

**Tech, admin and Christmas letterboxes:
Tapawera & Districts Community Council
(TDCC) is into it all!**

It was heartening to welcome so many members of our community, as well as John Gully (Ward councillor), to our July meeting. With such a diverse range of folk, including members who are also involved with Tapawera Connect, the attendance bodes well for our commitment to having the community working together. We believe TC's presence is a positive result of the facilitated meetings involving representatives from our two leadership groups. We still have work to do but there is now a strong focus on working together for the best outcomes for all of our community.

Technology and us: A member requested that we consider hosting some of our meetings on-line, to enable the involvement of folk who cannot attend due to childcare or other commitments, and also to reduce fuel costs etc. After weighing up the pros and cons we decided to keep the status quo in the meantime, encouraging in-person time together discussing issues and having social time. We believe there is value in re-looking at the proposal once the current issues facing the community have settled.

Regarding recording TDCC meetings, we learned from the Privacy Commission that we are able to ban both audio and video recordings of our meetings. In order to encourage folk to speak freely at TDCC meetings, we have now set this protocol in place.

Community facilities: The DIA have extended their funding offer regarding the proposed hub until October, and TDC are putting together a business plan for full council. We have queried how a plan can be developed when the community consultation process has not yet been determined, let alone carried out. Whilst the page is clean and we have been promised that nothing will happen until the community has been properly consulted, clearly work needs to be done on the various options in order for the community to be presented with full and accurate information regarding each option.

To this end, TDCC continues its work in gauging the needs of potential users, and how those needs can be met within existing facilities. Tapawera Connect has kindly offered to pass on the details they have, which will save doubling up on information gathering.

We are very aware that at least one of the alternate hub proposals is causing a bit of a stir within the community, highlighting the need for fact-based information-gathering prior to community consultation.

And speaking of facilities, TDCC wholeheartedly supports the Rugby Club's endeavours to upgrade their ablution and kitchen facilities. It's exciting to contemplate the project's value for the whole community.

Op Shop: You've probably noticed the fresh paint and new entry door! Not quite so easily spotted are the two new windows letting light into the back areas. With just the carpet-laying to be done, the admin side is working quickly to get the Health & Safety requirements completed. Then volunteers will be free to start moving in all the goods which are ready and waiting. We continue to be amazed that there has been no dipping into TDCC investment monies to date; full credit to the community.

Dart Ford, trees, cycleways and more: We've experienced some frustration with responses from TDC on work which needs to be done, whether it be on roads, rivers, or other TDC responsibilities. We are very aware that TDC is strapped for cash right now, but we also need permanent solutions to long-standing problems which are regularly costing money. John Gully has suggested that he invite John Ridd (TDC Group Manager for Customer and Community) to spend some time out in the area with the committee to get an understanding of our concerns. Recently John Ridd did a similar visit to Murchison, with very positive results. This will also be an opportunity to discuss the cycle/walkway issues, and TDC's forestry trees which have been planted too close to our roads. We understand that the tree issue was experienced quite dramatically near St Arnaud recently, when weather-felled plantings closed one section of road for several days.

Gratitude: Thank you to the wonderful folk who provided feedback regarding the constitution. After collation and committee input, the new document will go out to the community for consultation as per our agreed protocols.

Apology: At TDCC's July meeting, the extensive agenda meant we had limited time for each item. We apologize to anyone who felt they may not have had the chance to speak or say as much as they would have liked. Please do feel welcome to contact committee members, or email us TapaweraTDCC@gmail.com if you have anything you need to raise or comment on.

Cycle trail and walking path: TDC advised that both sections of the pathway exiting the village involved complex land issues which were still being worked on. We queried this in regards to the northern end, believing this to be incorrect, and asked when the work was programmed; disappointingly it isn't. We are determined that this situation shall not prevail.

THE CHURCH BELL IS RINGING



Last Tuesday of every month
St James Church, 797 Tadmor Valley Road,
6pm.
Followed by a (BYO) picnic tea at 7pm
BYO blanket and hottie if need be :-)
But we have a generator now so it is
warmish in winter.



We'll be starting as a group to go through a whole book of the bible. Guess which book?.....it will be a gesture, a nod to the name of the church.

You can join in, just listen it's up to you.

We are thankful to the family loaning us their generator so we have had heating and thanks to the Tadmor Church Society for enabling lighting.

This is for anyone interested in the surrounding community, this church is part of your community.

It's also for all God's people, His Church and no formal commitment is expected. We are just part of the wider Body of Christ (church) loving gathering with God's people around the Word.

We'd love to see you at the study

YOU'RE INVITED...

NEWS FLASH * NEWS FLASH *** NEWS FLASH*****
Zoom online Biblestudy 2nd Tuesday of the month
and Tadmor Valley meetup last Tuesday of the month - live and together not online :-)

Feel free to reach out

Tania O'Meagher.

Organiser (my husband and I do Pastor a church in Nelson)

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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.

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

The Informer is produced and published by the Tapawera and Districts Community Council, PO Box 15, Tapawera, 7055;
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The Editor and Publisher try to ensure information published is truthful

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.

The Informer: We are delighted to confirm that the Informer continues to pay its way, and we extend our thanks to all those who contribute, whether it be by advertising, articles, or letters.

The Editor will be away for the September issue, so the committee is picking up the mantle temporarily, though the Editor will prepare the advertising pages etc. in advance.

Community Centre: TDCC are very grateful for the Fire Brigade's clearing of the centre's gutters as part of their training exercises. Yet another example of this community goodwill, working together for dual benefit.

Regarding stall owners using our site, we have now confirmed a template for all future agreements, which protects TDCC in the event of anything going amiss. It also provides certainty for the site holder. The template has a few fixed requirements e.g. an electrical wof, but also allows for individual negotiation, particularly around hours etc.

Invitation: If you have never taken a moment to sit and enjoy the lovely peace and calm of the Gateway to Kahurangi gardens, please do. Even on a clear winter's day it really is a terrific spot to hang out; maybe even hide away with a book from the community bookshelf, and let the world go by.

Helping neighbours: Tapawera is a bit special, in that our pathways are designated differently to other villages, as a result of forestry company involvement in the early years. As with anything out of the 'norm' this throws up interesting challenges for bureaucracy. John Gully is working with us to get a fair outcome for a family who are wanting TDC to contribute towards rejuvenating a fence-line they share.

Light up Tapawera for Christmas! Yes, we know Christmas is months away (just four actually) but we invite you to don your creative hats and plan to do something to light up Tapawera and districts! There will be a competition, but it may surprise you... it's for the best decorated letterbox! If you don't have a letterbox, improvise; create something based on a letterbox-size container to light up your front yard. Imagine if Tapawera became the province's drive-to place just before Christmas, opening up opportunities for a night market and more! Let your space glow!



Senior's Snippets with Janine Leeden, 0277525975

While we're in the middle of winter, don't hibernate at home feeling warm but lonely! There are activities and people to meet and have some good craic, so come and get amongst it!

- "Craic" (pronounced like "crack") is an Irish slang term for fun, entertaining conversation, or a good time

WELLBY TALKING CAFE will be on **Tuesday 11th August** at St Peter's Church at **10-11.30am**.

This monthly event is **open to anyone interested in connecting socially** with others in our community. It's a relaxed opportunity to sit in the warmth over a cuppa and get to know some new people or grow on the friendships already established. There is a koha of \$3 to help cover costs for the morning.

TEA & TALK is on **Tuesday 25th August** from 10-11.30am at St Peter's Church.

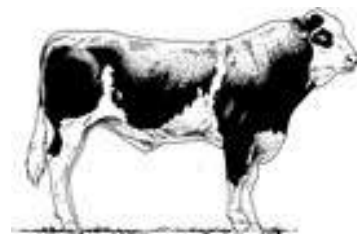
I'm delighted to announce that our speaker this month will be the bubbly Helen Butler from NT Hospice. Helen is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist at Hospice, who I had the pleasure of learning from when attending a free community workshop, with several other Tapawerans, a couple of months ago. In her role she works with patients, as well as their whanau and friends, that come through the Hospice and she is coming along to answer any questions we might have around the topic of Hospice and how its services help people at 'end of life' (which we will all experience eventually, like taxes). Those in attendance will find her easy to engage with and her great sense of humour sure helps deal with the tough questions.

Don't forget, if you are starting to wobble when putting your pants on, or are just wanting some extra encouragement to stay active in mind and body, our **Friday weekly Sit and Be Fit** group could be just what you're after! We meet at the church from **10-11am** for a variety of exercises, including body, balance and brain challenges. Stay around afterwards for a cuppa and a game or two of Mexican Trains, which continues to exercise the 'little grey cells'.

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Tapawera Netball Club August News

Since we last touched base our teams successfully completed our club duty day.

A big thank you to those who volunteered their time. The season is quickly coming to an end with our Nelson Hops team finishing up a few weeks ago, following shortly by our Sivad Farms team with a few games left. We look forward to seeing how you go for the rest of the season.

Our netball funday was held by the TAS SISS team on Sunday to help fundraise for their upcoming tournament in September. The draw consisted of 9 teams made up from family, friends and the Tapawera community.

A well run day of rolling 10 minute mini games full of community spirit, laughter and a touch friendly competition. A mix of young and old, gumboots vs slides, sunnies, hats and team uniforms made for a good event of team camaraderie, exercise and entertainment. The top spot was taken out by the MacDonald family, closely Derby contested by team McGaveston.

A big shout out to everyone that helped make the day a success. Tania Higgins and Susan Fenemor helping run the event, the involvement of families helping run the bbq, bake sale and raffle table, Volunteer umpires and of course our teams for creating a positive fun filled day of netball. - Toni Derbyshire Coach

Full Results:

1st Place - MacDonalds
2nd Place - McGavestons
3rd Place - Derbyshires
Youngest Player - Aylah
Oldest Player - Jo

Tapawera Blue Rock Hops Team

Thank you to our sponsor, Blue Rock Hops Ltd, from Glen & Sara and Brian & Sarah Clayton.

Coach: Belinda Grice

Manager: Mel Heine



Game Day Reports:

June 21st - Tapawera Blue Rock Hops v Rival

A tough first half left us chasing the game, but we lifted in the second, drawing the third quarter and winning the fourth.

Player of the Day: Renee for her outstanding defensive work and turnovers.

Final score: 35–27 to Rival.

We remain on 8 points, just one behind the leaders. Thanks to Mel, Shaye, our supporters and Blue Rock Hops.

June 28th - Tapawera Blue Rock Hops v Stoke

The team stuck to their plan of calm, steady netball, taking an early lead and extending it with a strong third quarter.

Final score: 25–16. Player of the Day went to Jada for an excellent game at WD, applying strong defensive pressure

and working hard on the reset line.

July 4th - Tapawera Blue Rock Hops v Waimea Prices

A fast-paced and closely contested game saw us lead 6–5 after the first quarter, but we were unable to hold on as Prices finished strongly. Final score: 30–24 to Prices. Player of the Day went to Emma Bannister, who led by example with calm, controlled play and some beautiful shooting. We're looking forward to the next round and continuing to back ourselves.

Tapawera Fry Contracting

Thank you to our sponsor, **Kevin and Andrew Fry from Fry Contracting Ltd.**



Coach: Laura Fry

Game Day Reports:

21st June - Tapawera Fry Contracting v Prices Kowhai (game 3 of round 2):

With Tami and Shimiela injured and Morgan away sick, the team had to adjust to some new combinations. Barbie stepped into GS, while Kiana played her first game for us at GA and did an incredible job.

Final score: Fry Contracting 15–24 Prices Kowhai.

Player of the Day went to Kiana for stepping into a new position and giving it her all. The whole team played well and should be proud of their continued development.

28th June - Tapawera Fry Contracting v Prices Mahoe (game 4 of round 2)

A tough result against Prices Mahoe, who picked up the pace in the second half, but the team continued to show great support, communication and teamwork across the court.

Player of the Day went to Shaye for her constant defensive pressure, strength on attack and reliable work through the midcourt. Her communication with Rachel in the goal circle is also progressing well.

July 4th - Tapawera Fry Contracting v Stoke Joes Garage (game 5 of round 2)

With no points on the line, we enjoyed the chance to play Stoke from the grade above and focus on our skills. Despite illness, injuries and no substitutes, everyone stepped up, adapted to new positions and created some great turnovers. Aroha had a strong run at GA, Lane worked hard through a full game at C, and Kiana pushed through to finish strongly at GS.

A huge thanks to Dana from Stoke for jumping on court and sharing some helpful pointers, John and Atlanta for scoring, and all our supporters. One more round to go!

July 18th Tapawera Fry Contracting v Suburban Gold (game 1 of round 3)

Despite injuries and no substitutes, the team delivered a strong performance with great teamwork, clean lines and improved timing. The shooters worked hard throughout, while a strong defensive third quarter held the opposition to just two goals.

Willow Planting for Reducing Flood Impacts -

A Field Trip to Hinetai Hops



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Hinetai Hops, Tapawera



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Appleton's Tree Nursery will talk about species selection and planting technique, and Tasman District Council will share right tree, right place principles and what you need to know before planting beside the Motueka River or waterways.

The session will include practical demonstrations. Don't miss this opportunity to see flood protection in action and come away with knowledge you can use on your own property.

All welcome | Free to Attend | Lunch provided |

Register now!

www.surveymonkey.com/r/YMRQZBK





July 18th cont. Player of the Day went to Rachel Moffitt for her relentless pressure, tips and turnovers.

Thanks to Geinty and Morgan for scoring. We wish Tami and Geinty well with their

recoveries and welcome Amelia Hook and Barbie Takimoana for the remainder of the season.

Tapawera Bush End Farms Team

Thanks to our sponsor, **Bushend Farms Ltd**, from **Phil & Jocelyn Riley**.

Coach: Toni Derbyshire
Manager: Vanessa Webb



Game Day Reports:

21st June - Tapawera Bushend Farms v Nelson College Girls Ninjas

A rushed start saw us forcing passes, but the team settled, adapted and finished strongly for a 23-14 win.

Player of the Day: Kasey Mitchell for a great game in the goal circle. Special mention to Ella Walker for another solid performance.

28th June:

The girls took the court confidently and worked well on straight lines, depth and creating strong feeds into the shooters.

Final score: Bushend Farms 28-16 Garin.

Player of the Day went to Breeze Streeter-Mantell for her excellent movement off the ball and ability to create passing options down court.

Sivad Farms

Thanks to our sponsor, **Sivad Farms Ltd**, from **Stu and Paula Davis**.

Coach: Atlanta Linstead
Manager: Tania Coleman



Game Day Reports:

21st June - Tapawera Sivad Farms v Nayland Primary:

Despite a few early nerves and a height difference, the team found their rhythm and played a positive game.

Final score: 10-4 to Nayland Primary.

Player of the Day: Charleigh Meade for driving the ball down court and always being available.

28th June - Tapawera Sivad Farms v Richmond School

It was a really good game and the girls played really well winning 13-0. The Player of the Day was Emily-Rose for her amazing shooting and great teamwork.

Final Score: Sivad Farms 13, Richmond 0

July 4th - Tapawera Sivad Farms v Stoke School

Today was a great game, I was really impressed with how well they did considering the weather conditions and tough opposition. Player of the Day was Aylah MacDonald for her amazing defence. Thank you to our Sponsors Stu & Paula, Sivad Farms - Special thanks for coming to watch the girls play today! Final Score: Sivad Farms 5, Stoke 14

SISS Netball Fuel Voucher Raffle Winner

Aaron Eaton

Meat Raffle 1

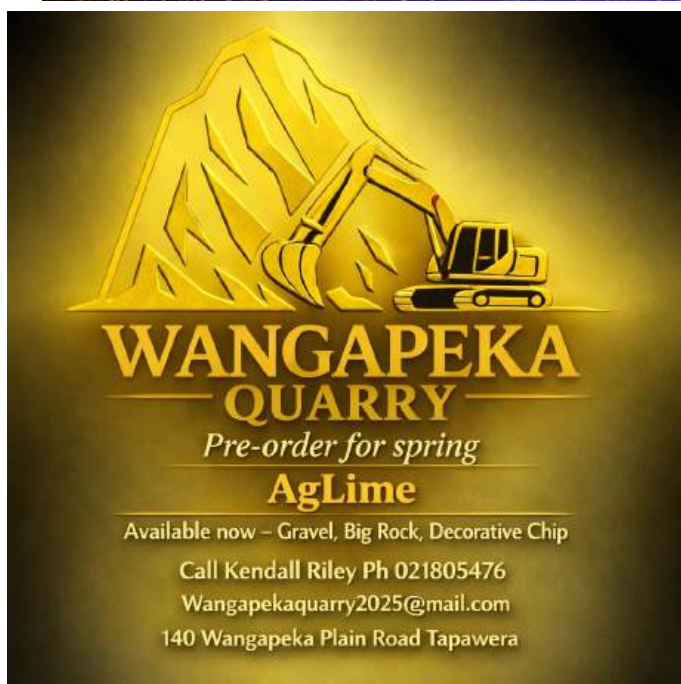
Maria Robinson

Meat Raffle 2

Jen Davison

As we prepare for the end of the season we would like to invite everyone to our prizegiving. We look forward to seeing our sponsors, teams and coaches there.

Lissie Anglesey, Secretary





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My Experience as a New Zealand Young Farmer of the Year Finalist

By Bryce Win

From the moment I qualified for the regional final, I was worried. I learned that the regional would be held sometime in February—right around the time I was set to be wed. Luckily enough, they fell on two different dates.

Then came the preparation. In my mind, this was going to be my last crack at this, no matter the results. So, I studied, I trained, and I drove my fiancée absolutely crazy. I listened to previous contestants to hear what they would do differently, took it all on board, and then... I won. Double fist pump.



From there, it was a whirlwind. I was balancing media interviews with shearing sheep, all while listening to the other finalists' interviews and realising these guys were at the absolute top of their game. Being flown into Christchurch to meet them and schmooze the sponsors was an eye-opener. One of the other finalists said it best: it was like a team-building exercise for people you were about to compete against.

We were given massive tasks to complete before the competition even took place—the kind of stuff you don't see on the livestream or social media. We had to design an innovation project (creating a business that wasn't conventional livestock farming) and produce a three-minute video on community or industry involvement. The due date was right before we had to attend Fieldays.

Fieldays was an experience in itself. Thousands of people looking for deals, while the contestants and I were once again schmoozing sponsors, speaking after politicians, and filming social media content. It was a bit much for a guy who's not even on Facebook.

We also had to write a four-minute speech and prepare a presentation for our business project. All of this was taking place while I was trying to learn how a milking shed actually works, the fastest way to put in a stay post, and studying for the quiz. Needless to say, I was busier than a one-armed bricklayer in Mumbai.

Finally, on July 1st, it was time to head north. We arrived early in the day, figured our way around the three main streets of New Plymouth, and waited for the other contestants. From then on, it was a complete blur.



Thursday morning started with a 5:30 am wake-up to have breakfast with Kane Briscoe, a Farmstrong ambassador. Then it was straight into Technical Day. It started with an HR challenge where I was thrown into a room to roleplay a dispute between my boss and the neighbour after his prized bull got in amongst our cows following a storm. Add to that a three-hour exam based on a large-scale Canterbury dairy farm, the business presentation, and an interview about our community footprint.

Friday is the marquee day everyone pictures when they think of the competition: Practical Day.

Wake-up was at 5:15 am, and we were in the van by 6:00 am heading to Stratford, getting briefed on our "farmlet"—a small plot of land where we had a mountain of tasks to complete. This year's farmlet was based around storm recovery.



Cont. on next page

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Tuesday, 11th August 10.00am-11.30am
Tuesday, 8th September 10.00am-11.30am
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My Experience as a New Zealand Young Farmer of the Year Finalist cont.

In just two hours, we had to:

- Install a Halter tower.
- Cut a fallen branch off a fence and turn it into firewood.
- Repair the fence, dig in a strainer post, and install a two-wire electric fence.
- Change the liners in a milk cluster.
- Re-bead and re-inflate a tyre.
- Connect a water trough to a mainline.
- Install a railing fence, hang a hay feeder, and create a sediment trap.
- Identify seven different cheeses, design a cheese board, and serve cheese and crackers on it.
- Plant a bunch of trees.

In the middle of all that, we also had seven 25-minute sponsor modules, had to shear a sheep, build a calf feeder, and carve the number 58 into a log.



The day ended with a rapid-fire race against the other six competitors to put on a ram harness, fill a calf feeder, repair a punctured tyre, sort wool, trim a cow hoof, fillet a fish, build a washing line, complete a NZYF puzzle, cut out a picture of Mount Taranaki, drive a tractor carrying a bucket of water, and finally, hammer a picture of our own face into the ground.

I was overwhelmed, but I was laughing the entire day and having an absolute blast. I didn't perform my best on the practical day, but hey—that's showbiz, baby.

That Friday night, we gave our speeches in front of a massive crowd. Truly, no rest for the wicked.

Saturday was a bit more chilled out. We spent the morning at New Plymouth Boys' High with the junior competitors building a tractor out of craft supplies, followed by a soundcheck with Radar and the AV team.

By the time the Saturday night Grand Final and quiz rolled around, I was pretty relaxed. I knew I hadn't covered myself in glory on the practical day, so it was all about having a good time. I was sitting in seventh place heading into the

quiz. I answered some tough questions correctly and was really happy with my performance, ultimately finishing the evening seventh out of seven by just two points.

Despite the placing, I had a smile on my face from Thursday morning until the early hours of Sunday. My laugh never stopped, and I walked away having met some of the top blokes in the country. It was an absolute honour to represent the Tasman Region, the community of Dovedale, the Nelson/Tasman district, and the whole Top of the South.

A huge thank you to the ladies in the kitchen and the bar staff. But seriously, thank you to all those who helped me along the way. I felt the support of everyone wishing me well and teaching me new tricks.

If you're between 16 and 31, I'd highly encourage you to join Young Farmers and give it a go. Tasman Valley Young Farmers meets on the second Wednesday of each month, and we'd love to see some new faces. If you're not local, there are clubs right around the country. Or if you've got younger children who are keen, there's FMG Junior Young Farmer for ages 13–18 and AgriKidsNZ for ages 8–13.

My wife and I spent a few extra days exploring New Plymouth afterward. Watching the other competitors and reflecting on the week, I realised something.

I don't have the drive, or even the desire, to go back and try to win it.

Not because I didn't enjoy it.

Quite the opposite.

I achieved everything I wanted to. I tested myself against six of the best young farmers in the country, made friendships I'll have for life, and experienced something that very few people ever get the chance to do.

Less than 400 people have ever stood on the stage as a New Zealand Young Farmer of the Year Grand Finalist.

I'm proud to be one of them.

Not bad for a bloke from Dovedale.



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MOTUEKA

93 Robinson Road

TĀKAKA

45 Scott Road

COLLINGWOOD

93 Collingwood-Bainham Main Road

MURCHISON

41 Matakītiki West Bank Road

After reviewing site safety risks, we can no longer accept batteries for disposal at this location. Storing batteries on site presents a safety risk to staff, customers, and the facility. Our Resource Recovery Centres are set up to safely receive, store and dispose of batteries.



**Rethink Waste
Whakaarohia**

**Don't Bin
Batteries**

Bryce Win's Speech Friday Night After the Junior Young Farmer's Quiz

Madam Chair, Judges, Ladies and Gentlemen,
I stand before you today as the winner of the genetic lottery.
You might not think that.

I've got ginger hair, blue eyes, skin that burns if someone says the word "summer," and I'm certainly not as tall as some of the other Young Farmer contestants and I won't be getting a call to join the All Blacks.

But I won.

I'm proudly a product of nepotism.

I was fortunate enough to be born into a family farm.
Six generations of Wins have worked the same piece of land since 1881. Like FMG, we've been here for years and we're here to stay.

People often ask whether that comes with pressure.
The pressure of being next in line.
The pressure of knowing that your father, his father, and his father before him all made it work.
But honestly, that hasn't been my experience.
For me, pressure is a privilege.
I didn't inherit a farm.
I inherited an opportunity.

On frosty winter mornings, when I was younger than some of the AgriKids in this room, I was helping Dad feed hay.
I remember steering the truck while he fed out bales.
I learned to drive a tractor before I learned half the things they taught me at school.
And judging by the faces in this room, it's an experience I share with many of you here.

So, is farming still a lifestyle or is it just a business?
Have the pressures of the modern world become the new normal?
The tight margins.
The regulations.
The endless pressure to do more, produce more, and be more efficient.
Has Country Calendar made us think we're supposed to be running a farm, a tourism business, a native revegetation programme and an artisan fibre company all at the same time.
Is there room for people to just do it for the love?

Farming is a business. It has to be.
Five generations before me wouldn't have held onto the same piece of land through love alone.
They held it because each generation adapted.
We can't afford to do something simply because that's the way it's always been done.
We owe it to ourselves—and to the generations that follow—to adapt, evolve and learn.

We do that to protect the lifestyle that it provides.
Because we're not just business owners.
We're kaitiaki.
Caretakers of the land, and caretakers for the next generation.

At its simplest, farming is still remarkably straightforward.
We grow grass.
We feed animals.
And we produce food and fibre.
As New Zealand farmers, we should be incredibly proud of how good we've become at it.

We didn't become farmers to be glued to a computer.
We did it for the feeling of the sun on our skin as we muster mobs through the back blocks.
To be in the yards.
On the Honda.
For the pride you feel when you see a truck pulling out your driveway
Knowing that you are keeping the nation and the world fed.

Because when the pressure comes on, that's what matters.
The bank increases interest rates.
The schedule drops.
The weather decides it has other plans.
The love of the lifestyle is what keeps us going.

It's not the bank manager lying awake listening to a southerly storm roar through during lambing.
It's not the accountant who cares that your great-great-grandfather cleared the Mill paddock by hand.
The spreadsheet doesn't know the story of the farm.

So, Madam Chair, Judges, Ladies and Gentlemen, we all know farming can be hard, uncertain, and sometimes downright frustrating.
Yet I still believe many of us have already won the lottery.
Because tomorrow morning, when the frost is on the grass and the sun is climbing over the hills, we realise that we are kaitiaki.
We run a business to protect a lifestyle.
We adapt our traditions to move with the times.
Because in ten years' time, it might be the next generation driving that truck.
Inheriting that same opportunity.
And realising that they too have won the lottery.

Battery Collection Stand

The battery collection stand in Tapawera has been retired due to safety risks and can no longer accept batteries which now must be taken to the Resource Recovery Centres in town. The stands will instead be repurposed for small metals recycling fundraising for Natureland. More on this coming soon.



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Looking Back to Look Forward

Meet Andrew and Vanessa from Sherry River.



For Andrew and Vanessa, who moved into the Tapawera area a little over a year ago, farming is in the blood. Andrew's Dad had a dairy farm in the UK, so farming is second nature to Andrew who left school at age 16 to farm. Although Vanessa's initial occupation was nursing, her father was a dairy farmer also. Funnily enough their lands adjoined at one point, but she says she didn't really get to know Andrew until she met him at Young Farmers one year.

With three adult children following their own careers, two in NZ and one in the UK, Andrew and Vanessa are a hard working couple, absolutely passionate about farming. Vanessa has a real curiosity about trying new things but Andrew confesses they can have some big disagreements at times. Yet as time has gone on some of those 'new things' have worked. In Southland they were finalists in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards (BFEA) – an award that looks at sustainable farm practices and includes community involvement such as visits from the local primary school.

At the same time that Andrew and Vanessa's lease ran out on their Southland farm, their daughter and partner were looking at moving from Queenstown and buying a motel in Nelson. "If we'd stayed in Southland we'd have felt isolated, cut off from family," Vanessa said. It became obvious to them to look in the Tasman area, but just one month after purchasing their property, they experienced the devastation of the July floods last year. They recalled the details of that event:

"It all happened so quickly. The first storm came through and the river didn't burst ... but when the second storm came, the river levels hadn't sufficiently reduced. It broke through and flooded us out of our home."

"It was 7pm, the water was coming in and we couldn't really see how bad it was, so we just had to vacate the house."

When they left that night, it was pitch black. They only just got out of the driveway in time with water coming over the bonnet of the ute. The following morning they were in shock, numb; struggling to believe what had just happened. In the midst of it all a local family, the Hooks, were amazing, helping them with the clean-up. It would be six months before they could return.

"People kept saying, 'You must regret buying that farm,'" but Vanessa considers they were lucky because the farm workers' houses were ok so they were able to continue running the farm, travelling in and out from Nelson while the house was re-instated. The farm itself had a few fences down and some silt but the land was largely intact. Although their house had to be dried out, re-gibbed, and re-carpeted they felt they were immensely fortunate, being one of the first families back into their home in the area:

"The support we received in that six month period was incredible, not only from many agencies but from the community, local clubs and businesses, all in all very humbling."

Andrew and Vanessa's biggest priority right now is infrastructure work; cleaning out culverts, digging ditches, creating drainage run-off – continuing what the previous owner started. The flood temporarily delayed their progress, but good things have come out of it. They see their place as a meeting place for family - a place where they can all be together.

"For us, this is our dream. It's a dream we had when we left the UK. We came to this country hoping that one day we would own our own farm. Sometimes we have to pinch ourselves that we're here, that this is actually ours ... but we also realize we have a responsibility. We have to care for this land, care for the people who work for us, care for the stock. We feel quite strongly that we want our staff to be happy, and we want healthy animals that are well looked after."

[Andrew and Vanessa are owner managers of a 270 hectare dairy farm with 30 hectares in bush and river at Sherry River.]



Bread Making Workshop

We are looking forward to offering this workshop in September. This will be an informal workshop showing different ways to make bread. More details coming up in the next Informer.



Basic Car Maintenance Workshop

In August we are pleased to offer a basic car maintenance workshop. At this course you will learn how to check your engine oil, replace wiper blades, check tyre pressure and many other useful skills.

Date and time still to be confirmed, but please let me know if you are interested in this workshop and I'll keep you updated.

Email: jan@tapaweraconnect.org or 027 391 5424



Tapawera Community Connection Update – August 2026

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

Workshops

Kono Basket Weaving

We celebrated Matariki with a community weaving workshop. Despite the toilet and kitchen facilities being unusable, due to the water freezing at the venue, the attendees spent a delightful few hours connecting with each other and with nature - through working the flax fibre into beautiful baskets. Special thanks to Lesleigh, our master weaver, and to Renee who sung her mihi as a beautiful waiata.



Basic Car Maintenance Workshop – August 2026 (Date unavailable at time of writing).



Can you check your engine oil, coolant and windscreen washer levels and top them up? Can you recognise fluid leaks? What about replacing wiper blades, checking your tyre pressure,

depth of tread or changing a flat tyre?

This basic car maintenance course will teach you all the above and will also help you to identify common causes of poor engine performance and cover what different warning lights mean. If you want to feel more confident in looking after your vehicle and learn some basic troubleshooting techniques, then sign up now by contacting Jan Barker Jan@tapaweraconnect.org Ph: 027 391 5424

Bread Making – September 2026 (Date unavailable at time of writing).

My colleague Jan will be coordinating a bread making workshop in September. This will run similar to the Dehydrating workshop, with an informal format – showcasing different techniques, tips and tricks.



Let Jan know if this is something that interests you. Jan@tapaweraconnect.org Ph: 027 391 5424

Tiny Gallery

Ana Aceves has been diligently working on building a tiny gallery, in conjunction with the Menzshed. This gallery will showcase local artists, but in miniature. TDC has granted permission for it to be located near the entrance to the coffee cart. Watch this space!!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!



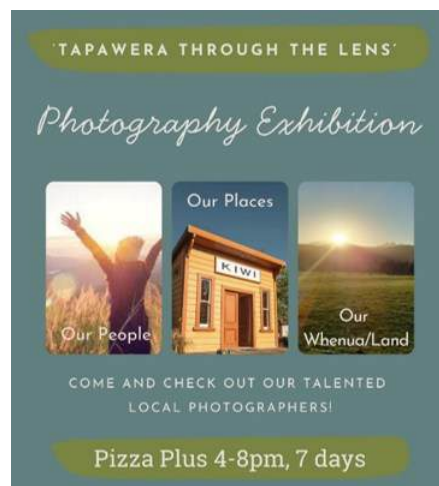
The 2026 Tapawera Spring Show will be held on **Saturday 17 October, 11am to 3pm**. Wet or fine.

Do you like animals? We are still looking for someone to plan and manage the domestic pet entries for the Spring Show. This will include the judging of entries or finding a judge to do that part.

We are also looking for volunteers on the day and for other small roles leading up to the event. If you would like to connect with others in the community and have a few hours to spare, please contact Sabine on sreinert@tapawera.school.nz or 021 0278 8260.

Photography Competition

Have you checked out the stunning array of photos displayed at Pizza Plus? We have a talented bunch of photographers in our community who have submitted over 50 photos showcasing our beautiful area.



I don't envy the judges having such a difficult choice but there is also a people's choice award, so make sure you visit and lodge your vote before **7th August!** Thank you to Phoebe Quinlivan for this initiative.

AN AFTERNOON WITH...

Sam "the Trap Man" Gibson & the Shedwood Bush Betterers

Sunday 9 August
12pm - 2pm
Shedwood Hall, Tapawera

Tapawera Connect and the Motueka Catchment Collective are thrilled to bring Sam "the Trap Man" Gibson to Tapawera. A hunter, trapper and bushman through and through, Sam has spent his life outdoors and has some great yarns to share — along with tips about community trapping.

Alongside Sam, meet the Shedwood Bush Betterers and see what they've been up to in Shedwood Bush - trapping, weeding, track building.

Jacob Lucas (Fish & Game) will share trail cam footage of pests, and there'll be hands-on trap displays and a chance to sign up to the local trapping network.



Free to Attend | All Welcome | Register now!
www.surveymonkey.com/r/H5KTHY8





Tapawera Community Connection Update – August 2026 cont.

Resignation

It has been my privilege to assist and support many locals over the past 19 months with flood related issues and be there for those who have needed a helping hand with the increased cost of living or personal matters.

Eight households have benefitted from some firewood or help with their power bill so far this winter, and it has been a pleasure to distribute numerous care packages to families who have experienced setbacks from last year's severe weather events.

Running affordable and practical monthly community workshops has been rewarding in many ways, but seeing new connections being formed was the biggest highlight. This was showcased at the Women's event earlier this year. Sending out over 100 personal invites to women in our community that I had connected with, was both astounding and humbling. Before working in this role, I had only a tiny handful of local connections. I am incredibly grateful to everyone who allowed me to connect.

Connection was always my priority, whether that be people connections or connections to health & wellbeing services or professional services. Unfortunately, the role has become untenable due to the impact of a few strong, outspoken personalities, so I have regretfully decided to step down. I will still assist voluntarily in the community, so don't hesitate to reach out if you think I might be able to help or if you want a friendly ear over a cuppa.

Della Webby, Previous Community Connector.
Della.Webby@yahoo.co.nz Ph: 027 479 4420



Shedwood Bush Betterers: Who They Are, and Why You'd Join Them

The Shedwood Bush Betterers (SBB) is a group of around 20 Tapawera locals who look after Shedwood Bush — maintaining tracks, clearing weeds including Old Man's Beard, and running a pest-control network. The group have caught nearly 200 predators since late 2025, and Tapawera Area School & Kindergarten have planted over 500 native trees. The SBB aims to bring the forest back to life, increase the number of people visiting, and create a pollination pathway, linking the village to the bush and strengthening habitat for birds, insects, and people.

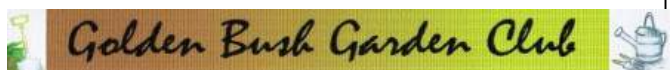
Why Join the SBB?



Being part of the SBB is about being part of positive community change. You get outside, pick up practical skills, and spend time with other locals. There are still plenty of challenges to tackle and jobs to do, so more hands are always welcome.

"Half of why people join the group is the work itself, but the other half is who you do it with," says Mark Soper, a lead member of the Betterers. "You end up knowing your neighbours better, and your kids get to see what looking after the forest and the birds actually looks like."

Keen to get involved and inspired, or just learn more? Come along to the afternoon with Sam the Trap Man and the SBB on Sunday August 9th at Shedwood Hall.



Garden club members met @ Janet & Bruce Moffitt's new home, Tadmor. What a beautiful site. The clothes line is unique, an interesting fence and with the beginnings of Janet's vision for her garden.

August is the club's AGM & will be on 13th, 12 noon @ Wakefield Hotel.

Raffle and auction.

Subs - \$10, are also due, preferably on the day.

Numbers are required for booking the meal, please confirm with Eve or Linda.

Please note - if a member confirms & then doesn't attend, payment will still be required. The club will subsidise the meal.

All office holder positions are open to offers if anyone wants to be available and more committee members are welcome.

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WHAT IS PREDIABETES?

Pre-diabetes or impaired glucose tolerance is when your blood glucoses 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 42-47. An HbA1c under 42 is considered normal and an HbA1c of 48 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 (Marnie), 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.

Community Wellbeing Workshops for Tapawera

What are they? A Community Wellbeing Workshop is a confidential and safe space facilitated by an independent counsellor, skilled in helping people process their hurt, pain, anger or confusion. If we consistently experience feelings of hurt, fear, anger or rejection they can impact on our relationships with others. It can also negatively impact on our own health and state of mind.

Who Are They For? Everyone

Where Are They Run? Right across Nelson and Tasman, so if people feel this may be of benefit, they can be run here in Tapawera

How Big Are the Groups? Minimum 6, maximum 10 people

What are the Topics? Anxiety – Grief – Conflict and Relational Boundaries – Greater confidence in managing thoughts and feelings

How Much Will It Cost? Independent funding is available - To Be Confirmed

Creating a Safe Space ... is paramount and will be taken into account, possibly necessitating the need for more than one workshop

When Will The Workshops Happen? Looking at September. For more information and/or to register your interest – please phone Karilyn on 0274 950 470 by 31st August.



Sue Grey for West Coast - Tasman Campaign Launch

**Sunday 30th
August
2:30pm**

**Moutere Hills
Community
Centre**

**Speaking about
Direct Democracy &
Empowering people & communities**

**Authorised by Secretary
Tracy Livingston
contact@freedom.kiwi**

freedom
freedom.kiwi



A massive congratulations to our four incredible students who represented Tapawera Area School and themselves brilliantly at the Area School Nationals! Every single one of them gave it their absolute all across a busy week of sport — Kiana competing in Rugby, Ki O Rahi, and Volleyball; Shakaia in Volleyball and Basketball; Paige in Volleyball; and Hunter in Rugby.

Their hard work paid off with incredible honours: Hunter earned a spot on the South Island Rugby team, Shakaia made the South Island Volleyball team, and Kiana was selected for both the South Island Ki O Rahi and South Island Rugby teams! To cap off an already amazing week, two of our athletes achieved national selection, with Shakaia named in the New Zealand Volleyball team and Kiana named in the New Zealand Rugby team. All four students should be super proud of the energy and effort they poured into every single game.

Finally, a huge shout-out goes to Steve and Tegan for taking the group up and taking such good care of them, as well as a massive thank you to everyone who sponsored and supported our students. National events are a huge financial undertaking, and your generosity directly made this unforgettable opportunity possible!

Matariki Celebrations





Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In the last issue of the Informer I offered art classes to those who are interested and few have responded. Proceeds are to be given to the TDCC for the refurbishment of the existing Community Centre. I am able to use the Tapawera School art facility (a far better option than the limitations of my home as first proposed) for either a weekend time or an evening class. I have had just on 40 years experience coaching painting and drawing adult classes and have spent my working life in various fields of graphic and fine art.

I need to know whether there is sufficient interest to run a class of at least 6 participants. I will be discussing arrangements this coming week with the School administration and art teacher who is happy for us to share her room.

I can be contacted by my email or phone so look forward to this win win opportunity for fundraising and extending local folks' skills in painting and drawing. All abilities will be supported. A suggested fee is \$20 for two hours and the class could be fortnightly if there is sufficient interest. More can be discussed once I see the level of support. I promise a delightful and informative time and maybe there will be folk exhibiting at the VAST exhibition next year? Another win for Tapawera?

My email is susan.creedy@xtra.co.nz and my phone number is 021 085 73721

An indication of interest is required as soon as possible to get this project started.

Regards,

Susan Creedy

An Open Letter to the Tapawera Community

Communities are not defined by the absence of disagreement, but by how they treat one another when they disagree.

Over the past few weeks, something has come to my attention that I cannot, in good conscience, remain silent about.

I recently became aware of a Facebook post containing a letter about the recent TDCC meeting and the dispute surrounding the community survey relating to the Tapawera Hub. By the time this was brought to my attention by a trusted source, the Facebook post had already been removed.

I realise that some people reading this may have no idea what I am referring to, and in many ways, that is a good

thing. It means you were not exposed to the comments and discussions that followed. This letter is not directed at those who were unaware of what happened, but rather at those who saw the post, participated in the discussion, or were affected by what was shared.

What unfolded in the Facebook comments—and the harm that followed—cannot simply be erased because the post is no longer visible.

Whether you supported or opposed the survey, the Hub, or any individual involved is not the issue. Healthy debate is part of any democratic society, and people will naturally hold different views.

The concern is when public discussion shifts from debating issues to attacking people. What I cannot accept is the growing culture of public anonymous accusations and gossip being presented as truth.

As someone who has personally experienced the harm that gossip and unhealthy conflict can cause, and as someone who cares deeply about this community, I believe remaining silent would mean accepting a culture that I do not believe reflects who we want to be.

Every one of us has a responsibility for the culture we create through our words. We can choose to build trust or destroy it. We can choose to seek truth or spread rumours. We can choose to speak with courage and integrity—or hide behind anonymous comments that damage another person's reputation while denying them the opportunity to respond.

That is why I am writing.

The letter referred to a good friend of mine by name and described him as having been involved in an "aggressive encounter." Whether people agree with that interpretation or not, statements of that nature shared publicly can invite judgement while giving the person concerned no opportunity to respond. My friend is not on social media, so he was unable to share his perspective.

Sadly, what followed was even more concerning.

An anonymous commenter made a serious allegation, claiming that my friend had been the subject of a sexual complaint. No evidence was provided. Later, the same commenter stated that he had been "proved innocent."

By the time any clarification was made, members of our community had already seen the accusation, reacted to it, and formed opinions. The impact had already occurred.

This should concern every one of us.

Today it was a friend of mine. Tomorrow it could be me, you, a member of your family, or someone else in our community.

Cont. on next page

Open Letter cont.

Unsubstantiated accusations—particularly those involving criminal or sexual misconduct—have the potential to cause significant harm. They can damage reputations, affect families, careers, mental wellbeing, and relationships. Even when they are later corrected, withdrawn, or found to be without basis, the original accusation is often what people remember.

Unfortunately, this incident also reflects something I have personally experienced since moving to Tapawera, and it is one of the reasons I have chosen to step back from some community groups.

There are many wonderful people here, and I am grateful to be living in this community and to have built meaningful friendships over the years. However, alongside that, I have also experienced situations where conflict has not always been handled with respect, fairness, or a willingness to seek understanding. I have witnessed how quickly gossip can spread and how easily conversations in groups or online can become places where assumptions are repeated as fact and people are judged without ever being given the opportunity to share their side of the story.

I believe that when conflict is handled well, it has the potential to strengthen relationships, build understanding, and create deeper trust. However, when conflict is avoided, mishandled, or left unresolved, it can fester beneath the surface and create hurt, trauma, division, and mistrust.

Before we repeat something we have heard, perhaps we should ask ourselves:

- Is it true?
- Do I know this to be a fact, or am I simply repeating what someone else has said?
- Is there evidence to support it?
- Am I helping resolve a problem, or simply spreading a rumour?
- Most importantly—would I say these words if the person were standing in front of me?

New Zealand law recognises that harmful digital communications and false online allegations can cause real harm. More importantly, we should not need legislation to remind us to treat one another with dignity and integrity.

Our community can do better.

Rather than simply responding after harm has occurred, perhaps this is an opportunity for us to reflect together and consider how we want to respond as a community when situations like this arise in the future.

How do we want to handle anonymous accusations and personal attacks? How do we ensure that people are not publicly judged without evidence or without the opportunity to respond? How do we create a culture

where concerns can be raised appropriately, with dignity and integrity?

I would welcome the opportunity for our community to have a respectful and honest conversation about this—not to revisit conflict, but to establish a better way forward.

Let us all remember:

Behind every name is a real person. Many people are carrying burdens and struggles we know nothing about. We do not know what battles someone may be facing behind closed doors.

Our words have power. They can bring hope or hurt, healing or harm. They can strengthen a person's reputation or unjustly damage it.

Let's choose to be a community that lifts one another up instead of tearing one another down.

Every person in our community has value and something precious to contribute. We all have so much gold in us.

I believe Tapawera can be known not for its gossip, but for its kindness, integrity, and willingness to extend grace—even when we disagree.

Let's lift one another up.

Peace,

Marina Kurban



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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 tapawerainformergmail.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)

Kohatu Life Group

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

MENZSHED

Contact: John Wilmshurst ph. 5224616

Netball

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

Ramblers

Meet: each month
Contact: Shirley Percy ph. 5224924

Shedwood Hall bookings

Contact: Tania Higgins ph. 5224587

St Andrews Church Stanley Brook

Services every Sunday. Cup of tea
afterwards.
Contact: Lee Winter ph. 5224160

St John – Tapawera

For 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: tapaweratdccc@gmail.com

Tapawera Connect

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

Tapawera Creative Fibre

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

Tapawera Jujutsu Club

Contact: Tony Hammersley ph.
02108811607

Tapawera Op Shop

Currently closed

Tapawera Playcentre

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

Tapawera Rugby Football Club

Bookings: ph. Judy Benjamin 5224445

Tapawera Sport & Recreation Society

Contact: Judy Benjamin ph. 5224445

Tapawera Volunteer Fire Brigade

Contact: Dean Millar Chief ph.
0279651399; Ted Oakly Deputy Chief
ph. 0210704033

TAS / Community Library

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

TESSI

Contact: Bruce Whyte ph. 0211567851

Visual Arts Society Tapawera

Contact: Dallas Robinson ph. 5224984

Yoga with Josie

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

Wakefield Police

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

**What's on
August**

- 5 Kohatu Life Group, 10:30am
Wednesdays throughout
August, Ph 0274 950 470
- 11 Tapawera Talking Café, 10-
11:30am, St Peter's Church
- 11 Digi Drop-in Session, School/
Community Library, 11am-1pm
- 13 Garden Club AGM, 12 noon at
Wakefield Hotel
- 18 TDCC monthly meeting, Rugby
Club rooms, 7pm
- 20 Articles for Informer close 5pm
- 25 Tea and Talk, St Peter's
Church, 10:00am - 11:30am
- 25 Bible study, St James Church,
797 Tadmor Valley Road, 6pm

**GP & Nurse at
Tapawera Clinic**

(during school term time):

GP clinics – Mondays
9am – 12 midday

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

Wakefield Police

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