

# Media Minefield "a great book"

**L**AWYER and journalist Steven Price has produced "a great book" in *Media Minefield*, Law Commissioner John Burrows QC said when launching the new work at Victoria University on 16 October.

Professor Burrows is well qualified to make such an assessment, being the author (along with Canterbury University Associate Professor Ursula Cheer) of *Media Law in New Zealand*.

"I honestly couldn't put it down - it's a page-turner," Professor Burrows said. "Every newsroom should have one."

The book provided "good, sound advice presented in a way anyone can read it".

Its aim is to help people navigate their way through the minefield of laws, standards and regulations that affect the media in this country.

The first two parts summarise the decisions of the Broadcasting Standards Authority and the Press Council.

Part three offers an explanation of the laws of contempt, defamation, privacy, breach of confidence and trespass.

Part four offers advice for handling complaints against journalists.

"I think it is a magnificent piece of work," former Executive Director of the Journalists Training Organisation, Jim Tucker told the launch.

"It will be an essential tool for every journalist and editor engaged in the act of publishing or broadcasting, because such activities engage a minefield of risk and dire consequences for getting it wrong."

Author Steven Price "has produced something we desperately needed," he said. "I think this is going to be the central guide in every newsroom in New Zealand."

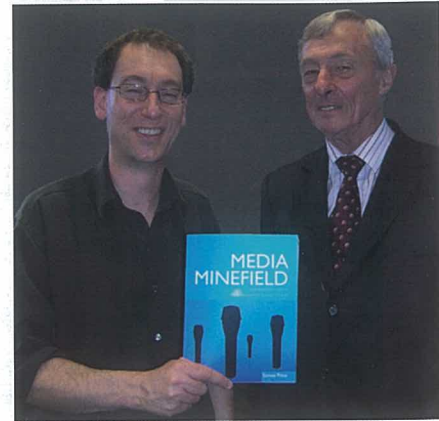
Just as John Burrows is well placed to comment on a new work on media law, so Steven Price is an ideal person to write such a text.

After graduating from Victoria University with a BA/LLB with first class honours, he worked at Kensington Swan for a few years. His main client was *Fair Go*.

"It dawned on me that journalists had more fun, so I landed a Fulbright scholarship and headed over to Berkeley," he says. At Berkeley's University of California, he completed a Master of Journalism.

Steven Price teaches media law at Victoria University and regularly comments on media matters for radio and various publications. He has offered legal advice on Nicky Hager's recent books, and this year argued the successful appeal against a High Court decision to ban Anne Hunt's book *Broken Silence* (CA 114/06 [2007] NZCA 332, *Anne Hunt v A*).

He took two years to write the book, a task he fitted around his regular work. **LI**



Steven Price and Professor John Burrows QC at the launch of *Media Minefield*.



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