

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.



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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.

(Compiled March 2017)