

**SUBJECT: Suffrage Day – 19 September 2020**

Kia ora koutou,

127 years ago history was made when Aotearoa New Zealand became the first country in the world to give women the right to vote. To celebrate Suffrage Day (19 September) this year we've partnered up with the National Library of New Zealand and the Government Women's Network to highlight the work of three suffragists who were instrumental in securing the vote for women. From 18 September to 10 October 2020 a free Suffragist display featuring Meri Te Tai Mangakāhia, Kate Sheppard and Mary Ann Müller will be in the foyer at the National Library of New Zealand in Wellington.

We also recognise that many of this year's celebrations will be online. We have attached a list of resources to help you celebrate Suffrage Day and to share with your audiences:

- **Explore** National Library's [He Tohu](#) site for details around New Zealand's suffrage history and [resources](#) for schools and community groups.
- **Read** about [Meri Te Tai Mangakāhia](#), [Kate Sheppard](#), [Mary Anne Müller](#) and other suffragists on Te Ara, the encyclopedia of New Zealand.
- **Search** the 1893 suffrage [petition database](#) on NZ History to see if your ancestors signed the petition.
- **Read** [He Tohu Rangatira – Māori women and the 1893 suffrage petition](#) from Archives New Zealand to learn about the wāhine Maori who signed the petition.
- **Download** the free ebook, [New Zealand Women and the Vote](#), from Manatū Taonga Ministry of Culture and Heritage.
- **Find out** about [women's activism](#) in New Zealand throughout history from NZ History.
- **Write** a biography on one of the women who signed the petition. Archives New Zealand has [advice](#) for researching and writing a biography on one of the signatories so we can learn more the individual women who came together to make history.

Attached you'll find a Suffrage Day symbol that you can share across your social media channels in celebration.

The Ministry for Women's [website](#) also has further facts and figures on women in New Zealand. Please let us know if you need further information.

We wish you a wonderful celebration of this milestone in New Zealand's history.

Ngā mihi

Deb Malcolm

