

2 MINUTES WITH Sharon McKenzie

Sharon McKenzie is the Tawa BID* Manager, employed by the Tawa Business Group (TBG). She has been in the role since February this year and is responsible for managing the day-to-day activities of the TBG – working with the Executive Committee, BID members and other stakeholders to develop and enhance the success of Tawa businesses for the benefit of the wider community.

* BID = Business Improvement District under the Wellington City Council.

See <https://www.tawabusiness.co.nz/about-us/tawa-bid-faq>



Where were you born? Auckland

Where did you grow up?

We moved around a lot because of my Dad's job [in insurance], so I grew up in Auckland, Dunedin, Whangarei and then Dunedin again before moving to Christchurch and eventually Wellington.

Where were you educated?

Rutherford Primary (Te Atatu, Auckland), Corstorphine Primary (Dunedin), Kamo Intermediate and Kamo High (Whangarei), and Queen's High School (Dunedin).

How long have you lived in Tawa?

Just over six years now. We were in Johnsonville for 17 years before we moved to Tawa.

What do you like about Tawa?

I love the sense of community – to be honest, until I started my role as BID Manager with the Tawa Business Group I wasn't aware of just how much goes on behind the scenes! Just watching Tawa grow will be exciting.

What about family?

I've been married to my husband, Dwayne, for 21 years now. Most of my immediate family (my Mum, sister and brother and their families) are all still in Christchurch.

Work experience over the years

My most recent roles have been either office management, event management or facilities management – I guess because I like organising things! Over the years I've worked for both government and private organisations, with staff numbers from 1 to about 4,000. I've also been involved in Incident Management and have completed a number of CIMS [Coordinated Incident Management System] training courses.

What are your interests and hobbies?

I love walking, especially walking on some of the beautiful beaches we have relatively close. I enjoy reading and baking and have just started trying to make leather earrings – still a work in progress! I think my favourite thing is spending time with friends and family – there's nothing quite like it.

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

I know this may not win me many Wellingtonian friends, but I'm a staunch Crusaders supporter. I also love one day cricket.

..... contd

contd

Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?

I don't know that I have a single favourite – I like a lot of music – a lot of it is old stuff though.

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Probably the Wairarapa – there's so much to do and explore and I always come back feeling refreshed and recharged. I've also got a lot of great memories of holidays on Waiheke Island.

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

The feeling that I've done something to make a difference – things as simple as supporting someone through a tough time or helping someone get to where they want to be in life.

What are two or three interesting things about you that local people may not know?

I live on a lifestyle block in Tawa. I'm quite a home-body so am lucky to be able to hang out with not only Dwayne and our two dogs Baxter and Archie, but also with six chickens, 12 sheep and five goats (all of which have names by the way).

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

Finishing our landscaping would be a good start – our five year plan keeps extending!
And perhaps visit Stewart Island,
.... and Ireland.

(Compiled July 2020)