Essential DATES

A TIMELINE OF NEW ZEALAND HISTORY

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April 14  The Paremata Maori (Maori parliament) is established at a hui of 96 chiefs at Te Tiri o Waitangi maree, Pehewhirangi. The most successful manifestation of the kōrero movement aims to unify tribes politically and ensure the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are upheld.

April 16  The New Zealand Rugby Football Union is founded at a meeting in Wellington — although Otago and Canterbury will immediately withdraw their support.

June 7  The Earl of Glasgow assumes office as governor. The navy man will eventually resign office on the grounds the salary is too small.

June 14  The Paremata Maori meets for the first time at Waipatu, Hawke's Bay.

July 15  A second WCTU women's suffrage petition (20,000 women's signatures) is presented at Parliament.

October 11  The Land Act passes into law. Among other things, the legislation enshrines the right of public access to rivers, lakes and coasts, and forests and mountains.

July 28  A third women's suffrage petition is presented at Parliament. This one contains nearly 32,000 signatures — almost a quarter of the adult European female population in New Zealand.

September 8  The Legislative Council votes 20 to 18 to allow all women to vote, despite the opposition of Richard Seddon and several of his ministers.

September 19  The Electoral Act is signed into law by the governor; and New Zealand becomes the first self-governing nation where women have a parliamentary vote.

October 2  The Alcoholic Liquors Sale Control Act passes into law, allowing the public a say in the availability of alcohol. The first poll will be held the following year.

November 28  More than 90,000 women vote for the first time in a general election. In the poll, James Carroll wins Waipu for the Liberal Party and becomes the first Maori to be elected to a general, rather than a Maori, seat. He will hold the seat for 25 years.

December 20  Elizabeth Yates is installed as mayor of Onehunga, Auckland. She is the first woman in the British Empire to be elected mayor.

Women voting in the local body elections of November 26, 1893. In the Onehunga election Elizabeth Yates will be elected the first woman mayor.