2 MINUTES WITH Tracy Wellington

Many locals will have heard of the Tawa-based charity KCA, or by its full name Kiwi Community Asistance. 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.

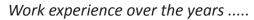
Where were you born? Kingston, Jamaica.

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.



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.

..... contd



contd

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)