

2 MINUTES WITH Murray Cameron



Murray may be the only staff member at Tawa College (other than the principal, Mr Lucas) who went to primary, intermediate and secondary schools in Tawa and is back teaching at his old school. He is now head of the Music Department at a college widely known for its strength in music.

Where were you born?

Wellington. My parents came out to the 'burbs (Tawa) from central Wellington before I was born.

Where did you grow up?

Tawa, in the house next to St Christopher's in the Main Road.

Where were you educated?

Tawa Primary School, Tawa Intermediate, Tawa College. Took me a long time to do my degree, B.Mus at Vic "over time", because of lots of distractions. I was running a sound company at the same time and teaching music – keyboard and clarinet in schools, the Tawa Music Centre (and at Mana) and teaching privately.

What is your line of work?

I started teaching at Tawa College in 1999. The job description in the Gazette was very specific – for a Maths, Music and Technology teacher. As time went on I dropped the other teaching subjects to concentrate on music. I've been HoD Music since the start of 2006 and now I am also a dean of a year group.

What about family?

Married to "the lovely and clever Wendy" with three children.

What are your interests and hobbies?

Supporting our kids in their numerous activities, family bike rides, sound and recording, music and movies.

Favourite sports team and/or sportsperson?

I don't think I have one. I have a love of cricket but no actual team or sportsperson. As a family we support the Wellington Phoenix football team too.

Favourite musical group or style of music?

I can listen to most music. Love everything really. Elton John is the Schubert of our time. I think he's amazing. But he, Beethoven, Berlioz [19th Century French Romantic composer], they're all a bit different – that's often what makes their music stand out from everyone else's.

Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Any camping ground near a beach. We try to take the tent out with the kids sometime every Christmas holidays. The Bay of Islands and Hahei (Coromandel) are two of our favourites. Also camping by a river near Martinborough.

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

For me it is all about supporting others to be great or to discover unknown talents about themselves.

Being HoD of one of the best music departments in New Zealand and carrying on the work started by Shona Murray [see profile in last month's newsletter – Ed.] on the Tawa Music Festival is also a privilege.

I am on the committee that organises the Big Sing which is a Choral Federation Secondary Schools' choir festival. I have been given the title of Technical Manager for this as I have pushed the Wellington organisers, and then the National organisers, to make their events more 'teen-centric'. Enlisting the services of another Tawa local, Richard Naylor, we have streamed the finale of this event on the web for the last few years. We now have an online audience of near on 60,000 viewers for the three day finale.

I have moved into directing the coverage – calling live which shot from the 7 or 8 cameras goes to air. This year Maori TV will use the footage to create some documentaries. It has been exciting to witness the development of this event.

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

Raft the Grand Canyon; Attend a test match at Lords; Go to the Australian Open. That would be outstanding. I used to do sound for the tennis tournaments that came through Wellington.

(Compiled September 2015)