



The Tawonga and District Community Association committee continue to admire the community spirit and are grateful for the support received from organisations towards enhancing our community infrastructure and identity.

Your Committee has been proactive in pursuing funding opportunities and was successful in securing a grant of \$850,000 from the Local Economic Recovery (LER) Local Community Project Grants for an upgrade to the Tawonga Hall. We extend an enormous thank you to Sue Ryder - TDCA Secretary for her relentless work in contributing towards this outcome.

The existing Tawonga Hall was opened in March 1961 and this funding is invaluable in bringing life back into this community asset, along with new infrastructure which will allow the Hall to meet Emergency Relief Centre criteria.



The scope of works is currently being review to include: Sewer infrastructure upgrades, construction of an integrated shower block, external gathering areas. Audio Visual works to accommodate: a) emergency services briefings, b) community meetings and presentations, c) community events.

Energy Sustainability Upgrades to include : Solar power generation, Solar hot water, External window solar heat gain and thermal properties upgrade.

External all-weather driveways and access, improved carparking facilities, Electrical services modification and expansion, Fire services upgrades, Emergency evacuation, External lighting, External door and door hardware upgrades to meet building code requirements.

The other good news is the new fitness equipment installed at Pioneer Park (details on Page 2).

Your Community Association is reliant on the support of it's membership!

We are a voluntary organisation and we welcome new membership to continue to provide a collective voice and to foster a sense of unity through a community development framework that supports sustainability, growth and community resilience. Your membership is required to achieve this and to meet our administrative overheads. The TDCA Committee meets 7.00pm first Friday of February, May, August and November. Email tdca@tawonga.vic.au to receive meeting invites.

Refer to the Membership Form in this newsletter or download at www.tawonga.vic.au.

Workout with Pioneer Park's new outdoor fitness equipment

Outdoor workouts are now available at Tawonga's Pioneer Park with the installation of new fitness equipment.

The installation by the Rotary Club of Mount Beauty was made possible through generous donations from the Bendigo Community Bank Mount Beauty & District and the Alpine Shire Community Bushfire Recovery Program 2020-21.

The popular park is the newest location to have a range of outdoor fitness equipment installed focusing on cardio, strength, and mobility.



"This new facility is part of Tawonga District Community Association's commitment to improve outdoor recreation spaces for our community and visitors," TDCA President Eric Napier said.

Committee member Mark Redmond who helped with the installation of the equipment commented that "We know physical activity is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle and public facilities can support and encourage this. The fitness space is perfect for those who are wanting to take their exercises outside and it is free".

"Our community enjoys these recreational spaces and we are committed to make sure they are continually updated and maintained appropriately – this includes installing new facilities."

Pioneer Park is now one of two different locations, with Mount Beauty Rotary Park, which have new outdoor fitness facilities. The range of equipment are free and easy to use with each one targeting different muscle and body groups such as the leg press and pull up bars.

If you are stuck or it is your first-time using gym equipment, look for the visual instructions or QR codes that demonstrate safe use of the equipment.

The new exercise equipment isn't the only change coming to Pioneer Park. Alpine Council is working with the Tawonga community to prepare the Alpine Better Places Tawonga project plans which illustrate, cost and prioritise township improvement works.



Residents are invited see an overview on the latest detailed concept designs at the upcoming community information sessions July 13 2021.

Images of the new outdoor fitness equipment available for public use at Pioneer Park, Tawonga. Courtesy of Mark Redmond.

Read more about the Alpine Better Places Tawonga on the Alpine Shire website: <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/council/major-projects/current-projects/alpine-better-places-tawonga>

Tawonga's farming community role in the history of skiing

It's that time of year when locals and tourists head to the high country for skiing and snowboarding.

In the 1850s local farmers were using the alpine pastures for summer grazing of cattle.

In the 1930's a road was built to gain access to Falls Creek and the village came into existence on State-Electricity-Commission Land in 1940. The first ski lodge was built by the Electricity workers in 1948 and the first ski lift was built in 1951, and Australia's first chairlift was constructed in 1957.

You may be surprised to consider that our local farming identities played an instrumental role in aiding skiers on their journey to ski on Mount Bogong.

This article printed in Schuss Magazine in 1939 provides some insights around skiing of that era.

In addition to supporting winter adventurers onto Mount Bogong, local farmers were also engaged in some mountain rescues.

Yes we did have an SES back then, on horseback not 4WD!



Walter Ryder packing tourists on their journey up to ski on Mount Bogong.

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SCHUSS

July, 1939

For Bogong Visitors

By H. V. DOUGHTY.

IN view of the increasing number of people making their first visit to Mt. Bogong, detailed information of the route from Tawonga to the Cleve Cole Memorial Hut may be of value.

Tawonga itself is 220 miles from Melbourne, via Wangaratta and Bright. The average travelling time occupied on this journey is 5 to 6 hours, plus $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 hour for meal en route. (Wangaratta will be found the most convenient stopping-place for this purpose.) This journey is divisible into three sections:

- (i.) Melbourne to Wangaratta, 147 miles—average, $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours' travelling.
- (ii.) Wangaratta to Bright, along Ovens Valley, 48 miles—average, $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours' travelling.
- (iii.) Bright (elevation, 1000 feet) to Tawonga (elevation, 1200 feet), along the valley of German Creek and over the Tawonga Gap (elevation, 2900 feet), 20 miles—average, 1 hour travelling.

To those unable to go to Tawonga direct by car, there are two alternative routes. Firstly, by train to Bright, thence by hire car to Tawonga. Secondly, by train to Wodonga, and thence by hire car to Tawonga. The trip up the Kiewa Valley from Wodonga is most delightful as one approaches the peaks at the head of the valley.

The most efficient method of making the trip over Bogong under snow conditions is by taking horses as far as the Bivouac Hut, on the Staircase Spur. Arrangements for this should be made beforehand with Mr. D. Walker, Bogong Hotel, Tawonga; Mr. W. Ryder, Tawonga; or Mr. W. Maddison, Tawong South. Charges for horses (hacks or packs) are 8/- per day, plus £1 per day for the man in charge. The steep grade of the Staircase means lightly-laden packs—ski and rucksacks should be on packhorses. Cars may be left at the Tawonga Hotel, and horses ridden from there to the Bivouac Hut; distance, 11 miles; travelling time, 4 to 5 hours.

The best arrangement, however, is to take cars on to Cooper's, which is a farm property 5 miles east of Tawonga, on Mountain Creek, and meet the horses there. Allow car travelling time of three-quarters of an hour from Tawonga to Cooper's, over river flats, etc. (For route, see S.C.V. map.) (Park cars under walnut tree.) Then allow at least one hour for loading up and getting away; and travelling time to Bivouac Hut, approximately four hours.

Those who desire to make the whole trip from Cooper's on foot should be prepared to make an overnight stop at the Bivouac or Summit Huts, as the trip right through to the Memorial Hut takes at least nine hours, including stop for meal, but without allowing for any bad weather.



Tawonga Primary School are celebrating some great initiatives and welcomed support!

The school have been successful in receiving a \$65,000 grant as part of the Economic stimulus package in response to COVID-19 under the Minor Capital Works Fund.

The grant criteria revolved around providing opportunities for local employment and improving the aesthetics of local assets. These funds will be allocated to the sealing of the school car park which will offset maintenance costs, improve the landscape aesthetics, and make it a safer traffic area.

In addition to this grant the school have received a \$1500 grant from the Coles Junior Landcare Garden Grants Program. These funds will see a range of native plants planted in the school grounds as the school see the important role that native plants play in our ecosystems. Plant selection will focus on species naturally adapted to local growing conditions that encourage insects, bees, butterflies, and native bird life.

The other great news is that the school have been accepted into the River Detectives Program.

River Detectives is an exciting education initiative of Catchment Management Authorities inspiring teachers and students to understand, appreciate and care for their local waterway through engaging, cross-curricular, citizen-science activities.

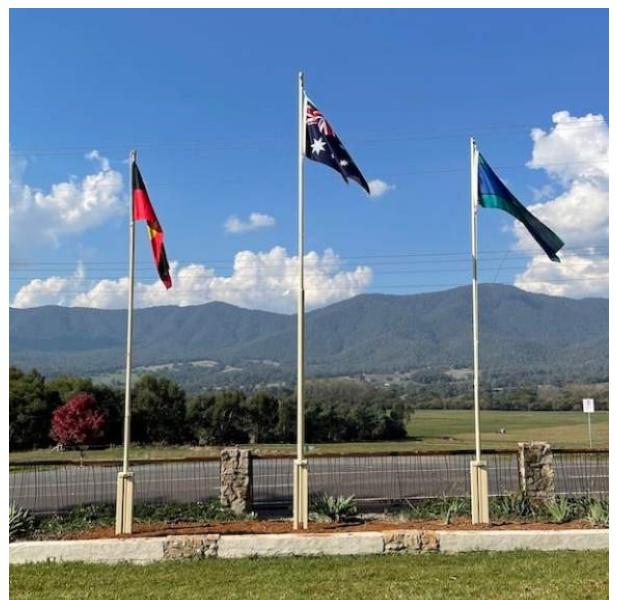


Students gain an intimate knowledge of their local waterway through a variety of hands-on activities including regular water quality testing, macroinvertebrate sampling and habitat surveys. They are provided with a water testing kit and with the support of a trained teacher they carry out monthly water tests of their local Kiewa River which are then sent away to Water Watch for review.

These initiatives are testament to the value the school places on their students learning about sustainability and caring for the environment in a hands-on manner. This is evidenced by the school's current journey towards becoming a 5 Star Sustainable School by reducing their ecological footprint.

Another achievement with the help of the Mount Beauty Men's Shed the school have 3 x repurposed flag poles on their grounds flying the Australian National Flag, the Aboriginal Flag, and the Torres Strait Islander Flag. These flags are important symbols that represent the country's origins and identity.

On behalf of the TDCA and the wider community we congratulate Tawonga Primary School on their environmental stewardship and focus on diversity and inclusion!



Thank you to our Emergency Services Picnic rescheduled!

The Tawonga and District Community Association is having its third attempt at hosting an Emergency Services Picnic on **Saturday 2nd October, 2021** from 10am to 2pm at Pioneer Park Tawonga.

We have organized for the CFA's Rehabilitation Unit, Community Safety AV trailer, the Stay and Defend trailer and 'Mr Whippy' to come on the day.

Tawonga CFA will have their Tanker #1 and the Tawonga community owned tanker 'Cliffy' also on site.



A BBQ lunch with soft drinks and icy poles will be available and the Old Tawonga Store will be open.

COVID Safe Settings for regional Victoria will apply based on public health advice at the time.

This is an ideal opportunity for the residents of the Upper Kiewa Valley to gather as a community, show our appreciation to our emergency services and also review our preparations to be fire safe for the summer of 2021-2022.

Winter is here...

Did you know that each year people die in house fires and CFA Brigades respond to between 1000 and 2000 house fires annually.

Did you know that the risk of fire during Winter is higher than through the rest of the year.

A recent CFA survey showed that 43% of installed smoke alarms don't work. Is your smoke alarm more than 10 years old? Replace it if it is.

If your smoke alarm has a replaceable battery that battery needs changing each year.



A well deserved award!

Barbara Talbot is a long-term resident and highly regarded member of the Alpine Shire community recently awarded Mount Beauty Local Achiever of the Year and Alpine Shire Citizen of the Year.

Since the 1970s Barbara has been active in local business and community organisations, where she has made significant contributions toward strengthening the community fabric and building community resilience.



Yvonne Sutton, Barbara Talbot and Councillor Tony Keeble

In her role as committee member with the Tawonga and District Community Association she has been active in representing community interests and securing funding for community projects. A key achievement was the public shelter in Pioneer Park, Tawonga.

"Granny Barb" is regularly seen driving around in her ute collecting donated goods for the Hospital Op Shop, dropping off medical aid or items needed for a community member.

Obituaries

June 28, 2021 was a very sad night for Tawonga in the news of Eric George Higginson's passing at the age of 102 years of age. He was the oldest local in the valley. We extend our sincere condolences to Eric's family and friends, and we will share a story about the Higginson family in our next newsletter.



The capacity of a Community Association is reliant on the strength of its membership.
The TDCA continue to welcome new members and embrace the voice of the community in contributing ideas around future initiatives in the building of a safe, healthy, connected and progressive community. If you would like more context around the role the committee and how members can contribute please email us on **tdca@tawonga.vic.au**

TAWONGA and DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

(Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act # A 0053005U)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/We..... of

Residential Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

hereby apply to become a member of the Tawonga and District Community
Association Inc. for the 2020 – 2021 financial year.

Membership Fee: Single \$5.00 Couple \$10 Business/Corporate \$15

Payment: Cash or Cheque – please place your payment in an envelope with your name and membership category clearly indicated and return to The Old Tawonga Store.

EFT Payment to TDCA: BSB: 063-722

Account Number: 1006 0869

Account Name: Tawonga & District Community Association Inc

Please remember to add your name as a reference

I / we agree to be bound by the rules of the Association for the time being in force.

SIGNATURE **DATE**