

BOARD STATEMENT: 18 May, 2009



### **Auckland Museum Board Express Their Support For Museum Director**

"The Board of Trustees for Auckland War Memorial Museum has carefully reviewed and participated in the process of bringing Sir Edmund Hillary's papers into the Museum. We are applying principles used by the best museums in the world to deal with this issue and craft an open, accessible legacy for the people of New Zealand.

We are strongly supportive of Museum Director Dr Vanda Vitali during this complex situation. She and the Board have consistently welcomed interaction with Peter and Sarah Hillary, have sought in good faith to find a happy medium that balances their worthy family needs with the intentions of Sir Edmund to make his papers available to all New Zealanders.

Dr. Vitali has our continuing vote of confidence and we will also continue to work with the Hillary children to sort out a solution to these issues."

ENDS