

Media Release:



## **Auckland Museum Director Resigns**

Dr William Randall, Chairman of the Auckland Museum Trust Board, announced today that by mutual agreement, Dr Vanda Vitali has resigned as Director of the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Dr Vitali finishes work at the Museum on 9 April.

Dr Randall said that Dr Vitali had instigated several initiatives to modernise the organisational structure, public offerings and overall relevance and value of Auckland Museum on local, national and international levels. These included a complete organisational restructure and implementation of key employee development programmes, including performance planning and performance-based remuneration.

Among the achievements of Dr Vitali listed by Dr Randall were her successes in revitalising the Museum's public programmes and exhibitions, and the development of a strong strategic vision for the institution which relies on a project-centric approach.

"I am very proud of what we have achieved in the past three years at the Museum, particularly with regards to increasing the relevance of this iconic institution to the people of Auckland and New Zealand," said Dr Vitali. "Much of the work I was charged with when I was recruited has been completed, and we are beginning to see a wonderful public response. Aucklanders are coming back to their Museum again, enjoying the exhibitions and programmes, and participating in informed debates on major scientific and cultural topics. This is a great thing for an evolving city. But the Board's vision and mine are diverging and as such we have reached a mutual agreement that it is appropriate that a new Director is appointed to see the Museum through the next phase of its development."

"Dr Vitali has played a significant role in transforming both the structure and culture of the Auckland War Memorial Museum", said Dr Randall. "For a variety of reasons, Dr Vitali has chosen to take her talents elsewhere and the Trust Board is grateful to her for the energy, dedication and expertise she has demonstrated during the past two and a half years." Dr Randall said that Dr Vitali has given Aucklanders a better understanding of the Museum's place at the heart of the cultural community.

He said an interim Director will be named shortly and a search to identify Dr Vitali's successor will begin immediately.

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