

# National Party Christchurch East Campaign 2008

## Aaron Gilmore Profile

December 2007



### Contents

1. The Aaron Gilmore Story
2. Why Aaron is standing for Christchurch East
3. Aaron Gilmore CV
4. Photo Library

### Aaron Gilmore's Contact Details

**Work:** 03 341 0820

**Home:** 03 383 3096

**Mobile:** 027 10 30 20

**Email:** [aaron.gilmore@extra.co.nz](mailto:aaron.gilmore@extra.co.nz)

**Hours Available:** 7.30am to 10.30pm

## 1. The Aaron Gilmore Story

### Background

#### Quick Facts

<b>Name:</b>	Aaron Wayne Gilmore
<b>Nickname:</b>	Happy
<b>Born:</b>	Christchurch, 26 <sup>th</sup> August, 1973
<b>Partner:</b>	Jenny Dickinson
<b>Children:</b>	Blake – 10 April, 2003 Evelyn – 23 September, 2005
<b>Parents:</b>	Garry & Kay Gilmore

Aaron Wayne Gilmore was born on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1973 in Christchurch at Christchurch Womens hospital. Named after Elvis I was the first of three sons to Garry and Kay Gilmore. According to Mum it was a close run thing whether I was going to be born in hospital or at the Taumutu Marae where Dad's family is from near Lake Ellesmere where her waters broke.

Mum and Dad were typical working class parents and lived in a small rented house in Fleete Street Dallington. As we were in relative poverty there wasn't a week that went by during the rest of my life that I wasn't reminded of this while growing up.

Both Mum and Dad were from large families that included many fostered and adopted children as my Grandmother was a foster mother to many. I discovered much later that the eastern suburbs of Christchurch had been a place of residence for at least 5 generations of my family, something today I am very proud of.

Mum worked as a seamstress for then LWR and Dad as a tyre maker for ITS in Sockburn and they both also worked second jobs (Dad at the brand new Parklands Tavern, Mum making sports uniforms for the local softball and league teams). They put in 70-80 hour weeks, including making and selling toy wombles on the side to raise the money to buy their first house. Meanwhile I spent much of the time while Mum and Dad worked with my grandmother and my

younger brother Craig causing havoc in her housing corporation house in Corhampton Street Aranui.

Eventually, about the time I started school, Mum and Dad bought a small unit at 11b Queenspark Drive in 1978 in a brand new subdivision called Parklands. This was a wonderful location to be a kid as surrounding it for kilometres was sand dunes, forest, frog ponds and scrub. These were great places to play and hide until of course the council decided to put the rubbish tip in nearby Burwood Plantation (now Bottle Lake Forest Park). I am happy to say the closure of the tip means the area is now once again a great place for families to play.

I attended the brand new Parkview Primary School. We outgrew the flat soon after my youngest brother Nigel was born in 1980, so we moved around the corner to Lamorna Road across the road from the school. This was a small house (85 square metres) but it had a big back lawn that became the place for many family and neighbourhood games of cricket and Christmas for the extended family (with a record Christmas attendance of 68!).

Although money was always tight and more than a few times the bills weren't paid it was a place of love and joy. Lamorna Road today has still most of the old houses including my parents together with many new homes as well.

My parents instilled in me the need for hard work to get ahead in life and my grandmother drummed into me weekly that if I didn't want to be poor my entire life I needed to work hard. She also encouraged me to be the first ever in the family to finish high school.

I starting working from about the age of 12 when I remember putting in my first tax return from picking of raspberries on the Harrows berry fields biking 10 kilometres there to start at 8am in the morning on Sundays and holidays.

After each school day I worked on the daily delivery of the Christchurch Star to North Beach houses and I can still remember the rabid dog that used to chase me every day on Effingham Street - I've recently checked and I am glad it is no longer there.

Mum and Dad couldn't afford pocket money so I would average 10-15 hours work per week so I could buy things I wanted. My brothers and I also used to take turns over doing the lawns each fortnight for \$1 so we could buy ice blocks at the former Poultry Farm that was over the fence on Bower Avenue.

Mum and Dad are now both self employed shopkeepers in New Brighton two doors down from each other where they have been for the past 15 years working in shoe repairs and haberdashery respectively.

### **Education**

I attended Parklands Playcentre, and then Parkview Primary School through to Form 2 at a time when the Parklands community was rapidly growing and changing from rural to suburbs. For example over this period the Parklands Mall was built and the now-named Parklands Reserve was planted by my class, including the few large pine trees that are still there.

I loved the school and although it was at the time only a decile 2 school I received an education both academically and in life that was as good as anywhere. Unfortunately this is not the case with many low decile schools today.

I have very fond memories of the late Kem Chennery as principal who did wonderful things for me as a child including teaching me to focus the apparent endless amounts of energy and questions that I seemed to have of things into a love of books, the outdoors and mathematics, while my grandmother also installed in me the importance of a good education.

While at Parkview I become a regular with Burwood Soccer and East Shirley Cricket with the occasional turning out as an 'extra' for the then very successful Parklands Rugby League Club. My brother Craig and I were also regulars at the now sadly defunct Parklands Scouts that took us with many other young boys into great learning experiences into the outdoors and I attended many scouting competitions, including my first trip on a plane to Australia as part of a world scouting jamboree. Locals Barbara Clark, Shirley Kaa and Denis Groufsky were great influences on me during this time.

In my last year of primary school I was fortunate enough to win from the ballot a place at Shirley Boys High School a state school of 1,400 boys some 8 kilometres from home and every day for the first three years regardless of the weather I used to bike there and back.

At Shirley for the first time I started to appreciate the importance of schooling but I never really enjoyed most

of the subjects at school. Despite this I achieved excellent marks through School Certificate and 6<sup>th</sup> Form certificate with top of the school results in geography and economics giving me sufficiently high marks to go to University. I became one of the 5 senior prefects of the school and stayed on to obtain an A bursary and university scholarship passes in two subjects. I especially remember my geography teacher Dave Holyoake as I was top of the school two years running in the subject. I later learned he was the nephew of former National Prime Minister Sir Keith Holyoake and we often discussed politics.

While at Shirley I continued to play soccer and cricket, and the odd rugby game but unfortunately my skill levels was not up to my passionate interest. I participated in some of the many annual sports challenges Shirley had with other schools including debating (including one memorable lesson session with the late David Lange) and soccer doubles. In 1990 I was selected as part of the Youth To Everest expedition. This was along with a bunch of other young people supporting Gary Ball and Rob Hall's successful summit trip that year. Rob and Gary taught me much about climbing during this time. Also during this time I met with Sir Ed Hillary who I spent 15 minutes chatting with alone. This was one of the best 15 minutes of my life and in my view Sir Ed is our greatest living New Zealander. I will never forget his advice on the secret to his success - resilience and hard work.

Following being the first ever in a family numbering over 100 to complete high school I went on to study at the University of Canterbury. At this time user pays student fees were introduced and my family could not afford them.

So throughout my four years at University I worked 3 shifts per week at the Windsor Service Station on Burwood Road. I know my grades and my ability to play sport suffered as a result but it was the only way possible to pay for it at the time. Despite this I still had to run up a \$10,000 student loan by the time I graduated.

Working in the local garage taught me a fair degree of humility for the massive differences in society that the area has, but also built on a love for me of meeting with a broad range of people.

Although agreeing with the policy principle, I still believe the way that student fees policy was implemented (by a National Government) was wrong. I was actually one of the members of the student protests at Canterbury University when then Education Minister Lockwood Smith famously jumped out the window. Education is the key to the future of people and I still believe making it more expensive for people without some form of offset just restricts those who are least able to pay and most able to benefit.

About that time the late Larry Sutherland, then Labour MP for Christchurch East, actually asked me to join his campaign team, I politely declined as I believed then as I do today if the Labour party was the solution for New Zealand then someone is asking the wrong question.

After enrolling originally to study Law and Accounting I found both to be a 'bit of a bore' and instead, after reading too much about the perils of socialism and the benefits of capitalism, I carried on to study finance and economics. I graduated in 1995 with a M Com (Honours)

degree majoring in economics, completed in 4 rather than the usual 5 years. The large group of friends I had at University are still my friends today and the relationships and history we have had together, including the many holidays around the South Island, was an important part of my life and form an important part of my sounding board for new ideas. Many of these people have become highly successful throughout New Zealand and the world.

### **Interests**

My interests revolve mainly around family and sporting outdoor activities including rugby, cricket, and mountain biking, tramping and kayaking (in particular canoe polo where I sat on the national board for a while). I have stayed in every National Park on mainland New Zealand one way or another. These days I can often be seen with the kids through Bottle Lake forest on a Sunday afternoon. Once a year Jenny and I still get to go tramping together somewhere in the more beautiful parts of New Zealand which we treasure and of course there is the annual pilgrimage to the horse races, the A&P show and other great events with the kids that makes Canterbury the best place in the world to grow up.

In my Electorate we also have more golf courses than any other in Canterbury, so if you play golf and ever need someone to play with to make you feel good (as I am awful) give me a call. We are also blessed to have some of the best beaches in the South Island and as a teenager I loved trying my hand on the local Waimairi surf, although these days I prefer to do so in a kayak.



I am also a regular attendee for the Canterbury cricket games at QEII and the new 20/20 format is great for the kids, but I really look forward to the day we have a test match at the QEII oval. I played cricket at a number of club levels as a stoic left hand opening bat and 2<sup>nd</sup> change bowler for over 20 years and still love the game today, despite my talent not equating my love of the game.

## **Career**

I graduated from University in 1995 and despite having good grades jobs for graduates in Christchurch were few. I secured a role as an economist with the Ministry of Transport in Wellington. I was staff member number 53 but that Ministry today has about 400 people and I am aware that 3 people now do the role I once had. While there I was a member of the Public Service Union for 12 months which taught me that Unions were merely an effective taxation mechanism to control the weak and the mild and that many unionists were delusional power hungry control freaks. After a short period of time monitoring, restructuring and reorganising transport Crown Entities, and developing an effective forecast model for the Crown transport revenues I had effectively done my self out of a job, (or so I had thought) so I moved on to the State Owned Enterprise (SOE) branch of the Crown Company Monitoring Advisory Unit within the Treasury. There I worked on the creation, performance monitoring, planning and restructuring of a portfolio of 12 SOEs, focused mostly on the energy, transport and property sectors. This included working closely with each of the SOEs management and boards to help them meet the expectations

of the Government as owner and during this time worked through the split of ECNZ into three competing entities.

During the late 1990s I was seconded to Parliament to the Office of the newly promoted Minister for SOEs Tony Ryall. Tony was a wonder to work with and I feel I helped him achieve some good outcomes for New Zealand including the successful exit from some troublesome investments and successful stock market floats to Kiwi Mums and Dads. At this time I experienced the highs and lows that MMP can bring and the problematic relationship that rapidly unfolded with the then NZ First coalition partner.

Post the 1999 Election and after a few weeks trying to understand the new Minister, Labour MP Mark Burton, I moved to the private sector joining the Ernst & Young Energy & Utilities division. This took me for projects assignments in Australia, Canada, Bangladesh and Namibia working for electricity companies and public transport agencies. This work, while highly rewarding professionally, came with extensive travel to parts afar, which was very taxing on the personal life.

Tiring of the travel I joined investment bankers Cameron Partners (then Cameron & Company) to work purely in New Zealand. Ironically much of the work Cameron Partners did during my time with them was in renationalising assets for the recently elected Labour-led Government, including Air NZ and Kiwibank. I agreed with what was trying to be achieved but not with how it was done.

Cameron Partners will I am sure in time gain the reputation as a place for moulding top notch economic and financial thinkers. In my 3 years there I got to work

very closely with in my view two of the best minds in New Zealand Rob Cameron and Murdo Beattie. Both of them worked closely for Labour Governments during the economic reforms of 1984-1990 and from them I learnt much. My work at Camerons was focused on helping some of the best companies in New Zealand and Australia improve their businesses and in doing so we experienced some great successes including in particular the restructuring of Natural Gas Corporation.

My time with Camerons changed with a collection of events. These included the birth of my son Blake, both of my parents becoming ill, and my contracting a rare eye disease called keratoconus - all this in a short time. For about two weeks I was actually told I may not see again, which gave me a new perspective on life and huge respect for those in the community that are sight impaired or disabled. Luckily within a few weeks and after some old fashioned kiwi ingenuity a doctor developed a new contact lens that allows me today to see fine.

This soon led us, with much joy, to a decision in 2004 to move back to Christchurch after nine years in Wellington. Back in Christchurch I secured a senior management role with accountants Ernst & Young working on helping to grow local medium to large businesses.

After about a year of doing this I was approached about a role as Head of Corporate Development in the regional Asian senior management team for multinational US-owned General Cable Corporation business in Christchurch. This has included being the general manager and director of a number of the group companies across Asia. General Cable

is a Christchurch company that has been here since 1946 and one of the largest manufacturers still existing. This saw me for the first time focus on a single company and help it grow rapidly throughout Asia. This allowed first hand exposure to the issues that manufacturers face in New Zealand and over time see the futility of the Labour Government's policy towards manufacturers driven by the complete lack of experience of anyone in the Labour Government having worked in a competitive manufacturing business.

My time at General Cable has mainly been spent developing the cable business into Australia, China and India and seeing first hand the differences between NZ and them. The time spent in India and China in particular has been highly influential to how I see New Zealand in the future. We can never compete with these countries on being the biggest or the cheapest, we have to compete on quality. This is true whether the business is tourism, manufacturing or services.

We also need to be conscious that these developing markets have massive potential for NZ and we should use this to our advantage, embrace their cultures, language and the opportunities in these countries - it is wrong in my mind that French remains one of the main languages taught in schools and not say Chinese. Also there are parts of China like Shanghai that has better infrastructure than we do and they can teach us things too.

At the same time though we have to protect strongly those things that make NZ unique. These countries have reinforced my view that we need to strongly protect the

environment and the need to look after our water, air and soil - these make us special.

Over the past few years I have managed to obtain a number of accolades in my career including being a finalist in the NZIM Young Executive of the Year Awards (South Island) 2007, becoming a Senior Associate of the Financial Services Institute of Australasia and the completion of the requirements to become an Associate Chartered Accountant, as well as the CFA exams all of which I have enjoyed.

In more recent times I have been involved as a Director (through to the success of the prototype) and significant shareholder in the establishment of a number of companies including Natural Systems Limited an early stage company based in Christchurch making electricity from cow manure, saving large amounts of greenhouse gases and saving farmers money. It is operating successfully and the key product is in demand and shows that innovation not taxes is part of the solution to Climate Change. I have also been a part time independent consultant to players in the energy sector in New Zealand and hold a number of investments still in this sector. I have as a result of my work and prudent investments made sufficient money that if needed I don't have to work again.

### **Community**

Since returning to Christchurch I have been increasingly involved in the local community. I am an active member of the Parklands Playcentre (you can find me mowing the lawns there regularly), the centre I attended as a child 30+ years ago. I am also a member of the Parklands

Residents Association, the Parklands Rugby Club and my Jenny is heavily involved in the Playcentre and the Queenspark kindergarten. In the past I was an active member of a number of community and voluntary organisations in Wellington.

### **Family**

I was fortunate during my time with the Ministry of Transport to meet an amazing young woman named Jenny Dickinson originally from Milton. She has been the perfect partner for over ten years now and we are a complete team. Jenny has law and arts degrees and was a former Parliamentary advisor to senior members of the Labour Cabinet including Paul Swain and Mark Gosche. We have two children, a son Blake born in Wellington and who attends Queenspark Kindergarten and is due to start school at Queenspark Primary in early 2008 and a daughter Evelyn born in Christchurch who attends Playcentre and preschool locally. Our large extended family are also an important part of our life with 25 first cousins living in Christchurch it is not a surprise!

## **2. Why Aaron is Standing for Christchurch East?**

I believe that the future of New Zealand and Christchurch lies at a critical stage. There are three choices:

1. Do something about the state of the Country and stand for what I believe in, question the inept performance of the Labour-led minority government over the past 8 years, and provide a choice for change;
2. Sit quietly - not my style; or
3. Join the 1,000 people a week who leave New Zealand for a more rewarding life overseas. This is a sad decision to have to make.

In my mind only option 1 is the right choice. There has never been a National MP for Christchurch East, I intend to be the first. I would bring a head that understands and relates well to everyone from the common man through to the big business and believe I can represent them all. In particular I would like to bring more representation for those with young families to Parliament.

The Electorate deserves to have a decent choice of representation and have someone who understands the community and is prepared to debate the big issues and stand up for the people of Christchurch East. Labour will not do this for the majority of the people instead focusing on the politics of division of gender, sexual orientation, income and of race. This I find abhorrent. New Zealand is for all not just certain minorities, we are one nation not many.

I believe it is time for me to stand up and voice the concerns of middle New Zealand, and for all those people

that believe the country is not going to be better for our children and grandchildren unless something is done now. I have a vision for this country that will ensure that our children and grandchildren do grow up in the best country in the world, a country in which we grew up but which is now rapidly changing before our eyes.

I believe New Zealand needs to rapidly increase its growth rate and average incomes so income is not a reason for our children and grandchildren to depart this wonderful country to live elsewhere, part of this is about taxation but it is also about investment.

Locally some key issues I support are:

1. The evaluation of a new high school for the North East suburbs - education is the future and according to ERO we have a number of failing schools locally thousands of people locally support this;
2. The creation of a full predator proof fence for Travis Wetland;
3. The return over time of Bottle Lake Forest to native trees;
4. The proper development of New Brighton;
5. The construction of the Northern Motorway to reduce congestion along Marshlands road; and
6. Stopping graffiti and other petty crime must be stopped as proved overseas it leads to other more serious criminal activity.



More generally I am focused on the need for a strong economy that gives us real choices. An economy growing at 2% is not enough to give Kiwis the things we want. I also believe that the extended family must be the critical nucleus of any community and we have a critical need to protect and enhance our environment.

I refuse to wait at the airport for my children and grandchildren to visit because they are either too scared to live in this country, they cannot earn the equivalent of our neighbours, they can't raise their children how they choose with the quality of education they deserve, or are facing the most rapidly degrading environment in the Western world all because the government has eroded their rights. "I am standing because I never want to have to face the question from my grandchildren: 'Granddad - why did you do nothing to stop these problems?'"

Unfortunately most of the Labour MPs don't care about or don't understand this future.

The people of Christchurch East need a change to someone who thinks global and acts local. The people deserve more than what Labour offers. I intend to offer them that if they want more for them and their families then in 2008 they should vote National and vote Gilmore.

### 3. Aaron Gilmore CV

#### Full Name

Aaron Wayne Gilmore

#### Career Details

##### Current Position

Head of Corporate Development, General Cable Asia Pacific Limited.

*General Cable Corporation is a USD 4.5 billion turnover, NYSE listed company headquartered in Cincinnati and one of the global leaders of the cable industry. I am responsible for managing the Asia-Pacific growth program for the Corporation and am head of corporate development for Asia Pacific. To date this has included managing people and projects covering India, China, New Zealand and Australia. I am a member of the Senior Leadership team of the Asia Pacific business and am directly responsible for managing a global project team of up to fifty people on everything from strategy through, diligence to project integration. I have been responsible for a USD 3 million budget through this time and have operated to or below this each year.*

*I have over 12 years experience in the Energy and Infrastructure sectors including projects and roles in Listed companies, Government and Consultancies in Australia, New Zealand, China, India, Bangladesh, Canada, USA and Namibia.*

##### Career History

Role	Period	Location
Head of Corporate Development, General Cable Asia Pacific Limited	2006-	Christchurch Based (projects in 11 countries in Asia)
Director, Natural Systems Limited	2006-07	Christchurch (a friends start up energy company)
Corporate Development Manager, General Cable New Zealand Limited	2005-2006	Christchurch Based (projects throughout Asia)
Consulting Partner, Clare Capital Limited	2006-2007	Wellington (consultant on energy sector projects)
Senior Manager, Ernst & Young	2004-2005	Christchurch
Senior Executive/Associate Director, Cameron Partners	2001-2004	Wellington (focused on advisory)

		assignments mostly in the energy sector)
Manager Energy & Utilities, Ernst & Young	1999-2001	Wellington Based (significant international project assignments with major international utilities)
Advisor to Minister for State Owned Enterprises, Parliament (seconded twice)	1997-1999	Wellington
Senior Advisor State Owned Enterprises, Crown Company Monitoring Advisory Unit (The Treasury)	1996-1999	Wellington (Crown representative responsible for Genesis Power, 5 airports, 2 forestry and a number of property companies)
Business Analyst, Ministry of Transport	1995-1996	Wellington

## Key Educational History

Institution	Qualification	Period
ICANZ	Associate Chartered Accountant	2007
AIMR	Chartered Financial Analyst (level I)	2004
NZX	Futures and Options Broker Accreditation Program	2003
Massey University	Post Graduate Diploma in Accounting (75% completed)	1999-
University of Canterbury	Master of Commerce (with Honours) majoring in Economics	1995
University of Canterbury	Bachelors of Commerce majoring in Finance and Economics	1992-1994
Shirley Boys High School (Christchurch)	A bursary, with 2 NZQA scholarship passes	1987-1991
Parkview Primary		

## Professional Memberships

NZ Association of Economists	1995-
Member NZ Institute of Management (South Island Finalist Young Executive of the Year 2007)	2007-
Member Chartered Institute of Transport and Logistics	1995-2003
Senior Associate Financial Services Institute of Australia	2006-

## Personal Details

**Current Home Address:** 2 Cobblewood Court, Queenspark,  
CHRISTCHURCH 8083  
**Homes Phone/Fax:** +64 3 3833 096  
**Mobile:** +64 27 210 30 20  
**E-mail:** [aaron.gilmore@xtra.co.nz](mailto:aaron.gilmore@xtra.co.nz)  
**Website** [WWW.AARONGILMORE.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.AARONGILMORE.ORG.NZ) (ACTIVE 2008)

---

**Date of Birth:** 26 August 1973, Christchurch New Zealand  
(also hold Irish citizenship by virtue of grandfather)

**Family:** Jenny Dickinson (partner of 10 years)  
4 year old son (Blake) and 2 year old daughter (Evelyn)

**Current Directorships held:**  
Mighty Rocket Consulting Limited  
Natural Systems Limited (dairy farm power  
systems)

**Key Voluntary Roles:** Parklands Residents Association 2007-  
Parklands Playcentre 2006-  
NZ Canoe Polo Association Board Rep and  
Treasurer (2,000 members) 2002-03  
Wellington Canoe Polo Association  
Treasurer President 1997-2004  
Corso Cricket Club Captain 1997-2004  
New Zealand Youth to Everest 1990  
National Party Policy Advisory Group -  
Chair of Energy Policy 2006-  
National Party Christchurch East  
Electorate Treasurer 2007-

**Key Other Interests:** mountain biking, tramping, kayaking,  
canoe polo, cricket (played competitively till  
2004), rugby (played competitively till 2001)

---

#### **4. Photo Library**

See attached CD:

- a. Aaron Portrait
- b. Aaron and Jenny
- c. Tramping at Mt Cook
- d. The 'hardworking' father
- e. Jenny, Aaron and Blake
- f. Winter at Bottle Lake