

Citation for Claudia Orange, proposed for Life Membership, PHANZA

Dame Claudia Orange (née Bell, b.1938) is a distinguished scholar of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, a notable public historian and a long-standing member of PHANZA.

Born in Auckland, she attended St Mary's College and then trained as dental nurse, qualifying in 1957. After gaining a Secondary Teachers College Diploma in 1973, Claudia enrolled at Auckland University in 1974 and in 1977 graduated MA (Hons) in history. She later studied Māori and gained fluency in the language.

Claudia lectured in history at the University of Auckland before embarking on her PhD, which she completed in 1984. Her subject, 'The Treaty of Waitangi: a study of its making, interpretation and role in New Zealand history', gave her the material for an enormously successful and influential book, *The Treaty of Waitangi*, which was published in 1987. Since then, condensed and children's versions of the book, among others, have been produced from the original volume. The book is arguably most significant for transforming Pākehā understanding of the relevance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

In 1987, Claudia was appointed an associate editor of the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*. She replaced Bill Oliver as general editor in 1990. She later worked on Te Ara: The Encyclopedia of New Zealand. The *Dictionary* and Te Ara were key projects for the employment of public historians in New Zealand. Claudia was also an associate editor for the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, published in 2004.

From 1997 to 2000 she was acting chief historian of the History Branch, Department of Internal Affairs. She was appointed director of history and Pacific cultures at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in 2003. In 2013 Claudia was appointed head of research at Te Papa. She retired in 2016.

Claudia was the foundation chair of the National Oral History Association of New Zealand (1986-89), a board member of the Stout Research Centre (1994-2000) and Chair of the Crown Forestry Rental Trust Research Advisory Committee.

Public recognition of Claudia's work has been considerable. In 1993 she was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for services to historical research. She was appointed a Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit, also for services to historical research, in the 2009 New Year Honours. When titular honours were restored in 2009, this award was redesignated as Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit. In 2018 she was made a Companion of the Royal Society Te Apārangi for her lifetime of work in Te Tiriti, New Zealand biography and of the role of history in museums. In 2018 the Society also awarded her its Pou Aronui for distinguished lifetime service to the humanities aronui.

It is fitting that PHANZA should join these other institutions in recognising a foundation member who has been involved in some of Aotearoa's key public history domains as a practitioner and manager over many decades.