# 2 MINUTES WITH ..... Brett Gillies

Brett Gillies is one of many valued members of the Tawa community who play their part (in his case a substantial part) in making this community a great place in which to live. Amongst other roles, Brett was Chair of the Tawa Valley Pathway Committee which was responsible for the creation of the 5km Tawa Valley Pathway – Ara Tawa which opened in 2014. He is also a trustee on the Tawa Community Patrol.

*Where were you born?* Otahuhu, Auckand

*Where did you grow up?*
Whangaparaoa Peninsula [near Auckland]

*What were you educated?*

Orewa District High School; subsequently obtained a Diploma in Energy Management

*How long have you lived in Tawa?*
40 years. I shifted to Wellington when I got a promotion here, and never left.

*Work experience over the years .....*
Many years in DSIR and presently the Property Manager, GNS Sciences Ltd, Avalon.

*What about family?*
Married to Wendy Gillies with three sons Michael, Scott, David and daughter Gemma. We have three lovely granddaughters, Gabriella, Andy-Rose and Lola.

*What are your interests/hobbies?*
Volunteer Hut Warden for Dept of Conservation for the Tararua Ranges
Trustee, Training Officer and Patroller for the Tawa Community Patrol
Tramping and kayaking expeditions
Enjoying my grandchildren's company

*Favourite sports team and/or sportsperson?*
Hurricanes
Steve Gurney

*Favourite musical group and/or style of music?*
Creedence Clearwater Revival
Sam Smith

*Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?*
Marlborough Sounds and Nelsons Lake National Park.

*Any accomplishments/achievements in your life (to date) that give you much satisfaction/pride?*
My involvement in various volunteer community groups within the Tawa community has been exceptionally rewarding, as Tawa is a great town, has a great village environment and is a magnificent place to raise children and be surrounded by lovely people.

*What are three things you would like to do before you die?*
Tramp the length of NZ
Kayak around Stewart Island
Take up paragliding

*(Compiled August 2016)*