



## Gary McCormick.

**Height** 183 cm

Master Of Ceremony Biography  
**JOHNSON&LAIRD**

Radio presenter and commentator, television star, corporate speaker, comic, published poet—Gary is one of New Zealand's favourite entertainers.

As co-host of Christchurch's acclaimed More FM radio breakfast show with Simon Barnett, Gary admits the last couple of years have been 'more than a little unusual' with earthquakes, for a time, becoming almost a daily occurrence. However, life for McCormick has always been a tad different from the norm.

Growing up in Titahi Bay, the former Porirua Hospital gardener, surfboard manufacturer and merry-go-round operator came to public attention as a touring performer when his first book of poems Naked and Nameless won a Pen Poetry Award in the 1970s. Since then a further six collections have been published. In the last 12 months Gary's poems about the Christchurch earthquakes have been embraced by Cantabrians, two of which feature in the top selling book Christchurch 22. 2 - Beyond the Cordon.

Gary is perhaps most recognised for his many successful television projects. Invited to front TV1's documentary Raglan by the Sea in the late 1980s, his offbeat, amusing style won his first television outing 'Documentary of the Year'. Work on the renowned long-running television documentary series Heartland followed, along with on the road talk show McCormick, and the award-winning documentary Bay Boys about growing up in Titahi Bay. Gary was named New Zealand Entertainer of the Year in 1997.

Never one to take it easy, Gary has always combined television work with touring. Over the years rock band gigs, celebrity debates and corporate speeches have drawn considerable crowds to pubs, town halls and function rooms throughout the country. Long-standing companions on the road have included poet Sam Hunt, former Prime Minister David Lange, Invercargill Mayor Tim Shadbolt, 'Lyn of Tawa' Ginette McDonald, and blues musicians Hammond Gamble and Paul Ubana Jones.

As one of New Zealand's most sought after speakers on the corporate circuit, Gary provides his own topical brand of humour as an after-dinner speaker and conference MC. A delight in language and the cut and thrust of debate make Gary one of the finest and most amusing speakers in Australasia.

'I like to improvise and I like excitement. I use a hand-held radio mike to talk to people so I can be truly creative in my performances. I want the speeches to be fun—for me and the audience!'

Since 2003 that approach has been evident every weekday morning on More FM 's breakfast show in Christchurch. Gary and co-host Simon Barnett have been finalists in the New Zealand Radio Awards eight years running, and the challenges of operating from a portocom studio in a post quake city made More FM Christchurch 's accomplishment of winning Radio Station of the Year in 2012 all the more remarkable.

'Sartorially challenged 'by his own admission, Gary and his wife Katherine Cottier run a tight ship in Lyttelton with their three toddling daughters: identical twins Florence and Bridie, and Evelyn Emily born in March 2012.

## **Testimonials.**

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"Gary is the consummate professional as an MC. He is engaging and charismatic, which the audience loves, and he expertly follows the script when the need arises. Gary was a fantastic host and great addition to our event. "

- Ryman Health Conference Dinner June 2018

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"I would just like to sincerely thank you for being our dynamic speaker at our Gala Awards dinner last Friday at the Church Road Winery in Napier. It was great having you there.

The members thoroughly enjoyed your presentation and you set the audience alight with your humour! You certainly made an impact on the evening and the atmosphere.

- New Zealand Institute of Building Surveyors

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Gary McCormick provided the glue for this broad-ranging celebration bringing together Board members and the Mayor of Christchurch with SCIRT people from the five delivery teams –City Care, Downer, Fletcher Construction, Fulton Hogan and McConnell Dowell. As well as delighting the audience with his "Ode to a Digger Driver". Gary made everyone laugh and ensured everyone there felt part of SCIRT 's push to get the city's infrastructure network completed by the end of 2016.

- SCIRT HALF TIME CELEBRATION - MC -

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"Buy NZ Made recently held our first ever "People's Choice Awards". The awards function was at SKYCITY Convention Centre on Thursday October 31. As an iconic NZ entertainer, Gary McCormick fitted really well with our vision for the event. Gary was excellent to work with, friendly, flexible, and willingly shared his ideas. On the night Gary's professionalism and experience was obvious and he conducted the Awards with style. The stories of his own personal involvements with many of the nominated companies were really humorous and one of the highlights of the night. " - Scott Willson

**Testimonials continued...**

- BUY NZ MADE - MC

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RAKAIA FISHING - MC - 2014: "Gary once again was a very professional compere and managed to get through the busy programme with his usual aplomb. " - Robyn Jackson

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"We all thoroughly enjoyed having Gary along. Gary was certainly the best speaker to have in that very tricky timeslot after lunch. This can most certainly be put down to Gary 's expertise at getting the punters attention! Thanks again for helping us make the conference even more successful. "Sandy Neale, Canterbury District Health Board

- RSA DIALYSIS CONFERENCE - SPEAKER

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"Despite some confusion - completely on the promoter 's part! - in the organisation of "The Globe Great Debate", Gary McCormick was both hilarious and a total pro in his Palmerston North appearance. Indeed, Gary's ability to hold things together was a key factor in what turned out an extremely enjoyable evening and, we hope, the beginning of a new Theatre tradition. "

- GLOBE THEATRE

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PUKE ARIKI TRUST - MC - 2014: "The Puke Ariki Trust warmly thanks you for your contribution as MC to a very successful evening celebrating the Surf: Changing

the Shape of Taranaki exhibition fundraising dinner. " - Lynn Bublitz, Chair

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PEOPLE 'S CHOICE AWARDS - MC - 31 OCT 2014

"Buy NZ Made recently held our first ever "People's Choice Awards". The awards function was at SKYCITY Convention Centre on Thursday October 31. We wanted the whole event to have a Classic Kiwiana theme to compliment the People's Choice campaign, which encouraged the NZ public to vote for their favourite NZ Made products, in five categories. As an iconic NZ entertainer, Gary McCormick fitted really well with our vision for the event. Throughout the planning process for the event Gary was excellent to work with. He was friendly and flexible, and willingly shared his ideas. We always felt assured that he would do a great job as our MC. On the night Gary 's professionalism and experience was obvious and he conducted the Awards with style. The stories of his own personal involvements with many of the nominated companies were really humorous and one of the highlights of the night. Since the function we have had plenty of feedback about how much our guests enjoyed Gary as MC and the evening in general. We would have no hesitation working with Gary McCormick again in the future and would recommend him to others also. "Trina Snow and Scott Willson, Buy NZ Made