



# (Shaw-Owens, N., 2023)



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# September Issue

## 2023

## Features



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# 3 MONTHS SOUTH

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One small New

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THROUGH THE  
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How to dig  
a grave

AN ESSAY BY  
THEMA BAKER

Steven Joyce

# Four corners

## Rebels with cause

By Nadia Shaw-Owens

Though sometimes saddled with a reputation for being mild, unassuming and passive, New Zealanders don't always shy away from kicking up a fuss. In beer strikes, flour bombings and mining brawls, Kiwis have been known to show a stroppier streak.

**Flour power Auckland**  
Unprecedented violent unrest boiled over in 1981, when the Springbok rugby team from apartheid South Africa toured New Zealand. During the final test match of the tour at Eden Park, protestors dropped flour bombs onto the field by plane, one of them falling All Black prop Gary Knight.

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### No nukes Wellington

Spanning four decades, the anti-nuclear campaign in New Zealand was among the most successful movements of its kind and, for a time at least, helped define the nation's identity on the international stage. Activists created the original momentum; and Labour prime ministers Norman Kirk and David Lange played their parts, in the 70s and 80s respectively, before a nuclear-free stance was eventually written into law in 1987. By 1990, even the National Party chose to maintain it.

### In for a penny Greymouth

When the price of a beer was lifted by a penny from sixpence in 1947 Greymouth, the town committed to a "sevenpenny" boycott, in which hotels that sold beer at the inflated rate were snubbed. One rebel pub, the Central Hotel, maintained the lower price and became so popular that beer supplies were exhausted - Speights stepped in and provided extra kegs. After a four-month standoff, the original price was restored, bringing to an end one of the most effective consumer boycotts seen in New Zealand.

Left: Downing a beer at the Dennistown Hotel, 1945.

new date

### Treaty tension Waitangi

Waitangi Day has often sparked rowdy protests. Among other memorable moments during Waitangi commemorations, the late Queen Elizabeth II was targeted with a wet T-shirt, Helen Clark brought to tears in a marae confrontation, John Key jostled by protestors, and Don Brash hit in the face with a clod of mud (pictured, above).

### Black Tuesday Waihi

In 1912, tensions ran high during a bitter six-month strike by Waihi miners. On Tuesday 12 November, police and strikebreakers stormed the miners' hall. Shots were fired, wounding a strikebreaker and a constable, and striker Frederick Evans was beaten so severely that he later died in hospital. His funeral, at Waikaraka cemetery in Auckland a few days later was a huge political event. Right: Waihi miners striking.

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### Work, sleep, play Wellington

Now most often thought of as a day off work, Labour Day marks the pioneering struggle in New Zealand for an eight-hour working day. In 1840, Wellington enter Samuel Parnell refused to work more than 8 hours a day, arguing that the ideal ratio is eight hours for sleep, and eight for recreation. Parnell attended official Labour Day 50 years later, and died shortly after.

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