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MEDIA RELEASE

TREATY DEBATES 2011 AT TE PAPA – NEW CHALLENGES GOING FORWARD



Returning for its seventh consecutive year to Te Papa, this highly anticipated series of debates will explore the Treaty of Waitangi in the light of proposed changes to the foreshore and seabed legislation, and power sharing in the 21st century. This year's Treaty Debates will run on Thursday 27 January and Thursday 3 February. They are free to the public, and start at 6.30pm each night in Soundings Theatre, Level 2, Te Papa.

Dr Claudia Orange, Te Papa's Collections and Research Group Director and leading Treaty of Waitangi scholar, will chair these thought-provoking debates, the theme of which this year is 'New challenges going forward'.

'Each year we have selected topics that have been in the news, and which are of concern to New Zealanders, especially in terms of relationships between Māori and the State,' said Dr Orange.

On 27 January, Matanuku Mahuika and Tom Bennion will discuss the proposed changes to the foreshore and seabed legislation. In 2004, this legislation caused great disquiet in Māori communities, as well as across the nation. On 3 February, Joris de Bres, New Zealand's Race Relations Commissioner, and Whaimutu Dewes will discuss the issues of power-sharing in the 21st century. The speakers will draw on their own experiences, bringing a unique and engaging perspective to current Treaty issues.

The Treaty Debates are organised by Te Papa in partnership with the New Zealand Centre for Public Law at Victoria University of Wellington. They will be recorded by Radio New Zealand, so latecomers will not be admitted to the theatre.

As well as being broadcast by Radio New Zealand, Te Papa will also post video recordings of the debates on its website on the Monday following each debate.

The Treaty Debates 2011
27 January and 3 February
6.30pm–7.45pm (Due to recording, no admittance after 6.30pm)
Soundings Theatre, Level 2
Te Papa
Free entry

www.tepapa.govt.nz/treatydebates

For further information, contact:

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BIOGRAPHIES

Dr Claudia Orange

Dr Claudia Orange is Collections and Research Group Director at Te Papa. She leads the Museum's research, curatorial, and collection management teams in the five major collections areas – Art, History, Pacific, Mātauranga Māori, and Natural Environment. Claudia started in her current position at Te Papa in July 2009. She previously held the position of Director of History and Pacific Cultures at the Museum.

Before coming to Te Papa, Claudia was General Editor of the multi-volume *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* (1990–2003). She oversaw the Dictionary's move online in 2002. During this period, Claudia also served as Acting Chief Historian at the Department of Internal Affairs (1997–2000). Claudia has published widely on New Zealand history, particularly race relations and the Treaty of Waitangi. *An Illustrated History of the Treaty of Waitangi* (2004) is among her more recent publications.

Matanuku Mahuika

Matanuku Mahuika is a lawyer who has been in corporate and private practice since 1991. He has acted on behalf of iwi in a number of Treaty of Waitangi settlements. He has also established organisations to receive settlement and fisheries assets. Matanuku is the principle legal adviser for Ngāti Porou on foreshore and seabed issues, and is currently one of their Treaty settlement negotiators. He is also the Deputy Chairman of Aotearoa Fisheries Limited.

Tom Bennion

Tom Bennion is of English, Irish, and Welsh ancestry. He has been in the trenches of courts and tribunals since 1987, when he graduated LLB honours/BA History and became a registrar of the Waitangi Tribunal. In 1993, he began practising as an independent barrister and established *The Māori Law Review*. The journal was in response to the newly enacted Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

Tom commands in-depth understanding of Māori land law and Treaty of Waitangi claims, and has had clients in almost all Waitangi Tribunal inquiries to date. He has also represented Māori interests in the Māori Land Court, the Environment Court, the High Court, and the Court of Appeal.

Joris de Bros

Joris de Bres has been New Zealand's Race Relations Commissioner since 2002. He was previously General Manager External Relations in the Department of Conservation and, before that, head of industrial relations for the New Zealand Public Service Association.

At the Human Rights Commission, the main focus for Joris has been to encourage central and local government, business, and community organisations to develop their own diversity programmes, and to come together in the New Zealand Diversity Action Programme, which the Commission facilitates. Other initiatives he has undertaken have been the production of an annual review of race relations; development of national statements on religious diversity, language policy, and race relations; monthly acknowledgments of individuals and organisations for positive contributions to race relations; and the annual New Zealand Diversity Awards.

Joris is also Vice-Chairperson of Oxfam New Zealand, a trustee of Project Crimson, and member of the Advisory Board for the Victoria University Centre for Applied Cross-Cultural Research.

Whaimutu Dewes

Whaimutu Dewes is of Ngāti Porou and Ngāti Rangitihī descent. He holds a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University and Bachelor degrees in Arts and Law from Victoria University. He has held numerous directorships in varied organisations, including Television New Zealand, and the AMP New Zealand Advisory Board.

Whaimutu acted as Deputy Chair of Sealord Group between 1992 and 2008, and has

held senior management roles at Fletcher Challenge and the Department of Māori Affairs.