

# Stephen Franks

*Serious about Wellington Central*



*Tested, trusted, respected, hard-working*

INSIDE: ★ The Passionate Wellingtonian ★ A Powerful MP ★ Background and Interests ★ Why National?  
★ Parliamentary experience [www.stephenfranks.co.nz](http://www.stephenfranks.co.nz)

★ Stephen Franks – *the passionate Wellingtonian*



*At home in Wellington*



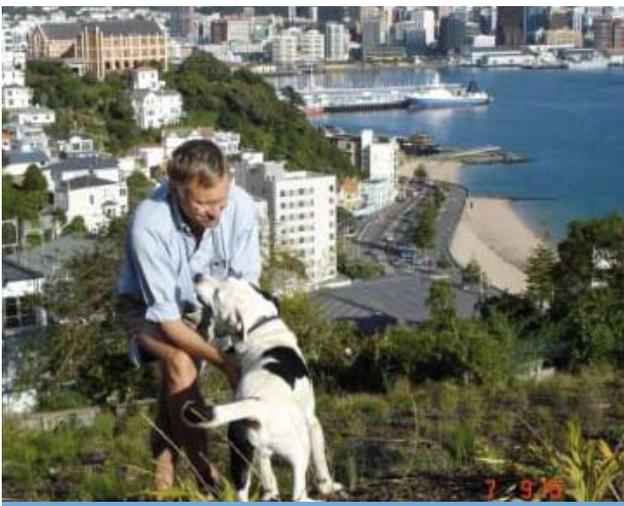
*Family before the Marsden Ball*



*MC at Karori Normal School fair*



*C'mon Hurricanes*



*Walking Wellington hills*



*Karapoti Classic 2008*

★ CHOOSE STEPHEN FRANKS for National in Wellington Central.  
Someone who knows the city . . . the people . . . the law . . . parliament.

# ★ Stephen Franks – *background*



## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Former Chairman, Partner and now Consultant with Chapman Tripp. Joined that national law firm (offices in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch) in 1979 after two years in the Office of the Ombudsman.

Jobs before then (on O.E. and as a student) included truck driving, wharfie (as a “seagull” in Wellington), short order cook, deckhand in the Baltic, manager of a backpackers in Austria, nickel mill worker in Kalgoorlie, possum trapping, fruit picking and Territorial Soldier (1977–1984).

Member of Parliament from 1999 to 2005.

Lawyer aged 57, married to Catharine, four children educated in Wellington, ages 19 to 26.

Born in Wellington, Educated: Taihape College, Victoria University of Wellington.

Qualifications: BA/LLB (Hons), Dip.Acc., Victoria University of Wellington. Admitted to the Bar: 1975.

## GENERAL

Stephen is recognised nationally as an expert in company law, having specialised in flotations and securities market work, including takeovers and State sector reform.

Throughout his career, he has been a frequent speaker and writer on legal subjects with a particular focus on company and securities law. Among journals which have published his articles are the Columbia Journal of World Business, the Accountants’ Journal, the New Zealand Law Journal, the Listener, National Business Review, the Independent. He wrote a chapter for Euromoney’s Management Buyout Guide and a guide for the World Bank on Corporatisation. His strong interests are now more in criminal justice and constitutional issues but he remains a contributing editor of the Companies and Securities Law Bulletin.

## PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

Before entering Parliament in 1999: Member of the Securities Commission; Council member of the Institute of Directors in NZ (Inc); Deputy Chairman of the Stock Exchange’s Market Surveillance Panel 1995–1995 and a member from its inception for nine years.

## PRESENT DIRECTORSHIPS AND BOARD MEMBERSHIPS:

Chairman: Airwork Holdings Ltd, Wellington Rugby League Inc.

Director of: Electronic Transaction Services Ltd, and Manuka Honey Ltd, a family investment company.

Member of: Management board – Samuel Marsden Collegiate School, Wellington.

Legal spokesman for the Sensible Sentencing Trust.

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS BEFORE PARLIAMENT

**1999: Advised Ministry of Commerce on prudential supervision for insurers under the Accident Insurance Act (ACC Reform). Principal legal adviser to the Dairy Board on restructuring (which led eventually to Fonterra).**

**1996–1998:** Advised Ministry of Commerce on drafting of Electricity Industry Reform Act. Advised Community Trusts on float of Trust Bank. Developed the listed index investment product TeNZ for the NZ Stock Exchange, and all other NZ listed index funds.

**1989–1993: Member of Law Society’s Commercial and Business Law Committee (convenor 1989-1991) advisor to the Investment Savings and Insurance Association (and its predecessors) on securities law matters.**

**1992–94:** Oversaw the legal structuring of the Blood Transfusion Services.

**1992–1993: Advised on legal risks, procedures and administrative law criteria affecting establishment of electricity distribution companies;**

**1993:** Led Chapman Tripp team which (with Ernst & Young) reported to Crown Health Enterprises Chairpersons’ consultative committee on CHE’s risk management strategies; commissioned by the World Bank to co-author report on the NZ divestiture experience; presented Law Society submissions on Companies Act 1993 to a Parliamentary Select Committee;

**1992: Sabbatical Fellow at the Law School of the University of Chicago; Advised Telecom NZ during its initial international public offering.**

**1991:** Advised the Government on its securities law reform programme (one of four private sector members); presented papers to World Bank seminars in Washington on corporatisation and privatisation.

## RECREATIONAL INTERESTS

Family activities, farming, beekeeping, deer hunting, sailing, skiing, kayaking, mountain biking, tennis, diving, formerly Lieutenant – Territorials (Artillery)

# ★ Stephen Franks – *a powerful MP*



*Handling a media scrum*



*Respected senior lawyer*



*Listening to Wellington Central constituents*



*Approachable*



*A passion for history*



*A passion for justice*

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Someone who knows the city . . . the people . . . the law . . . parliament.

# ★ Stephen Franks – *Current legal interests*

## ★ 1. EDUCATION STANDARDS

I've been a proud member of the Management Board of Samuel Marsden Collegiate School in Karori for nearly ten years. That school's high standards are not mysterious. They come from uncompromising expectations. We need to release that dedication in every school from the ideologues of the Ministry and the teaching unions.

## ★ 2. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Wellington should be safe to walk in at night, to leave your car parked, to sleep with your windows open as in Tokyo or Singapore. If ex President Clinton can cut US crime back to 1960's rates, so can New Zealand. I am proud to have helped Garth McVicar since he started his campaign for victims' rights.

## ★ 3. FREE SPEECH

This right was earned in the blood of heroes. It is under serious attack from the institutions that should be protecting it – the Labour Party, which once depended on it, and well meaning authorities.

## ★ 4. REFORM OF THE WELFARE SYSTEM

Welfare's entitlements without demanding anything in return have rotted the self respect of hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders.

## ★ 5. RUGBY LEAGUE

As the chairman of Wellington Rugby League, I'm pleased to have the chance to encourage this formerly proud body back into financial and organisational order. Wellington Rugby League has just persuaded Wellington schools to include league in their programmes, a great move for players, families and the game.

## ★ 6. THE BLOG – [www.stephenfranks.co.nz](http://www.stephenfranks.co.nz)

I wake at 5.30am most mornings. My opinions go into the blogosphere to be debated with the thousands of young people who get their news and ideas on the internet.

Log onto: [www.stephenfranks.co.nz](http://www.stephenfranks.co.nz)

# ★ Stephen Franks – *Parliamentary experience*

Opposition backbench time was for me rewarding rather than frustrating.

Too few actually read the legislation on which we were voting. I did, therefore I was able to improve most bills before my Select Committees, usually in non-contentious ways.

I could also highlight and sometimes fix major flaws. For example:

- ★ Margaret Wilson’s attempt to reinstate criminal libel in an electoral law bill. It was killed by media opposition;
- ★ The bad drafting of the law that later failed so badly on the Tuhoë terrorism suspects;
- ★ The reinstatement of the Court’s right to set a minimum non-parole period, against foaming denunciations from Minister Phil Goff.

I liked to work with MPs from other parties, (Tony Ryall and Wayne Mapp on criminal justice) to maximise our combined impact. For example I organised the petition against abolition of the Privy Council appeal right, co-sponsored by Wayne, and Winston Peters.

Preparation and willingness to speak to journalists immediately allowed me to lead opposition on issues as various as:

- ★ Margaret Wilson’s Relationships Property Bill;
- ★ the NZ Rugby Union attempt to get sole control of the silver fern log (upsetting all the other codes);
- ★ the Parole Act;
- ★ all bills with references to the so-called “principles of the treaty” (a position later adopted by NZ First and National).

Deputy Chairman – Justice and Electoral Select Committee (chaired that committee for the Prostitution Reform Bill, Civil Union Bills).

Member (influential), Regulations Review Committee, Constitutional Review Committee, MMP Review Committee.

Spokesman – Justice, Tertiary Education, Commerce, Māori Affairs, Sport and Recreation.

## ★ Stephen Franks – *Why National?* (December 2007)

*Not surprisingly I'm asked why I want to be the National candidate for Wellington Central in 2008 . It's simple. I want to be effective.*

Last evening was one of Wellington's most beautiful. The harbour shone. I could see people ambling on Mt Victoria above. Cathy's new deck in the evening sun seemed to be about the best place to be in the world. I'd just walked home past the sipping and laughing in Courtenay Place's street cafes, and I knew that down below there would be a splashing, strolling, eating crowd at Oriental Bay.

Yet in Parliament, out of the sun and light, the iniquitous Electoral Finance Bill was being forced through. I can't just put aside the corruption by power of those now running this country. Many lucky peoples in history have praised themselves and each other and sung and danced while their children's futures were mortgaged to wiser neighbours.

I've tried to do my bit from the side, as a lawyer. Among the hours of voluntary work I recently created the trust deeds for David Farrar's Coalition for Free Speech, and then for John Boscawen's team.

But there is so much to be done, and for 6 years I was paid as an MP to work on causes I was passionate about. Now I spend my most productive hours, advancing clients' passions.

I think of the weekend's front page DomPost headline "NZ Stuck as Other Nations Prosper". I think of last week's Coroners' Court revelations of incompetence in the Police, of Corrections' deep-seated leaderlessness that allowed Graeme Burton to murder Karl Kuchenbecker. With Garth McVicar I've been helping Karl's parents personally and now I've found a lawyer to help them. For breakfast today Wellington Hospital's decay is the main course. Politicians who created the hopeless structure are now dumping on the dedicated souls trying to keep it all going.

I've always loved being a lawyer. I'm no hair shirt ascetic. I like the income and the choices it has given me. My family have liked them more than politics. But I can't get rid of the feeling that my 6 years in Parliament were an apprenticeship. It will be wasted if I do not try again.

So how best to do that?

I've long been asked to stand for National by members around the country. The election confirmed what I knew from my inbox and voicemail. Most of my supporters had moved to National. I could not blame them. National's stated principles were mine anyway. Right from the beginning my maiden speech in Parliament owed much to former National Prime Minister Sir John Marshall's maiden speech.

Now ACT is heavily dependent on its leader. That is the nature of parties hanging off a personal seat. I wish him and them well. He will continue to contribute something unique and often valuable to Parliament. But MPs in those parties have to accept that they are hitch-hikers.

I've had enough of being told what to do by this government. I have a lot of faith in the National leadership team of John Key and Bill English. My first contact with John was telling. He came across in the House and introduced himself, then asked me to let him know if I thought he was heading in the wrong direction on any matter where my commercial/legal background helped.

I can think of very few politicians with that readiness to listen, or to disclose to a 'competitor' that they might need advice. From my observation what you see is what you get with him – an intelligent, determined man doing what he is doing for the same reasons as me, a drive to work for the country he loves.

Over the last year representatives of three provincial National electorates have sounded me out to stand for them. One electorate has sent seductive pamphlets and photographs, and suggesting enticing legal work. It's flattering, of course. But Wellington Central has been home for me and my family for more than 30 years. I was born here, brought up in Taihape (no-one can out-ethnic me!) and came back to Wellington for University.

I've loved living here. This is my stamping ground. I work, bike, and walk here. I've sailed and kayaked and tramped everywhere you can in Wellington. Every year it seems more beautiful and more stimulating. Cathy and I have fought two campaigns in Wellington Central and I think our volunteers enjoyed it as much as we did. We know every street for deliveries, how to get into the mailboxes of the high-rise apartments, and the leafy drives of the northern suburbs.

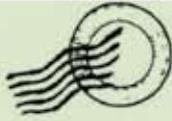
I've been involved in many Wellington organisations over the past 30 years, ranging from my nearly 10 years on the Samuel Marsden Collegiate School Board to a recent appointment as chairman of Wellington Rugby League. We are keen supporters of a number of organisations for younger people, including the Wellington Youth Orchestra and the Affordable Art Trust. I am a founder member of the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary.

*Memberships:* Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, Royal Forest and Bird Society, Wellington Deerstalkers, Wellington Club, Wellington Sculpture Trust, Friends of Te Papa, Wellington Affordable Art Trust, Wellington Rugby League, Federated Farmers, National Beekeepers Assn, Victoria University Alumni, Historic Places Trust.

*Former Memberships:* Hataitai School Management Board (7 years), Mt Victoria Residents' Association (former treasurer/secretary with Cathy), Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club, Mana Cruising Club, Otaihape Alpine Club and many Wellington sports clubs supporting four sports-mad children.

## Join a political party - Outwit the Electoral Finance Act

### GREEN



You don't like battery hen farming?  
Neither do I.  
You want "country of origin" food labelling? So do most people – though they're not sure about the cost.  
Voting **Green** could be for you.  
But parties come as packages. The **Greens** also want Te Tiriti o Waitangi to be our fundamental law. And to legalise cannabis.  
Oh, and they think we're not nice enough to criminals.  
If this kind of package suits you, **vote Green, and join up.**

### MAORI



You feel it was wrong to pass a law stopping the courts from hearing Maori claims of property rights in the seabed and foreshore?  
So did I.  
You like their no-nonsense directness on some issues?  
Then the **Maori Party** could be choice.  
Of course, you'll need to feel OK when a Harawira attacks the Police for the Tuhoe "terrorism" arrests.  
And swallow leader Turia's theory that criminality is a symptom of "post colonialist stress disorder".  
But there are no perfect choices in politics. If you like this one on balance, **vote Maori Party, and join them.**

### NEW ZEALAND FIRST



You support Ron Mark's bill to lower the age of criminal responsibility to 12?  
So do I.  
You think it was ethical for Winston to accept the "baubles" when he said he wouldn't?  
You support his attacks on the auditor-general for daring to point out that NZ First misappropriated Parliamentary money for election propaganda?  
**Then vote NZ First and join their party** – if you can find out how. Their website has no membership forms and shows only their MPs' contact details.

### LABOUR



You believe that Annette King's OHBs need fewer doctors and more managers?  
And that Corrections, Police, and Courts' fatal errors with Graeme Burton were just a once?  
And that loyal public servants are paid enough to take the rap for their ministers' stuff-ups?  
And that we need to restrict free speech to those with government funds and friends in the media because some people will use it to diss Helen and that's treasonous?  
I don't happen to agree with you, but I'll still defend your right to **Vote Labour and join up.**

### NATIONAL



You agree that one of our greatest challenges is to stop driving our best and brightest people overseas. But not to find new ways to meddle in people's lives.  
You agree that we can curb crime if we just use some common sense instead of pc-babble.  
You agree that the government needs to be turfed out every so often, because they get arrogant and stop listening.  
In that case, **join National and help me change the way we're heading.**  
I'd like to communicate freely with you despite the Electoral Finance Bill. So join National in Wellington Central.

I'm Stephen Franks and I've published this because I still can.  
From New Year's Day, this ad could earn me up to two years in prison under the Electoral Finance Bill.  
Next year's debate about who to vote for will be what the media choose to report.  
To hear what the candidates are actually saying, you'll need to join the political party of your choice.  
They'll not be able to tell you directly otherwise.  
I've been asked to stand for selection as the National candidate for Wellington Central.  
If selected, I could use up my entire candidate spending limit posting little more than one postcard to each Wellington elector.  
There's another reason to sign up...  
When you belong to a party, you help choose who stands – and on what policies.  
So I'm asking you to join and strengthen the membership of the National Party in Wellington Central.  
Go to [www.national.org.nz](http://www.national.org.nz) and click on "get involved". Or go directly to <https://secure.enlightenhosting.com/national/support.aspx>. You can post your \$15 to NZ National Party, PO Box 1155, Wellington.  
Thanks for that.

[www.stephenfranks.co.nz](http://www.stephenfranks.co.nz)



*Tested, trusted, respected, hard-working*

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 CHOOSE STEPHEN FRANKS for National in Wellington Central.  
Someone who knows the city . . . the people . . . the law . . . parliament.