



## RESIGNATION OF FAIRFAX NEW ZEALAND CEO, JOAN WITHERS

SYDNEY, 13 March, 2009: Joan Withers today announced her resignation as CEO, Fairfax Media, New Zealand. Joan will leave the Company on 30 June, 2009.

Joan came into the CEO role in July 2005 after serving on the John Fairfax Holdings Limited Board in Australia. Her initial fixed term contract was for 3 years. This was subsequently extended to carry on into 2009.

Joan had signalled some time ago that her intention was to retire from full time executive life at this time to resume some of the activities and interests she was pursuing prior to her appointment as CEO.

“It has been an absolute privilege to lead such a great company with a wonderful team of talented staff for the last four years.

“I have a deep affection for Fairfax and the important role Fairfax media plays in the operation of a free and democratic society. I am proud of the quality and integrity of our journalism and of our print and on-line mastheads and assets throughout New Zealand.

I express my sincere thanks to my senior management team and the many managers and staff for their support and the contribution they have made to ensuring Fairfax is a strong successful business. I have been fortunate in my career to work with many senior management teams and the team at Fairfax are superb by any comparison.

The Chief Executive of Fairfax Media, Mr Brian McCarthy said,

“Joan has been an outstanding CEO of Fairfax Media in New Zealand. Under her leadership Fairfax has grown and diversified to become NZ’s leading media company. With its excellent newspaper, magazine and digital assets the New Zealand business is well placed for continued success into the future.

I wish to thank Joan very much for her contribution to Fairfax Media.”

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