



Simon Barnett.

Height 180 cm

MC/Entertainer Biography

JOHNSON&LAIRD

One of the country's favourite radio and TV personalities, Simon Barnett hosts the More FM breakfast show with Gary McCormick. Simon's enthusiastic, positive take on life and his passion for making families stronger has also earned him a spot as one of the top 30 most-trusted New Zealanders for the past three years. An accomplished broadcaster and TV presenter, Simon's down-to-earth yet professional approach to events puts everyone at ease, and makes him a popular MC and speaker. He speaks regularly at marriage and parenting events, and has fronted numerous DVDs and ad campaigns on those subjects. Family is his passion - his own, and how to strengthen others. Simon's public letter to his first daughter to leave home, will make you laugh and cry. Check it out on Youtube.

That energy you hear in the morning is boosted by the 4-5 cups of strong black coffee Simon downs each day. A self-confessed coffee snob, his most treasured gadget is his coffee maker, and he reckons his home-made java beats any other. Simon's legendary good nature and enthusiasm for his job has seen him get pepper sprayed, have his blonde hair dyed black, and have a vasectomy (that was a long time ago).

After his family, Simon's second love is sport. He keeps fit by swimming, snowboarding, wakeboarding, waterskiing, fishing and playing golf. His ideal day off would be spent with his wife and four daughters, doing one of those things, capped off by a glass of vino and a rom-com. He's not a natural chef, but is more than happy to pull out his new Broil King to create his signature dish, 'something barbecued'.

Household chores help Simon find calm, and he strives to groom a carpet the groundsman at Twickenham would be proud of. He's also the household shopper, and satisfies his slightly OCD love of ticking things off the shopping list.

As a life-long non-dancer, Simon's 2015 win on Dancing With The Stars was a huge surprise (check out his winning paso doble with partner Vanessa Cole on Youtube), but he reckons he'd be able to pull out a waltz, jive or rumba again, should the opportunity ever arise (now there's a challenge!)

With his cheeky grin and blonde, often towering, early-90s hairstyle, Simon became a household name presenting classic Kiwi TV shows, Face the Music, Wheel of Fortune and Stars in their Eyes, and hosting breakfast radio shows around the country. He also featured as the love interest in Gaylene Preston's film, Ruby&Rata. He had originally planned a career in teaching, but instead took up a cadetship at a South Island radio station aged just 19, and never looked back.

Simon loves people, and sees interviewing as a chance to discover their stories. He's picked the brains of Charlie Duke, the last man to walk on the moon, and Ben Carson, first neurosurgeon to separate conjoined twins (and a US Presidential candidate); he's shot the breeze with singers Sam Smith, Demi Lovado, Ed Sheeran and Kelly Clarkson.

Simon supports the Child Cancer Foundation, the Child Fund and the Salvation Army.