

2 MINUTES WITH Brian Frampton

Brian Frampton is one of Tawa's distinct 'identities'. One needs to have lived in Tawa for more than 20 years to qualify for that! He ran his ITM business for almost 30 years, having only just sold up. He contributes to the Tawa community in a number of ways, not least driving his ITM truck along the pavement when the changeover of the hanging baskets in the central shopping area takes place twice a year.

Brian was recently recognised as a "Paul Harris Fellow" for his services to the Rotary Club of Tawa and the community of Tawa over a number of years. He also plays a rather prominent part in Tawa's annual Christmas Parade which, as it happens, is on this coming weekend.



Where were you born? Wellington

Where did you grow up? Vogeltown, Wellington through to my early 20s.

Where were you educated?

Berhampore School, Ridgway School (Brooklyn), Rongotai College.

How long have you lived in Tawa?

36 years, after moving here to live in 1984.

What do you like about Tawa? What would you like to see improved?

I like the green bush which I can see out my back window, the bird life, and good family experience here. However I would prefer not so many roundabouts!

What about family?

My partner Anne; two daughters Rebecca and Melanie, both educated in Tawa, plus two grandsons, Archie and Felix.



Brian driving his truck during the changeover of the hanging baskets in the town centre

Work experience over the years

I started work in 1966 as an apprentice carpenter before heading to Australia for four years. I worked there as a builder, firstly in Melbourne for six months, then on the powerhouse near Lithgow, NSW. On my return to Wellington I worked for Fletcher Timber in Oxford St, Tawa (where Tawa MenzShed is currently situated). I have just retired after 54 years working, 45 of those in the building supplies industry. I was self-employed for 33 years, bought the building (southern end of the Main Road) in 1990 and took on the ITM franchise when it started 27 years ago. I was one of the longest-serving ITM operators.

What are your interests and hobbies?

My vegetable garden, fishing (mostly in the vicinity of Kapiti Island, although my boat doesn't get in the water often enough!), and travel, both overseas and in my motorhome in New Zealand.

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

The All Blacks (of course) and Josh Kronfeld.

Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?

Rod Stewart and Freddie Mercury.

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What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Coromandel Peninsula – I got to really like it when I was young. I lived in Thames from 1980-84.

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

Looking back and seeing the houses I built in my younger days

Running a successful business

Watching my daughters grow into beautiful women and my two grandsons

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

I was a volunteer fireman in Tawa for 33 years

I have been a Rotarian for 23 years

I wear a red suit representing the Lions Club of Tawa once a year

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

Move into a new home

Help my two grandsons into their own properties

Become a great grandad

(Compiled December 2020)