

2 MINUTES WITH Eric Raven

Eric Raven is one of that rare breed who has lived in Tawa all of his life to date, with both his parents and his own children part of this community. He is the man behind the Facebook pages entitled “I am proud to be from Tawa” and “Linden appreciation society”.



The introduction to his Linden page reads: “Linden ... the most righteous and noteworthy suburb in the Wellington region. Complete with its own fish & chip shop, 2 primary schools, doctors’ surgery, community centre, cricket & hockey parks and proudly boasting New Zealand’s only International Railway Station. Linden rocks, go Linden!”

Where were you born? Kenepuru Hospital

Where did you grow up? Tawa

Where were you educated?

Linden School, Tawa Intermediate, Tawa College and Whitireia Polytech in Porirua.

How long have you lived in Tawa?

All of my life – I’ve never actually lived anywhere else. Fun fact: I’ve lived in four different houses in Tawa and they are all within a 2km radius. I can see two of them from my current house plus the hospital I was born in. The longest time that I’ve spent being away from Tawa was 7 weeks when I took a holiday to Europe.

What about family?

Married to Caroline and we have two children (James, 11, currently at Tawa Intermediate and Natalie, 9, currently at Greenacres School). My parents and uncles still live in Linden too (also within the 2km radius of awesomeness).

Work experience over the years

Inland Revenue since 1992. 12 different roles over that time. I did work at KFC Porirua branch for two years when I was a student.

What are your interests and hobbies?

I still play social hockey and cricket for Tawa teams. I like all kinds of outdoor recreational activities – including skiing, mountain biking and kayaking. I love travelling all around NZ and discovering new places and re-visiting old favourites.

I’m on the events committee at Greenacres School so I spend a lot of time helping them raise funds and organising fun events.

I love anything to do with Christmas, snow and lego. At Christmas I decorate my house in over 10,000 LED lights and have a Christmas lego display in our spare room window.

I’ve recently started brewing craft beer with my dad.

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

I seem to spend a lot of time in Ohakune in the winter months, but my favourite destinations are probably all in the South Island – Hanmer Springs, Wanaka, Westport & Castle Hill Village (I can’t pick a favourite).

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

Getting married, having our two kids, and convincing my Kelburn “city girl” wife to move out to Tawa to live .

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

1. Go skiing in Canada
2. Win Lotto so I can pay for a ski holiday in Canada
3. Try living somewhere else other than Tawa to see what it’s like, lol – no just kidding – I can’t imagine I’ll ever leave.

(Compiled August 2018)