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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prince Charles to Tour New Zealand

Monarchy New Zealand welcomes the announcement that Prince Charles, heir to the throne of New Zealand, will be touring this country as part of the government's plans to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This important occasion is a milestone for Aotearoa and for Elizabeth II, Queen of New Zealand.

"New Zealanders have a great regard for the royal family and this will be evident throughout the visit and the whole of next year's Diamond Jubilee," said Dr Sean Palmer, Vice-Chair of Monarchy New Zealand. "Prince Charles has worked hard for New Zealand and is always available to undertake work at the government's request. He is a huge asset to this country."

The Diamond Jubilee is a celebration occurring in all of the nations that share Queen Elizabeth II as their head of state. It recognises that the Queen has been sovereign for 60 years. The actual anniversary of the Queen's accession is Waitangi Day, 6 February 2012, but the celebrations will occur throughout the year.

"Monarchy New Zealand has been talking with officials at all levels of government, and to numerous organisations and institutions, about suitable ways to recognise the role of the Queen," said Dr Palmer. "The response has been very positive. The monarchy is an important part of New Zealand's democracy and there is a growing appreciation for all the ways it touches this country. We look forward to further jubilee announcements in the coming weeks."

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