

60 SECONDS WITH Richard Herbert

Richard has been a member of the Tawa Community Board since October 2013.

Early life Born and grew up in Tauranga.

Lived in Tawa since 1981, firstly in Linden, and from 1996 in Redwood.

Family Married to Margaret who works part-time at the Redwood Club. We have two adult children who are currently based in Wellington. Emma is a travel agent for Harvey World Travel Lambton Quay branch, and Douglas is an electrician (my father was also an electrician). Douglas is interested in developing his business in solar electric power generation, and other energy saving efficiency measures like using LED lighting and hot water heat pumps.

Work experience over the years

Having had an interest in DX radio and electronics through high school, after University in Auckland I joined the then New Zealand Post Office in Wellington as a trainee engineer. I have been there ever since through the various restructurings of the NZ telecoms industry; Telecom Corporatisation in 1987, and the outsourcing of most of its design staff in 2003 to what is now part of the global communications services company of Alcatel-Lucent. I have been fortunate to have been involved in aspects of the cellular mobile network design since its beginnings in New Zealand, with a particular specialisation in development of the text messaging (SMS) service.

Interests and hobbies

Inaugural member and past chairman (2008-14) of Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves Inc. Current chairman of the Wellington Botanical Society and a member of Forest & Bird. Member (and current Board member) of the Rotary Club of Tawa, a committee member of the Tawa Historical Association, the Tawa Residents Assn and the Tawa Valley Pathway Committee. A member of Wellington Male Voice Choir Inc (from 1998), and a member of the St Peters congregation of the Tawa Anglican Church. Other interests include Genealogy and Travel.

Which sports team(s)? All Blacks and Hurricanes.

Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

I enjoy the annual Wellington Botanical Society summer camps each year to a different part of NZ that I've never been to before.

Why the community board, and what do you do on it?

As the children grew up and became more independent I found an interest in local community actives in Tawa, and see my involvement with the Tawa Community Board as a continuation of this community involvement. On the Board I take a particular interest in the Parks and Reserves and other green spaces around Tawa. Currently co-ordinating with Council and other community groups to develop native plantings along parts of the new Tawa Valley Pathway – a multi-year project. The rural landscape outlook is a feature of Tawa that I think a lot of residents value and I would like to strive to see this retained as much a possible.

(Compiled July 2014)

