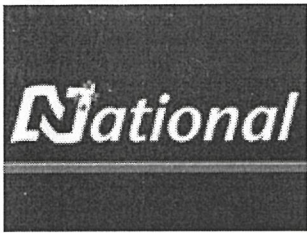


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◀ **13 May** ▶

MCH, 2012



Timeline 1
1949
Page 143

1936 NZ National Party founded

Following their crushing defeat by the Labour Party in the 1935 general election, the remnants of the United-Reform coalition government met in Wellington on 13-14 May 1936 to establish a new 'anti-socialist' party.

The conference in the Dominion Farmers' Institute Building was attended by 11 members of the Dominion Executive of the National Political Federation (the body that had run the United-Reform campaign in 1935), 232 delegates from around the country, representatives of women's and youth organisations, and most of the re-elected anti-Labour MPs. The party was named the New Zealand National Party to signal a clean break with United and Reform, which had been discredited by their handling of the Depression. Adam Hamilton was elected as its first leader in October 1936.

The National Party grew quickly and by the time of its third annual conference in August 1938 it boasted more than 100,000 members. Even so, it would take a further 11 years for the party to win office for the first time. In the 1950s and 1960s National was one of the best-organised and largest mass-based democratic political parties in the world. It has also been the most successful party in New Zealand's political history, holding office (as of 2011) for a total of 41 years to Labour's 35 - and, even more impressively, all but 12 of the 50 years between 1949 and 1999. 2012

Internal links

[Sidney Holland](#)

1949. First National Government takes office.

External links

- [History of the National Party](#)

How to cite this page: 'NZ National Party founded', URL: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/page/nz-national-party-founded>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 30-Aug-2012

This Week in History



5 November 1881 [Attack on pacifist settlement at Parihaka](#)



6 December 1908 [Last spike for North Island main trunk line](#)

[http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/page/nz-national-party-founded](#)

1st Labour
1st Nat
2nd Lab
2nd Nat
3rd Lab
3rd Nat
4th Lab
4th Nat
5th Lab
5th Nat

35-49	14
49-57	8
57-60	3
60-72	12
72-75	3
75-84	9
84-90	6
90-99	9
99-2008	9
2008-2012	4
Total	77

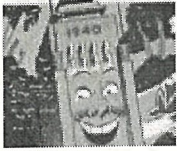
Labour
35
National
42
Total
77

3rd





7 November 1970 Aoraki/Mt Cook route conquered by hippies



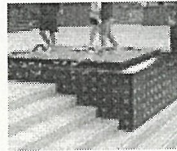
8 November 1939 NZ Centennial Exhibition opens



9 November 1769 Captain Cook observes transit of Mercury



10 November 1868 Te Kooti attacks Matawhero



11 November 1918 Armistice Day