

NZ | MC

NEW ZEALAND MEDIA COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT | 2020



New Zealand Media Council

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OFFICERS FOR 2020

Hon Raynor Asher Independent Chair, Retired Court of Appeal Judge
Mary Major Executive Director

Representing the Public

Liz Brown Independent Consultant, Horowhenua
Christina Tay Lawyer, Restorative Justice Facilitator
Jo Cribb Independent Consultant
Ben France-Hudson Law lecturer Otago University
Marie Shroff Independent Consultant, Wellington
Pravina Singh Lawyer, Auckland, alternate member

Representing editors, nominated by the Newspaper Publishers Association

Craig Cooper Editor, Hawke's Bay Today
Jonathan MacKenzie Editor, Waikato Times

Representing Magazines, nominated by the Magazine Publishers Association

Rosemary Barraclough Deputy Editor and Journalist

Representing Journalists, nominated by E Tu

Hank Schouten Former journalist

Representing Digital Media and Broadcasters

Tim Watkin Editor, blogger and journalist. Also Executive Director Podcasts, RNZ.

Industry Alternate

Katrina Bennett NZME News Director, Wellington



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New Zealand Media Council



Front Row left to right: Liz Brown, Craig Cooper, Katrina Bennett, Hank Schouten Middle row: Pravina Singh, Marie Shroff, Mary Major, Christina Tay Back Row: Rosemary Barraclough, Jonathan MacKenzie, Ben France-Hudson, Jo Cribb, Tim Watkin. Absent: Hon Raynor Asher



An Analysis - 2020

Of the 120 complaints that were considered by the Media Council in 2020 14 were upheld in full; one was upheld by a majority; two were upheld in part; six were not upheld by a majority; and 62 were not upheld. Thirty-five complaints were ruled insufficient grounds to proceed. A further 12 complaints were resolved informally.

Thirty-six complaints were against daily newspapers; six were against weekend newspapers; 32 were against online news sites; 35 were against broadcasters; 10 were against community newspapers; and one was against a business magazine.

Most complaints going to adjudication are considered by the full Council. However, on occasions, there may be a complaint against a publication for which a member works, has had some input into the complaint or has some link. On these occasions the member takes no part in the consideration of the complaint. Likewise, occasionally a Council member declares a personal interest in a complaint and leaves the meeting while that complaint is under consideration. In 2020 there were 11 occasions where a member declared an interest and left the room while the complaint was considered. There were also 17 occasions when an industry member was required to stand down to maintain a public member majority.

Debate on some complaints can be quite vigorous and while the majority of Council decisions are unanimous, occasionally one or more members might ask that a dissent be simply recorded, or written up as a dissenting opinion. In 2020 seven cases involved a dissent (Cases 2867, 2888, 2937, 2938, 2960, 2970 and 2977.)

Media Council complaints are generally considered on the papers. However if a complainant requests the opportunity to make a submission in person they are generally given that opportunity. In such cases the editor is also invited to attend. No new material ie that has not already been presented to the editor for a response may be introduced at this stage. This year two complainants asked to attend the meeting.

The Media Council does not encourage legal representation, the Council is after all dealing with ethical issues not legal ones, but occasionally complainants do attend with or are represented by their lawyers. No lawyers appeared before the Council in 2020.

One complainant, who disagreed with the Media Council not-upheld ruling, filed a claim with a Disputes Tribunal. A hearing was held in Tauranga to determine whether the Disputes Tribunal had jurisdiction to consider the claim. The referee determined that the claim was outside the jurisdiction of the Tribunal as the claimant had no contract with the New Zealand Media Association Inc; the NZMA had not been enriched by any service or benefit received from [the complainant] to support his claim of a quasi-contract; there was no damage to property to support a claim in tort; and [the complainant] had suffered no loss.

At the hearing the complainant said he was surprised the Tribunal had accepted his claim and set down the hearing

“[The complainant’s] claim was disingenuous, vexatious and frivolous and has resulted in a significant waste of valuable time and resources for the court and for NZMA” the order said.

Statistics - 2020

MEDIA COUNCIL COMPLAINT STATISTICS

Year ending 31 December	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Complaints Determined	77	85	98	115	134	130
Decisions issued	68	73	86	104	116	120
Upheld	20	13	7	15	12	14
Upheld by majority	1	3	7	2	6	1
Part upheld	2	3	2	1	8	2
Part Upheld by majority		1	1	1	7	
Not Upheld by majority	6	2	8	5	5	6
Not upheld	39	51	61	50	58	62
Mediated/resolved	9	12	12	11	18	12
No Grounds to Proceed				29	21	35
Complaints received and not determined	96	99	118	144	316	152
Withdrawn	2	3	4	7	2	5
Withdrawn at late stage	1					
Not followed through	62	53	61	93	114	108
Out of time	5	3	4	4	6	4
Not accepted	4	17	19	11	5	5
Outside jurisdiction	14	17	23	27	20	25
Not Progressed, similar ruling				2		
In action at end of year	8	6	7	4	5	5
Mosque massacre complaints*					25	
Measles Cartoon complaints**					139	
Total complaints	173	184	216	248	450	282

* The Mosque coverage was subject to a review by the Department of Internal Affairs and so these complaints were not processed by the Media Council

** 5 representative complaints were considered by the Media Council and are included in the upheld stat above. These additional complaints were received and while not processed were advised of the Council ruling

Decisions - 2020

Complaint name	Publication	Adjudication	Date	Case No
Tony Climie	NZ Herald	Not Upheld	February	2864
Julie Fairey	NZ Herald	Not Upheld	February	2865
Donna Favel	Ashburton Guardian	Upheld in Part	February	2866
Friends of Tainui Reserve	Hawke's Bay Today	Not Upheld with dissent	February	2867
Kerryn Mitchell	The Dominion Post	Not Upheld	February	2868
Jim Rose	The Spinoff	Not Upheld	February	2869
Right to Life NZ Inc	Stuff	Not Upheld	February	2870
Marc Spring	NZ Herald	Not Upheld	February	2871
Peter Sullivan	NZ Herald	No Grounds	February	2872
Jason Collins	The Spinoff	No Grounds	March	2873
Dai Mitchell	Nelson Mail	No Grounds	March	2874
Howard Norton	Wanganui Chronicle	No Grounds	March	2875
Right to Life NZ Inc	The Press	No Grounds	March	2876
Catherine Arrow	Mediaworks Newshub	No Grounds	March	2877
Michael Gousmett	The Press	No Grounds	March	2878
John McMillan	Sunday Star-Times	No Grounds	March	2879
Ian Robinson	NZ Herald	No Grounds	March	2880
Douglas Campbell	NZ Herald	Not Upheld	March	2881
Cressida Evans	Otago Daily Times	Not Upheld	March	2882
Jack Henderson	Stuff	Not Upheld	March	2883
Pascal Janse van Vuuren	RNZ	Not Upheld	March	2884
Max Shierlaw	RNZ	Not Upheld	March	2885
Pascal Janse van Vuuren	Stuff	Not Upheld	March	2886
Janice Lee & Edgar Rochwalski	The News (Westport)	Not Upheld	March	2887
NZ Freshwater	Sciences Society	Stuff Upheld with Dissent	March	2888
NZ Thoroughbred Racing	RNZ	Upheld	March	2889
NZ Thoroughbred Racing	Wanganui Chronicle	Upheld	March	2890
Queenstown Lakes DC	Crux	Upheld	March	2891
Karl Stafford	Mediaworks Newshub	Upheld	March	2892
Alan McArdle	NZ Herald	No Grounds	April	2893
Lawrence Roberts	Stuff	No Grounds	April	2894
Jimmy Carling	Crux	Not Upheld	May	2895
Tony Climie	NZ Herald	Not Upheld	May	2896
Christine Cullen	The Press	Not Upheld	May	2897
Davina Duke	Stuff	Upheld	May	2898
Tania Newman	Westport News	Not Upheld	May	2899
Otorohanga College	Waitomo News	Not Upheld	May	2900
Rob Paterson	The Weekend Sun	Not Upheld	May	2901
Dustin Plunkett	Stuff	Not Upheld	May	2902
Tara Robinson	Stuff	Not Upheld	May	2903

Harry Berger	RNZ	No Grounds	June	2904
NZ Cat Coalition	Stuff	No Grounds	June	2905
Martin Broadbent	Stuff	No Grounds	June	2906
Simon Charles Dorante-Day	NZ Herald	No Grounds	June	2908
Matthew Kelly	RNZ	No Grounds	June	2909
Scott McLeod	Mediaworks Newshub	No Grounds	June	2910
Lawrence Anisy	Greymouth Star	Not Upheld	June	2911
Andrew Lensen	Stuff	Not Upheld	June	2912
Peter McFarlane	Mediaworks Newshub	Not Upheld	June	2913
Peter McFarlane	Newsroom	Not Upheld	June	2914
Suzanne Ngatai	RNZ	Not Upheld	June	2915
Jason Strachan	Stuff	Not Upheld	June	2916
Jason Wang	Stuff	Upheld	June	2917
Alison Clements	Stuff	No Grounds	July	2918
Pete Bernhardt	NBR	No Grounds	July	2919
Michael Fleck	RNZ	No Grounds	July	2920
John Martin	Mediaworks Newshub	No Grounds	July	2921
Russell Armitage	NZ Herald	Upheld	July	2922
Brent Baillie	Stuff	Not Upheld	July	2923
Alex Beijen	Wairarapa Times-Age	Upheld	July	2924
Peter Brooks	NZ Herald	Not Upheld	July	2925
Troy Dando	Sunday Star-Times	Upheld	July	2926
Martin Hector	Mediaworks Newshub	Not Upheld	July	2927
KWBRRRA	Katikati Advertiser	Not Upheld	July	2928
Complaint	NZ Herald	Upheld	July	2929
Jan Rivers	Stuff	Not Upheld	July	2930
Lee Short	RNZ	Not Upheld	July	2931
Alexander Stevens	Sunday Star-Times	Not Upheld	July	2932
Christopher Longhurst	TVNZ	No Grounds	August	2933
Peter Green	Mediaworks Newshub	Not Upheld	August	2934
Ken Francis	TVNZ	Not Upheld	August	VoDI
Taran Baker	NZ Herald	Not Upheld	September	2935
Andy Boreham	Mediaworks Newshub	Not Upheld	September	2936
Ian Cassels	Newsroom	Not upheld with dissent	September	2937
M	Stuff	Not Upheld with dissent	September	2938
Queenstown Lakes DC	Crux	Part Upheld	September	2939
Queenstown Airport Corp	Crux	Upheld	September	2940
Vanessa Selak	NZ Herald	Not Upheld	September	2941
Cliff Van Eaton	NZ Herald	Not Upheld	September	2942
Marc Wendelborn	RNZ	Not Upheld	September	2943
Gary McGivney	NZ Herald	Not Upheld	October	2944
Peter Ross	Nelson Mail / Stuff	No Grounds	October	2945

Tom Frewen	NZ Herald	No Grounds	October	2946
Iam Kurd	The Press / Stuff	No Grounds	October	2947
Tony Auckram	RNZ	Not Upheld	October	2948
Vianne Avery	Mediaworks Newshub	Upheld	October	2949
Helen Black	Stuff	Not Upheld	October	2950
David Cumin	Stuff	Not Upheld	October	2951
Alan Emerson	RNZ	Not Upheld	October	2952
Kevin Hackwell	RNZ	Upheld	October	2953
Kevin Hackwell	Newsroom	Not Upheld	October	2954
Kevin Hackwell	NZ Herald	Not Upheld	October	2955
Alex Leech	Stuff	Not Upheld	October	2956
Stephen Morris	RNZ	Not Upheld	October	2957
New Zealand Defence Force	Stuff	Upheld	October	2958
Daniel Stride	Otago Daily Times	Not Upheld	October	2959
Tom Van Meurs	The Press	Not Upheld with Dissent	October	2960
Jim Rose	RNZ	Not Upheld	October	2961
Speak up for Women	RNZ	Not Upheld	October	2962
Fern Hickson	RNZ	Not Upheld	October	2963
Jenny Whyte	RNZ	Not Upheld	October	2964
Kathryn Tsui	RNZ	No Grounds	October	2965
Mark Doyle	The Press	No Grounds	November	2966
James Hogan	RNZ	No Grounds	November	2967
Shymal Kumar	RNZ	No Grounds	November	2968
Robin McCarthy	Stuff	No Grounds	November	2969
A Girl Called Hope	Sunday Star-Times	Not Upheld with Dissent	December	2970
Anne-Marie Brady	The Spinoff	Not Upheld	December	2971
Tim Conder	Stuff	Not Upheld with Dissent	December	2972
Steven Cranston	Stuff	Not Upheld	December	2973
Helen Heath	NZ Herald	Not Upheld	December	2974
Tim Hinchliff	RNZ	Not Upheld	December	2975
Elliot Ikilei	Stuff	Not Upheld	December	2976
Wilson Parking	Stuff	Not Upheld	December	2977
Wilson Parking	TVNZ	Not Upheld	December	2978
Shymal Kumar	RNZ	No Grounds	December	2979
David Lucas	Nelson Mail/Stuff	No Grounds	December	2980
John Bent	Sunday Star-Times	No Grounds	December	2981
Donald McDonald	Dominion Post	No Grounds	December	2982
Geoff Waterhouse	Mediaworks Newshub	No Grounds	December	2983



NEW ZEALAND MEDIA COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | 2020

New Zealand Media Association Incorporated

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Prepared by The Tax Lady Wellington Limited





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COMPILATION REPORT

New Zealand Media Association Incorporated For the year ended 31 December 2020

Scope

On the basis of information provided and in accordance with Service Engagement Standard 2 Compilation of Financial Information, we have compiled the financial statements of New Zealand Media Association Incorporated for the year ended 31 December 2020.

These statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in the Notes to these financial statements.

Responsibilities

You are solely responsible for the information contained in the financial statements and have determined that the Special Purpose Reporting Framework used is appropriate to meet your needs and for the purpose that the financial statements were prepared.

The financial statements were prepared exclusively for your benefit. We do not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of the financial statements.

Audit or Review Engagement

Our procedures use accounting expertise to undertake the compilation of the financial statements from information you provided. Our procedures do not include verification or validation procedures. These accounts have been subject to a financial review by Cornish and Associates Limited.

Disclaimer

We have compiled these financial statements based on information provided which has not been subject to an audit or review engagement. Accordingly, we do not accept any responsibility for the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the compiled financial information contained in the financial statements. Nor do we accept any liability of any kind whatsoever, including liability by reason of negligence, to any person for losses incurred as a result of placing reliance on these financial statements.

The Tax Lady Wellington Limited

Dated: 17 May 2021



cornish.co.nz

18 May 2021

To Whom it May Concern

The New Zealand Media Council

We have reviewed the accounts of The New Zealand Media Council for the period ended 31 December 2020 (12 Months).

In our opinion:-

- Proper accounting records have been kept by the organisation as far as appears from our examination of those records, and the organisations 2020 Financial Statements.
- The accounts comply with generally accepted accounting practice and give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 December 2020 and financial performance and cashflows for the year ended on this date of the organisation.

Our review was completed on 18th May 2021 and our unqualified opinion is expressed at this date.

CORNISH ACCOUNTING LTD.

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DIRECTORY

New Zealand Media Association Incorporated For the year ended 31 December 2020

Nature of Business

The *New Zealand Media Association Incorporated* is a Non Governmental Organisation which exists to uphold standards in the New Zealand print media and promotes freedom of speech in New Zealand.

Registered Address

79 Boulcott Street,
Wellington 6143

IRD Number

013969663

Chairman

Hon Raynor Asher

Accountant

The Tax Lady Wellington Limited

Bankers

BNZ Bank

Auditor

Cornish and Associates Ltd



APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

New Zealand Media Association Incorporated For the year ended 31 December 2020

The Directors are pleased to present the approved financial report including the historical financial statements of The New Zealand Press Council for year ended 31 December 2020.

APPROVED

For and on behalf of the Board.

Chair

Date

PROFIT AND LOSS

New Zealand Media Association Incorporated For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
Trading Income		
Associate Membership	37,696	35,246
Community Newspapers	11,970	11,870
Magazines Contribution	11,938	18,875
NPA Contribution	200,000	200,000
Union	2,700	2,700
Total Trading Income	264,304	268,691
Cost of Sales		
Website Expenses	16,185	-
Total Cost of Sales	16,185	-
Gross Profit	248,119	268,691
Other Income		
Interest Income	1,365	1,916
Total Other Income	1,365	1,916
Expenses		
Travel and Accommodation	10,744	18,474
Accident Compensation Levy	275	274
Accounting & Xero Fees	2,208	2,208
Advertising & Promotion	695	2,385
Annual Leave Owing	782	2,244
Audit Fees	1,200	1,200
Bank Fees	-	25
Board Fees	32,000	34,400
Chairmans' Expenses	3,975	9,697
Chairmans Honorarium	65,000	65,000
Cleaning	600	400
Computer Expenses	1,428	2,956
Contractors	3,830	1,575
Depreciation	2,164	3,727
General Expenses	3,674	4,186
Insurance	3,477	3,477
KiwiSaver Employer Contributions	72	-
Office Relocation Expenses	-	642
Postage & Courier	376	1,293
Power & Telephone	1,527	1,140
Printing & Stationery	2,697	3,477
Rent - Carpark	1,920	1,920
Rent - Office	7,716	5,051



	2020	2019
Salaries	102,437	101,198
Total Expenses	248,796	266,948
Net Profit (Loss) Before Taxation	688	3,658
Taxation and Adjustments		
Income Tax Provision	131	250
Total Taxation and Adjustments	131	250
Net Profit (Loss) for the Year	557	3,409

BALANCE SHEET

New Zealand Media Association Incorporated As at 31 December 2020

	31 DEC 2020	31 DEC 2019
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Bank		
Business First Oncall Account	20,404	54,663
Non Profit Org Account	8,937	17,150
NZPC - Term Deposit	59,854	58,427
Total Cash and Bank	89,195	130,240
Trade and Other Receivables	91,956	45,275
Other Current Assets	140	244
Total Current Assets	181,291	175,759
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment	6,683	8,846
Total Non-Current Assets	6,683	8,846
Total Assets	187,974	184,605
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables	9,588	9,797
GST Payable	16,295	13,334
Income Tax Payable	670	575
Employee Entitlements	1,564	782
Total Current Liabilities	28,118	24,488
Non-Current Liabilities		
Other Non-Current Liabilities	7,980	8,798
Total Non-Current Liabilities	7,980	8,798
Total Liabilities	36,097	33,286
Net Assets	151,877	151,320
Equity		
Retained Earnings	151,877	151,320
Total Equity	151,877	151,320



DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE

New Zealand Media Association Incorporated
For the year ended 31 December 2020

NAME	COST	OPENING VALUE	PURCHASES	DISPOSALS	DEPRECIATION	CLOSING VALUE	PRIVATE USE AMOUNT
Furniture & Fittings							
Boardroom Furniture (share of)	2,482	1,010	-	-	162	849	-
Crestline Desk	1,598	779	-	-	101	678	-
Dexion Storage Unit	4,455	2,587	-	-	259	2,328	-
Side Chairs x 2	878	11	-	-	2	9	-
Total Furniture & Fittings	9,413	4,388	-	-	524	3,864	-
Office Equipment							
Computer	2,345	269	-	-	134	134	-
Computer	2,467	18	-	-	9	9	-
HP Elitebook 1040 G4 I5 cpu 8GB memory 256GB SSD, Dock, Monitor, Wireless Keyboard & Mouse	4,047	1,518	-	-	759	759	-
Printer	876	-	-	-	-	-	-
Website	7,335	439	-	-	220	220	-
Website	14,670	688	-	-	344	344	-
Total Office Equipment	31,740	2,932	-	-	1,466	1,466	-
Office Fitout							
Office Fitout	22,397	1,527	-	-	174	1,353	-
Total Office Fitout	22,397	1,527	-	-	174	1,353	-
Total	63,550	8,846	-	-	2,164	6,683	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

New Zealand Media Association Incorporated For the year ended 31 December 2020

1. Reporting Entity

The New Zealand Press Council is incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908, and is a Non Governmental Organisation which exists to uphold standards in the New Zealand print media and promote freedom of speech in New Zealand.

Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Special Purpose Framework for use by For-Profit Entities (SPFR for FPEs) published by Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand.

The financial statements have been prepared for taxation purposes

Historical Cost

These financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis. The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars (NZ\$) and all values are rounded to the nearest NZ\$, except when otherwise indicated.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. Policies have been applied on a consistent basis with those of the previous reporting period.

Depreciation

Account	Method	Rate
Furniture & Fittings	Diminishing Value (100%)	10% - 18%
Office Equipment	Diminishing Value (100%)	48% - 50%
Office Fitout	Diminishing Value (100%)	11.4%

Income Tax

The Income Tax liability is limited to Interest Revenue only, less a \$1,000 exemption granted by Inland Revenue. The liability is charged to the Profit and Loss statement in accordance with the income tax return to Inland Revenue.

Goods and Services Tax

All amounts are stated exclusive of goods and services tax (GST) except for accounts payable and accounts receivable which are stated inclusive of GST.

	2020	2019
2. Equity		
Current year earnings	557	3,409
Retained earnings/Accumulated funds	151,320	147,911
Total Equity	151,877	151,320



	2020	2019
3. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Plant and Equipment		
Plant and machinery owned	31,740	31,740
Accumulated depreciation - plant and machinery owned	(30,274)	(28,808)
Total Plant and Equipment	1,466	2,932
Furniture and Fittings		
Furniture and fittings owned	31,810	31,810
Accumulated depreciation - furniture and fittings owned	(26,593)	(25,895)
Total Furniture and Fittings	5,217	5,915
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	6,683	8,846

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NEW ZEALAND MEDIA COUNCIL

