

## 2 MINUTES WITH ..... Liz Langham

Liz Langham won a place on the Tawa Community Board in the recently-held by-election. She will be officially inducted on to the board this week.

Liz is married to John Langham, a doctor at the Linden Medical Centre. The fascinating thing is that both were head prefects in the same year at Tawa College in the mid-1990s!

She is very much involved in community life and will have a further role to play in that regard as the latest addition to the Tawa Community Board.

*Where were you born?*

Lower Hutt

*Where did you grow up?*

I spent most of my early years in Tokoroa before our family moved to Tawa when I was six where I lived until I left home at 20.

*Where were you educated?*

Strathmore Primary School (Tokoroa), Tawa Primary School, Tawa Intermediate, Tawa College. Victoria University, Massey University, University of Auckland, Te Wananga o Aotearoa.

*How long have you lived in Tawa?*

13 years as a young person and then another 10 since having my own children (we moved back in 2007 after our twins were born).

*What about family?*

I'm married to John. We met at Tawa College! We have four children – Simon and Micah are in their first year at Tawa Intermediate, Annika is in Year 3 and Akenese has just started at Hampton Hill School.

*Work experience over the years .....*

I've had a variety of jobs including Flute Teacher, Immigration Officer, Alcohol and Other Drugs Practitioner, Early Childhood Educator, Community Social Worker and School Guidance Counsellor. I've also done a variety of voluntary work. Over time I've realised that everything tends to come back to Social Work (transformation of people and their environments), Education and Music and that I enjoy blending these in different ways.

*What are your interests/hobbies?*

I enjoy making music with others (this term I'm playing flute with the Wellington Chamber Orchestra but I also love noodling around with my kids and making music with others at church), reading, being creative with fabric, pottering in the garden and walking.

*Favourite sports team and/or sportsperson?*

Pass! I'm happy to leave sports to others (and John certainly runs enough miles for the whole family) ... although I did once read a great book called "How to watch a Game of Rugby" by Spiro Zavos (Awa Press) as a personal challenge to myself during a Rugby World Cup which did enhance my appreciation of the game.

*Favourite musical group and/or style of music?*

I have very eclectic musical tastes. I really appreciate Ann-Maree Keefe, Whirimako Black, the Mason Battley Group, Edmar Castaneda, Silvio Rodriguez, The Rend Collective ... I also really enjoy orchestral music. There is something so phenomenal about a large group of people working together to craft something beautiful and moving.

*Favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?*

Omori which is at the south end of Lake Taupo. It is a place which holds many precious memories, is blissfully out-of-the-way and exquisitely beautiful.



..... contd

*contd .....*

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

Working with others to establish a well-regarded Early Intervention Alcohol and Other Drugs Service in Whanganui is probably my most significant work-related achievement to date.

Parenting preschoolers full-time for eleven years also rates as an achievement, I think. I have been so blessed to be part of Playcentre and to have had the opportunity to learn, grow and contribute alongside my children through this time.

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

Complete the Oxfam 'Trailwalker' event;

Perform the entire Claude Bolling Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano;

Continue to grow closer to my Creator and let the way I live my life increasingly flow from that relationship.