

## 2 MINUTES WITH ..... Stacey Richardson

Stacey has been very much involved in Tawa community life in recent years. She plays a vital role in keeping Tawa Residents Association's (Vibrant Tawa) Facebook page up-to-date. See <https://www.facebook.com/VibrantTawa>



When "Spring into Tawa" needed a new organising committee in 2016, Stacey took on the role of revamping that key event on the Tawa calendar and almost doubled its size, certainly in the numbers of stallholders, along with seeing the Main Road closed off for the festival and lots more entertainment provided. She and her team are already well-advanced in ensuring another successful festival this October.

*Where were you born?* Right here in Wellington.

*Where did you grow up?*

In Wellington – lived my childhood and teenage years in Crofton Downs.

*Where were you educated?*

Chartwell Primary School (now Crofton Downs Primary), Raroa Intermediate, Wellington Girls College and Victoria University where I graduated with a BA (Hons) in Political Science.

*How long have you lived in Tawa?*

I first moved to Tawa in 2011 with my then fiancée, now husband.

*What about family?*

My husband Stuart and I have one daughter who is five and has just started attending Tawa School. We also have my husband's two older sons who are 12 and almost 11, who spend part of their time with us here in Tawa.

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

I've worked in the public service for the past 15 years – in a wide range of roles from policy to planning and reporting and business management – in Te Puni Kokiri (the Ministry of Maori Development), then Education for almost 11 years and now I'm at the Ministry of Justice.

*What are your interests and hobbies?*

Apart from volunteering in the community, I enjoy spending time with friends and family, colouring, attending shows, baking and binge watching my latest favourite series on Netflix (currently working my way through Suits).

*Favourite sports team and/or sports person?*

I'm a cricket and rugby fan so All Blacks, Black Caps, Hurricanes and Wellington Firebirds.

*Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?*

I have quite varied musical tastes but particular favourites are Queen, Keith Urban (after I saw him play in Wellington last year) and Bon Jovi.

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

I think we're incredibly lucky to have some amazing destinations in New Zealand – Taupo is a particular favourite. The mix of the mountains, the lake, the river is breathtaking, the people are great and there's so much to do and see! I've been lucky to spend a bit of time there and each time it surprises and amazes me.

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

My Kiwibank Local Hero Award for my work with Tawa Linden Plunket and being part of the team getting a new Plunket building for our community.

Seeing Spring into Tawa grow last year and start to become a regional and community event.

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Being part of the team that developed and launched Ka Hikitia – The Maori Education Strategy in 2008 which has paved the way for a focus in our education system on Maori enjoying education success as Maori – unfortunately the education system still doesn't perform as it should for Maori learners but it was an important step forward.

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

The “dream” holiday in the USA – probably a couple of months to see everything we want to see from New York to Florida to California to Seattle and everywhere in between!

Go on Safari in Africa – to see those majestic animals up close would be amazing.

Write and publish the novel I've had bubbling around in my head for a while but haven't managed to have the time to get into a clear story!

*(Compiled August 2017)*