

Sustainable Future Institute Media Release: 6 September 2011

Nation Dates: Significant events that have shaped the nation of New Zealand – Book Launch

With the aim of inspiring New Zealanders to think about our long-term future, and to provide optimism for the way forward, *Nation Dates* will proudly be launched on Tuesday 6 September at Unity Books Wellington. 'This record of New Zealand's past provides invaluable context for the future at a time when our society is facing major questions about the way forward', states Wendy McGuinness, Author and Chief Executive of the Sustainable Future Institute. Documenting the development of New Zealand through significant events, *Nation Dates* provides a referenced timeline of the nation's history. Historical 'threads' link related events and illustrate patterns that have formed over time, providing context for the future.

Nation Dates is the result of several years of research. The timeline was first put together for *Project 2058*, but as the importance and need for a concise record of New Zealand's past was realised, the document evolved into a stand-alone historical resource on events of real significance to New Zealand.

Dame Claudia Orange states on the back cover that *Nation Dates* 'will become a key text for libraries, schools, universities and anyone with an interest in this country's past and future.' Professor Sir Mason Durie is also quoted as stating 'it is my hope that it inspires New Zealanders to think about our long-term future.'

The work the Institute has done to produce *Nation Dates* is particularly relevant in 2011 in light of the constitutional review currently in progress in New Zealand. Constitutional expert Professor Philip Joseph states in response to *Nation Dates* 'There is a critical need to evoke a deep sense of history if we are to plan for our constitutional future'. The Sustainable Future Institute's newest project, Empower, aims to promote awareness of, and interest in, the constitutional review and referendum, and motivate young New Zealanders to actively participate in both.

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To find out more about the Institute's newest project, see www.empowernz.co.nz.

To purchase a copy of *Nation Dates: Significant events that have shaped the nation of New Zealand* visit Unity Books or shop online at www.nationdates.org.nz

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