

Media Release:



Annual Waitangi LATE Kicks off All New Season of LATE at the Museum Events

LATE 01 Waitangi: The Mint Chicks / Whirimako Black / Sir Douglas Graham / Dr Hone Kaa

Auckland Museum's *LATE at the Museum* events are back for 2010. It's time to savour your culture after hours at the museum, with the popular series returning on the first Thursday of the month. This year the LATES feature a year-long discussion on the theme of innovation, with bands and artists performing in the museum's galleries.

Kicking off the brand new LATE season is the annual Waitangi LATE on Thursday 4 February. This event takes its inspiration from Waitangi Day to look at innovations behind the Treaty of Waitangi settlements. How far have we come and where do we go from here?

The panel discussion, moderated by Finlay Macdonald, features Sir Douglas Graham and Dr Hone Kaa. Sir Douglas is the former Minister in Charge of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, whose distinguished parliamentary career saw him oversee some of the most significant legislation in New Zealand's history.

Archdeacon Dr Hone Kaa is a Senior lecturer at Te Rau Kahikatea Theological College, St Johns. As both a Senior Priest and Kaumatua, Hone has been instrumental in supporting initiatives that advance Maori education and the protection of tamariki and their whanau.

Performing on the night is soul diva Whirimako Black, who has built a loyal jazz, blues and Maori fan base with her sublime blending of English song and Maori waiata. Also taking the stage is The Mint Chicks, whose innovative mélange of pop, punk and everything in between has won them acclaim at home and abroad.

After-work, post-dinner or pre-club, don't miss Auckland Museum's new season of afterhours smart talk and great music.

Tickets cost \$15 (plus \$3 booking fee) and can be purchased on the door, online at www.lateatthemuseum.com or by phoning 09 306 7048.

ENDS

What: LATE at the Museum, LATE 01 Waitangi

When: Thursday, 4 February, 6.30-11pm

Where: Auckland Museum

Cost: \$15 (plus \$3 booking fee). Tickets available on the door, online at www.lateatthemuseum.com or by phoning 09 306 7048.



Bios:

Sir Douglas Graham

Sir Douglas is a former politician whose distinguished parliamentary career saw him oversee some of the most significant legislation in New Zealand's history. He was the Minister of Justice for seven years and Minister in Charge of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations for nine years, during which he initiated and developed ground breaking policies aimed at settling claims lodged with the Waitangi Tribunal. Sir Douglas was appointed to Her Majesty's Privy Council in 1998 and knighted in 1999.

Since retiring from politics Sir Douglas has been a Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. He has also held a number of board appointments and is a consultant on indigenous issues, including working as the Special Envoy for the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth to the Kingdom of Tonga.

Dr Hone Kaa

Archdeacon Dr Hone Kaa is a Senior lecturer at Te Rau Kahikatea Theological College, St Johns. Hone is the Chairperson of Te Whare Ruruhou O Meri, and has served on this board for over 10 years. As both a senior priest and Kaumatua, Hone has been instrumental in supporting initiatives that advance Maori education and the protection of tamariki and their whanau.

The Mint Chicks

The Mint Chicks make spazzy, heavy, poppy music with lyrics about things like sports teams, love, death and obsession. Playing packed-out little venues in New Zealand since 2002, the Mint Chicks (singer and wurlitzer piano player Kody Nielson, bassist Michael Logie, drummer Paul Roper and guitarist Ruban Nielson) have climbed all the PAs, back flipped off all the drum risers, bloodied all the fingers, scrapped all the haters, broken all the hearts, ripped all the clothing and bashed all the microphones.

Octagon, Octagon, Octagon came in 2003, the Mint Chicks had just signed to legendary NZ label Flying Nun Records. It's influences were varied and it's local impact was felt immediately, taking student radio by storm with 4 number 1's and 5 'bnet' awards, even though it was only a six-track document of youthful enthusiasm and little bit of home-made inventiveness. The following year, after a single on the highly respected Fierce Panda label in the UK (hyped as a 'one minute masterpiece' by *Kerrang*) they released their second EP: *Anti-Tiger*, which placed even greater emphasis on both the chaotic and the melodic. It was well received, earning four K's from *Kerrang*, and '9/10' from *Blunt* magazine.

The year after that, the band had released a couple of EPs and toured New Zealand a trillion times (as well as doing a couple of trips to the US, one to England and half a dozen to Australia, having the good fortune to play support slots for the White Stripes, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, TV on the Radio, and the Blood Brothers). The band's acclaimed albums include *F**k the Golden Youth*, *Crazy? Yes! Dumb? No!* and last year's *Screens*.

Source: music.net.nz

Whirimako Black

New Zealand's soul diva, Whirimako Black has built up a loyal jazz, blues and Maori fan base with her sublime te reo Maori and English songs. She is, undoubtedly, one of this country's finest musicians. Whirimako has performed throughout Aotearoa, Europe and Australia over the past decade. She creates a truly unique, intimate presence in her performances with a 'sublime and exceptionally expressive voice' that has been described as 'pure velvet'.

Whirimako's distinctive sound, her use of traditional Māori musical forms and te reo Maori make her a unique and powerful voice for Aotearoa. Whirimako, of Ngai Tuhoe, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Ranginui, Kahungunu, Te Whakatohea, Te Whanau-a-Apanui, Te Arawa, and Ngati Awa descent, has performed throughout the country and has six solo albums to her credit in the last eight years.

"I have enjoyed composing music that has relevance for today, plus reviving and modernising traditional waiata (songs) which stems from my early involvement with the cultural arts of the Tuhoe tribe of Aotearoa. I aspire to see the fruition of my waiata being accessed on the international market, bringing a heightened awareness to the status of Maori, and the Maori language worldwide, to fulfil the dreams of my ancestors."

Source: whirimako.org