



**Media Release**

**Wednesday, 20 May 2009**

**AWARD-WINNING SENIOR JOURNALIST APPOINTED  
EDITOR OF THE DOMINION POST**

With more than 25 years' experience in England and New Zealand, Manawatu Standard editor Bernadette Courtney was today named editor of The Dominion Post.

Courtney succeeds the paper's founding editor Tim Pankhurst, who last month started as chief executive of industry organisation, the Newspaper Publishers' Association.

Prior to her editorial appointment at the Manawatu Standard in Palmerston North last November, Courtney had been assistant editor of The Dominion Post. She had earlier been chief reporter of the paper and its predecessor title, The Dominion, and has wide experience in daily and community newspaper journalism.

Announcing the appointment today, Dominion Post general manager Paul Elenio said Courtney had emerged from a strong field to take up the position editing the biggest daily newspaper title in the Fairfax Media group in New Zealand.

"We had an excellent field of candidates, both internal and external, who would have brought a wide range of strengths and abilities to the role.

"Our objective has been to appoint someone who will not only maintain the DomPost's reputation for setting the news agenda that Tim built, but will also further develop the paper and ensure it meets our readers' needs," he said.

At the Qantas Media Awards last week, Courtney received one of the major prizes on the night, winning best general news story in 2008 for breaking the Tony Veitch saga about his assault on his ex-partner.

Courtney last year completed a post graduate Certificate in Business at Auckland University and won Fairfax Media's most prestigious leadership award for her exceptional talent as an effective newsroom manager.

Fairfax group executive editor Paul Thompson said Courtney was a journalist and editorial leader of the highest calibre.

"Bernadette brings a wealth of skills and experience to the role, not only as a newsbreaking reporter but also as an editor who places an emphasis on developing staff and improving our journalism in print and online.

"Under her leadership, The Dominion Post and its staff will continue to flourish.

"We will immediately undertake the task of recruiting an excellent leader for our newspaper in Manawatu," he said.

Bernadette Courtney said she was looking forward to renewing her links with the DomPost and further developing its improving readership base.

“The DomPost has a fantastic pedigree as a newspaper that breaks exclusive stories and delivers a consistently great read. My intention is to continue that tradition. I have a passion for news – print and online - and for setting high standards in news coverage,” she said. “The DomPost has a talented team across the paper and I am looking forward to building on the paper’s considerable success.”

ENDS

For further information, please contact Dominion Post General Manager Paul Elenio by emailing: [paul.elenio@dompost.co.nz](mailto:paul.elenio@dompost.co.nz) or phoning: (04) 474-0323, 027 451 9968.