

Press Release

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Archive's Erebus commemorative exhibition in final days

Archives New Zealand's commemorative exhibition *Erebus Remembered: Flight TE109* will close at the end of March.

"Over 2000 people have signed the visitors' book since the exhibition opened at Archives New Zealand, Wellington, in November 2004, to mark the 25th anniversary of the disaster," says Archives New Zealand Chief Executive Dianne Macaskill.

"Visitors have included families and friends of the victims of the disaster and members of the recovery team and their families, as well as many other people from New Zealand and overseas."

"Erebus is a significant event in our history and for our country. It's said that every New Zealander either knew, or knew of, someone on board. There were also many people and government agencies involved in the recovery operation and its aftermath as part of their work.

On 28 November 1979, Air New Zealand flight TE901 crashed on the slopes of Mt Erebus in Antarctica, killing all 257 people on board. This was the world's fourth worst air accident at the time.

The Erebus records were transferred from Antarctica New Zealand to Archives New Zealand four years ago.

The exhibition includes pre-flight documentation, maps showing the search grids carried out by three aircraft, photographs of the site and documents from the Royal Commission of Inquiry. Other archives on display include sound recordings and video footage. A commemorative wall and a book of memories, contributed by family members is also on display. A copy of this book is held at Scott Base.

"Archives New Zealand, as the keeper of the public record and the memory of Government, holds the original records created by the government agencies involved in the crash and the recovery operation," says Dianne Macaskill.

"The Erebus records will be returned into our archives to ensure their long term preservation. The exhibition space will next be used to display a collection of oil paintings from our National Collection of War Art due to open in April."

Archives New Zealand's exhibitions are open: Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm; Saturday 9am to 1pm, 10 Mulgrave Street, Wellington. Entry is free.

End

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