

## 2 MINUTES WITH ..... Tracy Wellington

Many locals will have heard of the Tawa-based charity KCA, or by its full name Kiwi Community Assistance. Not everyone will know that Tracy Wellington is the driving force behind KCA, the never-say-die visionary who has taken what started as a small home-based concern to where it is today, a major outreach on our own doorstep, operating out of a warehouse in Grenada North and distributing more than 350 kgs of food throughout the Wellington region every day.

*Where were you born?* Kingston, Jamaica.

*Where did you grow up?*

Jamaica, North Wales and The Wirral in England.

*Where were you educated?*

Kingston, Jamaica; Pensby Girls' School in England; Sight and Sound in London where I did a Business Administration, Business Finance and Business Secretarial course.

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

I've done a lot of different things over the years, from import/export, to engineering, HR, and accounting, to now running the charity my husband and I started, Kiwi Community Assistance. Several of my accounting roles were with large charitable organisations, so I got to see how these worked (and what didn't work!), which gave us a head start when we started our own.

*How long have you lived in Tawa?*

I came to NZ in 1993, to Wellington in 1998, and we bought our house in Peterhouse St in February 2009.

*What about family?*

My husband is Phil Davies and together we have a 10 year old daughter, Katie, who is in year 6 at Redwood School.

*What are your interests and hobbies?*

My life revolves around KCA, so I don't have a lot of time for other interests and hobbies. I do enjoy socialising, and a glass of wine now and again, and love the fact we have some great neighbours to enjoy doing both things with. We also have 9 bantams (a mixture of Silkies and Pekins), and a cat that is scared of birds. When Phil finally gets around to finishing some of the landscaping, I might get some gardens in as well!

*Favourite sports team and/or sports person?*

Jamaican track and field athletes (but not Usain Bolt).

*Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?*

I went to the Adele concert in March which was good, but it took me about three days to dry out afterwards! I listen to lots of music from a wide selection of genres. I like Andrew Bocelli, Michael Jackson, Trance Music, Techno, whatever is playing on ZM radio. I also used to go to a lot of NZSO concerts.

*What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?*

I don't really go away for holidays but did enjoy our time in the Hawkes Bay about four years ago. Loved the scenery, lots of kid-friendly things for Katie to do, plenty of vineyards for me to visit and wines to sample.

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

I have been truly blessed to have a great support network of family, friends, the general public who believe in what our charity tries to achieve. I get a great deal of satisfaction knowing that the work our charity does is helping over 30,000 people a year.



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

It's not common knowledge but my health hasn't been the best for the past 2-3 years. I would love a new spine as I live with chronic pain with problems with my back.

I would also love to have the time and resources to introduce my 10 year old to my family in Jamaica. Unfortunately my current lifestyle doesn't provide me with a lot of free time.

So my final wish would be to catch up with the people that I have met on my journey of life from when I lived in Jamaica, United Kingdom and NZ, from my childhood to my adult life.

*(Compiled June 2017)*