

Today in History

13 September



1933 NZ's first woman MP elected

The Labour Party's Elizabeth McCombs became the first woman Member of Parliament, winning a by-election in the Lyttelton seat caused by the death of her MP husband James McCombs (one of the first Labour members, who had held the seat since 1913). Read more about Elizabeth here.

Although New Zealand women had famously won the right to vote in 1893, they were not allowed to stand for Parliament until the 1919 election. A handful of women had contested elections since that time, including the well-known Ellen Melville in Auckland, and McCombs herself in 1928 and 1931. The 1933 by-election presented her with an unexpected opportunity to become the first successful female candidate. Although James had only won the Lyttelton seat by 32 votes in 1931, Elizabeth won a resounding victory with a majority of 2600. Sadly, she died just two years after entering Parliament.

The McCombs family tradition continued after Elizabeth's death: she was succeeded by her and James' son Terence, who was MP for Lyttelton until 1951, completing a remarkable 38-year family hold over the seat. The second woman MP was Labour's Catherine Stewart, who was elected for Wellington West in 1938.

Image: Elizabeth McCombs

Internal links

Elizabeth McCombs Women MPs - Parliament's people

External links

Elizabeth McCombs (1966 encyclopaedia) Elizabeth McCombs biography (DNZB)

page 102

This Week in History



4 April 2001
Silvia Cartwright becomes Governor General



5 April 1932
Death of Phar Lap



6 April 1864 Pai Marire ambush in Taranaki



7 April 1856 First state secondary school opens in Nelson



8 April 1873
Julius Vogel becomes Premier



9 April 1932
Unemployed disturbances in Dunedin



10 April 1968
Sinking of the Wahine

Timeline S

Month Calendar

Today in History

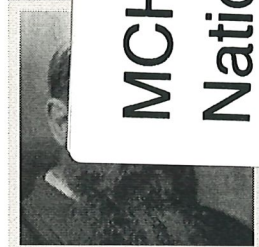
What has

See historical events for the year by month below. Why not visit our

Discover

Visit

Kiwi of the Year



Julius Vogel

Premier Julius Vogel's great plan was to borrow heavily to build infrastructure and to lure migrants. It was controversial, but the money and migrants stimulated the economy and created a viable consumer market for producers.

more

Get KotW as RSS

THIS WEEK'S QUIZ

Test your knowledge of NZ history

Culture and Society

PRE-1840 CONTACT
HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS
CRIME AND PUNISHMENT
DISASTERS
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
HEALTH AND WELFARE
IMMIGRATION
TRANSPORT
DECADE STUDIES
SPORT
LIFESTYLE
PLACES
THE GREAT OUTDOORS
MEMORIALS

Politics and Government

POLITICAL MILESTONES
PROTEST AND REFORM
TREATY OF WAITANGI
MAORI LEADERSHIP
THE GOVERNORS
PARLIAMENT'S PEOPLE
WORK OF GOVERNMENT
NZ IN THE WORLD

War and Society

NZ'S INTERNAL WARS
SOUTH AFRICAN WAR
FIRST WORLD WAR
SECOND WORLD WAR

POST SECOND WORLD WAR
OTHER CONFLICTS
WAR MEMORIALS

The Classroom

NCEA LEVEL 1 HISTORY
NCEA LEVEL 2 HISTORY
NCEA LEVEL 3 HISTORY
SOCIAL STUDIES LEVELS 4 AND 5
PRIMARY SCHOOL HISTORY
LINKS AND RESOURCES

Hands On History

LINKS AND RESOURCES
HISTORY GUIDES

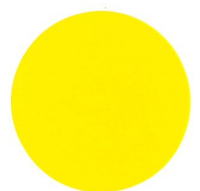
Media Library

INTERACTIVES
VIDEOS
SOUNDS
PHOTOS

General

SITE INFORMATION
QUIZZES
CALENDAR
BIOGRAPHIES

Other MCH websites



MCH ND