

Pride In Print media release (July 11, 2025)

Publications Newspapers Category prized by NZME

NZME Ellerslie Print has taken out the Publications Newspapers Category at the 2025 Pride in Print Awards for faultless production of The Weekend Sun Issue 1233.

Judges commented: "It is very-well printed, clean and with no marks. When jobs like this go on the press, they do not come off – there is no print-and-go-again – and these guys get it right, every week from prepress right through to production for a well-supported, community newspaper, that also provides an income for about ten people."

NZME external print manager Mike Horler said the firm's Ellerslie print staff were "thrilled to have received such a prestigious award".

"This recognition serves as a great motivational tool, reinforcing the site's values and commitment to newspapers," he said.

"It also highlights the team's efforts in maintaining quality and reducing waste."

Mr Horler explained that SunMedia was established around 2000 by Claire and Brian Rogers, a couple from Tauranga, to serve the North Island's Bay of Plenty region.

"After Brian's passing in 2022, Claire continued to manage the company.

"On March 5, 2024, SunMedia and its assets were acquired by NZME. As part of the acquisition, all 28 SunMedia employees – including 17 permanent and fixed-term staff – received conditional employment offers from NZME.

"Claire mentioned that this acquisition would help sustain local journalism and advertising in Tauranga and the surrounding areas. NZME chief executive Michael Boggs concurred that the acquisition reflected NZME's dedication to local journalism, its strategy to serve local communities and advertisers, and its commitment to providing a digital news service."

For further information, please contact Pride In Print Awards manager Tania McDougall, tania.mcdougall@printnz.co.nz, 021 587 072