



John McCready

John McCready is a notable figure in New Zealand's media industry, with a career spanning over five decades. His journey began at Wellington Technical College, which he attended from 1953 to 1956. He served as Head Boy of Bowen House and was a prefect, excelling in sports and representing the school in tennis, athletics, rugby and gymnastics. He was also a talented rugby league player, earning a spot on the North Island team and later playing for the senior Wellington representative side.

After his schooling, McCready started as a warehouse assistant at Philips Records New Zealand. His passion for popular music and sharp business sense quickly led to promotions, and by 1961 he was the A & R and Promo Manager, helping launch the careers of artists like Larry's Rebels and The La De Das. He became Sales Manager in 1964 and Marketing Manager in 1967, winning a Distinguished Salesman Award in 1969.

In 1970, as General Manager of Phonogram NZ, McCready pioneered the concept of TV-marketed compilation albums with *20 Solid Gold Hits*, which sold 90,000 copies and became an instant success. His career then went international, with roles at Phonogram UK, where he helped promote German band Kraftwerk, and Decca Records UK, where he repackaged albums for iconic artists like The Rolling Stones. He then became CEO of Motown UK and Director of International Marketing, working with legends like Marvin Gaye.

Returning to New Zealand in 1977, McCready founded his own record company, RTC, before joining CBS Records to launch its New Zealand operations. A brief stint as Managing Director of CBS Records Australia from 1981 to 1982 was followed by a return to radio.

As General Manager of Radio Hauraki from 1982 to 1987, McCready revitalized the station, taking it to the number one spot in Auckland and earning him Manager of the Year at the Australasian Radio Awards. He repeated this success at 89FM, taking the station from seventh to first place in Auckland from 1987 to 1989.

His proven track record in radio led to a new challenge in television. In 1989, he was appointed Manager of Presentation and Promotion at TVNZ to help the broadcaster compete with the newly launched TV3. He later became Director of Programming from 1990 to 1994.

After leaving TVNZ, McCready took on a role as Vice President of Programming for Scandinavian Broadcasting Service in London. He returned to New Zealand in 1996 to serve as Director of Programming and Marketing for Sky TV for four years. In 2002, he established his own company, The Living Channel New Zealand, which produced successful channels like The Living Channel and Food TV.