## Today in History

### 29 April



**1952    ANZUS comes into force**

Signed by Australia, New Zealand and the United States, the ANZUS treaty recognised that an armed attack in the Pacific area on one member endangered the peace and safety of the others. Each signatory pledged to 'act to meet the common danger'.

When British troops surrendered to the Japanese at Singapore in February 1942, New Zealand's confidence in Britain's ability to protect the far-flung parts of its empire was seriously undermined. A vulnerable New Zealand began to look elsewhere for its security.

In 1945 this country was one of 51 nations to sign the United Nations Charter, pledging its support for the principle of collective security. Even so, New Zealand sought a powerful ally capable of filling Britain's shoes. By then the United States was the dominant Pacific power.

After the war the Americans wanted a strong Japan as a barrier to the spread of communism in Asia. New Zealand and Australia worried that a resurgent Japan could again threaten the region. The ANZUS treaty was signed in 1951 to reassure the two countries about their protection and enlist their support for the anti-communist cause.

Each party agreed to maintain and develop their resources in order to strengthen their ability to resist attack, and to consult the others if the security of any member state was threatened in the Pacific. ANZUS remained in force until the nuclear ships row of the mid-1980s. When the Labour government announced its decision to ban ships that were either nuclear-powered or -armed, New Zealand was effectively frozen out of the ANZUS treaty by the Americans.

### Internal links

New Zealand and the Cold War    Political and constitutional timeline    Nuclear-free New Zealand    New treaties and alliances – New Zealand Forces in Asia 1948–72    Sidney Holland    1952 – key events

### External links

Full text of ANZUS (Australianpolitics)    ANZUS (Wikipedia)    ANZUS (BBC)    Image of ANZUS meeting (Australian War Memorial)    New Zealand in the world (Te Ara)    Frederick Doidge biography (DNZB)

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## 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*

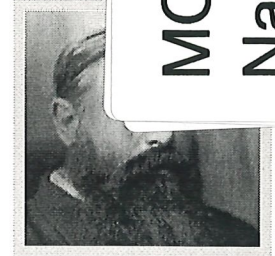Timeline Se

Month Calendar
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**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.

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