



Political facelift

Back in 2005 Chris Tremain was the new boy on the block. The fresh faced 'kid' from Napier warming the seats of the opposition backbenches and eager to make his mark on New Zealand's political playing field.

editorial rick hopkinson / *pictures* lee warren

Now Chris has three and half years of Beehive experience under his belt and the initial enthusiasm he displayed when he first announced his intentions to stand as the National candidate for Napier, has not waned.

"Sure I'm a wiser politician now than I was back then," Chris recalls. "In those early days I had no preconceived ideas of what it was going to be like representing an electorate. I would face situations as they came along and treat it all as one big challenge."

But the one thing Chris has never forgotten throughout his steady rise in the party ranks from opposition backbencher to Government Senior Whip is where his roots lie.

Born in 1966 the eldest son of an All Black, Chris grew up in Taradale where he loved the classic kiwi mix of education and sport. Representing Napier Boys' as a 1st 15 blindside flanker he then hung up his footy boots for a more realistic career path and took a degree in Accounting and Marketing.

Top: Chris is just as happy on the sidelines of the local playing fields as he is representing Napier in Parliament.

Graduating from Massey and spending a year as an accountant he soon realised that this was not the track down which his life would proceed.

As with so many kiwis Chris felt it was then time to experience the world out there and took off with eight mates to tour the States in a Lincoln Continental! He returned to New Zealand in 1992 when his father took ill and got stuck in helping to run the family Real Estate business.

But surprisingly to many of his colleagues, it was the allure of politics that meant he would finally hand over the reigns of the successful business to his brother Simon.

So why would anyone give up a good, secure career and chance his arm in such a volatile and public domain?

"I felt that Parliament was becoming a place where the majority were becoming the minority in terms of representation. The average kiwi just didn't seem to have a voice anymore and was being bullied by the whims of various



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Chris Tremain

extremist factions,” Chris explains. “I want to represent the views of the every day hard working mums and dads and being a passionate family man myself, feel I’m in a place to be able to do just that.”

Lines in the diary

It’s not unusual to find Chris mixing and shouting encouragement with other parents on the sideline on a Saturday morning. He religiously puts a line in his very busy diary for this very important family time which he calls his ‘other electoral office’.

There’s not many a morning when a fellow spectator won’t ask him a curly question about the economy or share some thoughts that may end up being included in Chris’ next speech in Parliament.

“I’m always bringing aspects of Napier life into my speeches even when it comes to the most obscure of bills being

debated! I love promoting Hawke’s Bay to the rest of the country it’s such a great place to live and raise a family,” Chris says. “It’s important that I can voice my constituents’ feelings as my own when it comes to the affect a particular bill may have on them.”

Chris believes that Napier has now really come of age and is the reason so many other kiwis are wishing to move here. “With today’s technology it’s no problem to work and enjoy the enviable lifestyle here. Cutting down the tyranny of distance allows us all to live in an amazing place and still be able to be connected to a global city.”

After all Chris Tremain should know, rarely does he miss a weekend at home lap top at the ready and takes the two hour commute from his Hawke’s Bay home to the Wellington office in his stride. 🚗

Top: The ‘other electoral office’ where Chris finds the time to discuss local matters with his constituents.

www.christremain.co.nz