

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

New Commissioners bring wealth of experience & knowledge

The Library and Information Advisory Commission Ngā Kaiwhakamārama i ngā Kohikohinga Kōrero (LIAC) welcomed the Hon Judith Tizard's recent announcement of three new Commissioners.

LIAC, established in 2003, provides advice to the Minister Responsible for the National Library, Hon Judith Tizard, on library and information matters, including mātauranga Māori.

The new Commissioners have been nominated for a term of three years, and join existing Commissioner and incoming Chair, Brian Pauling, and renominated Commissioners, Paul Reynolds and Evelyn Tobin.

The new Commissioners are Bill Macnaught, Paul Thompson and Janet Copsey.

Bill Macnaught brings experience in the management of libraries and museums and has a good understanding of culture, heritage and ICT issues. Prior to arriving in New Zealand, Bill was a member of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council from 2003-2005 and contributed to the development of the People's Network in the UK.

Paul Thompson, previous Director of Museum of Wellington City and Sea, brings extensive experience in the heritage, museum, archive and technology sectors. He is a published author with an interest in New Zealand architecture, Māori rock art, New Zealand photography and poetry.

As University Librarian at the University of Auckland, Janet Copsey brings to LIAC her well established links within the tertiary sector. She is a Fellow of the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) and a member of the Council of New Zealand University Libraries (CONZUL).

The Minister's announcement marks the end of term for outgoing Chair, Ainslie Dewe and Commissioner, Chris Szekely.

LIAC has previously provided advice to the Minister Responsible for the National Library on the Government's Digital Strategy and the New Zealand Digital Content Strategy and has provided comment on local loop unbundling. In 2006/07 LIAC will direct its energies into providing leadership in the Creative Commons, mātauranga Māori, the Public Libraries Summit and will continue to focus on the New Zealand Digital Content Strategy.

For more information, please contact:

Library and Information Advisory Commission www.liac.org.nz

