

Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

NEWS CORP LTD  
Form 6-K  
November 05, 2003

FORM 6-K

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of November 2003 (November 5, 2003)

THE NEWS CORPORATION LIMITED

-----  
(Name of Registrant)

2 Holt Street, Sydney, New South Wales, 2010, Australia

-----  
(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F:

Form 20-F  Form 40-F   
-----

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b) (1):

Yes  No   
-----

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b) (7):

Yes  No   
-----

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

Yes  No   
-----

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): Not Applicable

-----

Annexed hereto are copies of the announcements by The News Corporation Limited ("News Corporation") of its financial results for the quarter ended September 30, 2003 in U.S. and Australian dollars.

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

Such announcements were filed with the Australian Stock Exchange and released in New York on November 5, 2003.

### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

THE NEWS CORPORATION LIMITED

Date: November 5, 2003

By: /s/ Arthur M. Siskind

-----  
Arthur M. Siskind  
Director

### EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit -----	Page No. in Sequential Numbering System -----
A. Announcement made by News Corporation of its financial results in Australian dollars for the quarter ended September 30, 2003.	5
B. Announcement made by News Corporation of its financial results in U.S. dollars for the quarter ended September 30, 2003.	14

### EXHIBIT A

News Corporation

---

EARNINGS RELEASE FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER, 2003  
IN AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS

News Corporation Reports First Quarter Operating Income of A\$1.1 Billion, a 10% Increase, on Revenue Growth of 2%; Net Profit before Other Items Doubles to A\$589 Million; Net Profit Increases A\$349 Million to A\$644 Million

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

### QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Filmed Entertainment operating income more than doubles on robust home entertainment sales of film and television titles as well as strong syndication contributions.
- Sustained ratings and advertising growth at Regional Sports Networks and Fox News Channel drives 13% operating income growth on a US\$ basis at Cable Network Programming.
- Television Stations increase market share, grow operating income 7% in local currency terms; STAR delivers another quarter of profits; overall Television segment down due to the inclusion of American Idol in the quarter a year ago.
- Print businesses report higher earnings contributions in aggregate led by circulation revenue gains in U.K. newspapers, advertising demand in Australian newspapers and increased page volume at free-standing inserts.

SYDNEY, Australia--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov. 6, 2003--The News Corporation Limited (ASX: NCP, NCPDP) today reported first quarter consolidated revenues of A\$7.1 billion, a 2% increase over the A\$6.9 billion reported in the prior year, and consolidated operating income of A\$1.1 billion. These results, representing a 10% increase over the A\$996 million reported a year ago were achieved despite the inclusion of A\$178 million in losses from SKY Italia in the current quarter. The year-on-year operating income growth was driven primarily by a two-fold increase at Filmed Entertainment as well as a 50% increase at the Newspaper segment partially offset by the unfavourable impact of the strong Australian dollar. Net profit for the first quarter was A\$644 million, a A\$349 million increase over the A\$295 million reported in the first quarter a year ago.

Commenting on the results, Chairman and Chief Executive Rupert Murdoch said:

"The unparalleled growth we delivered during the first quarter - our seventh consecutive quarter of double-digit earnings increases - is a clear demonstration of the strength we are enjoying across our balanced collection of businesses. Operating income growth on a US\$ basis of 31%, on revenue growth of 22%, was generated by increases at nearly every operating segment: at our film and television production businesses, which continue to capitalise on the expanding home entertainment market; at our cable channels, which have benefited from sustained viewership gains; at our television stations, which have expanded market share; and at STAR, which achieved its first-ever first-quarter profit. In the past quarter, we also exceeded our high expectations for our global pay-TV platforms - including SKY Italia, where subscriber additions are well ahead of plan, and BSkyB, which passed the 7 million digital subscriber mark several months ahead of schedule. Overall, the first quarter has given us a great start to the fiscal year, and we are well on our way to meeting our growth forecast for 2004."

### MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE

The Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and Supplemental Financial Data for the three months ended 30 September are attached. The following commentary is made in respect to those statements, including an analysis of certain information contained therein.

Net Profit Attributable to Members of the Parent Entity

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

The reported net profit attributable to members of the parent entity consisted of the following items:

	3 Months Ended 30 September, 2003                      2002	
	A\$ Millions (except per share amounts)	
Revenue	A\$ 7,081	A\$ 6,931
Operating income	1,095	996
Associated entities	87	(174)
Interest expense, net	(173)	(225)
Exchangeable securities expense	(28)	(23)
Profit before income tax expense, outside equity interest and other items	981	574
Income tax expense	(303)	(178)
Outside equity interest	(89)	(101)
Net profit before other items	589	295
Other group items, net of tax and outside equity interest	55	-
Net profit attributable to members of the parent entity	A\$ 644	A\$ 295
Earnings per share (diluted) on net profit before other items, net	A\$ 0.111	A\$ 0.055
Weighted average number of shares outstanding in millions (diluted)	5,194	5,127

The following commentary discusses the major components of these results.

	3 Months Ended 30 September, 2003                      2002	
	A\$ Millions	
Filmed Entertainment	A\$ 499	A\$ 181
Television	273	343
Cable Network Programming	203	214
Direct Broadcast Satellite Television(*)	(178)	-
Magazines & Inserts	88	92
Newspapers	155	103
Book Publishing	90	106

Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

Other	(35)	(43)
	-----	-----
Consolidated Operating Income	A\$1,095	A\$ 996
	=====	=====

(\* ) New segment reflecting the results of SKY Italia, consolidated as of 1 May, 2003

First quarter net earnings from associated entities were A\$87 million versus losses of A\$174 million in the same period a year ago. The year-over-year improvements were primarily due to contributions from BSKYB, for which earnings were not reflected in prior year's quarter, and a comparatively favourable impact from foreign currency fluctuations at Sky Brasil. The inclusion of Stream's losses also affected the first quarter results a year ago. A detailed discussion of the components of associated entities' results is provided later in the release.

First quarter net profit before other items increased to A\$589 million (A\$0.111 per share) versus A\$295 million (A\$0.055 per share) in the prior year, primarily due to higher consolidated operating income and improved associated entities results. The Company reported income from other items in the quarter of A\$55 million primarily reflecting a gain from the sale of SkyPerfectTV! shares.

The following commentary is discussed primarily in U.S. dollars

REVIEW OF OPERATING RESULTS

FILMED ENTERTAINMENT

The Filmed Entertainment segment reported first quarter operating income of US\$328 million, a US\$228 million increase over the US\$100 million reported in the same period a year ago. The substantial growth primarily reflects increased contributions from the worldwide home entertainment release of film and television titles and higher syndication profits from Twentieth Century Fox Television (TCFTV).

Current quarter film results were largely driven by the worldwide home entertainment performances of Daredevil and Phone Booth combined with strong worldwide home entertainment, pay-TV and free-TV contributions from various catalog titles. These contributions were partially offset by the worldwide theatrical launch costs for the successful release of League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, which has grossed over US\$170 million in worldwide box office to date. The first quarter a year ago included the worldwide home entertainment performances of Shallow Hal, Behind Enemy Lines and catalog titles.

At TCFTV, earnings grew year-on-year primarily reflecting higher syndication profits from the initial releases of Angel and Judging Amy as well as increased contributions from M\*A\*S\*H. Increased DVD sales of television series, most notably from The Simpsons, Buffy the Vampire Slayer and 24, also contributed to the year-on-year growth.

TELEVISION

The Television segment reported first quarter operating income of US\$179 million versus US\$188 million a year ago. Continued profit growth at the Fox Television Stations and STAR was offset by ratings declines at the FOX Broadcasting Company versus the first quarter last year, which included American Idol.

Fox Television Stations (FTS) first quarter operating income grew 7% over the same period a year ago as market share gains more than offset a decline in political spending and the non-recurrence of

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

American Idol on the broadcast network in the current quarter. Current year earnings growth was also fueled by margin expansion primarily from lower local programming and promotional costs as well as duopoly savings versus the first quarter of fiscal 2003.

At the FOX Broadcasting Company (FBC), first quarter operating losses increased as improved advertising pricing was more than offset by cancellation costs for several series and projects as well as a 20% decline in primetime ratings versus the first quarter a year ago which included the record-breaking performance of American Idol. During the quarter, FBC launched several new series, including The O.C., which gained audience share every week following its August premiere and was the highest-rated new scripted show of the summer among Adults 18-49. Subsequent to quarter-end, primetime ratings have improved with the current broadcast season's ratings up 15% compared to a year ago led by the strength of post-season Major League Baseball and new season series premieres.

STAR, bolstered by a 20% increase in revenues, delivered positive operating income for the first time in this traditionally soft quarter. Revenue gains were primarily driven by advertising and subscription growth at STAR Plus, which on average continues to deliver 48 of the top 50 programs in India, as well as increased advertising revenue from STAR Mandarin Movies, the number one cable channel in Taiwan.

### CABLE NETWORK PROGRAMMING

Cable Network Programming reported first quarter operating income of US\$133 million, an improvement of US\$15 million over last year's results. The 13% growth reflects strong revenue gains at the Fox News Channel and the Regional Sports Networks, slightly offset by higher programming costs at the FX Channel.

Fox News Channel (FNC) reported operating income growth of 14% in the first quarter as strong revenue growth, primarily from increased ad sales, more than offset slightly higher costs associated with coverage of the war in Iraq and the California recall election. FNC was the only cable news channel to increase its viewership during the quarter, with growth of 14% in primetime and 16% on a 24-hour basis compared to the first quarter a year ago.

Fox Cable Networks' (including the Regional Sports Networks (RSNs), the FX Channel (FX) and SPEED Channel) operating profit increased 4% for the quarter driven by double-digit revenue growth at the RSNs reflecting DTH subscriber additions, higher affiliate rates and increased advertising sales. At FX, affiliate revenue growth from an expanded subscriber base was offset by increased programming costs for original programming and charges related to the cancellations of Lucky and Orlando Jones. Investment in original programming continues to drive viewership gains with first quarter viewership among households and Adults 18-49 up nearly 20% versus the same period a year ago, led by Nip/Tuck, the highest rated new series on basic cable during calendar 2003.

### DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE TELEVISION

On 30 April, 2003 the Company, along with Telecom Italia, completed the previously announced acquisition of the Italian pay-TV business Telepiu from Vivendi Universal and combined it with Stream. News Corporation now owns 80.1% of the combined entity, SKY Italia, whose results comprise this new segment. During the first quarter, SKY Italia reported an operating loss of US\$117 million on revenues of US\$264 million while adding nearly 300,000 new subscribers. 75% of the new subscribers during the quarter opted for a premium-programming tier including movies and sports programming increasing monthly ARPU

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

for residential subscribers. At quarter end the digital subscribers totaled approximately 2.3 million.

### MAGAZINES AND INSERTS

The Magazines and Inserts segment reported first quarter operating income of US\$58 million, a 14% increase versus the same period a year ago. The improvement was primarily driven by higher contributions from the Free Standing Inserts division, principally from increased demand for packaged goods pages, partially offset by lower contributions from the InStore division.

### NEWSPAPERS

The Newspaper segment reported first quarter operating income of US\$102 million, up 79% versus the same period a year ago reflecting circulation revenue increases in the U.K. combined with advertising strength in Australia.

The U.K. newspaper group's first quarter operating income more than doubled in local currency terms compared to a year ago, primarily driven by circulation revenue gains combined with a slight increase in advertising. Circulation revenue growth was achieved across all titles, with the largest increase at The Sun, where reduced cover price initiatives during the first quarter a year ago adversely impacted results.

The Australian newspaper group reported a 6% increase in operating income in local currency terms, driven by an 8% increase in advertising revenue over a year ago and a slight increase in circulation revenue. Advertising growth was primarily fueled by display advertising with strong growth in national display and continued momentum in the retail and real estate categories. Classified advertising also saw steady growth, with improvement across all categories. The growth in advertising revenue for the quarter was partially offset by the timing of various marketing and editorial initiatives.

In the United States, The New York Post continued to grow its circulation at a pace unmatched by any other major American newspaper. Now the seventh-largest daily newspaper in the country, the Post has achieved double-digit circulation growth in each of the last six quarters.

### BOOK PUBLISHING

HarperCollins reported operating income of US\$59 million during the quarter versus US\$58 million in the same period a year ago. The increased quarterly results were primarily driven by the continued success of Zondervan's blockbuster The Purpose Driven Life as well as Lemony Snicket's The Slippery Slope, Dennis Lehane's Mystic River, David Beckham's autobiography and Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution. During the quarter, HarperCollins had 30 books on The New York Times bestseller lists including three titles that reached the number one spot.

### OTHER MATTERS

Subsequent to quarter end, the Company announced it had reached an agreement in principle for the sale of the Los Angeles Dodgers. The agreement is subject to Major League Baseball approval and has been forwarded to Major League Baseball's ownership committee for review and recommendation to the other club owners, who will then vote on the proposed sale.

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

### REVIEW OF ASSOCIATED ENTITIES RESULTS

First quarter net earnings from associated entities were A\$87 million versus losses of A\$174 million in the same period a year ago. The year over year improvements were primarily due to contributions from BSkyB, for which earnings were not reflected in prior year's quarter, and a comparatively favourable impact from foreign currency fluctuations at Sky Brasil. The inclusion of Stream's losses also affected the first quarter results a year ago.

The Company's share of associated entities' earnings (losses) is as follows:

	% Owned	3 Months Ended 30 September,	
	-----	2003	2002
		-----	
		US\$ Millions	
Sky Brasil	49.7% (a)	(8)	(67)
Innova - Mexico	30.0%	(10)	(8)
FOXTEL	25.0%	(3)	(2)
Stream	50.0% (b)	-	(39)
Fox Sports Cable Networks	Various	9	12
ESPN STAR Sports	50.0%	1	1
Other Associates	Various (c) (d)	68	7
		-----	-----
Total associated entities' earnings (losses)		\$ 57	\$ (96)
		-----	-----
Total associated entities' earnings (losses)		A\$ 87	A\$ (174)
		=====	=====

Further details on the associated entities follow.

- (a) Represents the Company's economic interest, which was 43.9% as of 30 September, 2002. The Company continues to hold a 36% equity interest in Sky Brasil.
- (b) The Company's share of Stream's losses was included as part of associated entities from 1 April, 2002 through 30 April, 2003, when it was merged with Telepiu to form the consolidated entity SKY Italia.
- (c) Primarily comprising BSkyB, Gemstar-TV Guide International, Independent Newspapers, and Queensland Press.
- (d) The Company's investment basis in BSkyB was negative from 31 December, 2001 through 11 November, 2002. Accordingly, the Company's share of BSkyB's results was not recognised during that period.

Sky Brasil (in US\$)

-----	3 Months Ended 30 September,	
	2003	2002
	-----	
	Millions (except subscribers)	



## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

Revenues (in local currency)	R\$ 162	R\$ 130
Revenues	\$ 55	\$ 42
Operating income (loss)	3	(4)
Net loss	\$ (17)	\$ (157)
	=====	=====
News' reportable 49.7%/43.9% share (in US\$)	\$ (8)	\$ (67)
	=====	=====
Net Debt (excluding capitalised leases)	\$ 199	\$ 208
Ending Subscribers	772,000	704,000

Sky Brasil's revenues grew 25% in local currency terms compared to prior year primarily driven by a higher subscriber base and increased average revenue per subscriber. The revenue growth for the quarter was partly offset by higher programming costs, mainly relating to higher subscribers, and increased marketing costs due to new campaigns to grow the subscriber base. The decrease in net loss principally reflects reduced foreign exchange losses as the decline of the Brazilian Real decelerated during the quarter as compared to the same period a year ago.

### Innova (in US\$) - Mexico

	3 Months Ended	
	30 September,	
	2003	2002
	-----	
	Millions (except subscribers)	
Revenues (in local currency)	Ps. 909	Ps. 834
Revenues	\$ 85	\$ 84
Operating income	12	7
Net loss	\$ (32)	\$ (28)
	=====	=====
News' reportable 30% share (in US\$)	\$ (10)	\$ (8)
	=====	=====
Net Debt (excluding capitalised leases)	\$ 339	\$ 358
Ending Subscribers	826,000	733,000

Innova's revenues grew 9% in local currency terms compared to prior year primarily driven by a 13% increase in the subscriber base. Operating income growth reflects lower depreciation and SG&A expenses. The increase in net loss principally reflects the unfavourable impact of foreign currency fluctuations due to the weakening of the Mexican Peso on U.S. dollar denominated liabilities during the quarter as compared to the same period a year ago.

### FOXTEL (in A\$)

	3 Months Ended	
	30 September,	
	2003	2002

Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

	Millions (except subscribers)	
Revenues	A\$ 182	A\$ 138
Operating loss	(27)	(24)
Net loss	A\$ (18)	A\$ (17)
=====		
News' reportable 25% share (in US\$)	\$ (3)	\$ (2)
=====		
Ending Subscribers (including Optus)	1,068,000	805,000

FOXTEL's revenues for the quarter increased 32% principally due to the inclusion of Optus wholesale subscribers as of 1 December, 2002, an increase of 17% in satellite subscribers compared to a year ago and higher average revenue per subscriber. Net loss for the quarter increased A\$1 million against the prior year as the increased subscriber revenues were more than offset by the inclusion of Optus license fee costs, an intensified subscriber acquisition plan, the development of a future digital service and higher depreciation expense.

Fox Sports Cable Networks(\*) (in US\$)

	3 Months Ended 30 September, 2003		2002
	Millions (except subscribers)		
News' reportable share	\$ 9	\$	12
=====			
Ending Subscribers	45,056,000	44,410,000	

The decrease in net income for the quarter primarily reflects the decline in the results at National Sports Partners resulting from increased programming costs, partly offset by the effect of cost savings at the Metro Channels and Madison Square Garden.

(\*) Various associated interests ranging from 20 percent to 50 percent, primarily comprising Regional Programming Partners (including Madison Square Garden), Fox Sports Bay Area, Fox Sports Chicago, National Sports Partners and National Advertising Partners.

ESPN STAR Sports (in US\$) - Asia

	3 Months Ended 30 September, 2003		2002
	Millions (except subscribers)		

Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

	Millions	
Revenues	\$ 34	\$ 37
Operating income	2	5
Net income	\$ 1	\$ 3
	=====	=====
News' reportable 50% share	\$ 1	\$ 1
	=====	=====

Operating income decreased US\$3 million principally due to lower advertising revenues from England Cricket partially offset by lower channel costs associated with the event.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Average foreign exchange rates used in the year-to-date profit results are as follows:

	3 Months Ended 30 September, 2003      2002	
	-----	-----
Australian Dollar/U.S Dollar	0.66	0.55
U.K. Pounds Sterling/U.S. Dollar	1.61	1.55
Euro/U.S. Dollar	1.13	0.98

To receive a copy of this press release through the Internet, access News Corp's corporate Web site located at <http://www.newscorp.com>

Audio from News Corp's conference call with analysts on the first quarter results can be heard live on the Internet at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Summer (Australia) Time today. To listen to the call, visit <http://www.newscorp.com>

Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements

This document contains certain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on management's views and assumptions regarding future events and business performance as of the time the statements are made. Actual results may differ materially from these expectations due to changes in global economic, business, competitive market and regulatory factors. More detailed information about these and other factors that could affect future results is contained in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The "forward-looking statements" included in this document are made only as of the date of this document and we do not have any obligation to publicly update any "forward-looking statements" to reflect subsequent events or circumstances, except as required by law.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

	3 Months Ended 30 September, 2003      2002	
Note	-----	-----
	A\$ Millions (except per share amounts)	

Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

Sales revenue	1 A\$	7,081	A\$	6,931
Operating expenses		(5,986)		(5,935)
		-----		-----
Operating income	1	1,095		996
Net profit (loss) from associated entities		87		(174)
Borrowing costs		(225)		(277)
Interest income		52		52
		-----		-----
Net borrowing costs		(173)		(225)
Exchangeable securities expense		(28)		(23)
Other items before income tax, net		93		-
		-----		-----
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax		1,074		574
		-----		-----
Income tax expense on:				
Ordinary activities before other items		(303)		(178)
Other items		(33)		-
		-----		-----
Net income tax expense		(336)		(178)
		-----		-----
Net profit from ordinary activities after tax		738		396
Net profit attributable to outside equity interests		(94)		(101)
		-----		-----
Net Profit Attributable to Members of the Parent Entity	A\$	644	A\$	295
		-----		-----
Net exchange gains (losses) recognised directly in equity		(576)		1,170
		-----		-----
Total change in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners	A\$	68	A\$	1,465
		=====		=====
Diluted earnings per share on net profit attributable to members of the parent entity				
Ordinary shares	A\$	0.109	A\$	0.049
Preferred limited voting ordinary shares	A\$	0.130	A\$	0.059
Ordinary and preferred limited voting ordinary shares	A\$	0.122	A\$	0.055

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

30 September 2003      June 30, 2003

ASSETS

A\$ Millions

Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

Current Assets		
Cash	A\$ 7,267	A\$ 6,746
Cash on deposit	401	-
Receivables	6,015	5,701
Inventories	2,167	1,931
Other	589	483
	-----	-----
Total Current Assets	16,439	14,861
	-----	-----
Non-Current Assets		
Cash on deposit	-	698
Receivables	1,338	1,219
Investments in associated entities	5,568	5,526
Other investments	960	1,195
Inventories	4,105	4,103
Property, plant and equipment	6,112	6,299
Publishing rights, titles and television licenses	32,138	32,724
Goodwill	363	377
Other	714	745
	-----	-----
Total Non-Current Assets	51,298	52,886
	-----	-----
Total Assets	A\$ 67,737	A\$67,747
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Interest bearing liabilities	A\$ 415	A\$ 33
Payables	8,439	8,298
Tax liabilities	771	714
Provisions	410	258
	-----	-----
Total Current Liabilities	10,035	9,303
	-----	-----
Non-Current Liabilities		
Interest bearing liabilities	12,640	12,396
Payables	3,550	3,545
Tax liabilities	844	666
Provisions	1,072	1,032
	-----	-----
Total Non-Current Liabilities Excluding Exchangeable Securities	18,106	17,639
	-----	-----
Exchangeable securities	2,063	2,084
	-----	-----
Total Liabilities	30,204	29,026
	-----	-----
Shareholders' Equity		
Contributed equity	28,448	28,427
Reserves	2,573	2,760
Retained profits	1,239	1,137
	-----	-----
Shareholders' equity attributable to members of the parent entity	32,260	32,324
Outside equity interests in controlled entities	5,273	6,397
	-----	-----

Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

Total Shareholders' Equity	37,533	38,721
	-----	-----
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	A\$ 67,737	A\$67,747
	=====	=====

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	3 Months Ended 30	
	September,	
	2003	2002
	-----	

Operating activity	A\$ Millions	
Net profit attributable to members of the parent entity	A\$ 644	A\$ 295
Adjustment for non-cash and non-operating activities:		
Equity earnings, net	(85)	176
Outside equity interest	89	101
Depreciation and amortisation	219	185
Other items, net	(55)	-
Change in assets and liabilities:		
Receivables	(628)	(213)
Inventories	(279)	(517)
Payables	394	143
Other liabilities	260	39
	-----	-----
Cash provided by operating activity	559	209
Investing and other activity		
Property, plant and equipment	(126)	(160)
Acquisitions, net of cash acquired	(63)	(787)
Investments in associated entities	(46)	(376)
Other investments	(45)	(7)
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets	361	48
	-----	-----
Cash provided by (used in) investing activity	81	(1,282)
Financing activity		
Repayment of debt and exchangeable securities	(288)	(1,874)
Decrease in cash on deposit	282	-
Issuance of shares	21	2
Dividends paid	(13)	(4)
Leasing and other finance costs	-	(2)
	-----	-----
Cash provided by (used in) financing activity	2	(1,878)
	-----	-----
Net increase (decrease) in cash	642	(2,951)
Opening cash balance	6,746	6,337
Exchange movement on opening balance	(121)	212
	-----	-----
Closing cash balance	A\$7,267	A\$ 3,598
	=====	=====

Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

Note 1 - SEGMENT DATA

BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

3 Months Ended  
30 September,  
2003 2002

-----  
A\$ Millions

Revenues

United States	A\$ 5,043	A\$ 5,250
Europe	1,413	1,073
Australasia	625	608
	-----	-----
	A\$ 7,081	A\$ 6,931
	=====	=====

Operating Income

United States	A\$ 1,051	A\$ 850
Europe	(38)	102
Australasia	82	44
	-----	-----
	A\$ 1,095	A\$ 996
	=====	=====

BY INDUSTRY SEGMENT

Revenues

Filmed Entertainment	A\$ 1,901	A\$ 1,604
Television	1,540	1,860
Cable Network Programming	955	1,007
Direct Broadcast Satellite Television(*)	402	-
Magazines and Inserts	339	353
Newspapers	1,125	1,103
Book Publishing	528	630
Other	291	374
	-----	-----
	A\$ 7,081	A\$ 6,931
	=====	=====

Operating Income

Filmed Entertainment	A\$ 499	A\$ 181
Television	273	343
Cable Network Programming	203	214
Direct Broadcast Satellite Television(*)	(178)	-
Magazines and Inserts	88	92
Newspapers	155	103
Book Publishing	90	106
Other	(35)	(43)
	-----	-----
	A\$ 1,095	A\$ 996
	=====	=====

(\*) New segment reflecting the results of SKY Italia, consolidated as of 1 May, 2003.

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

### Note 2 - SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCIAL DATA

The Company considers net profit before other items to be an important indicator of the Company's operating performance on a consolidated basis. Net profit before other items, defined as net profit attributable to members of the parent entity before other items related to the Company and associated entities, net of applicable income tax expenses and outside equity interests, eliminates the effect of transactions that are considered significant by reason of their size, nature or effect on the Company's financial performance for the year. Net profit before other items, which is the information reported to and used by the Company's chief decision maker for the purpose of making decisions about the allocation of resources to segments and assessing their performance, should be considered in addition to, not as a substitute for the Company's operating income, net profit attributable to members of the parent entity, cash flows and other measures of financial performance prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in Australia. Net profit before other items does not reflect cash available to fund requirements, and the items excluded from net profit before other items, such as other revenues and expenses, are significant components in assessing the Company's financial performance.

The following table reconciles certain components of net profit attributable to members of the parent entity as presented on page 2 of this release to the presentation required under Australian GAAP as required by Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1018 "Statement of Financial Performance" on page 11 of this release.

	3 Months Ended 30 September, 2003      2002	
	A\$ Millions	
Total other items (page 2)	A\$ 55	A\$ -
Reclassification of other items - associated Entities	-	-
Reclassification of income tax and net profit attributable to outside equity interest	38	-
	-----	-----
Other items before income tax, net (page 11)	A\$ 93	A\$ -
	-----	-----
Income tax expense (page 2)	A\$ (303)	A\$ (178)
Reclassification of income tax expense on other items	(33)	-
	-----	-----
Net income tax expense (page 11)	A\$ (336)	A\$ (178)
	-----	-----

SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCIAL DATA (continued)

3 Months Ended  
30 September,  
2003      2002



Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

	----- A\$ Millions	
Outside equity interest (page 2)	A\$ (89)	A\$ (101)
Reclassification of outside equity interest on other items, net	(5)	-
	-----	-----
Net profit attributable to outside equity interest (page 11)	A\$ (94)	A\$ (101)
	=====	=====
Net profit before other items (page 2)	A\$ 589	A\$ 295
Other items before income tax, net	93	-
Reclassification of income tax and net profit attributable to outside equity interest	(38)	-
	-----	-----
Net profit attributable to members of the parent entity (page 11)	A\$ 644	A\$ 295
	=====	=====
Earnings per share on net profit before other items, net (page 2)	A\$ 0.111	A\$0.055
Earnings per share on other items before income tax, net	0.018	-
Earnings per share on reclassification of income tax and net profit attributable to outside equity interest	(0.007 )	-
	-----	-----
Diluted earnings per share on net profit attributable to members of the parent entity (page 11)	A\$ 0.122	A\$0.055
	=====	=====

CONTACT: News Corporation  
Investor Relations:  
Reed Nolte, 212-852-7092  
or  
Press Inquiries:  
Andrew Butcher, 212-852-7070

EXHIBIT B

News Corporation

---

EARNINGS RELEASE FOR THE QUARTER ENDED  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2003 IN U.S. DOLLARS PREPARED FOR THE U.S. MARKET. AUSTRALIAN  
READERS SHOULD REFER TO THE AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR EARNINGS RELEASE

News Corporation Reports First Quarter Operating Income of \$719  
Million, a 31% Increase, on Revenue Growth of 22%

Net Profit before Other Items More Than Doubles to \$386 Million;  
Net Profit Increases \$260 Million to \$422 Million

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

### QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Filmed Entertainment operating income more than triples on robust home entertainment sales of film and television titles as well as strong syndication contributions.
- Sustained ratings and advertising growth at Regional Sports Networks and Fox News Channel drives 13% operating income growth at Cable Network Programming.
- Television Stations increase market share, grow operating income 7%; STAR delivers another quarter of profits; overall Television segment down slightly due to the inclusion of American Idol in the quarter a year ago.
- All print businesses report higher earnings contributions led by circulation revenue gains in U.K. newspapers, advertising demand in Australian newspapers and increased page volume at free-standing inserts.

NEW YORK--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov. 5, 2003--The News Corporation Limited (NYSE: NWS, NWS.A) today reported first quarter consolidated revenues of \$4.6 billion, a 22% increase over the \$3.8 billion reported in the prior year, and consolidated operating income of \$719 million. These results, representing a 31% increase over the \$548 million reported a year ago were achieved despite the inclusion of \$117 million in losses from SKY Italia in the current quarter. The year-on-year operating income growth was driven primarily by a three-fold increase at Filmed Entertainment as well as double-digit increases at the Cable Network Programming, Newspapers and Magazines and Inserts segments. Net profit for the first quarter was \$422 million, a \$260 million increase over the \$162 million reported in the first quarter a year ago.

Commenting on the results, Chairman and Chief Executive Rupert Murdoch said:

"The unparalleled growth we delivered during the first quarter - our seventh consecutive quarter of double-digit earnings increases - is a clear demonstration of the strength we are enjoying across our balanced collection of businesses. Operating income growth of 31%, on revenue growth of 22%, was generated by increases at nearly every operating segment: at our film and television production businesses, which continue to capitalize on the expanding home entertainment market; at our cable channels, which have benefited from sustained viewership gains; at our television stations, which have expanded market share; and at STAR, which achieved its first-ever first-quarter profit. In the past quarter, we also exceeded our high expectations for our global pay-TV platforms - including SKY Italia, where subscriber additions are well ahead of plan, and BSkyB, which passed the 7 million digital subscriber mark several months ahead of schedule. Overall, the first quarter has given us a great start to the fiscal year, and we are well on our way to meeting our growth forecast for 2004."

### MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE

The Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and Supplemental Financial Data for the three months ended September 30th are attached. The following commentary is made in respect to those statements, including an analysis of certain information contained therein.

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

### Net Profit Attributable to Members of the Parent Entity

The reported net profit attributable to members of the parent entity consisted of the following items:

	3 Months Ended September 30,	
	2003	2002
	-----	
	US \$ Millions (except per ADR amounts)	
Revenue	\$ 4,649	\$ 3,813
	-----	-----
Operating income	719	548
Associated entities	57	(96)
Interest expense, net	(114)	(124)
Exchangeable securities expense	(18)	(13)
	-----	-----
Profit before income tax expense, outside equity interest and other items	644	315
Income tax expense	(199)	(98)
Outside equity interest	(59)	(55)
	-----	-----
Net profit before other items	386	162
	-----	-----
Other group items, net of tax and outside equity interest	36	-
	-----	-----
Net profit attributable to members of the parent entity	\$ 422	\$ 162
	=====	=====
Earnings per ADR (diluted) on net profit before other items, net	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.12
	=====	=====
Weighted average number of ADRs outstanding in millions (diluted)	1,298	1,282
	=====	=====

The following commentary discusses the major components of these results.

	3 Months Ended September 30,	
	2003	2002
	-----	
	US \$ Millions	
Filmed Entertainment	\$ 328	\$ 100
Television	179	188
Cable Network Programming	133	118
Direct Broadcast Satellite Television*	(117)	-

Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

Magazines & Inserts	58	51
Newspapers	102	57
Book Publishing	59	58
Other	(23)	(24)
	-----	-----
Consolidated Operating Income	\$ 719	\$ 548
	=====	=====

\* New segment reflecting the results of SKY Italia, consolidated as of May 1, 2003

First quarter net earnings from associated entities were \$57 million versus losses of \$96 million in the same period a year ago. The year-over-year improvements were primarily due to contributions from BSkyB, for which earnings were not reflected in prior year's quarter, and a comparatively favorable impact from foreign currency fluctuations at Sky Brasil. The inclusion of Stream's losses also affected the first quarter results a year ago. A detailed discussion of the components of associated entities' results is provided later in the release.

First quarter net profit before other items increased to \$386 million (\$0.29 per ADR) versus \$162 million (\$0.12 per ADR) in the prior year, primarily due to higher consolidated operating income and improved associated entities results. The Company reported income from other items in the quarter of \$36 million primarily reflecting a gain from the sale of SkyPerfectTV! shares.

REVIEW OF OPERATING RESULTS

FILMED ENTERTAINMENT

The Filmed Entertainment segment reported first quarter operating income of \$328 million, a \$228 million increase over the \$100 million reported in the same period a year ago. The substantial growth primarily reflects increased contributions from the worldwide home entertainment release of film and television titles and higher syndication profits from Twentieth Century Fox Television (TCFTV).

Current quarter film results were largely driven by the worldwide home entertainment performances of Daredevil and Phone Booth combined with strong worldwide home entertainment, pay-TV and free-TV contributions from various catalog titles. These contributions were partially offset by the worldwide theatrical launch costs for the successful release of League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, which has grossed over \$170 million in worldwide box office to date. The first quarter a year ago included the worldwide home entertainment performances of Shallow Hal, Behind Enemy Lines and catalog titles.

At TCFTV, earnings grew year-on-year primarily reflecting higher syndication profits from the initial releases of Angel and Judging Amy as well as increased contributions from M\*A\*S\*H. Increased DVD sales of television series, most notably from The Simpsons, Buffy the Vampire Slayer and 24, also contributed to the year-on-year growth.

TELEVISION

The Television segment reported first quarter operating income of \$179 million versus \$188 million a year ago. Continued profit growth at the Fox Television Stations and STAR was offset by ratings declines at the FOX Broadcasting Company versus the first quarter last year, which included American Idol.

Fox Television Stations (FTS) first quarter operating income grew

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

7% over the same period a year ago as market share gains more than offset a decline in political spending and the non-recurrence of American Idol on the broadcast network in the current quarter. Current year earnings growth was also fueled by margin expansion primarily from lower local programming and promotional costs as well as duopoly savings versus the first quarter of fiscal 2003.

At the FOX Broadcasting Company (FBC), first quarter operating losses increased as improved advertising pricing was more than offset by cancellation costs for several series and projects as well as a 20% decline in primetime ratings versus the first quarter a year ago which included the record-breaking performance of American Idol. During the quarter, FBC launched several new series, including The O.C., which gained audience share every week following its August premiere and was the highest-rated new scripted show of the summer among Adults 18-49. Subsequent to quarter-end, primetime ratings have improved with the current broadcast season's ratings up 15% compared to a year ago led by the strength of post-season Major League Baseball and new season series premieres.

STAR, bolstered by a 20% increase in revenues, delivered positive operating income for the first time in this traditionally soft quarter. Revenue gains were primarily driven by advertising and subscription growth at STAR Plus, which on average continues to deliver 48 of the top 50 programs in India, as well as increased advertising revenue from STAR Mandarin Movies, the number one cable channel in Taiwan.

### CABLE NETWORK PROGRAMMING

Cable Network Programming reported first quarter operating income of \$133 million, an improvement of \$15 million over last year's results. The 13% growth reflects strong revenue gains at the Fox News Channel and the Regional Sports Networks, slightly offset by higher programming costs at the FX Channel.

Fox News Channel (FNC) reported operating income growth of 14% in the first quarter as strong revenue growth, primarily from increased ad sales, more than offset slightly higher costs associated with coverage of the war in Iraq and the California recall election. FNC was the only cable news channel to increase its viewership during the quarter, with growth of 14% in primetime and 16% on a 24-hour basis compared to the first quarter a year ago.

Fox Cable Networks' (including the Regional Sports Networks (RSNs), the FX Channel (FX) and SPEED Channel) operating profit increased 4% for the quarter driven by double-digit revenue growth at the RSNs reflecting DTH subscriber additions, higher affiliate rates and increased advertising sales. At FX, affiliate revenue growth from an expanded subscriber base was offset by increased programming costs for original programming and charges related to the cancellations of Lucky and Orlando Jones. Investment in original programming continues to drive viewership gains with first quarter viewership among households and Adults 18-49 up nearly 20% versus the same period a year ago, led by Nip/Tuck, the highest rated new series on basic cable during calendar 2003.

### DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE TELEVISION

On April 30th, 2003 the Company, along with Telecom Italia, completed the previously announced acquisition of the Italian pay-TV business Telepiu from Vivendi Universal and combined it with Stream. News Corporation now owns 80.1% of the combined entity, SKY Italia, whose results comprise this new segment. During the first quarter, SKY Italia reported an operating loss of \$117 million on revenues of \$264 million while adding nearly 300,000 new subscribers. 75% of the new

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

subscribers during the quarter opted for a premium-programming tier including movies and sports programming increasing monthly ARPU for residential subscribers. At quarter end the digital subscribers totaled approximately 2.3 million.

### MAGAZINES AND INSERTS

The Magazines and Inserts segment reported first quarter operating income of \$58 million, a 14% increase versus the same period a year ago. The improvement was primarily driven by higher contributions from the Free Standing Inserts division, principally from increased demand for packaged goods pages, partially offset by lower contributions from the InStore division.

### NEWSPAPERS

The Newspaper segment reported first quarter operating income of \$102 million, up 79% versus the same period a year ago reflecting circulation revenue increases in the U.K. combined with advertising strength in Australia.

The U.K. newspaper group's first quarter operating income more than doubled in local currency terms compared to a year ago, primarily driven by circulation revenue gains combined with a slight increase in advertising. Circulation revenue growth was achieved across all titles, with the largest increase at The Sun, where reduced cover price initiatives during the first quarter a year ago adversely impacted results.

The Australian newspaper group reported a 6% increase in operating income in local currency terms, driven by an 8% increase in advertising revenue over a year ago and a slight increase in circulation revenue. Advertising growth was primarily fueled by display advertising with strong growth in national display and continued momentum in the retail and real estate categories. Classified advertising also saw steady growth, with improvement across all categories. The growth in advertising revenue for the quarter was partially offset by the timing of various marketing and editorial initiatives.

In the United States, The New York Post continued to grow its circulation at a pace unmatched by any other major American newspaper. Now the seventh-largest daily newspaper in the country, the Post has achieved double-digit circulation growth in each of the last six quarters.

### BOOK PUBLISHING

HarperCollins reported operating income of \$59 million during the quarter versus \$58 million in the same period a year ago. The increased quarterly results were primarily driven by the continued success of Zondervan's blockbuster The Purpose Driven Life as well as Lemony Snicket's The Slippery Slope, Dennis Lehane's Mystic River, David Beckham's autobiography and Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution. During the quarter, HarperCollins had 30 books on The New York Times bestseller lists including three titles that reached the number one spot.

### OTHER MATTERS

Subsequent to quarter end, the Company announced it had reached an agreement in principle for the sale of the Los Angeles Dodgers. The agreement is subject to Major League Baseball approval and has been forwarded to Major League Baseball's ownership committee for review and recommendation to the other club owners, who will then vote on the

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

proposed sale.

### REVIEW OF ASSOCIATED ENTITIES RESULTS

First quarter net earnings from associated entities were \$57 million versus losses of \$96 million in the same period a year ago. The year over year improvements were primarily due to contributions from BSkyB, for which earnings were not reflected in prior year's quarter, and a comparatively favorable impact from foreign currency fluctuations at Sky Brasil. The inclusion of Stream's losses also affected the first quarter results a year ago.

The Company's share of associated entities' earnings (losses) is as follows:

	% Owned		3 Months Ended September 30,	
			2003	2002
	-----		-----	-----
			US \$ Millions	
Sky Brasil	49.7%	(a)	(8)	(67)
Innova - Mexico	30.0%		(10)	(8)
FOXTEL	25.0%		(3)	(2)
Stream	50.0%	(b)	-	(39)
Fox Sports Cable Networks	Various		9	12
ESPN STAR Sports	50.0%		1	1
Other Associates	Various	(c) (d)	68	7
			-----	-----
Total associated entities' earnings (losses)			\$ 57	\$ (96)
			=====	=====

Further details on the associated entities follow.

- (a) Represents the Company's economic interest, which was 43.9% as of September 30, 2002. The Company continues to hold a 36% equity interest in Sky Brasil.
- (b) The Company's share of Stream's losses was included as part of associated entities from April 1, 2002 through April 30, 2003, when it was merged with Telepiu to form the consolidated entity SKY Italia.
- (c) Primarily comprising BSkyB, Gemstar-TV Guide International, Independent Newspapers, and Queensland Press.
- (d) The Company's investment basis in BSkyB was negative from December 31, 2001 through November 11, 2002. Accordingly, the Company's share of BSkyB's results was not recognized during that period.

Sky Brasil (in US\$)	3 Months Ended September 30,	
-----	2003	2002
	-----	-----
	Millions (except subscribers)	
Revenues (in local currency)	R\$ 162	R\$ 130

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

Revenues	\$ 55	\$ 42
Operating income (loss)	3	(4)
Net loss	\$ (17)	\$ (157)
	=====	=====
News' reportable 49.7%/43.9% share (in US\$)	\$ (8)	\$ (67)
	=====	=====
Net Debt (excluding capitalized leases)	\$ 199	\$ 208
Ending Subscribers	772,000	704,000

Sky Brasil's revenues grew 25% in local currency terms compared to prior year primarily driven by a higher subscriber base and increased average revenue per subscriber. The revenue growth for the quarter was partly offset by higher programming costs, mainly relating to higher subscribers, and increased marketing costs due to new campaigns to grow the subscriber base. The decrease in net loss principally reflects reduced foreign exchange losses as the decline of the Brazilian Real decelerated during the quarter as compared to the same period a year ago.

Innova (in US\$) - Mexico	3 Months Ended			
-----	September 30,			
	2003		2002	
	-----			
	Millions (except subscribers)			
Revenues (in local currency)	Ps.	909	Ps.	834
Revenues	\$	85	\$	84
Operating income		12		7
Net loss	\$	(32)	\$	(28)
		=====		=====
News' reportable 30% share (in US\$)	\$	(10)	\$	(8)
		=====		=====
Net Debt (excluding capitalized leases)	\$	339	\$	358
Ending Subscribers		826,000		733,000

Innova's revenues grew 9% in local currency terms compared to prior year primarily driven by a 13% increase in the subscriber base. Operating income growth reflects lower depreciation and SG&A expenses. The increase in net loss principally reflects the unfavorable impact of foreign currency fluctuations due to the weakening of the Mexican Peso on U.S. dollar denominated liabilities during the quarter as compared to the same period a year ago.

FOXTEL (in A\$)	3 Months Ended			
-----	September 30,			
	2003		2002	
	-----			
	Millions (except			



Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

		subscribers)	
Revenues	A\$	182	A\$ 138
Operating loss		(27)	(24)
Net loss	A\$	(18)	A\$ (17)
		=====	=====
News' reportable 25% share (in US\$)	\$	(3)	\$ (2)
		=====	=====
Ending Subscribers (including Optus)		1,068,000	805,000

FOXTEL's revenues for the quarter increased 32% principally due to the inclusion of Optus wholesale subscribers as of December 1, 2002, an increase of 17% in satellite subscribers compared to a year ago and higher average revenue per subscriber. Net loss for the quarter increased A\$1 million against the prior year as the increased subscriber revenues were more than offset by the inclusion of Optus license fee costs, an intensified subscriber acquisition plan, the development of a future digital service and higher depreciation expense.

Fox Sports Cable Networks* (in US\$)	3 Months Ended			
-----	September 30,			
	2003	2002		
	-----			
	Millions (except			
	subscribers)			
News' reportable share	\$	9	\$	12
		=====		=====
Ending Subscribers		45,056,000		44,410,000

The decrease in net income for the quarter primarily reflects the decline in the results at National Sports Partners resulting from increased programming costs, partly offset by the effect of cost savings at the Metro Channels and Madison Square Garden.

\* Various associated interests ranging from 20 percent to 50 percent, primarily comprising Regional Programming Partners (including Madison Square Garden), Fox Sports Bay Area, Fox Sports Chicago, National Sports Partners and National Advertising Partners.

ESPN STAR Sports (in US\$) - Asia	3 Months Ended			
-----	September 30,			
	2003	2002		
	-----			
	Millions			
Revenues	\$	34	\$	37
Operating income		2		5
Net income	\$	1	\$	3
		=====		=====
News' reportable 50% share	\$	1	\$	1
		=====		=====

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

Operating income decreased \$3 million principally due to lower advertising revenues from England Cricket partially offset by lower channel costs associated with the event.

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Average foreign exchange rates used in the year-to-date profit results are as follows:

	3 Months Ended	
	September 30,	
	2003	2002
	-----	-----
Australian Dollar/U.S Dollar	0.66	0.55
U.K. Pounds Sterling/U.S. Dollar	1.61	1.55
Euro/U.S. Dollar	1.13	0.98

To receive a copy of this press release through the Internet, access News Corp's corporate Web site located at <http://www.newscorp.com>

Audio from News Corp's conference call with analysts on the first quarter results can be heard live on the Internet at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time today. To listen to the call, visit <http://www.newscorp.com>

### Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements

This document contains certain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on management's views and assumptions regarding future events and business performance as of the time the statements are made. Actual results may differ materially from these expectations due to changes in global economic, business, competitive market and regulatory factors. More detailed information about these and other factors that could affect future results is contained in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The "forward-looking statements" included in this document are made only as of the date of this document and we do not have any obligation to publicly update any "forward-looking statements" to reflect subsequent events or circumstances, except as required by law.

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

	Note	3 Months Ended	
		September 30,	
		2003	2002
		-----	-----
		US \$ Millions (except per ADR amounts)	
Sales revenue	1	\$ 4,649	\$ 3,813
Operating expenses		(3,930)	(3,265)
		-----	-----
Operating income	1	719	548
Net profit (loss) from associated entities		57	(96)

Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

Borrowing costs	(148)	(152)
Interest income	34	28
	-----	-----
Net borrowing costs	(114)	(124)
Exchangeable securities expense	(18)	(13)
Other items before income tax, net	61	-
	-----	-----
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax	705	315
	-----	-----
Income tax expense on:		
Ordinary activities before other items	(199)	(98)
Other items	(22)	-
	-----	-----
Net income tax expense	(221)	(98)
	-----	-----
Net profit from ordinary activities after tax	484	217
Net profit attributable to outside equity interests	(62)	(55)
	-----	-----
Net Profit Attributable to Members of the Parent Entity	\$ 422	\$ 162
	-----	-----
Net exchange gains (losses) recognized directly in equity	42	(8)
	-----	-----
Total change in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners	\$ 464	\$ 154
	=====	=====
Diluted earnings per ADR on net profit attributable to members of the parent entity		
Ordinary ADRs	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.11
Preferred limited voting ordinary ADRs	\$ 0.34	\$ 0.13
Ordinary and preferred limited voting ordinary ADRs	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.12

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	September 30, 2003	June 30, 2003
	-----	-----
	US \$ Millions	
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 4,916	\$ 4,477
Cash on deposit	272	-
Receivables	4,069	3,784
Inventories	1,466	1,282

Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

Other	398	321
	-----	-----
Total Current Assets	11,121	9,864
	-----	-----
Non-Current Assets		
Cash on deposit	-	463
Receivables	905	809
Investments in associated entities	3,767	3,667
Other investments	649	793
Inventories	2,777	2,723
Property, plant and equipment	4,135	4,180
Publishing rights, titles and television licenses	21,741	21,719
Goodwill	246	250
Other	483	495
	-----	-----
Total Non-Current Assets	34,703	35,099
	-----	-----
Total Assets	\$ 45,824	\$ 44,963
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Interest bearing liabilities	\$ 281	\$ 22
Payables	5,709	5,507
Tax liabilities	521	474
Provisions	277	171
	-----	-----
Total Current Liabilities	6,788	6,174
	-----	-----
Non-Current Liabilities		
Interest bearing liabilities	8,551	8,227
Payables	2,402	2,353
Tax liabilities	571	442
Provisions	725	685
	-----	-----
Total Non-Current Liabilities Excluding Exchangeable Securities	12,249	11,707
	-----	-----
Exchangeable securities	1,396	1,383
	-----	-----
Total Liabilities	20,433	19,264
	-----	-----
Shareholders' Equity		
Contributed equity	17,276	17,262
Reserves	1,975	1,685
Retained profits	2,573	2,506
	-----	-----
Shareholders' equity attributable to members of the parent entity	21,824	21,453
Outside equity interests in controlled entities	3,567	4,246
	-----	-----
Total Shareholders' Equity	25,391	25,699
	-----	-----
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$ 45,824	\$ 44,963

Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		3 Months Ended September 30,	
	2003	2002	
	-----		
	US \$ Millions		
Operating activity			
Net profit attributable to members of the parent entity	\$ 422	\$ 162	
Adjustment for non-cash and non-operating activities:			
Equity earnings, net	(56)	97	
Outside equity interest	59	55	
Depreciation and amortization	144	102	
Other items, net	(36)	-	
Change in assets and liabilities:			
Receivables	(425)	(116)	
Inventories	(189)	(282)	
Payables	285	74	
Other liabilities	176	21	
	-----	-----	
Cash provided by operating activity	380	113	
Investing and other activity			
Property, plant and equipment	(85)	(87)	
Acquisitions, net of cash acquired	(42)	(429)	
Investments in associated entities	(31)	(205)	
Other investments	(31)	(4)	
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets	244	26	
	-----	-----	
Cash provided by (used in) investing activity	55	(699)	
Financing activity			
Repayment of debt and exchangeable securities	(195)	(1,022)	
Decrease in cash on deposit	191	-	
Issuance of shares	14	1	
Dividends paid	(9)	(2)	
Leasing and other finance costs	-	(1)	
	-----	-----	
Cash provided by (used in) financing activity	1	(1,024)	
	-----	-----	
Net increase (decrease) in cash	436	(1,610)	
Opening cash balance	4,477	3,574	
Exchange movement on opening balance	3	(2)	
	-----	-----	
Closing cash balance	\$ 4,916	\$ 1,962	
	=====	=====	

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

### Note 1 - SEGMENT DATA

BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS	3 Months Ended September 30, 2003                      2002	
	-----	-----
	US \$ Millions	
Revenues		
United States	\$ 3,311	\$ 2,889
Europe	928	590
Australasia	410	334
	-----	-----
	\$ 4,649	\$ 3,813
	=====	=====
Operating Income		
United States	\$ 690	\$ 468
Europe	(25)	56
Australasia	54	24
	-----	-----
	\$ 719	\$ 548
	=====	=====

### BY INDUSTRY SEGMENT

Revenues		
Filmed Entertainment	\$ 1,248	\$ 882
Television	1,011	1,024
Cable Network Programming	627	554
Direct Broadcast Satellite Television*	264	-
Magazines and Inserts	222	194
Newspapers	739	607
Book Publishing	347	347
Other	191	205
	-----	-----
	\$ 4,649	\$ 3,813
	=====	=====
Operating Income		
Filmed Entertainment	\$ 328	\$ 100
Television	179	188
Cable Network Programming	133	118
Direct Broadcast Satellite Television*	(117)	-
Magazines and Inserts	58	51
Newspapers	102	57
Book Publishing	59	58
Other	(23)	(24)
	-----	-----
	\$ 719	\$ 548
	=====	=====

\* New segment reflecting the results of SKY Italia, consolidated as of May 1, 2003.

### Note 2 - SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCIAL DATA

The Company considers net profit before other items to be an

## Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

important indicator of the Company's operating performance on a consolidated basis. Net profit before other items, defined as net profit attributable to members of the parent entity before other items related to the Company and associated entities, net of applicable income tax expenses and outside equity interests, eliminates the effect of transactions that are considered significant by reason of their size, nature or effect on the Company's financial performance for the year. Net profit before other items, which is the information reported to and used by the Company's chief decision maker for the purpose of making decisions about the allocation of resources to segments and assessing their performance, should be considered in addition to, not as a substitute for the Company's operating income, net profit attributable to members of the parent entity, cash flows and other measures of financial performance prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in Australia. Net profit before other items does not reflect cash available to fund requirements, and the items excluded from net profit before other items, such as other revenues and expenses, are significant components in assessing the Company's financial performance.

The following table reconciles certain components of net profit attributable to members of the parent entity as presented on page 2 of this release to the presentation required under Australian GAAP as required by Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1018 "Statement of Financial Performance" on page 11 of this release.

	3 Months Ended September 30,	
	2003	2002
	-----	-----
	US \$ Millions	
Total other items (page 2)	\$ 36	\$ -
Reclassification of other items - associated Entities	-	-
Reclassification of income tax and net profit attributable to outside equity interest	25	-
	-----	-----
Other items before income tax, net (page 11)	\$ 61	\$ -
	=====	=====
Income tax expense (page 2)	\$ (199)	\$ (98)
Reclassification of income tax expense on other items	(22)	-
	-----	-----
Net income tax expense (page 11)	\$ (221)	\$ (98)
	=====	=====

### SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCIAL DATA (continued)

3 Months Ended September 30,	
2003	2002
-----	-----
US \$ Millions	

Edgar Filing: NEWS CORP LTD - Form 6-K

Outside equity interest (page 2)	\$ (59)	\$ (55)
Reclassification of outside equity interest on other items, net	(3)	-
	-----	-----
Net profit attributable to outside equity interest (page 11)	\$ (62)	\$ (55)
	=====	=====
Net profit before other items (page 2)	\$ 386	\$ 162
Other items before income tax, net	61	-
Reclassification of income tax and net profit attributable to outside equity interest	(25)	-
	-----	-----
Net profit attributable to members of the parent entity (page 11)	\$ 422	\$ 162
	=====	=====
Earnings per ADR on net profit before other items, net (page 2)	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.12
Earnings per ADR on other items before income tax, net	0.05	-
Earnings per ADR on reclassification of income tax and net profit attributable to outside equity interest	(0.02)	-
	-----	-----
Diluted earnings per ADR on net profit attributable to members of the parent entity (page 11)	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.12
	=====	=====

CONTACT: The News Corporation Limited  
 (Investor Relations)  
 Reed Nolte, 212-852-7092  
 or (Press Inquiries)  
 Andrew Butcher, 212-852-7070