

2 MINUTES WITH Doug Miller

There are many “solid citizens” in Tawa who quietly get on and contribute to the community in their own small way, or sometimes not so small, without a lot of fanfare. Doug is one of those people. Amongst other things he has participated (sung) in the Tawa Music Festival, aka Tawa Goes to Town, on more than one occasion, and he has organised a Neighbours’ Day barbecue in his end of the street several years in a row.

As you’ll read below, Doug was involved in the same arena all his working life. He is now enjoying retirement.



Where were you born? Masterton.

Where did you grow up? In Masterton, Whanganui, Opotiki, and Whakatane.

Where were you educated?

Gonville Primary School (Whanganui), Opotiki Primary School, Southwell Preparatory School (Hamilton), St Paul’s Collegiate (Hamilton), and Whakatane High School. Then later Waikato Technical Institute, Technical Correspondence Institute, Wellington Polytechnic, and Central Institute of Technology.

How long have you lived in Tawa?

We moved to Tawa in 1987 from Wilton after looking at what other suburbs had to offer. Tawa has a wonderful community spirit and we do enjoy living here.

Our children went to Redwood School, Tawa Intermediate, Tawa College, and Queen Margaret College.

What about family?

Adrienne and I have been married for 33 years and have two adult children. Our daughter and her husband live in Feilding and have two wonderful daughters. Our son is presently on a working holiday in Chile.

Work experience over the years

I worked in the NZ Post Office – Telecom – Spark and Alcatel-Lucent for 45 years in Whakatane, Rotorua, and Wellington before retiring last year. I started as a technician maintaining and installing exchange equipment and finished my career in the fixed/mobile line network design area, having survived many restructurings along the way.

What are your interests and hobbies?

I worship at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul where I am also a bell ringer.

Family history is also of special interest particularly with documented parts of my family going back into the 15th century.

I’m also a member of the Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves and take a keen interest in the Wadham Reserve. Since retirement I have been out tramping with the Forest and Bird Wellington Regional Tramping Group going to places I had never even heard of before. I use this opportunity to continue my interest in photography.

Amateur archaeology is also an interest and has taken me to the north of England to work at Roman sites.

Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?

I enjoy most genres of music but particularly baroque and early music. That of Tallis, Victoria, Palestrina, Handel, Bach, and Purcell is particularly appealing.

I’m a supporter of the NZSO and Choirs Aotearoa.

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What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

The East coast of the North Island from Opotiki round to Gisborne where there are some beautiful beaches and some interesting rocky bays.

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

In my career it was working on the introduction of the 0800, 0900 and voicemail services for Telecom as well as being part of the team that introduced number portability in 2007 so that customers could move their phone number between different NZ telcos. My role in all of these was to ensure that call charging worked properly.

Away from work it is tree plantings I've done in the Tawa reserves, and developing the garden at home.

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

Go to as many of New Zealand's islands as I can.

Enjoy watching the grandchildren grow up.

Go on many more archaeological digs.

(Compiled April 2018)