

60 SECONDS WITH Bruce Murray

Bruce is one of Tawa's most prominent figures and the resident expert on the history of Tawa. He is the driving force behind the Tawa Historical Society and has authored a number of books published by the society, including the newly-released "A History of Tawa" mentioned earlier in this newsletter.

Early life Born in Johnsonville. In Napier from ages 1 to 6, then Lower Hutt where I lived till I got married (apart from time away at university).

Lived in Tawa since August 1964.

Family Married to Shona. We have 3 daughters, 1 son, and 10 grandchildren, soon to be 11 - the first 11!



Work Experience over the years

Teacher and secondary school principal. Started at Hutt Valley High School 1964-65, Tawa College 1966-77 (I couldn't believe the difference when I came to Tawa College), Head of Social Studies by time I left Tawa College. Went to Naenae College as deputy principal in 1977, appointed principal after three years. Back to Tawa College as principal in 1989. Retired from there at end of first term in 2002.

Interests and hobbies

Local history, family history, garden railway, cricket, furniture making - I made furniture for all our kids. [When interrogated more about the cricket ...] Represented Wellington 1958-73, played for New Zealand five years, 1967-71, under captain Graham Dowling. Travelled to Australia, England, Pakistan and India as opening batsman - had to deal with the fiery, fast bowlers.

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

Don Bradman - he's the man! Between him and all other cricketers, there is daylight! That's what the Aussies say about him, and they're right.

Favourite team - the 1948 Australian cricket team captained by Bradman. They were just outstanding. I actually met him, a very nice man.

Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Hahei Beach (Coromandel). We used to go there for family holidays, wonderful!

What do you like about Tawa?

Its history, its community spirit, its village atmosphere, its schools ... that, I think, is a major reason for people coming here still. They're all good, the college, the intermediate, the primary schools.

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

Being a teacher for 40 years. Teaching is a high calling and an honoured position.

(Compiled November 2014)