



(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



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## Aotearoa Public Media Bill



From the large sums being thrown around in the debate over the Aotearoa Public Media Bill merging TVNZ and RNZ, it might appear that Public Media would best serve taxpayers by self-destructing.

On the contrary, we need it. The difference is best illustrated by comparing the performance of NZ private and public media of the death and funeral of our late revered Queen Elizabeth II.

TVNZ and RNZ were first on the ground in the UK with wall-to-wall coverage, being thoroughly used to tuning in to what the Public wanted to see and hear. While in the private media, "skimpy" would best describe the coverage.

At their best, Public Media can supply, not so called "Reality Television" ("Non-Entity Treasure Island", "The Block-head" etc ), but a mirror to life in NZ in an authentic way, our arts, our culture, our traditions, our values. RNZ does it already, though they could do with a reset, and TVNZ could learn a lot from Whakaata Maori/ Maori Television.



The only real alternative on NZTV, currently, is Maori Television which regularly portrays OUR lifestyle, OUR attitudes and OUR values. No wonder young people have long ago migrated to the Internet.



## REVIEW!!!

**"THE TWELVE"**

**SAM NEILL, NETFLIX**

**"OKKER SHOCKER ... KIWI LED"**



**"A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY"**

**ANNA PAQUIN , TVNZ +**

**"SUPERIOR 50'S SUBURBIA CREEPOUT.....!!"**



## THEY SAID IT!!!

**"Endorsing conspiracy theories on Twitter makes you much less likely to get a date"** ("Listener" Psychologist *Marc Wilson*).

**"Some Aucklanders are drowning in their latest water bills"** *Lisa Owen* Checkpoint RNZ.

**"The Government could not have consulted with every Tom Dick or Harry"** Broadcasting Minister *Willie Jackson* on the proposed merger of TVNZ and RNZ.

**"We've got the 'Hey Darl' which is the Currie Dahl... You get the filling right and your pastry right , and you've nailed it."** Tradie / Champion pie-maker and archetypal Southern Man *Chris Sangster*.

**"We'll set out the triggers for this"** *Hon. Chris Finlayson* on Firearms legislation.

**"I've figured out my wife still loves me, which is important"** Under fire All Black coach *Ian Foster*.

**"We're on the track of Burrito the Poodle"** Cutting edge Current Affairs RNZ Checkpoint.

# EDITORIAL:

## "LESS JEREMY WELLS, MORE FRED DAGG"

Earlier in the month I had the privilege of presenting MM's submission to the Economic Development, Science and Innovation select committee of parliament on the Aotearoa NZ Public Media bill, which merges TVNZ and RNZ.



Our hope is that the reforming zeal of the present government (way overdue in this sector) leads to more involvement on the part the public themselves in the development of public media, from which they are currently excluded.



The Minister the Hon Willie Jackson, declares that he wants to see more of ourselves, which is commendable, indeed crucial, but that necessitates the Public Voice being heard, not just in the making of programmes (more

please) but also in the regular monitoring and oversight process. In the UK, Canada and Australia, all countries similar to our own, a high priority is assigned to promoting and funding legislated opportunities for consumers to be heard on a regular and formal basis. After all, it's the Public who pay the bills!

At present, only programme makers and advertisers have any say. We have attempted to get NZ On Air to give some attention to what viewers and listeners think, in the development of new policies, and have basically been told to shove off.

The result is before you, every day, in the form of the relentlessly repetitive portrayal of the Adman's Dream of

the Great Society, where flimsy programme material becomes not much more than moving wallpaper separating the advertising content.

Of course we need ads, because we are a Consumer Society, and buying and selling Goods and Services is what sustains our media in being. And of course quizzes and cooking shows have a place but like junk food, they are no basis for a healthy diet.

However, when the Public are paying the bills, as is the case with TVNZ 1 and 2 and RNZ, they have a right to expect an emphasis, in the publicly owned media, on what makes television inspiring and uplifting and capable of captivating worldwide audiences (Like the funeral of the late Queen, and the Summer Olympics for example). There is also a Vacant Space currently being filled, in the electronic mass media, by a shallow hybrid known as "Info-tainment", which is supposed to be some sort of substitute for genuine News and Current Affairs programmes that are immediate and informative, and address real public concerns.

Television and the Internet are immensely powerful media for molding and elevating the really important discourse which is going on now around the world, about Who We Are, and Where We Want To Be, as a Nation, as a Species, if we are to survive. How can we achieve collectively the Good Life, based on Foundation Values? These are the great questions of our day.

And the Public in NZ are currently being largely excluded from the debate about the future control of these powerful media by the self-interested, so called "Stakeholders", who don't include the Public. This is what is known as Provider Capture.

Is it any wonder that the traditional Media have lost Public Trust?



President

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