



THE NEW ZEALAND
SOCIETY OF AUTHORS
(PEN NEW ZEALAND INC) TE PUNI KATUHI O AOTEAROA

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25 May 2016

Paul Thompson
Chief Executive
Radio New Zealand
P O Box 123
Wellington

Dear Paul,

I sent the attached letter to you in February this year but have not had a reply.

I am writing again today as I have heard the situation has worsened and the Radio Drama unit is now frozen with no plans to commission or produce any play or book readings.

Our community of writers is gravely concerned about this and the New Zealand Society of Authors, as an advocate for writers, would like to know what needs to happen for this situation to change?

When RNZ adapts the written word for dramatic performance on radio it fulfils many of the Charter and Principles of RNZ by providing innovative programming that:

- contributes to cultural development,
- provides entertainment,
- appeals to varied age groups,
- encourages and promotes New Zealand writers and performers,
- engenders a sense of citizenship and national identity.

Adapting the written word for dramatic performance on radio also gives RNZ content that broadens its appeal, provides on-line content that takes listeners to your website and gives archival material that is likely to be of historical interest in New Zealand in the future. As RNZ becomes a multi-media organisation, dramatic performances of our books and plays offer a perfect fit for your digital platform. Adapting home-grown books and plays is culturally important.

PRESIDENT: Kyle Mewburn Tel: 027 862 1747 Email: kyle@kylemewburn.com

The New Zealand Society of Authors (PEN NZ Inc.)

Principal advocate for the professional interests of writers. Protecting basic rights to freedom of expression. Working to improve income and conditions. Promoting New Zealand writing and literary culture.

It is not clear to the writing community if the cuts are solely the result of the 'fund freeze' or if it is the direction RNZ would be taking regardless of available funds. If it is solely the result of lack of funds, and thus our concern may best be directed to the Honourable Amy Adams and the Honourable Maggie Barry, please let us know.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Mewburn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that curves to the right.

Jackie Dennis
Chief Executive

Kyle Mewburn
President

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