

## 60 SECONDS WITH ..... Charlotte Murray

“Charlotte Murray has been a mentor and friend to the Musical Island Boys since they began performing together and her wise words have provided a path for their stunning success.” These were the words from the Mayor when Charlotte and the Musical Island Boys barbershop quartet were presented with Absolutely Positive Wellingtonian Awards in August following their gold medal win earlier this year at the International Barbershop Quartet in Las Vegas. Like her mother Shona, Charlotte plays a big part in music in Tawa.



*Early life:* Born in Wellington

*Lived in Tawa:* ..... since I was born. I lived for one year in Wellington City as a university student and then two years in Japan as an English teacher. They are the only years I haven't lived in Tawa.

*Family:* Married to Steve with one son and two daughters. Micah 13, Lily 11 and Ava 8.

*Work Experience over the years .....*

I have been a Music and Japanese teacher at Tawa College since 1998.

*Interests and hobbies .....*

My main interest is barbershop singing. I direct two barbershop choruses at Tawa College and Vocal FX who are the NZ Chorus Champions. I love encouraging people to get involved with singing. I also enjoy performing and I sing in a mixed barbershop quartet called Charlie's Angels.

*Favourite sports person?*

Probably Richie McCaw. He is a person who seems to walk the walk. The mental and physical strength he displayed during the last World Cup inspired me.

*Favourite individual singer?*

Karen Carpenter. She has the most beautiful voice I have ever heard.

*Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?*

The destination that takes my breath away is the area around Queenstown. It is majestic.

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

I love seeing people realise their talents and potential. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing someone grow in confidence and recognise they are special and they have something to offer this world. I guess that is why I love teaching so much.

I am extremely thankful for the people that have become part of my life because of my involvement with music. This is the best reward for involving yourself in any community.

Lastly I am very thankful for my close knit family. One of life's best rewards is seeing those you love enjoying spending time together.

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

Meet each of my grandchildren.

Travel to countries I haven't visited before.

*(Compiled December 2014)*