

2 MINUTES WITH Brigid

Staff employed at the Mervyn Kemp Library in Tawa, either on a part-time or full-time basis, are part of the “Northern cluster” which means they are also assigned to the Johnsonville Library, Waitohi, at least one day a week. Some at the library in Tawa have been there more than 10 years and are familiar faces in the community. One of those is Brigid who also happens to live in this community.

Brigid has in fact been part of the local library scene for just over 21 years now.



Where were you born? Christchurch

Where did you grow up? Wellington

Where were you educated?

Maraeroa School [Porirua], Viard College (now Bishop Viard), Tertiary Library qualification at Wellington Teachers’ College Karori (1980s), and got my Library degree from Open Polytechnic when I was older as there was not a degree in Librarianship earlier.

How long have you lived in Tawa?

38 years, but in the region all my life (other than my first year).



What do you like about Tawa, and what would you like to see improved?

Tawa is a nice place to raise a family.

Improvements could be a public toilet in Linden; also more buses that go to town and go through the hills in Tawa and Linden as it is harder for elderly people or those with disabilities to get around when they can no longer drive.

What about family?

Kevin and I have been married for 32 years. We have three lovely grown sons and four grandchildren.

Work experience over the years

I have worked in two different Public Library systems. I started at Porirua for a few years, and in 1999 I started working for Wellington City Libraries in the Northern cluster (Tawa and Johnsonville Libraries).

What are your interests and hobbies?

Reading, singing, writing. I enjoy writing short stories and children’s stories.

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

Watching my kids play sport. Probably my grandchildren too.

Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?

I have a very eclectic* taste in music. [*dictionary definition = deriving ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources – Ed.]

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

I love the whole country.

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What accomplishments/achievements in your life give you the most satisfaction/pride?

My children and their achievements;

Getting my degree when I was older and having my children also come to my graduation.

What are two or three interesting things about you that local people may not know?

1. My family came up to Wellington on the Wahine exactly one year before it sank. I was just a baby.
2. I had some poetry published as a teenager in the Evening Post.
3. I was in a team for Viard College on "It's Academic" quiz show. We came second. It is harder than you think.

What are three things you would like to do before you die?

Do some travelling as I have not seen much of the world;

Do some more writing.

(Compiled September 2020)