

NATION DATES

**Significant
events that
have shaped
the nation of
New Zealand**

WENDY MCGUINNESS & MIRIAM WHITE

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Lastly, the significant events we have chosen have, in reality, already been selected and polished by those before us. Our challenge has been to ensure we honour the work of the many historians who have committed their working lives to understanding our past, and then reported these events in such a way that they can be found and understood by researchers today. We thank those past and present, for making this book possible. Naturally any errors or matters of opinion remain the responsibility of the authors.

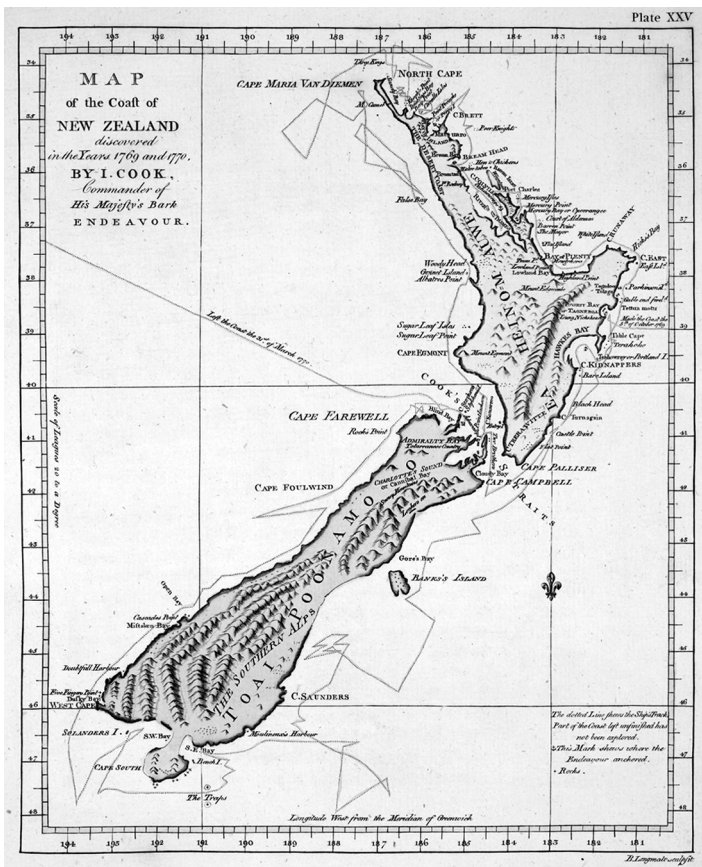
Preface

Mark Twain once famously said, ‘History doesn’t repeat itself, but it does rhyme.’ A deeper understanding of the patterns in our nation’s history can help us appreciate and prepare for the challenges and opportunities ahead. Events viewed together form patterns, what we have called historical threads, that eventually give us insights into the possibility of new models for change and action.

We have made this work available as a record of our nation’s past, with a view to providing a useful context for shaping our future. We believe that this is particularly relevant in light of the constitutional review that is currently in progress in New Zealand. We hope it might provide a useful resource for those interested in working today to improve the lives of New Zealanders tomorrow.

Many of the events documented on these pages are the result of the efforts of a large number of courageous men and women who have worked hard to shape our nation. I hope this book will inspire New Zealanders living today to follow in their footsteps.

Wendy McGuinness
Chief Executive
Sustainable Future Institute



Map of the coast of New Zealand charted in 1769 and 1770
Lieutenant James Cook
1773

The name for the North Island is given as 'Ea hei nom auwe', which is either a version of He ahi nō Māui (meaning fire from Māui) or He mea hī nō Māui (meaning fished up by Māui). The name of the South Island is 'Toai Poonamo o'. This is believed to be a corruption of Te Wai Pounamu, which means the greenstone waters. (Taonui, 2011) [See 1770, page 8]

Introduction

The timeline presented in this book details significant events from 1770 to 2011 that have shaped the nation of New Zealand. The Institute first undertook the creation of this timeline to provide a platform for our work programme; however, it quickly evolved into a project with a life of its own. After the initial timeline was drafted, it became clear that it could be expanded to provide a useful snapshot of important events in our history – a pocket-sized historical reference point for specific facts, general knowledge and an understanding of New Zealand’s past and present.

Below we set out the historical context by briefly explaining the naming of New Zealand and why we take 1770 as the starting date of our nation. We then explain how to navigate the nine chapters of this book.

The naming of New Zealand

Prior to European settlement, Māori had no collective name for New Zealand, although names did exist for the North and South Islands. Names for the North Island often included a reference to Māui (such as Te Ika a Māui [the Fish of Māui] or similar; see page 2) or Aotea (Aotearoa). Names for the South Island included Te Waka-a-Aoraki (the canoe of Aoraki) and Te Wai Pounamu (the greenstone waters).

Abel Tasman, who was the first European to discover New Zealand, in 1642, initially thought it was connected to land off the southern tip of South America and called it ‘Staten Land’. When the Dutch mapmakers discovered this was not the case, they still believed it to be a continent, and changed the name to the Latin ‘Zeelandia Nova’, or in Dutch, ‘Nieuw Zeeland’, after the Dutch province. This later evolved into ‘New Zealand’, as shown on the map charted by Lieutenant James Cook, reproduced on page 2.

The word ‘Aotearoa’ is now frequently placed in front of New Zealand, to read ‘Aotearoa New Zealand’. The first written record of ‘Aotearoa’ does not appear until the late 19th century. In 1898, William Pember Reeves noted in his history of New Zealand, *The Long White Cloud (Ao Tea Roa)*, ‘Ao-Tea-Roa [is] the Maori name of New Zealand’. Further, historian Michael King believed Māori only came to embrace ‘Aotearoa’ as a pre-European name for New Zealand due to the widespread publication of the story of Kupe in New Zealand primary school journals in the early 20th century (see page 53).

In writing this book, we have endeavoured to report the facts as they stand, and as the official name of this country is New Zealand, this is the term we have used. In addition, we have maintained the original forms of historical terms such as the titles of institutions and Acts of Parliament; this means, for example, that macrons have not been added where they do not occur in the original.

The recognition of New Zealand as one nation

Although New Zealand has a rich history that predates 1770, this date was selected for the beginning of the timeline as it is when this isolated group of islands was first claimed to be one nation, a claim evidenced in the journal of Lieutenant James Cook. The Lieutenant had been instructed to undertake a scientific expedition to observe the transit of Venus across the sun at Tahiti in June 1769, but he also travelled with secret

instructions authorising him to take possession of ‘a Continent or Land of great extent’ thought to exist in southern latitudes.

Cook charted the coastline of New Zealand, proving that the land was a group of islands, rather than one continent. Before leaving, he proclaimed British possession of New Zealand, firstly at Mercury Bay on the Coromandel Peninsula on 15 November 1769, and secondly at Motuara Island in Queen Charlotte Sound on 31 January 1770 (see page 9). In raising the British flag, Cook claimed the lands in the name of King George III. This appears to have been the first time one party has laid claim to both islands, signalling the concept underlying ‘one nation’, and it was this initial idea of sovereignty that led to the Treaty of Waitangi. For this reason the year 1770 marks the starting point of our journey to record the events that have shaped this nation.

The timeline

The Institute defines significant events as those that are important milestones in the evolution of our nation. The selection of events listed in Chapter 1 is not totally comprehensive, and we acknowledge that there are many more dates worthy of inclusion. We also appreciate that there will not necessarily be universal agreement as to the validity of different events (such as the third oil shock); however, we have endeavoured to make a considered selection.

The timeline has been constructed on a national rather than a regional basis, keeping the focus on New Zealand as a whole. Our aim is to provide a concise overview, while offering readers the opportunity to delve into more detail as required.

To set the context for the timeline we have compiled lists of key information in Chapters 2–7: Heads of State, Governors and Governors-General, Premiers and Prime Ministers, political parties, Royal Commissions and referenda.

Historical threads

An event in isolation gives us limited information, but when joined with other data, patterns begin to emerge. Chapter 8 documents these patterns through the identification of common ‘threads’. We identified 65 historical threads which we have grouped under 13 major headings. Many of these threads will continue onward into the future and provide a useful tool for developing foresight.

The timeline can either be read consecutively, as 440 events from 1770 to 2011, or by following one of the 65 historical threads. Every entry closes with a square bracket, identifying the number of the thread, as in ‘t1’, followed by the year in which the thread is next mentioned. Although there are clearly many more linkages, for simplicity we have selected what we believe is the most relevant thread for each entry on the timeline. Further, we acknowledge there are many different ways such events could be grouped, but we put forward our suggestions in the hope that these threads provide a useful insight when exploring New Zealand’s long-term future.

The last word

Our hope is that *Nation Dates* will give readers a deeper understanding of our constitutional history. Chapter 9 outlines the constitutional review currently in progress.

Nation Dates is an evolving project designed to leave you considering what future events we should be working hard towards – either together or individually. In view of this we provide space at the end of the book for you to suggest significant dates for subsequent editions and to record events you would like to see happen in the future.

— Adapted from King, 2003: 35–36, 90–91, 95; MCH, 2011a; n.d.[a]; Moon, 2010: 16; National Archives of Australia, 2005; Reeves, 1898: 25; South Seas, 2004; Taonui, 2011

1 Timeline

The following timeline provides an overview of 440 significant events that have contributed to the development of New Zealand as a nation over the past 240 years.

To read the book by threads, follow the brackets (a full list of the 65 threads can be found on page 143). For example, the first entry is the beginning of the second thread, called ‘Constitutional Developments’. The next year in the thread is 1801. This is abbreviated in the text to [t2–1801].

To conserve paper and make the web-based references easily accessible, a list of references identified in the text is available on the book’s website at www.nationdates.org.nz.

1770 James Cook proclaims British sovereignty over New Zealand

In 1769–1770 Lieutenant James Cook charts the coastline, proving that the land is a group of islands, rather than one continent. Cook proclaims British possession of New Zealand, firstly at Mercury Bay on the Coromandel Peninsula on 15 November 1769, and secondly at Motuara Island in Queen Charlotte Sound on 31 January 1770. [t2–1801]
(MCH, 2009a; South Seas, 2004)

1773 Sheep, pigs and goats introduced to New Zealand

During his second voyage to New Zealand, Cook (now officially Captain James Cook) releases a ram, a ewe, and a number of boars and sows in Queen Charlotte Sound. This is the first time sheep set foot on New Zealand soil, and they only survive a few days. In the same year Cook releases a pair of goats. [t10–1791]
(MCH, n.d.[b]; Petrie, 2009)

1791 Earliest record of whaling in New Zealand

The ship *William and Ann* is the first to be recorded hunting whales in New Zealand waters. The ship originally departed from England bound for Australia with convicts on board. It then went on to Doubtless Bay to hunt sperm whales. Whale and seal oil were to become two of New Zealand's most important early exports, along with sealskins, timber, and flax – with tattooed Māori heads a gruesome additional item. [t10–1814]
(McLintock, 1966a; Phillips, 2009a; Saunders, 1926)

1801 Māori are first referred to collectively as 'Maori'

The first written record is in the journal of the ship *Royal Admiral* in the Firth of Thames. By the 1830s the majority of the population is using the term 'Maori'. Europeans are known as 'Pakeha', probably coming from 'the pre-European word pakepakeha, denoting mythical light-skinned beings'. [t2–1829]
(King, 2003: 146–147)



Captain James Cook
Sir Nathaniel Dance Holland
1800

‘... we took it up to the highest part of the Island and after fixing it fast in the ground hoisted thereon the Union flag and I dignified this Inlet with the name of Queen Charlottes Sound and [took] formal pos[s]ession of it and the adjacent lands in the name and for the use of his Majesty.’

— James Cook, 31 January 1770

- 1814** **First Christian service in New Zealand**
On Christmas Day, Bishop Samuel Marsden holds the first Christian service in New Zealand. [t59-1941]
(Sharp, 2009)
- 1814** **Cattle and horses introduced to New Zealand**
Samuel Marsden brings a bull and two heifers to New Zealand. In the same year, the first horses, a stallion and two mares, are introduced in the Bay of Islands.
[t10-1832]
(Fonterra, n.d.; Keane, 2009)
- 1815** **First book in Māori published**
The first book in Māori is printed and published in Sydney by George Howe. It is entitled *A Korao no New Zealand; or, the New Zealander's first book; being an attempt to compose some lessons for the instruction of the natives*. [t54-1835]
(Moon, 2010: 20)
- 1818** **Musket Wars begin**
The Musket Wars refer to a period of internal fighting between iwi. Māori enter into an arms race, with many iwi competing to obtain muskets – usually through trading with Europeans. Between 1818 and 1830, around 20,000 Māori lose their lives. [t65-1844]
(Keane, 2011; MCH, 2011a)
- 1829** **Wakefield publishes *A Letter from Sydney***
Edward Gibbon Wakefield publishes a book entitled *A Letter from Sydney*, which is the first important document to suggest that Australasia be systematically colonised by the British to alleviate poverty and population growth in England. [t2-1835]
(Moon, 2010: 22)



Three paddles, Sydney Parkinson
 From a collection of drawings made during
 Cook's first voyage.
 1769

‘Kia hora te marino,
 Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana,
 Kia tere te kārōhirohi.’

‘May the calm be widespread,
 May the sea glisten like the greenstone,
 And may the shimmer of summer
 dance across thy pathway.’

— Rangawhenua Tawhaki, Miringa Te Kakara, TeTiroa 1884

- 1831** **Thirteen rangatira sign a petition to King William IV**
A meeting of 13 rangatira of the north at Kerikeri sign a petition to the King – to ask him to ‘Look after his hapū who are behaving in an uncivilised manner.’ [t35-1882]
(Network Waitangi Taranaki, 2000)
- 1832** **First shipment of wool**
The first shipment of wool leaves the Bay of Islands.
[t10-1837]
(DOC, n.d.[a])
- 1833** **Busby arrives in New Zealand**
James Busby arrives in New Zealand in May 1833. This follows his appointment in 1832 as British Resident in New Zealand, the equivalent to a consular officer, by New South Wales with the agreement of the British Government.
[t44-1839]
(MCH, 2007a)
- 1834** **United Tribes of New Zealand flag chosen**
‘Northern chiefs gather at Busby’s house at Waitangi to choose a Flag of the United Tribes of New Zealand to fly on New Zealand-built trading ships.’ [t40-1902]
(MCH, 2009b)
- 1835** **Declaration of Independence of New Zealand (He Wakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirene)**
‘A Declaration of Independence of New Zealand is drawn up by Busby without authorisation from his superiors. This asserts the independence of New Zealand, with all sovereign power and authority resting with the hereditary chiefs and tribes.’ The declaration is sent by Busby to King William IV and formally signed by the Crown in 1836. By 1839, this declaration has been signed by 52 Māori chiefs. The declaration has since been seen by many Māori as British recognition of an independent Māori nation. [t2-1838]
(MCH, 2009b; 2009c)



Samuel Marsden
Born 28 July, 1764; died 12 May, 1838
[See 1814, page 10]

**‘Some civilized Government
must take New Zealand under
its protection, or the most
dreadful evils will be committed
by runaway convicts, sailors
and publicans.’**

— Samuel Marsden, April 1837

1835 Charles Darwin visits New Zealand

HMS *Beagle* spends nine days in the Bay of Islands during its five-year voyage of exploration. Charles Darwin is on board. He goes on to write *On the Origin of Species* (1859), considered by many to be the most important scientific work of the 19th century. [t54-1856]
(MCH, n.d.[c]; Watson, 2005: inside cover)

1837 Possums introduced to New Zealand

The Australian brushtail possum is introduced to New Zealand at Riverton, Southland, to contribute to the fur trade. [t10-1838]
(Brockie, 2009)

1838 House of Lords' Select Committee Report on the 'State of New Zealand' published

A select committee of the British House of Lords hears evidence on the state of New Zealand and submissions from interested parties on the future of the country. The committee concludes by issuing a report entitled *Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the Present State of the Islands of New Zealand*, which recommends a treaty be entered into with Māori to extend British rule over New Zealand while protecting the rights of Māori. [t2-1839]
(Moon, 2010: 36)

1838 Gorse introduced to New Zealand

By 1838 gorse has been introduced as a hedge plant. It spreads quickly, and in 1900 it is declared a weed by Act of Parliament. [t10-1871]
(Hill et al., 2000: 909-910)

- 1839** **Hobson appointed British consul**
 ‘The British Government appoints William Hobson as consul to New Zealand, with instructions to obtain sovereignty with the consent of a “sufficient number” of chiefs.’ This follows a report written by Hobson in 1837 on the prospects for New Zealand, undertaken for Sir Richard Bourke, Governor of the Colony of New South Wales. [t44-1841]
(Elder, 1932: 528; MCH, 2009b; Moon, 2010: 34)
- 1839** **First New Zealand Company settlement**
 A proposal to establish colonies of British settlers in New Zealand is made by Edward Wakefield and the New Zealand Association (later the New Zealand Company). A land-buying expedition is dispatched in May 1839 and led by Wakefield’s brother William. A deed for the purchase of land in the Port Nicholson (Wellington) area is concluded with local Māori chiefs. On 22 January 1840, the first New Zealand Company settlers arrive in the Wellington area. [t2-1839]
(Hutt City Council, n.d.; Moon, 2010: 38; Sorrenson, 1986: B-8)
- 1839** **Lord Normanby issues instructions on a potential treaty**
 Lord Normanby, the British Colonial Secretary, issues instructions to ‘conclude a treaty between the British Crown and the Maori chiefs’. These instructions recognise Māori sovereignty and the need to regulate European settlers. [t2-1840]
(Moon, 2010: 40)
- 1840** **Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) signed**
 The Treaty of Waitangi is signed between the ‘Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland’ and the ‘Native Chiefs and Tribes of New Zealand’. [t2-1840]
(MCH, 2011b)

1840 Hobson proclaims British sovereignty over New Zealand

‘On 21 May Lieutenant-Governor Hobson proclaims British sovereignty over all of New Zealand: over the North Island on the basis of cession through the Treaty of Waitangi and over the southern islands by right of discovery.’ Under the New South Wales Continuance Act 1840, New Zealand becomes a dependency of New South Wales. The currently named North, South and Stewart islands are to be named ‘New Ulster’, ‘New Munster’, and ‘New Leinster’, respectively. This is the second proclamation by the British, following that of Captain Cook in 1770. [t2-1841]

(MCH, 2009b; n.d.[d]; Moon, 2010: 62)

1840 Russell becomes capital of New Zealand

Lieutenant-Governor Hobson establishes his seat of government near Ōkiato and names the first capital Russell. [t42-1840]

(NZ Govt, n.d.[a]; Wilson, J., 2009a)

1840 First bank established in New Zealand

In September, the New Zealand Banking Company, the first bank founded in New Zealand, is established in Kororāreka. A few months earlier, in March, New Zealand’s first trading bank, the Union Bank of Australia, opens on the Petone foreshore and begins issuing the first bank notes. [t23-1861]

(Grant, D., 2010; Moon, 2010: 60; Tripe, 2010)

1840 Eight-hour work day first established

Carpenter Samuel Parnell negotiates with his employer, George Hunter, for an ‘eight-hour work day’ for himself and others. From 1890 this is celebrated as Labour Day, and in 1900 it becomes a national holiday. [t55-1912]

(MCH, 2010a; 2010b)

- 1840** **Auckland becomes capital of New Zealand**
In September 1840, Hobson moves the seat of government to the shores of the Waitematā Harbour, founding Auckland as the second capital. [t42-1865]
(Wilson, J., 2009a)
- 1841** **New Zealand becomes a separate Crown Colony**
New Zealand becomes a separate Crown Colony, bringing its connection with New South Wales to an end.
[t2-1841]
(MCH, 2009b)
- 1841** **Treaty of Waitangi first incorporated in legislation**
Treaty provisions are incorporated into legislation under the Land Claims Ordinance 1841. [t2-1846]
(Jamieson, 2004: 113)
- 1841** **Hobson becomes first Governor**
William Hobson becomes Governor and appoints an Executive Council, consisting of a Colonial Secretary, Treasurer and Attorney-General, and a Legislative Council. The latter consists of the above three plus three Justices of the Peace. 'All were Pakeha, land owning men.' [t44-1845]
(Network Waitangi Taranaki, 2000)
- 1842** **First use of the death penalty**
A 16-year-old Māori boy, Maketu Wharetōtara, is the first person to be executed in New Zealand. In accordance with English common law, people could be sentenced to death if they were guilty of murder, piracy or treason. [t52-1957]
(MCH, 2010c; Newbold, 2011)

1842 Gold discovered

Whalers and one of Arthur Wakefield's survey parties almost simultaneously find traces of gold in the Coromandel and in the Takaka River, near Nelson, respectively. The discovery of gold, and the following gold rush, precipitates an increase in immigration. [t15-1856]

(McLintock, 1966b; Tourism NZ, n.d.[a])

1844 Hone Heke assaults the flagstaff at Kororāreka

Heke makes his first assault on the flagstaff in July 1844 when it is chopped down by his right-hand man, Te Haratua. This signifies his dissatisfaction with the effects of European colonisation. Following its re-erection by the British it is attacked again twice, on 10 and 19 January 1845. Heke's final attack on the flagstaff on 11 March 1845 leads to an outbreak of war in the north. Heke was also a renowned politician and a skilled orator, who was held in high regard by many Māori and Pakehā. [t65-1845]

(MCH, n.d.[e]; Whakamābaro Lindauer, n.d.)

1844 First New Zealand debenture notes issued

To address debts accrued during Hobson's regime his successor, Governor Fitzroy, issues an ordinance which authorises the issuing of debenture notes. These are effectively New Zealand's first state-approved currency. [t24-1858]

(Moon, 2010: 70)

1844 First settlement under the Treaty of Waitangi

Māori land owners in Taranaki have their land returned to them after Governor Fitzroy declares its purchase by the New Zealand Company to have been conducted unlawfully and in breach of the Treaty of Waitangi. [t36-1847]

(Moon, 2010: 72)

1845 Kororāreka whaling post destroyed

After war breaks out in the north, Kororāreka is attacked. The whaling port, with a reputation as 'the hell-hole of the Pacific', is largely destroyed. [t65-1860]

(MCH, 2009d)

1845 Grey becomes Governor

George Grey goes on to become a Governor-in-Chief, a Governor of New Zealand (twice) and a Premier. [t44–1856]
(New Zealand Parliament, n.d.[a]; NZ Govt, n.d.[a])

1846 New Zealand Constitution Act 1846 (UK)

The Act divides New Zealand into two provinces, New Ulster (North Island) and New Munster (South Island). The Act also sets out a complex three-tiered system of government, with elected municipal corporations, provincial assemblies and a general assembly. [t2–1847]
(MCH, n.d.[ff]; RCES, 1986: A–8)

1847 New Zealand Constitution Act 1846 (UK) suspended

Grey suspends the introduction of the 1846 Act, ‘claiming that the settler population of 13,000 could not be trusted to pass measures that would protect the interests of the 100,000-plus Māori population’. He was concerned this could lead to conflict so delayed the implementation of the provisions relating to provincial and general assemblies for five years. [t2–1849]
(MCH, n.d.[ff]; RCES, 1986: A–9)

1847 Legal decision: R v Symonds

This case establishes the status of Māori land rights after the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. Justice Chapman finds that Māori have ‘Native title’ rights to their land, which exist independent of the Treaty. These rights ensure that Māori ownership of land cannot be extinguished without their free consent, and that the Crown has the first right to purchase the land if and when the decision is made to sell it. [t36–1860]
(Ward, 1997: 476)

1849 Settlers Constitutional Associations established

Associations are formed by wealthy influential settlers to introduce representative government. [t2–1850]
(Network Waitangi Taranaki, 2000)

1850 Population reaches 87,759

The first census of the Māori population is not completed until 1858, however in 1850 the Pakehā population is believed to be about 25,000. [t53-1858]

(Asher & Naulls, 1987: 97; Moon, 2010: 78; Treasury, n.d.)

1850 New Zealand Company's charter surrendered

The Company's existence as a colonising body ends on 5 July 1850. The Company had come into financial strife and been unable to recoup its losses, leaving it no choice but to surrender its charter. [t2-1852]

(Waitangi Tribunal, 2003: 256)

1852 New Zealand Constitution Act 1852 (UK)

A system of representative government for New Zealand is established by the New Zealand Constitution Act 1852 (UK). Six provinces (later extended to 10), each with their own elected superintendents and provincial councils, are established. A national General Assembly is established, with a Crown-appointed Legislative Council and a House of Representatives to be elected every five years by males who own, lease or rent property of a minimum value and are over the age of 21. [t2-1858]

(MCH, 2009b; n.d.[ff])

1852 Kīngitanga movement established

Tamihana Te Rauparaha and Matene Te Whiwhi first introduce to North Island iwi the idea of a 'Kīngitanga movement to establish a Māori nation'. Not all iwi give their support to the movement. [t34-1858]

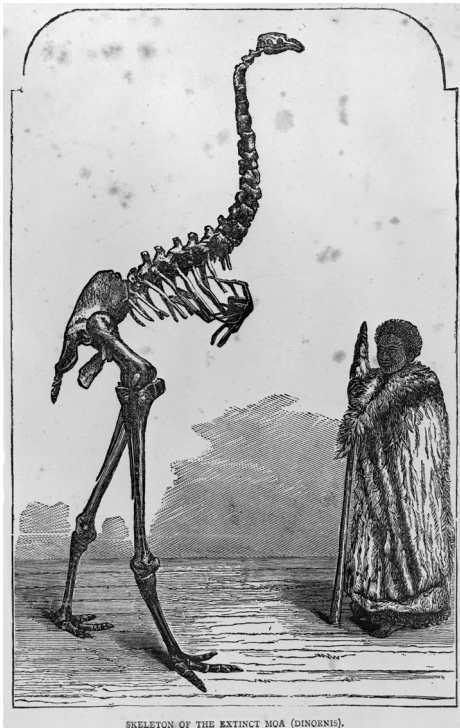
(MCH, 2007b; Network Waitangi Taranaki, 2000)

1853 First general election held

The House of Representatives' first 37 Members of Parliament are elected. Sir George Grey is criticised for calling the provincial councils to meet before the General Assembly, as this is seen by some to indicate a bias towards provincial government. [t19-1867]

(MCH, 2009b; n.d.[ff])

- 1854** **First meeting of the General Assembly**
The General Assembly meets for the first time in Auckland. It consists of a Legislative Council appointed by the Crown, and a House of Representatives to be elected every five years. [t43-1856]
(MCH, 2009b; n.d.[ff])
- 1855** **Wairarapa earthquake**
A magnitude 8.2 earthquake occurs in the southern part of the North Island, altering the landscape of the Wellington region. New land is raised above sea level which has a significant effect on the city's urban development. [t5-1886]
(McSaveney, 2009a)
- 1856** **Responsible government established**
'Responsible' government begins in New Zealand. This means the Executive is supported by a majority in the House of Representatives. The Governor continues to retain responsibility for defence and Māori affairs.
[t43 ends]
(MCH, 2009b)
- 1856** **Sewell becomes first Premier**
Henry Sewell becomes New Zealand's first Premier, but his administration lasts only a fortnight due to his belief that the provinces must be subordinate to the central 'general government', which was contested by a narrow majority of 'provincialists'. [t44-1870]
(Grant, I.F., 2003: 26; McLauchlan, 2009: 198)
- 1856** **Collingwood-Takaka gold rush begins**
Following the discovery of gold in the Aorere Valley, a gold rush to the Collingwood-Takaka district ensues. By May 1857, 1500 miners are working in the district, and by August 1859 gold to the value of approximately £150,000 has been exported from Nelson. [t15-1861]
(McLintock, 1966b; MED, n.d.[a])



Skeleton of the extinct moa (Dinornis)
1850

‘I think we may safely infer that the islands of New Zealand were densely peopled ... by tribes of gigantic ostrich-like birds, of species and genera which have long since been obliterated ...’

— Gideon Mantell

1856

Moa skeleton given to British Museum

Walter Mantell gives his large collection of moa bones, including the largest moa skeleton yet recovered, to the British Museum. The giant moa, *Dinornis robustus*, is thought to be the tallest bird that ever lived. While the British Museum now retains possession of New Zealand's largest moa, Te Papa Tongarewa retains possession of the first dinosaur fossil found in England, an iguanodon tooth. This was part of a collection held by Walter's father, Gideon Mantell, a respected English doctor, palaeontologist and geologist. The moa is mentioned in Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* (1859). [t54-1865]

(Cadbury, 2000: 324; Sorrenson, 2010; TerraNature Trust, 2010)

1857

Government begins appointing Legislative Council members

After the establishment of 'responsible' government, the Government begins appointing Legislative Council members, and immediately starts 'stacking' the Council with its own supporters. The Legislative Council is the Upper House of New Zealand's Parliament, and is modelled on England's House of Lords. The aim is to ensure legislation is not passed in haste. [t45-1872]

(New Zealand Parliament, 2006a)

1858

English Laws Act 1858

With the implementation of this Act, New Zealand adopts all the laws of England in force on 14 January 1840. [t2-1876]

(Waitangi Tribunal, 2010)

1858

British coins become legal tender

The English Laws Act 1858 retrospectively applies the Coinage Act 1816 (UK) as existing on 14 January 1840. This eliminates legal uncertainty and results in British coins becoming legal tender in New Zealand retrospectively. [t24-1964]

(Matthews, 2003: 42)

1858 Population reaches 115,462

The Census Act 1858 is passed, which requires that triennial censuses be carried out in New Zealand (amended to every five years in 1877). The first census of the Māori population is completed. In the 1858 census, the population is 115,462, of whom 49% are Māori and 51% European. [t53-1886]

(Moon, 2010: 78)

1858 First Māori King

‘The Waikato chief Te Wherowhero becomes the first Māori King, taking the name Pōtatau. The rise of Te Kīngitanga reflects Māori desires for a leader to unite the tribes, protect land from further sales and make laws for Māori.’ [t34-1860]

(MCH, 2009b)

1860 Land Wars begin

The New Zealand Land Wars begin. Key battles during this time include the Battle of Waireka (1860), the Battle of Rangiriri (1863), the Battle of Ōrākau (1864) and the Battle of Gate Pa, Tauranga (1864). [t65-1863]

(MCH, 2010d; NZ Museums, n.d.; Rutherford, 2009)

1860 Second Māori King

Tukaroto Matutaera Pōtatau Te Wherowhero Tawhiao inherits the kingship following the death of his father Pōtatau, the first Māori King. [t34-1894]

(Mabuta, 2010)

1860 Kohimarama hui

Over 200 Māori leaders hold a conference under government patronage during which officials make efforts to clarify the clauses within the Treaty of Waitangi through ‘presenting it in the most benevolent light’. [t36-1861]

(Network Waitangi Taranaki, 2000)

1861

Ministry of Maori Affairs established

Responsibility for Māori Affairs is transferred to a local Ministry. [t57–1892]

(Sorenson, 1986: B–14)

1861

Otago gold rush begins

In May, Australian prospector Gabriel Read discovers gold in Otago. By December the population has increased from around 13,000 to 30,000, with many miners coming from Australia. [t15–1862]

(McLintock, 1966c)

1861

Walter Mantell appointed Native Minister and seeks fulfilment of Ngāi Tahu promises

Walter Mantell (son of Gideon Mantell [see 1856 and image on page 22]) agrees to take the post of Native Minister on the condition that unfulfilled promises he made to the Ngāi Tahu iwi in 1848, when acquiring vast areas of land for the New Zealand government, would be finally resolved. Six months later he resigns as his condition has not been met and the promises to Ngāi Tahu remain unfulfilled. [t36–1862]

(MCH, 2009e)

1861

Bank of New Zealand established

The New Zealand Bank Act 1861, an initiative of Aucklanders Thomas Russell, establishes the Bank of New Zealand (BNZ). The aim of the Act is to create a national institution to rival the Bank of New South Wales and Union Bank of Australia (UBA), and by 1865 the BNZ eclipses these two Australian institutions. [t23–2002]

(Rice, 1992: 67)

1862

First telegraph line

The first telegraph line in New Zealand is established between Lyttelton and Christchurch. [t13–1866]

(Wilson, A. C., 2010a)

1862 Native Lands Act 1862

The Native Lands Act 1862 sets up the Native Land Court, a court of Māori chiefs chaired by a Pakehā magistrate. The Act allows Māori to deal directly with settlers over land. Because it contravenes the Treaty, it needs to be approved in London. The Act is barely implemented before it is replaced in 1865. [t36-1863]
(MCH, 2010d)

1862 Wakamarina and West Coast gold rush begins

Miners first begin to migrate to the West Coast in 1862. By September 1865 there are 16,000 miners scattered around gold fields throughout the region. [t15-1866]
(McLintock, 1966d)

1862 New Zealand Steam Navigation Company established

In 1862, the first big coastal shipping company is formed, the New Zealand Steam Navigation Company. From this point steamers begin to dominate the coastline. By the 1870s, steam-powered ships make up half the vessels in New Zealand coastal waters. [t17-1871]
(McLean, 2009)

1863 New Zealand Settlements Act 1863

‘[A] parent statute which allowed the governor to proclaim districts that had been “in rebellion” and then to set apart within such districts “eligible sites for colonisation”; persons owning land taken were entitled to compensation except those “engaged in levying or making war or carrying arms” against the Crown (s5); the Act established the Compensation Courts (s8).’ [t36-1865]
(Boast, 2009: 263)

1863 New Zealand's first public railway opens

The first steam railway joins Christchurch with Ferrymead. [t16-1865]
(Atkinson, 2010a; Wilson, J., 2009b)

1863

British troops invade Waikato

British troops cross the Mangatawhiri stream on 12 July 1863. The Māori King Movement (Kingitanga) has declared this to be an ‘aukati’ (a line that should not be crossed) and considers any breach to be an act of war. The intention of the British is to ‘dig around the Kingitanga’ until it falls; the movement is viewed as a ‘separatist movement that challenged British sovereignty’ and ‘an anti-land-selling league’. The conflict culminates in a battle at Ōrākau after which the Waikato people are forced into a pocket of land that becomes known as the King Country and the Waikato lands are confiscated by the government. [t65-1870]

(MCH, n.d.[g]; Royal, 2010)

1863

Boundaries of colony fixed

An imperial statute fixes the boundaries of the colony of New Zealand for constitutional purposes. These include a number of scattered islands and groups of islands. [t4-1900]

(Stout & Stout, 1911: 1)

1863

HMS *Orpheus* disaster

HMS *Orpheus* is wrecked on the Manukau Harbour bar, resulting in the deaths of 189 crew members. It remains New Zealand’s worst maritime disaster. [t9-1953]

(CCL, n.d.[a])

1865

Wellington becomes capital of New Zealand

The seat of government moves from Auckland to Wellington, which becomes the country’s third capital. [t42 ends]

(Wilson, J., 2009a)

1865

Changes to the Native Land Court

The Native Lands Act 1865 replaces the Native Lands Act 1862, which set the foundations for the Native Land Court. In determining ownership of land under the new Act, ‘the court was required to name no more than 10 owners, regardless of block size. All other tribal members who may have been owners were effectively dispossessed.’ [t36-1872]

(MCH, 2010d)

- 1865 All Māori declared British subjects**
 The Native Rights Act 1865 declares all Māori to be British-born subjects, giving effect to Article Three of the Treaty of Waitangi. The Act confirms Māori are to have the same rights and privileges as British subjects, as if natural-born subjects of the Crown. [t1-1948]
(Green, 2009a; Joseph, 2008: 8)
- 1865 Construction begins on a section of the South Island Main Trunk line**
 Large crowds celebrate the turning of the ‘first sod’ in the construction of the railway between Christchurch and Timaru. [t16-1885]
(Atkinson, 2010b)
- 1865 Colonial Museum and New Zealand Geological Survey established**
 The Colonial Museum and New Zealand Geological Survey are established under the directorship of geologist and naturalist James Hector, who believed that ‘[o]ne of the most important duties in connection with the geological survey of a new country is the formation of a scientific museum.’ In its first nine months, the museum receives 1600 visitors and accumulates 14,000 specimens and artifacts in its collections. The New Zealand Geological Survey produces annual reports of geological exploration, and assesses various areas of New Zealand for their scientific or economic importance. The search for gold and coal is of particular importance. In 1892 responsibility for geology and mining moves to the Mines Department and the Survey is no longer funded. [t54-1867]
(Nathan, 2009; Te Papa, n.d.[a])
- 1866 First Cook Strait cable laid**
 The first Cook Strait cable is laid between Lyall Bay and Whites Bay and timely communication between the North and South Islands becomes possible. [t13-1876]
(Stephens, 2008; Wilson, A. C., 2010a)

1866 First oil struck at New Plymouth

The first oil well in New Zealand is dug at Moturoa, on the New Plymouth foreshore, in 1865. In 1866, oil is struck at 20 metres. [t15-1875]

(*Envirohistory* NZ, 2011)

1867 Community primary schooling for Māori established

The Native Schools Act 1867 establishes a national state-controlled system of primary schools for Māori. English is the dominant language, and many Māori are supportive of their children learning English. However, the policy is later enforced rigorously, with many reports of punishment for children speaking Māori at schools. [t54-1867]

(*King*, 2003: 211; *NZETC*, 1867a)

1867 New Zealand Institute Act 1867

This Act is designed to co-ordinate and assist the activities of a number of regional research societies including the Auckland Institute, the Wellington Philosophical Society and the Otago Institute. The director of the Colonial Museum automatically becomes the manager of the New Zealand Institute and oversees the production of the Institute's journal, *Transactions*. Contributors to the journal include James Hector, William Colenso, Charles Fleming, Thomas Hocken and Ernest Rutherford. [t54-1869]

(*NLNZ*, n.d.[a]; *Te Papa*, n.d.[a])

1867 Māori seats created for a five-year duration

The Maori Representation Act 1867 is passed to provide for 'the better Representation of the Native Aboriginal Inhabitants of the Colony of New Zealand'. Four Māori electoral districts are created, 'as a temporary measure until such time as the fact that the tribal nature of Māori land ownership denied Māori the vote was rendered irrelevant by the issue of Crown grants.' This provision is to have a five-year duration. [t19-1868]

(*NZETC*, 1867b; *RCES*, 1986: A-29)

1868 First elections with Māori electorate seats

The first elections are held with the Māori seats. [t19–1870]
(*MCH, 2010d*)

1869 New Zealand's first university established

New Zealand's first university, the University of Otago, is founded by an ordinance of the Otago Provincial Council. An area encompassing 100,000 acres of pastoral land is endowed upon the university, which is authorised to grant degrees in Arts, Medicine, Law and Music. [t54–1871]
(*University of Otago, n.d.*)

1870 Voting by secret ballot introduced for European seats

Although a show of hands is still retained, the Regulation of Elections Act 1870 requires voting by secret ballot if a poll is 'demanded by one of the candidates or by not less than two electors'. [t19–1872]
(*Atkinson, 2003: 55*)

1870 Vogel actions public works plan

On 28 June 1870 Julius Vogel proposes a scheme for the development of New Zealand's public infrastructure. 'We recognize that the great wants of the Colony are – public works, in the shape of roads and railways; and immigration ... the two are, or ought to be, inseparably united ...' The development would be financed by £10 million to be borrowed on overseas markets. Prior to this the economy had been depressed for a number of years, and prices for gold production, wool and wheat were declining. The low level of immigration was also a concern. Years later, Vogel also noted that he had hoped employment of Māori through his public works scheme would help promote peaceful relations between Māori and non-Māori. Vogel goes on to write the utopian novel *Anno Domini 2000* or *Woman's Destiny*, about New Zealand in the year 2000. [t44–1900]

(*Armstrong, W.R., 2009; Dalziel, R., 1986: 104–105; Vogel, 2000*)

1870 Last British imperial troops leave New Zealand

As the New Zealand Land Wars draw to a close the British government withdraws its imperial troops, leaving the New Zealand government to make its own military arrangements. [t65-1881]

(Moon, 2010: 84)

1871 Vogel makes first official visit to the United States to establish a steamer service

During this first official visit to the United States, Vogel signs a contract with New York shipping contractor W.H. Webb for the commencement of a steamer service between New Zealand and San Francisco. Vogel intends to increase trade between the two countries and requires that the American contractor lobby the United States government for lower trade tariffs on wool and flax from New Zealand. Between 1870 and 1872 the value of New Zealand exports to the United States increases from £37,000 to £337,915, with wool the greatest export by a significant margin. [t17-1872]

(Dalziel, R., 1986: 115-119)

1871 University of Otago opens all classes to women

The first university in the British Empire to do so.

[t54-1877]

(Hughes & Ahern, 1993: 9)

1871 First dairy co-operative established

The first dairy co-operative is established in Otago. Dairy co-operatives pool available resources and manage the marketing aspect of the members' operations. By 1918, 84 percent of New Zealand's dairy factories are managed by dairy co-operatives. These co-operatives gradually merge until only four large organisations remain in 1992.

[t10-1882]

(Fonterra, n.d.; Stringleman & Scrimgeour, 2009)

1872

Māori seats extended another five years

The Maori Representation Act Amendment and Continuance Act 1872 extends the duration of the Māori seats for a further five years. This follows the expiry of the Maori Representation Act 1867. [t19-1876]
(*RCES, 1986: A-30*)

1872

Two Māori Members of Parliament join the Legislative Council

In addition to the four Māori seats established in 1867, two Māori Members of Parliament are appointed to the Legislative Council. [t45-1892]
(*Durie, 2003: 117*)

1872

First New Zealand shipping line established

The desire for a nationally based shipping company to manage the rapid growth of trade in New Zealand leads businessmen in each of the four main cities to found a provincial shipping line. The first line to be established is the Auckland-based New Zealand Freight Company in July 1872. A year later the Auckland-, Wellington-, Christchurch- and Dunedin-based provincial companies merge to form a single national company called the New Zealand Shipping Company. In addition, in 1875 The Union Steam Ship Company is established in Dunedin and plays a key role in inter-colonial trade between New Zealand and Australia in the late 1800s. [t17 ends]
(*Rakaia, n.d.; Rice, 1992: 80*)

1872

Native Affairs Committee established to hear petitions

The committee is set up to 'handle the flood of Māori petitions that poured into the House'. The committee is 'invariably outvoted on large issues – like the return of the confiscated lands'. Unable to speak English and often ignored, the Māori members are 'little more than a token representation'. [t36-1877]
(*Sorrenson, 1986: B-25, B-26*)

1875 **Waihi gold rush begins**

The Waihi area becomes open for prospecting and a subsequent gold rush ensues. [t15-1887]

(MED, n.d.[a])

1876 **‘One man, one vote’ proposed by Sir George Grey**

Sir George Grey introduces a ‘one man, one vote’ Bill. The Bill is defeated, meaning voters still need property to qualify. [t19-1876]

(McLauchlan, 2009: 199)

1876 **Debate on Māori representation in the House**

A Bill is introduced providing for an increase in Māori representation in the House to seven members, but is not passed. In the same year, close to 400 members of the Ngāti Kahungunu iwi petition Parliament ‘asking for Māori representation to be “in the same proportion as the representation is of the European race by European members” and for Māori electorates to be based on tribal boundaries’. [t19-1876]

(Sorenson, 1986: B-24)

1876 **Māori seats now extended indefinitely**

The existence of Māori seats is extended indefinitely. There are no moves to abolish the Māori seats amid fears that a flood of Māori voters on the European rolls would affect the chances of Europeans in those seats. [t19-1879]

(Sorenson 1986: B-24)

1876 **Abolition of the provinces**

The provinces are abolished. This leaves central government as the only law-making authority, resulting in the creation of a number of local bodies. [t2-1901]

(MCH, 2009b)

- 1876** **First trans-Tasman cable laid**
 A communications cable is laid from Australia to New Zealand, landing north of Nelson at Cable Bay. On 21 February it opens for public use; 54 telegrams are received and 93 are sent during this first day. Cable news direct from England appears the next day for the first time in New Zealand newspapers. [t13-1878]
(Wilson, A. C., 2010b)
- 1876** **‘God Defend New Zealand’ is first performed**
 ‘God Defend New Zealand’ is first performed publicly. The words are written by Thomas Bracken and the music composed by John Woods. In 1940 the government buys the rights to the song, declaring it the national hymn, and in 1977 it becomes one of two national anthems. [t38-1977]
(Cryer, 2004: 35, 37, 42, 63, 73)
- 1877** **Legal decision: Wi Parata v Bishop of Wellington**
 The case of Wi Parata v Bishop of Wellington concerns Ngāti Toa land which was gifted to the Anglican Bishop for a Māori school at Porirua that was never built. Parata seeks the return of the land, however Chief Justice Prendergast declares Māori to be ‘a primitive tribal society possessing no laws capable of recognition or protection by the Courts’. He holds that the Treaty of Waitangi is no more than a ‘simple nullity’ and does not recognise any native title. [t36-1889]
(MCH, 2009f)
- 1877** **Free primary school education established**
 The Education Act 1877 legislates for free, compulsory education for children at primary school level. Approximately 730 public primary schools are set up by regional education boards. Māori children can now attend state schools. [t54-1895]
(Swarbick, 2009a)

1878 Long depression begins

The City Bank in Glasgow collapses leading to a reduction in available credit for New Zealand. The long depression lasts until the early 1890s. [t14-1929]

(Easton, 2010)

1878 First telephone communication made

Electrician Charles Henry organises a 'talking telegraph' test using a telephone instrument and wire between the Dunedin Telegraph office and the Tokomairiro office in Milton, 57 kilometres away. He asks numerous questions and receives instantaneous responses. [t13-1960]

(Newman, 2010)

1879 Universal suffrage for European men

The vote is extended to all non-Māori adult males. Māori can only vote in a European electorate if they hold a £25 freehold estate or are a ratepayer. [t19-1881]

(Vasil, 1990: 173)

1879 Term of Parliament shortened from five to three years

The parliamentary term, previously lasting five years, is shortened to three years. [t20-1934]

(Stout & Stout, 1911: 95-96)

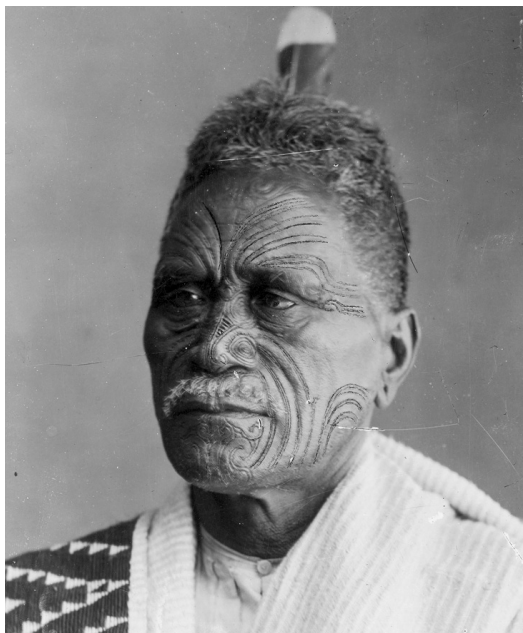
1881 Country quota established

A 'country quota' is established to reduce the marginalisation of rural interests as New Zealand becomes more urbanised. The quota – under which 33% was added to the rural population for the purpose of determining electoral boundaries – is intended to maintain the 'existing balance between urban and rural parliamentary constituencies'.

The quota was decreased in 1887, increased in 1889 and eventually abolished in 1945. [t19-1881]

(McLintock, 1966e)

- 1881** **Single-member electoral districts established**
 Under the Representation Act 1881, 91 European electoral districts are created, each returning one member. [t19-1887]
(RCES, 1986: A-39)
- 1881** **Attack on Parihaka**
 On 5 November a force of 1600 Armed Constabulary and volunteers invades Parihaka, a western Taranaki Māori settlement whose people are dedicated to passive resistance in their opposition to Māori land confiscations. More than 2000 villagers peacefully greet the invasion led by Native Minister John Bryce who orders that the leaders be arrested, the village destroyed and its inhabitants dispersed. Leaders Te Whiti O Rongomai and Tohu Kakahi are detained without trial for 16 months. [t65 ends]
(MCH, n.d.[h])
- 1882** **Ngā Puhi present a petition to Queen Victoria**
 A deputation travels to London to petition Queen Victoria to ‘appoint a “Royal English Commission” to investigate and rectify laws that contravened the Treaty’. The petition also seeks permission to establish a Māori parliament. [t35-1884]
(Orange, 2004: 100-101)
- 1882** **First shipment of frozen meat to Britain**
 ‘The success of the sailing ship *Dunedin*’s first shipment of frozen meat from Canterbury to Britain in 1882 ... paved the way for the trade in frozen meat and dairy products that was to become the cornerstone of New Zealand’s 20th-century economy.’ [t10-1922]
(MCH, n.d.[i])
- 1884** **Waikato present a petition to Queen Victoria**
 The Māori King, Tāwhiao, travels to London to petition Queen Victoria on similar issues to those expressed by the Ngā Puhi deputation. [t35-1914]
(Orange, 2004: 102)



Tukaroto Matutaera Pōtatau Te Wherowhero Tāwhiao
Second Māori King
c. 1880

‘Ki te kāhore he whakakitenga
ka ngaro te iwi’

‘Without foresight or vision the
people will be lost’

— King Tāwhiao

- 1885** **Construction of the North Island Main Trunk line begins**
Premier Robert Stout, Ngāti Maniapoto leaders, and others gather at Pāniu to launch the construction of the central section of the North Island Main Trunk railway. [t16-1908] (*MCH, 2008a*)
- 1885** **Russian scare leads to military fortifications**
New Zealand builds major fortifications along its coast in response to a fear of a Russian invasion due to Anglo-Russian rivalry in Afghanistan. [t64-1899] (*Wilson, J., 2009c*)
- 1886** **Mt Tarawera eruption**
Mt Tarawera erupts over six hours, killing approximately 120 people, and destroying villages and the Pink and White Terraces. [t5-1931] (*McSaveney et al., 2009a*)
- 1886** **New Zealand-born residents become the majority**
The majority of non-Māori people living in New Zealand are now born in the country rather than being immigrants. [t53-1901] (*MCH, 2010e*)
- 1887** **Electoral boundary review of European seats**
The Representation Act 1887 creates the Representation Commission and establishes that, following each five-yearly population census, the Commission will review the size and boundaries of the European electorates. [t19-1890] (*Otago Witness, 1887: 16; Wilson, J., 2009d: 14*)

1887 First national park established

Tongariro becomes the first national park in New Zealand and the fourth in the world. Today it also holds dual status as a World Heritage Area, being recognised for its outstanding volcanic features and its Māori cultural and spiritual associations. [t15-1901]
(DOC, n.d.[b])

1889 Maori Union of Waitangi formed

A series of hui are held to discuss issues such as the British demand for land, the Native Land Court and relevant legislation, culminating in a meeting in Waitangi in 1889. The Maori Union of Waitangi was established in an effort to institutionalise proceedings. [t36-1900]
(Sorenson, 1986: B-27)

1890 Voting by secret ballot compulsory for European seats

From 1870 voting by secret ballot had been adopted when a poll was demanded, but it is now compulsory across all contested European seats. The compulsory secret ballot does not extend to Māori voters until 1937. [t19-1890]
(Atkinson, 2003: 55; Electoral Commission, 2005a; Wilson, J., 2009d: 13)

1890 First Liberal Government elected

The Liberal Party is elected into government for the first time, with John Ballance heading the party from January 1891. In 1893 he is replaced by Richard Seddon, who leads the party until 1906. Significant reforms are made in the areas of farming, pensions and workers' dwellings. Before this time candidates generally stood independently rather than as part of a political party. [t47-1909]
(Grant, I.F., 2003: 199; Miller, 2005: 27; Wilson, J., 2009e)

1890 First 'one man, one vote' election held for European seats

The first election to implement the 'one man, one vote' system occurs in 1890. This means men who have property in more than one electoral district are only allowed one vote. Previously, 'plural voting' had been legal where a man owned property in multiple electoral districts. However, this new law would not apply to Māori until 1893.

[t19-1893]
(MCH, n.d.[ij])

1890 Influenza pandemic

Three waves of influenza pandemics hit New Zealand between 1890 and 1894, resulting in hundreds of deaths.

[t6-1918]
(MCH, 2009g)

1892 Kotahitanga (Māori Parliament) is formed

Māori leaders meet with the New Zealand Parliament in Wellington and agree to form a Māori Parliament 'to be composed of a lower house of 96 elected members, and an upper house of 50 members, chosen by the lower house ... The Maori Parliament held its first session at Waipatu in Hawke's Bay later in the year. It continued to meet annually in different Maori settlements for the next 11 years.' [t57-1900]

(Sorenson, 1986: B-38)

1892 Legislative Council and House of Representatives disagree

On resigning as Premier, Harry Atkinson appointed seven new members to the Legislative Council who he knew would vote in such a way as to frustrate legislation proposed by the new Premier, John Ballance. After the Governor refused to appoint new members in order to rectify the situation, Ballance applied to the Colonial Office in London which overruled the Governor's decision and thus created a precedent that Governors must take the advice of Ministers when appointing members to the Legislative Council. 'The Secretary of State for the Colonies instructed the Governor that he must accept his premier's advice in all matters not touching Imperial interests.' [t45-1950]

(Joseph, 2007: 221; Moon, 2010: 86)

1893 Plural voting for Māori property owners abolished

Under the Electoral Act 1893, 'one man, one vote' now applies to Māori property owners who are entitled to vote. In addition, from 1893 until 1975, 'those persons of more than half Māori descent were not allowed to vote in a European electorate. Those of less than half Māori descent did not qualify to vote in a Māori electorate and had to cast a vote in a European electorate.' [t19-1893]

(Electoral Commission, 2005a; Wilson, J., 2009d: 19)

1893 First Māori elected to a European seat

Ngāti Kahungunu leader James Carroll becomes the first Māori to win a European electorate seat. He goes on to serve as a Cabinet Minister and is the last Māori to hold a European seat until 1975. This is when National's Ben Couch (Wairarapa) and Rex Austin (Awarua) successfully contest general electorate seats, as European seats came to be known in 1975. [t19-1893]

(Electoral Commission, 2005b; 2005c)

- 1893** **Women given the same voting rights as men**
The Electoral Act 1893 grants universal suffrage to all women over 21, including Māori. 'New Zealand becomes the first self-governing country to grant the right to vote to all adult women.' [t19-1896]
(MCH, 2009b)
- 1894** **Third Māori King**
Mahuta Tawhiao Pōtatau Te Wherowhero, second son of Tawhiao, is elected as the third Māori King. [t34-1903]
(Foster, 2009a)
- 1895** **Mark Twain visits New Zealand**
American writer Mark Twain speaks in Dunedin's City Hall. In 1897 he publishes the book *Following the Equator* in which he describes his trip to New Zealand. [t54-1907]
(Swarbick, 2009b)
- 1896** **National Council of Women of New Zealand established**
The Council's founding members are women who contributed to gaining suffrage for women in New Zealand, with Kate Sheppard as the first president. [t63-1898]
(MCH, n.d.[k])
- 1896** **Non-residential qualifications for voting abolished**
The Electoral Act Amendment Act 1896 abolishes the non-residential qualification for voting. This qualification was defined as 'a freehold or leasehold qualification ... of which residence forms no part'. Richard Seddon objected to 'a preference to property over manhood'. [t19-1908]
(RCES, 1986: A-43)



National Council of Women, Christchurch
1896

‘Do not think your single vote
does not matter much. The
rain that refreshes the parched
ground is made up of
single drops.’

— Kate Sheppard (shown seated in middle of
photograph, with hair ribbon)

1896 Brunner mine accident

An explosion at the Brunner mine kills 65 coal miners. The death toll remains the largest from any industrial accident in New Zealand. [t7-1914]
(Sherwood & Phillips, 2010)

1898 Old Age Pension Act 1898

The Act provides for those over 65 'who during the prime of life have helped to bear the public burdens of the colony ... and to open up its resources ... [to] receive from the colony a pension in their old age'. This Act is the first of this nature in the British Empire and is regarded by some as the birth of social security in New Zealand. However, there are still many restrictions on eligibility; recipients must not own property worth over £50 and must have resided in New Zealand for the previous 25 years. Persons of Chinese descent are specifically excluded and this is not removed until the passing of the Social Security Act 1938. [t63-1907]
(MCH, n.d.[1]; McLintock, 1966f; NZETC, 1898)

1899 Troops sent to the Boer War

New Zealand sends troops to serve in an external colonial conflict for the first time. The first contingent of 215 men departs on 21 October 1899. This is followed by nine more contingents over the next three years. [t64-1914]
(Moon, 2010: 90)

1900 Maori Councils Act 1900

An Act establishing a form of local self-governance for Maori, which authorises the Maori people 'to frame for themselves such rules and Regulations on matters of local concernment, or relating to their social economy as may appear best adapted to their own special [needs]'. [t57-1902]

1900 Cook Islands claimed

'New Zealand claims the Cook Islands and annexes several other territories.' [t4-1920]
(MCH, 2009b)

- 1900** **Maori Lands Administration Act 1900**
An Act establishing 'Māori-controlled land boards to develop Māori land and lease any surplus'. It has the 'effect of halting alienation of Māori land – only 6,773 acres of land had been leased to Europeans by 1905'. [t36-1907]
(Sorrenson, 1986: B-30)
- 1900** **Term 'Prime Minister' introduced**
Richard Seddon is the first Premier to use the title 'Prime Minister'. [t44-1977]
(McLintock, 1966g)
- 1901** **New Zealand decides against joining Australia**
A Royal Commission is established 'to examine the issues associated with federation with Australia'. Following this, the Commonwealth of Australia formally comes into being with New Zealand choosing to remain independent. [t2-1907]
(Moon, 2010: 92)
- 1901** **Population reaches 830,800**
Following the 1901 census, the population is estimated at 830,800, of whom 5% are Māori and 93% are Pakehā. The Chinese population is estimated to be 2846. [t53-1951]
(Bloomfield, 1984: 42; Registrar-General, 1902: 205)
- 1901** **Department of Tourist and Health Resorts established**
New Zealand becomes the first country to establish a national tourism organisation. The department is charged with promoting New Zealand overseas and developing infrastructure to attract visitors. [t15-1964]
(Tourism NZ, 2011)
- 1902** **Kotahitanga (Māori Parliament) is disbanded**
This is decided at a hui at Waioimatatini marae. [t57-1920]
(Lange, R., 1999: 204)
- 1902** **National flag adopted**
New Zealand adopts an official national flag. [t40-2010]
(MCH, 2009b)

- 1903** **The Māori King joins the Legislative Council**
Following land negotiations with Prime Minister Richard Seddon, King Mahuta Tawhiao Pōtatau Te Wherowhero accepts a seat on the Legislative Council. [t34-1907]
(Foster, 2009a)
- 1904** **Manapouri power station first suggested**
Mr P.S. Hay of the Public Works Department suggests that there is potential for hydro generation at Manapouri. [t12-1956]
(Meridian Energy, 2008)
- 1905** **First state house built**
In the early 1900s, under the Liberal administration of Richard Seddon, several hundred state houses are built, but the scheme fails to prosper. [t56-1937]
(Housing New Zealand, 2006; MCH, 2007c)
- 1905** **The Originals rugby team tour**
New Zealand's first national rugby team to play in Britain is known as the 'The Originals'. The team is given the nickname 'All Blacks' by a reporter because 'of their sombre football garb (kit)' and by the end of the tour everyone is using it. The tour also popularises the 'Ka Mate' haka, composed by the Ngāti Toa chief Te Rauparaha in the early 1820s. In March 2011, the body representing Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the New Zealand Rugby Union, sign 'a new agreement which formalises the century-old relationship built on the performance of Ka Mate by the All Blacks'. [t28-1908]
(BBC, n.d.; MCH, n.d.[m]; NZRU, 2005; Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, 2010; 2011; The Haka Book, n.d.; Zawodny, 2011)
- 1907** **New Zealand becomes a dominion**
'Prime Minister Sir Joseph Ward reads a proclamation announcing that New Zealand has ceased to be a colony and is now a dominion.' The shift from colony to dominion has no practical effect. [t2-1917]
(MCH, 2009b; 2010f)



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE
EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

WELLINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1907.

Colony of New Zealand to be styled Dominion of New Zealand.

Prime Minister's Office,
Wellington, 26th September, 1907.

THE following Proclamation by His Majesty the King, which appeared in the *London Gazette*, is published for general information.

JOSEPH GEORGE WARD,
Prime Minister.

BY THE KING.

A PROCLAMATION.

EDWARD R. & I.

WHEREAS We have, on the petition of the members of the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of Our Colony of New Zealand, determined that the title of the Dominion of New Zealand shall be substituted for that of the Colony of New Zealand as the designation of the said colony: We have therefore, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council, thought fit to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, and We do ordain, declare, and command that on and after the twenty-sixth day of September, one thousand nine hundred and seven, the said Colony of New Zealand and the territory belonging thereto shall be called and known by the title of the Dominion of New Zealand, and We hereby give Our commands to all Public Departments accordingly.

Given at Our Court, at Buckingham Palace, this ninth day of September, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seven, in the seventh year of Our reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

By Authority: JOHN MACRAE, Government Printer, Wellington.

Notice reproduced in the *New Zealand Gazette*, 26 September 1907, proclaiming New Zealand's establishment as a dominion.

1907

Stout-Ngata Commission established

‘[T]he Stout-Ngata Commission was appointed to determine how much land should be retained for Māori use and how much could be made available for European settlement.’ The Commission was renowned for being ‘sympathetic’ to Māori. One of the recommendations was that Māori retain large tracts of their remaining lands.

[t36-1926]

(MCH, 2009b; Sorrenson, 1986: B-30)

1907

Kīngitanga movement revitalised

At a convention at Waahi Pa, under the guidance of Tupu Taingakawa Te Waharoa, the king movement is revitalised.

[t34-1910]

(Foster, 2009a)

1907

Dominion Museum established

Formerly known as the Colonial Museum, this small museum remains in a little building behind Parliament for just over 70 years. In 1936, a new building to house the Dominion Museum and new National Art Gallery opens in Buckle Street, Wellington. [t54-1907]

(TVNZ, 2011a)

1907

Tohunga Suppression Act 1907

The Act states that ‘Every person who gathers Maoris [*sic*] around him by practising on their superstition or credulity, or who misleads or attempts to mislead any Maori by professing or pretending to possess supernatural powers in the treatment or cure of any disease, or in the foretelling of future events, or otherwise, is liable on summary conviction before a Magistrate to a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months.’ The Act is supported by the four Māori Members of Parliament. [t54-1907]

(Jones, 2009)

1907 ***The School Journal* established**

The School Journal is established by the Ministry of Education to provide children with New Zealand-based reading material. [t54-1916]
(*Learning Media*, 2007)

1907 **Plunket Society established**

Founded by Sir Frederic Truby King, the society aims to assist mothers and prevent babies dying from malnutrition and disease. In 2011, parents of over 90% of newborns utilise at least one of Plunket's Well Child health services. [t63-1938]
(*Plunket*, 2011)

1908 **Second ballot established for when a candidate fails to gain a majority**

The Second Ballot Act 1908 provides that no candidate should be elected to Parliament unless he has over 50% of the votes. 'Where that did not occur in the first ballot a second ballot was to be held in which the only candidates would be the [two] who polled highest in the first ballot.' This provision was abolished under the Legislative Amendment Act 1913. [t19-1910]
(*RCES*, 1986: A-50)

1908 **Ernest Rutherford wins the Nobel Prize in Chemistry**

Ernest Rutherford is awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his contribution to modern science through discoveries about the nature of atoms. [t27-1917]
(*MCH*, n.d.[n])

1908 **First New Zealand Olympic involvement**

New Zealand competes in the Olympic Games for the first time as part of an Australasian team. [t28-1920]
(*MCH*, 2008b)

1908

North Island Main Trunk line opens

The first train to travel the length of the North Island Main Trunk railway leaves Wellington bound for Auckland. The line is completed just in time to carry Members of Parliament north to greet the US Navy's Great White Fleet in Auckland. [t16-1923]
(*MCH, 2008a*)

1909

Young Maori Party founded

The Young Maori Party, 'a loose association of like-minded individuals who were committed to working within the system to improve Maori health, develop Maori land with state assistance and foster Maori arts and crafts', is formally constituted as a political party. [t47-1912]
(*Foster, 2009b; MCH, 2007d*)

1910

The Māori King's membership of the Legislative Council lapses

The third Māori King, Mahuta Tāwhiao Pōtatau Te Wherowhero, is not reappointed to the council. [t34-1912]
(*Foster, 2009a*)

1910

Voting by declaration rather than show of hands in Māori seats

The Legislative Amendment Act 1910 does away with voting by show of hands in Māori seats in favour of voting by declaration. This Act also provides for an electoral census. [t19-1924]
(*RCES, 1986: A-52; Vasil, 1990: 173*)

1911

New Zealand Coat of Arms adopted

The first Coat of Arms of New Zealand is warranted on 26 August after a design competition is held in 1908. The winning entry is a design by James McDonald, a draughtsman in the Department of Tourist and Health Resorts. [t39-1956]
(*MCH, 2011c*)

1912 Fourth Māori King

Te Rata Mahuta Pōtatau Te Wherowhero succeeds his father as king, becoming the fourth leader of the Māori King Movement. [t34-1933]
(Ballara, 2010a)

1912 Waihi strike

In March a group of Waihi miners form a breakaway union under the Arbitration Act. 'The 1,000 members of the Waihi Miners Union stopped work in protest. The strike became a violent conflict after the anti-union government headed by William Massey took office in May.' [t55-1913]
(Derby, 2010a)

1912 Liberal Government replaced by Reform Party

Liberal rule ends when William Massey leads the Reform Party to power. [t47-1918]
(McLintock, 2009c)

1913 Waterfront strikes

Influenced by the idea of revolutionary industrial unionism, a group of about 16,000 watersiders, miners, labourers, drivers and others go on strike, mostly in Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch. The wharves are closed and the country is on the brink of violent revolution. After six weeks, with Auckland still on strike, the government arrests the main leaders and the strike comes to a close. [t55-1935]
(Derby, 2010a)

1914 Huntly mine accident

Forty-three coal miners are killed in an explosion at Ralph's Mine in the Waikato. [t7-2010]
(MCH, 2011d)



NEW ZEALAND.—EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

The School Journal.

PART I.—FOR CLASSES I AND II.

At least one copy of each Part should be filed in the school as
a School Record.

VOL. X.—No. 1.] WELLINGTON. [FEBRUARY, 1916.

The School Journal
1916

‘For many years, men in Ha-wai-ki would talk of the strange far land that Kupe found; but still no canoe went so far again. The story of New Zealand – of “Aotearoa,” as Kupe called it – became like a dream, or like a fairy-tale told to children round the fire.’

— Anonymous (excerpt from ‘The Coming of the Maoris’
a short story published in *The School Journal*).

- 1914** **The Māori King has an audience with King George V**
 Te Rata Mahuta Pōtatau Te Wherowhero is granted an audience with the King of England on condition that grievances are not discussed. This defeats the aim of the meeting and indicates the extent to which officialdom could set the Treaty aside. [t35-1924]
(Orange, 2004: 102–103)
- 1914** **First World War begins**
 King George V declares war on Germany on 4 August 1914, marking the outbreak of what is to become known as the First World War, or the Great War. [t64-1915]
(MCH, 2010g)
- 1915** **Gallipoli campaign**
 On the 25th of April troops land at Gallipoli on the coast of Turkey as part of a British offensive during the First World War. Among them are many Australian and New Zealand soldiers. As a result of the difficult terrain and unexpected attacks from Turkish troops, the landing is a disaster. The campaign, which lasts until September 1915, is unsuccessful and results in the death of more than 120,000 soldiers, 2721 of them New Zealanders. In 1916, 25 April becomes known as ANZAC Day, commemorating the sacrifice of the troops who fight in national and international conflicts. [t64-1918]
(MCH, 2011e; 2011f; 2011g)
- 1916** ***The School Journal* popularises the term ‘Aotearoa’ as the Māori name for New Zealand**
 The journal publishes the short story ‘The Coming of the Maoris’. Historian Michael King believed both Māori and Pakehā came to embrace the name ‘Aotearoa’ as a pre-European name for New Zealand, due to the myth’s widespread distribution in primary school journals in the early to mid 20th century. [t54-1933]
(King, 2003: 32, 35; New Zealand Education Department, 1916: 13)

- 1917** Letters Patent introduce the term ‘Governor-General’
‘The title of governor is changed to Governor-General’ under the Letters Patent and Royal Instructions of 11 May 1917. [t2-1917]
(*Joseph, 2007: 492; MCH, 2009b*)
- 1917** Recognition of the dominions as autonomous nations of an Imperial Commonwealth
The Imperial War Cabinet (IWC) meets in London, attended by Prime Minister William Massey. It ‘resolves to convene a post-war imperial conference to readjust the internal relations of the Empire based upon the full recognition of the dominions as autonomous nations, with a voice in imperial foreign policy.’ The meeting runs until 1918. [t2-1920]
(*MCH, 2009b*)
- 1917** Ernest Rutherford splits the atom
Ernest Rutherford splits the atom, contributing enormously to the development of nuclear physics. [t27-1962]
(*MCH, n.d.[n]*)
- 1918** First World War ends – Armistice Day
The First World War ends on 11 November 1918 with the signing of the Armistice. In total 18,500 New Zealanders have lost their lives. [t64-1939]
(*MCH, 2010b; n.d.[o]*)
- 1918** Influenza pandemic (Spanish flu)
An influenza pandemic spreads across the globe, the spread of infection increased by soldiers returning from the First World War. The pandemic reaches its height in November, when it is estimated that between one-third and a half of all New Zealanders have been infected with the virus. As a result of the influenza, over 8000 New Zealanders die.
[t6-1947]
(*CCL, n.d.[b]*)

1918

Rātana movement founded

In November Tahupōtiki Wiremu Rātana has visions that lead to the foundation of the Rātana Church. Its goals are economic advancement, modernisation, and ratification of the Treaty of Waitangi. Rātana goes on to form a political party which aligns itself with the Labour Party in the 1930s. By 1943 all four Māori seats were held by the Rātana/Labour alliance. [t47-1931]

(MCH, 2011b)

1919

Women are able to stand for Parliament

Women gain the right to stand as candidates for parliamentary seats. [t49-1933]

(MCH, 2009b)

1920

Maori Trustee Act 1920

An Act establishing the Maori Trust Office – ‘a separate Department to manage Maori Reserves and Estates’. [t57-1934]

(Levine & Vasil, 1985: 36)

1920

First New Zealand team at the Olympics

The first official New Zealand team competes at the Olympic Games in 1920. [t28-1924]

(MCH, 2008b)

1920

New Zealand becomes a founding member of the League of Nations

The League is born out of ‘the destruction and disillusionment arising from World War One’. This is an ambitious attempt to construct a peaceful global order. However, after the Second World War, the Allies ‘rejected any idea of restoring the League’ and established the United Nations. [t2-1931]

(League of Nations Archives, 2002; Townsbend, 2011)

- 1920** **New Zealand gains administration of Western Samoa**
 Prior to the outbreak of the First World War, Western Samoa had been in German hands. The New Zealand military gained control on British orders in 1914. On 1 May 1920, the Samoa Constitution Order replaces the New Zealand military occupation with a civil administration. In December 1920, the League of Nations formally allocates New Zealand the Class C mandate of Western Samoa. Consultation with Samoan leaders does not occur. [t4-1923] (*MCH, 2010i*)
- 1920** **Katherine Mansfield's *Bliss and Other Stories* published**
 Katherine Mansfield becomes known for writing short stories without a conventional plot, and is recognised as being part of a 'new dawn' in English literature. [t26-1940] (*Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Society, 2003a; 2005b*)
- 1922** **First producer board established**
 The government establishes the Meat Board in 1922, followed by the Dairy Board in 1923 and the Wool Board in 1944. The boards are designed to co-ordinate the marketing of these key exports in the UK. [t10-1959] (*Nightingale, 2009*)
- 1923** **New Zealand jurisdiction extended to Antarctica**
 'At British request, New Zealand extends its jurisdiction to cover the Ross Dependency in Antarctica.' [t4-1957] (*MCH, 2009b*)
- 1923** **First electric railway opened**
 On the Midland line a 14-kilometre section of railway is electrified. This is to avoid smoke in the Ōtira tunnel normally caused by steam locomotives. [t16-1945] (*Atkinson, 2010c*)

1924

‘The Invincibles’ All Blacks rugby tour

The 1924 All Blacks rugby team becomes known as ‘The Invincibles’ when it tours the United Kingdom, Ireland, France and Canada and wins all 32 of its games. [t28–1936]
(*MCH, 2010j*)

1924

Compulsory enrolment is applied to European voters

The Legislature Amendment Act (No. 2) 1924 makes enrolment and registration of European voters compulsory. A further amendment, the Legislature Amendment Act 1927, introduces postal (special) voting. Enrolment and registration does not become compulsory for Māori until 1956. [t19–1937]
(*RCEs, 1986: A–57, A–58; Sorrenson, 1986: B–47*)

1924

Rātana takes a petition to England

Tahupotiki Wiremu Rātana, ‘leader of a new Māori religious and political movement that based its rights on the Treaty’, takes a petition to England. Although this petition is not received by either King George V or the League of Nations in Geneva, it does contribute to the decision to set up the Sim Commission in 1926. [t35 ends]
(*MCH, 2010k; Orange, 2004: 103*)

1926

Royal Commission on confiscated lands established

Known as the ‘Sim Commission’, it is set up to enquire into the confiscation of Waikato land belonging to any tribe that had rebelled against the Queen’s authority. It investigates ‘whether the land confiscated [under the New Zealand Settlements Act 1863] “exceeded in quantity what was fair and just”, and if so, how much compensation should be offered.’ [t36–1953]
(*MCH, 2007e; 2010l*)

1926

The Balfour Declaration

‘The Balfour Declaration defines the (white) dominions as “autonomous Communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown, and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.”’ [t29-1966]

(MCH, 2009b)

1928

Trade agreement with Japan signed – New Zealand's first international treaty

By 1928, New Zealand's exports to Japan are worth approximately £600,000, with around the same amount entering this country from Japan. As a result, a trade treaty is signed between the two countries. This is the first treaty to be signed by New Zealand as a dominion. [t32-1983]

(Moon, 2010: 104)

1929

Great Depression begins

The worldwide ‘Great Depression’ hits New Zealand hard, with export prices collapsing, farmers facing difficulties over their mortgages, and urban unemployment quickly increasing. The resulting discontent leads to a series of riots. [t14-1987]

(Wilson, J., 2009e)

1931

Statute of Westminster 1931 (UK)

‘The British Parliament passes the Statute of Westminster, which removes London's right to legislate for the dominions unless they ask it to do so. New Zealand declines to ratify the statute until 1947.’ [t2-1939]

(MCH, 2009b)

1931

Hawke's Bay earthquake

In 1931 a magnitude 7.8 earthquake devastates the cities of Napier and Hastings. At least 256 people lose their lives and thousands require medical treatment. [t5-2011]
(*McSaveney, 2009b*)

1931

Coalition between United (Liberal) and Reform parties

Prime Minister George Forbes of the United Party (Liberal) puts pressure on Gordon Coates of the Reform Party to form a coalition government with him in order to better combat the depression. A coalition is formed in September 1931. [t47-1935]
(*Gardner, 2009a; 2009b*)

1933

Fifth Māori King

Korokī Te Rata Mahuta Tāwhiao Pōtatau Te Wherowhero, eldest son of Te Rata, succeeds his father as King. [t34-1966]
(*Ballara, 2010b*)

1933

Royal Society of New Zealand Act 1933

This Act replaces the New Zealand Institute Act 1867. Later, the Royal Society of New Zealand Act 1965 and the Royal Society of New Zealand Act 1997 modernised the structure of the Royal Society of New Zealand. [t54-1960]

1933

First woman Member of Parliament elected

Labour's Elizabeth McCombs wins the Lyttelton seat in a by-election, the first successful attempt by a woman to enter the House of Representatives. [t49-1990]
(*MCH, n.d.[p]*)

1934

First Waitangi Day held

The first Waitangi Day is held to celebrate Governor-General Lord Bledisloe's gift of the Treaty House and the grounds at Waitangi to the nation, a gesture that was intended to symbolise the Treaty's influence in creating a unique relationship between the indigenous and the colonising peoples. Waitangi Day became a public holiday in 1974 and is now known as New Zealand's national day.

[t41-1974]

(MCH, 2009b; 2011i)

1934

Air force becomes Royal New Zealand Air Force

King George VI gives permission for the New Zealand Permanent Air Force (NZPAF) to adopt the title Royal New Zealand Air Force. [t3-1941]

(RNZAF, 2011)

1934

Four-year parliamentary term introduced

The parliamentary term is extended to four years. [t20-1937]

(RCES, 1986: A-58)

1934

Maori Trust Office amalgamates with the Native Department

'This provides the basis for the present-day situation, where the permanent head of the Maori Affairs Department has held the position of Māori Trustee as well.' [t57-1947]

(Levine & Vasil, 1985: 36)

1935

Workers' unions become legal and compulsory

The Labour Government extends the arbitration system and nationwide unions became legal, with union membership compulsory for those affected by a union.

Compulsory arbitration is reinstated in 1936. [t55-1936]

(Derby, 2010b)

- 1935** **First Labour Government takes office**
The first Labour Government assumes office under the leadership of Michael Joseph Savage. This government is best remembered for its landmark social welfare reforms, in particular the Social Security Act 1938. [t47-1980]
(MCH, n.d.[q])
- 1936** **40-hour working week enforced by government**
The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1894 is amended, establishing a 40-hour working week and compulsory union membership. [t55-1951]
(Evans, 2010a)
- 1936** **New Zealand's first major airline begins operation**
Union Airways of New Zealand Ltd is formed and begins operations officially on 5 January. [t11-1940]
(McLintock, 1966b)
- 1936** **Jean Batten completes the first direct flight from England to New Zealand**
Jean Batten completes the first-ever direct flight from England to New Zealand. In 1935 she was the first woman to fly solo across the South Atlantic. [t28-1953]
(MCH, 2010m)
- 1937** **Three-year parliamentary term restored**
The parliamentary term is restored to three years. This prevailed except in 1941 and 1942. During the Second World War both parties agreed that Parliament should be extended by one year. [t20 ends]
(RCES, 1986: A-59; Sorrenson, 1986: B-155)

1937 Voting by secret ballot compulsory for Māori seats

Under the Electoral Amendment Act 1937, Māori are now required to vote by secret ballot. This became compulsory for Europeans in 1890. [t19-1948]

(Vasil, 1990: 173; Wilson, J., 2009d: 12, 13)

1937 State housing scheme prospers

John A. Lee, the Under-Secretary for Housing, leads the Labour Government's state housing construction scheme.

This scheme secures hundreds of hectares across suburban New Zealand, upon which private builders will erect thousands of high-quality modern state houses in the coming years. [t56-1991]

(MCH, 2007c; 2008c)

1937 Free school milk scheme begins

The school milk scheme means that each New Zealand child is now provided with half a pint of milk at school each day. The scheme runs for 30 years. [t61-1967]

(CCL, n.d.[c])

1938 Social Security Act 1938

This Act is central to the Labour Government's welfare reforms under Michael Joseph Savage. It revises pensions and extends benefits for families, invalids and the unemployed. The Act establishes a Social Security Department to administer financial aid and makes Māori eligible for the child benefit on the same basis as Europeans. This Act contributes to New Zealand's growing reputation for innovative social reforms. [t63-1953]

(MCH, n.d.[r]; Sorrenson, 1986: B-44)

1939 Britain appoints its first High Commissioner to New Zealand

After the appointment of the British High Commissioner to New Zealand, the last of the Governor-General's ambassadorial functions are removed. [t2-1940]
(MCH, 2009b)

1939 Second World War begins

New Zealand formally declares war on Germany on 3 September. It is one of the first countries to become involved in the global conflict following Germany's invasion of Poland on 1 September. [t64-1939]
(MCH, 2009i)

1939 Rationing begins

In September petrol begins to be rationed in New Zealand as part of the war effort. As of 1 May 1942 rationing broadens to include sugar, clothing, boots, hosiery and knitting yarns. [t64-1940]
(MCH, 2008d)

1940 Frances Hodgkins is invited to present her work at the Venice Biennale

Frances Hodgkins is invited to exhibit at the prestigious 1940 Venice Biennale on behalf of Britain. She is known for her unique treatment of landscape, still life and portraiture. Due to wartime travel restrictions her work never makes it to Venice. [t26-1961]
(CAG, 2006; *Te Papa*, n.d.[b])

1940 Māori Battalion recruited

In response to the outbreak of war in Europe, and later in the Pacific, 'a Māori Battalion was recruited and sent overseas in May 1940. At home a Māori War Effort Organisation was formed ...' The organisation's primary concerns are 'recruitment and support for the Māori Battalion, but it also planned for rehabilitation of returned servicemen after the war'. [t64-1945]
(Sorrenson, 1986: B-44)

1940 New Zealand Centennial Exhibition

The New Zealand Centennial Exhibition celebrates the 100-year anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. The exhibition runs from 8 November 1939 to 4 May 1940. An average of 17,149 people attend daily, with a total of 2,641,043 people attending during the six months it is open. The celebrations focus primarily on material progress.

[t2-1945]

(MCH, 2008e; 2009b)

1940 Tasman Empire Airways Limited (TEAL) established

Jointly owned by Union Airways, Imperial Airways, Qantas Empire Airways and the New Zealand government, TEAL is formed on 26 April. [t11-1961]

(McLintock, 1966b)

1941 Naval reserve becomes Royal New Zealand Navy

On 1 October, the New Zealand naval reserve officially becomes the Royal New Zealand Navy by order of King George VI. [t3-1953]

(Moon, 2010: 108)

1941 National Council of Churches established

The National Council of Churches is created to foster unity between the different Christian denominations within New Zealand, including: the Church of England, the Presbyterian Church, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union, the Associated Churches of Christ, the Congregational Union, the Salvation Army, the Society of Friends, the Greek Orthodox Church, and the Cook Islands Christian Church. [t59 ends]

(Brash, 2009)



Michael Joseph Savage (front row, middle, with glasses) at the site of the 1940 New Zealand Centennial Exhibition.

‘We are only a small and a young nation, but we are one and all a band of brothers, and we march forward with a union of hearts and wills to a common destiny.’

— Michael Joseph Savage

1944

Canberra Pact signed

'In the wake of Japan's expansion across the Pacific Ocean during the Second World War, the New Zealand and Australian governments saw the value of working together more closely to enhance their joint influence. The Australia–New Zealand Agreement ("Canberra Pact") was an undertaking by both countries to co-operate on international matters, especially in the Pacific.' [t31-1951] (*MCH, n.d.[s]*)

1945

Second World War ends

On 8 May 1945 Germany capitulates, followed by Japan on 15 August. This ends New Zealand's involvement in the conflict, which resulted in 11,928 fatalities out of the 140,000 New Zealanders who served. [t64-1950] (*MCH, 2009j*)

1945

New Zealand joins the United Nations

New Zealand joins the United Nations as simply 'New Zealand', dropping the term 'dominion'. [t2-1947] (*MCH, 2009b*)

1945

South Island Main Trunk line completed

The South Island Main Trunk line is completed, connecting lines all the way from Picton to Invercargill. The railway now covers most of the length of New Zealand's two main islands. [t16 ends] (*Atkinson, 2010b*)

1947

'Native' now referred to as 'Maori'

The government changes official usage from 'Native' to 'Maori'. This encompasses a number of organisations such as the Native Land Court, which becomes the Maori Land Court; the Department of Native Affairs, which is replaced by the Department of Maori Affairs, and the Native Affairs Committee, which becomes the Maori Affairs Committee. [t57-1951] (*Levine & Vasil, 1985: 35; MCH, 2007e*)

1947

Statute of Westminster adopted

New Zealand adopts the Statute of Westminster 1931 (UK), gaining 'legal and formal independence from Britain in the exercise of its external affairs'. The delay in signing could be attributed to 'concerns about New Zealand's relationship with Britain, a lack of practical difficulties until wartime emergencies presented them, and New Zealand's desire to abolish its upper house.' [t2-1953]

(MCH, 2009b; Wilson, J., 2007: 2, 8)

1947

Polio epidemic

A polio epidemic forces all North Island schools to close for four months. Between 1914 and 1961 approximately 10,000 cases of polio are identified in New Zealand. Virtually complete immunisation is achieved by 1961 after the introduction of the Salk and Sabin vaccines. [t6-2009]

(MCH, 2007f; Post-Polio Support Society, n.d.)

1948

Māori electoral roll created

The Electoral Amendment Act 1948 provides for 'the creation of Maori rolls, while at the same time providing for the retention of the Maori right to vote by declaration. It also provide[s] that the preparation of the Maori rolls be centralised in the Chief Electoral Office.' The Act also clarifies the position of 'half-castes', giving them the option of registering and voting on either the European or the Maori roll. [t19-1950]

(RCES, 1986: A-67)

1948

British Nationality and New Zealand Citizenship Act 1948

This Act is passed on 6 September 1948, establishing the concept of 'New Zealand citizenship'. Before this time, people born in New Zealand were British subjects.

[t1-1977]

(DLA, 2011a)

1950 Adjustment of method for calculating European seat numbers

The Electoral Amendment Act 1950 provides for seat numbers to be adjusted according to the European population. Prior to this amendment, seat numbers were based on total adult population. This Act also allows for Māori and European voting to occur on the same day.

[t19-1956]

(*RCES, 1986: A-68; Vasil, 1990: 173*)

1950 Korean War begins

New Zealand has a military presence in Korea from 1950 to 1957. This is first as part of a United Nations ‘police action’ to repel North Korea’s invasion of South Korea, and secondly, after the armistice in July 1953, in a garrison role.

[t64-1950]

(*MCH, 2011j*)

1950 Rationing ends

The end of petrol and butter rationing means New Zealand is free from all restrictions imposed during the war.

[t64-1964]

(*MCH, 2011k*)

1950 Legislative Council Abolition Act 1950

An Act to abolish the Upper House of Parliament, the Legislative Council, effective from 1 January 1951. This leaves just the House of Representatives to represent New Zealanders and pass the country’s laws. [t45 ends]

(*MCH, 2009b; OCHR, 2010*)

1951 Population reaches 1,939,472

In the 1951 census, the population is 1,939,472, of whom 93% are European and 6% are Māori. One percent of the population identify as being of another descent, such as Pacific or Asian. [t53-2001]

(*CSODNZ, 1953: 1032*)

- 1951** **Maori Women's Welfare League established**
A group of Māori women come together with the aim of supporting Māori society in areas such as health, housing and education. [t57-1955]
(Higgins & Meredith, 2011; Sorrenson, 1986: B-45)
- 1951** **Waterfront dispute lasts 151 days**
The biggest industrial action in the nation's history, involving 22,000 waterside workers and other unionists, takes place after decades of unrest on New Zealand wharves. [t55-1991]
(MCH, 2011l)
- 1951** **Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty (ANZUS) signed**
Australia, New Zealand and the United States sign the ANZUS treaty, an alliance that acknowledges that if one member is attacked in the Pacific area the peace and safety of all would be endangered. Each member pledges to 'act to meet the common danger'. The Treaty reflects a decreasing confidence in the British Empire's ability to protect the Pacific region. In 1985, the United States responds to New Zealand's nuclear-free stance by no longer guaranteeing security to New Zealand, although the ANZUS Treaty structure remains in place today. [t31-1954]
(MCH, n.d.[t]; n.d.[u])
- 1953** **Maori Affairs Act 1953 addresses use of Māori land**
An Act to force unproductive Māori land into use. 'Anyone who could show the Maori Land Court that a piece of good land was not being used could apply to have it vested in trustees.' [t36-1974]
(MCH, 2009k)

- 1953** **Realm of New Zealand established**
New Zealand's name changes in official usage from simply 'New Zealand' to the 'Realm of New Zealand'. [t2-1977]
(*MCH, 2009b*)
- 1953** **Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing climb Everest**
New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Nepali Sherpa Tenzing Norgay are the first people to reach the summit of Mt Everest, the world's highest peak. [t28-1958]
(*MCH, n.d.[v]*)
- 1953** **First Family Planning Association clinic opens**
New Zealand's first birth control clinic is established in Auckland by the Family Planning Association. [t63 ends]
(*Tolerton, 2011*)
- 1953** **First official visit by the Head of State**
Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip make an official visit to New Zealand, arriving in December. During this visit the Queen makes her global Christmas broadcast from Auckland. The Queen has visited New Zealand on ten occasions: 1953-1954, 1963, 1970, 1974, 1977, 1981, 1986, 1990, 1995 and 2002. [t3-1974]
(*MCH, 2010n; Royal Household, 2011a*)
- 1953** **Tangiwai rail disaster**
On Christmas Eve 1953, the debris at the outlet of the Mt Ruapehu crater lake collapses creating a volcanic mudflow, known as a lahar, which smashes into the main trunk railway bridge at Tangiwai knocking out the concrete piers and partially collapsing the bridge. A passenger express coming from Wellington, packed with 285 people, fails to stop in time and the engine and five carriages are plunged into the river. New Zealanders wake on Christmas morning to the shocking news that 151 lives have been lost. [t9-1968]
(*McSaveney et al., 2009b*)

- 1954** **Manila Pact signed**
 The South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty, or Manila Pact, aims to contain the spread of communism. Australia, England, France, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and the United States are all signatories. The South-East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) is established as the official institution of the agreement. [t31 ends]
(MCH, n.d.[w])
- 1955** **Maori Trust Boards Act 1955**
 ‘An Act to make better provision for the administration of certain Maori Trust Boards.’ [t57-1961]
- 1956** **Compulsory enrolment is extended to Māori voters**
 The Electoral Act 1956 consolidates and amends ‘the enactments relating to the election of members of the House of Representatives.’ Māori enrolment is made compulsory, in line with European enrolment, which has been compulsory since 1927. [t19-1967]
(Sorrenson, 1986: B-47)
- 1956** **Interest expressed in aluminium smelting**
 Consolidated Zinc Proprietary Limited advises the New Zealand government that it is interested in using Manapouri hydro power for the smelting of alumina. [t12-1963]
(Fitzgerald, 2000: 2)
- 1956** **New Zealand Coat of Arms amended**
 New Zealand’s first Coat of Arms, known as the 1911 Arms, undergoes minor adjustments. During the 1940s it was found that multiple versions were in use. The resulting design contains a shield with symbols reflecting the Southern Cross and the importance of sea trade and agriculture. Beside the shield is a Māori chief with a taiaha and a European woman holding the New Zealand ensign. St Edward’s crown floats above, representing our current Queen’s coronation. See image on page 95. [t39 ends]
(MCH, 2011c; SFI, 2011a: 33)

- 1957** **Scott Base established**
New Zealand opens its first Antarctic research station, named 'Scott Base'. It is designed to house the privately run Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition (CTAE).
[t4-1962]
(MCH, n.d.[x])
- 1957** **Last death penalty execution**
Walter Bolton is the last person to be executed under the death penalty. [t52-1961]
(Newbold, 2011)
- 1958** **Edmund Hillary reaches the South Pole**
Edmund Hillary and his New Zealand party reach the South Pole. [t28-1981]
(MCH, 2009l)
- 1958** **Black Budget introduces PAYE and indirect taxes**
The incoming Minister of Finance, Arnold Nordmeyer, introduces the Black Budget in response to the balance of payments crisis. The budget introduces indirect taxes including PAYE (Pay As You Earn) and doubles duties on beer, spirits, tobacco and cars. 'The outcome was an 18 per cent increase in taxation.' [t25-1982]
(McKinnon, 2003: 219-220)
- 1959** **Antarctic Treaty signed**
The Antarctic Treaty is signed in Washington on 1 December 1959 by representatives of the 12 countries whose scientists have been active in and around Antarctica during the International Geophysical Year of 1957-58. The treaty comes into force in 1961 and by 2011 there are 48 signatories.
[t30 ends]
(Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty, 2011)



Sir Edmund Hillary onboard the Royal New Zealand Navy ship *Endeavour*, which transported his party to Antarctica for the Trans-Antarctic Expedition.
1957

‘[I am] hell-bent for the South Pole — God willing and crevasses permitting.’

— Sir Edmund Hillary

1959

Chinese gooseberry renamed kiwifruit

The Turners and Growers produce company announces that the Chinese gooseberry will now be exported as 'kiwifruit'. [t10-1964]
(MCH, n.d.[y])

1960

Television becomes available in New Zealand

On January 28, the government announces its plan to operate a television service in New Zealand, and by August regular transmissions begin. [t13-1987]
(MCH, 2010o)

1960

Separate Māori school system is phased out

In the 1960s, the separate school system for Māori comes to an end. [t54-1965]
(Swarbick, 2009a)

1961

Death penalty abolished

Parliament holds a free vote to amend the Crimes Act, leading to the abolishment of the death penalty. Capital punishment is retained only for treason until 1989. [t52-2007]
(MCH, 2010c)

1961

Hunn Report

J. K. Hunn's report on the Department of Maori Affairs is released to the public. 'Although it [is] strictly speaking a review of the department, it [makes] more far-reaching recommendations on social reforms affecting the Maori people.' 'By 1961 the Maori Education Foundation was established because education was the key to integration as set forth in the Hunn Report ... From 1961 separate registration of Maori births and deaths was abolished and Maori became eligible for jury service.' [t57-1962]
(Meredith, 2009a; Sorrenson, 1986: B-92)

- 1961** **New Zealand Government purchases Tasman Empire Airways Limited (TEAL)**
The Government purchases full ownership of Tasman Empire Airways Limited (TEAL). [t11-1965]
(Air New Zealand, n.d.)
- 1961** **Len Lye exhibits at New York's Museum of Modern Art**
Len Lye is known internationally for both his innovative films and his kinetic sculptures. [t26-1971]
(Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, n.d.)
- 1962** **Maori Community Development Act 1962**
'An Act to provide for the constitution of Maori Associations, to define their powers and functions, and to consolidate and amend the Maori Social and Economic Advancement Act 1945.' The words 'Community Development' are replaced by the word 'Welfare' in Section 19(2) of the later Maori Purposes Act 1979.
[t57-1962]
- 1962** **New Zealand Maori Council established**
The Maori Council, which was predominantly a male confederation of tribal committees (in conjunction with the Maori Women's Welfare League), grew out of the remains of the Maori War Effort Organisation formed in 1942. The council acted principally as an advisory board. [t57-1967]
(Sorrenson, 1986: B-45)
- 1962** **Maurice Wilkins wins the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine**
Maurice Wilkins is awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, along with Francis Crick and James Watson, for their work on 'the molecular structure of nucleic acids and its significance for information transfer in living material'. [t27-2000]
(Nobel Prize, 2011a)

1962

Western Samoa achieves independence and Treaty of Friendship signed

Samoa becomes independent having been allocated to New Zealand by the League of Nations in 1920. Increased pressure from the newly formed United Nations led New Zealand to support independence, but dissatisfaction remained until Prime Minister Helen Clark returned to Samoa in 2002 and offered a formal apology on the 40th anniversary of Samoa's independence 'for the injustices arising from New Zealand's administration of Samoa in its earlier years'. The current relationship between New Zealand and Samoa is underpinned by the 1962 Treaty of Friendship. [t4-1965]

(MCH, 2010i; MFAT, 2010a)

1962

First New Zealand Ombudsman appointed

The Ombudsmen initially only investigated complaints about central government departments and organisations, but this has since been extended to local government agencies. New Zealand was the fourth country, after Sweden, Finland and Denmark, to establish the office of Ombudsmen. [t60-1982]

(Office of the Ombudsman, n.d.)

1963

Manapouri-Te Anau Development Act 1963

'An Act to validate an agreement between Her Majesty the Queen and Consolidated Zinc Proprietary Limited in respect of the utilisation by the Crown of the water resources of Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau and of the Waiau and Mararoa rivers for the generation of electrical power for industrial and other purposes.' Under this Act, operating guidelines, based on recommendations submitted 'by the Guardians of Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau and the corporation, for the levels of those lakes aimed to protect the existing patterns, ecological stability, and recreational values of their vulnerable shorelines and to optimise the energy output of the Manapouri power station', come into force. [t12-1970]

1964

Whaling in New Zealand ends

The last whale is caught in New Zealand waters. New Zealand goes on to take a strong international position supporting a moratorium on commercial whaling and opposing 'scientific' whaling. [t10-1973]
(International Whaling Commission, 2011; Phillips, 2009b)

1964

New Zealand becomes involved in the Vietnam War

Approximately 3500 New Zealand military personnel serve in South Vietnam between June 1964 and December 1972. There are 37 New Zealand casualties and 187 wounded during active service. [t64-1991]
(MCH, 2008f)

1964

Decimal currency system introduced

The Decimal Currency Act 1964 prescribes the designs, diameters and standard weights of New Zealand's new decimal coinage system, which is introduced into circulation on 10 July 1967. [t24 ends]
(RBNZ, n.d.)

1964

Marsden Point Refinery opens

The 1958 'Black Budget' forces a review of oil prices which leads to Shell being asked to look into the viability of a New Zealand refinery. Competitors raise concerns over Shell's possible competitive advantage so the government decides to build a refinery with all the oil companies represented. The result is one of the world's first integrated refineries. [t15-1969]
(NZRC, 2009a; 2009b)

1965

National Library of New Zealand established

'The National Library Act 1965 brings together the General Assembly Library, the Alexander Turnbull Library and the National Library Service to form the National Library of New Zealand.' [t54-1972]
(NLNZ, n.d.[b])

- 1965** **Cook Islands gain full self-government in free association with New Zealand**
The relationship between the two countries was defined to the United Nations as follows: 'The Cook Islands people, because of their many natural links with New Zealand, have determined to exercise their right of self-government or self-rule or independence – call it what you will – but not at this time as a separate, sovereign State ... This new status is not sovereign independence in the juridical sense, for the Cook Islanders wish to remain New Zealand citizens.' [t4-1977]
(*Government of the Cook Islands, n.d.*)
- 1965** **Tasman Empire Airways Limited (TEAL) renamed Air New Zealand**
The national airline is renamed Air New Zealand. [t11-1989]
(*Air New Zealand, n.d.*)
- 1966** **First Māori Queen**
King Koroki's daughter becomes the first Māori Queen, Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu. [t34-2006]
(*MCH, 2011m*)
- 1966** **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) signed**
ICERD is signed in 1966 and then ratified on 22 November 1972. The Convention aims to eradicate all forms of racial discrimination and promote understanding among all races. [t29-1968]
(*ICERD, 1966: 2[1]; MFAT, 1997: 240*)
- 1967** **All seats contestable by both Māori and European candidates**
The Electoral Amendment Act 1967 allows Māori to stand as candidates for European electorates, as well as Europeans to stand for Māori electorates. [t19-1975]
(*Vasil, 1990: 174*)

- 1967** **Maori and Island Affairs Department established**
The Department of Maori Affairs ‘merged with the Department of Island Territories to form the Maori and Island Affairs Department. The Islands Division was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 1975, with the Maori Affairs Department retaining responsibility for Pacific Islanders’ housing and welfare within New Zealand.’ [t57–1984]
(Levine & Vasil, 1985: 35)
- 1967** **Free school milk scheme ends**
The government’s delivery of free milk in schools ends. [t61 ends]
(MCH, n.d.[z])
- 1968** **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) signed**
The ICCPR is signed on 12 November 1968, and ratified on 28 December 1978. The covenant has since been incorporated into the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. [t29–1971]
(ICCPR, 1966; MFAT, 1997: 242–243)
- 1968** **Wahine disaster**
The Lyttelton–Wellington ferry *Wahine* sinks on 10 April, resulting in 53 people losing their lives. Images of the disaster are televised, marking a turning point for television news broadcasting in New Zealand. [t9–1979]
(MCH, 2010p)
- 1969** **Voting age lowered from 21 to 20**
The Electoral Amendment Act 1969 lowers the voting age to 20. [t18–1974]
(RCES, 1986: A–83)

1969 Maui gas field discovered

The Maui gas field is discovered by Shell, BP and Todd Petroleum. [t15–1973]
(*Todd Energy*, 2009)

1970 Manapouri petition presented

In May 1970 the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society presents a petition with more than 260,000 signatures to Parliament. The petition opposes the 8-metre raising of Lake Manapouri to generate hydroelectric power for a new aluminium smelter at Tiwai Point, Bluff. The opposition to this scheme marks New Zealand's first widespread environmental movement. In 1972 legislation is passed to protect the level of the lake. [t12–1971]
(*MCH*, 2010g)

1971 Tiwai Point Aluminium Smelter opens

This is New Zealand's only aluminium smelter. [t12–1973]
(*Cook*, 2010a)

1971 Kiri Te Kanawa performs at Covent Garden

Opera singer Kiri Te Kanawa rises to international prominence after singing at Covent Garden, and later goes on to sing at the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. Traditional and contemporary Māori songs such as 'Pokarekare ana' assist her in gaining international exposure. [t26–1985]
(*Black Barn Vineyards*, 2009; *MCH*, 2008g)

1971 Pacific Islands Forum established

Formerly known as the South Pacific Forum, this body aims to co-ordinate the implementation of the Pacific Plan for strengthening regional co-operation and integration. In 2011, it comprises 16 independent and self-governing states in the Pacific and is responsible for the signing of a number of treaties. [t29–1980]
(*PIFS*, n.d.[a]; n.d.[b])

1972

National Museum established

The Dominion Museum is renamed the National Museum. By the 1980s the Buckle Street building is too small to act as a repository for the growing collection and there are calls for a new and improved building to protect New Zealand's national treasures. [t54-1987]

(New Zealand National Herbarium Network, 2011; TVNZ, 2011a)

1973

Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement established

The 1973 Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement allows citizens of Australia and New Zealand to travel freely between the two countries without a passport. [t33-1981]

(DIAC, 2010)

1973

'Damn the Dam' protest song released

John Hanlon releases 'Damn the Dam', which is adopted as the official protest song for those opposing the Manapouri Dam. It reaches number five on the national charts and Hanlon wins what is now called a Recording Arts Talent Award (RATA) award for Single of the Year. [t12-1996]

(New Zealand Folk Song, 2008; RIANZ, 2008)

1973

Norman Kirk sends frigates to Mururoa Atoll

In response to the French disobeying the International Court of Justice interim injunction against nuclear testing in the South Pacific, Prime Minister Norman Kirk sends a government representative (Cabinet Minister Fraser Colman) and two frigates (HMNZS *Otago* and HMNZS *Canterbury*) to retain a presence close to Mururoa Atoll. 'What we aim to do is publicise what is happening in this remote part of the world, so as to stimulate world opinion and attract support for the rights of smaller nations.'

[t22-1985]

(Hayward, 1981: 143-144, 159)

1973 Expansion of Marsden Point Oil Refinery approved

The government gives tacit approval to a \$160 million expansion at Marsden Point Oil Refinery, with the intention of ending the country's dependence on expensive imported components and finished products.

[t15-1973]
(NZRC, 2009c)

1973 First oil shock

International crude oil prices increase from US\$3 to approximately US\$20 per barrel. New Zealand maintains a security of supply, even with the higher crude and product costs. The high price of crude oil creates a serious balance of payments crisis. [t15-1973]

(McKinnon, 2003: 247; NZRC, 2009c)

1973 Maui pipeline commissioned

A high-pressure gas transmission pipeline is commissioned to run from the Oaonui Production Station to Huntly Power Station. The pipeline is to transfer gas to electricity generators and large plants and is the largest capacity high-pressure gas transmission pipeline in New Zealand. [t15-1979]

(Maui Development Limited, n.d.)

1973 United Kingdom joins the European Union

The UK joins the European Union in 1973 and introduces quotas for New Zealand lamb, cheese and butter exports, which forces New Zealand to seek alternative markets. Prior to 1973, the UK was New Zealand's biggest export partner. [t10-1978]

(McKinnon, 2010)

- 1974** **Royal Titles Act 1974**
An Act proclaiming the royal title ‘Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God Queen of New Zealand and Her Other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith’ for use in relation to New Zealand. [t3–2009]
(MCH, 2009b)
- 1974** **Voting age lowered from 20 to 18**
The Electoral Amendment Act 1974 lowers the voting age to 18. [t18 ends]
(RCES, 1986: A–85)
- 1974** **Waitangi Day becomes a national holiday**
‘Waitangi Day (then known as New Zealand Day) becomes a national holiday.’ [t41 ends]
(MCH, 2009b)
- 1974** **‘Maori’ extended to include descendants of Maori**
The Maori Affairs Amendment Act 1974 broadens the definition of a Maori ‘to include any person descended from a Maori’. [t36–1975]
(RCES, 1986: A–86; Sorrenson, 1986: B–52)
- 1975** **British nationality is no longer a qualification to vote**
Under the Electoral Amendment Act 1975, all New Zealand citizens and permanent residents are entitled to vote. The Act also replaces the term ‘European’ with the term ‘General’, and Māori can now choose to register on either this roll or the Māori roll. This becomes known as the Māori electoral option and is to be exercised at the next census. [t19–1981]
(Electoral Commission, 2005b; RCES, 1986: A–85; Sorrenson, 1986: B–52)

- 1975** **The Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975 establishes the Waitangi Tribunal**
The Act provides for ‘the observance, and confirmation, of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi by establishing a Tribunal to make recommendations on claims relating to the practical application of the Treaty and to determine whether certain matters are inconsistent with the principles of the Treaty.’ [t36–1983]
- 1975** **Māori land hīkoi**
The protest march, led by Whina Cooper, aims to call for a halt to the alienation of Māori land. However, its impact is far more widespread. [t37–1977]
(*Royal*, 2009)
- 1977** **Occupation of Bastion Point**
An occupation of Bastion Point reserve is begun by local iwi Ngāti Whātua following the Crown’s decision to sell the land and turn it into a housing development. The iwi disputes the lawful acquisition of the land, which had once been a Ngāti Whātua reserve. After 506 days, the police and the army remove 218 occupants. However, a Waitangi Tribunal inquiry results in Ngāti Whātua regaining much of the land in 1988. [t37–2004]
(*MCH*, n.d.[aa]; n.d.[bb])
- 1977** **‘God Defend New Zealand’ becomes national anthem**
In 1977 ‘God Defend New Zealand’ is given equal status with ‘God Save the Queen’. During the 1972 Olympics ‘God Defend New Zealand’ had been played during a medal ceremony, creating controversy. A petition was presented to Parliament in 1976, resulting in the decision to make ‘God Defend New Zealand’ the country’s second official anthem. [t38 ends]
(*CCL*, n.d.[d]; *Hewitson*, 2004)



Protesters on the Maori Land March,
College Hill, Auckland.
22 September 1975

‘I can’t sleep at night, because
even at night I’m worrying about
things and planning things. It’s
the mana, you see. If you’ve got
it, it never lets you alone.’

— Dame Whina Cooper

1977

Constitutional crisis: Robert Muldoon appoints Sir Keith Holyoake Governor-General

Prime Minister Robert Muldoon appoints serving Cabinet Minister Sir Keith Holyoake to the position of Governor-General. This sets 'a precedent that New Zealand could do without', as the role of Governor-General should be non-partisan, leaving the 'business' of government to Cabinet and the Prime Minister. It is believed that the British monarchy is displeased with the appointment. The Leader of the Opposition is not informed prior to the appointment and the public is dissatisfied with the decision. Although Holyoake performs neutrally, and resigns from Parliament the same year, both civil servants and the throne take steps to ensure that a serving politician will not again be made Governor-General. [t2-1983]

(MCH, 2007g; NZ Govt, n.d.[b]; Wood, 2010)

1977

Citizenship Act 1977

The Citizenship Act 1977 means citizenship is now granted based on 'length of residence in New Zealand, character, and knowledge of the English language'. The Act distinguishes New Zealand citizens from the rest of the Commonwealth, and the expression 'British subject' is removed from New Zealand passports. Also in this year, the government passes the Seal of New Zealand Act 1977. This Act establishes a 'Seal of New Zealand', arguably reflecting the country's growing constitutional self-image. [t1-2005]

(Green, 2009b; Joseph, 2007: 738)

1977

200-mile economic zone established

The Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act 1977 extends New Zealand's commercial fishing zone a further 188 miles. This extension makes the economic zone 15 times the size of the land area of New Zealand, and the fourth largest in the world. [t4-2008]

(Moon, 2010: 122)

1977 Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977

This Act provides for women to undergo an abortion after they have seen two certifying medical practitioners. Abortion was first legalised in the 1930s for women whose life or mental health was endangered. By the 1970s abortions were progressively more attainable, and the issue was increasingly debated. Although in practice the 1977 legislation initially made access to an abortion more difficult, it was soon amended to provide for a safer, more regulated system.

[t50 ends]

(Cook, 2011)

1977 Commission for the Future established

The Commission for the Future and the Planning Council are established under the New Zealand Planning Act 1977. The aim is to study ‘possibilities for the long-term economic and social development of New Zealand’, and to make the findings available to the government and the general public. [t44–1980]

(SFI, 2011b: 65–67)

1978 Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978

Whales within New Zealand’s 200-nautical-mile (370 km) Exclusive Economic Zone become protected under the Marine Mammals Protection Act. [t10–1989]

(DOC, 2006)

1979 Mt Erebus disaster

On 28 November an Air New Zealand sightseeing flight to Antarctica crashes into the lower slopes of Mt Erebus. All 237 passengers and 20 crew lose their lives. [t9–1995]

(MCH, 2009m)

- 1979** **Second oil shock and ‘car-less days’ begin**
Crude oil prices rise from around US\$13 to a high of US\$32 per barrel. The international oil shortage results in ‘car-less days’ in New Zealand and, coupled with ‘Think Big’ projects, provides a stimulant for expansions in New Zealand fuel production. [t15-1987]
(NZRC, 2009d)
- 1980** **Māori political party, Mana Motuhake, founded**
Matiu Rata, a former Labour Cabinet Minister, establishes the Mana Motuhake party, advocating Māori autonomy. [t47 ends]
(MCH, 2009k)
- 1980** **United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) signed**
New Zealand signs CEDAW on 17 July 1980, and it is ratified on 10 January 1985. Signing the Convention shows New Zealand’s commitment to eliminating inequalities between women and men. [t29-1982]
(CEDAW, 1979; MFAT, 1997: 309)
- 1980** **Muldoon’s ‘Think Big’ scheme introduced**
In 1980 economist Brian Easton noted that there were in effect two strategies for dealing with the impending oil crisis: ‘think big’ and ‘small is beautiful’. Robert Muldoon’s government favoured the ‘Think Big’ policy and invested significantly in it. However, the energy-focused scheme left the government with serious debts and led to subsequent sales of state assets. [t44-1999]
(Hembry, 2011)
- 1981** **Electoral boundary review for Māori seats introduced**
The Electoral Amendment Act 1981 introduces a review every five years for Māori electorate seats. [t19-1985]
(Wilson, J., 2009d: 12)

1981 The Springbok rugby tour sparks nationwide protests

New Zealand is divided as race relations issues are raised over the Springbok rugby tour of the country in 1981. Those opposed to the tour argue that New Zealand is condoning apartheid and infecting our own society with South Africa's racial attitudes. Others, including many players, stress that sport and politics should remain separate. During July, August and September 1981 more than 150,000 people take part in over 200 demonstrations in 28 centres, and 1500 are charged with offences stemming from these protests. The country is again divided in 1986 by the Cavaliers' rebel tour to South Africa. The international sports community continues to raise concerns about apartheid and when the International Rugby Football Board approves the inaugural Rugby World Cup to be hosted by Australia and New Zealand in 1987, South Africa is unable to compete. New Zealand goes on to win the inaugural World Cup and rugby again becomes a source of national pride. [t28-1987]

(MCH, 2009n; 2010r; Rugby News Service, 2007)

1981 Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement amended

Passports are now needed to travel to Australia, to stop exploitation of the Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement. However, it is still unnecessary to apply for an Australian visa. [t33 ends]

(McPhee, 1981)

1982 Official Information Act 1982

The Act governs access to official information and is governed by the 'Principle of availability', which states that 'the information shall be made available unless there is good reason for withholding it'. [t60 ends]

(State Services Commission, n.d.)

1982

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) signed

Under this agreement New Zealand attains the rights to control the resources in a broad area near its coasts, and to apply these rights to small islands as well as larger land masses. [t29–2002]

(Mansfield, 2009)

1982

Muldoon imposes a wage and price freeze

‘The most dramatic peacetime example of price control in New Zealand was the wage and price freeze imposed by Minister of Finance (and Prime Minister) Robert Muldoon in June 1982.’ [t25–1984]

(Evans, 2010b)

1983

Waitangi Tribunal releases Motunui-Waitara Report

The Waitangi Tribunal’s first major publication is released, in which ‘the relevance of the Treaty to contemporary New Zealand was articulated in terms that made sense to Māori, to jurists, and to local communities’. [t36–1985]

(Durie, 2009: 4; Waitangi Tribunal, 2011a)

1983

Letters Patent Constituting the Office of Governor-General of New Zealand

Following the Review of the Letters Patent 1917, the Governor-Generalship becomes a purely New Zealand office. The Letters Patent define ‘Our Realm of New Zealand’ to comprise ‘(a) New Zealand; and (b) The self-governing state of the Cook Islands; and (c) The self-governing state of Niue; and (d) Tokelau; and (e) The Ross Dependency’. [t2–1984]

(Joseph, 2007: 492; MCH, 2007g; 2009b; PCO, 2007)

- 1983** **Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA) signed**
 The CER (as it is commonly known), a comprehensive bilateral trade agreement between New Zealand and Australia, is signed on 28 March. This strengthens the existing New Zealand Australia Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) (in place since 1966) and paves the way for free trade in goods and nearly all services to be established by 1990. [t32-2008] (*MCH, n.d.[cc]*)
- 1984** **First Hui Taumata – Māori Economic Development Summit Conference**
 This national conference, involving participants from throughout Māoridom, examines the economic situation of New Zealand as it affects Māori, assesses the economic strengths and weaknesses of Māori in New Zealand, and supports policy changes necessary to obtain socio-economic parity between Māori and non-Māori. [t57-1989] (*Levine & Vasil, 1985: 197*)
- 1984** **Constitutional crisis: Devaluation by 20%**
 New Zealand is in the throes of a financial crisis. Prime Minister Muldoon calls a snap election on July 14. The National Party lose to Labour. Officials brief the outgoing and incoming Government that an immediate devaluation is necessary. The Reserve Bank stops the flow of money out of the country by suspending all foreign exchange dealings. Muldoon refuses to take the advice of the incoming government to devalue. Muldoon capitulates when his Attorney-General, Jim McLay, states publicly on July 17 that a defeated Government 'will undertake no new policy initiatives; and [i]t will act on the advice of the incoming Government on any matter of such constitutional, economic, or other significance that it cannot be delayed until the new Government formally takes office – even if the outgoing Government disagrees with the course of action proposed.' On July 18, the dollar is devalued by 20%. [t2-1986] (*Joseph, 2007: 227; McKinnon, 2003: 308; Palmer & Palmer, 1997: 4, 34*)



Oxford University Debating Chamber
David Lange was invited to debate here in 1985 on the proposition that 'nuclear weapons are morally indefensible'.

‘A system of defence serves its purpose if it guarantees the security of those it protects. A system of nuclear defence guarantees only insecurity.’

— David Lange

- 1984** **Roger Douglas introduces economic reforms**
The incoming Minister of Finance, Roger Douglas, introduces 'an extensive programme of economic reforms', commonly known as Rogernomics. The financial market is deregulated, with controls on foreign exchange and subsidies removed. The aim is in part to improve the responsiveness of New Zealand producers to changes in the spending patterns of domestic and overseas consumers. [t25-1986]
(Dalziel, P., 2010; RBNZ, 1985: 572; Stringleman & Peden, 2009)
- 1985** **Keri Hulme wins the Booker Prize**
Keri Hulme's *The bone people* wins the Booker Prize, the first time a New Zealand novel has ever won the prize. [t26-2002]
(MCH, n.d.[dd])
- 1985** **David Lange wins Oxford Union Debate**
David Lange argues successfully that 'nuclear weapons are morally indefensible'. [t22-1985]
(Phillips, 2009c)
- 1985** ***Rainbow Warrior* sunk in Auckland harbour**
Two bombs are planted onboard the Greenpeace boat *Rainbow Warrior* by French agents to prevent it taking part in a protest at Mururoa Atoll where the French are carrying out nuclear testing. A Portuguese photographer is killed in the explosions. [t22-1985]
(MCH, n.d.[ee]; NZPA, 2006)
- 1985** **South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty signed**
The South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty calls for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific and to 'keep the region free of environmental pollution by radioactive wastes'. [t22-1985]
(MFE, 2007)

1985 USS *Buchanan* refused entry on grounds of nuclear capability

The government denies the USS *Buchanan* entry to New Zealand due to the United States' unwillingness to either confirm or deny that the warship has nuclear capability. [t22-1987]
(MCH, n.d.[u])

1985 Waitangi Tribunal given power to investigate historical Treaty claims

The Tribunal is now empowered to investigate Treaty claims back to 1840. Initially the Tribunal was created only to report on 'contemporary Maori claims to government, to suggest settlements, and to ensure that future legislation was consistent with the Treaty'. It is also now able to commission research and to appoint legal counsel for claimants. [t36-1986]
(MCH, 2009k; n.d.[ff])

1985 Royal Commission on the Electoral System

A Royal Commission is established to enquire into New Zealand's electoral system. The 1986 Report makes a number of recommendations and suggests a criteria for judging voting systems. It recommends that a referendum be held on changing the voting system from first-past-the-post (FPP) to a Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system. [t19-1993]
(RCES, 1986: 64)

1986 Goods and Services Tax of 10% introduced

As part of the Labour Government's economic reforms, a 10% tax is added to most goods and services. [t25-1986]
(MCH, n.d.[gg])



Coat of Arms of New Zealand, 1956

[See 1956, page 71]

‘The people choose from among themselves those who are to have the powers and responsibilities of Government. The process of choice should to the fullest extent possible give each member of the community an equal part in the choice of the Government and a fair opportunity to participate in the process.’

— Royal Commission on the Electoral System, 1986: 7

1986

State-Owned Enterprises Act 1986

‘An Act to promote improved performance in respect of Government trading activities ... to specify principles governing the operation of State enterprises ... authorise the formation of companies to carry on certain Government activities and control the ownership thereof; and establish requirements about the accountability of State enterprises, and the responsibility of Ministers.’ The Act is also a ‘key piece of legislation to incorporate a reference to the Treaty of Waitangi ... This has given the Treaty far-reaching recognition in national and local government.’ Section 9 of the Act states that nothing in the Act permits the ‘Crown to act in a manner that is inconsistent with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi’. [t25-1988]

(MCH, 2009k)

1986

Constitution Act 1986

‘An Act to reform the constitutional law of New Zealand, to bring together ... certain provisions of constitutional significance, and to provide that the New Zealand Constitution Act 1852 of the Parliament of the United Kingdom shall cease to have effect as part of the laws of New Zealand.’ This Act sets out the basic elements of the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary, as the three branches of government. The Act is intended to provide a formal statement of existing statutes and institutions, and declares the allocation of power for these institutions. Former Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Palmer notes that this Act is not entrenched, ‘in the sense that it can be changed relatively easily by Parliament’. He believes New Zealand should have a written entrenched constitution, one that is only alterable by a referendum or 75% majority in Parliament. He also believes ‘it should include the Treaty of Waitangi and the New Zealand Bill of Rights’. In 2011, New Zealand remains one of only three countries with an unwritten constitution; the others are the United Kingdom and Israel. [t2-1990]

(Electoral Commission, 2007; Palmer, 2002: 11, 75; Parliamentary Library, 2005)

1986

Homosexual Law Reform Act 1986

This Act legalises consensual sex between men aged 16 and older. The initial Bill is introduced by Labour MP Fran Wilde in 1985 and passed on 9 July 1986. [t51-2004] (*MCH, 2009o*)

1986

James Belich's *The New Zealand Wars* is published

Belich's book and television series, *The New Zealand Wars*, contributed significantly to a deeper understanding of Maori/Pakehā relations. This builds on the earlier work of historian Sir Keith Sinclair, whose books include *The Origins of the Maori Wars*. In 1987 Belich's book wins the Trevor Reese Memorial Prize for historical scholarship, and in 2011 Belich is appointed the Beit Professor of Commonwealth and Imperial History at Oxford University. [t36-1987] (*NZBC, n.d.[a]; n.d.[b]; NZPA, 2011*)

1987

Long recession begins

'The 1987 stock market crash, extensive economic restructuring, and a shift in focus by policymakers to concentrate primarily on reducing inflation, constrain economic growth and [lead] to rising unemployment over the late-1980s and early-1990s.' [t14-1997] (*DOL, n.d.*)

1987

Maori Language Act 1987

'An Act to declare the Maori language to be an official language of New Zealand, to confer the right to speak Maori in certain legal proceedings, and to establish Te Komihana Mo Te Reo Maori and define its functions and powers.' In 2006, sign language becomes the third official language in New Zealand, as legislated under the New Zealand Sign Language Act 2006. [t54-1992]

- 1987 A. J. Hackett bungy-jumps off the Eiffel Tower
A. J. Hackett bungy-jumps off the top of the Eiffel Tower, making international headlines and building on New Zealand's reputation as an adventurous country. [t28-1995]
(*A. J. Hackett Bungy, n.d.*)
- 1987 Legal decision: New Zealand Maori Council v Attorney-General
The Maori Council seeks enforcement of Section 9 of the State-Owned Enterprises Act 1986. As a result, the Court of Appeal sets out a number of principles derived from the Treaty to be used as tools of statutory interpretation. This includes the key principle of 'partnership' and the Court concludes that the Crown has certain obligations and duties to Māori under the Treaty regarding the transfer of Crown land to State-Owned Enterprises. [t36-1987]
(*MCH, 2009k; Parliamentary Library, 2005: 5*)
- 1987 Claudia Orange's *The Treaty of Waitangi* is published
The publication of this book makes the Treaty accessible to the public. Specifically, it promotes awareness of the problem surrounding interpretation of key terms that were written and translated between English and Māori. In 1988, the book wins the Goodman Fielder Wattie Book Award. [t36-1991]
(*CCL, n.d.[e]; Falconer, 2008; Taonui, n.d.*)
- 1987 New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act 1987
The Act secures New Zealand's nuclear-free status, inspiring the United States Congress to retaliate with the Broomfield Act. This downgrades New Zealand's status from ally to friend. However, this has little effect on the country's nuclear-free stance, and in 1989 52% of New Zealanders indicate that they would rather break defence ties with the US than allow nuclear-armed ships into their harbours.
[t22 ends]
(*MCH, 2008b*)

- 1987** **Telecom New Zealand established**
Telecom, previously part of the New Zealand Post Office, is established as a state-owned enterprise. [t13-1990]
(Wilson, A. C., 2010c)
- 1987** **Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment appointed**
In 1972, a Commission for the Environment had been established under the Minister for the Environment, with the purpose of auditing the environmental impacts of proposed Crown developments. The appointment of a Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment gives the Commissioner 'statutory independence', strengthening this audit role considerably. [t15-1991]
(PCE, n.d.)
- 1988** **State Sector Act 1988**
The Act aims to improve the operation of public sector employment and accountability. [t25-1989]
- 1989** **Maori Fisheries Act 1989**
'This Act expressly states that it is intended to make better provision for Maori fishing rights secured by the Treaty and to facilitate the entry of Maori into, and the development by Maori of, the business and activity of fishing. This is a welcome statutory acknowledgment by the Crown of Maori sea fishing rights guaranteed by the Treaty.' [t10-1999]
(Waitangi Tribunal, 1992)

1989

Wave of new reforms hit the public sector

The new wave of reforms build on the changes first initiated in 1984. The Public Finance Act 1989 aims to improve the use of public financial resources, requiring public sector financial statements and forecast financial statements to 'be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice'. This is believed to be the first time a government has required accrual accounting to be applied to public sector reporting in the world. In addition, the Reserve Bank Act 1989 aims to formulate and implement monetary policy, in order 'to promote stability in the general level of prices, while recognising the Crown's right to determine economic policy'. [t25-1989]

(Lye, 1998: 2; McKinnon, 2003: 324-343, 394, 408)

1989

Goods and Services Tax increased to 12.5%

Tax increases to 12.5% on most goods and services.

[t25-2002]

(MCH, n.d.[gg])

1989

Maori Affairs Restructuring Act 1989

'An Act to provide for the restructuring of the Department of Maori Affairs to form the Iwi Transition Agency, to abolish the Board of Maori Affairs and transfer its programmes to the general manager of the Iwi Transition Agency, and to transfer the administration of the Maori Land Courts to the Department of Justice.' [t57-1990]

1989

Air New Zealand privatised

Air New Zealand is privatised in April 1989 with its sale to a consortium comprising Brierley Investments Ltd, Qantas, Japan Airlines and American Airlines. After the company experiences financial troubles, the government announces in October 2001 that it will provide the airline with a NZ\$885 million rescue package in return for 83% ownership. [t11 ends]

(Air New Zealand, n.d.; BBC, 2001)

1990

New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990

‘An Act ... to affirm, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in New Zealand; and to affirm New Zealand’s commitment to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.’ The Bill of Rights Act 1990 is often criticised for lacking constitutional authority above ordinary legislation. If the Act had become supreme law, the courts could strike down any existing or proposed laws that conflict with it. [t2–1993]

(Haywood, 2011)

1990

Telecom New Zealand privatised

Telecom is sold to two United States-based telecommunications companies, Bell Atlantic and Ameritech, and two New Zealand partners, Fay Richwhite Holdings and Freightway Holdings, for NZ\$4.25 billion. A year earlier, the telecommunications services market had been fully opened up to competition, resulting in a number of legal disputes. [t13–1998]

(MED, n.d.[b]; Wilson, A. C., 2010c)

1990

First female Governor-General

Dame Catherine Tizard is appointed by Queen Elizabeth II to the position of Governor-General of New Zealand.

[t49–1997]

(NZ Govt, n.d.[b]; Tizard, 2010: 203–205)

1990

Runanga Iwi Act 1990

An Act to acknowledge the importance of iwi and to provide for the incorporation of rŭnanga to represent iwi in accordance with iwi charters. The Act was subsequently repealed due to concerns that it was too prescriptive on Māoridom. [t57–1991]

(Hansard, 1991)

1991 Runanga Iwi Repeal Act 1991

An Act to repeal the Runanga Iwi Act 1990. Winston Peters (Minister of Maori Affairs) considered a better alternative was ‘to put in its place a policy in which the tribes could voluntarily liaise, work, and co-operate with the Government, but there would be no compulsion about the shape, character, and form of government.’

[t57–1991]

(*Hansard, 1991*)

1991 Ministry of Maori Development Act 1991

An Act establishing Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry for Maori Development. [t57–2005]

(*Te Puni Kōkiri, 2007*)

1991 The Ngāi Tahu Report

The Waitangi Tribunal publishes a report in response to a number of claims identifying Ngāi Tahu’s grievances about land purchases. These claims led to the Tribunal’s most extensive treatment of an inquiry to date. This is followed up in 1992 with findings on the tribal claim to the fisheries. In 1993 the Waitangi Tribunal publishes the final report on the smaller claims to reserves. [t36–1992]

(*Tau, 2009; Waitangi Tribunal, 2011b*)

1991 Employment Contracts Act 1991

This Act establishes the Employment Court and brings together all types of employment contracts under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court. Legislation previously only covered employees on collective contracts who were represented by registered unions and excluded employees on individually negotiated contracts. [t55 ends]

(*ECNZ, n.d.*)

- 1991** **The government introduces market rents for state houses**
The removal of income-related rents and an accommodation supplement is initiated by government. The aim is to make the rental market more equitable and reduce the dependency of state tenants. [t56 ends]
(MCH, 2007c)
- 1991** **US Congress votes for war in Iraq**
The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait leads to the New Zealand government providing troops and aircraft to the multinational Coalition Forces whose mission is to remove Iraqi forces from Kuwait and stabilise the Gulf region. [t64 ends]
(NZ Army, 2008)
- 1991** **Resource Management Act 1991**
The purpose of this Act is to 'promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources', which means 'managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while – (a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and (b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and (c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.' [t15–1996]
- 1992** **Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa Act 1992**
This Act establishes Te Papa Tongarewa, literally meaning 'container of treasures'. The Act brings together the National Museum and the National Art Gallery as one entity. Te Papa Tongarewa is built on Cable Street, Wellington and opens to the public on 14 February 1998. [t54 ends]
(Te Papa, n.d.[c]; TVNZ, 2011a)

1992 Sealord settlement

A final fisheries Treaty settlement of Māori claims to commercial fisheries is made. This grants Māori a 50% share in Sealord Products, New Zealand's largest fishing company. This follows a 1989 interim agreement that awarded Māori 10% of the fishing quota, and a cash settlement. [t36-1993] (*Meredith, 2009b*)

1993 Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993

The Act 'makes it difficult to purchase Maori land, and it seeks to overcome the problems of fragmentation of titles among multiple owners by providing for various kinds of trusts for managing the land.' [t36-1996] (*MCH, 2009b*)

1993 Electoral Act 1993

The Electoral Act reforms the electoral system, proposing the introduction of MMP. This is carried at the referendum held under the Electoral Referendum Act 1993, the result being '[a] binding referendum [that] changes New Zealand's voting system from FPP to MMP.' [t19-1996] (*Electoral Commission, 2008; MCH, 2009b*)

1993 Human Rights Act 1993

The Act provides 'better protection of human rights in New Zealand in general accordance with United Nations Covenants or Conventions on Human Rights.' Further, the Human Rights Amendment Act 2001 significantly improves the observance of human rights in the public sector. [t2-1995] (*Joseph, 2007: 270*)

1995

Treaty policy papers and Cabinet minutes released

A range of government policies relevant to Treaty of Waitangi settlements are released under the Official Information Act and published by the Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS) as *New Zealand Policy Papers for Crown Proposals for the Settlement of Treaty of Waitangi Claims*. [t2-2003] (*University of Auckland Library, n.d.: 9.7*)

1995

Black Magic wins the America's Cup

Peter Blake and Russell Coutts lead Team New Zealand to victory in the 1995 America's Cup, and defend it in 2000. New Zealand is the second country other than the US to win the cup in its 144-year existence, the first being Australia. Blake goes on to create Blakexpeditions. His aim is to visit key waterways around the world, to raise awareness of their importance for humankind. He states that '[h]aving vision is not enough. Change comes through realising the vision and turning it into reality.' [t28 ends] (*Sir Peter Blake Trust, n.d.[a]; n.d.[b]; n.d.[c]; TVNZ, 2007*)

1995

Cave Creek disaster

A scenic viewing platform in Paparoa National Park collapses under the weight of 17 students and one Department of Conservation (DOC) worker, sending them plunging 30 metres down onto the valley floor; 13 students and the DOC worker are killed. The report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry finds that the Department of Conservation was seriously under-funded and under-resourced at the time. The Commission also finds systemic problems with the platform's construction, including the design and supervision of its installation, none of which was overseen by any qualified engineers or builders. [t9 ends] (*CCL, n.d.[ff]; DIA, 1995*)

1996

First MMP election held

The first MMP election results in the first coalition government for more than 60 years. [t19 ends] (*MCH, 2009b*)

1996

Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1996

The Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act is passed. This legislation recognises a tribal group as a political entity for the first time in New Zealand. Two years later, the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act establishes the final settlement. [t36-2003] (*Tau, 2009*)

1996

Manapouri Power Station granted further resource consents

The Manapouri Power Station is granted six resource consents under the Resource Management Act, subject to a number of conditions, including compliance with the Gazetted guidelines. The consents have a 35-year term, expiring in 2031. [t12 ends] (*MED, 2005*)

1996

New Zealand's first wind farm built

Hau Nui, New Zealand's first commercial wind farm, is built. It begins generating electricity in the Wairarapa in 1997. [t15-2008] (*Cook, 2010b; Schrader, 2009*)

1996

Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996

This Act aims to prevent or manage adverse effects from hazardous substances and new organisms in an attempt to protect both the environment and community health and safety. This is thought to be the first legislation internationally that requires risk to be measured against benefits. [t21-2000]

1997

First woman prime minister

Following a coup against Jim Bolger, New Zealand's first woman prime minister, Jenny Shipley, comes to power. [t49-1999] (*MCH, 2010s*)

- 1997 Asian financial market crisis**
An unprecedented financial crisis in East Asia develops following the collapse of the Thai baht in July. New Zealand's flexible exchange rate acts as a buffer against depreciation of the New Zealand dollar. [t14-2008]
(Moreno, 1998; Treasury, 2011)
- 1998 Auckland power crisis**
A five-week-long power outage starting on 20 January affects almost all of downtown Auckland. [t8-2006]
(Civil Defence, 2007: 105)
- 1998 First fibre optic cable commissioned**
The Southern Cross Cable Network (SCCN), a trans-Pacific network of telecommunications cables, is commissioned. The fibre optic cable network links Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Hawaii directly to the internet on the US West Coast. SCCN is an independent company owned by Telecom New Zealand (50%), SingTel Optus (40%) and Verizon Business (10%). [t13-2008]
(SCCN, 2006)
- 1999 First 'Green' MP in the world to win a constituency seat**
Jeanette Fitzsimons wins the Coromandel seat, making her 'the first Green to win a constituency seat in a first-past-the-post race'. [t44-2011]
(Green Party, 2011)
- 1999 First elected woman prime minister**
Labour's Helen Clark becomes the second female prime minister of New Zealand and the first to win office at an election. [t49-2005]
(MCH, 2010t)



Dame Silvia Cartwright, the second woman Governor-General, receives a hongi from the first Māori Governor-General, Sir Paul Reeves. 2001

‘We can survive as a population only if we conserve, develop sustainably, and protect the world’s resources.’

— Dame Silvia Cartwright, 2002

1999 Painted apple moth discovered

The painted apple moth, a native of Australia, is found in Auckland in May. A controversial spray programme is carried out and eradicates the moth. [t10–2000]
(MAF, 2008a; *Te Papa*, 2006)

2000 Alan MacDiarmid wins the Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Alan MacDiarmid is awarded the Nobel Prize for chemistry jointly with Alan Heeger and Hideki Shirakawa for their discovery and work on conductive polymers. [t27 ends]
(*Nobel Prize*, 2011b)

2000 Royal Commission on Genetic Modification

A Royal Commission is established to enquire into the use of genetic modification. The 2001 Report makes 49 recommendations, including three major proposals to ensure ongoing oversight: a Bioethics Council, a Parliamentary Commissioner on Biotechnology and a biotechnology strategy. The Bioethics Council is established in 2002 but disbanded in 2009, the role of Parliamentary Commissioner is never created, and a strategy is published in 2003. [t21–2001]
(MFE, 2006; RCGM, 2001: 342; SFI, 2008a: 83–87)

2000 Varroa mite discovered

A parasite that attacks honey bees is discovered in both the North Island and the South Island in April. The varroa mite is classed as a ‘Notifiable and Unwanted Organism’ under the Biosecurity Act 1993. [t10–2001]
(MAF, 2000; 2009)

2001 Fonterra established

The New Zealand Dairy Board, New Zealand Dairy Group and Kiwi Co-operative Dairies merge to form Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited. The co-operative represents approximately 96% of dairy farmers in New Zealand. [t10–2003]
(Fonterra, n.d.)

2001 GE-free hīkoi

Over two hundred people arrive at Parliament on 1 November 2001 as the culmination of a hīkoi beginning in October. This is specifically in response to genetically modified (GM) tamarillo field tests carried out by HortResearch in Kerikeri, and the lifting of a voluntary moratorium on GM applications. The group calls for the resignation of Māori MPs, saying that they failed to stop the government allowing GM field tests. A second GE-free hīkoi begins on 22 August 2003 and ends with hundreds of protesters gathering at Parliament on 23 October. This hīkoi calls for a complete ban on GM in New Zealand, and is in response to the planned lifting of the moratorium on the release of genetically modified crops. [t21 ends]
(Bradford, 2001; SFI, 2008b)

2001 Population reaches 3,737,280

In the 2001 census, the population is 3,737,280, of whom 77% are European, 14% are Māori, 6% are Pacific and 6% are Asian. Almost 1% identify as belonging to another ethnic group. [t53–2006]
(Statistics NZ, 2001)

2002 Local Government Act 2002

The Local Government Act 2002 aims to deliver ‘democratic and effective local government’ and ‘provides for local authorities to play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of their communities, taking a sustainable development approach.’ [t25–2007]

2002 *Lord of the Rings* wins Oscars

The Fellowship of the Ring wins four Oscars and promotes the New Zealand film industry, as well as our diverse landscapes. *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy goes on to win 17 Oscars in total. [t26 ends]
(BBC, 2002; 2009; Tourism NZ, n.d.[b])

2002 Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change signed

New Zealand ratifies the Kyoto Protocol on 19 February. The Protocol sets greenhouse gas emission limitations or reduction targets for developed countries and economies in transition to be achieved in the first commitment period from 2008 to 2012, 'with a view to reducing their overall emissions of such gases by at least 5% below 1990 levels during this period'. There are currently negotiations underway to establish the second commitment period. New Zealand has put in place mechanisms to try to ensure it meets its commitments. [t29–2010]

(MFAT, 2011: 40–41)

2002 Kiwibank established

Kiwibank Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of the state-owned enterprise New Zealand Post Limited. The bank is initiated as part of Alliance policy under Jim Anderton in the 1999–2002 Labour Alliance coalition agreement.

[t23 ends]

(Kiwibank, n.d.; NZIM, 2007: 57; Pannett, 2005)

2003 Gypsy moth discovered

The gypsy moth, an invasive species with potentially disastrous effects on New Zealand agriculture, is discovered in Hamilton. An aerial spraying programme by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is carried out over the city and the moth is eradicated by 2005. [t10–2004]

(MAF, 2008b)

2003 Prostitution Reform Act 2003

The Act decriminalises prostitution, repealing the Massage Parlours Act 1978 and associated regulations. It replaces the previous legislation, removing voluntary adult (18 years of age) prostitution from the criminal law and replacing it with civil law at both national and local level. The first significant intervention into prostitution in New Zealand was the Contagious Diseases Act 1869 under which any woman considered to be a 'common prostitute' could be subjected to 'forcible medical examination and detention'. [t58 ends]

(Goodyear, 2009: 23; Jordan, 2005)

2003 Supreme Court Act 2003

An Act 'abolishing the right of appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London and establishing a New Zealand-based court of final appeal, the Supreme Court.' [t2-2004]

(MCH, 2009b)

2003 Michael King's *The Penguin History of New Zealand* is published

A key theme of this book is Māori-Pākehā interaction and how today's bicultural relationship has its 'seeds' in the first moments of contact between the cultures. In an earlier book, *Being Pakeha Now* (1999), King stated: 'For me, then, to be Pakeha on the cusp of the twenty-first century is not to be European; it is not to be an alien or a stranger in my own country. It is to be a non-Māori New Zealander who is aware of and proud of my antecedents, but who identifies as intimately with this land, as intensively and as strongly, as anybody Māori. It is to be ... another kind of indigenous New Zealander.' [t36-2004]

(Howe, n.d.; King, 1999: 239; NZBC, n.d.[c])

2004 Smoke-free Environments Amendment Act 2004

This Act restricts cigarette smoking in all indoor public workplaces and inside hospitality venues. [t62 ends]

2004 Foreshore and Seabed hikoi

'In April 2004 a hikoi began in Northland in protest against proposed government legislation which would vest ownership of New Zealand's foreshore and seabed in the Crown. The hikoi arrived in Wellington on 5 May 2004, after picking up numerous supporters on the way south.' [t37 ends]
(MCH, 2010u)

2004 Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004

The Foreshore and Seabed Act grants the Crown 'full legal and beneficial ownership of the public foreshore and seabed'. It provides for the recognition and protection of customary rights and for the opportunity to apply for redress or to participate in the administration of a reserve if those rights are not met. It also provides for the rights of general public access. [t36-2009]

2004 Civil Union Act 2004

The Civil Union Bill is passed by Parliament on 9 December 2004, establishing the institution of a civil union for same-sex and heterosexual couples. The Act comes into force on 26 April 2005. [t51 ends]
(NZPA, 2004)

2004 Didymo discovered in New Zealand

Didymo is found for the first time in the southern hemisphere. [t10-2005]
(MAF, 2008c; n.d.)

- 2004** **Inquiry to review New Zealand's existing constitutional arrangements**
The Inquiry is conducted by a committee with members from the following parties: New Zealand Labour (4), Green Party (1), ACT New Zealand (1), and United Future (1). Peter Dunne is the chairperson. The report is published in 2005; see recommendations on page 168. [t2-2008]
(New Zealand Parliament, 2005: 6)
- 2005** **Controls to restrict didymo introduced**
Biosecurity New Zealand declares the entire South Island a 'Controlled Area' for didymo to restrict its spread.
[t10 ends]
(MAF, 2005)
- 2005** **Second Hui Taumata – Māori Economic Development Summit Conference**
The second Māori economic development summit conference reflects on achievements since the first Hui Taumata in 1984, and sets a path for Māori economic development for the next 20 years. [t57-2005]
(Treasury, 2005)
- 2005** **First Iwi Chairs Forum hui convened at Takahanga Marae in Kaikōura**
The Forum meets regularly to discuss and enable Māori development aspirations, and by 2008 represents more than 400,000 Māori. [t57 ends]
(Iwi Chairs Forum, 2008)
- 2005** **First woman Speaker of the House of Representatives**
Margaret Wilson becomes the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives. [t49 ends]
(New Zealand Parliament, n.d.[b])

- 2005** **Citizenship Amendment Act 2005**
The Citizenship Amendment Act 2005 introduces more stringent requirements for New Zealand citizenship. These include increasing the standard period of residence in New Zealand prior to gaining citizenship from three years to five years. [t1 ends]
(DLA, 2005)
- 2006** **Sixth Māori King**
Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu is succeeded by her eldest son, Te Arikinui Tuheitia Pahi. [t34 ends]
(MCH, 2008i)
- 2006** **Auckland blackout**
A massive electrical blackout in Auckland on 12 June lasts around eight hours, leaving 750,000 people without power. [t8 ends]
(Lewis, 2006)
- 2006** **Citizens increasingly identify as 'New Zealanders'**
In the 2006 census, 11.1% of the population gave the response 'New Zealander' to the ethnicity question, whereas in the 2001 census, this figure was 2.4%. [t53-2010]
(Statistics NZ, 2007: 1)
- 2007** **Crimes (Substituted Section 59) Amendment Act 2007**
A Bill, commonly referred to as the 'Anti-smacking Bill', amends the Crimes Act 1961. The amendment removes the legal defence of 'reasonable force' for parents prosecuted for assault on their children. [t52 ends]
(Baker, M., 2011)

2007

Royal Commission on Auckland Governance

A Royal Commission is established to enquire into Auckland's local government arrangements and recommend how these can contribute to regional and national objectives in a cost-effective manner. A key recommendation of the 2009 Report is that the Auckland Regional Council and the other seven councils in the region be replaced by a single body called Auckland Council, which would assume all local government responsibilities in the Auckland region. [t46-2009]

(Gay, 2009; RCG, 2009)

2007

KiwiSaver introduced

The Taxation (KiwiSaver) Act 2007 is passed and introduces KiwiSaver, a voluntary savings scheme designed to help people save for their retirement. KiwiSaver providers are required by the Act to disclose their approach to 'responsible investment, in a social and environmental context'. [t25-2010]

(Treasury, 2007)

2008

Relationship and Confidence and Supply Agreement formed between the National Party and the Māori Party

A 'Relationship and Confidence and Supply Agreement' is formed between the National Party and the Māori Party following the 2008 national election. As a part of this, the parties agree to the 'establishment ... by no later than early 2010 of a group to consider constitutional issues including Māori representation'. [t2-2010]

(New Zealand Parliament, 2008: 2)

2008

United Nations recognises extended seabed rights

'New Zealand's right to approximately 1.7 million square kilometres of extended continental shelf seabed has been confirmed by the United Nations Commission ... about six times New Zealand's total land area.' [t4 ends]

(MFAT, 2010b)

2008 Free Trade Agreement with China signed

The Chinese and New Zealand governments sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). New Zealand is the first country in the developed world to negotiate an agreement of this kind with China. The agreement promotes ‘mutually beneficial concessions in the area of trade of goods, services and investment’. [t32-2010]

(MFAT, 2010c)

2008 Telecom New Zealand restructured

Telecom is operationally separated into three divisions under the 2006 changes to the Telecommunications Act – Telecom Retail; Telecom Wholesale; and Chorus, the network infrastructure division. [t13 ends]

(Cunliffe, 2006; Telecom New Zealand, 2009: 50)

2008 Global financial crisis

New Zealand’s exchange rate depreciates to a position below its long-term average for a short period in 2008. Following this, in February 2009, New Zealand’s exchange rate appreciates. This is attributed to the recovery in commodity prices and the poor economic state of other major economies. [t14 ends]

(Treasury, 2011)

2008 Third oil shock

Nubuo Tanaka, Executive Director of the International Energy Association (IEA), notes that the world is in the midst of a ‘third oil shock’. [t15-2009]

(SENZ, 2008: 11)

2009 Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) established

Amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991 establish the EPA to centralise and streamline the decision-making process of nationally significant proposals.

[t15 ends]

(EPA, 2011)

2009 Review of Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004

A review of the Foreshore and Seabed Act is announced.

[t36–2011]

(Finlayson, 2009)

2009 Influenza pandemic (swine flu)

More than three thousand cases of ‘swine flu’ are diagnosed in New Zealand and 20 deaths are attributed to the disease. Government agencies undertake widespread preparations in case the pandemic escalates. [t6 ends]

(MOH, 2009; Rice, 2011)

2009 National Māori flag adopted

In 2009, 21 public hui are held nationwide and submissions are invited from Māori and other interested New Zealanders to determine a preferred national Māori flag.

The Māori (Tino Rangatiratanga) flag gains support from 80.1% of respondents. On 14 December 2009 Cabinet accepts Dr Sharples’ recommendation that this flag be flown on Waitangi Day. ‘On Waitangi Day 2010 the national Māori flag [flies] over the Auckland Harbour Bridge for the first time. It also flies at other nationally significant sites including Parliament, the Beehive, the National War Memorial, Te Papa, the National Library of New Zealand, and a number of government buildings.’

[t40 ends]

(Key & Sharples, 2009; MCH, 2010v)



The Māori (tino rangatiratanga) flag flies over the Auckland Harbour Bridge alongside New Zealand's national flag.
2010

‘The Māori flag will not replace
the New Zealand flag, but fly
alongside it, to recognise the
partnership the Crown and
Māori entered into when signing
the Treaty of Waitangi.’

— Prime Minister John Key, 2009

2009 Environment Canterbury review

A performance review of Environment Canterbury is announced on 28 October under Section 24A of the Resource Management Act. The reason cited is that a delay in processing resource consents 'is holding the Canterbury region back'. The review results in the government choosing to appoint a panel of commissioners to replace the elected councillors. [t46 ends]

(Smith, 2010; Smith & Hide, 2009)

2009 Titular honours reinstated

The titles of Dame and Knight are restored to the New Zealand honours system. The titles were dropped from the top levels of the honours system in 2000 by the then Labour government. [t3 ends]

(Key, 2009; NZPA, 2009)

2010 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) endorsed

After initially voting against the adoption of UNDRIP in 2007, the government endorses the declaration, but describes it as an expression of aspiration and states that it will not interfere with existing national frameworks. [t29 ends]

(Armstrong, J., 2010; Key, 2010; UNESCO, 2010)

2010 Goods and Services Tax increased to 15%

Goods and Services Tax is increased to 15% on most goods and services. [t25 ends]

(MCH, n.d.[gg])

2010 Pike River mine accident

Two explosions on 19 and 24 November result in the deaths of 29 coal miners at the Pike River mine on the West Coast of the South Island. [t7 ends]

(MCH, 2011d)

2010 Population projected to reach 5,500,000 in 2026

For the period 2006–2026, Māori population, with a high birth rate and increasing life expectancy, is set to grow at a steady rate. The Māori population is projected to make up 16% of the total New Zealand population by 2026. Asian and Pacific Island populations are expected to grow at a much faster rate, with the Asian population expected to be similar to that of Māori by 2026. In contrast, the ‘European or Other’ population is both ageing and proportionately in decline. [t53 ends]

(Statistics NZ, 2010: 1, 5, 8)

2010 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) signed

New Zealand, Australian and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ trade ministers sign the AANZFTA. The agreement is significant for New Zealand as it shows the ongoing and developing regional relationship this country has with Asia. [t32 ends]

(MFAT, 2010d)

2010 National and Māori Party constitutional review announced

The government announces its intention to conduct a wide-ranging review of New Zealand’s constitutional arrangements. The review, which is to be led by Deputy Prime Minister Bill English and Māori Affairs Minister Pita Sharples, is part of the confidence and supply agreement between the National and Māori parties. It is to be deliberately wide-ranging and will include matters ‘such as the size of Parliament, the length of the electoral term, Māori representation, the role of the Treaty of Waitangi and whether New Zealand needs a written constitution’. [t2 ends]

(English & Sharples, 2010)

2011 Christchurch earthquake

A magnitude 6.3 earthquake occurs on a faultline close to the city centre and at a shallow depth on Tuesday 22 February at 12.51 p.m. Already weakened by a magnitude 7.1 earthquake on 4 September 2010, the city is left severely damaged with 182 people losing their lives and thousands left homeless. This leads to New Zealand's first national state of emergency being declared on Wednesday 23 February. [t5 ends]

(McSaveney, 2011; RNZ, 2011a)

2011 Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011

This Act replaces the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004 and 'restores the right of iwi to seek customary title in particular areas of the Common Marine and Coastal Area'. It also 'guarantees the rights of all New Zealanders in the common marine and coastal area'. The Bill is moved by Māori Party co-leader Tariana Turia in 2010, and builds on the confidence and supply agreement signed by the National and Māori parties in November 2008. [t36 ends]

(Finlayson, 2010; TVNZ, 2011b)

2011 A New Zealand prime minister addresses the Australian Parliament for the first time

Prime Minister John Key addresses the Australian Parliament in June 2011, thanking the government for its support during the aftermath of both the Pike River mining disaster and the Canterbury earthquakes. Key is the first New Zealand prime minister to address the Australian Parliament. This follows Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard's historic address to Parliament on February 2011. Although her address was not during a formal sitting of Parliament, she was the first Australian Prime Minister to address the New Zealand Parliament. [t44 ends]

(Murray, 2011; RNZ, 2011b)

2 Heads of State

New Zealand's Head of State is the sovereign; together the sovereign and the House of Representatives comprise Parliament. Since the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, the reigning British monarch has been New Zealand's sovereign.

Since 1974 the current sovereign has been styled 'Queen of New Zealand', or in full 'Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God Queen of New Zealand and Her Other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith'. In addition to being New Zealand's queen, Elizabeth II is also the queen of Australia, Canada, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea, the United Kingdom and ten other countries.

— Adapted from Commonwealth Secretariat, n.d.;
Constitution Act 1986: s2(1); s14(1); Royal Household, 2011b;
Royal Titles Act 1974: s2

Nation Dates

Term	Name
1840–1901	Queen Victoria of New Zealand
1901–1910	King Edward VII of New Zealand
1910–1936	King George V of New Zealand
1936–1936	King Edward VIII of New Zealand
1936–1952	King George VI of New Zealand
1953–	Queen Elizabeth II of New Zealand

— Commonwealth Secretariat, n.d.; Royal Household, 2011c;
2011d; 2011e; 2011f; 2011g; 2011h

3 Governors and Governors-General

The Sovereign appoints a Governor-General to be their representative in New Zealand. Every power conferred upon the Governor-General is a royal power, which can either be exercised by the Governor-General on the Sovereign's behalf or by the Sovereign in person if they are in the country. The Governor-General has a non-partisan role, often differentiated from government by the saying 'while the Sovereign reigns, the Government rules'.

Governors-General are required to take the following oath under regulation 6(b) of the Letters Patent (2006):

I, [name], swear that, as Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Realm of New Zealand, comprising New Zealand; the self-governing states of the Cook Islands and Niue; Tokelau; and the Ross Dependency, I will faithfully and impartially serve Her [or His] Majesty [specify the name of the reigning Sovereign, as thus: Queen Elizabeth the Second], Queen of New Zealand [or King of New Zealand], Her [or His] heirs and successors, and the people of the Realm of New Zealand, in accordance with their respective laws and customs. So help me God.

— Adapted from NZ Govt, n.d.(b)

Nation Dates

	Term	Name
		Lieutenant-Governor
1840 Dependency of New South Wales	1840–1841	Captain William Hobson
		Governor
1841	1841–1842	Captain William Hobson
Separate	1843–1845	Captain Robert Fitzroy
Crown Colony	1845–1847	Captain George Grey
		Governor-in-Chief
	1848–1853	Sir George Grey
		Governor of New Zealand
1853	1853–1853	Sir George Grey
Self-governing	1855–1861	Colonel Thomas Gore Browne
Colony	1861–1868	Sir George Grey
	1868–1873	Sir George Ferguson Bowen
	1873–1874	The Rt Hon Sir James Fergusson
	1875–1879	The Marquess of Normanby
	1879–1880	Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson
	1880–1882	The Hon Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon
	1883–1889	Lt General Sir William Francis Drummond Jervois
	1889–1892	The Earl of Onslow
	1892–1897	The Earl of Glasgow
	1897–1904	The Earl of Ranfurly
1907	1904–1910	Lord Plunket
Dominion of	1910–1912	Lord Islington
New Zealand	1912–1917	The Earl of Liverpool

	Term	Name
		Governor-General of New Zealand
	1917–1920	The Earl of Liverpool
	1920–1924	Viscount Jellicoe
	1924–1930	General Sir Charles Fergusson
	1930–1935	Viscount Bledisloe
	1935–1941	Viscount Galway
	1941–1946	Marshal of the RAF Sir Cyril Louis Norton Newall
	1946–1952	Lt General Lord Freyberg
1953	1952–1957	Lt General Lord Norrie
Realm of	1957–1962	Viscount Cobham
New Zealand	1962–1967	Brigadier Sir Bernard Fergusson
	1967–1972	Sir Arthur Espie Porritt (first New Zealand born)
	1972–1977	Sir (Edward) Denis Blundell (first full New Zealand resident)
	1977–1980	The Rt Hon Sir Keith Jacka Holyoake (first politician)
	1980–1985	The Hon Sir David Stuart Beattie
	1985–1990	The Rt Rev & the Hon Sir Paul Alfred Reeves (first Māori)
	1990–1996	The Hon Dame Catherine Anne Tizard (first woman)
	1996–2001	The Rt Hon Sir Michael Hardie Boys
	2001–2006	The Hon Dame Silvia Cartwright
	2006–2011	Sir Anand Satyanand (first of Indian or Pacific Island descent)
	2011–	Lt General Jerry Mateparae

— Adapted from MCH, 2007g; NZ Govt, n.d.(a); n.d.(c);
n.d.(d); n.d.(e); n.d.(f); n.d.(g)

4 Premiers and Prime Ministers

What follows is a list of premiers and prime ministers in New Zealand and, where appropriate, the parties that held power. Until the Liberal Government of 1891, candidates generally stood independently. However, mounting pressure for leaders to clarify their direction for the government led to the emergence of a party-based structure.

Prime ministers and other members of the Executive Council are required to take the following oath under the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957:

I, [name], being chosen and admitted of the Executive Council of New Zealand, swear that I will to the best of my judgment, at all times, when thereto required, freely give my counsel and advice to the Governor-General for the time being, for the good management of the affairs of New Zealand. That I will not directly nor indirectly reveal such matters as shall be debated in Council and committed to my secrecy, but that I will in all things be a true and faithful Councillor. So help me God.

— Adapted from Miller, 2005

Term	Name
	Premier
7–20 May 1856	Henry Sewell
20 May 1856–2 June 1856	William Fox
2 June 1856–12 July 1861	Edward Stafford
12 July 1861–6 August 1862	William Fox
6 August 1862–30 October 1863	Alfred Domett
30 October 1863–24 November 1864	Frederick Whitaker
24 November 1864–16 October 1865	Frederick Weld
16 October 1865–28 June 1869	Edward Stafford
28 June 1869–10 September 1872	William Fox
10 September 1872–11 October 1872	Edward Stafford
11 October 1872–3 March 1873	George Waterhouse
3 March 1873–8 April 1873	William Fox
8 April 1873–6 July 1875	Julius Vogel
6 July 1875–15 February 1876	Daniel Pollen
15 February 1876–1 September 1876	Julius Vogel
1 September 1876–13 October 1877	Harry Atkinson
13 October 1877–8 October 1879	George Grey
8 October 1879–21 April 1882	John Hall
21 April 1882–25 September 1883	Frederick Whitaker
25 September 1883–16 August 1884	Harry Atkinson
16 August 1884–28 August 1884	Robert Stout
28 August 1884–3 September 1884	Harry Atkinson
3 September 1884–8 October 1887	Robert Stout
8 October 1887–24 January 1891	Harry Atkinson
24 January 1891–27 April 1893	John Ballance (Liberal)
	Prime Minister
1 May 1893–10 June 1906	Richard Seddon (Liberal)
21 June 1906–6 August 1906	William Hall-Jones (Liberal)
6 August 1906–12 March 1912	Joseph Ward (Liberal)
28 March 1912–10 July 1912	Thomas Mackenzie (Liberal)
10 July 1912–12 August 1915	William Massey (Reform)
12 August 1915–25 August 1919	William Massey (National Government)
25 August 1919–10 May 1925	William Massey (Reform)

14 May 1925–30 May 1925	Francis Bell (Reform)
30 May 1925–10 December 1928	Gordon Coates (Reform)
10 December 1928–28 May 1930	Joseph Ward (United)
28 May 1930–22 September 1931	George Forbes (United)
22 September 1931–6 December 1935	George Forbes (Coalition)
6 December 1935–27 March 1940	Michael Savage (Labour)
27 March 1940–13 December 1949	Peter Fraser (Labour)
13 December 1949–20 September 1957	Sydney Holland (National)
20 September 1957–12 December 1957	Keith Holyoake (National)
12 December 1957–12 December 1960	Walter Nash (Labour)
12 December 1960–7 February 1972	Keith Holyoake (National)
7 February 1972–8 December 1972	John Marshall (National)
8 December 1972–31 August 1974	Norman Kirk (Labour)
6 September 1974–12 December 1975	Wallace Rowling (Labour)
12 December 1975–26 July 1984	Robert Muldoon (National)
26 July 1984–8 August 1989	David Lange (Labour)
8 August 1989–4 September 1990	Geoffrey Palmer (Labour)
4 September 1990–2 November 1990	Michael Moore (Labour)
2 November 1990–28 February 1996	James Bolger (National)
28 February 1996–16 December 1996	James Bolger (National/United)
16 December 1996–8 December 1997	James Bolger (National/NZ First)
8 December 1997–26 August 1998	Jennifer Shipley (National/NZ First)
28 August 1998–5 December 1999	Jennifer Shipley (National-led minority)
5 December 1999–15 August 2002	Helen Clark (Labour/Alliance)
15 August 2002–17 September 2005	Helen Clark (Labour/Progressive)
17 September 2005–19 November 2008	Helen Clark (Labour/Progressive)
19 November 2008–	John Key (National/ Act/United Future/Māori Party)

— Adapted from Grant, I.F., 2003: 199–200; McLintock, 1966;
MCH, 2011n; Parliament of Australia, 2005: 1

5 Political Parties

The following is a brief history of the genealogy of political parties that have been elected to Parliament since the adoption of the MMP electoral system in 1996. We have not included independent MPs, or electorate MPs who left one party to create their own party and were not subsequently re-elected. Members of Parliament are required to take the following oath under Section 11 of the Constitution Act 1986.

A Member of Parliament shall not be permitted to sit or vote in the House of Representatives until that Member has taken the Oath of Allegiance in the form prescribed in Section 17 of the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957.

This Oath of Allegiance states:

I, [name], swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her [or His] Majesty [Specify the name of the reigning Sovereign, as thus: Queen Elizabeth the Second], Her [or His] heirs and successors, according to law. So help me God.

ACT Party

- 1993 • Association of Consumers and Taxpayers founded
- 1994 • ACT Party founded

— Adapted from ACT Party, n.d.; Douglas, 2010

Green Party

- 1972 • Values Party founded
- 1990 • Green Party founded
- 1992 • Green Party joins Alliance
- 1997 • Green Party splits from Alliance

— Adapted from Green Party, 2011

Labour Party



— Adapted from Brown, 2009; Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2011a; Roth, 2009a; 2009b

Mana Party

- 2004 • Māori Party founded
- 2011 • Mana Party founded, after splitting from Māori Party

— Adapted from Electoral Commission, 2004; Watkins & Chapman, 2011

Māori Party

2004 • Māori Party founded

— Adapted from Electoral Commission, 2004

National Party



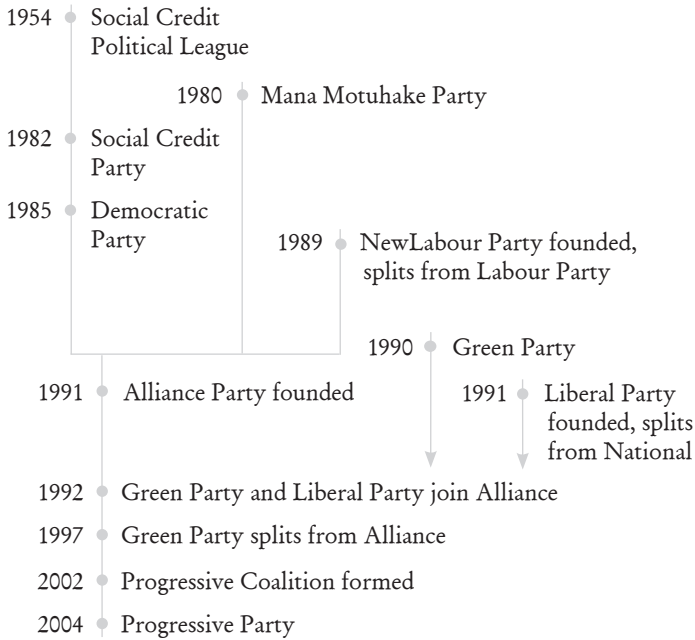
— Adapted from Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2011b; 2011c; Gardner, 2009b; NZNP, n.d.

New Zealand First Party

1993 • NZ First Party founded mainly from former members of the National and Labour Parties

— Adapted from Faber, 2000

Progressive Party



— Adapted from Faber, 2000; MCH, 2009k; Parliamentary Library, 2011; Steward, 1998; University of Otago Library, n.d.: 4

United Future New Zealand Party



— Adapted from Faber, 2000; James, 2002; United Future, 2011

6 Royal Commissions

The Commissioners' Powers Act 1867 led to the introduction of Commissions of Inquiry in New Zealand. The purpose of Commissions is to assist governments in maintaining a balance between citizens' rights and the Crown's duties. Once an inquiry is in motion, governments cannot influence its direction or findings. According to the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1908:

'The Governor-General may ... appoint any person or persons to be a Commission to inquire into and report upon any question arising out of or concerning –

- (a) The administration of the Government; or
- (b) The working of any existing law; or
- (c) The necessity or expediency of any legislation; or
- (d) The conduct of any officer in the service of the Crown; or
- (e) Any disaster or accident (whether due to natural causes or otherwise) in which members of the public were killed or injured or were or might have been exposed to risk of death or injury;
- (f) Any other matter of public importance.'

— Adapted from DIA, 2001: 7, 10

The following list sets out, by year of publication, all reports of New Zealand's Royal Commissions of Inquiry.

- 1868 ● Royal Commission on prisons
- 1874 ● Royal Commission on ship 'Scimitar'
- Royal Commission to inquire into the boiler accident at the Kurunui Battery, Thames gold-field, and into the machinery and boilers on the field generally
- 1876 ● Royal Commission on claims to compensation by owners of tramways
- Royal Commission to decide upon a proper site for the new General Assembly Library
- 1877 ● Royal Commission to inquire into charges made by Thomas Butler, late Keeper, Nelson Lunatic Asylum
- Royal Commission to secure the representation of New Zealand at the Philadelphia Centennial International Exhibition of 1876
- 1878 ● Royal Commission to enquire into the working of the Employment of Females Act
- Royal Commission to inquire into the petition of James Makintosh & Son
- 1879 ● Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon the operations of the University of New Zealand, and its relations to the secondary schools of the colony
- Royal Commission to inquire into certain matters connected with the electoral roll of Mongonui and Bay of Islands District
- 1880 ● Royal Commission to inquire and report upon the Civil Service of NZ
- Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon the operations of the University of New Zealand, and its relations to the secondary schools of the colony
- Royal Commission under 'The Confiscated Lands Inquiry and Maori Prisoners' Trials Act, 1879'
- 1888 ● Royal Commission on Middle Island native land question
- 1889 ● Royal Commission to inquire into certain matters connected with the hearing of the Taupouniatia Block
- Royal Commission to inquire into the matter of land taken for defence purposes at Point Resolution
- 1890 ● Royal Commission to inquire into certain relations between the employers of certain kinds of labour and the persons employed therein
- 1893 ● Royal Commission on Westport Colliery Reserve
- Royal Commission to inquire into the charges made by Mr. G. W. Ell against Mr. Bloxam, Registrar of the Supreme Court, Christchurch and Mr. E. C. Latter, lately Official Assignee, Christchurch

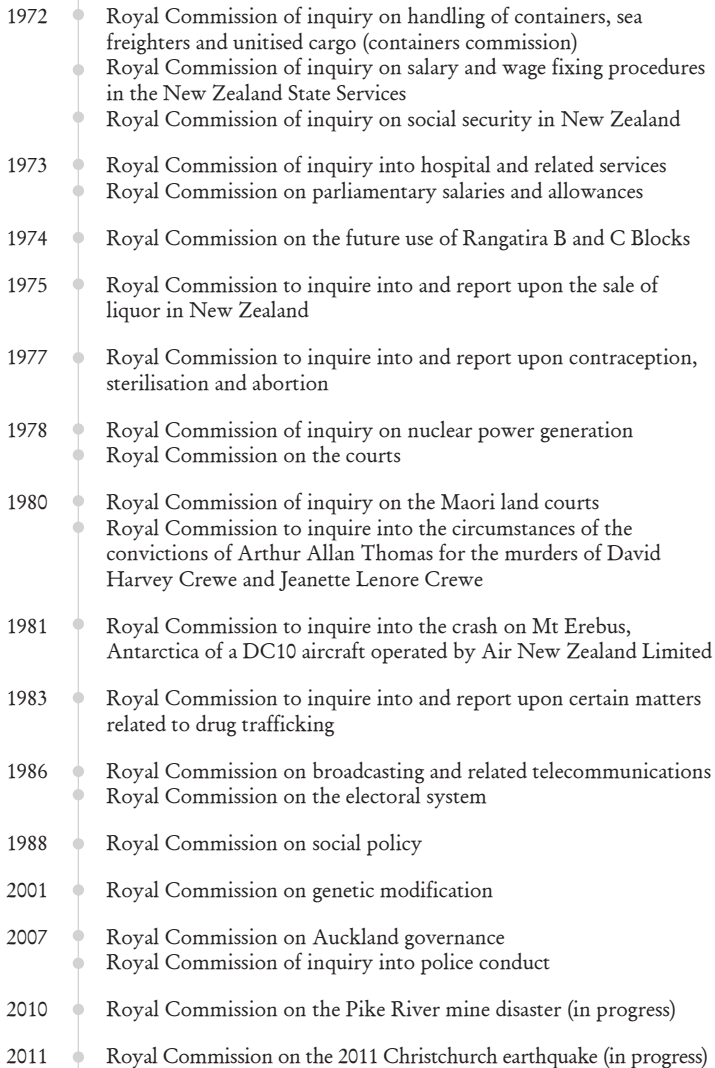
- 1894 ● Royal Commission on the Fox correspondence
- 1896 ● Royal Commission to inquire into Brunner coal mine disaster on 26th March, 1896
- 1897 ● Royal Commission on charges against Inspector John Emerson
● Royal Commission on private benefit societies
- 1898 ● Royal Commission on kauri gum industry
● Royal Commission on the Police Force of New Zealand
- 1900 ● Royal Commission on Stoke Industrial School, Nelson
- 1901 ● Royal Commission on federation (with Australia)
● Royal Commission on the alleged delays in inspection of ships 'G. M. Tucker' and 'Monowai'
● Royal Commission on the New Zealand Midland Railway
● Royal Commission on the staffs of schools and salaries of public school teachers
● Royal Commission to inquire and report on the working of coal-mines of New Zealand
- 1904 ● Royal Commission appointed under Section 18 of the 'Native Land Adjustment Act, 1901'
● Royal Commission on Te Akau Block
- 1905 ● Royal Commission appointed under Section 11 of the 'Maori Land Claims Adjustment and Laws Amendment Act, 1904'
● Royal Commission on land tenure, land-settlement, and other matters affecting the Crown Lands of the Colony
● Royal Commission on the Police Force of New Zealand
● Royal Commission on the Porirua, Otaki, Waikato, Kaikokirikiri and Motueka School Trusts
- 1906 ● Royal Commission of inquiry into the alleged usury on loans to Maori
● Royal Commission on complaints against the Public Trustee in connection with administration of the West Coast Settlement Reserves
● Royal Commission on fires on ships
● Royal Commission on the Te Aute and Wanganui School Trusts
- 1907 ● Royal Commission to inquire into fires on wool ships
● Royal Commission to inquire into the Nightcaps coal mine disaster on the 21st June, 1907
- 1908 ● Royal Commission to inquire into the efficiency and working of the brakes on the Auckland electric tramways

- 1909 ● Royal Commission on lands and native land tenure
● Royal Commission on the Police Force of New Zealand
- 1910 ● Royal Commission to inquire into the efficiency of the brakes, and suitability of the brake systems, adopted on the Auckland City and suburban electric tramways
- 1911 ● Royal Commission on the Kaiapoi Reserve
- 1912 ● Royal Commission on mines
- 1913 ● Royal Commission on forestry
- 1914 ● Royal Commission of inquiry into the care and carriage of explosives in New Zealand
● Royal Commission on the Huntly mining accident
● Royal Commission to inquire into the administration and disposal of Crown land, forests, and timber in Hauraki mining district; also land-tenures in Te Aroha township
● Royal Commission to inquire into the administration and disposal of the land, forests and timber belonging to the Crown, situated within the mining districts in Nelson, Marlborough, and Westland
- 1924 ● Royal Commission to inquire into the subject of land and income taxation in New Zealand
- 1925 ● Royal Commission in connection with the inquiry into the sale of the Poverty Bay Farmers' Meat Company (Limited) to Messrs Vestey Bros (Limited) and other matters
● Royal Commission on university education in New Zealand
- 1926 ● Royal Commission on rural credits
- 1927 ● Royal Commission on Dobson Colliery disaster
● Royal Commission on harbour board matters at Napier
● Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon the water supplies for the metropolitan area and the city of Auckland
- 1928 ● Royal Commission concerning the administration of Western Samoa
● Royal Commission to inquire into confiscations of native lands and other grievances alleged by natives
- 1929 ● Royal Commission to inquire into matters relating to leases of native lands in Waikato-Maniapoto Native Land Court
- 1930 ● Royal Commission to inquire into Waitemata Harbour transit facilities

- 1930 ● Royal Commission appointed pursuant to Section III of 'The Land and
Cont. Income Tax Amendment Act, 1929' to inquire and report as to any
cases of hardship arising from the imposition of special land-tax
- 1939 ● Royal Commission to inquire into and report as to grievances
alleged by Maoris with regard to certain lands at Orakei, in the city
of Auckland
- 1941 ● Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon colliery
accident at Ten-Mile Creek, near Greymouth
- 1944 ● Royal Commission to inquire into ... suggested works near mouth
of the Hutt River
- 1946 ● Royal Commission on licensing
- Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon certain matters
arising out of the acquisition and disposal of surplus assets by the
War Assets Realization Board
- Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon trans-harbour
facilities in the Auckland metropolitan area and the approaches
thereto
- 1948 ● Royal Commission to inquire into and report on claims preferred
by members of the Maori race touching certain lands known as
surplus lands of the Crown
- Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon claims preferred
by certain Maori claimants concerning the Mahia Block
- Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon claims preferred by
certain Maori claimants concerning the Mokau (Manginangina) Block
- Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon claims preferred
by certain Maori claimants concerning the Pukeroa-Oruawhata
(Rotorua Township) Block
- Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon gaming and
racing matters in New Zealand
- Royal Commission on the Ballantyne fire, Christchurch
- Royal Commission on the assessment of rentals under the West
Coast Settlement Reserves Leases
- 1949 ● Royal Commission on the sheep-farming industry in New Zealand
- 1950 ● Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon claims made by
certain Maoris in respect of the Wanganui River
- 1951 ● Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon claims preferred
by certain Maori claimants concerning the Mohaka Block

- 1951
Cont.
 - Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon claims preferred by certain Maori claimants concerning the payment of certain moneys by the Aotea District Maori Land Board in respect of the West Taupo timber lands
 - Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon claims preferred by certain Maori claimants in respect of the Tarawera and Tatarakina Blocks
 - Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon matters and questions relating to certain leases of Maori lands vested in Maori Land Boards
 - Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon the desirability of establishing an additional meat-export slaughterhouse in Southland
 - Royal Commission upon parliamentary salaries and allowances
 - Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon claims preferred by certain Maori claimants concerning the Opouturi Block
- 1952
 - Royal Commission of inquiry into the waterfront industry
 - Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon the New Zealand Government Railways
- 1955
 - Royal Commission upon parliamentary salaries and allowances
- 1956
 - Royal Commission on monetary, banking and credit systems
- 1957
 - Royal Commission on the D.I.C. scaffolding accident, Wellington
- 1958
 - Royal Commission upon parliamentary salaries and allowances
- 1959
 - Royal Commission on local authority finance
 - Royal Commission upon parliamentary salaries and allowances
- 1961
 - Royal Commission on parliamentary salaries and allowances
- 1962
 - Royal Commission on the state services in New Zealand
- 1964
 - Royal Commission on parliamentary salaries and allowances
- 1967
 - Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon workers' compensation
 - Royal Commission upon parliamentary salaries and allowances
- 1968
 - Royal Commission on salary and wage fixing procedures in the New Zealand State Services
 - Royal Commission upon parliamentary salaries and allowances
- 1970
 - Royal Commission of inquiry into horse racing, trotting and dog racing in New Zealand
 - Royal Commission on parliamentary salaries and allowances

Royal Commissions

- 
- 1972
 - Royal Commission of inquiry on handling of containers, sea freighters and unitised cargo (containers commission)
 - Royal Commission of inquiry on salary and wage fixing procedures in the New Zealand State Services
 - Royal Commission of inquiry on social security in New Zealand
 - 1973
 - Royal Commission of inquiry into hospital and related services
 - Royal Commission on parliamentary salaries and allowances
 - 1974
 - Royal Commission on the future use of Rangitira B and C Blocks
 - 1975
 - Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon the sale of liquor in New Zealand
 - 1977
 - Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon contraception, sterilisation and abortion
 - 1978
 - Royal Commission of inquiry on nuclear power generation
 - Royal Commission on the courts
 - 1980
 - Royal Commission of inquiry on the Maori land courts
 - Royal Commission to inquire into the circumstances of the convictions of Arthur Allan Thomas for the murders of David Harvey Crewe and Jeanette Lenore Crewe
 - 1981
 - Royal Commission to inquire into the crash on Mt Erebus, Antarctica of a DC10 aircraft operated by Air New Zealand Limited
 - 1983
 - Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon certain matters related to drug trafficking
 - 1986
 - Royal Commission on broadcasting and related telecommunications
 - Royal Commission on the electoral system
 - 1988
 - Royal Commission on social policy
 - 2001
 - Royal Commission on genetic modification
 - 2007
 - Royal Commission on Auckland governance
 - Royal Commission of inquiry into police conduct
 - 2010
 - Royal Commission on the Pike River mine disaster (in progress)
 - 2011
 - Royal Commission on the 2011 Christchurch earthquake (in progress)

— Adapted from DIA, 2001; 2011b; Robertson & Hughes, 1982

7 Referenda

A referendum can result from either an initiative of government or a successful petition under the Citizens Initiated Referenda Act 1993. Prior to 1949, Māori were excluded from voting in referenda. Between 1911 and 1987, a referendum on national prohibition of alcohol was held in conjunction with every general election except in 1931 and 1951. The other referenda are as follows:

Date	Topic
9 March 1949	Allowing off-course betting
3 August 1949	Compulsory military training
23 September 1967	Term of Parliament
27 October 1990	Term of Parliament
19 September 1992	Voting system
6 November 1993	Voting system
2 December 1995	Number of firefighters
5–26 September 1997	Compulsory Retirement Savings Scheme
27 November 1999	Size of the House of Representatives
27 November 1999	Justice system reform
31 July–21 August 2009	The smacking of children
26 November 2011	Voting system

— Adapted from Electoral Commission, 2009; Wilson, J., 2009d: 14

8 Historical Threads

To illustrate the connections between events, entries in the timeline are linked by the following ‘threads’.

Constitution

1. Citizenship and passports
2. Constitutional developments
3. Head of State: Events of significance after the 1840 treaty
4. Territory

Disasters

5. Earthquakes and eruptions
6. Epidemics
7. Mine accidents
8. Power cuts
9. Transport and construction

Economy

10. Agriculture and fisheries
11. Airlines
12. Aluminium smelter
13. Communications
14. Depressions and recessions
15. Natural resources
16. Railways
17. Shipping

Electoral reform

18. Age
19. Electoral policy and legislation
20. Parliamentary terms

Environment

21. Genetic modification
22. Nuclear free

Financial systems

23. Banks
24. Currency
25. Reform

International accomplishments

26. Art and literature
27. Nobel Prize winners
28. Sport and adventure

International conventions and treaties

29. Conventions and declarations
30. Science
31. Security
32. Trade
33. Trans-Tasman travel

Māori leadership

34. Kingitanga movement
35. Petitions to English monarchy
36. Post-Treaty settlement
37. Protests over Māori land

National symbols

38. Anthems
39. Coat of Arms
40. Flags
41. National day

Parliament

42. Capital cities
43. Establishment
44. Leadership
45. Legislative Council
46. Local governance
47. Political parties
48. Royal Commissions and referenda
49. Women

Society

50. Abortion
 51. Civil union and homosexual law reform
 52. Crime and capital punishment
 53. Demographics
 54. Education and knowledge
 55. Employment
 56. Housing
 57. Māori institutions and reforms
 58. Prostitution
 59. Religion
 60. Right to complain and obtain information
 61. School food schemes
 62. Smoking
 63. Welfare
- ## War
64. International wars
 65. New Zealand wars

Constitution

1. Citizenship and passports

- 1865 ● All Māori declared British subjects
- 1948 ● British Nationality and New Zealand Citizenship Act 1948
- 1977 ● Citizenship Act 1977
- 2005 ● Citizenship Amendment Act 2005

2. Constitutional developments

[See also Chapter 3, 'Governors and Governors-General', pages 125–127]

- 1770 ● James Cook proclaims British sovereignty over New Zealand
- 1801 ● Māori are first referred to collectively as 'Māori'
- 1829 ● Wakefield publishes *A Letter from Sydney*
- 1835 ● Declaration of Independence of New Zealand (He Wakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirene)
- 1838 ● House of Lords' Select Committee Report on the 'State of New Zealand' published
- 1839 ● First New Zealand Company settlement
- 1839 ● Lord Normanby issues instructions on a potential treaty
- 1840 ● Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) signed
- 1840 ● Hobson proclaims British sovereignty over New Zealand
- 1841 ● New Zealand becomes a separate Crown Colony
- 1841 ● Treaty of Waitangi first incorporated in legislation
- 1846 ● New Zealand Constitution Act 1846 (UK)
- 1847 ● New Zealand Constitution Act 1846 (UK) suspended
- 1849 ● Settlers Constitutional Associations established

- 
- 1850 ● New Zealand Company's charter surrendered
 - 1852 ● New Zealand Constitution Act 1852 (UK)
 - 1858 ● English Laws Act 1858
 - 1876 ● Abolition of the provinces
 - 1901 ● New Zealand decides against joining Australia
 - 1907 ● New Zealand becomes a dominion
 - 1917 ● Letters Patent introduce the term 'Governor-General'
 - 1917 ● Recognition of the dominions as autonomous nations of an Imperial Commonwealth
 - 1920 ● New Zealand becomes a founding member of the League of Nations
 - 1931 ● Statute of Westminster 1931 (UK)
 - 1939 ● Britain appoints its first High Commissioner to New Zealand
 - 1940 ● New Zealand Centennial Exhibition
 - 1945 ● New Zealand joins the United Nations
 - 1947 ● Statute of Westminster adopted
 - 1953 ● Realm of New Zealand established
 - 1977 ● Constitutional crisis: Robert Muldoon appoints Sir Keith Holyoake Governor-General
 - 1983 ● Letters Patent Constituting the Office of Governor-General of New Zealand
 - 1984 ● Constitutional crisis: Devaluation by 20%
 - 1986 ● Constitution Act 1986
 - 1990 ● New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990
 - 1993 ● Human Rights Act 1993
 - 1995 ● Treaty policy papers and Cabinet minutes released
 - 2003 ● Supreme Court Act 2003

- 2004 • Inquiry to review New Zealand's existing constitutional arrangements
- 2008 • Relationship and Confidence and Supply Agreement formed between the National Party and the Māori Party
- 2010 • National and Māori Party constitutional review announced

3. Head of State: Events of significance after the 1840 treaty

[See also Chapter 2, 'Heads of State', pages 123–124]

- 1934 • Air force becomes Royal New Zealand Air Force
- 1941 • Naval reserve becomes Royal New Zealand Navy
- 1953 • First official visit by the Head of State
- 1974 • Royal Titles Act 1974
- 2009 • Titular honours reinstated

4. Territory

- 1863 • Boundaries of colony fixed
- 1900 • Cook Islands claimed
- 1920 • New Zealand gains administration of Western Samoa
- 1923 • New Zealand jurisdiction extended to Antarctica
- 1957 • Scott Base established
- 1962 • Western Samoa achieves independence and Treaty of Friendship signed
- 1965 • Cook Islands gain full self-government in free association with New Zealand
- 1977 • 200-mile economic zone established
- 2008 • United Nations recognises extended seabed rights

Disasters

5. Earthquakes and eruptions

- 1855 ● Wairarapa earthquake
- 1886 ● Mt Tarawera eruption
- 1931 ● Hawke's Bay earthquake
- 2011 ● Christchurch earthquake

6. Epidemics

- 1890 ● Influenza pandemic
- 1918 ● Influenza pandemic (Spanish flu)
- 1947 ● Polio epidemic
- 2009 ● Influenza pandemic (swine flu)

7. Mine accidents

- 1896 ● Brunner mine accident
- 1914 ● Huntly mine accident
- 2010 ● Pike River mine accident

8. Power cuts

- 1998 ● Auckland power crisis
- 2006 ● Auckland blackout

9. Transport and construction

- 1863 ● HMS *Orpheus* disaster
- 1953 ● Tangiwai rail disaster
- 1968 ● *Wabine* disaster

- 1979 ● Mt Erebus disaster
- 1995 ● Cave Creek disaster

Economy

10. Agriculture and fisheries

- 1773 ● Sheep, pigs and goats introduced to New Zealand
- 1791 ● Earliest record of whaling in New Zealand
- 1814 ● Cattle and horses introduced to New Zealand
- 1832 ● First shipment of wool
- 1837 ● Possums introduced to New Zealand
- 1838 ● Gorse introduced to New Zealand
- 1871 ● First dairy co-operative established
- 1882 ● First shipment of frozen meat to Britain
- 1922 ● First producer board established
- 1959 ● Chinese gooseberry renamed kiwifruit
- 1964 ● Whaling in New Zealand ends
- 1973 ● United Kingdom joins the European Union
- 1978 ● Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978
- 1989 ● Maori Fisheries Act 1989
- 1999 ● Painted apple moth discovered
- 2000 ● Varroa mite discovered
- 2001 ● Fonterra established
- 2003 ● Gypsy moth discovered
- 2004 ● Didymo discovered in New Zealand
- 2005 ● Controls to restrict didymo introduced

11. Airlines

- 1936 ● New Zealand's first major airline begins operation
- 1940 ● Tasman Empire Airways Limited (TEAL) established
- 1961 ● New Zealand government purchases Tasman Empire Airways Limited (TEAL)
- 1965 ● Tasman Empire Airways Limited (TEAL) renamed Air New Zealand
- 1989 ● Air New Zealand privatised

12. Aluminium smelter

- 1904 ● Manapouri power station first suggested
- 1956 ● Interest expressed in aluminium smelting
- 1963 ● Manapouri-Te Anau Development Act 1963
- 1970 ● Manapouri petition presented
- 1971 ● Tiwai Point Aluminium Smelter opens
- 1973 ● 'Damn the Dam' protest song released
- 1996 ● Manapouri Power Station granted further resource consents

13. Communications

- 1862 ● First telegraph line
- 1866 ● First Cook Strait cable laid
- 1876 ● First trans-Tasman cable laid
- 1878 ● First telephone communication made
- 1960 ● Television becomes available in New Zealand
- 1987 ● Telecom New Zealand established
- 1990 ● Telecom New Zealand privatised
- 1998 ● First fibre optic cable commissioned
- 2008 ● Telecom New Zealand restructured

14. Depressions and recessions

- 1878 ● Long depression begins
- 1929 ● Great Depression begins
- 1987 ● Long recession begins
- 1997 ● Asian financial market crisis
- 2008 ● Global financial crisis

15. Natural resources

- 1842 ● Gold discovered
- 1856 ● Collingwood-Takaka gold rush begins
- 1861 ● Otago gold rush begins
- 1862 ● Wakamarina and West Coast gold rush begins
- 1866 ● First oil struck at New Plymouth
- 1875 ● Waihi gold rush begins
- 1887 ● First national park established
- 1901 ● Department of Tourist and Health Resorts established
- 1964 ● Marsden Point Refinery opens
- 1969 ● Maui gas field discovered
- 1973 ● Expansion of Marsden Point Oil Refinery approved
- 1973 ● First oil shock
- 1973 ● Maui pipeline commissioned
- 1979 ● Second oil shock and 'car-less days' begin
- 1987 ● Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment appointed
- 1991 ● Resource Management Act 1991
- 1996 ● New Zealand's first wind farm built

- 2008 • Third oil shock
- 2009 • Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) established

16. Railways

- 1863 • New Zealand's first public railway opens
- 1865 • Construction begins on a section of the South Island Main Trunk line
- 1885 • Construction of the North Island Main Trunk line begins
- 1908 • North Island Main Trunk line opens
- 1923 • First electric railway opened
- 1945 • South Island Main Trunk line completed

17. Shipping

- 1862 • New Zealand Steam Navigation Company established
- 1871 • Vogel makes first official visit to the United States to establish a steamer service
- 1872 • First New Zealand shipping line established

Electoral reform

18. Age

- 1969 • Voting age lowered from 21 to 20
- 1974 • Voting age lowered from 20 to 18

19. Electoral policy and legislation

- 1853 • First general election held
- 1867 • Māori seats created for a five-year duration
- 1868 • First elections with Māori electorate seats

- 1870 • Voting by secret ballot introduced for European seats
- 1872 • Māori seats extended another five years
- 1876 • 'One man, one vote' proposed by Sir George Grey
- 1876 • Debate on Māori representation in the House
- 1876 • Māori seats now extended indefinitely
- 1879 • Universal suffrage for European men
- 1881 • Country quota established
- 1881 • Single-member electoral districts established
- 1887 • Electoral boundary review of European seats
- 1890 • Voting by secret ballot compulsory for European seats
- 1890 • First 'one man, one vote' election held for European seats
- 1893 • Plural voting for Māori property owners abolished
- 1893 • First Māori elected to a European seat
- 1893 • Women given the same voting rights as men
- 1896 • Non-residential qualifications for voting abolished
- 1908 • Second ballot established for when a candidate fails to gain a majority
- 1910 • Voting by declaration rather than show of hands in Māori seats
- 1924 • Compulsory enrolment is applied to European voters
- 1937 • Voting by secret ballot compulsory for Māori seats
- 1948 • Māori electoral roll created
- 1950 • Adjustment of method for calculating European seat numbers
- 1956 • Compulsory enrolment is extended to Māori voters
- 1967 • All seats contestable by both Māori and European candidates
- 1975 • British nationality is no longer a qualification to vote

- 1981 ● Electoral boundary review for Māori seats introduced
- 1985 ● Royal Commission on the Electoral System
- 1993 ● Electoral Act 1993
- 1996 ● First MMP election held

20. Parliamentary terms

- 1879 ● Term of Parliament shortened from five to three years
- 1934 ● Four-year parliamentary term introduced
- 1937 ● Three-year parliamentary term restored

Environment

21. Genetic modification

- 1996 ● Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996
- 2000 ● Royal Commission on Genetic Modification
- 2001 ● GE-free hikoi

22. Nuclear free

- 1973 ● Norman Kirk sends frigates to Mururoa Atoll
- 1985 ● David Lange wins Oxford Union Debate
- 1985 ● *Rainbow Warrior* sunk in Auckland harbour
- 1985 ● South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty signed
- 1985 ● USS *Buchanan* refused entry on grounds of nuclear capability
- 1987 ● New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act 1987

Financial systems

23. Banks

- 1840 ● First bank established in New Zealand
- 1861 ● Bank of New Zealand established
- 2002 ● Kiwibank established

24. Currency

- 1844 ● First New Zealand debenture notes issued
- 1858 ● British coins become legal tender
- 1964 ● Decimal currency system introduced

25. Reform

- 1958 ● Black Budget introduces PAYE and indirect taxes
- 1982 ● Muldoon imposes a wage and price freeze
- 1984 ● Roger Douglas introduces economic reforms
- 1986 ● Goods and Services Tax of 10% introduced
- 1986 ● State-Owned Enterprises Act 1986
- 1988 ● State Sector Act 1988
- 1989 ● Wave of new reforms hit the public sector
- 1989 ● Goods and Services Tax increased to 12.5%
- 2002 ● Local Government Act 2002
- 2007 ● KiwiSaver introduced
- 2010 ● Goods and Services Tax increased to 15%

International accomplishments

26. Art and literature

- 1920 ● Katherine Mansfield's *Bliss and Other Stories* published
- 1940 ● Frances Hodgkins is invited to present her work at the Venice Biennale
- 1961 ● Len Lye exhibits at New York's Museum of Modern Art
- 1971 ● Kiri Te Kanawa performs at Covent Garden
- 1985 ● Keri Hulme wins the Booker Prize
- 2002 ● *Lord of the Rings* wins Oscars

27. Nobel Prize winners

- 1908 ● Ernest Rutherford wins the Nobel Prize in Chemistry
- 1917 ● Ernest Rutherford splits the atom
- 1962 ● Maurice Wilkins wins the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine
- 2000 ● Alan MacDiarmid wins the Nobel Prize in Chemistry

28. Sport and adventure

- 1905 ● The Originals rugby team tour
- 1908 ● First New Zealand Olympic involvement
- 1920 ● First New Zealand team at the Olympics
- 1924 ● 'The Invincibles' All Blacks rugby tour
- 1936 ● Jean Batten completes the first direct flight from England to New Zealand
- 1953 ● Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing climb Everest
- 1958 ● Edmund Hillary reaches the South Pole
- 1981 ● The Springbok rugby tour sparks nationwide protests

- 1987 ● A.J. Hackett bungy-jumps off the Eiffel Tower
- 1995 ● *Black Magic* wins the America's Cup

International conventions and treaties

29. Conventions and declarations

- 1926 ● The Balfour Declaration
- 1966 ● International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) signed
- 1968 ● International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) signed
- 1971 ● Pacific Islands Forum established
- 1980 ● United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) signed
- 1982 ● United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) signed
- 2002 ● Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change signed
- 2010 ● United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) endorsed

30. Science

- 1959 ● Antarctic Treaty signed

31. Security

- 1944 ● Canberra Pact signed
- 1951 ● Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty (ANZUS) signed
- 1954 ● Manila Pact signed

32. Trade

- 1928 ● Trade agreement with Japan signed – New Zealand's first international treaty
- 1983 ● Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA) signed
- 2008 ● Free Trade Agreement with China signed
- 2010 ● Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) signed

33. Trans-Tasman travel

- 1973 ● Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement established
- 1981 ● Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement amended

Māori leadership

34. Kīngitanga movement

- 1852 ● Kīngitanga movement established
- 1858 ● First Māori King
- 1860 ● Second Māori King
- 1894 ● Third Māori King
- 1903 ● The Māori King joins the Legislative Council
- 1907 ● Kīngitanga movement revitalised
- 1910 ● The Māori King's membership of the Legislative Council lapses
- 1912 ● Fourth Māori King
- 1933 ● Fifth Māori King
- 1966 ● First Māori Queen
- 2006 ● Sixth Māori King

35. Petitions to English monarchy

- 1831 ● Thirteen rangatira sign a petition to King William IV
- 1882 ● Ngā Puhi present a petition to Queen Victoria
- 1884 ● Waikato present a petition to Queen Victoria
- 1914 ● The Māori King has an audience with King George V
- 1924 ● Rātana takes a petition to England

36. Post-Treaty settlement

- 1844 ● First settlement under the Treaty of Waitangi
- 1847 ● Legal decision: R v Symonds
- 1860 ● Kohimarama hui
- 1861 ● Walter Mantell appointed Native Minister and seeks fulfilment of Ngāi Tahu promises
- 1862 ● Native Lands Act 1862
- 1863 ● New Zealand Settlements Act 1863
- 1865 ● Changes to the Native Land Court
- 1872 ● Native Affairs Committee established to hear petitions
- 1877 ● Legal decision: Wi Parata v Bishop of Wellington
- 1889 ● Maori Union of Waitangi formed
- 1900 ● Maori Lands Administration Act 1900
- 1907 ● Stout-Ngata Commission established
- 1926 ● Royal Commission on confiscated lands established
- 1953 ● Maori Affairs Act 1953 addresses use of Māori land
- 1974 ● 'Maori' extended to include descendants of Maori
- 1975 ● The Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975 establishes the Waitangi Tribunal
- 1983 ● Waitangi Tribunal releases Motunui-Waitara Report

- 1985 ● Waitangi Tribunal given power to investigate historical Treaty claims
- 1986 ● James Belich's *The New Zealand Wars* is published
- 1987 ● Legal decision: New Zealand Maori Council v Attorney-General
- 1987 ● Claudia Orange's *The Treaty of Waitangi* is published
- 1991 ● The Ngāi Tahu Report
- 1992 ● Sealord settlement
- 1993 ● Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993
- 1996 ● Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1996
- 2003 ● Michael King's *The Penguin History of New Zealand* is published
- 2004 ● Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004
- 2009 ● Review of Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004
- 2011 ● Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011

37. Protests over Māori land

- 1975 ● Māori land hikoi
- 1977 ● Occupation of Bastion Point
- 2004 ● Foreshore and Seabed hikoi

National symbols

38. Anthems

- 1876 ● 'God Defend New Zealand' is first performed
- 1977 ● 'God Defend New Zealand' becomes national anthem

39. Coat of Arms

- 1911 ● New Zealand Coat of Arms adopted
- 1956 ● New Zealand Coat of Arms amended

40. Flags

- 1834 • United Tribes of New Zealand flag chosen
- 1902 • National flag adopted
- 2009 • National Māori flag adopted

41. National day

- 1934 • First Waitangi Day held
- 1974 • Waitangi Day becomes a national holiday

Parliament

42. Capital cities

- 1840 • Russell becomes capital of New Zealand
- 1840 • Auckland becomes capital of New Zealand
- 1865 • Wellington becomes capital of New Zealand

43. Establishment

- 1854 • First meeting of the General Assembly
- 1856 • Responsible government established

44. Leadership

[See also Chapter 3, 'Governors and Governors-General', pages 125–127 and Chapter 4, 'Premiers and Prime Ministers', pages 128–130]

- 1833 • Busby arrives in New Zealand
- 1839 • Hobson appointed British consul
- 1841 • Hobson becomes first Governor
- 1845 • Grey becomes Governor
- 1856 • Sewell becomes first Premier

- 1870 ● Vogel actions public works plan
- 1900 ● Term 'Prime Minister' introduced
- 1977 ● Commission for the Future established
- 1980 ● Muldoon's 'Think Big' scheme introduced
- 1999 ● First 'Green' MP in the world to win a constituency seat
- 2011 ● A New Zealand prime minister addresses the Australian Parliament for the first time

45. Legislative Council

- 1857 ● Government begins appointing Legislative Council members
- 1872 ● Two Māori Members of Parliament join the Legislative Council
- 1892 ● Legislative Council and House of Representatives disagree
- 1950 ● Legislative Council Abolition Act 1950

46. Local governance

- 2007 ● Royal Commission on Auckland Governance
- 2009 ● Environment Canterbury review

47. Political parties

[See also Chapter 5, 'Political Parties', pages 131–134]

- 1890 ● First Liberal Government elected
- 1909 ● Young Maori Party founded
- 1912 ● Liberal Government replaced by Reform Party
- 1918 ● Ratana movement founded
- 1931 ● Coalition between United (Liberal) and Reform parties
- 1935 ● First Labour Government takes office
- 1980 ● Māori political party, Mana Motuhake, founded

48. Royal Commissions and referenda

[See lists in Chapter 6, 'Royal Commissions', pages 135–141 and Chapter 7, 'Referenda', page 142, respectively]

49. Women

- 1919 ● Women are able to stand for Parliament
- 1933 ● First woman Member of Parliament elected
- 1990 ● First female Governor-General
- 1997 ● First woman prime minister
- 1999 ● First elected woman prime minister
- 2005 ● First woman Speaker of the House of Representatives

Society

50. Abortion

- 1977 ● Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977

51. Civil union and homosexual law reform

- 1986 ● Homosexual Law Reform Act 1986
- 2004 ● Civil Union Act 2004

52. Crime and capital punishment

- 1842 ● First use of the death penalty
- 1957 ● Last death penalty execution
- 1961 ● Death penalty abolished
- 2007 ● Crimes (Substituted Section 59) Amendment Act 2007

53. Demographics

- 1850 ● Population reaches 87,759
- 1858 ● Population reaches 115,462
- 1886 ● New Zealand-born residents become the majority
- 1901 ● Population reaches 830,800
- 1951 ● Population reaches 1,939,472
- 2001 ● Population reaches 3,737,280
- 2006 ● Citizens increasingly identify as 'New Zealanders'
- 2010 ● Population projected to reach 5,500,000 in 2026

54. Education and knowledge

- 1815 ● First book in Māori published
- 1835 ● Charles Darwin visits New Zealand
- 1856 ● Moa skeleton given to British Museum
- 1865 ● Colonial Museum and New Zealand Geological Survey established
- 1867 ● Community primary schooling for Māori established
- 1867 ● New Zealand Institute Act 1867
- 1869 ● New Zealand's first university established
- 1871 ● University of Otago opens all classes to women
- 1877 ● Free primary school education established
- 1895 ● Mark Twain visits New Zealand
- 1907 ● Dominion Museum established
- 1907 ● Tohunga Suppression Act 1907
- 1907 ● *The School Journal* established
- 1916 ● *The School Journal* popularises the term 'Aotearoa' as the Māori name for New Zealand

- 1933 ● Royal Society of New Zealand Act 1933
- 1960 ● Separate Māori school system is phased out
- 1965 ● National Library of New Zealand established
- 1972 ● National Museum established
- 1987 ● Māori Language Act 1987
- 1992 ● Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa Act 1992

55. Employment

- 1840 ● Eight-hour work day first established
- 1912 ● Waihi strike
- 1913 ● Waterfront strikes
- 1935 ● Workers' unions become legal and compulsory
- 1936 ● 40-hour working week enforced by government
- 1951 ● Waterfront dispute lasts 151 days
- 1991 ● Employment Contracts Act 1991

56. Housing

- 1905 ● First state house built
- 1937 ● State housing scheme prospers
- 1991 ● The government introduces market rents for state houses

57. Māori institutions and reforms

- 1861 ● Ministry of Maori Affairs established
- 1892 ● Kotahitanga (Māori Parliament) is formed
- 1900 ● Maori Councils Act 1900
- 1902 ● Kotahitanga (Māori Parliament) is disbanded

- 1920 ● Maori Trustee Act 1920
- 1934 ● Maori Trust Office amalgamates with the Native Department
- 1947 ● 'Native' now referred to as 'Maori'
- 1951 ● Maori Women's Welfare League established
- 1955 ● Maori Trust Boards Act 1955
- 1961 ● Hunn Report
- 1962 ● Maori Community Development Act 1962
- 1962 ● New Zealand Maori Council established
- 1967 ● Maori and Island Affairs Department established
- 1984 ● First Hui Taumata – Māori Economic Development Summit Conference
- 1989 ● Maori Affairs Restructuring Act 1989
- 1990 ● Runanga Iwi Act 1990
- 1991 ● Runanga Iwi Repeal Act 1991
- 1991 ● Ministry of Maori Development Act 1991
- 2005 ● Second Hui Taumata – Māori Economic Development Summit Conference
- 2005 ● First Iwi Chairs Forum hui convened at Takahanga Marae in Kaikōura

58. Prostitution

- 2003 ● Prostitution Reform Act 2003

59. Religion

- 1814 ● First Christian service in New Zealand
- 1941 ● National Council of Churches established

60. Right to complain and obtain information

- 1962 ● First New Zealand Ombudsman appointed
- 1982 ● Official Information Act 1982

61. School food schemes

- 1937 ● Free school milk scheme begins
- 1967 ● Free school milk scheme ends

62. Smoking

- 2004 ● Smoke-free Environments Amendment Act 2004

63. Welfare

- 1896 ● National Council of Women of New Zealand established
- 1898 ● Old Age Pension Act 1898
- 1907 ● Plunket Society established
- 1938 ● Social Security Act 1938
- 1953 ● First Family Planning Association clinic opens

War

64. International wars

- 1885 ● Russian scare leads to military fortifications
- 1899 ● Troops sent to the Boer War
- 1914 ● First World War begins
- 1915 ● Gallipoli campaign
- 1918 ● First World War ends – Armistice Day
- 1939 ● Second World War begins

- 1939 ● Rationing begins
- 1940 ● Māori Battalion recruited
- 1945 ● Second World War ends
- 1950 ● Korean War begins
- 1950 ● Rationing ends
- 1964 ● New Zealand becomes involved in the Vietnam War
- 1991 ● US Congress votes for war in Iraq

65. New Zealand wars

- 1818 ● Musket Wars begin
- 1844 ● Hone Heke assaults the flagstaff at Kororāreka
- 1845 ● Kororāreka whaling post destroyed
- 1860 ● Land Wars begin
- 1863 ● British troops invade Waikato
- 1870 ● Last British imperial troops leave New Zealand
- 1881 ● Attack on Parihaka

9 The Last Word

Readers interested in learning more about New Zealand's constitution and the current constitutional review may be interested in the 2005 *Inquiry to review New Zealand's existing constitutional arrangements*, which made three recommendations:

- (i) Some generic principles should underpin all discussions of constitutional change in the absence of any prescribed process,
- (ii) To foster greater understanding of our constitutional arrangements in the long term, increased effort should be made to improve civics and citizenship education in schools to provide young people with the knowledge needed to become responsible and engaged citizens, and
- (iii) The Government might consider whether an independent institute could foster better public understanding of, and informed debate on, New Zealand's constitutional arrangements.

The government's response in 2006 supported the first and second recommendations, but did not support the third recommendation.

In December 2010, the government announced a constitutional review as part of the confidence and supply agreement between the National Party and the Māori Party. Bill English and Pita Sharples, who will lead the review in consultation with a cross-party reference group of MPs, stated in 2010 that:

The review is deliberately wide-ranging and will include matters such as the size of Parliament, the length of the electoral term, Māori representation, the role of the Treaty of Waitangi and whether New Zealand needs a written constitution ... The review will also be open to considering other issues and perspectives that are raised during public engagement. For example, this may include public interest in whether New Zealand should move to a republic, or the relationship between central and local government.

A final report will be presented to Cabinet at the end of 2013.

– Adapted from English & Sharples, 2010; New Zealand Parliament, 2006b

Looking forward

New Zealand's past is 'in us' and links us all. In the same way that we look back and reflect on the leadership of the past, New Zealanders in the future will look back on our generation.

Importantly, our ancestors did what they did in the name of progress, therefore the challenge for every generation is to define what progress means in today's terms and then pursue that definition. To this end, we close this book with a personal reflection by Professor Sir Paul Callaghan, Kiwibank's 2011 New Zealander of the Year.



Professor Sir Paul Callaghan speaking at the Sustainable Future
Institute's event StrategyNZ: Mapping our Future.
30 March 2011

‘So my take is,
we simply push on,
ignore the pessimism,
and lead by example.
Then suddenly we find
ourselves surrounded by
success and telling ourselves
that it was always meant
to be this way.’

– Professor Sir Paul Callaghan, Kiwibank's 2011
New Zealander of the Year

Abbreviations

ACT	Association of Consumers and Taxpayers
ANZAC	Australia and New Zealand Army Corporation
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CAG	Christchurch Art Gallery
CCL	Christchurch City Libraries
CSODNZ	Census and Statistics Office of the Dominion of New Zealand
DIA	Department of Internal Affairs
DIAC	Department of Immigration and Citizenship (Australia)
DOC	Department of Conservation
DOL	Department of Labour
ECNZ	Employment Court of New Zealand
FPP	First-past-the-post
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MCH	Ministry for Culture and Heritage
MED	Ministry of Economic Development
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
MFE	Ministry for the Environment
MMP	Mixed Member Proportional

Nation Dates

MP	Member of Parliament
NLNZ	National Library of New Zealand
NZBC	New Zealand Book Council
NZETC	New Zealand Electronic Text Centre
NZ Govt	New Zealand Government
NZIM	New Zealand Institute of Management
NZNP	New Zealand National Party
NZPA	New Zealand Press Association
NZRC	New Zealand Refining Company Ltd
NZRU	New Zealand Rugby Union
OCHR	Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives
OTS	Office of Treaty Settlements
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PCE	Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment
PCO	Parliamentary Counsel Office
RBNZ	Reserve Bank of New Zealand
RCAG	Royal Commission on Auckland Governance
RCGM	Royal Commission on Genetic Modification
RCES	Royal Commission on the Electoral System
RNZ	Radio New Zealand
RNZAF	Royal New Zealand Air Force
SENZ	Solid Energy New Zealand Ltd
SFI	Sustainable Future Institute
TEAL	Tasman Empire Airways Limited
TVNZ	Television New Zealand
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNESC	United Nations Economic and Social Council

Images and Quotations

- p. 2 Image: *1728–1779: Map of the coast of New Zealand discovered in the years 1769 and 1770*. James Cook (artist) and Longmate Barak (engraver). Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. PUBL-0037-25.
- p. 9 Image: *Captain Cook, 1800*. Sir N. D. Holland and J. Chapman (engraver). Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. A-217-010.
Quote: Cook, cited in South Seas, 2004.
- p. 11 Image: *Three paddles from New Zealand – A collection of drawings made in the countries visited by Captain Cook in his first voyage*. Sydney Parkinson (illustrator). The British Library, 060056.
Quote: Rangawhenua Tawhaki, Miringa Te Kakara, TeTiroa 1884, cited in Tiroa Tehape, 2005.
- p. 13 Image: *Samuel Marsden, born July 28, 1764; died May 12, 1838*. Marsden, 1913: frontispiece.
Quote: Marsden, cited in Marsden, 1913: 197.
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Quote: Mantell, 1848: 235.

- p. 37 Image: *Tukaroto Pōtatau Matutaera Te Wherowhero Tāwhiao, 1880s*. Unknown photographer. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. F-50875-1/2.
Quote: Tāwhiao, cited in Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga, 2009.
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Quote: Savage, cited in Orsman & Moore, 1988: 567.
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Quote: Hillary, cited in Baker, B., 2008.
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Quote: Lange, D., 2004.

- p. 95 Image: *Coat of Arms of New Zealand*. MCH, 2011c.
Quote: Royal Commission on the Electoral System (RCES), 1986: 7.
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Quote: Cartwright, 2002.
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Quote: Key, cited in Key & Sharples, 2009.
- p. 170 Image: *Professor Sir Paul Callaghan speaking at the Sustainable Future Institute's event StrategyNZ: Mapping our Future, 30 March 2011*. Dr Anthony Cole (photographer) and Sustainable Future Institute.
Quote: Callaghan, 2011.

All references in the text are available at www.nationdates.org.nz.

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