

## 2 MINUTES WITH ..... Judith Gray



Judith Gray's name is synonymous with Nada Bakery, long-established in Johnsonville, and in Tawa for almost a decade. As a local business operator she also plays a prominent role on the very active Tawa Business Group.

For a number of years Judith served on the Scots College Board of Governors, including a term as deputy chair.

She has been a member of the Rotary Club of Tawa since 2016, and the primary organiser of the Rotary Business breakfasts which take place once or twice a year. Last week Judith was inducted as President of Tawa Rotary, a 12-month commitment. We wish her all the best in her new role.

*Where were you born?*

In Wellington, the new (at the time) St Helens Hospital, Newtown.

*Where did you grow up?* Island Bay.

*Where were you educated?*

Went to Island Bay Primary School, South Wellington Intermediate, Wellington East Girls College, Wellington Hospital School of Nursing.

*How long have you lived in Tawa?* Since 1982.

*What do you like about Tawa?*

I like Tawa because it is a very family orientated suburb, I have a business here and in Johnsonville, so close to those and it's very quick and easy to get into the CBD where I have business interests also. Tawa always feels like a warm, friendly place to live where people really care about each other.

*In what ways could Tawa be improved?*

I'd like to see improvement of traffic flow along the Main Road, especially at peak times, better parking arrangements, improved street lighting (it's very dark around Davies Street at 8pm in the winter when the Rotary Club finishes).

*What about family?*

My late husband Peter Gray died in 2005. I have three children: Michael aged 35, lives in Tawa and married to Marissa – they have two children, Daniel and Jonathan; Rebecca aged 31, lives in Auckland; Ben aged 25, lives in Tawa.

*Work experience over the years .....*

I trained as a Registered Nurse, one of the last classes to go through hospital training as opposed to polytech training. When I graduated I worked at Wellington Hospital specialising in surgical nursing and eye surgery. I then worked as a district nurse specialising in Urology and Spina Bifida nursing for the whole of Wellington and the Hutt District. Following that I spent several years working at Bowen Hospital.

I then worked part-time for our family business Nada Bakery while raising the family. I now run this business along with my oldest son, Michael. Over the years I have also spent time working as a Conference Coordinator for the Baking Industry Association of NZ and for a couple of years in a recruitment company.



Rotary changeover – farewell to the “old president”, and welcome to incoming President Judith Gray.

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*What are your interests and hobbies?*

I enjoy watching sport, especially tennis, rugby and cricket. When I have time I play Mah Jong and I enjoy reading and cooking.

*Favourite sports team and/or sports person?*

All Blacks, Hurricanes, Roger Federer, Ash Barty [in case you need to be reminded, Ash Barty is an Australian professional tennis player and former cricketer. She is ranked No. 1 in the world in singles by the Women's Tennis Association – Ed.]

*Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?*

My family tell me I have “an eclectic taste in music”, ranging from The Rolling Stones, Jethro Tull, The Beatles to Lady Gaga, Pink and Six60.

*What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?*

Lots of superb family holidays in Two Mile Bay, Taupo.

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

No. 1 is my children of course;

No. 2 is being the first female recipient of a Life Membership of the Baking Industry Association of New Zealand;

No. 3 is breaking through the ‘glass ceiling’ and becoming the first female Vice Chair of the Scots College Board of Governors;

No. 4 is being selected to be President of the Tawa Rotary Club.

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

Attend Wimbledon Tennis Championship;

Revisit Japan;

Go to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Edinburgh (tick – did this in 2016).

*(Compiled July 2019)*