

David James SHEARER

email: djshearer@gmail.com

Date of Birth: 28 July 1957

Married to Anuschka with two children, Vetya (12) and Anastasia (10)

MOTIVATION

My life motivation is the service of others. Most of my career has been dedicated to addressing inequality and fairness here in New Zealand and abroad. My work every day is an expression of these beliefs.

Born and raised in Auckland, I have worked mainly outside of New Zealand helping people caught in war and conflict. In the most difficult environments I learned determination, resilience, practical approaches and a broader perspective. Throughout that time I remained passionately a New Zealander in my core values. I now want to bring these skills home, to contribute to the lives of people in Mt Albert and New Zealand.

My belief in social justice led me naturally to the Labour Party. In February 2000 I had the opportunity to work in Parliament for Phil Goff as his advisor on foreign affairs. I was on the Labour list in 1999. In the 2002 general election I ran for the Labour Party in Whangarei, where I substantially increased the Party vote.

My experience running large-scale relief operations and handling difficult political negotiations has given me considerable managerial and financial skills. I have worked under extreme pressure – sometimes in life-threatening situations – to achieve my goals and keep my promises. I have been particularly successful in motivating and leading large groups of people in a common purpose. And I have spoken out publicly in the media on those issues I have felt strongly about.

I was named “**New Zealander of the Year**” by the New Zealand Herald in 1993 for my work in Somalia and awarded an **M.B.E.** (Member of the British Empire) in the British 1993 New Year Honours List. In 1994, Save the Children awarded me their international **Award for Gallantry** for my service in areas of conflict.

WORK RECORD

➤ **Deputy Head of the UN mission in Iraq/Head of UNDP Iraq 2007-2009**

In this role I am responsible for leading and coordinating over \$2 billion in development and emergency aid to Iraq’s people through 16 UN agencies. Iraq is still considered the world’s most dangerous place. Yet, under my leadership we have expanded our presence there and are now embarking on sweeping governmental and economic reforms to build growth and consolidate peace.

➤ **Humanitarian Coordinator – Lebanon 2006**

I was appointed to lead and organise the UN’s humanitarian operation to civilians caught during the Israeli – Lebanese conflict.

➤ **Head of UN Humanitarian Office – Jerusalem 2003-2007**

I was responsible for coordinating the relief effort to the West Bank and Gaza and speaking out on behalf of people caught in this conflict. The analytical research and mapping system developed under my leadership became the gold standard to update world leaders, foreign ministers, policymakers and media on the conflict.

- **Advisor to Minister of Foreign Affairs Phil Goff** **2000-2002**
My main task was to provide independent advice on key international issues facing New Zealand and build links with coalition parties. I also led the effort to upgrade and refocus NZ's aid programme.
- **Research Associate, Int. Institute Strategic Studies** **1996- 1999**
Based at this London think tank I published a series of articles on conflict resolution and the most effective mechanisms to bring peace.
- **Coordination of emergency relief operations worldwide:** **1989-1996**
UN Co-ordinator of Humanitarian Operations in Africa and the Balkans and **Head of Save the Children Fund** in Rwanda, Somalia, Northern Iraq and Sri Lanka. Main highlights of my work include:
- Organising child tracing operation to reunite children with parents or relatives following the Rwandan genocide and war.
 - Feeding over 30,000 malnourished children in Somalia during the war.
 - Providing relief across battle lines to communities in the north of Sri Lanka.
- **Consultant on environmental and Maori issues** **1987- 1989**
Contracted by the Tainui Trust Board to assist to prepare its land claims to the Waitangi Tribunal, I also analysed the new resource management legislation and reported on Maori attitudes to proposed waste water treatment in Auckland.
- **Teacher of biology and science** **Onehunga High School** **1987**
➤ **Teacher of geography and social studies at** **Massey High School.** **1983-1984**
- **Tour Guide – Sundowners Travel** **1980-1981**
Organised and ran tours throughout Europe and overland from Nepal to London

EDUCATION

University of Canterbury

Graduated with MSc (Honours) in Resource Management **1985-1986**
Thesis: "Between Two Worlds: Maori Cultural Values & Environmental Decision- Making"

Auckland University – Graduated BSc **1976-1979**
Auckland Secondary Teachers College
Graduated with Teaching Diploma

Papatoetoe High School **1971 – 1975**
Head Boy, Senior Athletic Champion, Captain 1st XI cricket team, member of 1st XV rugby and swimming team

PUBLICATIONS

I have published widely in international academic journals and throughout my career have been a frequent commentator on international, African and Middle Eastern affairs for, BBC World TV, Sky TV, CNN and numerous radio stations.

INTERESTS

Guitar, classic cars (I have an old MG that my wife says I haemorrhage money on) reading, swimming, surfing.