



Wilma van den Bosch & Michael Midgley

On Thursday 28th November, Lucy, Beauden and The Macaulay class interviewed Wilma and Michael at LTS.

Scribe - Mila

Videographer - Asher



How do you feel about being interviewed and has this happened before?

Michael : I have never been interviewed and I'm feeling very nervous.

Wilma : I'm very curious what questions you are going to ask.

Where were you born and where have you ever moved?

M: I was born in Timaru in 1941, we moved to Napier in the Hawkes Bay when I was about 4, then moved back to South Canterbury in 1957.

W: I was born in a small place in 1960, The Netherlands then lived in various places then moved to Tekapo. I have lived in Tekapo for the 32 years.

What school did you go to, and what were your favourite subjects and why?

M: I went to Te Awa School in Napier. My favourite subject was Nature Study, sometimes I rode my pony to school. We lived on Napier Boys High School farm.

W: My kindergarten and Primary Schooling were in Boekel, The Netherlands. I liked handicrafts - like what you would call soft tech.

What activity or hobby are you the most serious about and why?

M: Fly Fishing because we live in the perfect place to go Fly Fishing. We call it sight fishing, because you have to see the fish before they see you. It's like hunting really, you sneak up on the fish and cast the fly that sits on top of the water. You have to fool fish into taking an artificial insect.

W: Books - reading. I love books and I love the power of the story.

What famous person do you admire the most?

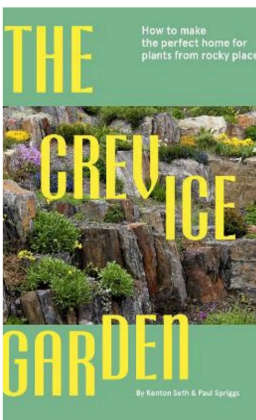
M: Sir Ed Hillary - I remember I was at intermediate school in Napier, at Ilam in 1953 it was announced he had climbed Mt Everest. Years later when we built The Macaulay Hut, up the Macaulay River, Sir Ed came to visit.



W: Kamala Harris - She tried to become President of the USA, I felt she had a very good heart and wanted to make a difference. She didn't win, but she lost gracefully.

When was a time that you were most proud of yourself and why?

M: I built the first crevice garden in NZ. It is a beautiful crevice garden with Alpine plants placed between crevices in rocks. The rocks are placed on their sides and plants are planted between. There has been a book written and photos taken. It is world famous, and especially in NZ.



Have you ever been out of the country and if so where?

M: I drove around North America in 1969 , that was 45000 miles. I went around Western Canada. Because of our hostel here in Tekapo for 23 years, we have met many people from all over the world.

Hunters and fishermen would come and stop in the hostel, returning every 2-3 years. That's how we learnt about and travelled to Scandinavia, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Netherlands, Switzerland. We also drove through with the kids to Italy, Germany, Switzerland, and of course The Netherlands.

What was your favourite place?

M: My favourite place - lots of favourite places. I couldn't say one in particular.

Would you rather travel back to the past and meet your great great grandparents or into the future to meet your great great grandchildren?

M: I think I lived in the best part of time, I've already got Great great nieces and nephews, and we are in touch with them all the time. I would like to see a bit of everything. There is an area in Yorkshire called Midgley. There are 2 more Michael Midgleys in NZ but we are not related.

W: I would love to meet my ancestors. What has happened has shaped me so I would like to get to know them better.

If you had one wish what would it be?

M: Tidy up our house so it isn't left for our kids to sort out.

W: To have healthy people, especially the special people around me.

What is your favourite book of all time?

M: Jim Corbett's - *Man Eaters of Kumaon* - It is about The Himalayas. He was a famous naturalist who killed many man eating leopards and tigers in India. At the moment David is right there where he wrote about. He wrote many books about the Foothills of The Himalayas. I have read this book several times. I would also recommend *Man Eating Leopard of Rudraprayag*.

W: I grew up with *Grimms Fairy Tales* - if I could only take one book to an island, this would be it. It is timeless and has many lessons for people in general.

What is your favourite saying?

W: "Worry doesn't take the sorrow out of tomorrow, but takes away the joy out of today". I try to remind myself of this often.

What age were you when you got your first paid job, and what was it?

M: I Grew up on the farm, so always helped out, my first paid job was in 1988,

W: Strawberry picking - I grew up in an area that grew a lot of strawberries. I do not like fruit so I did not eat any!

What experiences do you like about working in a Bookshop Wilma?

When people come in and ask for help to find a book. Finding the right book for someone. It is a nice experience that I get regularly.

Have you ever seen big spiders?

W: I haven't been to Australia yet, but I believe they are much bigger there. I don't like spiders

M: Amber tells us that Huntsman Spiders are the big spiders in Australia. I don't mind spiders.

What is your favourite genre of book?

M: Fishing and Hunting

W: Fiction

Wilma, who is your favourite author?

Elizabeth Strout, an American author. She has very good insight into people's thinking, she can write it down very well and I am very envious of how clever she is.

When and where did you meet?

W: I was travelling in NZ, at one stage I needed a ride. Michael picked me up in Cave. Very lucky for us. I was 29 when I met Michael.

What is your favourite sport?

M: Ice Hockey & Rugby for watching.

W: Ice Hockey, watching and I love cycling

The class decided Fly Fishing and Hunting are sports too.



Michael and Wilma commented that when their children were at Lake Tekapo School, there were only 13 students, with one teacher. David and Luca were the only kids at the time in their year level.

Michael shared with us how he has been to Mt Cook station many times, and shared with us it is not fly fishing but see fishing as you are trying to see the fish before it sees you.

Michael loves nature and was called nature boy at school. He does not go "tramping" in the mountains, he places his feet. Michael's best fishing spot is Narnia - "Narnia business".

Wilma spoke Dutch with us and shared photos of her and her sister wearing clogs when they were younger.

Thank you both for sharing so openly your life story so far, we all agreed you have had many wonderful adventures and loved how you brought them to life with your sincerity, photos and great stories. We are so lucky to have you as Local Legends here in Tekapo.