

2 MINUTES WITH Steph Knight

Steph is another enthusiastic member of the revitalised Tawa Residents' Association (under the Vibrant Tawa umbrella).

She was part of the group whose role was to come up with a new "brand identity" (logo) for Tawa, as featured on the front page of last month's newsletter.

Steph has been the driving force in seeing the Tawa Pump Track (bike park) in Duncan St overhauled in a relatively short period of time. Her wish list also includes an upgrade of the Tawa Skate Park, south of Tawa Pool. That may take a little longer to achieve! And then it will be on to the next project for this "driven individual" who likes to get things done in the Tawa community!



Where were you born? I was born on the 'mainland' in Blenheim.

Where did you grow up?

My two sisters and I lived with our parents in the same house in Blenheim until I was 16, when we moved about three blocks up the same road. Blenheim was a great place to grow up!

Where were you educated?

I went to Marlborough Girls' College in Blenheim, before making the big move to Christchurch to go to Canterbury University to do a BA, followed by further study at Christchurch Polytechnic in Marketing and Business Management. I have also done a Certificate in Event Management at City University in London and a Diploma in Interior Design through the Interior Design Institute here in New Zealand. Next on my list is something to do with Human Behaviour.

How long have you lived in Tawa?

My husband Darren and I moved to Wellington after meeting in the UK – we moved to Tawa in 2010 after six years in Newlands.

What about family?

Darren and I have two children – Eliot who is 11 and Lucy who is 9, both at great schools here in Tawa.

Work experience over the years

I was lucky enough to travel for around five years after studying, and that started with two years nannying in Michigan, USA. I lived with an incredibly wealthy family and we flew on a private jet, skied in Aspen, holidayed in the Bahamas and in their house in Florida. I definitely experienced what it was like to live the(ir) high life!

When we returned to New Zealand I worked as an EA and Project Coordinator at Wellington City Council before taking a break to have children. I have run my own decluttering/home organising business "Less Mess" for the past six years or so – it's a great way to help people de-stress and enjoy their homes more!

What are your interests and hobbies?

Yoga is my number one hobby/passion. I've practised for about 16-17 years now. I love to be creative and I think there is a painter in me somewhere, but I haven't yet had the opportunity to let her out.

My other big interest is being involved in the community and meeting all the incredible people we have around us!

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

Oh I'd have to say my daughter's junior netball team and my son's Tawa Rugby team, and also the Silver Ferns.

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Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?

My favourite band of all time is U2. I grew up listening to them and so many of their songs have strong memories for me. Plus I love Ed Sheeran, and Pink – both of which I'm going to see next year!

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

So many to choose from! Queenstown was a favourite last year, and the far North earlier this year, but to be honest there's nothing quite like going back to Blenheim. It's so relaxing!

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

I'd like to say winning Lotto, but that hasn't happened yet, so probably seeing our gorgeous children growing up into lovely humans, having incredible life-long friends, and running a business that I love.

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

Hmmmm I'm really lucky to have already done so much – I've travelled, skydived, bungee jumped, scuba dived, swum with dolphins, got a tattoo but if I could, I would go to India for a month to study yoga; and I would like to drive from L.A. to New York. I'll have to think about a third. 😊

(Compiled December 2017)