

## 2 MINUTES WITH ..... Fraser Jackson

Certain Tawa individuals are inextricably linked with the Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves and the Porirua Stream Walkway committee, the group whose vision and drive over several years eventually led to the construction of what is now known as the Tawa Valley Pathway - Ara Tawa. One of those individuals is longtime Tawa resident Fraser Jackson.

*Where were you born?*

Dunedin.

*Where did you grow up?*

Christchurch. My family moved there in my early primary school years.

*Where were you educated?*

After going to Boys' High in Christchurch, I studied mathematics, statistics and economics at Canterbury College [University], then to Auckland for a Masters degree in Economics and Econometrics.

*Work experience over the years .....*

I lived in Auckland after graduation and worked for Amalgamated Brick and Pipe and Crown Lynn Pottery which were on the same site in New Lynn. I was a part of their technical support group and responsible for experimental design and statistical process control methods, both of which were novel in New Zealand industry at the time. I joined Victoria University in my late 20s as a senior lecturer and lived in Lower Hutt initially, before moving to Tawa in 1964. We've been in the same house ever since.

I was awarded a Harkness Fellowship which took me to America for 18 months, to study econometrics, operations research tools and applications to transport economics at MIT in Massachusetts 1965-67. I became Professor of Econometrics at Victoria in 1968. Back home I explored a range of issues associated with containerisation of our trade and with evaluation of road transport projects. However my main interests were on behaviour of firms and households as units whose behaviour aggregates to the economy as a whole. I was Dean of Commerce for two periods and retired from the University in 1996 but have continued an interest in the areas I studied and taught.

*What about family?*

Married to Effie with four adult children, all did their primary and secondary schooling in Tawa. Also 13 grandchildren, two in Tawa and more than half overseas. "They're a great deal of fun."

*What are your interests and hobbies?*

Walking, photography and woodwork have been my recreational activities. I've recently become more interested in nature photography. [When questioned by the Ed. about a certain photo just inside the entrance to his house he explained .....] "It's a picture taken in May/June of a kohekohe tree along the Achilles/Brasenose section of the Redwood Bush track in flower with hundreds of flowers along its trunk. It is a 300mm x 900mm print constructed by stitching together 8-10 photographs."

*Any favourite sports team?*

I think team sports are amazing because of the levels of co-operation and commitment by the individuals involved. No particular favourite though.

*Favourite style of music?*

All of my children have done some music, largely because of the music environment in Tawa when they were growing up. Arising from that, I got quite interested in the music tones and sounds of early instruments, including those from the Baroque period. Apart from that I enjoy listening to barbershop and the social comment of much folk music.

*Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?*

I like going on holidays with family, and they go to all sorts of places. I love the landforms in the Canterbury high country and passes, and the glaciated regions of Fiordland.

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

Most of the things I've achieved have been in a group situation, in which I've played a part with a group of people in one way or another and the outcome is a result of their joint endeavour. Some of those have been in the past 20 years, like the general work of the Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves. The work of the shared pathway committee is another example where many played a part in developing and refining the ideas and promoting it.

*(Compiled December 2015)*



One of Fraser's photos of Kohekohe flowers on a small branch near Peterhouse St - June 2015

