

CHRIS & SUM, SUM & CHRIS

C& S, S & C

Open to the floor –

Taking the initial letter of his name, would anyone like to offer an apt adjective to describe Chris...and Sum...?

SINCERE + COMPASSIONATE

You both have a warmth + generosity of spirit
+ humility that complements your self-assurance

Everybody here will know deeply your integrity and honesty,
Your caring and kind ways

And it's no surprise that, on the invitations you sent out to this day,
the largest font words are FAMILY and FRIENDS; the landscape
of your lives is richly populated with people you have taken
seriously

CONSCIENTIOUS + STRIVING

You both put in the hours, do the time

You persevere

Chris: There was always a cheerful thoroughness about the way ,
as a child, you knitted xmas stockings, collected stamps, delivered
junk mail, hauled out & stacked the bricks of the demolished
chimney at 462, we've seen that contented commitment sustained
in your studies, and your professional and personal life

You clicked pretty quickly that six-pack muscularity wasn't part of
the birthright DNA (only slenderly present) so you set about
reaching rippedness via Les Mills Pump classes

And Sum you're right there as well, the two of you consistently
raising the bar on making the most of every minute

RLS line that goes: "In marriage, a man becomes slack and selfish,
and undergoes a fatty degeneration of his moral being" ...we know
this will never apply to you

SMART + CORPORATE

MacDonalds and Onehunga Football Club trained you into the teamwork ethic and Chapman Tripp (and Vodafone) have reaped the dividends

The way you both engineered the acquisition of 2/22 Kawai Road bore the same hallmark methodical and strategic approach that we've seen in your planning of wilderness adventures (with goals set and every contingency weighed up)

I remember, Chris, your recounting of when you did the half marathon over Auckland Bridge and a random voice from the crowd called out "Focus"

And it's like you both have that challenge word super-imposed on everything you do

COMMITTED + SURE

You move with conviction, momentum and zest

In relationship terms, you're a Decathlon:

Versatile, vital multi-faceted

Testing your love in a multitude of contexts: London, Paris, Sydney, Hanoi (sounding like perfume marketing)...

Milford, Heaphy, (Yes, you're both pretty Goretex too, robust and resilient) and now Maungakiekie (returning to where you both grew up)

You are indeed a man and woman for all seasons

And even then, pun intended here, what you have, your love, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts

Wrapping up with a pair of quotations:

Audrey Hepburn once said "If I get married, I want to be very married"...

And Elizabeth Gilbert wrote about how love could be miraculous if you could be "fully seen by somebody, and be loved anyhow"

Most of us hope for this degree of love in our lives,

For ourselves and those we're close to

It's a dear dream which we know is elusive (sometimes illusory)

But it's what you seem to have

And it gives us all faith for the future

SC

You're smiling companions

CS

Captains of your soul

You're fit'

You fit

A fabulous fusion

A magnificent match

These are traits that were there in your grandparents

And although 3 of them passed on before knowing of this match,

I know all would have been delighted with it