

MENZSHED - TAWA -

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2021

Well 2021 has finally come around and good ridance to 2020. I think we all had enough of 2020 with Trump and his fake story claims and of course Covid 19. I think youll agree NZ has done remarkably well with the way it has coped with this deadly outbreak - compared certainly to some other countries.

However we still have to be vigilant with our "signing in" and "scanning". It may become very important for tracing purposes.

A big than you to all those that supported The Tawa Lions Xmas Parade and to those that helped get the float afloat.



The "Community highlights for the been hired with community. For agreed that they used in future

Christmas Parade" is one of Tawa's year. In the past the large Santa Float has funding from Tawa Lions and the Tawa the 2020 Christmas parade Tawa Lions would build a new float that could be years at minimal cost.

Tawa Lions asked Tawa MenZshed for help with the building of the new float and the repair and fabrication of the old pirate's float. The new Santa float was repurposed from an old Santa's workshop float and Reindeers were made from plywood using patterns sourced from the USA. Many hours were spent by members of Tawa MenZshed and Tawa Lions cutting out the patterns and painting the cutouts. The antlers proved to be the most difficult. Thanks to Faith for all the artwork and detailed painting. Also, thanks to Tawa ITM for the use of their truck on the day of the parade

The Pirates float was sponsored by Tawa Professional Real-estate and MenZshed this year using the Tawa MenZshed trailer. Every year Tawa Lions tries to improve on the last years design by creating and supplying new Prop's and decorations.

What made all the hours spent on this project worthwhile was the smiles and looks on the children's faces and Santa was really pleased with the Xmas music beamed to everyone, well done Tawa MenZshed. □

Get to know your fellow shedders

I thought it would be a grand idea to ask some of our committee members - and later “rank’n’file” members for a bit of background from their lives. Im sure most of us have some very interesting stories and it would be very good to understand better where poeple are “coming from” - literally, geographically etc. The first “volunteer” up is our chairman Gary Beecroft. Thanks Gary.

Gary Beecroft

I was born in Purakaunui (below), a small dairy and fishing village on the Otago Coast between Port Chalmers and Waitati, then moved to Dunedin for secondary school and to work in Central Otago.

The road from Otago to Tawa, the Men’s Shed, Tawa Rugby, Friends of the Tawa Bush and Tawa College is less complicated than it might look.

The end of the war brought a lot of soldier’s home, and this produced the baby-boomers, many were my cousins. Growing up in a big group of boys who went to school and into rural Otago together meant my early years were full of rugby, mountaineering, tramping, hunting, fishing, and canoeing.

In those days’ community spirit meant neighbouring families banding together to help each other with tasks like replacing a roof, painting a house, bring in hay, or building a bridge. That community spirit and commitment has stayed with me and lead me to join clubs in Tawa.

I went to school in Purakaunui and Otago Boys, Teachers College, and Otago and Lincoln Universities. My main subjects were Geology, Geography, and Natural Resources Management. Later a Soils Diploma at the Egyptian International Centre for Agriculture in Cairo and an Executive Management Program at the University of Virginia.

Following Lincoln, I was a soils conservator with the Otago Regional Council, then Soil Scientist with the DSIR working in irrigation and drainage, and land-use management. The agriculture research, or its application, took me to work for the United Nations and through many countries in the Pacific, the Middle East, and Asia. The aim was always to improve agricultural food production. This was a job I really loved doing.

This type of work meant I did not marry Megan until I was 51. But once married, having children was an epic. Our family moved to Kiwi Crescent in 1998, beside the Forest of Tawa. Megan is a Policy Manager at the Ministry of Social Development. My children were born in Tawa and are still here; Sandie (20) is beginning a design course at Massey and Campbell (22) has completed a degree at Victoria and is Bar Manager at Clockwork Gold in Tawa.

Another job I enjoyed was CEO of the Agriculture ITO where I worked with the farming industry to develop workplace on job education and training for the agriculture sectors.

I still enjoy the music of the 70’s and 80’s. We have a little farm at Waikawa Beach, and I still enjoy trying to fish and slow tramping, but like Neil, I have found that “rust never sleeps”. □

Family



FamilyPurakaunui Bay



Purakaunui Dairy fields

