

Media release

20 June, 2018

Response to recent media comments regarding *The Oxford New Zealand Dictionary: Words and their Origins*

The Oxford New Zealand Dictionary: Words and their Origins is a dictionary written on historical principles and covers the history, development, and origins of words as well as current uses. As a work based on objective scholarly research, it includes quotations representing real usage of words over time, and may include usages which many would regard as offensive or derogatory. Such usages in no way reflect the views of the lexicographers or the publisher.

The Oxford New Zealand Dictionary was published in 1997 by Oxford and the New Zealand Dictionary Centre (a joint venture between Victoria University of Wellington and Oxford University Press). The dictionary is no longer in print. We sincerely regret any offence the entry in question has caused.

Dictionaries represent a record of living language at the time they are published. Oxford regularly updates its dictionaries to reflect changes in the meaning of words. In our more recent dictionary, *The New Zealand Oxford Dictionary*, the definition of 'bro' has been updated to "...a friendly greeting or form of address in Maori English". This is a more contemporary reflection of the word 'bro' and its meaning today.

ENDS

Media Contact: Sharlene Vinall, +61 406 599 357, Sharlene.Vinall@oup.com

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