

Appraisal Report

Archives New Zealand – Appraisal of Television New Zealand (TVNZ) Ex-Air Broadcast Programme records

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Purpose
<p>The purpose of this appraisal report is to obtain disposal authorisation from the Chief Archivist for Television New Zealand (TVNZ) ex-air broadcast programmes and associated material, some of which came into Archives New Zealand custody in 1998.</p> <p>Under section 20(1) of the Public Records Act 2005, the Chief Archivist must authorise the transfer, alteration, destruction, sale, or discharge of public records. Before authorising any disposals, the Chief Archivist must also give no less than 30 days' public notice of the intention to dispose of public records.</p> <p>This report, which makes a disposal recommendation based on an appraisal of the records, is submitted to the Chief Archivist as part of the public notification and authorisation process.</p> <p>Appraisal Circumstances</p> <p>In 1998, news film reels and associated sound tapes for the period 1975 to 1977 were given by an unknown ex-employee of TVNZ studios in Christchurch to the Archives New Zealand Christchurch Regional Office. This material was then moved to the Wellington office in the same year where there was a film Archivist and repository space to accommodate it. The material has remained unprocessed since.</p> <p>Ngā Taonga Sound and Vision (formerly known as the New Zealand Film Archive) also holds unprocessed news film reels created by TVNZ.</p> <p>A disposal authority was issued by the Chief Archivist in 2014 for records in the Television New Zealand Archive (TVNZ Archive), which was transferred to the custody of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage (MCH) under section 20(1)(a) of the Public Records Act 2005. This disposal authority provides coverage for the legacy records of the TVNZ Archive which have been transferred to the control of MCH, as well as on-going coverage for records created by MCH and Television New Zealand Limited for the TVNZ Archive.</p> <p>The audio-visual material in Archives New Zealand's possession never arrived at the TVNZ Archive, and was never accessioned / catalogued into BASIS (the TVNZ database). As the material is not part of the TVNZ Archive,</p>

it is outside the scope of DA603. Therefore, a disposal authority is required for the disposal of this material and any similar estray¹ material that requires disposal.

Scope

The scope of this appraisal covers estray ex-air broadcast programmes and associated material that was created by TVNZ and its predecessors that is not covered by Disposal Authority DA603.

Format

All formats. Examples include 16mm film and magnetic tape. Date ranges from 1960 onwards (Archives New Zealand current has unprocessed film for the 1975 to 1977 period)

Function/Activity Information

Television broadcasting in New Zealand grew out of the Government department responsible for radio broadcasting, the New Zealand Broadcasting Service [NZBS]. The first regular broadcast began in New Zealand in 1960, first in Auckland, 1961 in Christchurch and Wellington, and 1962 in Dunedin. This delay was due to the high expense of television broadcasting infrastructure. It only became viable when the technology had become more affordable, robust and reliable in the late 1950s.

With the advent of a national television broadcasting service, the New Zealand Broadcasting Service was replaced in 1962 by the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation [NZBC], more closely modelling the British Broadcasting Corporation model.

In 1975, the NZBC was replaced by three independent publicly owned corporations, Television One, Television Two and Radio New Zealand. The Broadcasting Council of New Zealand was briefly established to oversee these new publicly owned, yet commercially competitive, entities.

In 1977, these newly statutorily independent bodies, including the Broadcasting Council, were re-united under a single board, the Broadcasting Corporation of New Zealand [BCNZ]. In their place, 3 programme services (TV1, TV2, and Radio New Zealand) and a Central Services Division were established.

Local and regional news stations were developed in the 1960's which broadcasted weather forecasts. In 1961 Auckland began with AKTV2 which was one of the first showing locally recorded items on newsreel for the 8pm broadcast. In Christchurch CHTV3 started regular transmissions in June and Wellington with WNTV1 in July of the same year. In July 1962 Dunedin started making regular transmissions on DNTV2.

Film editors looked after footage from the various areas (Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin), producing news for New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation [NZBC].

Methodology

An assessment of material with Archives New Zealand was undertaken to identify and to describe the content at a high level, as there are no known records that were used to control local new film items.

Television New Zealand ex-air broadcasts of Local news (compilation of interviews) and Sunday World (one long interview) items produced in Christchurch. Most of this material consists of reversal camera original film. The material is news footage which would have gone to air straight from the camera reversal footage. The footage is

¹ Under the Public Records Act 2005, section 4, an **estrays record** means a public record, public archive, or protected record that has been disposed of otherwise than (i) in accordance with an authorisation of the Chief Archivist under this Act; or (ii) as required by or under another enactment.

all cement spliced and most contain magnetic strip sound track. There are also magnetic coated tapes holding sound for an associated reel of film. This would have been on the camera original so that sound could be recorded at the same time as the picture and could be transferred quickly along with the picture for TV transmission.

There are a mix of black and white, colour film. The film is in good condition.

Length of news films varies from 50-900ft of film which equates to 1min 23 secs – 26 mins 23 secs of viewing time.²

Archives New Zealand also contacted Ngā Taonga Sound and Vision for any recorded data concerning what is held on the TVNZ newsreels from Christchurch. The TVNZ database BASIS only records film that arrived at TVNZ Archive. The only other record if the film never arrived at the TVNZ Archive is a card catalogue that dates from the 1980's onwards.

The [Public Sector Archival Selection Statement](#) has been used to evaluate the archival value of the records described in this report, based on the three selection principles summarised below:

Principle 1 – New Zealand public sector authority, functions and activities

- generate public interest or innovative, unique or precedent-setting practices, techniques or methods

Principle 2 – Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi

- negotiations and settlements, identified opportunities for partnerships with tangata whenua.

Principle 3 – Individual and community knowledge, identity and memory

- community, cultural, Māori, environmental or heritage significance, providing links between the past and the present. Health, well-being and development of New Zealand society.

Consultation

Consultation was sought from:

- Archives New Zealand Subject Matter Expert's
- Ministry of Culture and Heritage
- Ngā Taonga Sound and Vision
- TVNZ
- University of Canterbury – Department of Journalism
- Massey University – School of Communication, Journalism and Marketing
- Auckland University of Technology - Journalism Department

² <https://www.stanleysonline.co.uk/scategory-152.htm>

Class 1: Ex-Air and Broadcast Programmes
Description
<p>This class covers television programmes and ex-air broadcast programmes and associated control records (indexes, diaries etc.), produced by the New Zealand Broadcasting Service, the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation, Television Service One Corporation, Television Service Two Corporation (including its subsidiary South Pacific Television Limited), the Broadcasting Corporation of New Zealand, and Television New Zealand, dating from the trialling of television transmissions in 1958/59 and the transmission of regular television programmes in mid-1960.</p> <p>The sub-classes described below provide further detail and context about the information contained in these records and are identified by genre:</p> <p>Sub-class 1.1, Ex-Air and Broadcast Programmes – News: ex-air (broadcast) news programmes produced by Television New Zealand and its predecessors. This includes (but is not exclusive to) programmes such as: the Daily News Bulletin, NZBC News, One News, Te Karere and programming of a similar nature.</p> <p>Sub-class 1.2, Ex-Air and Broadcast Programmes – Current Affairs: current affairs programmes produced by Television New Zealand and its predecessors. This includes (but is not exclusive to) programmes such as: Town and Around, Compass, Sunday World, Gallery, Koha, Marae, Foreign Affairs, Frontline, Holmes, Sunday, 20/20 and programming of a similar nature.</p> <p>Sub-class 1.3, Raw/stock footage: available for use in news and current affairs broadcasts and television programmes, produced by the Television New Zealand and its predecessors.</p>
Value Statement
<p>In general, the unique value of these records lies under principle 3, which focusses on community knowledge, identity and memory. The regionalisation of news and current affairs in the 1960's, 1970's, and early 1980's led to the creation of local and regional content that documents town and country events, personalities and landscapes, and urban and rural lifestyles of those times. They memorialise that period, and provide a contrast between the past, present and future.</p> <p>This is demonstrated by the 1970's Christchurch news film reels which were created prior to the devastating earthquakes in 2011. The enduring value of these records lies in them being ongoing sources of community knowledge about pre-2011 Christchurch. By their very nature of these programmes being broadcast locally during early transmissions, these audio-visual records were considered significant at the time of broadcast and had the effect of generating a sense of local identity through 'shared experience'.</p> <p>News film items were "culled", presumably as some sort of selection policy at TVNZ in the past, but also possibly because of hard decisions made (not by the TVNZ Archivists/librarians) based on the availability of storage before the centralised TVNZ Archive really got organised in the mid-1980s. Another reason for the rarity of early television recordings is that it was common practice to re-use the tape by wiping as the tape was very expensive. The above practices have made these local news film a rarity and is therefore a rich resource of local New Zealand content during a period of early – mid broadcasting in regional areas of New Zealand.</p>
Disposal recommendation
<p>The recommendation for all audio-visual material news film reels created by TVNZ regional and central studios to be retained as public archives.</p>