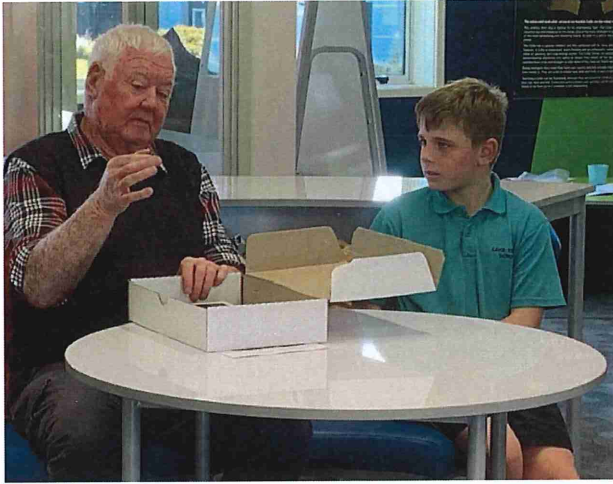


# Stewie Inch - Our Local Legend

In Term 2, 2023, the students were given the privilege of interviewing Stewie Inch as part of their Biography unit. Stewie is a valued member of our school and his tireless work with the Lions and for the community sets an incredible example for our tamariki.



**Q. Did you like living on a sheep farm as a kid?**

A. I loved it, but I didn't like sheep, because I thought they were dumb. As soon as I left home I went to work on dairy farms.

**Q. What was your favourite sheep on the farm when you were a kid and what was its name?**

A. We only had pet lambs and we never named them because later on we sold them for pocket money or we sometimes ate them. Sometimes we went to the dead sheep and plucked its wool and we sold that too.

**Q. What rank were you when you were a Policeman?**

A. I got to be a senior constable after 14 years of service. One of my roles was a youth aid officer.

**Q. What was your favourite school and why?**

A. I didn't have a favourite school, because they were all pretty good and each school had its own character.

**Q. Would you rather stay in Tekapo for the rest of your life or travel to other places and never come back to Tekapo.**

A. I would like to stay in Tekapo but probably I will go to Dunedin because there is limited help for older folk here, and I have family down there.

**Q. What do you like to do in your free time?**

A. I like spending time with my grandchildren because they are much more fun than my children.

**Q. Do you have a hot tub?**

A. No, but I have a bath and a shower.

**Q. Have you ever been out of the country and where?**

A. Yes Australia 4-5 times, England, France, Belgium, Italy, Ireland, Prague, Vienna and Budapest, Canada, Chicago-America and New Caledonia. Budapest is two cities, one is Buda the other is Pest divided by a river.



**Q. What was your favourite place?**

A. Prague because I found the people were very honest, they had been subjected to Russian rule after World War Two.



**Q. What is something you're proud of and why?**

A. I'm proud of joining the police.

**Q. Why are you proud of joining the police?**

A. Because of all the opportunities, giving back to people and giving back to the community. Being a policeman doesn't mean just going out and locking people up, it's only a very very small part of it.

**Q. Would you rather go back to the past and meet your ancestors or go into the future and meet your great, great, great, great, great - however many greats you want to add on to that- grand children?**

A. I would rather go into the future because I have a family tree at home that shows me my ancestors. A tough lot they were. I would like to see a nice lot in the future.

**Q. If you had one wish what would it be?**

A: No poverty in the world. Everybody has food, also no fighting like all over the world at the moment.

Thank you for your time, insight and honesty Stewie, from the staff and students of LTS.





## Meeting people in our community ... Meet Stewie Inch.

The Fairlie Accessible: Issue 9, May 2023

Lake Tekapo has been his home for 23 years. He has 3 children (all living in the South Island), 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

### Where were you born?

I grew up in the Te Pirita District near Rakaia, Mid Canterbury. My parents had a sheep farm and my two uncles also farmed nearby.

Please tell us about your journey to joining the NZ Police?

I was 21 (doing farm work at the time) and was walking along the street one day in Timaru, when a chap who I knew through rugby walked towards me in a police uniform. We chatted and he said that he really enjoyed his work. That chance encounter inspired me to apply to join the Police. I retired many years later at age 55.

My job role for the last few years with the Police, was Youth Aid Officer in Timaru. While working for the Police, I enjoyed travelling for relieving work all over South Canterbury. I fell in love with Tekapo and in the late 80's we bought a wee crib on Burnett Place.



### You are an active member of our community - what groups do you belong to?

When my late wife, Lorna and I moved permanently to Lake Tekapo, Lorna joined the Lions Club. I joined the Church of the Good Shepherd and that led to a role as a Lay Minister for 8-10 years. Years later, Lorna convinced me to also join Lions. I really enjoy the camaraderie and giving something back to the community. I especially enjoy spending time with the young ones - the kids are the future. It's great that the Lions members are now collaborating on projects with Tekapo School children, like recently painting the school fence together. Playing card games and board games is my favourite pastime. Julie approached me to help set up a group to meet regularly for some fun and 'The Wise Ones' evolved. It's not just about playing games - it's getting out of the house for a couple of hours (particularly during the winter months when people can become housebound), connecting with others in the community, enjoying a coffee together and chewing the fat. .

### What do you love about living in Lake Tekapo?

I absolutely love the different nationalities and the interactions with people - Everyone is so friendly. I'm a morning person - so every day before breakfast, I walk to the shops to get my mail and buy a newspaper from the Four Square. If I didn't turn up for my paper for a couple of days - I'm sure the wonderful staff would come looking for me!