



The Rotary Club of Tawa Inc.

Tawarotaryclub@gmail.com

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**



NEWSLETTER February 10 2026

MEETINGS

Please notify your attendance or apology to tawarotaryclub@gmail.com by 8pm Sunday.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 10 February | Meeting at Longview Tawa starts 5:45pm
Speaker Tracey Wellington from KCA |
| 17 February | 7am Business Breakfast at The Borough \$30
Speaker Major Andrew Little
Hosted by Tawa BID RSVP info@tawabusiness.co.nz |
| 24 February | Ten Pin Bowling with Wellington North Rotary |
| 3 March | Visit to Parliament Guest of Greg O'Connor |
| 7 March | Community Expo Tawa Atrium |
| 17 March | Visit to Tawa Fire Station |
| 22 March | Concert in the Park 2-5pm |

MEETING TUESDAY 10th FEBRUARY

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS DIFFERENT TO THE PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED MEETING ARRANGEMENT

5.45pm Longview Home, Tawa

Speaker: Tracey Wellington, CEO and Co-Founder Kiwi Community Assistance (KCA)



In the financial year ending 31 March 2025, with the help of our dedicated volunteers, KCA redistributed nearly 345 tonnes of food and over 2,900 boxes of clothing, linen, and other essential non-food items. These efforts supported over 113,000 individuals across the Greater Wellington region.

KCA operates from a 500sqm warehouse based in Grenada North, Wellington. This facility is no longer going to be available and KCA desperately needs to find new premises from which to maintain its very important distribution centre. This facility functions as a central distribution hub, supporting other foodbanks, registered charities, and schools that have signed an agreement with us to receive assistance.

“We rescue surplus food from a variety of sources including supermarkets, food manufacturers, growers, and local farmers' markets, primarily from the Khandallah to Porirua region. We also receive generous contributions from further afield, including areas from Hawke's Bay to Auckland. We encourage donors to share excess produce from home gardens or consider purchasing an extra item while shopping to donate. In addition to food, our community regularly donates clothing, footwear, toys, children's books, household items, cots, prams, baby gates, which go directly to families in need—primarily within Greater Wellington. We are proud to guarantee that 100% of the items donated to us are passed on at no cost to families via our charity partners. We do not sell any of the donated goods.”

Please notify your attendance or apology by email by 8pm Sunday 8th February tawarotaryclub@gmail.com

PRESIDENT ELECT'S PIECE

Tēnā koe

Being president I-elect is a fascinating role to hold. For once, if both, president and the 2IC are away, I get to write to you.

It's all about learning the art of presidency, connecting with members and the community, Tawa's organisations, schools, and groups. All in all, it's all about the people and their relationships with one another.

I'm really fortunate to have an incredible group of people around me, who care and I'm blessed to sense check the many ideas I have, including telling me where my ideas are... quite ambitious.

When I'm thinking about the Rotary year ahead, I'm intending to meet as many of you as possible over the next few months. I want to understand what

makes Rotary Tawa tick, ask many questions and talk a bit about what I like to achieve.

I've also been thinking long about the team and the board for the year ahead. After 30 years of leadership positions in clubs, groups and the corporate world, I have a bit of an idea what I'm looking for.

Until then, we have an amazing program ahead of us. It's all about connecting with people, and stepping just a little bit outside the comfort zone.



Starting with Tracey from KCA this Tuesday, to visiting places that matter, such as parliament and a few places of members work. I'm also really looking forward to the bowling evening we planned with Wellington North.

It's about getting to know the fabric of our club and how we fit in to our community and into Rotary worldwide. More on this when we meet and at the Changeover.

I'm planning to have the next years' calendar with you, no later than April.

The program for the next few months, is really a good precursor to the year ahead, where I have the honour to lead this really cool group of people, I got to enjoy and cherish so much. With this in mind, have a great week ahead, hari waitangi ra, and enjoy whatever happiness comes along.

Michael Nestmann

WELCOME TO MICHAEL HILL

Welcome to our newest member Michael Hill and his wife Vivienne. We look forward to Vivienne's support at the Book Fair.



TAWA COMMUNITY EXPO

We are organising the Tawa Community Expo, an event that brings together the people, groups, and clubs who pour their energy into making our community vibrant and connected. The Community Centre team have helped with the invites of the Community groups.

Saturday 7 March 2026

9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

New World Tawa & Tawa Plaza

TAWA COMMUNITY EXPO

TAWA COMMUNITY LEADERS WE NEED YOU!

Saturday 7 March 2026

9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

New World Tawa & Tawa Plaza

The expo will showcase the many local groups that make Tawa a great place to live — from sports clubs and music groups to volunteer organisations, hobby clubs, and gardening crews. If you're Tawa-based and community-focused, this event is for you.

Our aim is simple: Connect people, raise visibility, and strengthen our community. It's a chance for residents old and new to discover local opportunities to participate, volunteer, and belong. The event isn't for fundraising, selling, or catering — it's all about connection.

If you know of a Tawa-based group that should be invited — or if you're part of one yourself — please get in touch with Michael. He'll send the invitation and registration form directly to them. You're also welcome to forward the invite on your own. If you can share a contact name or email address, even better, as it helps us reach the right people quickly!

Clubs need to register by: **Monday, 23 February 2026, 5pm** via: michaelnestmann@gmail.com

CONCERT IN THE PARK

Elizabeth is working hard to get the much-loved Concert in the Park up and running.

Event Details:

Sunday, 22 March 2026
2.00 - 5.00pm
Grassless Reserve,
Tawa

Cost: FREE (unless you wish to buy a sausage)
We hope to see you at the Grassless Reserve

for an afternoon of music, entertainment, and community spirit.

This free family-friendly event promises something for everyone, featuring an exciting line-up:

- Royal NZ Air Force Band – Jive Bombers
- Tawa College Jazz Band
- Tawa Learners' Band
- Kapa Haka performance
- Children's entertainment, and much more.



Bring your picnic, a blanket, and enjoy a relaxed day in the park. There's no pressure to spend money, but if you're feeling peckish, a sausage sizzle and refreshing ice blocks will be available.

"Concert in the Park is all about bringing our community together to celebrate music, culture, and connection," says Pat, President of Rotary Tawa. "It's a chance for families to relax, enjoy great entertainment, and experience the incredible spirit of Tawa. All right here at your doorstep in Tawa. We can't wait to see everyone there!"

RYLA truly shone this year

Twenty-one remarkable young people from across our district took part, each bringing their own energy, curiosity, and leadership potential. The impact was unmistakable. Kaleb, an extraordinary young man whom many of you know from New World in Tawa, returned absolutely glowing about his experience. He spoke with such enthusiasm and gratitude for the programme that it reminded us why RYLA matters so deeply. His story is just one example of the transformation this week can spark.

While the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, the organising team hopes to see even more young leaders take up this opportunity in the future. We're excited at the possibility of welcoming Kaleb to one of our upcoming club evenings so he can share his journey first hand.

RYLA is hoping to grow participants into ambassadors and future trainers.

Despite the outrageously bad weather, Michael braved the elements to join Kaleb at the final BBQ, celebrating the end of an unforgettable week. The sense of accomplishment, connection, and growth was evident everywhere you looked.

RYLA changes people's lives—and this year's RYLA proved it once again.

Let's share this remarkable success and celebrate the people who build our future community.



RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness) at Tawa College

Thanks to John, Elizabeth, Tony, Pat, Carolyn, Richard and Judith H for volunteering to help with the RYDA programme at Tawa College. It ran over four days providing an opportunity for all year 13's and year 12's to participate for a day. The volunteers were all pleased that they had helped either for the day or up to all four days. Even these seasoned drivers learnt from the presenters.



The course was very well presented from the RYDA organisers, who had been involved in the past as police, driving instructors, crash investigators or race car drivers. They were all very passionate about young people and driver safety. The local police were also involved and related well to the students. However, the most sobering presentation was from a young 20 year old who had in her teenage years made bad choices which have changed her life for ever. She was amazingly brave to personally share what was a heart breaking experience.

Those involved felt proud that Tawa Rotary had been involved and would be keen to provide volunteers and a grant again next year so that more students could be involved.