

## Submission to Copyright Act Review

It is important to protect and preserve content written by New Zealanders, about New Zealand. Many New Zealanders have talked about the first time they read Frank Sargeson or Katherine Mansfield or Margaret Mahy and recognised themselves and their country.

To be able to protect one's rights as a writer is essential. Writing a short story, novel, poetry, play or a piece of non-fiction takes time. It often requires research and spending time away from home and personal expense. A writer brings their own original voice to a work. It is unfair that this work could then be copied without acknowledgement or compensation. It is imperative that fair dealing remains as part of the act.

The Copyright Act was passed into law in 1994 before the arrival of the Internet. This changed the way access could be made to material and it was possible for work to be copied, either a whole book or a couple of chapters, without the knowledge of the author.

In the review of the Copyright Act the Government needs to ensure that protection is given to those who produce local content. This will benefit the individual author and also future generations.

### Personal Example:

When I began researching my book *Katherine Mansfield in Picton* (2000), I lived in Wellington and had easy access to the National Library archives, a car or bus journey away. I moved to Picton in 1990. I continued my research because I wanted to write the book and tell the Picton connection. Then I made several trips to Wellington to visit the archives and to search for relevant images. I ordered images that I paid for myself that I thought could possibly be included in the book. All the travel was also a personal expense but I felt sure that the book would be a success and I would be well-compensated.

More recently as the publisher did not want to reprint the book I asked for the rights to revert to me and had more copies printed by Copy Press in Nelson. The book continues to sell well because of the subject matter and local historical content and images.

I was acknowledged in some subsequent print publications but have no way of knowing if content was copied by others or is available free on the Internet. I communicated with Google when we heard that many books were going to be digitised and made available online. I had to write a letter and send it by registered post advising Google administrators that I did not want my book to be on their platform. I did this – but the effort involved took away from my writing time.

Julie Kennedy, April 2019

Member: NZ Society of Authors, Marlborough Writers, Picton Poets and Writers of Picton

Julie Kennedy

P O Box 502

Picton 7250

[www.juliekennedy.nz](http://www.juliekennedy.nz)

