## **Conference**

## Information, Ethics and

## the Public Good

**9 – 10 October** **2015**



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How can we improve the quality of information

available for our democracy, in the media,

and to and from the government?

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**St Andrews on The Terrace**

**Wellington, New Zealand**

**PROGRAMME**

**Friday, 9 October**

**St. Andrew’s Church – Information, Ethics and the Public Good**

7.00 Dr Jim Cunningham – Welcome

 Jan Rivers – Overview: Public Access to Quality Information

 **Key notes**

7.30 Dr Christopher Longhurst – Information for the Common Good: A Philosophical Perspective

 Valerie Morse – *What IF?* and *Stop the Spies* Campaign

 Alastair Thompson – Scoop Media: Take Back the News

9.00 Dr Jim Cunningham – Closing message

9.15 Thistle Inn, Katherine Mansfield Room

**Saturday, 10 October**

**St Andrew’s Church**

9.00 **Keynotes**

Graham Miller – Summary of Friday evening

Jeff Kelly Lowenstein – On Journalism (via Skype)

Phil Stevens – Poverty of Economic Information

Facilitated discussions to identify key issues

10.30 **Morning Tea**

11.00 **What Are We Already Doing?**

Suzanne Snively – Transparency International

 Dr Peter Thompson – Funding Public Interest Broadcasting

 Alex Clark – The News Renewed

 Greg Rzesniowiecki – Impact of TPPA to Councils

 Questions and Answers

12.30 Lunch

**1.30 St Andrew’s Hall – New Ways of Exploring Information**

 Cath Wallace – Open Government Charter

 Oliver Lineham – Official Information

 Laura O’Connell Rapira – Action Station

 Caleb Tutty – Data Journalism

 Facilitated workshops to create plans for action

15.30 Jim Cunningham – Wrap Up

16.00 Close

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| Our vision for New Zealand’s democracy |
| That the New Zealand government acts legally, ethically and democratically in all aspects of its work | That the New Zealand media provides a balanced and robust forum for information and debate about the quality of New Zealand’s democracy | That New Zealanders are well informed about democracy and actively engage in democratic processes and protecting these  |
| Recommendation 1: **Shout out for democracy** | Recommendation 2: **Improving the media landscape** | Recommendation 3: **Democracy education to citizens** |
| To shout out when New Zealand’s democratic principles are being upheld or undermined.  Principals include:* Respect
* Transparency
* Political Equality
* Proper process
* Rule of law
* Protection of human rights including minority rights
 | To improve the quality of media channels and reporting in New Zealand about democracy through supporting:* Ethical journalistic standards
* Diverse and independent media channels
* Public good funding models
 | To support information and education for New Zealanders on citizenship and democracy including:* The current status of our democracy (based also on our democratic history)
* *Tangata whenua* and democracy
* Actions citizens can take in support of a robust democracy
* Information about other models.
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The conference this year follows on from the 2014 Conference titled “Democracy, Ethics and the Public Good.” The aims of the 2015 conference are:

* **To engage participants in new thinking on information provision and to identify some of the barriers that may stand in the way.**
* **To create a *kete* of tools for action that individuals and communities can take to help improve the quality of public information we receive and our ability to contextualise and evaluate it.**
* **To provide vehicles for media, community organisations, business and politicians to understand and advocate for improved public information**
* **To build the community of people interested in advocating for improved quality of public information**
* **To build the profile of and the ability of the organisations represented to work for an Aotearoa/ NZ society that has excellent public information delivered by government and media**

The 2015 Conference is supported by:

* St Andrew’s Trust for the Study of Religion and Society (SATRS): The purpose of SATRS is to provide learning opportunities for people in Wellington and beyond to engage in critiquing and valuing developments in religion, spirituality, arts and sciences during changing economic and political times.
* Public Good: A better quality of democracy for New Zealand a Strong Public Sector, Genuine Democracy and Engagement, and Community Wealth

Organisations represented are: Public Good, Action Station, Coalition for Better Broadcasting, Scoop Media, Transparency International, It’s Our Future, FYI.ORG.NZ, Whatif? And the Stop the Spies Campaign, Living Economies, the News renewed and the St Andrews Trust for the Study of Religion and Society.

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