

60 SECONDS WITH Murray Lucas

"At the very heart of the community is Tawa College, standing proudly on the hill above Duncan Street, still the local secondary school where almost everybody goes and which has built up such a fine history over more than fifty years." - Ken Edgecombe

At the helm of Tawa College is Murray Lucas who has been principal for almost 13 years. Very much a hands-on principal, he is committed to the Tawa community where he lives with his wife Margaret who is deputy chair of the Tawa Community Board.



Early life

Lived in Tawa for my first 21 years - with my parents at 39 Duncan St till age 17 - then in Wilmshurst Place. I lived right across the road from the College when it was being built, and had 100m to get to school.

Education

Tawa College student 1966-70, Victoria University 1971-74 - MSc (Hons), Christchurch Teachers' College 1975.

Family

Married to Margaret with two adult sons, Caleb & Nathanael.

Work experience over the years

"I've been in education all my life." Started teaching career at Tawa College in 1976. There until 1981 teaching maths, science, chemistry, physics, applied maths. Head of Economics by the time I left. Naenae College 1982-87. Hutt Valley High 1988-96 (acting deputy principal just before I left). Deputy principal and principal of Horowhenua College 1996-2002. Principal of Tawa College since April 2002.

Interests and hobbies

Always been passionate about all sports, both watching and participating, especially football, cricket and golf. I like tramping and stamp collecting. Another thing I enjoy doing is cryptic crosswords. Also my family and church, and I have a heart for youth activities.

Favourite sports team?

Ipswich Town Football Club in England (*Ipswich won the English league title in 1961-62, the FA Cup in 1978, and the UEFA Cup in 1981 - Ed.*)

Favourite musical group?

Simon and Garfunkel - not only great sound but excellent lyrics.

What is/are your favourite holiday destination(s) in New Zealand?

St Arnaud, Nelson Lakes National Park; Masons Bay, Stewart Island; Abel Tasman Coastal Walkway.

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

Completing the Oxfam 100 kilometre walk around the Taupo area in 2008;

The Teach-athon over 28 hours in May 2009 which raised money for the World Vision 40-hour Famine. 38 kids stayed the distance;

Being part of a College that "turns young people around". The development of Restorative Practice and its positive impact on the College.

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

To contribute positively to bringing equity to New Zealand society;

See Restorative Practice implemented across all schools in New Zealand;

To play every golf course in New Zealand whether it's a major city course or a minor rural one.

(Compiled February 2015)