

2 MINUTES WITH Carol Brieseman

You will have seen in the newsletter sent out last week that local woman Carol Brieseman was recently acclaimed “the Prime Minister’s Science Teacher of the Year (2018)”. Carol is a teacher at Hampton Hill School and has agreed to be the subject of this month’s “2 Minutes with” profile.

Hampton Hill School is at the silver stage on the EnviroSchools journey (see <http://www.enviroschools.org.nz>) and achieved this status in 2017. This was initiated by Carol but is now being picked up and run by others.

Included in Carol’s profile on the school website is this: “As well as teaching my class, I am in charge of Science and was fortunate to spend six months at NIWA on a Primary Science Fellowship in 2012. This was an awesome experience and I came away from that with a new passion for Science and for kids to develop a curiosity about the world around them.”



Where were you born and raised? Lower Hutt.

Where were you educated? Naenae College, Wellington Teachers College.

How long have you lived in Tawa? Coming up to 27 years.

What about family?

Married to Philip – a Tawa lad! Three awesome kids (Sarah, Emily, and Mark) who have all gone to Hampton Hill School, Tawa Intermediate, and Tawa College.

Work experience over the years

I trained to be a teacher in Wellington before moving down to Christchurch. I taught at Christchurch South Intermediate for three fabulous years (pre-earthquakes), then fell in love and came back to Wellington. We bought in Tawa and have stayed here ever since. I’ve been teaching for 30 years – Christchurch was followed by Wadestown School, Tawa Intermediate, and now at Hampton Hill School. I started part-time teaching and relieving there when Sarah (24) turned 5. Loved it and stayed there, things turning into a permanent teaching position. Still there 19 years later! I love the way we keep current, have opportunities to explore new things, and have such a supportive, caring community.

What are your interests and hobbies?

I love gardening, getting outdoors and walking – finding new tracks as well as revisiting old ones. When stressed – there’s nothing better than climbing a hill! I’m a viola player and also play bass guitar. I play bass and lead singing at my church, Tawa Salvation Army.

Favourite sports team?

Tawa College 1XI Boys Hockey team (Mark’s team)

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Way down south – Catlins, Fiordland, Stewart Island! I love the rugged coast lines and the sheer beauty of these areas; the dense, unspoilt native forests and the wildlife. I don’t get down there very often at all though! We have so many beautiful places in NZ to enjoy.

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With the winner of the Tawa Primary Schools’ Citizenship Awards at Hampton Hill 2018



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

That's probably shifting kids I teach – getting that 'ahaa' moment, or a light 'flicking on' when they have finally understood something that has been tricky for them.

I'm humbled and honoured to receive the Prime Minister's Science Teacher Prize – there are many cool teachers out there!

I also won a civic award (2006) for starting up Mainly Music. [Carol was the winner of the Arts & Culture section at the first-ever Tawa Community Civic Awards ceremony in Tawa back in 2006. More details of her award at http://www.tawalink.com/civic_awards_2006.html – Ed.]

(Compiled March 2019)