



Media release

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Let's talk. *Tuia 250* – a conversation about our nation

This year a commemoration marking 250 years since the first onshore encounters between Māori and Europeans will prompt New Zealanders to have conversations about our history, led by co-chairs of the *Tuia – Encounters 250* National Coordinating Committee, former Prime Minister Dame Jenny Shipley and voyaging expert Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr.

The centrepiece of the commemoration will be a flotilla of vessels that celebrates the long voyaging traditions of Aotearoa New Zealand. From October to December the flotilla will carry these stories to communities across the country.

“*Tuia - Encounters 250 (Tuia 250)* is an opportunity to understand and be informed about New Zealand’s voyaging and navigation traditions and to share those stories about when Māori, Cook, Tupaia, Banks and others met in 1769,” says Dame Jenny Shipley.

“We believe New Zealanders are ready to take this chance to hold honest and sometimes awkward conversations about the arrivals, encounters and settlement of New Zealand, to guide our shared future.

“*Tuia 250* will encourage *kōrero* (discussion) and reflection, and enable a more balanced telling of our stories, so we speak openly and respectfully about our history. But it’s also about acknowledging all people who have chosen to call New Zealand home - whether their ancestors or family arrived on a waka, a ship or on a Boeing last week.”

Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr says *Tuia 250* encourages New Zealanders to acknowledge great voyaging traditions of Te Moana Nui a Kiwa (the Pacific) and the feats of European explorers.

“This week *Tuia 250* will have a presence at the kapahaka festival Te Matatini. The waka Pumaiterangi will be in the Wellington and Porirua Harbours representing

innovation and skill that existed in 1769 and before that time,” says Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr.

Dame Jenny and Hoturoa both agree “Tuia 250 provides a huge opportunity for us all as New Zealanders and is a moment not to be missed as we shape our future together.”

Ends

Contact: Rosanna Price, Senior Communications Adviser, Ministry for Culture and Heritage 027 622 0468 or email media@mch.govt.nz

Waka opportunity for media

There is opportunity for media interested in covering *Tuia 250* to board the waka Pumaiterangi in Oriental Bay, Wellington on Wed 20 Feb – 23 Feb. Get in touch if you're interested.

Funding

Successive Governments identified this as a tier 1 (major anniversary) commemoration and have provided significant funding. \$13.5 million has been committed in total to the commemoration project.

In addition a \$9 million Lotteries Tuia Fund has been fully allocated to a number of regional events and legacy projects around the country to express stories of first encounters and how we can weave our histories together for a shared future.

Voyage schedule (subject to weather conditions and operational changes)

	Arrive	Depart
Tūranganui-a-Kiwa/Gisborne	5 Oct	10 Oct
Ūawa/Tolaga Bay	11 Oct	12/13 Oct 16 Oct
Whitianga /Mercury Bay	18 Oct	20 Oct 22 Oct
Maraetai	23 Oct	24 Oct
Auckland	25 Oct	27-29 Oct
Whangarei	31 Oct	04 (PM) - 05 Nov
Bay Of Islands	07 Nov	11 Nov (PM)
Doubtless Bay	12 Nov	12 Nov (PM)
Waikawa, Picton	21 Nov	26 Nov
Wairau	27 Nov	28/ 29 Nov
Wellington	30 Nov	03 Dec (PM)

Christchurch (Rāpaki/Lyttleton)	07 Dec	10 Dec (PM)
Māhia	15 Dec	18 Dec

Further information: www.tuia250.nz