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**REPORT 4**  
(1215/12/IM)

## **TAWA COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

To advise the Tawa Community Board of the usage to date of the Tawa Community Centre.

### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

1. *Receive the information.*

### **3. Background**

The Tawa Community Centre was opened by Mayor Prendergast in March 2007. Since then the number of tenants has grown and the activities happening have increased as well.

### **4. Discussion**

The 'Open Day' held on Saturday 22nd September 2007 was a great success. It was an occasion for people to have a look through the Community Centre, many for the first time, and to see how many clubs & groups and ethnic communities are active in Tawa. More than 45 groups put together static displays for the occasion, and around 20 were involved in performances/demonstrations. The number of people through the Centre on the day was close to 2,000. We have had a number of very positive emails in regard to how worthwhile people felt this occasion was, and suggesting we do it again sometime.

The Community Centre's 'Coffee Area' currently attracts a small number of occasional users, and a regular group of 6-8 senior women for 30-40 minutes on a Friday morning. We now have a team of 10-12 volunteers ready to come on board as soon as 'WCC formalities' have been attended to. With those people in place (within 2-3 weeks), we will open our doors from 10am-4pm each weekday and for possibly 4 hours on a Saturday, and then actively encourage the community to pop in whenever they wish.

Usage of the areas of the facility is outlined below. A map of the areas referred to in the report is attached as appendix 1.

#### **4.1 Recreation Area (Area 3)**

Regular users of the Recreation Area are as follows:

- Tracey Odell School of Modern Dance - 22 hours a week in term time
- House of Grace (Samoan Apostolic Church) - a total of 6 hours at three different times each weekend

During the course of a normal *week*, A3 (the Recreation Area) is used by the following other groups:

- Tai Chi New Zealand - 1.25 hours
- Recreation Wellington preschool recreation - 3.5 hours
- Kapa haka classes - 3 hours
- Shake the Fat aerobics - 1 hour
- Private ballroom dancing - 1 hour
- Recreation Wellington Senior Ezy Movers - 1.25 hours

There is occasional useage by the Sri Lankan community.

#### **4.2 The Boardroom (Area 2)**

During the course of a normal month, the Boardroom is used by the following groups:

- Wellington City Council Building Consents and Licensing Services Department - 9 hours on two different days
- Tawa Community Board - 3 hours
- Civil Defence - 2 hours
- Wellington Amateur Radio Group - 3-4 hours
- Stream Walkway group - 2 hours
- Cards Unlimited - 2 hours
- Occasional useage by Tawa Action Group (community liaison group)

The first significant commercial hire of the Boardroom by a commercial enterprise took place over two days in September, a total of 12 hours, \$420 + GST. This group was sufficiently impressed with the facilities as to have already made enquiries about using them again.

#### **4.3 Main Community Centre Area Meeting Space (Area 1)**

The Main Community Centre Area Meeting Space is used by the following groups:

- Wellington City Council Knowledge Solutions Department - one full week
- Kapi Mana Toastmasters - 5 hours on two different evenings

Occasional useage of the Main Community Centre Area Meeting Space is as follows:

- Tawa Historical Society
- Tawa Cook Islands group

#### **4.4 Other Areas**

There are numerous smaller rooms/areas in the facility available for use.

Smaller rooms used monthly by:

- Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers Assn
- Awhina Wahine Inc

Peter Dunne (MP) uses a room on a Saturday morning every 6 weeks or so for constituent meetings. There are also one-off or occasional users.

The intention is for the Tawa Community Centre to have a general promotional brochure/leaflet available within the next 3-4 weeks - coinciding with the extension of our opening hours to 6 hours a day, an increase from the present 2 hours a day - as a means of promoting the availability of the Community Centre, not only as a 'drop-in' facility, but as having rooms available to be hired by both community and commercial groups. The number of enquiries in regard to hireage of rooms is continuing to increase as people become more aware of its availability. There is currently a small number of additional possible users in the pipeline, both for regular and one-off bookings.

Contact Officer: *Malcolm Sparrow – Tawa Community Centre Co-ordinator.*

