

2 MINUTES WITH Misael Jr Diputado

Misael Diputado, along with family members and friends, has taken part in Spring into Tawa for the past six years, including the recently-held event, as per the photo below. He has sold plants, all from his own garden which he propagates from cuttings or from seeds.

Misael is a Tawa Pinoy, that is a Tawa Filipino. 'Pinoy' is to the Philippines what a 'Kiwi' is to New Zealand. There are quite a number of Pinoys in Tawa. They are some of the friendliest people around.



Where were you born? Philippines

Where did you grow up? Philippines

Where were you educated?

BS Agriculture (Ag. Botany) – Visayas State University, Philippines

MSc Horticulture – University of the Philippines in Los Banos, Philippines

PhD Horticulture – Massey University, Palmerston North, NZ



How long have you lived in Tawa?

11 years. We moved to New Zealand in 2008 and settled in Tawa.

What about family?

Wife – Maria Luisa Diputado

Two girls (29 and 28) now based in Sydney, both IT professionals.

Two boys (23 and 20), the first completed MSc in Chemistry at VUW; and the second is a student in Software Engineering at VUW.

Work experience over the years

Lecturer, Visayas State University, Philippines;
Learning Facilitator, Skills Update Training Institute (SUTI), Auckland;

Now at the Adjunct Faculty, The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand (TOPNZ). I handle distance

education courses in horticulture, both online and paper based; conduct supplementary workshops; mark assessments and assess competency; help review course materials and assessment schedules; help market the programme; participate in internal moderation of course units; liaise with horticultural enterprises/institutions for student hands-on activities.

What are your interests and hobbies?

Gardening (mostly raising container-grown landscape plants and vegetables); reading; meeting friends; travelling with family, mostly trips within NZ, but we do go home to visit family and friends in the Philippines regularly. We also went to Sydney, Melbourne and Gold Coast as a family. I and my wife went to Fiji and the US for a holiday. We went to museums, historical places, beaches, fancy places, etc.

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

The All Blacks; and I follow tennis (Go Federer!)

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Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?

Nothing in particular. I listen to soft, mellow music; spiritual songs.

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Queenstown and Tauranga.

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

My grown-up kids, three of whom are now young professionals (the youngest will complete his studies next year);

Seeing my former students succeed in their professional life;

Being able to give back to the community through the work that I am doing.

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

Just one: Being able to be reconciled with my creator.

(Compiled November 2018)