square on the village green, 10am to 2pm.

Bring along your crafts/produce /unwanted items to sell.





Enquiries to Amanda Beer on FB messenger or via the Tapawera and Surrounding Valleys FB page.



TAS News Cont.

Validate the Feeling (Not the Behaviour):

Let them know that it's okay to feel whatever they are feeling. All emotions are valid. You can say, "It's okay to feel angry that your brother broke your toy, but it's not okay to hit him." This separates the emotion from the reaction.

Model Healthy Coping: Be open about your own feelings in an age-appropriate way. You could say, "I'm feeling a bit overwhelmed today, so I'm going to take five minutes to sit quietly and take some deep breaths." This shows them that adults have big feelings too and demonstrates healthy ways to manage them.

Problem-Solve Later: In the heat of the moment, the logical part of the brain isn't in charge. Wait until things have calmed down, and then talk about what happened. Ask questions like, "What could we try next time you feel that angry?" or "What's something that helps you feel calm?" Brainstorm a list of strategies together, like listening to music, going for a run, drawing, or talking to a trusted adult.

Our Next Steps at School

These insights are already shaping our pastoral care planning. We are developing targeted strategies to explicitly teach students emotional skills and provide them with tools they can use every day.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in supporting our students' well-being. By working together, we can help them build the skills they need to thrive. Sarah Coard

Upgrades to our kura and bit of history

Our front of the school is looking awesome! It is lovely to see the bark garden and paths. Our school chain is in its new home. Our school chain originated on the Wahine ship and then it was moved to forestry and farmland in Tapawera. After the 50th anniversary celebration of our school we were gifted this chain by the Flanagan family. A friendly reminder to respect the chain (please don't climb on it). We see the chain in our logo on our school uniform.

We are super excited to see our school upgrades continuing! The scaffolding is up, and our secondary classrooms are being water blasted in preparation for painting. Over the holidays, work will begin on completing the common room, creating a new office entrance area, and upgrading the secondary classrooms.



New Road Signs for our School

30 kmph between 8am – 9.35am and 2.25pm - 3.55pm on School Days.

School Bus Bay Keep Clear Monday – Friday 8.20am – 9am 3pm – 3.30pm

Rotary Quiz Night (Yr 7-8)

Oliver and Harry were lucky enough to be selected to represent our school at the annual Motueka Rotary Quiz Night. They worked brilliantly together as a team, tackling lots of tricky questions across a wide range of topics. The boys did an awesome job, coming away with 5th place out of 12 schools! They also earned \$10, a certificate, and a new book to enjoy. A huge thank you to Mr Hooper for giving up his time to take them along.



Weaving. Room 3 are learning how to weave using paper while practising.





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find out more at www.lifelinc.co.nz



TAS News Cont.

Trees and Seeds. In the last few weeks the tamariki in Room 3 have been learning about propagation of trees. We have been in the Native Tree Area collecting a few seed pods and Kate has come into school a few times to help us with this. We have squeezed seeds and planted them in small containers. We water them every day and look after them. Kate brought some seedlings in earlier which we pricked out and put them in bigger pots. We also went to the Shedwood Bush Native Tree planting area and planted a lot of trees. Here is to a new group of enthusiasts looking after our Trees.



Movie Night Room 2 turned into a cinema for the evening as we gathered for a special Movie Night—and what a night it was! As part of our learning about forestry and sustainability, we've been reading *The Lorax* by Dr Seuss. So, it only made sense to cap off our unit with a screening of *The Lorax* movie! The message of the film tied in perfectly with our discussions about caring for the environment, trees, and how our actions affect the world around us.

But the night wasn't just educational—it was loads of fun too! **Pizza** was on the menu, and it was a hit with everyone. Families brought in **fabulous home baking**, with a delicious range of sweet treats for all to enjoy. A big thank you to all the families who contributed—your baking skills are truly amazing!

One of the highlights of the evening was the **photo booth**, where students had a blast dressing up and snapping silly, memorable photos with their friends. It was a wonderful evening full of laughter. Thank you to everyone who helped make Room 2's Movie Night such a success—we couldn't have done it without you!



Wood is Good We had a fantastic morning learning about forestry and logging trucks. It was a great joy to climb the big truck driven by Hayley. Thanks 'Wood is good' for coming to Tapawera



Kaimahi trophy – week 4 = Liesel de Kriek

We acknowledge Liesel for her dedication to our students doing the mahi in maths! Especially for going above and beyond to help parents help their children with learning in this space.



Kaimahi trophy - week 5 = Jill Hall

We would like to acknowledge Jill for her efforts with managing our school database (Helix) and our timetables so that everyone is in the right place doing the right thing! Thanks Jill.



Kaimahi trophy- week 6 = Daniel Hooper

We would like to acknowledge Daniel for his consistent willingness to step up and offer support to both staff and students. His reliability and positive attitude make a real difference, and we appreciate the way he goes above and beyond to help our school community.



Kaimahi trophy- week 7 = Tegan Cornell

We would like to acknowledge Tegan for all her work on the sports this year and TOSI prep for next year. She is also an amazing Learner Assistant and consistently shows patience, creativity, and adaptability in her approach. She works one-on-one and in small groups with students, supporting them not only in their academic growth but also in developing confidence and resilience.



Kaimahi trophy- week 8 = Stephen Haunch

We would like to acknowledge Steve for his outstanding commitment both in and out of school towards our students' sporting achievements. He is an exceptional coach who consistently works to bring out the very best in our students.



Kaimahi trophy- week 9- Todd McAuley

We would like to acknowledge Todd for his work in the primary school alongside sport Tasman. He has taken upon himself to do this with a passion for improved physical education opportunities across the school. Most recently, for providing outdoor opportunities for our students at GET 2 GO.



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 tapawerainformers@gmail.com

Justice of The Peace

Peter Phillips ph. 5224313
 John Ellis ph. 021 522429
 Brent Hodgkinson ph. 5224381
 Susan Fenemor ph. 0275224009 (text
 during school hours)

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 emergencies 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: Nicola Allan
nicolaallan434@gmail.com or
TapaweraTDCC@gmail.com

Tapawera Connect

Contact: Phoebe Quinlivan ph. 021 211
 6730 or 522 4929, email:
tapaweraconnect@gmail.com

Tapawera Creative Fibre

Meet: every Wednesdays, 10am-2pm,
 Memorial Hall
 Contact: Dallas Robinson ph. 5224984

Tapawera Jujutsu Club

Contact: Tony Hammersley ph. 5224609

Tapawera Music/Country Music Club

Meet: Alternate Sundays, Tapawera
 Hotel 7:30pm
 Contact: Elaine Douglas ph. 5418612

Tapawera Op Shop

Open: Tue 11am-2pm, Wed 10am-2pm,
 Sat 11am-2pm, last Sun of month 10am-
 2pm
 Contact: Amanda Beer ph. 0278024612

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. 5224550

Toy Library

Open Monday or via arrangement:10:30
 -11:30am contact Jan Barker:
 0273915424 or 5224102

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

**What's on
October**

- 1 Tapawera Recreation Reserve
Committee meeting, Memorial
Hall, 7pm
- 3 Rural Mums Platter and Cards
Night (RSVP needed please),
Memorial Hall
- 6 Mental Health workshop,
Tapawera Community Centre,
11am-2pm
- 9 Garden Club, 11am, 434 Upper
Stanley Brook Road
- 11 Tapawera Spring Show, 11am-
3pm
- 12 Rural Mums Group meetup,
Memorial Hall, 9.30am
- 14 Tapawera Talking Café, 10-
11:30am, School/Community
Library
- 14 Digi Drop-in Session, School/
Community Library, 11am-1pm
- 20 Articles for Informer close 5pm
- 21 TDCC monthly meeting,
Community Centre, 7pm
- 26 Craft and Market Day, Village
Green, 10am-2pm
- 28 Tea and Talk, St Peter's
Church, 10:00am - 11:30am

**GP & Nurse at
Tapawera Clinic**

(during school term time):

GP clinics – Mondays 9am – 12
midday

Nurse clinic – alternate Tues-
day mornings - phone 541 8911

Wakefield Police

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jamie.white2@police.govt.nz
 Constable Matthew Berquist –
matthew.berquist@police.govt.nz
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