

Te Pahi Medal: Talk by Professor Deidre Brown.

Professor Deidre Brown (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahu; descendant of Te Pahi), University of Auckland Waipapa Taumata Rau.

The 2014 repatriation of the Te Pahi Medal to Aotearoa New Zealand put pre-Treaty of Waitangi Māori and European relationships into the spotlight at a time when the Waitangi Tribunal had recently found that Ngāpuhi had never ceded their sovereignty under the 1840 Treaty. This talk will examine the legacy of these relationships.

Te Pahi was a paramount rangatira in the northern Bay of Islands and his kāinga at Te Puna one of the earliest and largest trading stations for whaling, sealing and trading vessels.

During his 1806 visit to Parramatta (Australia), he was hosted by the Governor of New South Wales Philip Gidley King, impressed the Reverend Samuel Marsden sufficiently to inspire him to consider a Northland mission, and talked agriculture with leading farmer John Macarthur.

On Te Pahi's departure, his host and by then good friend King gifted him a commemorative silver medal, now known as the Te Pahi Medal, among other substantial gifts.

Te Pahi's descendants believe the medal was taken during a massacre at Te Puna, which led to the deaths of Te Pahi and up to 60 of his tribespeople at the hands of rampaging European sailors in 1810. Lost to its people for over 200 years, the medal resurfaced for sale at Sotheby's Sydney auction house in 2014, leading to a high-profile campaign for repatriation that included protests, proposed legal action, and negotiations between hapū representatives and the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and Auckland War Memorial Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira.

The museums purchased the medal with the blessing of hapū representatives, the first purchase partnership between the two institutions. The Te Pahi Medal is a small yet tangible connection between the early nineteenth and twenty-first centuries, and the human stories around its journeys across the Tasman demonstrate the power of the past to inform the present.



When:
2pm, Saturday, 24 July

Where:
Learning Centre, Waitangi
Treaty Grounds

Duration:
60 minutes

Price:
Free for Friends of
Waitangi and Experience
Pass holders

*Bookings are essential,
maximum numbers apply*

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