

60 SECONDS WITH Shona Murray

Shona was the main organiser and the driving force behind the biennial Tawa Schools' and Community Festivals which date back to 1979. Although stepping down from that role in recent years, it's fair to say she would be regarded as an 'icon' of the Tawa community.

Where were you born?

Hshuchang, Honan Province, China.

Where did you grow up?

China until the age of 7, one year in Queenstown, 6 years in Gore, then Tawa since 1957.

Work experience over the years

Teaching New Entrants at Tawa School 1963 - 1968

HOD Music at Tawa College from 1982-2006

Directing Tawa Schools and Community Festivals from 1979 - 2010.

Choral work with Dawn Chorus and Twilight Tones (at Tawa College) and acting as accompanist for the NZ Secondary Students choir 1990-2000.

Ten years as Chief Moderator and examiner for School Certificate and University Bursaries Music in New Zealand.

Assistant teacher at Tawa College from 2006 - 2010 working for one of my ex-students, Murray Cameron, who became HOD Music in 2006.

What are your interests and hobbies?

Accompanying Trust Porirua City Band soloists for Regional and National Contests, and students from Tawa College for NCEA performances.

Photography, computer technology, cooking, embroidery, movies, church and community music.

Keeping in contact with ex-students through Facebook.

Being actively involved in the life and activities of the grandchildren [*one of whom is Jess Kerr whose profile featured in the most recent edition of this newsletter – Ed.*]

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

Rafael Nadal – apart from his amazingly athletic playing, I admire his humility, his overcoming of difficulties, his down to earth family values, and his service to the school he has created in India for children in poverty.

Favourite musical group and/or individual singer(s)?

Elton John, Karen Carpenter, Schubert, Mozart, Bach.

Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Queenstown.

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

I am inspired to see the lives that I've had a link to, go on to achieve fulfillment with their talents or gifts beyond what they ever would have thought possible.

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

Celebrate the service and talents of our grandchildren in community.

Return with Bruce to Scotland and Ireland to our family heritage sites.

Watch Rafa Nadal play live.



Shona with her home made Chiau-Tze, a family favourite at Murray celebrations, and part of Shona's family heritage with China.

(Compiled August 2015)