

## PRESS RELEASE

14 February 2025

### **BRIAN GAYNOR BUSINESS JOURNALISM INITIATIVE ANNOUNCES FOUR BUSINESS JOURNALISM GRANTS IN SECOND FUNDING ROUND SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2023**

*Two are investigative projects and two are upskilling investments*

When business writer, commentator and fund manager Brian Gaynor died suddenly in May 2022, his wife Anna Gibbons knew the best legacy for a man known for his passionate advocacy of business journalism was to launch a foundation in New Zealand to encourage and fund excellence in the field.

Now in its second year, the Brian Gaynor Initiative (BGI) has announced its awards for 2024/2025 - two for investigative business journalism projects and two for professional development opportunities leading to increased industry knowledge and expertise.

#### **The successful applicants are:**

##### **For investigative business stories:**

- **Cecile Meier**, a freelance journalist working with NZME/BusinessDesk for an investigation into New Zealand's plastic waste
- **Rebecca Styles**, Consumer NZ, for an investigation into the home insurance market in New Zealand.

##### **For professional development leading to increased industry expertise:**

- **Matt Nippert**, NZ Herald, to complete the Bellingcat Open Source investigative journalism course, including working on a story about illicit cargo and financial flows around the Pacific
- **Hamish McNicol**, NBR, to take the LSE online certificate of financial analysis and management accounting.

As part of getting funding for their programmes, Matt and Hamish will feed back to BGI on the quality/effectiveness of their courses. Also, in discussion with BGI, they will look at how what they learnt from their courses can be used to upskill others in the business journalism community.

BGI congratulates all the successful applicants.

**ENDS**

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