

**John Fairfax Holdings Limited**  
**ABN 15 008 663 161**

**ASX Appendix 4D**  
**for the half year ended 31 December 2005**

The information contained in this document should be read in conjunction with the John Fairfax Holdings Limited Half Year Report for the half year ended 31 December 2005 and the John Fairfax Holdings Limited Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2005 and any public announcements made by John Fairfax Holdings Limited and its controlled entities during the year in accordance with continuous disclosure obligations arising under the ASX Listing Rules.

# Results for announcement to the market

for the half year ended 31 December 2005

## John Fairfax Holdings Limited and its controlled entities

			Change \$' 000	Dec 2005 \$' 000
<b>Underlying</b>				
Revenue from operations activities	up	4.4%	41,010 to	977,617
Net profit (post PRESSES) from operating activities after income tax attributable to members	up	5.2%	6,181 to	124,839
<b>Reported</b>				
Revenue from continuing activities	up	4.4%	41,605 to	978,212
Net profit (post PRESSES) from operating activities after income tax attributable to members	down	4.6%	(5,822) to	119,905

## Commentary on results for the half year period

Excluding the effects of significant and non-recurring items in the current and previous corresponding period, the key highlights of trading performance of the Company for the six months ended 31 December 2005 are:

- Trading revenue increased 4.4% to \$977.6 million.
- Earnings before interest and tax increased 4.5% to \$223.5 million.
- Net profit after tax and OEI increased 5.2% to \$124.8 million.
- Earnings per share increased 3.6%, to 13.45 cents.
- Dividend declared of 8 cents per share fully franked.

Significant and non-recurring items during the half were comprised of the share of profits from an associated company, Australian Associated Press Pty Limited of \$4.4 million, which sold one of its operating divisions in the period and restructuring costs of \$13.3m.

For further comments, refer to press release.

<b>Dividends</b>	<b>Amount per security</b>	<b>Franked amount per security</b>
<b>31 December 2005</b>		
Interim dividend – ordinary securities	8.0¢	8.0¢
Record date for determining entitlements to the ordinary dividend	16 March 2006	
Interim dividend – PRESSES*	\$3.7101	\$3.7101
Record date for determining entitlements to the PRESSES dividend	1 December 2005	
* Under AIFRS, the PRESSES were reclassified as a financial liability and the dividends on the PRESSES reclassified as an interest expense in the income statement.		
<b>31 December 2004</b>		
Interim dividend – ordinary securities	7.5¢	7.5¢
Interim dividend – PRESSES	\$3.7710	\$3.7710

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**December  
2005  
\$' 000**

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## Dividends paid and payable

### Dividends paid during the half year

Fully franked final dividend of 16.0 cents per share paid 11 October 2005	<b>147,953</b>
Fully franked PRESSES dividend of \$3.7710 per share paid 12 December 2005	-
<b>Total dividends paid</b>	<b>147,953</b>

### Dividends proposed and not recognised as a liability

Since the end of the half-year the directors have declared an interim dividend of 8 cents per fully paid ordinary share fully franked at the corporate tax rate of 30%. The aggregate amount of the interim dividend to be paid on 12 April 2006 out of the retained profits at 31 December 2005, but not recognised as a liability at the end of the half year is expected to be \$74.9 million.

### Franking credits available

The Company's franking account balance as at 31 December 2005 is \$82.5 million. This balance represents the tax-paid amount and equates to a fully franked distributable dividend of \$192.6 million.

### Dividend Reinvestment Plan (DRP)

Under the John Fairfax Holdings Limited DRP, eligible shareholders are able to elect to reinvest their dividends in additional Fairfax shares, free of any brokerage or other transaction costs. Shares are issued and/or transferred to DRP participants at a predetermined price, less any discount that the directors may elect from time to time. The directors have resolved not to apply a discount to the interim dividend for 2006.

The DRP will include the payment of the interim dividend for the half year ended 31 December 2005. The last date for the receipt of an election notice for participation in the plan for the interim dividend is 16 March 2006. Shares will be issued on 12 April 2006 in respect of the interim dividend.

The DRP issue price in relation to the interim dividend for the half year ended 31 December 2005 will be based on the arithmetic average of the daily volume weighted average sale price of John Fairfax Holdings Limited shares traded on the stock exchange from 20 March 2006 to 31 March 2006 inclusive, excluding any trades that do not qualify under the terms of the DRP.

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<b>December 2005 \$' 000</b>	December 2004 \$' 000
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## Investments in associates

Carrying amount of investment in associate	<b>12,582</b>	7,453
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The consolidated entity has the following ownership interests in both Australia and New Zealand:

<b>Associate</b>	<b>Ownership interest</b>
Australian Associated Press Pty Limited	44.7%
Newspaper House Limited	45.5%
New Zealand Press Association Limited	36.9%
Times Newspapers Limited	50.0%

	<b>December 2005 \$'000</b>	December 2004 \$'000
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### Investments in associates (continued)

<b>Share of associates' profit</b>		
Share of associates' profit before income tax	6,110	736
Share of associates' income tax (expense) attributable to profit	<u>(1,872)</u>	<u>(211)</u>
Share of associates' net profit	<u>4,238</u>	<u>515</u>
Contribution to net profit	<u>4,238</u>	<u>515</u>

### Investments in joint ventures

Carrying amount of investment in joint ventures	<u>1,139</u>	<u>1,138</u>
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The consolidated entity has the following ownership interests in both Australia and New Zealand:

<b>Joint Ventures</b>	<b>Ownership interest</b>
Text Pacific Pty Limited	50.0%
Victorian Lifestyle Property Pty Limited	50.0%

	<b>December 2005 \$'000</b>	December 2004 \$'000
<b>Share of joint ventures' profit</b>		
Share of joint ventures' profit before income tax	788	933
Share of joint ventures' income tax (expense) attributable to profit	<u>(239)</u>	<u>(280)</u>
Share of joint ventures' net profit	<u>549</u>	<u>653</u>
Contribution to net profit	<u>549</u>	<u>653</u>

	<b>December 2005</b>	December 2004
<b>Net tangible assets per security</b>		

Net tangible asset backing per ordinary security	(43.4)¢	(47.5)¢
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### Control gained over entities during the half year

The consolidated entity gained control over the following entities in Australia and New Zealand during the half year:

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Date of control</b>	<b>Ownership interest</b>
rsvp.com.au	8 July 2005	100%
Rodney Times Newspaper Group Publications	3 September 2005	100%

### Loss of control of entities during the half year

The consolidated entity did not lose control over any entity (or group of entities) during the half year.

# John Fairfax Holdings Limited

## Schedule of movements on underlying performance

December 2004	As reported		Adjustment		As reported		Adjustment		Underlying trading performance	
	Note	Previous AGAAP Dec-04 6 months \$'000	Note	AIFRS Only Dec-04 6 months \$'000	Note	Adjusted AIFRS Dec-04 6 months \$'000	Note	Significant items only Dec-04 6 months \$'000	Adjusted AIFRS Dec-04 6 months \$'000	Previous AGAAP Dec-04 6 months \$'000
Revenue from Operating Activities	(i)	945,253	(vi)	-8,646		936,607		-	936,607	945,253
Associate profits	(ii)	1,168		-		1,168		-	1,168	1,168
Expenses (including impairment write-down)	(iii)	687,784	(vi) (vii)	-8,365		679,419	(viii)	4,039	683,458	691,823
<b>Operating EBITDA</b>		<b>258,637</b>		<b>-281</b>		<b>258,356</b>		<b>-4,039</b>	<b>254,317</b>	<b>254,598</b>
Depreciation & amortisation	(iv)	41,660	(vii)	-1,180		40,480		0	40,480	41,660
<b>EBIT</b>		<b>216,977</b>		<b>899</b>		<b>217,876</b>		<b>-4,039</b>	<b>213,837</b>	<b>212,938</b>
Net interest expense	(v)	39,225	(vii)	-930		38,295		-	38,295	39,225
Profit before tax		177,752		1,829		179,581		-4,039	175,542	173,713
Tax expense/(benefit)		44,266	(vii)	-142		44,124	(viii)	3,030	47,154	47,296
<b>Net profit pre PRESSES</b>		<b>133,486</b>		<b>1,971</b>		<b>135,457</b>		<b>-7,069</b>	<b>128,388</b>	<b>126,417</b>
Net profit attributable to outside equity interest		302		-		302		-	302	302
<b>Net profit attributable to members of the company</b>		<b>133,184</b>		<b>1,971</b>		<b>135,155</b>		<b>-7,069</b>	<b>128,086</b>	<b>126,115</b>
Adjusted for PRESSES		9,428		-		9,428		-	9,428	9,428
<b>Net profit post PRESSES</b>		<b>123,756</b>		<b>1,971</b>		<b>125,727</b>		<b>-7,069</b>	<b>118,658</b>	<b>116,687</b>

December 2005	As reported		Adjustments		Underlying trading performance					
	Note	AIFRS Dec-05 6 months \$'000	Note	Adjusted AIFRS Dec-04 6 months \$'000	Note	Significant items only Dec-05 6 months \$'000	Note	Significant items only Dec-04 6 months \$'000	AIFRS Dec-05 6 months \$'000	Adjusted AIFRS Dec-04 6 months \$'000
Revenue from Operating Activities	(i)	977,617		936,607		-		-	977,617	936,607
Associate profits	(ii)	4,789		1,168	(viii)	-4,380		-	409	1,168
Expenses (including impairment write-down)	(iii)	728,419		679,419	(viii)	-13,305		4,039	715,114	683,458
<b>Operating EBITDA</b>		<b>253,987</b>		<b>258,356</b>		<b>8,925</b>		<b>-4,039</b>	<b>262,912</b>	<b>254,317</b>
Depreciation & amortisation	(iv)	39,380		40,480		-		-	39,380	40,480
<b>EBIT</b>		<b>214,607</b>		<b>217,876</b>		<b>8,925</b>		<b>-4,039</b>	<b>223,532</b>	<b>213,837</b>
Net interest expense (including PRESSES in Dec05)	(v)	48,831		38,295		-		-	48,831	38,295
Profit before tax		165,776		179,581		8,925		-4,039	174,701	175,542
Tax expense/(benefit)		45,561		44,124	(viii)	3,991		3,030	49,552	47,154
<b>Net Profit After Tax</b>		<b>120,215</b>		<b>135,457</b>		<b>4,934</b>		<b>-7,069</b>	<b>125,149</b>	<b>128,388</b>
<b>Net profit attributable to members of the company</b>		<b>119,905</b>		<b>135,155</b>		<b>4,934</b>		<b>-7,069</b>	<b>124,839</b>	<b>128,086</b>
Adjusted for PRESSES		-		9,428		-		-	-	9,428
<b>Net profit post PRESSES</b>		<b>119,905</b>		<b>125,727</b>		<b>4,934</b>		<b>-7,069</b>	<b>124,839</b>	<b>118,658</b>

### Notes:

- (i) Revenue from ordinary activities excluding interest income.
- (ii) Share of net profits of associates and joint ventures.
- (iii) Expenses from ordinary activities excluding depreciation and borrowing costs.
- (iv) Depreciation and amortisation.
- (v) Interest income less borrowing costs.
- (vi) Reclassification of revenue from non-operating activities (\$8,646) in 31 December 2004 results to net gain/loss on disposals within operating expenses from continuing activities.
- (vii) Adjustments relate to the transition to Australian equivalents to IFRS (AIFRS) – refer to note 10(ii) in the half year financial report for more detailed explanation.
- (viii) Significant and non-recurring item (Note 3(d): half year financial report ended 31 December 2005).