



Today in History

◀ 15 November ▶



1861 First issue of *Otago Daily Times* published

Dunedin became the first centre to get a daily newspaper when William Cutten and future Premier Julius Vogel published the first issue of the *Otago Daily Times*.

The English-born Vogel had earned a reputation as a talented journalist and editor in Victoria during the 1850s. He had a flair for writing and a keen interest in business and public affairs. Vogel arrived in Dunedin in early October 1861 when Otago was in the grip of gold fever. He secured a job on the weekly *Otago Colonist*, but within weeks had formed a partnership with William Cutten, editor of the rival *Otago Witness*. Both men believed that the ever-increasing Otago population could support a daily newspaper and the *Otago Daily Times* was born on 15 November 1861.

Vogel was a key figure in the Otago separation movement which aimed, in the first instance, at the political separation of the North and South Islands. Under his editorship the *ODT* became a strong advocate for the Otago province. To this day the paper has a reputation for providing comprehensive coverage of the Otago region and advocacy for regional causes.

In November 1864 Cutten terminated his partnership with Vogel and was replaced by Benjamin Farjeon. Farjeon was the *ODT's* business manager and also acted as sub-editor, contributor and frequently, compositor. In March 1866 Farjeon and Vogel sold the *ODT* on condition they were kept on as manager and editor respectively. Farjeon left New Zealand in 1867 and Vogel left the *ODT* in April 1868.

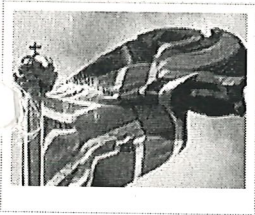
Its strong regional focus has allowed the *ODT* to survive where many of its competitors have fallen by the wayside. One paper that gave it a run for its money was the afternoon daily, the *Evening Star*, which began publication in 1863. In 1975 *Otago Daily Times* Ltd and the *Evening Star* Company Ltd merged to form Allied Press Ltd. In 1976 the *Star* ceased publication, leaving the *Otago Daily Times* as the flagship of Allied Press.

Internal links

[Julius Vogel](#)

External links

[ODT online \(Otago Daily Times\)](#) [Allied Press history \(Allied Press Ltd.\)](#) [Julius Vogel biography \(DNZB\)](#) [Benjamin Farjeon biography \(DNZB\)](#) [Newspapers \(NZETC\)](#)



1769 British flag flies for first time in NZ

In raising the British Colours at Mercury Bay on the Coromandel Peninsula, Cook claimed the area in the name of King George III.

Internal links

[European explorers - exploration of New Zealand](#) [Union Jack - flags of New Zealand](#)

External links

[Cook's three voyages \(Te Ara\)](#) [James Cook biography \(DNZB\)](#)

This Week in History

23 May 1966 Coronation of first Maori Queen	24 May 1854 Parliament's first sitting in Auckland	25 May 1978 Bastion Point protestors evicted	26 May 1879 Parihaka ploughing campaign begins	27 May 1987 Death of Colin McCahon	28 May 1920 Fingerprints help convict murderer	29 May 1953 Hillary and Tenzing conquer Everest
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Timeline Section

[Month Calendar View](#)

[Today in History](#)

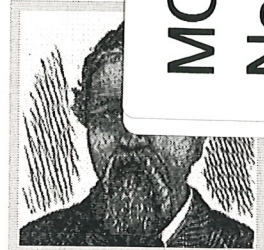
What happened

See historic event of the year to date below. Why birthday?

DD/MM

Visit the first

Kiwi of the Week



Tohu Kakahi

The prophet Tohu Kakahi of Te Ati Awa, along with Te Whiti o Rongonui, led the peaceful resistance movement at Parihaka. Both men were arrested after the invasion of Parihaka in 1881 by the Armed Constabulary and were held without trial until 1883.

more

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THIS WEEK'S QUIZ

Test your knowledge of NZ history

info

Culture and Society  
PRE-1840 CONTACT  
HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS  
CRIME AND PUNISHMENT  
DISASTERS

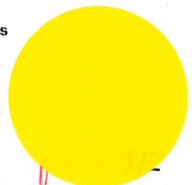
Politics and Government  
POLITICAL MILESTONES  
PROTEST AND REFORM  
TREATY OF WAITANGI  
MAORI LEADERSHIP

POST SECOND WORLD WAR  
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