Readers will notice the changes from earlier editions with the 1990 edition of the New Zealand Official Yearbook. Apart from the obvious change of size, there are also major differences in content.

The 94th edition of the Official Yearbook not only provides the regular statistics and other authoritative reference material on New Zealand, but also a wealth of historical material on many different topics, much of which has been reproduced or derived from earlier editions.

The departmental editors have managed to counterpoint the contemporary information with historical text, graphics and photographs, and the result is a volume with frequent changes of perspective as the reader peruses it. I am sure that readers will find the mixture both interesting and informative.

The Official Yearbook can trace its origins in time to a number of different dates last century. It was not known as the Official Yearbook until 1893, but a precursor, the Handbook of New Zealand was prepared as early as 1875. Although not strictly the Official Yearbook's centennial, the 1990 commemorative year was seen as an appropriate time for a special edition.

The preparation of the 1990 Official Yearbook has involved even more contributors than usual, with several hundred persons in various departments and other organisations contributing. Many persons have also given generously of their private time, particularly in the preparation of historical material. All contributors are acknowledged at the end of each chapter, but on behalf of the department I would like to offer my thanks to all concerned. I also record my appreciation of the fine work of the Department of Statistics editorial and graphic design staff, as well as those at the Government Printing Office, who have successfully completed their tasks under considerable time pressure. My special thanks go to Bob White, the Chief Editor of the Official Yearbook, for turning the concept of the 1990 commemoration edition into a product of such excellence.

Despite the emphasis on history, this is not the last edition of the Official Yearbook of course. It will return in the second half of 1991—in its usual format—and continue to chronicle developments in New Zealand as a nation, while providing an authoritative reference work that New Zealanders can use from day to day.

In regard to the specific statistical content of the Official Yearbook, readers should understand that the volume contains only a very small fraction of available official statistics. Just because statistics are not in the Official Yearbook do not assume, as sometimes happens, that they are not available. A written or telephone inquiry to the Department of Statistics will readily reveal the full range of available statistics.

I welcome you as a reader of this special edition of the New Zealand Official Yearbook, and hope that it provides an effective source for meeting a wide range of public information needs.

S. Kuzmicich
Government Statistician

June 1990.
The seat of government

Up to the year 1865 the seat of Government of New Zealand was at Auckland. Several attempts were made by members of Parliament, by motions in the Legislative Council and House of Representatives, to have it removed to some more central place, but it was not until November, 1863, that Mr. Dunlop (the late Premier) was successful in carrying resolutions in the House of Representatives that such a site be sought for at a place in Cook Strait as the permanent seat of Government in the colony. The resolutions adopted were: (1) That it has become necessary that the seat of Government in the colony be transferred to some suitable locality in Cook Strait. (2) That, in order to promote the accomplishment of this object, it is desirable that the selection of the particular site in Cook Strait should be left to the arbitration of an impartial tribunal. (3) That, with this view a bill should be introduced to give effect to the above resolution." On the 25th November an address was presented to the Governor, Sir George Grey, K.C.G.B., by the Commons of New Zealand, requesting that the Governor of the Colony of New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania might be asked to appoint one Commissioner for the purpose of determining the best site in Cook Strait. Accordingly, the Hon. Joseph Ducker, M.L.C., New South Wales, the Hon. Sir Francis Murphy, Speaker of the Legislative Council, Victoria, and R. C. Cuninghame, Esq., Tasmania, were appointed Commissioners.

These gentlemen, having made a personal inspection of all suitable places, arrived at the unanimous conclusion "that Wellington, in Port Nicholson, was the site upon the shores of Cook Strait which presented the greatest advantages for the administration of the government of the colony." The seat of Government was, in accordance with the recommendations of the Commissioners, removed to Wellington in February, 1865. 1892.

Members of Parliament. Table 3.4 shows the percentage of women members of Parliament, and members of both sexes of various ages elected in the 1987 general election compared to the voting population.

3.4 PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age groups, both sexes</th>
<th>Percentage of total members of Parliament</th>
<th>Percentage of total voting age population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-29 years</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>21.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>21.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>22.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 years and over</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*As at 31 December 1989.

Source: Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Table 3.5 lists members of the House of Representatives at the end of December 1989. The final results of the 1987 general election were printed in the Report of the General Election (also Parl. paper E.9). Amended statistics, including the result of an electoral petition which saw the Government member for Wairarapa replaced by a National Party candidate during 1988, were printed subsequently (also Parl. paper E.9).
Cover

*The History of Migration to and Settlement of Pito-one (Petone) 1840–1990* (after James Turkington 1940).

A series of acrylic mural paintings by Irena Stenner and Grant Corbishley, 1989.

Petone Settlers Museum (Te Whare Whakaaro o Pito-one).

The mural by James Turkington originally decorated the four walls in the foyer of the Wellington Provincial Centennial Memorial, built on the Petone foreshore in 1940. A number of events were also staged on the beach nearby, which is where the first New Zealand Company settlers landed.

The painting, along with the building, subsequently fell into disrepair and was painted over in the late 1970s, at about the time the building was refurbished and converted to the Petone Settlers Museum. The only record of the original mural remaining was a series of black-and-white photographs held by the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington. When it was decided to commission the repainting for the 1990 commemorations, these were used as a basis, although two new panels were added.

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