

Christchurch conference theme: Journalism under fire

The University of Canterbury will host this year's Jeanz conference in Christchurch on Monday 8 - Tuesday 9 December.

[Conference agenda](#) and [Christchurch map](#)

Under the banner "Journalism under fire: Reputation, recruitment and retention", the conference theme is how the industry, the profession, journalism trainers and observers are responding to the sustained pressure journalism has come under in recent years.



"From rationalisation at APN and Fairfax to the leaching of audiences by emerging digital media to a longer-term loss of reputation, the news has not been good." ([Call for papers](#))

Abstracts, due by 17 November, should be sent to Jim Tully at the University of Canterbury (jim.tully@canterbury.ac.nz). Proposals for papers, panels and workshops that contribute to the debate are warmly invited, including:

- how the business models in journalism are changing
- what opportunities new environments such as TVNZ7 or news hubs provide for quality journalism
- how journalism trainers might respond to a changing workplace
- the blurring boundaries of infotainment
- parallels and contrasts with journalism practice and training elsewhere, including the Pacific
- the future of public service broadcasting.

Presentations on teaching aspects of the journalism curriculum are invited. Suggestions for alternative formats to the academic paper session are particularly welcomed.

Registration is \$195 for both days and includes the conference dinner at the International Antarctic Centre on the Monday evening. [Registration form](#)

The conference is organised by the University of Canterbury Mass Communication and Journalism Programmes in association with the Christchurch Polytechnic and Institute of Technology, Aoraki Polytechnic and the Southland Institute of Technology. JT/AL

[Call for papers](#) (Word document).

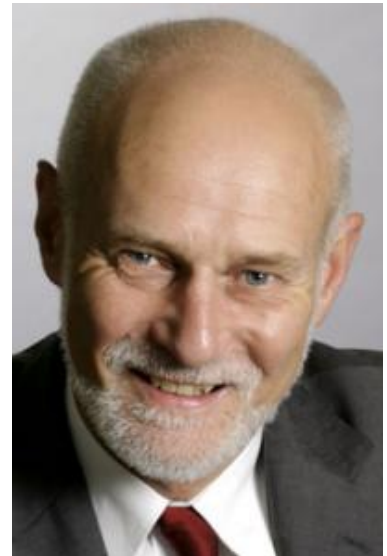
JTO merger likely by end of year

Progress is being made on the proposal to merge the Journalists Training Organisation with PrintNZ to create a new Communications and Media ITO.

A meeting in Wellington this week between the heads of both organisations led to the approval in principle of a new constitution for the merged ITO. This will now be submitted for confirmation to the two organisations' governing councils.

Under the constitution, a sector committee will be responsible for journalism training and it is envisaged the present council will become the committee to determine training needs and policies. The next step will be to confirm operating rules for the committee. They too will be identical to the existing rules of the JTO.

New JTO chairman Clive Lind said approval for the merger had been received from Tertiary Education Minister Pete Hodgson (pictured), who has also approved the new trading name. The Communications and Media ITO should be formed by the end of the year but the two organisations will run separate accounts for a year while the merger is bedded in.



“Under the Industry Training Act, ITOs have to be responsible for ensuring the quality of industry training both at education centres and in the workplace,” Lind said. “We’ve long managed the first but haven’t managed to achieve the second on a long-term basis.

“Already, with the help of PrintNZ’s staff and other advisers, we’re well on our way to establishing a workplace training programme that will work for radio, television and print journalists in April next year. While there remains a lot to be done, it’s great to see such progress both with the merger and workplace training. Eighteen months ago, the JTO’s future was not secure but, with co-operation from all our members and our respective industries, it’s now looking bright.”

Communication would be a key element to ensuring success, Lind said, adding that the JTO had been doing its utmost to ensure key people understood the proposed changes. Over the next year, the JTO and the sector committee would be concentrating on the workplace training programme and making sure all workplaces were aware of its potential.

He paid tribute to JTO executive director Mike Fletcher for his hard work. “This sort of stuff is sheer, solid grind and we owe Mike thanks for what he’s achieved. Once the new ITO is up and running, we know we will be achieving all our legal obligations, which the industry expects us to achieve. And we can then look at new opportunities for journalism training,” Lind said. CL/AL

In memory of Brian, man of ideas

Brian Joyce's colleagues and students have paid tribute to his contribution to journalism education in New Zealand. Brian taught at Wellington Polytechnic, Waikato Institute of Technology (Wintec), and latterly at Whitireia Polytechnic. He served on Jeanz committees and the JTO, and edited ASTE News, the organ of the polytechnic teachers' union. Before going into teaching Brian had been chief sub at the Nelson Evening Mail and had been president of the NZ Journalists Union.



Charles Riddle, head of journalism at Wintec, said: "Brian was a resolved defender of independent and clear thought and regularly challenged anyone - managers, fellow tutors, secretaries and, of course, students - in their thinking, demanding in a very smiling and positive, but forceful, way that they defend their points of view. He was a man of ideas and constantly moving forward."

Whitireia journalism head Jim Tucker said Brian was always there for his students. "Passing on his knowledge and experience to new generations was Brian Joyce's greatest and most lasting achievement. He leaves a wide legacy."

Brian died on Saturday, 27 September. Read [tributes and memories](#) from Jim Tully, Kim Griggs, Joanna Tennant, Paul Bowden, Ken Munro, Queenie Rikihana, Cathy Strong, Annabel Schuler, Charles Riddle and Jim Tucker. Anyone wanting to add their memories, please email allan.lee@aut.ac.nz.

Schoeman new journalism co-ordinator at Waiariki

Jack (Kobus) Schoeman is the new co-ordinator, journalism and creative writing, at Waiariki Institute of Technology. Jack has had a career in broadcast journalism (television news, current affairs and breakfast television) included positions as news production journalist, bulletin editor, current affairs producer, executive producer for breakfast television and programme manager for two television magazine programmes.



He has taught political science, journalism and advertising at a number of tertiary institutions in South Africa. Before joining Waiariki he was "package organiser" and lecturer for the BA Languages (specialising in journalism) degree at the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Substantial stints in freelancing for radio and print media, as well as advertising and corporate communications, have given him a broad working experience and understanding within different media.

Jack holds a masters degree in international politics (University of Pretoria) and current research areas include: media industry (media ethics, media law and media landscape); journalism education and skills training; photojournalism; and creative writing processes, coaching methods and trends.

A completed novel is also looking for a willing publisher or agent to get published. Jack regards himself as a news junky and lover of the written word. AS/AL

Ou se trouve Le Quesnoy, Allison?

AUT University's Allison Oosterman takes off for the little French village of Le Quesnoy in November. She is participating in a conference being held to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the liberation of the town from the Germans by New Zealand forces on November 4, 1918.

Allison's topic is "How they brought the news from Picardy to Picton: New Zealand coverage of the war on the Western Front". Colleagues will be aware that Allison's doctoral thesis is on New Zealand's official war correspondent for World War I, Malcolm Ross.

She has planned a tour of the Belgian and French battlefields and hopes to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the armistice in London.



News Manual now available online

The News Manual by Henshall and Ingram, originally published with Unesco funding in the 1990s as a three-volume book, is now a free online resource for journalists and journalism students.

Its 700 pages have been revised, updated and placed online as 72 indexed chapters covering basic skills, advanced reporting, ethics and the law. There is practical advice on everything from writing an intro to investigative reporting. Editor David Ingram says The News Manual online is an interactive resource with exercises, topical discussions and a growing list of links to 100-plus professional sites around the world.

No access codes, registrations or subscriptions are required. The site has no advertising or sponsorship and is independent of any organisation, institution, government or commercial interest. Ingram says it is a labour of love and a work in progress. He welcomes feedback (ingram@thenewsmanual.net).

The News Manual online at www.thenewsmanual.net

Robert Fisk blasts '50/50' journalism at AUT seminar

British foreign correspondent and author Robert Fisk has made a strong attack on “50/50 journalism” which he says upsets balance and obscures the truth when reporting on the Middle East.

Fisk says journalists ought to be objective and unbiased – “on the side of those who suffer”. He was speaking to more than 200 journalists,



journalism educators, student journalists, civil rights advocates and academics at a recent Pacific Media Centre seminar at AUT University. The seminar was moderated by New Zealand journalist Jon Stephenson who has visited Iraq several times and reported extensively on the conflict.

Fisk, Beirut-based correspondent of *The Independent*, was in New Zealand on a promotion tour organised by Amnesty International for his latest book, *The Age of the Warrior*.

View the *50/50 Journalism* video and two other clips – *The US Warrior's Creed and Weapons of Mass Destruction* – at YouTube: (www.youtube.com/pacmedcentre) or on the PMC website: [Fisk video](#)

The [PMC](#) and AUT Television are producing a longer edited programme for use in journalism education.

PMC launches two Pacific media books

Two new Pacific media books [launched](#) by AUT University's Pacific Media Centre are “courageous” publications in a neglected arena, says Race Relations Commissioner Joris de Bres.

While the new books cover the wider South Pacific – and beyond into Asia – they are an important contribution to an understanding of the region and to “media justice”, de Bres says.

Media and Development: Issues and Challenges in the Pacific Islands and *South Pacific Islands Communication: Regional Perspectives and Local Issues* were launched as part of a Media Diversity Forum co-hosted by the Human Rights Commission and the PMC.

Speakers at the forum included Arlene Morgan, associate dean of the Columbia School of Journalism, New York, TVNZ's *Tagata Pasifika* executive producer Taualeo'o Stephen Stehlin, and Pere Maitai, recently appointed news director of the Pacific Media Network.

Speaking on behalf of the co-editors of the *Media and Development* book, University of the South Pacific head of journalism Shailendra Singh and economics professor Biman Prasad, PMC director David Robie highlighted the political unrest and threats to media in post-coup Fiji. “The truth is that it is ordinary local journalists who bear the real brunt of defending media freedom – they cannot leave or be deported,” he said. ([PMC](#)) [Ordering PMC books](#)

PJR October edition

The October edition of Pacific Journalism Review has been published. "The public right to know: Reporting futures" themed joint publication (14-2) has been produced by the Australian Centre for Independent Journalism (ACIJ) and the AUT Pacific Media Centre. [October edition](#)

The theme for the next edition (15-1, May 2009) is "Diversity, identity and the media". The deadline for papers is November 30. Papers should be submitted to: pjreview@aut.ac.nz [Call for papers](#)

