

2 MINUTES WITH JANICE NARAYAN

As you'll have seen earlier in this newsletter, Janice has provided 15 years of loyal service to the Salvation Army Family Store in Tawa and is now its manager. The following interview provides a few more details about her and why she came to New Zealand 20 years ago.



Where were you born and where did you grow up?

Suva, Fiji Islands.

Were were you educated?

I attended the Gospel School in Suva which was Primary right through to Secondary School.

How long have you lived in Tawa?

20 years. I moved to New Zealand for better job opportunities and had a work permit sponsored by extended family who lived in Tawa and helped us settle into New Zealand.

What do you like about Tawa?

The community vibe and peaceful surroundings.

What would you like to see improved about Tawa?

I would love to see more retail outlets in Tawa and more vegetable shops a little more like my previous homeland offers!

What about family?

Most of my immediate family live in Australia, so COVID allowing, I hope to get back to visit with them soon.

Work experience over the years?

The last 15 years I have worked at the Salvation Army Family store in Tawa. Prior to this I worked for Konev Leather while it was here in Tawa, followed by retail work in Porirua and Johnsonville.

What are your interests and hobbies?

When I'm not at work I love to cook, shop and travel, and watch movies. I love my rose garden and like to listen to music in my native language of Hindi.

I also serve in my local church and enjoy the supportive friendships I have built up over the years.

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

Definitely the All Blacks!

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Anywhere my family and friends are, however I am particularly fond of Rotorua and the gondola.

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

I love seeing our regular customers in store each day and meeting the new customers who are discovering us for the first time. Every day is different, and the team and I find lots to be thankful for and to enjoy a good hearty laugh.

In this job we see the most unusual items donated anything from an urn with pet's ashes, drugs in handbags (we have strict procedures to adhere to with these items) to the most mundane kitchen utensils.

Rubbish and donations left at our door overnight cause us much stress and extra clean-up work. We are unable to use these goods to on-sell due to Health and Safety, and rodents run all over the goods during the night!

Currently I am working towards completing my Retail Management studies, which I am enjoying.

What are some interesting things about you that local people may not know?

As manager of the Family Store, I manage a team of 15 people of which over half are volunteers, who specialise and have a passion about the areas they work in, be it electrical, toys, games, clothing, books, china or merchandising.

I coordinate pick-up and deliveries of goods donated and sold.

Winz quotes, Health and Safety are all areas of constant change and update.

Our store helps fund the local food bank and our Youth and Community worker.

We work with our Youth and Community worker to provide household goods to struggling families in our community.

(Compiled June 2021)