

HUMPHREY: HEWITT ROYDEN

Born: 19 September 1946, Levin, New Zealand

Married: 14 May 1993, Chelsea Town Hall, London, England

To: Joanna Marye Gilliat-Smith (30 March 1955 –)



Hewitt's parents were:

Leslie Arthur (1906 – 1983) & Hilda Laura May (nee Spicer) (1903 – 1970)

Married 1928

Hewitt has 1 brother & 1 sister:

Coralie May (1931 - 2002)

married Walter Foster

Warren Henry (1937 - 2000)

married Dulcie Jacob
married Valerie Margaret Hilton

Hewitt has 1 daughter:

Jennifer Shula (1973 –)

married Gareth Meech

And two grandchildren

Cian (2004 -)

Luca (2009 -)

Honours:

Queen Service Medal (QSM) 1988: For Public Services to Broadcasting & the Community

Member New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) 2017: For Services as a Broadcaster & to the Community.

Education:

Levin School: 1951 - 1959
Horowhenua College: 1960 - 1964
Certificate in Judicial Studies 1997: TOPNZ
Diploma in Speech & Drama 1965: Trinity College of Music, London

Associations:

Visiting Justice to Correction facilities 2011 -
MC for Royal Investiture Ceremonies 2006 - 2019
Voice Coach 2000 -
Marriage Celebrant 1998 -
Voice Over Artist 1980 -
MC Trans Pacific Partnership Ceremony
NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade 2016
President: Rotary Club of Wellington 2010 - 2011
Member: Rotary Club of Wellington 1993 - 2023
Variety - the Children's Charity of NZ 1996 - 2020
Appointed Justice of the Peace (JP) 1996
President: Wellington Justice of the Peace Assn 2007 - 2009
Life Member: Wellington Justice of the Peace Assn 2025
President: Wellington Repertory Theatre 1998 - 1990
Life Member: Wellington Repertory Theatre 1990
Member: NZ Management Committee
NZ-UK Link Foundation 2010 - 2017



Hewitt Humphrey is best known as a broadcaster on radio and television from 1965 to 2015. Born in Levin in 1946, he is the son of Leslie

Arthur Humphrey, born Otaki (1906-1984), proprietor of the Levin Chronicle in the 1950s and 60s and Hilda Laura May Spicer, born Ohariu Valley, Wellington (1903-1970).

Hewitt attended Levin School from 1951 to 1959 and Horowhenua College from 1960 to 1964. Some students will remember that he conducted the Horowhenua College Brass Band. After leaving Levin, he donated the "Hewitt Humphrey Cup" to the college for Best Stage Actor.

He joined the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation (NZBC) as an announcer in 1965 at Broadcasting House in Wellington where he worked on the then National Programme and the commercial radio stations of 2ZB and 2YD, later 2ZM. He appeared concurrently on television, first as a weather presenter and then as newsreader from 1967 for a total of 15 years. On radio, he read the news minutes after men first walked on the moon, on the day of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States and on the afternoon of the 2011 Christchurch earthquake. He won several radio and media awards as a newsreader. In the 1980s and 90s, he hosted the weekly TV classical music series "Opus". In the latter part of his career, Hewitt, was a manager at Radio New Zealand (RNZ).

For many decades, he taught speech and drama, including in Levin and Foxton in the 1960s and 70s. Later he was to be a voice coach to many broadcasters, politicians and other public figures. And for several intakes, he briefed new MPs on best speaking practice in parliament as part of their induction.

Hewitt appeared as an actor in several TV dramas, including the children's series "Mirror Mirror" and the political documentary-drama "Fallout", about the demise of the Muldoon government and the rise of David Lange. He was the narrator in the 2016 Phil Keoghan movie, "Le Ride", which recreated the 1928 Tour de France using original bicycles.

On stage, he first acted at Levin Little Theatre, then at Wellington Repertory Theatre, where he became President in the late 1980s. His last stage role was as Colonel Pickering in a multi-million-dollar production of "My Fair Lady" at the St James Theatre in Wellington.

For 13 years from 2006, Hewitt was the official MC at the Royal Investiture Ceremonies conducted by Governors-General at Government House in Wellington and Auckland. At a state ceremony in 2014, commemorating 100 years from the start of the First World War, he played the role of Governor Lord Liverpool, announcing the proclamation of war from the steps of Parliament in Wellington.

Hewitt is married to Jo Gilliat-Smith with a daughter, Jennifer, from an earlier marriage, son-in-law Gareth Meech and two grandsons, Cian and Luca.

In 1996, Hewitt was appointed a Justice of the Peace. After qualifying in Judicial Studies in 1997, he became a Judicial Justice in the District Court. In 2011, he was appointed as a Visiting Justice under the Corrections Act.

He is a Past-President of the Rotary Club of Wellington and the Wellington Justices of the Peace Association. He was the inaugural chairman of the Wellington Region branch of Variety, the Children's Charity (formerly the Variety Club). He is a marriage and funeral celebrant.

Hewitt Humphrey was awarded a Queens Service Medal (QSM) in 1998 and made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in 2017.