



(Incorporating Children's Media Watch)

Our Vision: a media Environment in NZ that is safe for all: free of gratuitous sex, violence and offensive language. So parents can trust what their children see.

Campaigning for a better media



1993 ~ 2022

Newsletter Winter 2022 www.viewers.org.nz

Glorious weather folks...but I guess it won't last. DO HOPE THIS FINDS YOU WELL!



THE GRUMPY OLD BLOKE RATES NEWREADERS

Radio NZ is blest with a whole host of mainly woman newsreaders. Their honed vowels and honeyed tones freight the news to us without a hint of dramedy, as befits a recitation of what is supposed to be the facts. Their names are as melodious as their voice – *Catriona Mcleod, Anna Thomas, Evie Ashton and Marama Tipoli*



Balm for the troubled soul. Not so some of the commercial radio and television news hosts, and some of the journalists too, who seem to want to sell the news to us, like they do Harvey Norman. They come across often as stokers of mass anxiety, the panicky pitch of their voices suggesting the imminent destruction of the entire human race.

TVNZ's Melanie Stokes is in the mix, presumably for light relief, a delightful and efferescent personality to be sure, but with an unfortunate nasal delivery, promising, with a suppressed giggle, "more on the in-vy zhin of yewkrine" (where hundreds of civilians have been dying daily). She would make a terrific travel or kids show host. Just not the news, please



There are a few unfortunate wardrobe choices in there too. Hilary Barry's directors seem to want to display cleavage. Have they a little boy-ish obsession with boobs? Is this some sort of attempt to keep us watching their "infotainment" programmes like 7 Sharp,

in the hope of seeing more?. Bit icky really



REVIEW!!!

THE POWER OF THE DOG – MOVIE NETFLIX... "MUST SEE.....!"

A VERY ENGLISH SCANDAL – SERIES AMAZON PRIME

"MANIPULATIVE BUT GRIPPING"

THEY SAID IT

"HAPPINESS IS A Dog in a park – Just look at its tail" (Writer Joe Bennett)



"WHAT I LOVE about the (acting) industry is that I never know what's around the corner – and what I hate about it is I never know what's

around the corner". (Actor Joel Tobeck)

"LOOK FOR HAPPINESS – It's there if you want it" (Leslie Caron, aged 90, on BBC Desert Island Discs).



"POLITICS (was) a fight, wearying, involving stand-offs and betrayals, dirty deal makers and compromises that sometimes felt painful" (Former First Lady Michelle Obama)

"YOU'VE GOT TO BE twice as good to get half as far" (African American saying on career advancement in the US)

"Barack was coming out of our bedroom as I walked down the hall...he was dressed in a suit and red tie. We got him" he said "and no-one got hurt." (US First Lady recalls her Husband's demeanor the night US Special Forces killed September 11 Mastermind Osama Bin Laden in 2011)

EDITORIAL:

If ever there was a reason for a cross party accord, the future of publicly owned media in NZ is it. Unfortunately National is bent on seeing to it that business dominates this field of rich advertising pickings, while Labour has an equal but opposite obsession with preservation of a non-profit concept to ensure journalistic and artistic integrity.

Clearly debates about media within the Government of the day over the years, about how to reconcile these equal and opposite influences has slowed the pace of necessary reform to a crawl. The landscape which consisted solely of single channel television of the 1960s, has morphed since through fast moving technological advances into around 30 free-to-air channels as well as digital and satellite broadcasting, and Social Media offshoots like Facebook and Google, all without considered and legislated accountability mechanisms. Policy decisions have also been hampered by the well organized and well-funded lobbyists from both sides, each wanting opposite outcomes. In all this cacophony, the voice of the Public who are actually the ones who will fund any changes for the better, has gone unheard. The only thing which is certain is that change will undoubtedly cost.

The Government wavers in the polls and the Cost of Living surges into prominence, the former pivots from lesser issues like media reform and our badly managed water resources, to face down the inflation mad dog going for our collective throats.



Who will be left behind in all this, like a Bride who is left at the altar?

Wily and powerful media magnates like Rupert Murdoch have used his influence over Government, to perpetuate

the fiction that his being allowed protection from interference in the affairs of the Private Media, is essential to freedom itself, to keep



our popularly elected democracy from turning into a totalitarian state. Certainly, Freedom of Speech is vital to democracy, but more important, surely, is the exercise of the Sovereignty of the People, in reference to how the media should be overseen. However incoherently, the Parliamentary Protest, for all that it's in many ways an abuse of democratic rights, seems to have got hold of an important point, which is that democracy is being undermined, not enhanced, by unbridled media power. The British and Australian governments have already undertaken to make their media more responsible to the people, while NZ is being left behind.

This is not about interfering in editorial decisions, but about taking back our democratic right to having our own media landscape subject to our own Governance, just like all our other institutions.

STOP PRESS:

AN ENCOURAGING SIGN OF PROGRESS IN THE FORM OF A BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED PUBLIC MEDIA RESET AND EXTRA FUNDS FOR THE BSA, ARE PART OF SPENDING PLANS ANNOUNCED MAY 19. However, the legislation has still to be tabled.

GOOD VIBES!



*from
John Goff*

President

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