

Join the Tapawera & Districts Community Council (TDCC) Committee

Following the recent Tasman District Council (TDC) elections, we have a suite of new councillors. We congratulate **John Gully** and welcome him to the **Lakes and Murchison Ward**, which includes Tapawera and the surrounding areas.

One of the best ways to connect with TDC and make sure that new councillors — including John — understand the issues and opportunities facing the Tapawera area is to **join the TDCC Committee**. TDCC meets monthly with our local councillor and carries real weight with Council as a community organisation.

We advocate for local improvements, like reducing the speed limit outside the school, urging TDC to fix potholes, the Dart River crossing, culverts, and more. We also work with TDC on ways to both save and make the best use of ratepayers' money to support our community — for example, through the development of a new community hub.

TDCC gets things done.

TDCC owns and manages the **Tapawera Community Centre** on behalf of the community. The Centre provides space for local midwives, health services, and community groups. It also houses the **Op Shop**, and revenue from the Op Shop helps fund local initiatives — including recent Tapawera School sports events and the “Spring Show.”

We regularly donate funds to good causes, whether it's the rescue helicopter or a new wood chipper for the Community Garden.

The **Kahurangi Gateway**, along with the coffee and food stalls in the village, also operate on TDCC land and access our water and power.

We're also working with groups like **Tapawera Connect** and the **Historical Society** to help make the centre of the village safe, welcoming, and interesting for everyone.

If you'd like to support your community, consider becoming a **member of TDCC** and joining the committee. Under the new constitution, you need to be a member to either join the committee or nominate someone to it. The nomination process is described below.

Membership is **free** and open to anyone living in the area. You can find a membership form on the **Tapawera Community website** under the TDCC tab: <https://tapaweracommunity.nz/wp/tdcc/>



Senior's Snippets with Janine Leeden, 0277525975

Hi everyone. I am a bit flummoxed that as I sit and write this article, mid October, I have to have my 'end of year – Christmas' hat on?!

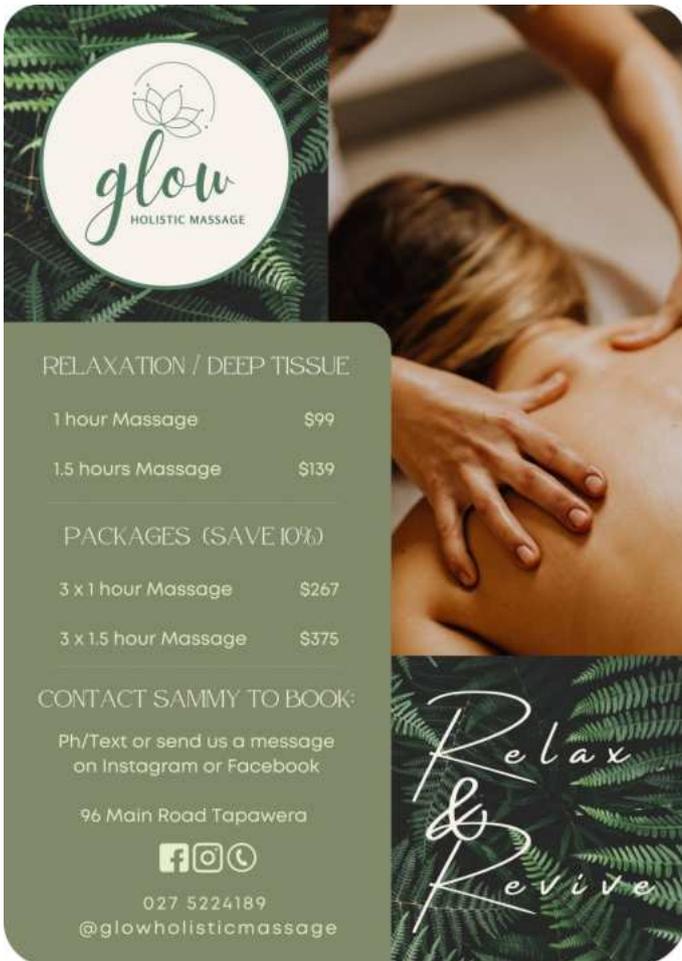
Thank you to Phoebe Quinlivan for covering me at short notice for the last Wellby Talking Café. It was strange how all three of the regulars who know how to host were knocked out last minute, but thankfully our TC team has some flexibility to it.

The next Wellby will again be hosted at the School/Community Library on Tuesday 11th November from 10-11.30am. The **Digi Drop-In** girls will again be there from **11am** to help sort out any tech issues or help connect you to other services provided free with your Tasman District Library membership.

Our **Sit and Be Fit** (Strength & Balance) classes continue **every Friday morning at St Peter's Church, from 10am - \$3** to help cover morning tea and rental on the building. Again my quarterly figures showed healthy attendance. While missing two weeks due to flood events, we still had a healthy 78 people attend over 11 weeks, averaging over 7 per week. It's been great to have some new but long-term local faces (along with the rest of their bodies) join in and contribute to the love and laughter each week!

I suddenly realised that our **25th November Tea and Talk** will be our last for the year, already! We will meet at **St Peter's Church from 10am** and enjoy some Christmas themed fun together, through lunch time. Please bring a plate of Christmas / summer themed finger food to share, but please let me know ahead of time whether you intend bringing sweet or savoury. Even don some festive finery and lets celebrate this year that has thrown us some curve balls.





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Material & adverts for Informer

All material is to be sent to either:

Informer, PO Box 15, Tapawera, 7055
or email– tapawerainformer@gmail.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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and accurate, but do not accept any responsibility for errors or omissions, or for any consequences of readers' relying on the information published. Opinions expressed by contributors may or may not be endorsed by the Editor or Publisher.
All material submitted, whether editorial or advertising, is accepted at the discretion of the Editor and the Publisher.



Homes for Wakefield

“8 NEW PENSIONER FLATS AT PEARLESS PLACE”

Homes for Wakefield, sub-committee of Wakefield Community Council, has been looking at a possibility to get more pensioner flats built at Pearless Place in Wakefield (see article in July 2025 Window on Wakefield).

There is currently no one on the combined waiting list for Wakefield/Brightwater for these pensioner flats.

Could we encourage anyone, who will fit the eligibility criteria, to please put your name on the list (a form can be found on the link below). You can send this form to any TDC office or ask for a form to be send to you: Reserves & Facilities Officer at the Tasman District Council, telephone 03 543 8468

Please find the link to an application form for a council cottage on:

<https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/key-documents/more/rates-and-housing/housing-for-older-adults>

The more people there are on the waiting list for the pensioner flats the more likely it is that we can get more pensioner flats in Wakefield.

Eligibility

You qualify for a Council cottage if:

- You are a New Zealand resident; and
- You are 65 years of age or over and are receiving National Superannuation, or over 55 years of age and are in receipt of a Supported Living Payment from the Ministry of Social Development; and
- Your total assets, including cash, investments, house and other property (but not including car and furniture) do not exceed \$50,000; and
- You can live independently; and
- You get on well with other people and will live compatibly with neighbours.

Please contact us via email:
homesforwakefield@gmail.com

Anna Naygrow, Richard Martin, Sonja Lamers

Homes for Wakefield Sub-committee of Wakefield Community Council



Tapawera Netball Club October News

What a season we had this year at Tapawera Netball Club with 5 teams set to

take the court.

We just want to say a massive thank you to Belinda, Laura & Shimiela, Toni & Vanessa, Rochelle & Adrienne and Shaye for all putting in the time to coach and manage our teams without you putting in hours of effort and sharing your skills and knowledge we wouldn't be able to enter those teams, so thank you.

Thank you to Emma Bannister for umpiring every game this season and Lane and Kiahna for being our teams' named umpires for round two of the season.

We want to acknowledge Tapawera Area School for the use of the Netball Courts, the hall to power our training nights and the use of the office for our meetings.

Last but not least we would love to say a huge thank you for Hadyn Morgan for his goodwill towards the club, it doesn't go unnoticed.

Upcoming Important Dates:

After great success last year we are hosting another QUIZ NIGHT! Save the date 28th March at 7pm. More details to follow.

Our AGM is also coming up on the 17th February, 7pm at the School Office, everyone is invited so come along and get involved in the club.

Season Dates:

- **Senior Trials:** Wednesday 11th February, 7pm & Sunday 15th February, 9am
- **School Aged Trials:** Wednesday 4th March, 3:15pm

If you don't want to play but would like to help coach or manage for the upcoming season, we would love to hear from you.

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

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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.

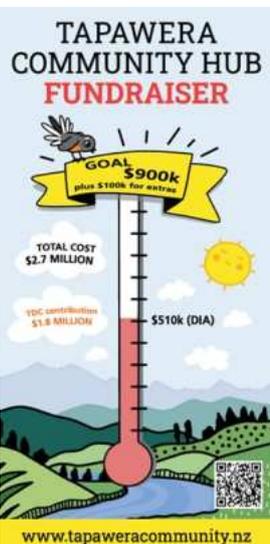
Tapawera Spring Show



Wow! What an amazing day the community had at the Spring Show, with the inclement weather doing an abrupt about turn and covering us in sunshine. We used the opportunity to bring out our new Gumbboot Game, organised by Janine Leeden and built by the Menzshed – thank you! This game is part of our fundraising for the new Community Hub, and it was great to see so many people, of all ages, having a go.

If you want to try your luck at throwing a golf ball into the gumbboot for a prize, come and see us at future Tapawera Market days.

Hub Fundraising



Now that we have a confirmed location behind the Four Square for the new Community Hub, the fundraising team are raring to go, ready to raise the remaining \$390,000 community contribution. At the time of writing, a dedicated fundraising page on the community website and donation portal are under development.

You will be able to donate to this wonderful community asset directly from the website, automatically receiving a donation receipt to claim your tax rebate from IRD.

Scan this QR Code to go to the website and click the donate now link.



Workshops

Fermentation Workshop, Friday 14 November 2025, 1pm to 3pm

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? Register now for this workshop, limited to 10 people. See the flyer for more details.



I am currently working on some possible Christmas themed workshops for December, and we will be putting out a calendar of workshops in the New Year for 2026. Watch this space!

Shoe Decorating Workshop & Competition



Our recent shoe decorating workshop for connection during *Mental Health Awareness Week* was a lot of fun and laughs. Several people mentioned they didn't get the notice in time, so we have set up an email database to let people know directly of future workshops and events. See

the notice in this informer for how to register onto the database.

The shoes were displayed in the hall at the Spring Show and independently judged. There were three prizes awarded, kindly provided by the Health Action Trust in Nelson.

1st Prize: Marah Gibson. 2nd Prize: Charyn Mackenzie. 3rd Prize: Della Webby

Support

Remember, the Community Centre is now being staffed from 10am to 2pm on Monday to Friday, so 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

Della Webby, CLDP Community Connector.
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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.

Permanent, 25 hours a week, 10 am to 3.30 pm (Mon-Fri), 43 weeks a year. Plus Board Secretary - 8 meetings a year

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



Measles update

Measles is one of the most dangerous and contagious diseases. If you are not vaccinated and come into contact with someone who has it, you are very likely to catch it and pass it on to others.

Measles can cause a rash, flu-like symptoms, or more serious problems like brain swelling, chest infections, or death.

If you are pregnant, measles can make you very sick and can harm your baby.

This year in Aotearoa New Zealand we have already had cases of measles. Not enough people are immunised against it, which means it could just take a single case of measles to start an outbreak.

We need at least 95% of people to be immunised to stop an outbreak. This also protects babies who are too young to be vaccinated, and severely immunocompromised people.

If you are unsure as to whether you are protected against Measles, please do contact us.

Spring Show – Tapawera (by Dr Kim Hurlow)

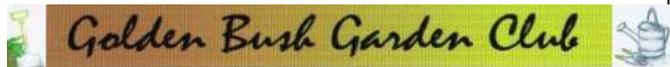
We had a great day at the Spring Show, a fun day out together and great to touch base with all who came by our spot, whether to:

- See a GP or nurse (we did about 40 free consultations – thanks Pip, Ben, Wayne, Jane and Gill),
- Give us some feedback with our survey and go in the prize draw – Congratulations Peter Sosich who won the healthy treat hamper
- Help us keep the bike pedalling for the whole time of the show – we hope it was a good time to reflect with health coach Ollie about the benefits of exercise! Credit to Renee and Shakaia who helped us borrow the bike from the Purpose HQ Gym – what a great resource right here in Tapawera – contact them if you want to increase your exercise.

For those who did our survey, we appreciate your feedback including many words of encouragement, and will be in contact with those who wanted support in a particular area.

Feedback about our services is always welcome so if you want to pass any of on discuss support you would like with your health phone us, email office@wakfldhc.co.nz or fill out a suggestion form in our waiting room.

We'll be bringing the mobile clinic up again in the new year so feel free to pop down when we do, we'll send a text to let you know when we are coming.



Although the day started cold with the promise of rain, the sun came out and Garden Club members met at Thelma House, the home of Nicola Allen. Owned for many years by Geraldine & John Carleton, Nicola has made many changes. The gardens are a peaceful haven & delight to meander around.

There was no auction as all plants were donated to the school for the Spring fair.

Trish Palmer was welcomed as a new member.

The next meeting will be held at Sally Briffault's home on 13th November, 41 Tiru Kina Rd off Harley Rd.

Happy gardening - planting your tomato & vege plants.



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How to access counselling-



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find out more at www.lifelinc.co.nz



Living with the River: Insights and Solutions from the MCC Hui

On 18 September, around sixty people gathered at the Riverside Centre for an important and timely hui hosted by the Motueka Catchment Collective (MCC). The theme — “Understanding Our Rivers, Strengthening Our Communities”—brought together farmers, iwi, scientists, council staff, and residents to explore how we live with the Motueka River and its extremes.

“This hui is a stepping stone,” said facilitator Ursula Passl. “Floods force us to pause and reflect. Everyone here has a connection to the river—and that’s what brings us together.”

Ngāti Tama’s Dayveen Stephens opened with a moving video journey to the river’s source, reminding us of its spiritual lifeforce. “It’s pristine and pure at the source—but sometimes it’s sad to see the condition of the awa further down,” she shared.

Veteran river manager John Ellis urged a shift in mindset: “We’ve tried to control the river for decades. It’s time we showed it respect. Rivers have nurtured us—now we must care for them.”

Neil Deans, Pou Taiao for Ngāti Koata, outlined the Water Conservation Order protecting the Motueka’s outstanding values, including trout and whio habitat, scenic landscapes, and karst systems. “Floods are part of every river’s story,” he said. “With climate change, they’ll only get bigger and more frequent.”

River geomorphologist Mike Harvey challenged assumptions about flood management: “Stopbanks give the illusion of safety. But when we build close to rivers, we increase the risk. We need to let rivers breathe.”

Trevor James, Principal Scientist at Tasman District Council, highlighted the river’s rich biodiversity and called for river management solutions that create win-wins for keeping people safe and protecting native habitats. “We can build back better,” he said. “But we must stop treating rivers like drains.”

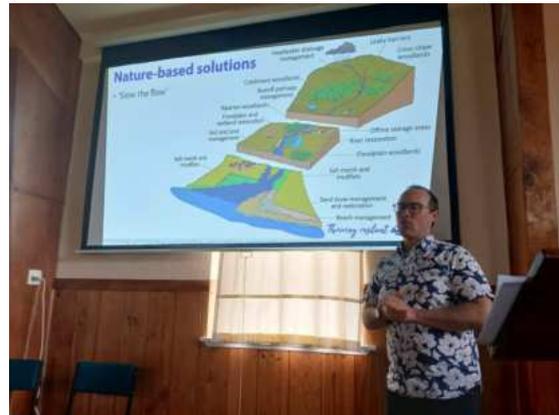
Nature-Based Solutions and Flood Resilience

Alastair Clement, Hazards team leader at Tasman District Council, and Seb Dedonker, River and Wetland Engineer, brought a practical lens to how we think about flood resilience.

Alastair defined this as “our ability to avoid the effects of flooding—and where we can’t, to be well prepared, respond well, and recover quickly.”

He shared findings from TDC’s modelling work, showing that nature-based solutions—like riparian planting, leaky barriers, and floodplain reconnection—when combined, can reduce peak flows by up to 36% in some sub-catchments.

Alastair did point out, however, that nature based solutions are only fully effective in managing flood risk for small to medium floods such as a 20 year flood.



Alastair Clement, Natural Hazards team leader, TDC

Seb reinforced the need to rethink infrastructure: “We’ve narrowed our rivers and built too close. If you live in the floodplain, prepare to be flooded, particularly if it is a 50 to 100 year flood like we saw in June and July.” He advocated for secondary channels, wetland restoration, and smarter land use. “Do we want a drain—or a living river with good water quality, fish, and habitat?”

Both speakers stressed that solutions must be site-specific, collaborative, and grounded in long-term memory. “Let’s not forget what this flood taught us,” Seb urged. “Use that knowledge to shape what we do next.”

Open Dialogue and Community Voices

Throughout the day, panel discussions created space for open, respectful dialogue. Attendees asked thoughtful, sometimes challenging questions—about gravel extraction, forestry practices on Separation Point granite, and the role of modelling versus lived experience. One participant asked, “Does practical knowledge from living beside the river count?” Alastair responded, “Models aren’t perfect—

they’re tools, not truths but they can be useful.” Ursula pointed out that this hui is a way of hearing from different people and allowing the sharing of perspectives and experiences.



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Living with the River: Insights and Solutions from the MCC Hui cont.

Another attendee asked whether nature-based solutions would require land use changes, and who would pay for this. "The river was here before us," Alastair said. "But this is a complex question and we need to come together as a society to answer that."

Ursula reminded everyone that disagreement is part of progress: "Don't be afraid to have a cup of tea with someone you disagree with. That's how communities find a way forward."

Collective Action and next steps

Breakout groups explored practical ideas and next steps — from planting trees and slowing water on private land, to improving emergency preparedness and sharing knowledge. One attendee summed it up: "We need to drink tea with our neighbours, work with council, and make meetings safe for honest kōrero."

MCC closed the day with a clear message: this hui was just the beginning. More gatherings are planned to deepen flood resilience planning and support collaborative action across the catchment.

Here is some feedback we received about the day:

"Just wanted to say thanks so much to the team for organising the event yesterday. It was very well run and the format was engaging and highly informative."

"Congratulations for a very nice Conference day last week. So interesting and well needed into the community".

If you'd like to see video recordings and powerpoints from the day go here – <https://motuekacatchment.org.nz/resources-2/#Understanding>



From the Principal's Desk

Tēnā koutou e te Whānauki te Kura o Tapawera

A Sunny Success for Our Spring Show!

After weeks of rain and grey skies, the sun finally decided to shine just in time for our Spring Show! The day turned out hot and bright, and it was wonderful to see so many families and community members come along to enjoy the fun. The weather may have kept us guessing in the lead-up, but the hot, sunny Saturday brought everyone out in full force.

Crowds filled the grounds, enjoying the stalls, displays and entertainment on offer. From delicious food and lively music

to the smiling faces of friends and neighbours catching up, it was a wonderful celebration of our community spirit.

The animal competition was a great success, with lots of proud children showing off their animals and plenty of cheers from the crowd. Over in the hall, the rest of the competitions were just as exciting — with many, many entries in everything from baking and crafts to flowers and art. The displays looked fantastic, and it was clear how much effort everyone had put in.

A highlight of the day was Donald and his duck show, where a clever dog herded ducks through an obstacle course — a real crowd favourite! We were also very lucky to have support from our local Fire Brigade, St John, and the Health Bus, who all added so much to the day with their support, activities, and friendly faces.

Thank you to all the helpers, organisers, and participants who made the day run so smoothly. It was lovely to see everyone smiling, chatting, and celebrating our school and community together.

We're already looking forward to doing it all again next year!



Casual Visitor Centre Opportunities

Department of Conservation is on the lookout for suitably qualified individuals for working in the Visitor Centre, on a casual basis.

We are looking for people who are experienced in and passionate about the outdoors. Ideally, it would suit someone who is familiar with bookings systems and has experience in the tourism sector.



What to expect

You will provide support to the permanent team which involves Friday afternoons, weekend and public holiday work over the summer season.

If you are interested in an informal discussion, then please send a CV and letter of introduction to nelsonvc@doc.govt.nz. Alternatively, please feel free to call in to the Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre, View Road, St Arnaud and chat with our friendly staff.

**COME TO A
TALKING CAFÉ**

Connect with your community



Talking Cafés are an opportunity to meet people, make new connections and learn more about your community.

Pop in for a quick cuppa, or stay for a longer conversation with friendly people. All welcome, no bookings required.

Upcoming Talking Cafés

Tapawera School Community Library
Tuesday 11th November, 10.00am-11.30am
Tuesday 9th December, 10.00am-11.30am

Tapawera Community Centre
Tuesday 13th January, 10.00am - 11.30am

For more details:
wellby.org.nz
or phone (03) 546 7681



AGM 17th Nov

7pm at Clubrooms



All members are encourage to attend

**An updated constitution will be voted on.
Please email tapawerarugby@gmail.com if
you wish to view a copy in advance**



Friends of the School- Thank you!!!!

Friends of the School are a fundraising group of community members including parents and grandparents of our tamariki. During the year many students and families have benefitted from the support from the Friends of the School. In terms of Outdoor experiences we have been able to offer opportunities for our students to enjoy Tramping, Kayaking, Rafting and Canyoning to name a few. And this is not the only area in school that benefits! On behalf of the students we would like to say a big THANK YOU for making these activities more accessible for us all.

During the year they cater at various events including Caravan weekend, they hold plant auctions and book fairs. They also supply food etc for school group fundraising. If anyone is interested in joining or supporting this amazing group, you can contact Jude Benjamin at school.



Top Volunteer

We are delighted to announce that this year's Top Volunteer for Tapawera Area School is Tamati Bright with 180 hours logged from 21/10/24 – 30/09/25.

Cross Country by Ben Dixon

After competing at Interschool Cross Country earlier in the year and coming in the top 10 meant that I qualified to go to Nationals in Christchurch. On the 19th of September I went down to participate. On the day of racing it was raining so it made it a lot harder because it was cold. In the race there were 2 hurdles each lap. I had to run 3km so 3 laps of the



course. Overall I thought I did pretty well and I hope to make it again next year.

Thank you to Friends of the School for supporting me once again and helping me get to Nationals and be able to have these opportunities.

Kaimahi Trophy - week 10 (last term) – Josie Orr

We would like to acknowledge Josie for her wonderful work with all things digital. She puts in a great deal of effort supporting our junior school learners, helping them build confidence and skills in using technology. Her enthusiasm and dedication make a real difference in our students' learning journeys.



Kaimahi Trophy - week 1 – Sabine Reinert

We would like to acknowledge Sabine for being a fantastic team leader and dedicated classroom teacher. She also finds time to lead wonderful projects such as the school garden and the Spring Show, enriching our school community with her creativity and commitment.



Kaimahi Trophy - week 2 – Kirsty Griffith

The Kaimahi trophy is awarded to Kirsty for all her amazing work with our high needs learners and a huge effort at the Spring Show.





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The Lady Tradie



Has your husband got a **round**



Spring has sprung

and the grass has riz !

Do you wonder where a handyman is ?

Can't get one ?

Then call " Jen the Lady Tradie "

for all your outside spring clean-up jobs

* Gutters full of leaves;

* Lawns that are starting to bolt;

* Waterblasting those slippery paths

and all that spring growth that just might get away from you.

* **Local Person** * **Referees Available** *

Consideration & discount shown towards Senior Citizens

FREE QUOTES

Contact Jennifer

Phone or text: **027 544 2663**

After hours/leave a message: **03 522 4453**

Email enquiries to: jentheladytradie@gmail.com

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.

Voices From the Floodplain

It was the 27th of June when heavy rain began in the Tasman District, gradually saturating the ground and causing slips & flooding around the Moutere. Little did we know that this was the start of prolonged, unyielding rainfall which caused the Motueka & Wai Iiti Rivers to rise to 100yr flood levels. The river, so often a quiet neighbour, began to push outwards, nudging fences & creeping across roads until it was in full flood, breaching stop banks and past records & smashing everything in its path. Not once, but twice within two weeks, our community was devastated by the river which runs through our centre.

At first, no one thought that this was going to be a huge event, no one anticipated the speed at which the water would rise and rise and rise.

Kaisami Beatson (15) of Ngatimoti said 'We didn't think we'd have to go up to Aunty's. Dad and Mum took the cars up and then Mum couldn't get back down and all the water started coming through the driveway and started flooding. We grabbed the cat and Dad ran back through the water to grab us kids and chuck us in the ute.'

Kaisami told me that his grandfather Guthrie had worked for the old Catchment Board and witnessed the last big flood in 1983, so he was the family expert when it came to the river. 'He kept saying it should be right, it should start to ease off, but it didn't.'

He recalled the family watching over their farm from his Aunty Jen's place, especially three rams on an ever decreasing island of dry land in a paddock which had never flooded before. Grandad, Dad, Warwick and Isla (17) went back for them on the tractor, the river was so swift between the shed and the house that Dad was struggling to stand and water was lapping over the bonnet of the tractor but they managed to get the rams to higher ground.

'It was worrying, especially watching Grandpa who is 80, I was nervous and scared.'



Kaisami helping to build back fences after the flood

Jess King from Westbank Road in Pangatōtara said that the moment everything changed was when the family saw their baleage start moving and the hay fall over and be swiftly taken by the river. Then the mad panic of getting stock out of paddocks to higher ground again set in. The second time around, the water came onto the King's property from the hillside above as well as the rising river below and the family had to attempt to clear culverts and dig drains in the pouring rain, absolutely soaked through for hours as day turned to night.

There are many harrowing stories, of houses inundated or washed away entirely, of families struggling through floodwaters, of stock and pets lost and of paddocks, roads and infrastructure destroyed.

In the immediate aftermath of the first flood, as our community struggled with the new reality of an altered landscape, covered in mud and silt and laced with rubbish and woody debris, feelings ranged from disbelief to devastation, huge overwhelm and many tears. There was however a motivation to clean up and sort things out which, coupled with neighbourly and community support, meant that families felt positive and had purpose.

It was a very different situation after the second flood. The landscape was still altered, the roads even more of a state and many more landslides dotted the hills resulting in more silt in the floodplain and uninhabitable houses. It was the people who were changed this time:

'We were so sad as we had already done so much work. Now we were back to square one.'

'To have done so much, salvaged so much and then to lose it all again and more was completely gutting. We were exhausted.'

'The second time we had more of a realisation of how badly things could go wrong. We knew that for some it would be even worse than the first time. We were lucky that our house was only flooded once.'

So what did the community do? They came out in droves to help those affected. Volunteers arrived with gumboots, gloves and wheelbarrows, clearing debris from fence lines and paddocks, shovelling silt out of houses and sheds. All those interviewed for this story were completely overwhelmed by and hugely grateful for the support they received from Student Volunteer Army (SVA), Rapid Response Team (RRT), Repost, Motueka Flood Relief Hub, Ali and Ngātīmoti School and Motueka High School (MHS) Food Hub amongst many others.

Kaisami told me that at his Aunty's house, they didn't have much food for the extra eight people and it was amazing when RRT brought water and food. Carol Fowler from the MHS Food Hub brought boxes of bagels, frozen meals and baking so that the Beatsons could feed everyone who had volunteered to help them.

KEEP MISSING EVENTS IN TAPAWERA?

Check out the Tapawera Informer

Visit the community web page

<https://tapaweracommunity.nz>

Have a look at the local noticeboard

or

email us at:

staff@tapconnect.onmicrosoft.com

and we can add you to our mailing list



Fermented foods can help with all kinds of digestion issues!

Always wanted to try it but never had a chance?

Join us and together we will make kombucha, kraut, and coconut yoghurt.

Date: 14th November

Time: 1pm - 3pm

Price: \$20 per person

Location: Tapawera Area School cooking room

*Please bring a red or green cabbage and a very large bowl

For more information or to register, contact Della Webby

connect@tapconnect.onmicrosoft.com

or phone 027 479 4420

Voices From the Floodplain cont.

Kathryn Beatson commented that it would have been completely soul destroying without help from so many:

'Horrible times bring amazing times with people coming out of the woodwork to lend a hand. We have lots of very kind people in our neighbourhood.'

Jess was proud of her Dad Alan:

'He helped everyone even though he was impacted too! He dug out the neighbour's driveway and got her car running. It was a saviour that he had bought a digger and could get things done quickly.'

When asked about their relationship with the river, all of the interviewees said that the floods haven't changed how they feel about the Motueka River or living in the Valley!

'It's just Mother Nature. It's our home, I grew up here and I don't want to move, no matter where you go bad things can happen.'

'It made me love the river more, it was just doing what it should! If it wasn't for all of the pain, suffering and trauma, I would have been marvelling at its magnificence!'

'I never want to move. This is a great place to grow up with the river and the farm.'

There are some feelings that the Council could have done more to reduce the impact of the flood and that locals' opinions have been dismissed. I also heard concerns about the geological composition of the Valley, how it's not well suited to forestry and a desire for more planting of natives. Hopes rest on better weather predictions and more timely warnings with a feeling that the ball was definitely dropped this time around.

The biggest positives and greatest healings so far have come from each other. As Jess said,

'Our community saved us, what they achieved is mind-blowing!'

Now there is impetus for community involvement in planning next steps. Kate commented that 'Working with nature rather than fighting it helps you feel resilient' and Jess expressed displeasure in 'being told to suck eggs because they think we know nothing!' The recent MCC Rivers Hui has opened the conversation and encouraged residents to get involved in working towards a better strategy for managing our flood plain.

The Beatsons, like many, are still waiting on insurance decisions and others in the Catchment face months or even years of rebuilding. The road ahead may be long but it will be walked together by a community who have deepened their connections to each other and shown resilience in the face of disaster. This Summer, we will still gather at

wherever the accessible, safe swimming holes turn out to be, we will join community plantings to stitch the riverbanks back together and we will do it together.

Written by Lucy Maxwell with Kaisami & Kathryn Beatson, Kate Radloff & Jess King.



Gumboot Game

Tapawera Connect would like to thank the Menz Shed for taking the time to make this Gumboot Game for us. The Gumboot Game was a lot of fun for the families that visited us at the Spring Show, and we will continue to use it for other Hub fundraising activities in the future, including the Sunday Markets.





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 tapaweraformer@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

Now that there are new regulations regarding earthquake assessments and a newly formed group of Tasman District Councillors, including a new representative for our area, it is time for a serious rethink regarding the future of our existing valued Community Centre and the expensive rival for status.

Our incoming Councillor, John Gully, is presenting as one who is deeply concerned about limiting unnecessary spending of rate payers' contributions and should be interested in the methods by which the proposers and supporters of the new project have managed to get their wish so far down the track that it is believed it will definitely progress and be built behind the 4 Square shop.

There are too many questions to be answered before anything should proceed, especially with the changes that have taken place since the first proposal. This time a thorough and honest claim for support from the Golden Downs community must be sought. That means data has to meet scrutiny. It means that ratepayers are given basic facts to make a decision with. Not a largely unsupported tick box survey for a wish list. Not percentages distorted and claimed as facts run by a group who are not representatives of our community. They are largely a paid group of public servants driven by strong feelings that they are uniting the community. Evidence has it that this is rather

the opposite due to the drive for an expensive building to work from. Already there has been a huge amount of money spent for questionable results. Accountability to tax and ratepayers is lacking. This is money desperately needed elsewhere.

It is evident our community struggles to maintain the facilities we already have. These are precious assets and need attention. They are more than adequate to provide for the needs of our tiny population and have potential for improvements where necessary. These observations are clear to all who use the venues. The present Community Centre is in a prime location and would be a project many locals would support. It would not require the massive price tag of another centre.

Critical thinking and open debate is essential for the development of Tapawera and the surrounding districts. Full accountability and respect for opposing opinions are paramount and this has been sadly lacking so far. If there is sensible evidence for a need for a new building then that might eventuate but the present situation is far too flawed to be credible.

Sincerely,

Susan Creedy, Dean Walls, Barbara Barker, David Bone.

To Susan Creedy, Dean Walls, Barbara Barker, and David Bone —

Thank you for your letter and for sharing your views regarding the Tapawera Community Centre and the proposed new community hub.

1. Earthquake Assessments

Following the government's recent announcement about possible changes to earthquake-prone building regulations, the TDCC wrote to Tasman District Council (TDC) seeking clarification on whether these changes would affect public use of the Tapawera Community Centre.

TDC advised that the government has only announced its *intention* to review these standards and that it is therefore too early to know what impact, if any, such changes might have. Accordingly, it would be premature to make decisions that run contrary to TDC's current requirements.

2. Representation

Our new Ward Councillor, John Gully, attended the TDCC meeting on Tuesday 21 October, where your presentation was received (Roy Bensemam attended, and we noted that David Bone was unable to). Your concerns were heard directly, and I am confident Councillor Gully will also ensure they are conveyed to TDC.

Cont. on next page



Letters to the Editor cont.

3. Clarifications on General Points Raised

Your letter makes several broad claims which are difficult to respond to without specifics. For example:

Which questions do you believe remain unanswered?

- What data should be further scrutinised, and by whom?
- Which percentages or survey results do you consider distorted?
- Which “group” are you referring to as not representative of the community?
- What evidence supports your view that community unity has been undermined?
- And finally, what “huge amount of money” and “questionable results” are being referenced?

Without more detail, it is difficult to engage meaningfully on these points. I do, however, want to reaffirm that both the TDC and TDCC committees are accountable to voters and ratepayers, and all decisions and expenditures are subject to public scrutiny.

4. Existing Facilities

I agree that maintaining Tapawera’s existing facilities presents an ongoing challenge. Many do indeed have potential for improvement; however, at present, no realistic financial plan has been presented to enable major upgrades or seismic strengthening of the current Community Centre.

While you describe our community as “tiny,” the TDCC’s catchment area includes approximately 2,000 residents—around one-thirtieth of the Tasman District’s total population (TDC data, June 2024). I believe that represents a significant and vibrant community.

If there is strong local support for renovating or strengthening the current Community Centre, it would be helpful to see a clear, financially viable proposal outlining what form that project might take and how it could be funded.

5. Accountability and Future Direction

I agree wholeheartedly that critical thinking, open debate, and respect for differing views are essential to community decision-making. I respectfully disagree, however, that accountability or respect for opposing opinions has been lacking.

The TDCC has reviewed extensive information and believes that credible evidence supports the development of a new hub building. We remain confident that the project will proceed and deliver long-term benefits for our community.

In summary

Your concerns have been heard by both the TDCC and TDC. While I understand that not everyone supports the new hub project, it is now a TDC-led initiative. In line with our constitution, the TDCC will continue to support it and to advocate for the best outcomes for all residents.

Kind regards,

Steve Udy

Chair, Tapawera and Districts Community Council (TDCC)

Dear Editor

The Boys Girls Agricultural Club' Show, once common thanks in great part to the Carleton Family, it was great & worthy. But Covid & perhaps a degree of exhaustion, ended it. But the School decided to have something of the sort if much smaller so I elected to do a 'Travellers Tales' exhibit as I have travelled very widely mostly overland hence a 'Travellers tale' piece inside the music room; few came in & I never got to go round but it seemed many had come & lots of children so a good family outing.

I was near Peter Bonington who seems to have an inexhaustible repertoire of Johnny Cash. I was in the music room as billed so couldn't really see all that was presented .So how it made out I'm unaware .What was notable was that by good fortune the rains gave us a break. I was particularly impressed by the head boy who seemed to be everywhere and certainly had a good head on him, as had a former pupil who took the time to look at my exhibit. Lot of effort but then it was a LOT of miles to cover from Bluff to Dawson City on the Klondike & a lot of Africa, India & the links in between, much 'Overlanding' . 'The' Milk run' was how we called in it. The five days to cross the Sahara on top of a truck was one unforgettable ride. I was 20 then but kept on travelling & "living in a World". Now old age has me 'Marooned in a village' which is fine as it is & doesn't need a fancy Hub .

That game device made at great effort by the Menz Shed, I never did figure out what it was, but I do know it took the dedicated 'shedders' a lot of effort .One more good thing the Shed has produced for the district.

Maurice Taylor, 24 years resident of the village

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: Jan Barker
janzmail001@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
November**

- 11 Tapawera Talking Café, 10-11:30am, School/Community Library
- 11 Digi Drop-in Session, School/Community Library, 11am-1pm
- 11 TDCC AGM 7pm in the Community Centre (Members Only) followed by TDCC monthly meeting
- 13 Garden Club, 41 Tiru Kina Road off Harley Rd
- 14 Fermentation workshop, 1pm-3pm, TAS cooking room
- 17 Tapawera Rugby Club AGM, 7pm at Clubrooms
- 20 Articles for Informer close 5pm
- 25 Tea and Talk, St Peter's Church, 10:00am - 11:30am
- 30 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

Constable Jamie White –
jamie.white2@police.govt.nz
 Constable Matthew Berquist –
matthew.berquist@police.govt.nz
 Non Urgent (CRL) – Call 105
 Happening Now – Call 111