



9 June 2011

**FOR RELEASE 10 JUNE**

**PRINCE PHILIP CELEBRATES 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY**

Monarchy New Zealand extends its best wishes to Prince Philip on his 90th birthday.

Prince Philip, husband of the Queen of New Zealand turns 90 on 10 June 2011. He is the longest-serving consort in New Zealand's history. He and Elizabeth II have been married for 63 years and he has worked to support her in her role as Queen since she came to the throne 59 years ago. In that time, he has travelled throughout Aotearoa on many occasions visiting countless cities and towns.

Prince Philip has dedicated his whole life to charitable causes. He is patron or president of more than 800 charities around the Commonwealth. Among these, he was the President of the World Wildlife Fund for 17 years. Of the 75 prizes, cups, and medals associated with him, the most famous is the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, known as the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Awards here in New Zealand.

He served in the Royal Navy during World War II and has since held many military positions in the Commonwealth Realms. In New Zealand, he is the senior-most officer in all three branches of the Defence Force. He serves immediately beneath the Queen in the command structure, though he does not have an operational role. He is Admiral of the Fleet of the Royal New Zealand Navy, Marshal of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, and Field Marshal of the New Zealand Army. He also serves as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Among the many honours and awards he has received from nations all over the world, he has received several distinctions from New Zealand. He is a member of the Queen's Service Order and a recipient of the New Zealand 1990 Commemorative Medal. There is a glacier in the Antarctic named after him by the New Zealand Antarctic Place-Names Committee.

During his public life the Prince has travelled to 143 countries and delivered 5,000 speeches. At the age of 90 he still undertakes many official duties for New Zealand, The United Kingdom, and the rest of the Commonwealth. Last year he attended 308 official engagements.

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