



(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



Newsletter Winter 2024
www.viewers.org.nz

KIA ORA FOLKS

SOME GOOD NEWS from THE MEDIA SCENE IN N.Z. PAUL GOLDSMITH, MINISTER OF BROADCASTING



has announced government support for the Fair Digital News Bargaining Bill which offers a life line for our local media after the illegal predations of the last few years of the International Internet Scammers, also known as Google, Facebook and Twitter (like criminals everywhere they also adopt aliases, as in X, Meta etc).who steal others content without paying for it. Goldsmith clearly has a grasp of the complexities of what's happening in the Media space, which his predecessors have rather failed to do.

TVNZ NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS has discovered

(or recovered) its Mojo, with the likes of **Jack Tame** giving some incumbent politicians a fair dinkum bollocking on Q & A July 14. He kept Goldsmith on his toes and also took **Debbie Ngarewa Packer** to task for some of her party's more outrageous claims, like the one that Pakeha treaty partners are planning the Genocide of the Maori people, and left her rhetoric looking decidedly over-stated. This is what we pay our taxes to see the State Broadcaster do, on our behalf, on a regular basis. **Let's get Q&A into Prime Time! It'll be a winner and if its not, it will at least make up in part for the killing off of Sunday and Fair Go.**



FINALLY A BIG SHOUT OUT TO STUFF AND THREE NEWS

for proving that you can put together a more-than-adequate 6 o'clock News Bulletin, which doesn't have to run for an hour (solely for the purpose, as in the case of One News At Six, of lassoing the audience for the evening.



BEST NEWS OF ALL We can dare to envisage a future where TV1/2 can do what they should have been doing anyway, to create on TV2, a non-commercial alternative, for the smaller share of the audience which wants



QUIPS & QUOTES

"I walk, I write, I watch a helluva lot of television I'm a very big Reality TV fan" EMILY PERKINS, PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR AND CREATIVE WRITING LECTURER

"We were out to expose The Truth...because with The Truth, there was a lot more we could do...we didn't receive a lot of money at the end of the day but we had the Truth" THE REAL ALAN BATES ("ALAN BATES V THE POST OFFICE.") TELLS HIS STORY TO RNZ JIM MORA SUNDAY MORNING 7-4-2024.

"The same thing over and over again. Hate, hate, hate. Let's all get together and have a good hate." GEORGE ORWELL

So long as we have something to hate (and irrespective of the degree), disinformation will thrive among us. We won't see it as falsehood. We will see it as our version of the truth" GAVIN ELLIS RESEARCHER ON "KNIGHTLY VIEWS" 22-5-24.

"I just got to Queenstown and this f*ing place is thirsty. Like, what's wrong with these boys? They look at me like a piece of meat. Like, it's scary."** POLISH BRITISH YOUNG WOMAN TOURIST ON TIKTOK 7.6.24

"Its not a matter of Trust in Media but of the choices that Media make...like concentrating on Ukraine when there is unreported massacre in Haiti" DR CHRISTOS CHRISTOU, HEAD OF MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERS (RNZ SATURDAY MORNING JUNE 1)

content of quality rather than endless quizzes, cooking shows, and home renos

Such a non-commercial alternative channel could run for fewer hours if its too expensive, or alternatively be subscriber based. People can now capture digitally any programme they might want to watch and view it at their leisure, not in the TV programmers sweet time.

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LET'S HAVE A GREAT DEBATE:



A feature of US television is something called "A Town Hall Debate" consisting essentially of a public gathering where the Public gets to air their views about major issues of the day – in our case, this would involve

a public discussion on the Future Direction of the Media in NZ . The planners and schedulers don't seem to know how they are going to cope with the New Digital TV Age, but it doesn't necessarily have to involve a diet of intrusive commercials, especially now with on-line streaming and movies you can watch on your phone. Lets ask the People what THEY think instead.

Now there's a new idea! And about time, given the amounts of the Public's money which goes into Media these days, with the NZ Film Commission, NZ On Air, the B.S.A. et al.

AND NOW THE BAD NEWS.

While news journalism may be struggling to justify advertising support, RNZ news, which is entirely ad free, is surely the best news service in the country for topicality and comprehensiveness. The presenters (mainly women) are friendly without being over-

bearing, and the reporters are thorough and incisive. Strange then that RNZ persists with a twice weekly programme called Media Watch which for 20 years has consisted entirely of journalists interviewing journalists about (you guessed it) journalism. What is the audience for this rather dreary vehicle for the views of a particular professional group?



**MEMO FOR PAUL THOMPSON
RNZ CEO.**

Please let us have listeners and viewers views of radio and television programmes instead. As Vivian Maidaborn, Chief Executive of Internet NZ, noted recently in The Post newspaper "the Government needs to develop a vision which goes beyond the media to empower citizens and consumers" Otherwise they'll keep heading off to the Global Cowboys like Meta and Twitter and other disinformation sources, **WHERE AT LEAST THEY WILL BE HEARD.**

IMPORTANT FOOTNOTE

Our editing and layout are done by volunteers but the increasing costs of printing and postage have reached the point where we are obliged to go to a digital only format.

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*from
Paul Thompson*

President

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