

June 2026

NZFC NEWSLETTER



Funding issue

Kia ora koutou katoa,

*Mānawa maiea te putanga o Matariki.
Mānawa maiea te ariki o te rangi.
Mānawa maiea te Mātahi o te tau*

*Celebrate the rising of Matariki.
Celebrate the rising of the lord of the sky.
Celebrate the rising of the New Year.*

He mihi mahana mō te wā makariri! Warm greetings this cold season, while we await the arising of Matariki and the arrival of te Tau Hou Māori. This is a time to remember those who have passed, to celebrate the present, and look forward hopefully to the future.

Although the industry here and around the world continues to feel the strain, I'm reminded to celebrate the many small and large successes of our talented filmmakers. Most recently films that we have supported have won awards at Tribeca (*Crocodile*) and Sydney (*Sukundimi Walks Before Me*) Film Festivals, and five funded New Zealand features are in cinema. *Tenor: My Name is Pati* nears the end of its theatrical run with over \$1.1million taken at the local box office.

Also to celebrate are the recent changes to the NZSPR that unlock the 40% rebate for NZ feature films with a NZ spend of \$1million and over. We know this is welcome news for many in our filmmaking community.

We hope to see you at BSS, where we'll update you with what we anticipate the next 12 months will hold for us all.

Mānawatia a Matariki!

Ainsley Gardiner - Head of Funding

Rights, licensing and royalties

We're pleased to welcome Tamara George as Rights, Licensing and Royalties Modernisation Project Executive. Tamara takes over this role following Tom Hill's departure. As part of this mahi, we're starting a phased departure from our collection agency activity.

The planning and preparation for this work has been underway for some time to ensure we can offer NZ films and filmmakers the best possible options for the collection of revenue. The next phase will be film specific as each film has a different set of circumstances to be considered. This will take some time, and we appreciate your continued patience.

Tamara will be in touch directly with each Producer/Rights Holder over the coming period. If you have any immediate questions, please feel free to contact her at: Tamara.George@nzfilm.co.nz.

He Pae Matarau – The Everyone Project

On 1 July, the NZFC, NZ On Air, and Te Māngai Pāho are launching Te Pae Matarau - The Everyone Project Aotearoa. This is a survey tool that measures demographics in the screen sector.

New Zealand does not currently collect consistent, screen workforce data across roles and productions. Te Pae Matarau fills this gap, enabling a clearer picture of who is working in the sector. Over time, this will help identify workforce trends, supporting more targeted investment in training, capability-building and workforce development initiatives.

We will be presenting on Te Pae Matarau alongside NZ On Air and Te Māngai Pāho at the Big Screen Symposium on Friday 3 July. We invite you to come along to this session and find out more about the tool, how it works and how it will enhance our understanding of the screen sector in Aotearoa.

Catch up with the Funding Team

We're hosting a **Filmmaker Ask Me Anything (AMA)** on 16 July. Click [here](#) to RSVP.

Filmmaker Cuppa Teas

- Christchurch - 27 July, 4pm, location Kōawa Studios. Hosted by Screen Canterbury. To RSVP, and for any enquiries please contact, [Screen Canterbury](#).
- Dunedin - 28 July, 5:30pm, location TBC. Hosted by Film Dunedin. To RSVP, and for any enquiries please contact, Stefan.Roesch@dcc.govt.nz

Keep an eye on our socials for updates.

Filmmaker Cuppa Teas in Auckland and Wellington will be in September/October, details to follow in the next newsletter.

Funding rounds

[Feature Film Production Investment \(September 2026\)](#)

- Applications open
- Applications close: 13 July
- Board meeting: 22-23 September

[He Pounamu Te Reo Māori Feature Film Production Investment](#)

- Applications open 15 June
- Application deadline: 13 July (submissions are welcome anytime, but assessment and decision timing will align with board meetings)
- Board meeting: 22-23 September

He Pounamu Te Reo Feature Film development

He Kupu, He Ao Wānanga – Wahanga Tuarua will be held in August 2026 in Rotorua. Invitations have gone out to those who attended the first wānanga or have te reo Māori projects in development with us. If you have a te reo Māori script and wish to apply, please contact rautaki@nzfilm.co.nz

Industry Development Fund Update:

Strand 2 will no longer be open at all times, but will instead run in conjunction with Strand 1. Next application round for Strand 1 and 2:

- Applications open 20 July 2026
- Application deadline: 24 August 2026,1pm

Always Open

- [Feature Film Development Funding](#)
- [Feature Film Finishing Grant](#)
- [Filmmaker International Travel Grant](#)

Tomo Mai application portal updates coming soon

Over the coming months we will be enhancing our Tomo Mai application portal and processes to make it easier to submit applications and manage contracts. There will be an updated look and feel to make applications easier to navigate and complete, and online contract acceptance, which will remove the need to sign documents through Docusign. We'll also start to capture your bank account details on Tomo Mai, which will remove manual processing and meet our anti-money laundering requirements.

Key reminders:

- Don't forget to complete the Key Creative section as part of your application. You must include yourself and all other key creatives (Screenwriter(s), Director(s), Producer(s) and for documentaries Researchers/Writers). This means adding each key creative (including the applicant) in the Key Creative section and clicking on the blue button: *Key Creative*.
- The Development and FFFG rounds close at the end of the financial year (30 June) and re-open on 1 July, the following day. Please note that if you start an application before 30 June and it is not submitted by then, you will need to start that application again in the new round.

Funding decisions

Feature Film Development Funding, March 2026 – May 2026

- A Beautiful Family, Finola Dwyer, Niki Caro, Norelle Scott
- Eira, Alyx Duncan
- In The Wake, Matt Noonan, Danielle Cormack, Sarah Walker
- Sweet Lips, Catherine Fitzgerald, Maea Tamasese, Tusi Tamasese
- Taniwha, Kingi Rummler, Lani Feltham, Emma Mortimer
- Taxed, Keisha Castle-Hughes, Frankie Adams, Luciane Buchanan
- The Family Tree, Miki Magasiva, Dana Felbab
- Tū, Himiona Grace
- When the Law Falls, Julia Parnell, Lizzie Gillett, Sarah Noonan, Julia Parnell, Karen Bartlett
- Zahra, no H, Rouzie Hassanova, Amanda Jenkins, Gergana Stankova

Feature Film Production Investment, March 2026 – May 2026

- Untitled Music Documentary, Alex Reed, Gemma Gracewood, Oscar Kightley
- Atomic Paradise, John Harvey, Alexander Behse, Lisa Leilani Williams, Sally Aitken, Aline Jacques
- The Rebirth of Barbara Luggate, Jackie van Beek, Alix Whittaker, Ilai Amar
- Sweet Lips, Catherine Fitzgerald, Maea Tamasese, Tusi Tamasese

He Kauahi - Catalyst Short Film Fund (May 2026) Decisions

- Crossword, Alice Gatland, Ross Ozarka
- Fishbowl, Tū Māia Curtis, Anahera Parata
- Kill Room, Mason Cade Packer, Micah Winiata
- Reretau, Allie Howell, Pūmanawa Rawiri, Angel Kameta
- This Ordinary Life, Ghazaleh Gol, Ashleigh Roworth
- Tamaiti o le mau, Jacob Luamanuvae-Su'a, Jeremiah Tauamiti
- Timid Taniwha, Toi Rankin, Alex Moruo, Carrisse Uta'i

Feature Film Finishing Grant, March 2026 – May 2026

- A Dog's Show, Mark Westerby, Celia Jaspers, Alex Galvin
- Be Merry, Gwen Isaac
- The Weed Eaters, Annabel Kean, Alice May Connolly, Finnus Teppett
- Uncle, Ryan Alexander Lloyd, Rihari Te Are, Julia Brown
- Ranginui: Call of the Ice, Julia Sartorio, Miriama Kamo, Rangī Matamua, Mataia Keepa

Industry Development Fund – Strand 1 Funding Decisions

- First Market** – Vicky Pope, POP Film

A professional development initiative supporting up to 4 emerging NZ film producers to attend their first international financing market at 37 South Film Market, Melbourne.

- Aho Shorts Development Lab** - Ngā Aho Whakaari

Aho Shorts Development Lab is a talent development initiative that supports above-the-line Māori filmmakers working at short film level to develop stronger, completed short film pitch packages. Eleven participants in total.

Industry Development – Strand 2

- Re-indigenising Our Acting Practice** - Equity NZ with Miriama McDowell
- Waitaha Screenwriting Development Incubator** - Canterbury Screen Industry Association, Te Puna Matarau
- He Pātaka Purakau – Kōunga** - Feature writing intensive - Kokoko Creative

For all enquiries for these programmes, please contact the organisations directly. News on more upcoming projects will be shared soon. Click [here](#) for past funding decisions and [here](#) for a link to the Application Portal.



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