



BRIEFING FOR INCOMING MINISTER

Background

Nga Taonga Sound & Vision was launched on August 1, 2014 following the completion of a three-year process bringing together the New Zealand Film Archive Nga Kaitiaki O Nga Taonga Whithiahua, the Sound Archives Nga Taonga Korero and the collections of the TVNZ Archive. The formal name of the organisation is The New Zealand Archive of Film, Television and Sound Nga Taonga Whithiahua Me Nga Taonga Korero. It is responsible for the preservation and accessibility of the national audiovisual collection.

The new organisation is built on the foundations of the former Film Archive, a charitable trust established in 1981, and has significant obligations to Radio New Zealand and Television New Zealand which are detailed in service contracts with each of them. It also addresses archiving provisions of the legislation for the New Zealand Film Commission, NZ On Air and Te Mangai Paho. The merged collection contains approximately 850,000 film, television and audio titles from 1895 to the present day. It has a staff of 75 and an operating budget of \$7,575,000 (GST exclusive). In 2014-15 it will receive 60% of its income from Vote: Arts, Culture and Heritage, 15% from the Lottery Grants Board, 7.5% from Vote: Maori Affairs and the balance (17.5%) from operating charges, grants and sponsorship. Since 1990 the Archive has received a fixed percentage (0.5%) of the Lottery Grants Board's annual income.

Nga Taonga Sound & Vision owns a six-level building in central Wellington which houses a cinema, gallery and libraries as well as technical facilities and offices for 47 staff. It has recently built a specialist film and video storage facility in Plimmerton and a nitrate film bunker in Titahi Bay. The Archive also has 12 staff in Christchurch, 4 in Auckland and 12 at the former TVNZ Archive in Avalon, Lower Hutt.

Outlook

In the year ahead the priority for Nga Taonga Sound & Vision is to complete and consolidate the transformation process. Following a review of governance, structure and capability requested by the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage in the 2013-14 Memorandum of Understanding, it has carried out wide-ranging internal changes and adopted a new brand. The organisation will have to combine the preservation and public access traditions of the Film Archive with the production library needs of the two state broadcasters. There are considerable challenges in bringing together the objectives, processes and staff of three different archives and at the same time meeting a wide range of user expectations.

The longer term strategy will be formalised over the next six months, with particular reference to the expectations of the previous Ministers of Broadcasting and Arts, Culture and Heritage that a substantial proportion of the collections should be digitised and made available online by 2018. It is anticipated that the new Nga Taonga Sound & Vision Strategic Plan will be completed by May 2015.

Film

Many already successful Film Archive programmes will continue into the new era including the film preservation project Saving Frames, the nationwide Travelling Film Show and a joint venture with the Australian Film and Sound Archive to launch an Anzac World War I website in 2015. Around 100 films depicting New Zealand's involvement in World War I previously thought lost will be repatriated and provided to documentary makers and community screening organisers over the next three years. At present the Archive's online audience is over 600,000 per year and thousands more experience the collections through screenings, exhibitions and research sites throughout the country.

The Archive is working closely with the New Zealand Film Commission on the preservation and digitisation of feature films and in 2014 opened a specialist storage facility for at-risk nitrate film stock in partnership with Archives NZ. The international archive community has saluted New Zealand's contribution to the saving of world cinema heritage through its preservation of nitrate films from the early 20th Century.

Sound

The sound collections are at the mid-point of a large scale digitisation project funded by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage with the aim of preserving many of New Zealand's earliest recordings and the full spectrum of the country's radio history. Material from the collections will feature in a variety of World War I projects, including radio and television productions and installations for museums and galleries. In collaboration with Archives New Zealand, the Archive is making progress towards establishing a permanent base in Christchurch following the loss of the former Sound Archives premises in the 2011 earthquakes.

Television

While the broadcasting support service for TVNZ is maintained, the TVNZ Archive collection will be assessed for digitisation with benefits expected for major collection users including the Maori Television Service, NZ On Screen and the Ministry for Culture and Heritage's websites. In combination with the Film Archive's extensive holdings from independent producers, the greatly expanded television collection will provide the basis for enhanced public programmes and a greater use of heritage material in new documentary productions.

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