

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC *COLLOQUIUM*

Speaker

**Peter Hamilton and Gregory J Thwaite**

Topic

***Should The Constitution Of New Zealand Have A Role For King Charles III?***

Date & Time

**Monday 3 July 2023 at 6 p.m.**

Location

**Lecture Theatre, Old Government House** (University of Auckland), Princes Street, Auckland. Choice of masks and distancing is **Respected**.

Synopsis

The Coronation of King Charles III has provided an opportunity to consider the role of the Monarchy in New Zealand. Two speakers with different views have agreed to engage in a thoughtful and amiable Colloquium on the topic. Each has extensive experience abroad. By chance each has lived in Germany: one as the Ambassador in Berlin in the 2000's, and the other as a lawyer in Frankfurt in the 1990's.

Biographical Details

**Peter Hamilton** is a retired diplomat, with a long career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until retirement in 2013. His recent memoir is entitled *New Moons for Sam*.

His family immigrated from Somerset, England, and from the age of 9 he grew up in the King Country and Hamilton. After a year as a 17-year old VSA teacher in Tonga, he studied at the University of Auckland, and graduated with an MA in German.

In his 35 years with the Ministry his service abroad included periods in Samoa and in Singapore (in each post as the High Commissioner), and in Germany (where he was Ambassador to Germany, with accreditation to six other Central European nations). He ended his career as Deputy Secretary.

In his memoir he recounts how his experience in diplomacy, particularly abroad, has persuaded him of the benefits of a Republic.

**Gregory J Thwaite** is a lawyer. He holds a B.A. [in Classics] and an LL.B. (Hons.) from the University of Auckland, and an LL.M. from the Harvard Law School. While serving in the Territorial Force of the Army, he held the Queen's Commission.

He has worked as a lawyer in two Constitutional Monarchies (New Zealand, and the United Kingdom), two Republics (four years in California, USA, and five years in Germany), and one nation with a mixed system (Samoa). An Attorney-at-Law before the US Supreme Court, he has sworn to uphold both the US Constitution, and the Constitution of the State of California. He was in Berlin at midnight on 2 October 1990, when East Germany finally collapsed into the Federal Republic of Germany.

Presently he is in a small group reading Thucydides' *Peloponnesian War* in Classical Greek. A strong interest is democracy in Athens, and how demagoguery damaged it.

<sup>1</sup> World Affairs Forum Incorporated, # 50081789. Available from: <https://app.businessregisters.govt.nz>.  
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*The Forum provides a space and an opportunity for discussion and consideration of topics of international affairs. The meeting is open to the public, without charge or seat reservation.*