

The Evolution of New Zealand as a Nation: Significant events and legislation 1770–2010

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Working papers to Report 7: Exploring Shared Māori Goals: Working towards a National Sustainable Development

Strategy and Report 8: Effective Māori Representation in Parliament: Working towards a National

Sustainable Development Strategy

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this working paper is to list the significant events and legislation that have shaped New Zealand since 1770. It presents a timeline that not only provides a contextual background that informs *Project 2058*, but contains the groundwork for the discussion contained in Report 7: *Exploring Shared Māori Goals: Implications for a National Sustainable Development Strategy* (SFI, in press [a]) and Report 8: *Effective Māori Representation in Parliament: Implications for a National Sustainable Development Strategy* (SFI, in press [b]).

1.1 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 will work to:

- 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;
- 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)

Project 2058's Report 7: Exploring Shared Māori Goals: Implications for a National Sustainable Development Strategy (SFI, in press [a]) and Report 8: Effective Māori Representation in Parliament: Implications for a National Sustainable Development Strategy (SFI, in press [b]) are a direct response to the third point above: 'Recognise the goals of iwi and hapū, and acknowledge te Tiriti o Waitangi'. This working paper also contributes to the goals of Project 2058 by informing both point one, 'Develop a detailed understanding of the current national planning landscape, and in particular the government's ability to deliver long-term strategic thinking', and point six, 'Identify and analyse both New Zealand's future strengths and weaknesses, and potential international opportunities and threats'. The working paper aims to provide a useful mechanism to contribute to both Reports 7 and 8.

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2. Method

2.1 Defining Significant Events and Legislation

The Institute defined significant events and legislation within the scope of this paper 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 2010.

2.2 Selection of Significant Events and Legislation

The selection of events and legislation for inclusion within this timeline was based upon 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. In other words, the future is unlikely to repeat, but it may rhyme.

2.3 Classification of Significant Events and Legislation

The classification of events and legislation of significance has been kept brief, with references provided, to enable a concise overview and the opportunity to delve into more detail as required.

2.4 Limitations and Boundaries

Inherent to this working paper are several limitations:

- 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 questioned.
- 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 Aotearoa from a Māori perspective are not included. 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 cultures.
- 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 nation, which in turn requires a national perspective.

3. Timeline

The following timeline aims to provide a brief overview of relevant past events. Readers who are aware of any significant omissions are invited to contact the Institute, as the list is intended to be a work in progress.¹

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).

1833 James Busby arrives in New Zealand

'James Busby arrives in the Bay of Islands as British Resident in New Zealand – a junior consular representative with little power' (MCH, 2009b).

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' (MCH, 2009b).

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 Maori chiefs' (MCH, 2009b). The declaration has since been seen by many Maori as British recognition of an independent Maori nation (MCH, 2009a).

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' (MCH, 2009b).

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' (Sorrenson, 1986: 8). The first New Zealand Company settlers arrived in the Wellington area in 1840 (Asher & Naulls, 1987: 97).

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 (Wilson, 2009).

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, 2007a).

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Please note macrons have been used as they appear in the source.

1840 **Proclamations – 21 May 1840**

'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, 2009b).

1841 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' (MCH, 2009b). The currently named North, South and Stewart islands were to be named 'New Ulster', 'New Munster', and 'New Leinster', respectively (MCH, n.d.).

1845 Captain George Grey becomes Governor (Asher & Naulls, 1987: 97).

1846 New Zealand Constitution Act

The New Zealand Constitution Act of 1846 divides New Zealand into two provinces, New Ulster (North Island) and New Munster (South Island) (Department of Justice, 1986: 8).

New Zealand Constitution Act 1846 is suspended for five years (Department of Justice, 1986: 9).

Pakeha population reaches 25, 000 (Asher & Naulls, 1987: 97).

1852 New Zealand Constitution Act (UK)

'The New Zealand Constitution Act (UK) establishes a system of representative government for New Zealand. Six (eventually ten) provinces are created, with elected superintendents and councils. At the national level, a General Assembly is established, consisting of a Legislative Council appointed by the Crown and a House of Representatives elected every five years by males over the age of 21 who own, lease or rent property of a certain value' (MCH, 2009b).

1853 First MPs elected

'The House of Representatives' first 37 Members of Parliament are elected' (MCH, 2009b).

1854 The first Parliament meets in Auckland (MCH, 2009b).

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' (MCH, 2009b).

1856 First Premier

Henry Sewell becomes New Zealand's first Premier, but his administration lasts only a fortnight (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 Maori King

'The Waikato chief Te Wherowhero becomes the first Maori King, taking the name Potatau. The rise of Te Kingitanga reflects Maori desires for a leader to unite the tribes, protect land from further sales and make laws for Maori' (MCH, 2009b).

1860 Increase in European population

A growing Pakeha population reaches 79,000, surpassing the declining Maori population (Asher & Naulls, 1987: 97).

1860 New Zealand Land Wars begin (MCH, 2009c)

1860 Second Maori King

Tukaroto Matutaera Potatau Te Wherowhero Tawhiao inherits kingship following the death of his father, Potatau – the first Maori king (Mahuta, 2007).

1861 Responsibility for Maori Affairs

Responsibility for Maori Affairs is transferred to a local Ministry (Sorrenson, 1986: 14).

1863 New Zealand Settlements Act

'[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).

1865 Wellington becomes New Zealand's capital city

The seat of government moves from Auckland to Wellington (Wilson, 2009).

1865 The Native Rights Act

This Act affirmed Maori in legislation as subjects of the Crown (Joseph, 2008: 8).

1865 Native Lands Act and Native Land Court

The Native Land Court was 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).

1867 Native Schools Act

An Act to establish a national state-controlled system of community primary schools for Maori. English was the dominant medium of instruction, and Maori were strongly supportive of their children learning English as they saw benefits in being able to work effectively with Pakeha (King, 2003: 234). The policy was later to be enforced rigorously, with many children reporting that they had been punished for speaking Maori within school boundaries (ibid.).

1867 Maori electorate seats created

Four Maori electoral districts are created, 'as a temporary measure until such time as the fact that the tribal nature of Maori land ownership denied Maori the vote was rendered irrelevant by the issue of Crown grants.' This provision is to have a five-year duration (Department of Justice, 1986: 29).

1867 The Maori Representation Act

'An Act to provide for the better Representation of the Native Aboriginal Inhabitants of the Colony of New Zealand' (NZETC, 1867).

1868 The first elections are held with the Maori seats (MCH, 2009b).

1870 Secret ballot introduced

The Regulation of Elections Act 1870 introduces the secret ballot (for European voters) into New Zealand's electoral system (Department of Justice, 1986: 31).

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1872 Maori Representation Act Amendment and Continuance Act

This Act extends the duration of the Maori 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 Maori 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 Maori members were 'little more than a token representation' (Sorrenson, 1986: 25–26).

1876 One man, one vote

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 provinces

'The provinces are abolished, leaving central government as the single legislative authority. Hundreds of local bodies soon came into being' (MCH, 2009b).

1876 Debate on Maori representation in the House

A Bill is introduced providing for an increase in Maori 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 Maori representation to be "in the same proportion as the representation of the European race by European members" and for Maori 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

'Europeans accorded manhood suffrage; Maori could vote in a European electorate on the basis of a £25 freehold estate or as a ratepayer' (Vasil, 1990: 173).

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' (Te Ara, 1966).

1882 Ngā Puhi presents 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' (Orange, 100–101). The petition also seeks permission to establish a Māori parliament (ibid.).

1884 Waikato presents petition to Queen Victoria

The Māori King, Tawhiao, travels to London to petition Queen Victoria on similar issues to those expressed by the Nga Puhi deputation (ibid.: 102).

1887 Country Quota decreased

The quota is reduced to 18 per cent (ibid.).

Electoral boundary review occurs every five years (Parliamentary Library, 2009: 15).

1889 Country Quota increased

The quota is increased to 28 per cent (Te Ara, 1966).

1889 Maori Union of Waitangi formed

A series of hui held to discuss and combat British demand for land, the Native Land Court and legislation resulted in a meeting in Waitangi in 1889. In an effort to institutionalise proceedings the Maori Union of Waitangi was established (Sorrenson, 1986: 27).

Compulsory secret ballot adopted for European seats (Parliamentary Library, 2009: 15).

1892 Maori Parliament formed

Maori leaders meet with the New Zealand Parliament in Wellington, and agree to form a Maori 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 Hawkes Bay later in the year. It continued to meet annually in different Maori settlements for the next 11 years' (Sorrenson, 1986: 38).

1893 Women given the same voting rights as men

'Universal suffrage is introduced for women over 21 (including Maori). New Zealand becomes the first self-governing country to grant the right to vote to all adult women' (MCH, 2009b).

1893 Electoral Act

'Half-castes or Maori who had a freehold estate valued as above [see 1879 Electoral Act] might still vote in European electorates but only at the expense of losing their votes in Maori electorates. Definition of Maori altered to "an aboriginal inhabitant of New Zealand, and includes half-castes and their descendants by Natives" (Vasil, 1990: 173).

1894 Third Māori King

Mahuta Tawhiao Potatau Te Wherowhero, second son of Tawhiao, is elected as the third Maori King (Foster, 1966).

1896 Property qualifications for voting abolished

Property qualifications are abolished, meaning that Maori can only vote in Maori electorates. While 'half-castes' are now given a choice to vote in Maori or European electorates, the four Maori electorate seats are 'more firmly established than ever' (Sorrenson, 1986: 30).

1900 New Zealand claims the Cook Islands and annexes several other territories (MCH, 2009b).

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1900 Maori Councils Act

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 ones' (Maori Affairs Department, 1952).

1900 Maori Lands Administration Act

An Act establishing 'Maori-controlled land boards to develop Maori land and lease any surplus'. It had a 'signal effect in halting alienation of Maori land – only 6773 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, 2009b).

1902 Māori Parliament disbanded

The decision to disband Kotahitanga is made at a hui held at Waiomatatini marae (Lange, 1999: 204).

1902 New Zealand adopts its official national flag (MCH, 2009b).

1902 Premier becomes Prime Minister

Richard John Seddon becomes the first Premier to use the title 'Prime Minister' officially (McLintock, 1966).

1903 Maori King joins Legislative Council

Following land negotiations with New Zealand Premier Richard John Seddon King Mahuta accept a seat in the Legislative Council (Foster, 1966).

1907 Kingite hui held in Waahi

At this convention, 'under the guidance of Tupu Tangakawa Te Waharoa, the "King" movement was revitalised and Mahuta withdrew from politics (ibid.).

1907 New Zealand becomes a dominion

'Prime Minister Sir Joseph Ward reads a proclamation announcing that New Zealand has ceased to be colony and is now a dominion' (MCH, 2009b).

1907 Tohunga Suppression Act

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 was supported by the four Māori Members of Parliament (Jones, 2009).

1907 Stout-Ngata Commission

'The Stout-Ngata Commission was appointed to determine how much land should be retained for Maori use and how much could be made available for European settlement' (Sorrenson, 1986: 30).

1908 Second Ballot Act

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 the highest in the first ballot' (Department of Justice, 1986: 50).

1909 Young Māori Party

The Young Māori Party, 'a loose association of young Māori 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, 2007b).

1910 Maori King's membership of Legislative Council lapses

King Mahuta is not reappointed to the council (Foster, 1966).

1910 Legislative Amendment Act 1910

'Voting by show of hands abandoned in favour of voting by declaration' (Vasil, 1990: 173). 'This Act also provided for an electoral census' (Department of Justice, 1986: 52).

1912 Fourth Maori King

Te Rata Mahuta Potatau Te Wherowhero succeeds his father as king, becoming the fourth leader of the Maori King Movement (Ballara, 2007a).

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

A Bill 'designed to facilitate European free holding of leases of Maori land' (Sorrenson, 1986: 32).

1914 Māori King given 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).

1917 Governor-General

The title of Governor is changed to Governor-General (MCH, 2009b).

1917–18 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, 2009b).

1919 Women gain the right to stand as candidates for Parliament (MCH, 2009b).

1920 Maori Trustee Act

An Act establishing the Maori Trust Office – 'a separate Department to manage Maori 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' (MCH, 2009b).

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)

Compulsory enrolment/registration of voters for European seats (Department of Justice, 1986: 5).

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1926 Sim Commission

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 given' (MCH, 2007c).

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, 2009b).

1927 Legislature Amendment Act

Postal (Special) voting introduced (Department of Justice, 1986: 57).

1931 Statute of Westminster

'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, 2009b).

1933 Coalition government formed

George Forbes' United Party and J. G. Coates' Reform Party form a coalition which is endorsed at a general election (McLauchlan, 2009: 202).

1933 Fifth Maori King

Koroki Te Rata Mahuta Tawhiao Potatau Te Wherowhero, eldest son of Te Rata, succeeds his father as king (Ballara, 2007b).

1934 New Zealand celebrates Waitangi Day formally for the first time (MCH, 2009b).

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 Maori Trustee as well' (Levine & Vasil, 1985: 36).

- 1934 Parliamentary term extended to four years (Department of Justice, 1986: 58).
- **Parliamentary term restored to three years** (Department of Justice, 1986: 59).

1937 Election Amendment Act

'Maori granted the secret ballot, which had been introduced for Europeans in 1870' (Vasil, 1990: 173).

1938 Social Security Act

Under this Act Maori 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

'By early 1941 the last of the Governor-General's ambassadorial functions have been removed' (MCH, 2009b).

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, 2009b).

1940 Maori Battalion recruited

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

1945 New Zealand joins the United Nations as 'New Zealand', dropping the term 'dominion' (MCH, 2009b).

1945 Country quota abolished

The Labour Government abolishes the country quota (Te Ara, 1966).

1947 New Zealand adopts the Statute of Westminster 1931 (MCH, 2009b).

1947 'Native' becomes 'Maori'

The government changes official usage from 'Native' to 'Maori'. This includes the Native Land Court, which becomes the Maori Land Court (MCH, 2009d), and the the Department of Native Affairs is replaced by the Department of Maori Affairs (Levine & Vasil, 1985: 35).

1948 Electoral Amendment Act

An Act giving 'statutory authority 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 Executive Office' (Department of Justice, 1986: 67). 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 (ibid.).

1949 New Zealand citizenship

This comes into existence under the British Nationality and New Zealand Citizenship Act 1948 (MCH, 2009b).

1950 Legislative Council abolished

An Act is passed to abolish the 'Upper House of Parliament, the Legislative Council (effective from 1 January 1951)' (MCH, 2009b).

1950 Electoral Amendment Act

An Act allowing for Maori and European voting to occur on the same day (Vasil, 1990: 173). Seat numbers are made adjustable according to European population; prior to this amendment, seat numbers were based on total adult population (Department of Justice, 1986: 68).

1950 Legislative Council Abolition Act

An act to abolish the legislative council, leaving the House of Representatives to alone represent New Zealanders and make the country's laws (s2, Legislative Council Abolition Act, 1950).

1951 Māori Women's Welfare League

A group forms with the aim of involving local communities in welfare. They began to treat the problem of inadequate housing for Māori (NZ in History, 2009).

1953 Maori Affairs Act

An Act to force unproductive Maori 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' (MCH, 2009d).

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1953 Realm of New Zealand

'New Zealand's name changes in official usage to the "Realm of New Zealand" (MCH, 2009b).

1955 Maori Trust Boards Act

'An Act to make better provision for the administration of certain Maori Trust Boards' (Maori Trust Boards Act, 1955).

1956 Electoral Act

An Act to consolidate and amend the enactments relating to the election of members of the House of Representatives (Electoral Act, 1956). Maori enrolment is made compulsory, in line with European enrolment, which had been compulsory since 1927 (Sorrenson, 1986: 47).

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 farreaching recommendations on social reforms affecting the Māori people' (Meredith, 2009). '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' (Sorrenson, 1986: 92).

1962 Maori Community Development Act

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 (Maori Community Development Act, 1962). The words 'Community Development' were substituted for the word 'Welfare' by Section 19(2) in the later Maori Purposes Act 1979.

1962 New Zealand Maori Council formed

A male-dominated confederation of tribal communities that grew, in conjunction with the Maori Women's Welfare League, out of the remains of the Maori War Effort Organisation (1940). However, it acted as no more than an advisory board whose advice could be, and was, ignored (Sorrenson, 1986: 45).

1966 First Māori Queen

King Koroki's daughter becomes the first Maori Queen: Te Arikinui Te Atairangikaahu (MCH, 2007d).

1967 Electoral Amendment Act

An Act to consolidate and amend the enactments relating to the election of members of the House of Representatives (Electoral Act, 1956). It 'allowed Maori other than half-castes to stand as candidates for European electorates; Europeans allowed to stand for Maori electorates' (Vasil, 1990: 174).

1967 Maori and Island Affairs Department

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' (Levine & Vasil, 1985: 35).

1969 Electoral Amendment Act

The voting age is lowered to 20 (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, 2009b).

1974 Electoral Amendment Act

The voting age is lowered to 18 (Department of Justice, 1986: 85).

1974 Waitangi Day

'Waitangi Day (then known as New Zealand Day) becomes a national holiday' (MCH, 2009b).

1974 Maori Affairs Amendment Act

An Act which broadens the definition of a Maori 'to include any person descended from a Maori'. The 1975 Electoral Amendment Act subsequently gives Maori, as so defined, 'the option of registering on the Maori or General roll' (Sorrenson, 1986: 52). This Act also recommends that Maori electorate seats should be determined in the same way as general seats (Department of Justice, 1986: 86).

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 (Royal, 2009).

1975 The Treaty of Waitangi Act establishes the Waitangi Tribunal

'An Act to provide 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' (Treaty of Waitangi Act, 1975).

1975 First Māori elected to 'general' electorates

National's Ben Couch (for Wairarapa) and Rex Austin (for Awarua) become the first Māori candidates successful in 'general' electorates (Electoral Commission, 2005).

1976 Electoral Amendment Act

This Act repealed the section of the 1975 legislation relating to the number of Maori electorate seats, and reintroduced the legislation of the Electoral Act of 1956 (Department of Justice, 1986: A-87).

1980 Maori political party formed

'Matiu Rata, a former Labour Cabinet Minister, establishes the Mana Motuhake party, advocating Maori autonomy' (MCH, 2009d).

1981 Electoral Amendment Act

An Act establishing electoral boundary review every five years for Māori electorate seats (Parliamentary Library, 2009: 15).

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1983 Waitangi Tribunal releases Motunui-Waitara Report

The Waitangi Tribunal's first major publication, 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, 2009b).

1984 Hui Taumata – Maori Economic Development Summit Conference (first)

A national conference, involving participants from throughout Maoridom, assembles in Wellington. The objectives of the conference are:

- 'to examine the economic situation of New Zealand as it affects Maori people;
- to assess the economic strengths and weaknesses of Maori people in New Zealand;
- to obtain a commitment from those attending the Conference;
- to support policy changes necessary to obtain socio-economic parity between Maori and non-Maori' (Levine & Vasil, 1985: 197).

1985 Government establishes a Royal Commission on the Electoral System (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, 2009d).

1986 State-Owned Enterprises Act

An Act to promote improved performance in respect of government trading activities and, to this end, to—

- (a) Specify principles governing the operation of State enterprises; and
- (b) Authorise the formation of companies to carry on certain Government activities and control the ownership thereof; and
- (c) Establish requirements about the accountability of State enterprises, and the responsibility of Ministers (State-Owned Enterprises Act, 1986).

The Act 'was 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, 2009d).

1986 Constitution Act

An Act to reform the constitutional law of New Zealand, to bring together into one enactment 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 (Constitution Act, 1986).

1986 Royal Commission on the Electoral System releases report

'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)' (MCH, 2009b).

1987 Māori Language Act

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 (Māori Language Act, 1987).

1987 New Zealand Maori Council v Attorney-General [1987] 1 NZLR 687

A landmark Court of Appeal case establishes 'that the Crown must pay heed to previous Maori 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, 2009d).

1989 The Maori Fisheries Act

'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' (Waitangi Tribunal, 1992).

1989 Maori Affairs Restructuring Act

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 (Maori Affairs Restructuring Act, 1989).

1990 New Zealand Bill of Rights Act

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 (New Zealand Bill of Rights Act, 1990).

1990 Runanga Iwi Act

An Act to acknowledge the importance of iwi and to provide for the incorporation of runanga to represent iwi in accordance with iwi charters (Runanga Iwi Act, 1990). The Act was subsequently repealed; see below.

1991 Runanga Iwi Repeal Act

An Act to repeal the Runanga Iwi Act 1990 (Runanga Iwi Repeal Act, 1991).

1991 Ministry of Māori Development Act 1991

An Act establishing Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry for Māori Development (Te Puni Kōkiri, 2007).

1993 MMP adopted

'A binding referendum changes New Zealand's voting system from FPP to MMP' (MCH, 2009b).

1993 Te Ture Whenua Maori Act

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' (MCH, 2009d).

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1993 Electoral Act

An Act to reform the electoral system and to provide, in particular, if the proposal for the introduction of the mixed member proportional system is carried at the referendum held under the Electoral Referendum Act 1993,—

- (a) for the introduction of the mixed member proportional system of representation in relation to the House of Representatives
- (b) for the establishment of an Electoral Commission
- (c) for the repeal of the Electoral Act 1956 (Electoral Act, 1993).

1995 Policy papers and Cabinet minutes

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, 2009b).

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, 2009b).

2004 Foreshore and Seabed Act²

'The Act gives effect to the object stated in s3 by –

- (a) vesting the full legal and beneficial ownership of the public foreshore and seabed in the Crown; and
- (b) providing for the recognition and protection of ongoing customary rights to undertake or engage in activities, uses, or practices in areas of the public foreshore and seabed; and
- (c) enabling applications to be made to the High Court to investigate the full extent of the rights that may have been held at common law, and, if those rights are not able to be fully expressed as a result of this Act, enabling a successful applicant group
 - i. to participate in the administration of a foreshore and seabed reserve; or
 - ii. to enter into formal discussions on redress; and
- (d) providing for general rights of public access and recreation in, on, over, and across the public foreshore and seabed and general rights of navigation within the foreshore and seabed' (Foreshore and Seabed Act, 2004).

2004 Foreshore and Seabed hīkoi

In protest at the Foreshore and Seabed Bill, thousands of New Zealanders participate in a peaceful march from the Far North to Wellington.

² See Report 7 (SFI, in press [a]) for a detailed discussion on the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004.

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. Turia states her intention to establish a new political movement: 'It is my belief that our people have through this issue realised that it is time for a Maori Political movement' (Thompson, 2004). Turia's resignation forces a by-election in the electorate of Te Tai Hauauru, where she stands for re-election as co-leader of the new Maori Party.

2004 Maori Party registered

On 9 July 2004 the Electoral Commission registers the Maori Party as a political party, allowing it to contest the party vote at a general election (Electoral Commission, 2004).

2004 Turia wins Te Tai Hauauru by-election

On 10 July 2004, Turia receives 7256 votes, or over 92% of the votes cast in the Te Tai Hauauru by-election (Chief Electoral Office, 2004).

2005 Hui Taumata – Maori Economic Development Summit Conference (second) The second Maori economic development summit conference reflected on achievements since the first Hui Taumata in 1984, and set a path for Maori economic development for the next 20 years and beyond (Hui Taumata, n.d.).

2005 First Iwi Chairs' Forum hui convened at Takahanga Marae in Kaikōura
The Forum has since met regularly to discuss and enable Māori aspirations and
now represents more than 400,000 Māori (Iwi Chairs Forum, 2008).

2006 Sixth Māori King

Te Atairangikaahu is succeeded by her eldest son, Te Arikinui Tuheitia Paki (MCH, 2007d).

2008 Relationship and Confidence and Supply Agreement between the National Party and the Maori Party

The National Party and Maori Party agreement for the 'establishment (including its composition and terms of reference) by no later than early 2010 of a group to consider constitutional issues including Maori representation' (NZ Govt, 2008: 2).

Review of the Foreshore and Seabed Act announced (NZ Govt, 2009a; 2009b) New Zealand endorses UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

New Zealand had initially voted 'against' the adoption of UNDRIP in April 2009, however in 2010 the government endorses the declaration (UN Economic and Social Council, 2010). The government describes the document as an expression of aspiration, stating that it will not interfere with existing national frameworks (NZ Govt, 2010). However, outside of government there is talk that the move brings with it increased responsibility to address issues of Maori sovereignty (Armstrong, 2010).

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