



## Mark Sainsbury.

**Height** 180 cm

MC/Entertainer Biography

JOHNSON&LAIRD

If you've ever seen those recruitment ads for the police about getting a job with better work stories then spare a thought for Mark Sainsbury's career. Not many people got to go Mt Everest and Antarctica with Sir Edmund Hillary, meet a then unknown state Senator called Obama at the 2004 Democratic National Convention or do a stage tour with Rick Stein cooking and talking across the country.

Journalism has taken Mark to most of the world's trouble spots, Northern Ireland, Bosnia and The Middle East. He was there when Diana was killed and Mandela elected. He spent the last day in office with both Rob Muldoon and David Lange while Geoffrey Palmer's people still bear a grudge that a story he directed destroyed his credibility as PM. (he only persuaded the then PM to join a conga line with Aka Bilk and Kenny Ball).

For the last thirty years Mark has been able to walk among the decision makers and news makers, but still remain connected to the real people who make up this nation.

Journalism for Mark was an accident. After starting a law degree then veering off into driving trolley buses, managing pubs and installing awnings for the rich and famous in California Mark planned to finish his law degree but do journalism to pay for it. The law never had a chance.

He has worked on every major programme at TVNZ since the 80's. He has covered every prime minister since Muldoon and ran the networks political coverage and election coverage over more campaigns than he cares to remember. He was our correspondent in Europe for several years and was considered to have the most famous moustache in New Zealand. He was even immortalized by Disney /Jim Henson as a muppet.

One of six boys his family roots are in Hawkes Bay but he grew up in the big valley: Upper Hutt. He is married to Ramona with 25 year old twins, Hunter and Arabella who thanks to their mothers Samoan/German ancestry take their looks from her side of the family.

Having covered news, plus daily and weekly current affairs for decades Mark was the last host of TVNZ's nightly current affairs shows before the format was changed completely.

In his time reporting, as a foreign correspondent and political editor he has covered elections in New Zealand, Australia, USA, South Africa, UK. He's done stories that have changed the law and ones that have changed lives and through it all is the underlying fact that he has had so much fun. Life is to be lived and he's crammed more into it than you could possibly imagine.

Mark is still involved in journalism and particularly when it concerns his passion for classic cars. He owns a 1963 Lincoln Continental 4 door convertible, a 1971 Bentley Corniche convertible and a 1968 Norton SS. He is also in demand as an after dinner speaker, an MC and facilitator and undertakes limited commercial work in the area of media analysis and advice.

## **Testimonials.**

---

NZ SPATIAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS - MC - 27 NOVEMBER 2014 "The evening was a great success. It all went very smoothly, and as ever, Mark is the ultimate professional and was in his element conducting the evening. He also helped out with the video interviews in the afternoon, which were a great hit when shown during the evening." Raynor Redman, Paardekooper and Associates

---

THE MERCURY BAY INFORMER - SPEAKER - JULY 18 2014

"Mark spoke about the people who made the biggest impression on him and those he, for a variety of reasons wouldn't forget. From the sad tale of a widow of an asbestos victim, the death of Princess Diana, travelling with Sir Edmund Hillary to the funny antics of NZ Prime Ministers, guests heard a snap-shot of stories from Sainsbury's 30 year career in television broadcasting. Guests commented that Mark had charismatic charm and thoroughly enjoyed listening to his stories and chatting to him afterwards" Stephan Bosman, The Mercury Bay Informer

---

Mark; thank you so much for MCing our Gala Dinner. The feedback we have received has been fantastic & people found you very engaging & entertaining.

You made the process of the awards so much easier & the interacting with sponsors, award nominees & the audience was fantastic.

Once again thank you – you did a fantastic job.

- CANDICE VAN DYK - RFUANZ Gala Dinner April 2017

---

GISBORNE REGIONAL WINE AWARDS - MC - 23 MAY 2014

"Each year with the objectives of lifting the calibre of the Gisborne Regional Wine Awards, we aim to include extra pizzazz and Mark brought an added lift to the event. He was extremely professional, flexible, and willing to run with any changes on his feet. A great

**Testimonials continued...**

host greeting and meeting our guests at the door and staying on to chat amongst the crowd. A real dream for an event manager - thanks! "Prue Younger, Competition Director

---

BRISCOES 150 GALA EVENT - MC

"Mark Sainsbury was the MC at our Briscoes 150 Year Gala event. The event, with over 600 key suppliers, was the highpoint of our 150 year celebrations. Mark was an exceptional MC in every aspect. He quickly grasped our needs as a client and his experience was invaluable in our event planning. As an MC on the night, he was professional, confident, funny - with a great sense of the moment. He put our guests at ease - and gave our event 100 per cent, from the opening moments, to the close of a wonderful evening. Thoroughly recommend him. "Alister Wall, Deputy Managing Director, Briscoe Group

---

2016 SOLGM Gala Dinner –MC 14 April 2016

"Mark was both very professional and very easy to work with and I had lots of positive feedback from guests during the evening. I'd have no hesitation in recommending him as an MC to others. "

Jeanette Bullen

Manager, Marketing and Communications

NZ Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM )

