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Media Statement

Monarchy New Zealand expresses profound sadness at passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Monarchy New Zealand Arikinui Aotearoa today expresses profound sadness at the passing of the Queen of New Zealand, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Te Kuini o Aotearoa.

The Queen died earlier today, aged 96.

Queen Elizabeth II was the longest-serving monarch in New Zealand's history. She has worked tirelessly since she came to the throne of New Zealand, 70 years ago. In that time, she has travelled throughout Aotearoa on 10 occasions, visiting virtually all cities and towns across the country.

"The Queen has been an important part of New Zealander's lives for longer than most people can remember," says Dr Sean Palmer, Chair of Monarchy New Zealand.

"Her Majesty has been the foundation of New Zealand's constitution since she succeeded her father King George VI on Waitangi Day 1952. She has been our nation's Head of State, the safeguard of our democracy, and a steadying influence through some of the world's most tumultuous events. More than this, she has been a familiar face and a cherished member of New Zealand's family."

The Queen took an active interest in New Zealand and is patron of many of our charities. She held several roles in New Zealand's Defence form.

The Queen reigned for over 70 years and was only the second Sovereign of New Zealand to have done so for over 60 years. Queen Victoria, New Zealand's first monarch, reigned in Aotearoa from 1840 to 1901. Together, these two Queens reigned for 130 of the 181 years since the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

“Though New Zealand has lost an extraordinary woman, the system of government she was a part of continues to serve this country”, says Dr Palmer.

Monarchy New Zealand expresses its condolences to the new King and is certain that he will serve New Zealand and the rest of the Commonwealth with the same energy and passion that his late mother always showed.

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Attachment:

About Monarchy New Zealand

Monarchy New Zealand is a national, non-partisan, not-for-profit organisation whose purpose is to promote and support the constitutional monarchy of New Zealand.

Monarchy New Zealand's aims and principles include:

- To bring together New Zealanders of diverse backgrounds to celebrate and support the Monarchy of New Zealand.
- To promote, and engage in, the study of the Monarchy, and the roles of the Crown in the New Zealand system of democratic government.
- To inform the New Zealand public of the contemporary importance of the Monarchy for the New Zealand identity.

Royal Tours

Queen Elizabeth II
Prince Philip
23 December 1953
- 30 January 1954

The Queen's arrival in 1953 was the first time a reigning monarch of New Zealand had set foot in this country. The Queen delivered her Christmas message from Government House, Auckland. The Tangiwai Railway Disaster occurred during this visit and Prince Philip attended the memorial service. The Queen and Prince Phillip passed through 46 towns and cities from the Far North to Bluff.

Queen Elizabeth II
Prince Philip
6 - 18 February
1963

Queen Elizabeth II National Arts Council established as New Zealand's gift to the Queen. This is the first time that a sovereign of New Zealand had been in the country on Waitangi Day.

Queen Elizabeth II
Prince Philip
Prince Charles
Princess Anne
12 - 30 March 1970

Arrived for the Bicentenary of Captain Cook's landing. This was Princess Anne's first time in New Zealand. Many towns and cities on both islands were visited.

Wellington. Picton. Ship Cove. Christchurch. Hokitika. Greymouth. Timaru. Dunedin. Invercargill. Queenstown. New Plymouth. Palmerston North. Napier. Gisborne. Tauranga. Mercury Bay. Auckland. Hamilton. Bay of Islands.

- Queen Elizabeth II
Prince Philip
Prince Charles
Princess Anne
Mark Phillips
Progressively from
22 January 1974 –
February 1974
- Prince Philip opened the Commonwealth Games on 24 January 1974. The Queen closed the Games on 2 February 1974.
- Lyttelton. Christchurch. Wanaka. Oamaru. Wellington. Rangiora. Masterton. Nelson. Rotorua. Whangarei. Bay of Islands. Wangarei. New Plymouth. Waitangi. Auckland. Hamilton. Ngaruawahia.
- Queen Elizabeth II
Prince Philip
22 February 1977 –
7 March 1977
- This special Commonwealth tour celebrated the Queen's Silver Jubilee.
- Auckland. Whangarei. Hamilton. Tauranga. Rotorua. Napier. Hastings. New Plymouth. Taupo. Gisborne. Palmerston North. Wellington. Blenheim. Mosgiel. Dunedin. Invercargill. Queenstown. Timaru. Hokitika. Christchurch.
- Queen Elizabeth II
Prince Philip
12 - 20 October
1981
- This visit followed the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Melbourne.
- Lyttelton. Christchurch. Ashburton. Dunedin. Wellington. Auckland. Kaikohe. Hamilton
- Queen Elizabeth II
Prince Philip
22 February 1986 –
2 March 1986
- Among the engagements undertaken during this tour, the Queen marked the centennial of the New Zealand Police.
- Auckland. Napier. Hastings. Wellington. Nelson. Christchurch. Lyttelton.
- Queen Elizabeth II
Prince Philip
1 - 16 February
1990
- The Queen attended commemorations on the 150th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi on 6 February. She also closed the Commonwealth Games.
- Auckland. Taupo. Cambridge. Otorohanga. Bay of Islands. Waiora. Wellington. Invercargill. Stewart Island. Milford Sound. Franz Josef. Bruce Bay. Wanaka. Queenstown. Palmerston North. Marlborough. Christchurch.
- Queen Elizabeth II
Prince Philip
1 - 10 November
1995
- Prior to the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Auckland, the Queen and Prince Philip undertook a seven-day nationwide tour.

Auckland Taupo. Rotorua. Wellington. Christchurch.
Dunedin.

Queen Elizabeth II
Prince Philip
22 - 27 February
2002

The Queen travelled to New Zealand as part of her Golden Jubilee tour of the Commonwealth Realms. In Christchurch, the Queen and Prince Philip received a Ngai Tahu welcome and visited Burnham Military Camp. In Auckland, visits were made to the Americas Cup Team New Zealand and the Liggins Institute. The itinerary included elements from a trip that had been planned for October 2001 which had been postponed due to the terrorist attacks carried out in the United States of America in September 2001.

Taupo. Christchurch. Wellington. Auckland.