

ANNOUNCEMENT

FAIRFAX COMPLETES ACQUISITION OF NEW ZEALAND PUBLISHING BUSINESS

WELLINGTON NZ, June 30, 2003 – Following a vote of approval by 94% of the shareholders of Independent Newspapers Limited [NZSE:INL], John Fairfax Holdings Limited [ASX:FXJ] today completed its purchase of INL's New Zealand publishing business, paying \$NZ1.188 billion cash.

Mr Fred Hilmer, Chief Executive Officer of Fairfax, said:

“The acquisition of these prime publishing assets will contribute strongly to our future growth.

“We welcome the staff in New Zealand into our company, and look forward to working with them.

“This is an historic day for Fairfax, and we face the future with confidence.”

Mr Brian Evans, Chief Executive Officer of Fairfax New Zealand Ltd (the new company name under which the business will trade), said:

“We are taking forward a strong and successful business. The publications are performing well and the trading outlook is positive.

“I am particularly pleased with the reception we have been given by the staff.

“From our work with the senior team since we undertook this initiative in April, we have become even more impressed with the people, the publications and the opportunities ahead. Their values – quality and excellence in journalism and production, strong ties to the communities and readers they serve, and partnership with advertisers – have long been our values.”

Mr Evans said that Peter O'Hara will continue with the company and will serve as Chief Operating Officer.

Fairfax New Zealand (www.fairfaxnz.co.nz) includes two metropolitan daily newspapers (The Dominion Post in Wellington and The Press in Christchurch), two national Sunday newspapers (the Sunday Star-Times and Sunday News), 7 regional dailies and 53 community publications. It also publishes 13 magazine titles (including TV Guide, New Zealand House and Garden, and Cuisine); and includes Gordon and Gotch, which distributes approximately 55% of all magazines in New Zealand, and the stuff website (www.stuff.co.nz).

A special message to readers and advertisers will appear in Fairfax New Zealand's daily newspapers tomorrow.

-- ENDS --

For further information, please contact

Bruce Wolpe, Fairfax, +61-2 9282 3640

Brian Evans, Fairfax New Zealand +64-4 496 9800

Fairfax New Zealand website: www.fairfaxnz.co.nz

-- ENDS --

Contact:

Bruce Wolpe

Corporate Affairs (02) 9282 3640