

## PRESS RELEASE

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### INAUGURAL AWARD OF BRIAN GAYNOR BUSINESS JOURNALISM INITIATIVE FUNDING

The Brian Gaynor Business Journalism Initiative is funding three applications in its inaugural Business Writing & Journalism Excellence Award.

The awards are part of a \$2 million endowment administered by the Milford Foundation.

The three successful applicants for 2023 are:

#### For business writing:

- Jonathan Milne from Newsroom – \$25,000 for a difficult business news investigation likely to require international travel. The subject matter of the story is protected as a part of the funding agreement with Newsroom.
- Thomas Coughlan from NZME – \$5,000 for a climate-focused investigation that has significant importance for New Zealand and its immediate neighbours.

#### For professional development:

- Victoria Young from BusinessDesk – \$4,600 to attend the Offshore Alerts Conference in Bangkok and to share what she learns with peers on return to New Zealand.

Specific details on the business writing projects will be disclosed when the expected outputs are published.

Anna Gibbons, who set up the initiative in honour of her husband Brian Gaynor and who chairs the selection panel, said:

“I was delighted to see such a large number of quality applications. It facilitated strong debate among my fellow panellists and ensured that the standard of the successful applicants was high.

“A key consideration in the decision-making process was answering the question: *What would Brian think?*

“In that regard, I am very confident that he would have supported this year’s recipients, who I would like to congratulate for their exceptional submissions. Well done Jonathan Milne from Newsroom, Thomas Coughlan from The New Zealand Herald, and Victoria Young from BusinessDesk,” says Anna.

The independent selection panel comprised Anna Gibbons (chair), Patrick Smellie, Nikki Mandow and Geoff Senescall.

“This is the first award application, and we hope that next year, when we open up the process again, we will see continued strong support and quality submissions.

“Brian believed deeply in journalism and the role of the Fourth Estate in a properly functioning democracy. Supporting quality business journalism with these awards is a legacy he leaves and that I share.

“I would like to thank all those who submitted applications this year. We fully realise the time it took out of busy workloads. We look forward to reviewing the next wave of applications and investigative story ideas as well as professional development submissions.”

**Ends**

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