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For immediate release

**KIINGI TUHEITIA CONGRATULATES NEW YEAR HONOURS RECIPIENTS**

Speaking from Horahora Marae, which hosts the first *poukai* of the new calendar year, Kiingi Tuheitia extended his congratulations to Maaori from around the *motu* whose contributions to Aotearoa New Zealand were recognised in the New Year’s Honours List.

“I want to acknowledge the knighthood of Mark Solomon in particular, as well as the recognition given to Turoa Kiniwe Royal for services to education, Hohi Ngapera Te Moana Keri Kaa, for services to te reo Maaori and the arts, and Professor Linda Tuhiwai Te Rina Smith for services to Maaori and education,” said Kiingi Tuheitia.

“It was good to see many of our Olympic athletes being recognised in the List.

“I also want to pay tribute to the many thousands of New Zealanders whose work has not been recognised, yet our country would be so much the poorer and harder without them.

“For every honours recipient there are thousands who continue to selflessly work for, and in, their communities with no thought of reward or recognition. We all know these every day heroes, and within my own rohe they are legends.

“While we congratulate the recipients of these honours today, I acknowledge the efforts of these ordinary New Zealanders who continue to strive for a better tomorrow.”

ENDS

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