

2 MINUTES WITH Dean Tutton



Dean has been Tawa's Chief Fire Officer since July 2017, having served with the NZ Fire Service for 28 years. He was presented with his Gold Star (for 25 years' service) in 2015. He has been part of the Newlands Brigade, the Wellington Operational Support unit, and for the last 17 years with Tawa.

At the recent Tawa Community Civic Awards ceremony the Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade received an Excellence in Community Service award, and it was only fitting that Dean was there to collect it on the brigade's behalf.

Where were you born? Wellington

Where did you grow up?

Mostly lived in Tawa, but had a time in the Newlands/Johnsonville area.

Where were you educated?

Newlands Intermediate, then Tawa Intermediate and Tawa College. Attended Wellington Polytech as part of an automotive apprenticeship.

How long have you lived in Tawa? Over 30 years.

What about family?

My wife is Karen and we have two kids. They're adults now – Jordan and Sarah.

Work experience over the years

I have always worked in the automotive industry, currently working as a Diagnostic Technician for Mercedes-Benz. I am also serving as Chief Fire Officer to the Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade.

What are your interests and hobbies?

Most of my time out of paid employment is spent with the Tawa Fire Brigade, but I also like working on older cars, 50s & 60s era. I'm currently working on a 1955 GMC pick-up truck of a mate's.

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

Tawa Fire Brigade combat challenge team. The combat challenge is a firefighter iron man type event run by the UFBA. The Tawa team has competed for the last two years at regional and national events. See http://www.ufba.org.nz/events/list/category/firefighter_combat_challenge

Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?

Would have to be Dire Straits and Cold Chisel (yep, from a while ago).

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Ohope Beach Top 10 Holiday Park.

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

Definitely my wife and kids. Also the people I have worked with in FENZ at Tawa and other brigades.

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

Leave the brigade in a better place than when I took over (although that's almost impossible as it has always had very good chiefs).

Do my OE again before I retire. My previous OE included a year's working holiday in the UK.

Get a classic car of my own.



"Excellence in Community Service" award presented to the Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade at the recent Tawa Community Civic Awards.

(Compiled June 2018)