

# Today in History

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## 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 Voael 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

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#### Tohu Kakahi

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

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