

2 MINUTES WITH Kathryn Henshaw

Kath is the Junior Club Captain for Tawa Football, a voluntary role on which she has stamped her mark in recent years. A cause currently dear to her heart is the upgrade of playing fields at Grenada North Park, and that has led to recent meetings with local councillors and Council officers with that goal in mind.

Her commitment to football in Tawa saw Kath acknowledged as a finalist in this year's Wellington Sportsperson of the Year awards.



Where were you born? Lower Hutt.

Where did you grow up?

In Heretaunga, Upper Hutt before my family made the move to Tawa.

Where were you educated?

At Silverstream Primary School, Fergusson Intermediate, Tawa Intermediate and Tawa College.

How long have you lived in Tawa?

For 38 years with a very short time outside the area while flatting. It wasn't long before we purchased our own home and decided that Tawa was the community we wanted to live in and eventually raise a family.

What about family?

My husband Chris works at the NZ Rescue Coordination Centre which covers both national and international rescue missions. We have two sons Alex, 18 and Thomas, 14 who have both attended local primary schools and the college.

Work experience over the years

My first job while still at school was hand delivering rates invoices into letterboxes for the old Tawa Borough Council every three months. I think I earned about 15c per envelope!

After leaving school I studied accounting and worked in accounting firms before moving to the NZ Dairy Board (now Fonterra), working in different divisions before accepting the role of Administration Manager which I held for many years until leaving to start a family.

I then spent a further five years working from home (using dial-up internet) for the NZ Dairy Board – mainly on a project around scientific testing documentation as well as carrying out internal audits.

I am currently the Junior Club Captain for Tawa Football, where I manage the running of the junior club for up to 400 players (along with a very dedicated group of grade coordinators). It involves administrative work, organising pre-season coaching/training, after-school and summer programmes, hosting end of season prizegivings, plus a myriad of other tasks.

I am a representative on the junior football advisory group for the Wellington region and a member of the Tawa senior football committee.

During the off season I help out the college with their junior Futsal (indoor football) teams which is growing in popularity.

What are your interests and hobbies?

I enjoy cooking and discovering new recipes for the family to try – some more successful than others!

My husband is a keen geocacher and I spend time out walking and geocaching with him. Our favourite walk is around Whiteria Park. I enjoy the puzzles for the mystery geocaches that we have issued – those are the geocaches where you need to answer questions or solve puzzles before being able to verify the correct coordinates.

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Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

The Boston Bruins – I love ice hockey.

Within the A-League it would have to be the Wellington Phoenix and if I had to choose a team from overseas to watch it would be FC Barcelona (although my younger son keeps telling me I should be following Manchester City!)

My favourite sports person is Sir Peter Blake. He achieved so much, not only in the sport of yachting but also his work to campaign for the protection and wellbeing of our environment.

Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?

I grew up listening to a variety of music from Neil Diamond to Bread, Tina Turner to Talking Heads and U2. More recently one of my favourite bands is The Script and I'm enjoying Niall Horan's solo work.

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

I enjoy Tauranga and Akaroa but probably my favourite destination would be Taupo – we spent our last family holiday there before my mother passed away and we were joined by extended family members from around NZ so it has special memories for me.

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

I loved working for the Dairy Board and met so many people with over 600 staff based in Pastoral House. I can still walk down Lambton Quay today and bump into people I worked with 20 years ago. Implementing new documented Quality Management Systems and gaining ISO 9001 certification was a highlight back when it was largely unheard of in the 90s.

The most satisfying achievements however would be those I haven't been paid for. From kindergarten and schools, through to the local Tawa Football Club where I now volunteer full time.

The time and effort spent to get free football skill sessions in primary schools rates as a highlight – our coaches have now worked with many 1000s of pupils, and this year saw us return to some schools for a fifth year in a row.

Recent achievements – providing a new AED defibrillator in an external cabinet at our Redwood clubrooms so it is available 24/7 to the community. I was also a finalist in the Volunteer of the Year category in the 2017 Wellington Sportsperson of the Year awards.

Ultimately the most satisfaction comes from the kids. Providing an opportunity so they can play a sport, learn new skills, be part of a team and keep active. Watching them get out and play, even if it is muddy or raining, and come off the field having had fun makes it worthwhile and is very satisfying.

(Compiled October 2017)