

Sell, Save, or Demolish??? The Community has Spoken!

At the Tapawera District Community Council's (TDCC) AGM last November, the Chair invited me to host public meetings regarding the future of Tapawera's existing Community Centre (Trec house) @ 95 Main Road.

The first, held 9th Dec, was well-attended, and very positive. TDC's Brent Maru (Deputy Mayor), John Gully (local Councillor) and Mark Greening (Richmond Ward) were welcomed.

Due to pre-meeting feedback, attendees were firstly asked to anonymously note the one issue causing them the most anxiety in Tapawera currently. The responses were opened days later. Approx. 25% indicated concerns regarding the proposed hub, ranging from being unable to obtain clarity, through to being outright against. A further 25% expressed concern about current community division and dis-unity.

Other concerns raised:

- School issues (forwarded to the Board of Trustees Chair)
- Rates
- Availability of housing & community facilities
- Support for events like Matariki & Pets Day
- Needing a green waste plant
- Maintenance of core assets i.e. roads
- Opportunities for young people
- TDCC constitution needing review
- Not 'putting a noose' around the next generation
- People complaining but not getting involved
- Individuals want the community centre but don't use it
- Preservation of the Gateway to Kahurangi and the Community Centre

... and two people said they were happy, though one noted they wanted ice-cream! (it was a very hot evening).

Then Roger Carleton and Sandy Scott each kindly gave a five-minute presentation regarding the property in question. Roger covered the building's many uses over the years including shop, tea rooms, post office, support centre for redundant forestry workers, and more.

Sandy talked about how the Gateway to Kahurangi came about, acknowledging the late Duncan Wilson's driving role, and how important the gardens are for many folk.

The meeting then noted some of the current uses of the site:

- Garden area to sit quietly, meet with friends, picnic, enjoy the birdlife
- Community Centre
- Op shop
- Food carts
- Museum
- Tapawera Connect
- TDCC meetings
- Room hire to small businesses/agencies
- Emergency response hub

Following this, groups brainstormed future uses for the property:

- Meeting rooms (TDCC, TDC, local groups, etc.)
- Microbrewery
- Cafe/bar/tearooms
- Museum/heritage site
- Sell with covenant that outside cannot be altered
- Annual Matariki celebrations
- Civil Defence centre/muster point
- Op Shop
- Information centre
- Tourist attraction (gateway & garden)
- Use land behind to make a community rec room for youth
- Acknowledge hours given by past volunteers
- Backpackers/motel/cycle trail accommodation
- Cyclists hub including workshop
- Art gallery for local artists
- Multi-purpose room for hire for massage/physio/hairdresser/podiatrist
- Retail spaces/shop for craft sales/gift shop
- Emergency accommodation
- Courses e.g. first aid etc.
- Outside play area
- More food carts
- Safe space for the vulnerable
- Showers/toilets for emergencies
- Laundromat
- Demolish and build a community pool
- Gym
- Social club
- Community gardens
- Indoor market in winter

Continued on page 3




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 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.

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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

The Informer is produced and published by the Tapawera and Districts Community Council, PO Box 15, Tapawera, 7055;
 email: tapawerainformergmail.com
 Circulation 635
 Editor: Gill Hammersley
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Sell, Save, or Demolish??? The Community has Spoken! Cont.

The meeting then listed current issues:

- Pests/vermin
- Cold
- No running hot water
- Layout/configuration, not enough space, no private space
- Earthquake risk
- Insurance issues
- Aesthetics, visually unappealing
- Lighting
- Errors on advertising boards
- Needs total renovation
- Needs extending to the side/back

Roy Bensemman spoke about the earthquake risk, providing some detail into the building's current status, what TDC and other entities have done in similar circumstances, and proposed legislative changes. The building's easily-viewed legally-protected sticker advises that it is earthquake-prone, but is suitable for public use until 2047.

There was some discussion about what earthquake ratings mean, and how the type and central point of an earthquake affect a building's vulnerability. Roy's presentation was augmented through having an experienced insurance person in the room.

The meeting then brainstormed the essentials for the Gateway to Kahurangi and existing building to have a future:

- Getting the building right, including kitchen & toilet rebuild, hot water, heating, pest control
- Community involvement
- Funding e.g. grants, lotto
- Committed volunteers
- Young people on board
- History acknowledged
- Plans for flood/environmental issues
- Op shop must stay
- Must be self-funding long-term
- New TDCC committee must be committed to the above

Also mentioned during the meeting:

- Must be managed by people who will allow all to use it
- Retain lovely timber work

Amazing offers have come forward; logs suitable for renovation work, which Joe Higgins generously offered to mill (to much applause).

A vote requested from the floor regarding saving and preserving the property as a community asset was passed, with just four against, and three abstentions.

I would like to thank Hamish Barker and Roy Bensemman, who assisted with planning, Barbara Barker for hosting with much-appreciated drinks and nibbles, and Karylin & Ian Breed for welcoming folk. Also, the many others who helped before and on the night; couldn't be done without you.

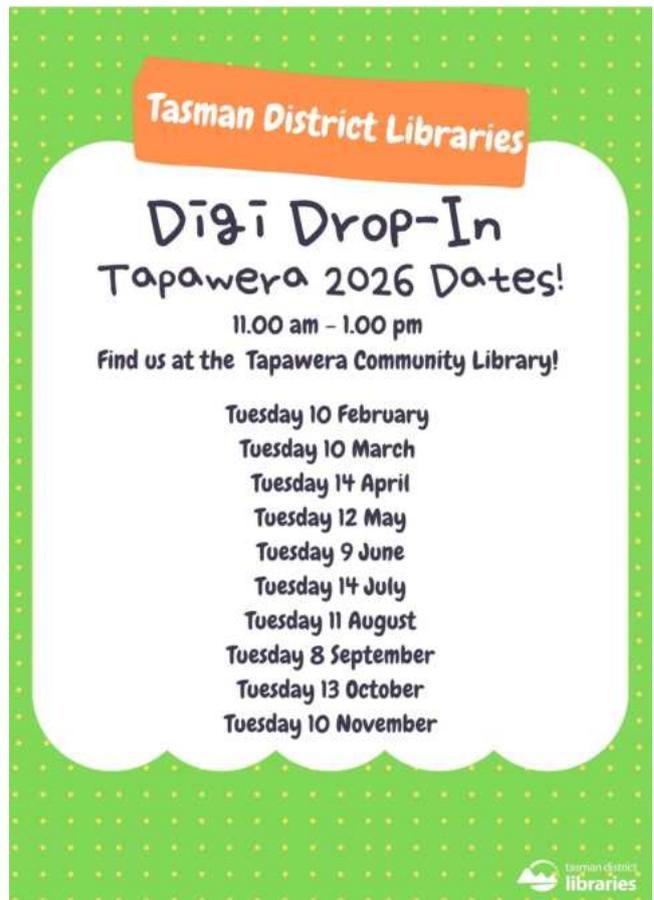
The \$103 kindly donated to cover costs will all go to the Rugby Club.

This report will be presented to the incoming TDCC at the earliest opportunity.

Trish Palmer
dunrban@xtra.co.nz

Digi Drop-in is Back

Need help with your device? Pop down to the Tapawera Community Library on the second Tuesday of the month between 11.00am and 1.00pm and Richmond Library staff will do their best to help.



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Senior's Snippets with Janine Leeden, 0277525975

As Waitangi Day is Friday 6th February, we are moving our usual Friday Sit and Be Fit class forward by one day and having it on Thursday 5th February, so if you plan on joining us, make sure you come on Thursday just for this week, at St Peter's Anglican Church. The class runs from 10-11am with a cup of tea/coffee and you are welcome to stay for some further socialising and brain exercises until midday. Cost \$3 to cover costs.

Wellby Talking Café had to move again in January, and the consensus was that for consistency going forward we will base ourselves at St Peter's Anglican Church. We are so thankful for this facility to fall back on. Our next meeting is Tuesday 10th February, 10.00-11.30am. This is open to anyone in the community. Again there is a \$3 koha, if you are able, to help cover costs.

At our first Tea and Talk for the year, on 26th January, we were delighted to have a long-time local adventurer, Cheryl Dean, come and spend the morning with us, sharing stories of her life up the Baton. Thank you so much Cheryl for giving us your time and some great stories!

For our 24th February Tea and Talk, 10.00-11.30am at St

Peter's Church, Main Road, Tapawera, we have Renee Hamilton, a Health Improvement Practitioner from Richmond, coming to speak to us about 'sleep' issues. There are lots of reasons we can have disrupted sleep, and hopefully Renee can share some great suggestions that will help keep us well rested. Good sleep habits are necessary for a healthy lifestyle, for all ages really.

At the end of 2025 I tallied up all the figures from the attendance sheets that people complete when attending one of the activities that I facilitate through Tapawera Connect; supporting agencies that otherwise aren't able to host these activities in our community.

TEA & TALK - Total over 11 months	= 161
WELLBY TALKING CAFE over 12 months	= 168
SIT & BE FIT - Total over 46 classes	= 311

That's a total of **640** attendees over the 12 months of regular events.

To me this just reinforces the definite need for social interaction for Seniors and others who are interested, here in Tapawera, without having to travel. A Hub will be the logical place for these activities to be held regularly.

When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive – to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.

Marcus Aurelius

THE CHURCH BELL IS RINGING



Hi, my name is Tania.

My husband and I Pastor a church in Nelson. I've had a taste of Tadmor and the surrounding area via checking on some land regularly for an elderly couple. I've fallen in love with the place. Probably because I grew up in Taranaki and my life was semi-rural. Pet lambs, pet calves, A and P Shows and farming community. Tapawera, the surrounding Valley brings back great memories. Farmers were part of my childhood and God used my farming relatives as a reprieve from a far from ideal homelife. My husband Brett, is a bit of a city slicker lol, he is a butcher by trade, but has pastored for 30 years.

I've had a bit to do with the A and P Show in Richmond (President of it for one year) and have some minihorses onsite there.

I've reached out to the caretakers of St James' church and been given permission to run a monthly bible study from this beautiful site.

AND YOU'RE INVITED...

Adults only at this stage (16 years and over). Come even if you are not a believer but want to know more. Or come if you are a believer and join me digging into the bible. I love the Word of God – it literally changed my life.

I'm in Australia till the end of January (first grandbaby due) but feel free to ring and leave a message or text: 021 803 411. I'll get back to you upon my return. Tania O'Meagher. (Pastor, City Gate Church, Nelson)

Last Tuesday of every month starting Tuesday 24th February, 2026, St James Church, 797 Tadmor Valley Road, 6pm. Followed by a (BYO) picnic tea at 7pm.

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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.

Tapawera Community Connection Update – February 2026

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 Christmas Week



With support from Tapawera Connect, Lisa Carleton delivered a fantastic Christmas celebration week for our community. Located at Shedwood Hall she received over 100 votes for the Christmas tree competition, with TAS room 2's gingerbread tree the winner.

Santa's grotto looked amazing and was a hit with the children and there has been a lot of positive encouragement to continue again next year. The Christmas week also included various workshops including wreath making, Christmas tree decorations and candle making.

If anyone has any ideas for Christmas 2026 or would like to be a volunteer, please let me or Lisa know.

Christmas Cakes

At the end of last year, many flood affected residents and volunteers were the grateful recipients of a Christmas cake. These cakes were made possible by funding from the Motueka Lions and the Rural Support Trust. A big shout out to both of these organisations and to the supporting organisations and individuals who helped to deliver the cakes.



Workshops

2026 Workshops

We have a great line up of workshops being offered monthly this year from February until December. If you would like to run a community workshop please get in touch with me, as we still have spaces to fill.

Saturday 28 February 2026 - 3 Steps for Life



St John is going to deliver a FREE workshop to our community on Saturday 28 February, 10am. There will be some light refreshments provided before the approx. 1-hour long workshop. This programme focusses on teaching everyday people how to respond with confidence when confronted with cardiac arrest. If you are interested in attending, please contact me to register your interest. The workshop will be held in the Tapawera Village, specific location still to be confirmed.

March 2026 - Preserving Workshop

During the week of 23rd March, our wonderful local Heather Spence is going to offer a workshop focused on preserving tomatoes and feijoas. The details are still being finalised, but please let me know if this is something you are interested in.



Hub Fundraising Link

Our dedicated Tapawera Hub fundraising page on the community website and donation portal is now live! You can 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.

Support

Christmas and the New Year is a time of celebration, but it can also bring stress and financial hardship.

If you or anyone you know needs any assistance or support, come and see us and we can point you in the right direction. Confidentiality can be assured. Our Community Centre office is currently closed, but for support advice please call me or try our mobile office number: **027 436 1937**.

Della Webby, CLDP Community Connector.

Connect@Tapconnect.onmicrosoft.com Phone: 027 479 4420



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St Peter's Anglican Church
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(note new venue)

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Feijoa Heaven all Year Round...

Feijoas all year round - what a delicious prospect! Feijoas in delicious jams, sauces, chutneys, drinks - you name it! - that save money and cooking effort later in the year, as well as giving you a huge sense of achievement. And tomatoes all year round too, similar benefits. Imagine the buzz you'd get seeing these on your kitchen shelf, and the even bigger buzz as you open them during winter to jazz up your meals.

A Tapawera community preserving course planned for late March will show you how to achieve tasty, thrifty results from the feijoas and tomatoes that are everywhere in autumn.

The course is offered as a contribution to Tapawera's community food resilience goal; it's open to anyone with any level of cooking skill (zero to lots). Previous courses have given participants a huge sense of achievement; as well as the takeaways of new knowledge and skills, participants take home samples of all products they've made. We hear comments such as, *'I've always envied people who have shelves of preserves in their kitchen; now I can do it too!'*...

Details will be published in the Tapawera Informer in March and will be advertised on fliers around Tapawera and on Facebook.

Heather Spence



A new year which so far has brought a mix of weather, hopefully our gardens are not only surviving but thriving too. As one person said to me recently, "there's nothing quite like a fresh picked sun ripened tomato".

The December meeting was held at Linda & Paul Milsom's, a beautiful garden, lovingly created from an open paddock.

As always the shared Christmas food was abundant & delicious. Plus 15 hampers were raffled.

Our next meeting is 11am 12 February @ Crafted Earth Plant Nursery, 2281 Motueka Valley Highway.

Bring a chair, lunch & drink.

There will be a raffle, no auction as Joel has plants for sale.

Preserving Workshop coming up in March!



**In this workshop we will be concentrating on
tomatoes and feijoas.**

Tapawera School Kitchen

Date and Time: TBC

For more information or to register, please contact Della
027 479 4420 or connect@tapconnect.onmicrosoft.com



Jujutsu Martial Arts Class

Tapawera

New beginners welcome to come and train with us in a friendly atmosphere.

**In the school hall on Mondays,
starting Monday 9th February**

**Youth (aged 12-16) 5.00pm to 6.30pm
Adults 6.30pm to 8.00pm**

\$3 for youth per class

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For further information please contact

Tony Hammersley

Tel: 5224609 or email:

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Free Workshop

3 Steps for Life



**Hato Hone
St John**

3 Steps for Life offers a free one-hour training session that will provide you with lifesaving skills to help if someone has a cardiac arrest.

10am Saturday 28th February
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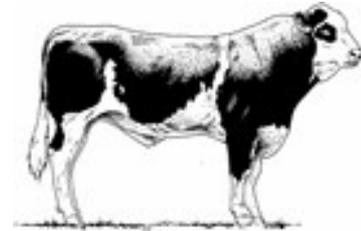
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The Tapawera Volunteer Fire Brigade is fundraising for a new 4WD ute to better service our community. Our current vehicle is no longer fit for purpose, and upgrading will ensure we can respond quickly, safely and effectively to emergencies across our wider rural area.

Keep an eye on our Tapawera Volunteer Fire Brigade Facebook page for more information and updates!

*Scan to
Donate*

ALTERNATE COLLECTION POINT AT
THE TAPAWERA FOUR SQUARE



**FIRE
EMERGENCY**

NEW ZEALAND



A Letter from the Chief

To the Tapawera Community.

Being part of a small rural community means showing up when it matters — and that's exactly what our volunteer firefighters do, day in and day out.

Our brigade is called on regularly to assist across a wide range of incidents, from fires and crashes to weather-related emergencies and urgent medical responses. These callouts take us well beyond sealed roads and into back blocks, forestry tracks, paddocks, and places where access can be challenging at the best of times.

Over the past year, particularly during periods of heavy rain and flooding, it's become obvious that one of our frontline vehicles is struggling to keep up with the conditions we face. When roads are under water or tracks turn to mud, we need a vehicle that can safely get our crews and equipment where they're needed — without hesitation or risk.

Upgrading to a more capable 4WD rescue ute would significantly strengthen our ability to operate in these environments. It would improve access to rural properties, support quicker delivery of gear during fire incidents, and help our teams work more effectively across our district.

A dependable response vehicle is also vital for medical emergencies. When someone's heart stops, time is critical. The sooner help arrives, the better the outcome. A vehicle that can reliably reach homes and remote locations — regardless of weather or terrain — plays a crucial role in those moments.

To make this upgrade possible, we are working towards a fundraising target of \$100,000. We're incredibly grateful for the backing we receive from our local businesses and residents. Contributions of any kind — whether financial support or donated items for fundraising events — help us continue protecting the place we all call home.

Thank you for standing behind your local fire brigade. Your support helps ensure we're ready when Tapawera needs us most.

Dean Millar
Chief Fire Officer
Tapawera Volunteer Fire Brigade



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Let's Put Concerted Foot Forward 2026

With the floods last year, locals provided support with a Community Centre not fit for purpose as an emergency centre. There's also a lot of effort gone into providing community courses etc over the last few years, particularly through Tapawera Connect.

When I went to a community planning event in Shedwood Hall some years ago, the 40 of us had to line up in order of how long we'd lived in the area. At least half had lived less than ten years in the area. New people are generally keen to connect while those who have been around for generations have their own networks and probably make less use of organised activities in the village.

It's not that difficult to go out and raise significant funds from donors and businesses if you've got a good case. We've got some amazing local people with capacity to help do that fundraising but it simply can't happen if the community is not behind the project. We need to rally behind and support them. It also then makes it less likely that the current Community Centre would need to be sold to generate the community's contribution to the new facility. Then the existing Centre can be another project, and an exciting one.

The DIA \$510k funding towards the community's contribution for a fit for purpose Hub is a huge bonus to add to the funding allocated by TDC in its Long Term Plan. We have a great chance of getting a new facility that will be good for the future and enable us to be more resilient and connected longterm. We have to raise about \$400k to have a \$2.7m Hub. St Arnaud has theirs, Wakefield is getting their recreation centre. Tapawera merits support for a community facility that will help future proof us.

It's disheartening and would be a major loss if the negativity of last year causes our very capable community workers and fundraisers to throw in the towel and we lose this precious opportunity to help safeguard us in the future. Maybe those who have actually played a role in organising and attending Tapawera community events should have more of a say than those who cast aspersions from the sidelines or primarily focus on their rates and their needs.

Why not go to the Tapawera website <https://tapaweracommunity.nz/wp/fundraising-campaign/> and show support with a donation? Higher donor numbers would bolster fundraising efforts.

Jo Leyland, Motupiko

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

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 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
February**

- 10 Tapawera Talking Café, 10-11:30am, St Peter's Anglican Church
- 10 Digi Drop-in Session, School/Community Library, 11am-1pm
- 12 Garden Club, 11am, Crafted Earth Plant Nursery, 2281 Motueka Valley Highway
- 17 TDCC monthly meeting, Community Centre, 7pm
- 20 Articles for Informer close 5pm
- 24 Tea and Talk, St Peter's Church, 10:00am - 11:30am
- 24 Bible study, St James Church, 797 Tadmor Valley Road, 6pm
- 22 Craft and Market Day, Village Green, 10am-2pm
- 28 3 Steps for Life workshop, 10am, location tbc

**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