

Nation Dates

Significant events
that have shaped the
nation of New Zealand
1770–2011

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The Sustainable Future Institute is an independently funded non-partisan think tank. The main work programme of the Institute is *Project 2058*.

The aim of this project is to promote integrated long-term thinking, leadership and capacity-building to enable New Zealand to effectively seek and create opportunities, and explore and manage risks over the next 50 years.

It is hoped that *Project 2058* will help develop dialogue among government representatives, policy analysts and the public about alternative strategies for the future of New Zealand.

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Preface

Mark Twain once famously said ‘History doesn’t repeat itself but it does rhyme.’

Since 2008, the Sustainable Future Institute has been working on *Project 2058*, which has the long-term goal of creating a National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) for New Zealand. An NSDS is an opportunity to construct a strategic pathway into the future, based on conceptualising what that future could look like and then balancing this against what is achievable.

In order to understand where we have come from and where we are today, the Institute has researched the significant events and legislation that have shaped New Zealand as a nation.

We have made this work available as an important record of our nation’s past, and to provide a useful resource for establishing a context for our future. In addition, we feel it is particularly relevant in 2011 in light of the constitutional review currently in progress in New Zealand. This information is a resource for those who may wish to contribute to this review.

Wendy McGuinness
Chief Executive

1 Introduction

The timeline presented in this book lists the significant events and legislation that have shaped New Zealand since 1770. It has been developed as a result of the Institute's *Project 2058*, and contains the groundwork for the discussion contained in two of the project's major reports: Report 7, *Exploring Shared Māori Goals: Implications for a National Sustainable Development Strategy* (SFI, 2010a) and Report 8, *Effective Māori Representation in Parliament: Implications for a National Sustainable Development Strategy* (SFI, 2010b).

Project 2058

The strategic aim of *Project 2058* is to promote integrated long-term thinking, leadership and capacity-building so that New Zealand can effectively seek and create opportunities, and explore and manage risks, over the next 50 years. In order to achieve this aim, the *Project 2058* team is working to:

1. Develop a detailed understanding of the current national planning landscape, and in particular the government's ability to deliver long-term strategic thinking;
2. Develop a good working relationship with all parties that are working for and thinking about the 'long-term view';
3. Recognise the goals of iwi and hapū, and acknowledge te Tiriti o Waitangi;

4. Assess key aspects of New Zealand's society, asset base and economy in order to understand how they may shape the country's long-term future, such as government-funded science, natural and human-generated resources, the state sector and infrastructure;
5. Develop a set of four scenarios to explore and map possible futures;
6. Identify and analyse both New Zealand's future strengths and weaknesses, and potential international opportunities and threats;
7. Develop and describe a desirable sustainable future in detail; and
8. Prepare a *Project 2058* National Sustainable Development Strategy. (SFI, 2009: 3)

Report 7, *Exploring Shared Māori Goals: Implications for a National Sustainable Development Strategy* (SFI, 2010a), and Report 8, *Effective Māori Representation in Parliament: Implications for a National Sustainable Development Strategy* (SFI, 2010b) are a direct response to the third point above: 'Recognise the goals of iwi and hapū, and acknowledge te Tiriti o Waitangi.' These and other reports relating to *Project 2058* can be found on the Institute's website.

2 Method

Defining Significant Events and Legislation

The Institute defined significant events and legislation within the scope of this research as those which were both important and noteworthy with reference to the growth of our nation and Māori representation in Parliament. The timeline encompasses historic developments which contributed to the shape of New Zealand between the years 1770 and 2011.

Selection of Significant Events and Legislation

The selection of events and legislation for inclusion within this timeline was based on significant developments integral to the parameters of our definition and the result of our research. In looking to understand the past, which has shaped our present, we have outlined the evolution of New Zealand, according to our definition, from 1770 to the present day. The past is important, not only in terms of understanding where New Zealand is today, but also as a way of understanding what may shape the country's evolution in the future.

Descriptions of Significant Events and Legislation

The descriptions of events and legislation of significance have been kept brief, with references supplied, to provide a concise overview yet offer readers the opportunity to delve into more detail as required.

Linkages Between Events

The events that rhyme throughout this timeline have been shown through the use of square brackets which indicate the linkages from one key date to the next.

Limitations and Boundaries

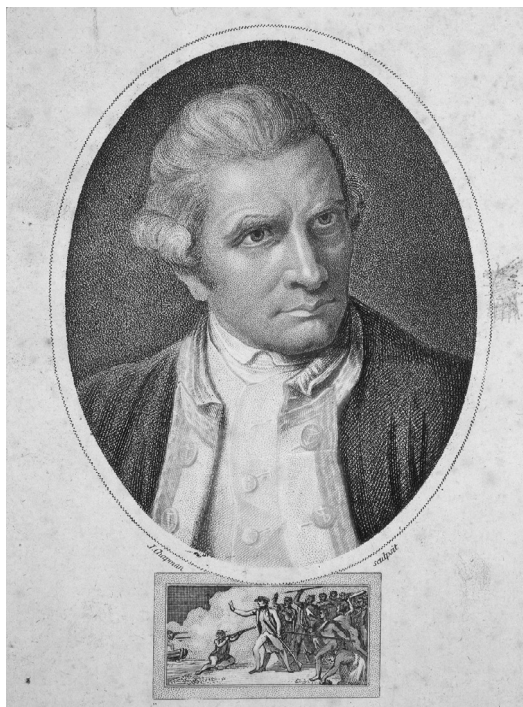
Inherent to this book are several limitations:

1. Omitted are events significant to the formation of our nation that occurred prior to 1770. Although this country has a rich history before 1770, this date was selected as it was when Britain first claimed sovereignty and the concept of New Zealand as a nation was first established.
2. The selection of events included within the timeline is based on the Institute's perspective, which may mean events deemed fundamental to the development of New Zealand from a comprehensive range of perspectives are not represented. The list does, however, attempt to explore how Māori and non-Māori perspectives have evolved in the on-going development of our legislation. This constitutes an underlying bias in filtering those events deemed significant in that it may have resulted in the omission of events considered significant from the perspective of other New Zealanders.
3. The timeline has been constructed on a national rather than a regional basis. Undoubtedly this presents limitations; however, the focus is on New Zealand as a whole.

3 Timeline

The following timeline aims to provide an overview of significant events that have contributed to the development of New Zealand as a nation.

- 1770** **James Cook proclaims sovereignty**
James Cook proclaims British sovereignty over New Zealand but no action is taken to make the claim effective.
(Sorrenson, 1986: 7)
- 1831** **Petition to King William IV**
A meeting of 13 Rangatira of the north at Kerikeri signed a petition to the King – to ask him to ‘Look after his hapū who are behaving in an uncivilised manner.’
(Network Waitangi Taranaki, 2000)
- 1833** **James Busby arrives in New Zealand**
With the agreement of the British government, New South Wales appoints James Busby as British Resident, the equivalent to a consular officer. He arrives in New Zealand in May 1833.
(MCH, 2007a)
- 1834** **United Tribes of New Zealand**
‘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.’ [See 2010]
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1835** **He Wakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirene (the Declaration of Independence of New Zealand)**
‘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. This declaration is eventually signed by 52 Māori chiefs.’ The declaration has since been seen by many Māori as British recognition of an independent Māori nation.
(MCH, 2009a; 2009b)



Captain Cook
Sir Nathaniel Dance Holland
1800

‘The world, one is
sometimes driven to reflect,
has been arranged for
the convenience of the
inhabitants of the
northern hemisphere.’

— James Cook

- 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.’ [See 1841]
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1839** **The New Zealand Company arrives in Wellington**
 ‘E.G. Wakefield and his New Zealand Association (later the New Zealand Company) ... [proposes] to establish colonies of British settlers in New Zealand and in May 1839 [despatches] a land-buying expedition, led by his brother William.’ A year later in 1840, the first New Zealand Company settlers arrived in the Wellington area. [See 1850]
(Asher & Naulls, 1987: 97; Sorrenson, 1986: 8)
- 1840** **First capital of New Zealand named**
 Governor Hobson establishes his seat of government near Okiato and names the new capital Russell. In September 1840, Hobson moves the capital to the shores of the Waitematā Harbour, founding Auckland. [See 1865]
(Wilson, 2009a)
- 1840** **Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi)**
 The Treaty of Waitangi is signed, a treaty between the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Native Chiefs and Tribes of New Zealand.
(MCH, 2007b)
- 1840** **Proclamations**
 ‘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. New Zealand becomes a dependency of New South Wales, a British Crown Colony that is governed by Sir George Gipps.’
(MCH, 2009a)

- 1840** **New Zealand becomes a separate Crown Colony**
 ‘New Zealand becomes a separate Crown Colony, ending its connection with New South Wales. Communicating with London takes many months.’ The currently named North, South and Stewart islands were to be named ‘New Ulster’, ‘New Munster’, and ‘New Leinster’, respectively. [See 1907] (*MCH, 2009a; n.d.*)
- 1841** **Hobson becomes first Governor**
 ‘In May of 1841 Hobson became Governor and was assisted by an Executive Council that he appointed. This consisted of a Colonial Secretary, Treasurer and Attorney General and a Legislative Council consisting of those three and three Justices of the Peace. All were Pakeha, land owning men. Auckland was selected as the seat of government.’ [See 1845] (*Network Waitangi Taranaki, 2000*)
- 1844** **Hone Heke assaults the flagstaff at Kororareka**
 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 leads to an outbreak of war in the north. (*MCH, 2010a*)
- 1845** **Grey becomes Governor**
 Captain George Grey becomes Governor. [See 1856] (*Asher & Naulls, 1987: 97*)
- 1846** **New Zealand Constitution Act 1846**
 The New Zealand Constitution Act of 1846 divides New Zealand into two provinces, New Ulster (North Island) and New Munster (South Island). [See 1847] (*Department of Justice, 1986: 8*)



Samuel Marsden
Born July 28th, 1764; died May 12th, 1838

‘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

- 1847** **New Zealand Constitution Act 1846 suspended**
 The New Zealand Constitution Act 1846 is suspended for five years. [See 1852]
(Department of Justice, 1986: 9)
- 1849** **Settlers Constitutional Associations**
 ‘Associations were formed by wealthy influential settlers who were seeking the immediate introduction of representative government.’
(Network Waitangi Taranaki, 2000)
- 1850** **Pākehā population 25,000**
 The Pākehā population reaches 25,000. [See 1860]
(Asher & Naulls, 1987: 97)
- 1850** **New Zealand Company’s Charter surrendered**
 The Company’s existence as a colonising body ends with the surrender of its charter on 4 July 1850.
(Bottrill et al., n.d.: 97)
- 1852** **New Zealand Constitution Act 1852 (UK)**
 A system of representative government for New Zealand is established by The New Zealand Constitution Act (UK). Six provinces are set up and later extended to 10. These each have elected superintendents and councils. A national General Assembly is established, and the Crown appoints a 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.
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1852** **The Kingitanga Movement is initiated**
 Tamihana Te Rauparaha and Matene Te Whiwhi first introduced to North Island iwi the idea of a ‘Kingitanga movement to establish a Māori nation.’ [See 1858]
(Network Waitangi Taranaki, 2000)

- 1853** **First MPs elected**
‘The House of Representatives’ first 37 Members of Parliament are elected.’
(*MCH, 2009a*)
- 1854** **First Parliament**
The first Parliament meets in Auckland. [See 1865]
(*MCH, 2009a*)
- 1855** **The 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. [See 1931]
(*McSaveney, 2009a*)
- 1856** **Responsible government**
“Responsible” government begins in New Zealand with an executive supported by a majority in the House of Representatives. The governor retains responsibility for defence and Maori affairs.’ [See 1861]
(*MCH, 2009a*)
- 1856** **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.’ [See 1902]
(*Grant, 2003: 26; McLauchlan, 2009: 198*)
- 1858** **English Laws Act 1858**
With the implementation of this Act, New Zealand adopts all the laws of England in force on January 14, 1840.
(*Waitangi Tribunal, 2010*)

- 1858** **First Māori King**
 ‘The Waikato chief Te Wherowhero becomes the first Māori King, taking the name Potatau. The rise of Te Kingitanga reflects Māori desires for a leader to unite the tribes, protect land from further sales and make laws for Māori.’ [See 1860]
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1860** **Increase in European population**
 A growing Pākehā population reaches 79,000, surpassing the declining Māori population.
(Asher & Naulls, 1987: 97)
- 1860** **Land Wars**
 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 Orakau (1863) and the Battle of Gate Pa, Tauranga (1864). [See 1863]
(MCH, 2009c; McLintock, 1966a)
- 1860** **Second Māori King**
 Tukaroto Matutaera Potatau Te Wherowhero Tawhiao inherits the kingship following the death of his father Potatau, the first Māori king. [See 1894]
(Mahuta, 2007)
- 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.’
(Network Waitangi Taranaki, 2000)
- 1861** **Responsibility for Māori Affairs transferred**
 Responsibility for Māori Affairs is transferred to a local Ministry. [See 1947]
(Sorenson, 1986: 14)

1862 Native Land Act 1862

The Native Land Act 1862 sets up the Native Land Court, a court of Māori chiefs chaired by a Pākehā 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. [See 1865]

(MCH, 2009c)

1863 British troops invade Waikato

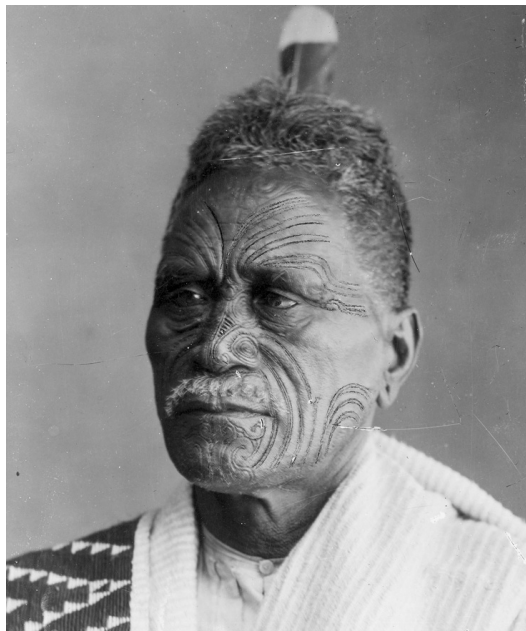
British troops cross the Mangatawhiri stream on 12 July 1863. The Māori King Movement (Kingitanga) have declared this to be an ‘aukati’ (a line that should not be crossed) and consider any breach to be an act of war. The intention of the British is to ‘dig around the Kingitanga’ until it falls; the movement 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.

(MCH, 2010b; Royal, 2010)

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 (s 5); the Act established the Compensation Courts (s 8).’

(Boast, 2009: 263)



Tukaroto Matutaera Potatau Te Wherowhero Tawhiao
Second Māori King
c.1880

‘Ki te kahore he
whakakitenga ka
ngaro te iwi’

‘Without foresight or vision
the people will be lost’

— King Tawhiao

- 1863** **Boundaries of New Zealand are 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. [See 1900] (*Stout et al., 1911: 1*)
- 1865** **Wellington becomes New Zealand's capital city**
 The seat of government moves from Auckland to Wellington. (*Wilson, 2009a*)
- 1865** **The Native Rights Act 1865**
 This Act affirmed Māori in legislation as subjects of the Crown. (*Joseph, 2008: 8*)
- 1865** **Native Lands Act 1865 and Native Land Court**
 The Native Land Court is established in 1865, replacing the 1862 system. In order to determine ownership of land, '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.' (*MCH, 2009c*)
- 1866** **Cook Strait telegraph opened.**
 The telegraph network has spread over the South Island and across Cook Strait to Wellington. (*McLintock, 1966b*)
- 1867** **Native Schools Act 1867**
 An Act to establish a national state-controlled system of community primary schools for Māori. English was the dominant medium of instruction, and Māori were strongly supportive of their children learning English as they saw benefits in being able to work effectively with Pakehā. The policy was later to be enforced rigorously, with many children reporting that they had been punished for speaking Māori within school boundaries. (*King, 2003: 234*)

- 1867** **Māori electorate seats created**
 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. [See 1868]
(Department of Justice, 1986: 29)
- 1867** **The Māori Representation Act 1867**
 An Act is passed to provide for the better ‘Representation of the Native Aboriginal Inhabitants of the Colony of New Zealand.’
(NZETC, 1867)
- 1868** **First elections with Māori seats**
 The first elections are held with the Māori seats.
(MCH, 2009c)
- 1869** **New Zealand’s first university founded**
 New Zealand’s oldest university, the University of Otago, is founded by an ordinance of the Otago Provincial Council. 100,000 acres of pastoral land is endowed upon the university which is authorised to grant degrees in Arts, Medicine, Law and Music.
(Otago University, n.d.)
- 1870** **Secret ballot introduced**
 The Regulation of Elections Act 1870 introduces the secret ballot (for European voters) into New Zealand’s electoral system. [See 1890]
(Department of Justice, 1986: 31)

1870 Vogel's 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.

(Vogel cited in McLintock, 1966c)

1872 Māori Representation Act Amendment and Continuance Act 1872

This Act extends the duration of the Māori districts for a further five years, following the expiry of the 1867 Representation Act.

(Department of Justice, 1986: 30)

1872 Legislative Council

Two Māori Members of Parliament are elected to the Legislative Council.

(Durie, 2003: 117)

1872 Native Affairs Committee

A committee set up to 'handle the flood of Māori petitions that poured into the House. The committee were invariably outvoted on large issues – like the return of the confiscated lands.' Unable to speak English and often ignored, the Māori members were 'little more than a token representation'.

(Sorrenson, 1986: 25–26)

1872 New Zealand Shipping Company established

'The New Zealand Shipping Company was founded in Christchurch late in 1872 and soon became one of the main shipping lines bringing out migrants.'

(Wilson, 2009b)

- 1876** **One man, one vote proposed**
 Sir George Grey (now an MP) introduces a one-man-one-vote Bill. The Bill is defeated, meaning voters still need property to qualify.
(McLauchlan, 2009: 199)
- 1876** **Abolition of the provinces**
 ‘The provinces are abolished, leaving central government as the single legislative authority. Hundreds of local bodies soon came into being.’
(MCH, 2009a)
- 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 Ngatikahungunu iwi petition Parliament ‘asking for Māori representation to be “in the same proportion as the representation of the European race by European members” and for Māori electorates to be based on tribal boundaries.’
(Sorrenson, 1986: 24)
- 1876** **Māori Representation Acts Continuance Act 1876**
 Under this Act the Māori Representation Act 1867, and therefore the existence of the Māori seats, was extended indefinitely.
(Joseph, 2008: 5)
- 1879** **Electoral Act 1879**
 Europeans grant all men suffrage meaning that Māori men can vote in a European electorate as long as they hold a £25 freehold estate or are a ratepayer. [See 1893]
(Vasil, 1990: 173)



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)

- 1879** **Term of Parliament shortened from five to three years**
 Parliament, previously with a five-year term, is shortened to a three-year term. [See 1934]
(Stout et al., 1911: 95–96)
- 1881** **Representation Act 1881**
 Under this Act 91 European electoral districts were created, each returning one member. All electorates become single-member seats.
(Department of Justice, 1986: 39)
- 1881** **Country quota established**
 A ‘country quota’ is established to reduce the marginalisation of rural interests as New Zealand becomes more urbanised. The 33 per cent quota is intended to maintain the ‘existing balance between urban and rural parliamentary constituencies.’ [See 1887]
(Te Ara, 1966)
- 1882** **Ngā Puhi present 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. [See 1884]
(Orange, 2004: 100–101)
- 1882** **First shipment of frozen meat from Canterbury**
 ‘The success of the sailing ship Dunedin’s first shipment of frozen meat from New Zealand 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.’
(MCH, 2010c)

- 1884** **Waikato present petition to Queen Victoria**
 The Māori King, Tawhiao, travels to London to petition Queen Victoria on similar issues to those expressed by the Ngā Puhi deputation. [See 1924]
(Orange, 2004: 102)
- 1887** **Country quota decreased**
 The country quota is reduced to 18 per cent. [See 1889]
(Te Ara, 1966)
- 1887** **Electoral boundary review**
 An electoral boundary review occurs every five years.
(Parliamentary Library, 2009: 15)
- 1887** **Representation Act 1887**
 The Representation Act 1887 creates the Representation Commission and establishes that, following each five-yearly population census, the Commission would review the size and boundaries of the European electorates.
(Parliamentary Library, 2009: 14)
- 1889** **Country quota increased**
 The country quota is increased to 28 per cent. [See 1945]
(Te Ara, 1966)
- 1889** **Māori 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 Māori Union of Waitangi was established in an effort to institutionalise proceedings.
(Sorenson, 1986: 27)

- 1890** **Secret ballot adopted**
 A compulsory secret ballot is adopted for European seats in Parliament. [See 1937]
(Parliamentary Library, 2009: 15)
- 1890** **First Liberal government takes office**
 The Liberal Party is elected into government for the first time. From 1893 to 1906 Richard Seddon heads the party. Significant reforms are made in the areas of farming, pensions and workers' dwellings.
(Wilson, 2009c)
- 1892** **Māori Parliament formed**
 Māori leaders meet with the New Zealand Parliament in Wellington, and agree to form a Māori Parliament, or Kotahitanga, 'to be composed of a lower house of 96 elected members, and an upper house of 50 members, chosen by the lower house ... The Māori Parliament held its first session at Waipatu in Hawkes Bay later in the year. It continued to meet annually in different Māori settlements for the next 11 years.' [See 1902]
(Sorrenson, 1986: 38)
- 1893** **Women given the same voting rights as men**
 'Universal suffrage is introduced for women over 21 (including Māori). New Zealand becomes the first self-governing country to grant the right to vote to all adult women.' [See 1919]
(MCH, 2009a)

- 1893 Electoral Act 1893**
 ‘Half-castes’ or Māori who have a £29 freehold estate [see 1879] may vote in European electorates but now only at the expense of voting in Māori electorates. The definition of Māori is altered to ‘an aboriginal inhabitant of New Zealand, and includes half-castes and their descendants by Natives’. [See 1948]
(Vasil, 1990: 173)
- 1894 Third Māori King**
 Mahuta Tawhiao Potatau Te Wherowhero, second son of Tawhiao, is elected as the third Māori King. [See 1912]
(Foster, 1966)
- 1896 Property qualifications for voting abolished**
 Property qualifications are abolished, meaning that Māori can only vote in Māori electorates. While ‘half-castes’ are now given a choice to vote in Māori or European electorates, the four Māori electorate seats are ‘more firmly established than ever’.
(Sorrenson, 1986: 30)
- 1900 Cook Islands claimed**
 New Zealand claims the Cook Islands and annexes several other territories. [See 1923]
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1900 Māori Councils Act 1900**
 An Act establishing a form of local self-governance for Māori, which authorises the Māori 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 ones.’
(Māori Affairs Department, 1952)



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 MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.

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

- 1900** **Māori Lands Administration Act 1900**
 An Act establishing ‘Māori-controlled land boards to develop Māori land and lease any surplus’. It has a ‘signal effect of halting alienation of Māori land – only 6,773 acres of land had been leased to Europeans by 1905’.
(Sorrenson, 1986: 30)
- 1901** **The Commonwealth of Australia is established**
 ‘New Zealand has declined several opportunities to become a member.’
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1902** **Māori Parliament disbanded**
 The decision to disband Kotahitanga is made at a hui held at Waioamatatini marae.
(Lange, 1999: 204)
- 1902** **National flag adopted**
 New Zealand adopts its official national flag. [See 2010]
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1902** **The term ‘Prime Minister’ is introduced**
 Richard John Seddon becomes the first Premier to use the title ‘Prime Minister’ officially.
(McLintock, 1966b)
- 1903** **The Māori King joins the Legislative Council**
 Following land negotiations with New Zealand Prime Minister Richard John Seddon, King Mahuta accepts a seat on the Legislative Council. [See 1910]
(Foster, 1966)

- 1907 **Kingite hui held at Waahi Pa**
 At this convention, ‘under the guidance of Tupu Tangakawa Te Waharoa, the “King” movement was revitalised and Mahuta withdrew from politics.’
(Foster, 1966)
- 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.’ [See 1945]
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1907 **Tohunga Suppression Act 1907**
 The preliminary introduction of the Act states that ‘Every person who gathers Māoris [sic] around him by practising on their superstition or credulity, or who misleads or attempts to mislead any Māori 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.
(Jones, 2009)
- 1907 **Stout-Ngata Commission appointed**
 ‘[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.’
(Sorenson, 1986: 30)



Michael Joseph Savage at the site of the
New Zealand Centennial Exhibition
1938

‘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

- 1908 Second Ballot Act 1908**
An Act providing 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.’
(*Department of Justice, 1986: 50*)
- 1909 Young Māori Party formed**
The Young Māori Party, ‘a loose association of like-minded individuals who were committed to working within the system to improve Māori health, develop Māori land with state assistance and foster Māori arts and crafts’ is established.
(*MCH, 2007c*)
- 1910 The Māori King’s membership of the Legislative Council lapses**
King Mahuta is not reappointed to the council.
(*Foster, 1966*)
- 1910 Legislative Amendment Act 1910**
Voting by show of hands is abandoned in favour of voting by declaration. This Act also provides for an electoral census.
(*Department of Justice, 1986: 52; Vasil, 1990: 173*)
- 1912 Fourth Māori King**
Te Rata Mahuta Potatau Te Wherowhero succeeds his father as king, becoming the fourth leader of the Māori King Movement. [See 1933]
(*Ballara, 2007a*)
- 1912 Liberal government is replaced by the Reform Party**
Liberal rule ends in 1912, when William Massey leads the Reform Party to power.
(*McLintock, 1966e*)

- 1912 The 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 an anti-union government headed by William Massey took office in May 1912.’
 [See 1913]
(Derby, 2010a)
- 1913 Legislative Amendment Act 1913**
 The provision of a second ballot introduced by the Second Ballot Act 1908 is overturned under the Legislative Amendment Act of 1913.
(Department of Justice, 1986: 53)
- 1913 Native Land Amendment Bill 1913**
 A Bill is passed which is designed to enable European free holding of Māori land leases.
(Sorrenson, 1986: 32)
- 1913 The 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 strike leaders and the strike comes to a close.
(Derby, 2010a)
- 1914 Māori King given an audience with King George V**
 Te Rata Mahuta Potatau Te Wherowhero is granted an audience with the King of England on the condition that grievances are not discussed.
(Orange, 2004: 102–103)

- 1914** **The First World War commences**
 King George V of the United Kingdom 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. [See 1918]
(MCH, 2010d)
- 1917** **The term ‘Governor-General’ is introduced**
 ‘The title of Governor is changed to Governor-General.’
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1917–1918** **The Imperial War Cabinet (IWC) meets in London, attended by Prime Minister Massey**
 ‘The IWC 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.’
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1918** **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.
(MCH, 2010e; 2010f)
- 1919** **Women are able to stand for Parliament**
 Women gain the right to stand as candidates for parliamentary seats.
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1920** **Māori Trustee Act 1920**
 An Act establishing the Māori Trust Office – ‘a separate Department to manage Māori Reserves and Estates.’
(Levine & Vasil, 1985: 36)

- 1923** **New Zealand jurisdiction extended to Antarctica**
 ‘At British request, New Zealand extends its jurisdiction to cover the Ross Dependency in Antarctica.’ [See 1959]
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1924** **Ratana takes petition to England**
 Tahupotiki Wiremu Ratana, ‘leader of a new Māori religious and political movement that based its rights on the Treaty’, takes a petition to England.
(Orange, 2004: 103)
- 1924** **Legislature Amendment Act (No. 2) 1924**
 Compulsory enrolment/registration of voters for European seats is enacted.
(Department of Justice, 1986: 58)
- 1926** **Sim Commission established**
 A Royal Commission is set up to enquire into the confiscation of land belonging to any tribe that had rebelled against the Queen’s authority, by investigating ‘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.’
(MCH, 2007d)
- 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.”’
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1927** **Legislature Amendment Act 1927**
 Postal (Special) voting is introduced.
(Department of Justice, 1986: 57)



Sir Edmund Hillary on board the New Zealand Navy ship, Endeavour, which transported his expedition to Antarctica for the Trans-Antarctic Expedition.

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

— Sir Edmund Hillary

- 1929 The Great Depression**
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 results in a series of riots. *(Wilson, 2009c)*
- 1931 Statute of Westminster 1931**
‘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.’ *(MCH, 2009a)*
- 1931 The 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. [See 2011] *(McSaveney, 2009b)*
- 1931 Coalition between United (Liberal) and Reform parties**
In September 1931 a coalition is formed between the United Party (Liberal) and the Reform Party. Prime Minister G. W. Forbes of the United Party put pressure on J. G. Coates of the Reform Party to form a coalition government with him in order to better combat the Depression. [See 1935] *(Gardner, 2009a; 2009b)*
- 1933 Fifth Māori King**
Koroki Te Rata Mahuta Tawhiao Potatau Te Wherowhero, eldest son of Te Rata, succeeds his father as king. [See 1966] *(Ballara, 2007b)*

- 1934** **First Waitangi Day**
New Zealand celebrates Waitangi Day formally for the first time. [See 1974]
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1934** **Māori Trust Office amalgamates with the Native Department**
‘This provides the basis for the present-day situation, where the permanent head of the Māori Affairs Department has held the position of Māori Trustee as well.’
(Levine & Vasil, 1985: 36)
- 1934** **Four-year parliamentary term introduced**
The parliamentary term is extended to four years. [See 1937]
(Department of Justice, 1986: 58)
- 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.
(Derby, 2010b)
- 1935** **The National Political Federation**
Under threat from the Labour and Democrat parties, Reform and United strengthen their coalition to form the National Political Federation (NZPRL) in preparation for the coming election. [See 1936]
(Gardner, 2009b)

- 1935** **First Labour government takes office**
 ‘The first Labour government assumed office as a result of its landslide victory in November’s general election. Led initially by the charismatic Michael Joseph Savage, this government is best remembered for its landmark social welfare reforms.’
(MCH, 2010g)
- 1936** **The National Party is formed**
 The NZPRL is formally dissolved in 1936, becoming instead the National Party.
(New Zealand National Party, n.d.)
- 1937** **Three-year parliamentary term restored**
 The parliamentary term is restored to three years.
(Department of Justice, 1986: 59)
- 1937** **Election Amendment Act 1937**
 Māori are granted the secret ballot; this had been introduced for Europeans in 1870.
(Vasil, 1990: 173)
- 1937** **First State House**
 John A. Lee, the Under-Secretary for Housing, leads the Labour government’s state housing construction scheme, with the first house being tenanted in 1937. 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.
(MCH, 2008a; 2008b)
- 1937** **The school milk scheme**
 The school milk scheme means that each New Zealand child is now provided with half a pint of milk at school each day. This begins in 1937 and runs for 30 years.
(Christchurch City Libraries, n.d.)

- 1938 Social Security Act 1938**
Under this Act Māori became eligible for the child benefit on the same basis as Europeans.
(Sorrenson, 1986: 44)
- 1939 Britain appoints its first High Commissioner to New Zealand**
‘[B]y early 1941 the last of the Governor-General’s ambassadorial functions have been removed.’
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1939 The Second World War commences**
New Zealand formally declares war on Germany on 3 September alongside Britain and Australia. New Zealand is one of the first countries to become involved in the global conflict following Germany’s invasion of Poland on 1 September. [See 1945]
(MCH, 2010b; 2010i)
- 1940 Centennial celebration of the Treaty of Waitangi**
‘The New Zealand Centennial celebrates the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi as the nation’s founding moment, but the celebrations focus mostly on material progress.’
(MCH, 2009a)
- 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 were ‘recruitment and support for the Māori Battalion, but it also planned for rehabilitation of returned servicemen after the war.’
(Sorrenson, 1986: 44)

- 1944** **Australia & New Zealand sign the Canberra Pact**
 ‘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.’
(MCH, 2010j)
- 1945** **New Zealand joins the United Nations**
 New Zealand joins the United Nations as simply ‘New Zealand’, dropping the term ‘dominion.’ [see 1953]
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1945** **Country quota abolished**
 The Labour government abolishes the country quota.
(Tē Ara, 1966)
- 1945** **The 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 casualties out of the 140,000 who served.
(MCH, 2010b; 2010k)
- 1947** **Statute of Westminster adopted**
 New Zealand adopts the Statute of Westminster 1931.
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1947** **‘Native’ now referred to as ‘Māori’**
 The government changes official usage from ‘Native’ to ‘Māori’. This includes the Native Land Court, which becomes the Māori Land Court, and the Department of Native Affairs is replaced by the Department of Māori Affairs. [See 1967]
(Levine & Vasil, 1985: 35; MCH, 2009d)

- 1948 Electoral Amendment Act 1948**
 An Act giving ‘statutory authority for the creation of Māori rolls, while at the same time providing for the retention of the Māori right to vote by declaration. It also provide[s] that the preparation of the Māori 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 Māori roll. [See 1950]
(Department of Justice, 1986: 67)
- 1949 New Zealand citizenship**
 This comes into existence under the British Nationality and New Zealand Citizenship Act 1948.
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1950 Electoral Amendment Act 1950**
 An Act allowing for Māori and European voting to occur on the same day. Seat numbers are made adjustable according to European population; prior to this amendment, seat numbers were based on total adult population. [See 1956]
(Department of Justice, 1986: 68; Vasil, 1990: 173)
- 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.
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1950 Korean War 1950**
 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.
(MCH, 2010l)

- 1951** **Māori Women's Welfare League established**
 A group forms with the aim of involving local communities in welfare, and begins to treat the problem of inadequate housing for Māori. [See 1962]
(NZ in History, 2009)
- 1951** **The waterfront dispute**
 The waterfront dispute lasts 151 days, from February to July, and involves the striking of 22,000 waterside workers and other unionists. The 1951 confrontation is the culmination of decades of unrest on the wharves.
(MCH, 2011a)
- 1953** **Māori Affairs Act 1953**
 An Act to force unproductive Māori land into use. 'Anyone who could show the Māori Land Court that a piece of good land was not being used could apply to have it vested in trustees.'
(MCH, 2009e)
- 1953** **Realm of New Zealand**
 New Zealand's name changes in official usage from simply 'New Zealand' to the 'Realm of New Zealand'.
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1953** **Tangiwai disaster 1953**
 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.
(McSaveney et.al., 2009c)

- 1955** **Māori Trust Boards Act 1955**
 ‘An Act to make better provision for the administration of certain Māori Trust Boards.’
- 1956** **Electoral Act 1956**
 An Act to consolidate and amend the enactments relating to the election of members of the House of Representatives. Māori enrolment is made compulsory, in line with European enrolment, which had been compulsory since 1927. [See 1967]
(Sorrenson, 1986: 47)
- 1959** **The Antarctic Treaty**
 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.
(Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty, 2008)
- 1961** **The Hunn Report**
 J. K. Hunn’s report on the Department of Māori 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 Māori people’. ‘By 1961 the Māori Education Foundation was established because education was the key to integration as set forth in the Hunn Report ... From 1961 separate registration of Māori births and deaths was abolished and Māori became eligible for jury service.’
(Meredith, 2009a; Sorrenson, 1986: 92)

- 1962** **Māori Community Development Act 1962**
 'An Act to provide for the constitution of Māori associations, to define their powers and functions, and to consolidate and amend the Māori Social and Economic Advancement Act 1945'. The words 'Community Development' were replaced by the word 'Welfare' in Section 19(2) of the later Māori Purposes Act 1979.
- 1962** **New Zealand Māori Council formed**
 A male-dominated confederation of tribal communities that grew, in conjunction with the Māori Women's Welfare League, out of the remains of the Māori War Effort Organisation formed in 1942. The council acted principally as an advisory board, whose advice could be, and often was, ignored.
(Sorrenson, 1986: 45)
- 1964** **New Zealand becomes involved in the war in Vietnam**
 Approximately 3500 New Zealand military personnel serve in South Vietnam between June 1964 and December 1972. There were 37 New Zealand casualties during active service and 187 were wounded.
(MCH, 2010m)
- 1964** **Decimal currency system**
 The Decimal Currency Act 1964 prescribes the designs, diameters, and standard weights of New Zealand's new decimal coinage system. This would first appear in circulation on 10 July 1967.
(Reserve Bank of New Zealand, n.d.)
- 1966** **First Māori Queen**
 King Koroki's daughter becomes the first Māori Queen, Te Arikinui Te Atairangikaahu. [See 2006]
(MCH, 2007e)

- 1967 Electoral Amendment Act 1967**
The amended Act allows Māori, not just ‘half-castes’, to stand as candidates for European electorates, as well as Europeans to stand for Māori electorates. [See 1969]
(*Vasil, 1990: 174*)
- 1967 Māori and Island Affairs Department established**
The Department of Māori Affairs ‘merged with the Department of Island Territories to form the Māori and Island Affairs Department. The Islands Division was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 1975, with the Māori Affairs Department retaining responsibility for Pacific Islanders’ housing and welfare within New Zealand.’ [See 1989]
(*Levine & Vasil, 1985: 35*)
- 1968 Wahine disaster 1968**
The Lyttelton–Wellington ferry *Wahine* sinks on 10 April 1968 resulting in 53 people losing their lives. Images of the disaster are televised, marking a turning point for television news broadcasting in New Zealand.
(*MCH, 2010n*)
- 1969 Electoral Amendment Act 1969**
The voting age is lowered to 20. [See 1974]
(*Department of Justice, 1986: 83*)
- 1974 The Royal Titles Act 1974**
An Act giving ‘primacy to the title “Queen of New Zealand” in New Zealand.’
(*MCH, 2009a*)
- 1974 Electoral Amendment Act 1974**
The voting age is lowered to 18. [See 1976]
(*Department of Justice, 1986: 85*)



Members of the hīkoi calling for a halt to the alienation
of Māori land, 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

- 1974** **Waitangi Day a national holiday**
 ‘Waitangi Day (then known as New Zealand Day) becomes a national holiday.’
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1974** **Māori Affairs Amendment Act 1974**
 An Act which broadens the definition of a Māori ‘to include any person descended from a Māori’. The 1975 Electoral Amendment Act subsequently gives Māori, as so defined, ‘the option of registering on the Māori or General roll’. This Act also recommends that Māori electorate seats should be determined in the same way as general seats.
(Department of Justice, 1986: 86; Sorrenson, 1986: 52)
- 1975** **All New Zealand citizens and permanent residents entitled to vote**
 British nationality is no longer a qualification to vote. The term ‘European’ is replaced by ‘General’ on electoral rolls, with all permanent residents and New Zealand citizens being eligible to vote.
(Department of Justice, 1986: 85)
- 1975** **Hīkoi – Māori land march**
 The primary aim of the 1975 Māori land march was to call for a halt to the alienation of Māori land; however, its impact was much more widespread. [See 2004]
(Royal, 2009)
- 1975** **The Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975 establishes the Waitangi Tribunal**
 An Act which 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.’

- 1975** **First Māori elected to ‘general’ electorates**
National’s Ben Couch (Wairarapa) and Rex Austin (Awarua) become the first Māori candidates to successfully contest ‘general’ electorate seats.
(Electoral Commission, 2005)
- 1976** **Electoral Amendment Act 1976**
This Act repealed the section of the 1975 legislation relating to the number of Māori electorate seats, and reintroduced the legislation of the Electoral Act of 1956. [See 1981]
(Department of Justice, 1986: 87)
- 1980** **Māori political party formed**
Matiu Rata, a former Labour Cabinet minister, establishes the Mana Motuhake party, advocating Māori autonomy.
(MCH, 2009e)
- 1981** **Electoral Amendment Act 1981**
An Act establishing electoral boundary review every five years for Māori electorate seats. [See 1993]
(Parliamentary Library, 2009: 15)
- 1981** **The Springbok rugby tour**
New Zealand is divided as race relations issues are raised over the Springbok rugby tour of New Zealand in 1981. Those opposed to the tour argue that New Zealand is condoning apartheid and infecting our own society. Others, including many players, stress that sport and politics should remain separate. During July, August and September 1981, more than 150,000 people took part in over 200 demonstrations in 28 centres, and 1500 were charged with offences stemming from these protests.
(MCH, 2010o; 2010p)

- 1982** **The 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’.
(State Services Commission, n.d.)
- 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.’
(Durie, 2009: 4)
- 1983** **Governor-Generalship patriated**
 Following the Review of the Letters Patent 1917, the Governor-Generalship is patriated (‘indigenised’) as a purely New Zealand office.
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1984** **Hui Taumata – Māori Economic Development Summit Conference (first)**
 A national conference, involving participants from throughout Māoridom, assembles in Wellington. The objectives of the conference include examining the economic situation of New Zealand as it affects Māori people, assessing the economic strengths and weaknesses of Māori people in New Zealand, and supporting policy changes necessary to obtain socio-economic parity between Māori and non-Māori.
 [See 2005]
(Levine & Vasil, 1985: 197)

- 1984** **Labour introduces economic reforms**
 ‘The 1984 Labour government [introduces] an extensive programme of economic reforms. These are aimed in part to improve the responsiveness of New Zealand producers to changes in the spending patterns of domestic and overseas consumers. In the 1990s the National government [extends] the reforms.’
(Dalziel, 2010)
- 1985** **Royal Commission on the Electoral System established**
 The government establishes a Royal Commission on the Electoral System. [See 1986]
(Department of Justice, 1986: 94)
- 1985** **Waitangi Tribunal given power to investigate historical Treaty claims**
 The Tribunal is now empowered to investigate Treaty claims back to 1840. It is also able to commission research and to appoint legal counsel for claimants.
(MCH, 2009e)
- 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 establish requirements about the accountability of State enterprises, and the responsibility of Ministers’. The Act was 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.’
(MCH, 2009e)

- 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 law of New Zealand.’
- 1986** **Report of the Royal Commission on the Electoral System released**
 ‘The Royal Commission on the Electoral System recommends (among other things) that a referendum be held on changing the voting system from first past the post (FPP) to mixed member proportional representation (MMP).’ [See 1993] (*MCH, 2009a*)
- 1987** **Māori Language Act 1987**
 ‘An Act to declare the Māori language to be an official language of New Zealand, to confer the right to speak Māori in certain legal proceedings, and to establish Te Komihana Mo Te Reo Māori and define its functions and powers.’
- 1987** **New Zealand Māori Council v Attorney-General [1987] 1 NZLR 687**
 A landmark Court of Appeal case establishes ‘that the Crown must pay heed to previous Māori ownership in disposal of surplus Crown assets such as land’ as well as setting out ‘a number of principles it saw encapsulated in or derived from the Treaty’.
 (*MCH, 2009e*)

- 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 no effect, 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. (*MCH, 2008c*)
- 1989** **The Māori Fisheries Act 1989**
 'This Act expressly states that it is intended to make better provision for Māori fishing rights secured by the Treaty and to facilitate the entry of Māori into, and the development by Māori of, the business and activity of fishing. This is a welcome statutory acknowledgment by the Crown of Māori sea fishing rights guaranteed by the Treaty.'
 (*Waitangi Tribunal, 1992*)
- 1989** **Māori Affairs Restructuring Act 1989**
 'An Act to provide for the restructuring of the Department of Māori Affairs to form the Iwi Transition Agency, to abolish the Board of Māori Affairs and transfer its programmes to the general manager of the Iwi Transition Agency, and to transfer the administration of the Māori Land Courts to the Department of Justice.' [See 1991]
- 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.



Coat of Arms of New Zealand, 1956

‘... the important principles are above all the representation of the people and democracy.’

— Royal Commission on the Electoral System, 1986

- 1990 Rūnanga Iwi Act 1990**
An Act to acknowledge the importance of iwi and to provide for the incorporation of rūnanga to represent iwi in accordance with iwi charters. The Act was subsequently repealed; see below. [See 1991]
- 1991 Rūnanga Iwi Repeal Act 1991**
An Act to repeal the Rūnanga Iwi Act 1990.
- 1991 Ministry of Māori Development Act 1991**
An Act establishing Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry for Māori Development.
(*Te Puni Kōkiri*, 2007)
- 1991 The Ngāi Tahu Report**
The Waitangi Tribunal publishes a report in response to a claim identifying Ngāi Tahu's grievances about land purchases. 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. [See 1996]
(*Tau*, 2009)
- 1991 Employment Contracts Act 1991**
This Act establishes the Employment Court and brings together all kinds 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.
(*Employment Court of New Zealand*, n.d.)

- 1992** **The Sealord deal**
 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.
(Meredith, 2009b)
- 1993** **Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993**
 The Act 'makes it difficult to purchase Māori 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.'
(MCH, 2009e)
- 1993** **Electoral Act 1993**
 The Electoral Act reforms the electoral system, proposing the introduction of the mixed member proportional system (MMP) which is carried at the referendum held under the Electoral Referendum Act 1993. The result being 'A binding referendum changes New Zealand's voting system from FPP to MMP.' [See 1996]
(MCH, 2009a)
- 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*.
(OTS, 1995)

- 1996** **First MMP election held**
 ‘The first general election held using the MMP voting system results in the first coalition government for more than 60 years.’
(MCH, 2009a)
- 1996** **The Ngāi Tahu (1996) settlement**
 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.
(Tau, 2009)
- 1997** **New Zealand’s first woman prime minister**
 Following a coup against Jim Bolger, New Zealand’s first woman prime minister, Jenny Shipley, came to power in 1997.
(MCH, 2010g)
- 2004** **The 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.’
(MCH, 2009a)
- 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 the creation of a reserve if those rights are not met. It also provides for the rights of general public access.
(Foreshore and Seabed Act, 2004)

- 2004** **Foreshore and Seabed hīkoi**
 ‘In April 2004 a hīkoi began in Northland in protest against proposed government legislation which would vest ownership of New Zealand’s foreshore and seabed in the Crown. The hīkoi arrived in Wellington on 5 May 2004, after picking up numerous supporters on the way south.’
 [See 2009]
(MCH, 2010r)
- 2004** **Junior Minister Tariana Turia resigns from her ministerial position**
 Following an announcement that she plans to vote against the Foreshore and Seabed Act, on 30 April 2004 Tariana Turia announces she will resign from her position as a minister in the Labour-led government, and states her intention to establish a new political movement. Her resignation forces a by-election in the electorate of Te Tai Hauauro, where she stands for re-election as co-leader of the new Māori Party.
(Thompson, 2004)
- 2004** **Māori Party registered**
 The Electoral Commission registers the Māori Party as a political party on 9 July, allowing it to contest the party vote at a general election.
(Electoral Commission, 2004)
- 2004** **Turia wins Te Tai Hauauro by-election**
 On 10 July, Turia receives 7256 votes, over 92% of the votes cast in the Te Tai Hauauro by-election.
(Chief Electoral Office, 2004)

- 2005** **Hui Taumata – Māori Economic Development Summit Conference (second)**
 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 and beyond.
(Treasury, 2005)
- 2005** **First Iwi Chairs Forum hui convened at Takahanga Marae in Kaikōura**
 The Forum meets regularly to discuss and enable Māori aspirations, and by 2008 represents more than 400,000 Māori.
(Iwi Chairs Forum, 2008)
- 2005** **New Zealand's first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives.**
 Margaret Wilson becomes the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives.
(NZ Govt, n.d.)
- 2006** **Sixth Māori King**
 Te Atairangikaahu is succeeded by her eldest son, Te Arikinui Tuheitia Paki.
(MCH, 2007e)
- 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.'
(NZ Govt, 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.’
(MFAT, 2010)
- 2009** **Review of Foreshore and Seabed Act**
 A review of the Foreshore and Seabed Act is announced.
 [See 2010]
(NZ Govt, 2009a)
- 2010** **A national Māori flag is flown**
 In 2009, 21 public hui are held nationwide, and written and online 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 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.’
(MCH, 2010s)
- 2010** **New Zealand endorses the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**
 After initially voting against the adoption of UNDRIP in April 2009, in 2010 the government endorses the declaration, but describes it as an expression of aspiration and states that it will not interfere with existing national frameworks. However, outside government there is talk that the move brings with it increased responsibility to address issues of Māori sovereignty.
(Armstrong, 2010; NZ Govt, 2010a; UN Economic and Social Council, 2010)

- 2010 Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Bill passes its first reading**
 The Bill, which guarantees the rights of all New Zealanders in the marine and coastal area, passes its first reading in the House in September, replacing the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004. It is intended to restore the right of iwi to seek customary title in particular areas of the ‘common marine and coastal area’. The Bill is moved by Māori Party co-leader Tariana Turia, and passes by 106 votes to 15.
(NZ Govt, 2010b)
- 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.
(NZ Govt, 2010c)
- 2011 The 2011 Christchurch earthquake**
 A magnitude 6.3 earthquake occurs at a depth of 5 kilometres with its epicentre near Lyttelton, 10 kilometres from the Christchurch central business district. The city is left severely damaged, with thousands left homeless, and there is considerable loss of life. This leads to New Zealand’s first national state of emergency being declared on Wednesday 23 February.
(McSaveney, 2011)



The Māori (tino rangatiratanga) flag flies over the
Auckland Harbour Bridge
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

New Zealand Premiers and Prime Ministers

Term	Name
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

Term	Name
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)
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)
25 August 1919 – 10 May 1925	William Massey (Reform)
14 May 1925 – 30 May 1925	Francis Bell (Reform)
30 May 1925 – 10 December 1928	Joseph 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)
26 August 1998 – 5 December 1999	Jennifer Shipley (National-led minority)

Term	Name
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, 2003: 199 – 200; MCH, 2011b

Credits

- P. 9 Image: *Captain Cook, 1800*. Sir N. D. Holland and J. Chapman (engraver). Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, A-217-010.
Quote: Beaglehole, cited in McGill, 2004: 25.
- P. 12 Image: *Samuel Marsden, born July 28, 1764; died May 12, 1838*. Marsden, 1913: frontispiece.
Quote: Marsden, cited in Marsden, 1913: 197.
- P. 17 Image: *Tukaroto Potatau Matutaera Te Wherowhero Tawhiao, 1880s*. Unknown photographer. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, 1/2-050875-F.
Quote: Tawhiao, cited in Māori.cl, 2010.
- P. 22 Image: *National Council of Women, Christchurch, 1896*. M. Hatton photographer. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, 1/2-041798-F.
Quote: Sheppard, cited in McGill, 2004: 222.
- P. 27 Image: *Notice reproduced in the New Zealand Gazette, 26 September 1907, issue 84, page 2901*. MCH, 2007g.
- P. 30 Image: *Michael Joseph Savage at the site of the New Zealand Centennial Exhibition, 1938*. Unknown photographer. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, The Archival Collection, PAColl-6208-23.
Quote: Savage, cited in Orsman & Moore, 1988: 567.

- P. 35 Image: *Sir Edmund Hillary on board the New Zealand Navy ship Endeavour which transported his expedition to Antarctica for the Trans-Antarctic Expedition*. Photo courtesy Navy Museum, Torpedo Bay.
Quote: Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty, 2008.
- P. 46 Image: *Members of the hīkoi calling for a halt to the alienation of Māori land, College Hill, Auckland, 22 September, 1975*. Christian F. Heinegg photographer. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, PA7-15-17.
Quote: Cooper, cited in McGill, 2004: 61.
- P. 53 Image: *Coat of Arms of New Zealand*. Wikipedia, 2009.
Quote: Royal Commission, 1986: 7.
- P. 61 Image: *Māori Flag Tino Rangatiratanga flew on the Auckland Harbour Bridge 6th Feb 2010*. Charles Joe photographer. Maori in Oz, 2010.
Quote: Key, cited in NZ Govt, 2009c.

Abbreviations

ATL	Alexander Turnbull Library
MCH	Ministry for Culture and Heritage
MMP	Mixed Member Proportional
NZETC	New Zealand Electronic Text Centre
NZ Govt	New Zealand Government
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
OTS	Office of Treaty Settlements
UN	United Nations
UNDRIP	UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

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