

# NEW ZEALAND

**'THE LAND OF THE LONG WHITE CLOUD'**

**Briony Hill**



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## New Zealand 'The Land of the Long White Cloud'

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# INTRODUCTION

## 'KIA ORA' TO 'AOTEAROA'

So, what do you know about New Zealand? You probably know that it is a country far away and that it has a wonderful environment, and a native bird called the kiwi.

But would you know that if someone said 'Kia ora' to you that it means 'Hello', or if someone said 'Let's go and get some kai' they would want to get some food? If you think these words aren't English, you're right. They're Maori, which is also the name of the people who arrived there before Europeans.

When in NZ, you'll also find another Maori word used a lot by the locals - Aotearoa. While the name New Zealand may be internationally known, in this southern country the name Aotearoa is just as popular to the locals. Aotearoa means 'land of the long white cloud'. To the Maori who, one can imagine, thought that it looked like a long white cloud from a distance, it was indeed a mysterious and beautiful place to explore and they made it their home in about 1350 AD after discovering it, legend says, around 800 AD.



Mitre Peak, Milford Sound, Fiordland in the South Island

# **I. NEW ZEALAND**

## **- THE PAST AND TODAY**

New Zealand is a country of adventure, and it was even more so about 160 years ago, when the land was mostly covered with trees and inhabited<sup>1</sup> by animals - and, of course, the Maori, although their numbers were small compared with the millions of people from many different cultures in the country today.

Today, you'll still find New Zealand a mysterious and beautiful place, but you'll also find all the other aspects of modern life - cities with skyscrapers<sup>2</sup>, shopping centres and internet shops. But because of the small population of



Mt. Ruapehu is the highest mountain (2797 m) in the North Island



Auckland is the largest city in the North Island

only 4 million in a country a little larger than Britain (270,534 square km), there are still plenty of places that seem untouched by humans. There are many national parks and other open areas of country between the towns and cities.

The languages spoken here are English and, in some areas, Maori, although English is dominant everywhere.

# 2. HISTORY

## THE NATIVES

Respected widely as a gifted<sup>3</sup> and intelligent race, the darker-skinned and noble-looking Maori have been living in NZ for about 800 years. Famous for their artistic skill, and military prowess<sup>4</sup>, the Maori are originally thought to have come from the Cook Islands about the year 800 AD. It's arguable<sup>5</sup> whether the Maori are truly the first inhabitants of the country, as there is some evidence<sup>6</sup> that a group called the Moriori arrived first but were later conquered by<sup>7</sup> Maori warriors.

By the end of the fourteenth century, Maori had settled<sup>8</sup> across most of



The Maori people have many traditional dances

the country, although the warmer North Island was the more popular of the main islands.

## THE COLONIZATION PERIOD

The first sighting of New Zealand by a European was by the Dutch explorer Abel Tasman in 1642, which is why NZ is named after a part of Holland. The original Zeeland (Dutch spelling) is in the southern part of Holland. The Tasman Sea between New Zealand and Australia is also named after this great sailor, and so is Tasmania, a large Australian island. Perhaps NZ might have become a Dutch colony if



Dutch explorer Abel Tasman  
(1603-1659)



The Treaty of Waitangi

Tasman hadn't been scared when some Maori came aboard his ship and killed and ate some of his crew.

In a small town called Akaroa in the South Island, you'll find a piece of France. Here you'll begin to wonder if you are really in an English-speaking country, as many of the street signs and shop names are in French, a legacy<sup>9</sup> of an early French settlement there.

In 1840, NZ became a British colony after the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. In this treaty, which was translated into Maori for the chiefs to sign at Waitangi in the North Island, the Maori were promised

their rights and protection from other nations in exchange for giving the British monarchy sovereignty<sup>10</sup>, and allowing settlers to live peacefully there. By February 6, 1840, efforts had been made<sup>11</sup> to contact all the Maori chiefs, so they could meet representatives of the British monarchy to discuss the treaty, and sign it together. The day the Treaty of Waitangi was signed is thought of by most New Zealanders as the day New Zealand was born, and it is a national holiday.

There were problems with the treaty, however, as the Maori version did not translate exactly into Maori and some parts of it had a slightly different meaning. Also, the Maori did not understand some European concepts such as the sale of land. They saw a sale as a loan<sup>12</sup> and thought the land would not be taken away from them forever.

Perhaps the biggest problem of all was that the Maori had a very poor understanding of how many people would come to live in NZ. As a result of all this confusion<sup>13</sup>, many problems arose<sup>14</sup> out of the treaty and relations between the Maori and Pakeha (the Maori name for white Europeans coming to NZ) became tense<sup>15</sup> by about 1860. The two sides went to war for about 10 years.

Eventually the white Europeans won, with soldiers sent from Britain to fight the Maori. It took nearly 100 years for NZ to officially pay back its debt<sup>16</sup> to Britain! One positive outcome<sup>17</sup> of all the fighting was that afterwards NZ went through a long period of peace, and in fact there has been no major violence between the two groups of people since then. Also, the discovery of gold brought wealth to the country and sheep farming helped stabilise the nation.

## **MODERN NEW ZEALAND**

By the end of the 19th century many social changes had taken place and NZ was on the way to becoming a strong welfare state<sup>18</sup>. NZ is also

proud of the fact that it was the first country in the world to give the vote to<sup>19</sup> women, in 1893.

It might seem strange but it has only really been in the past 25 or so years that New Zealanders have really discovered what it is to be a New Zealander. At the same time, the country has become more widely known around the world.

Until about 1970, New Zealand was closely aligned to<sup>20</sup> Britain in every way - economically, politically, militarily and emotionally dependent on what was known as the 'mother country'. Until the middle of the 20th century, if you asked a fair-skinned man<sup>21</sup> or woman where they were from, they would most likely say 'Britain', even if they were third generation New Zealanders. Britain was also often referred to<sup>22</sup> as 'home'. If someone returned from a visit to Britain, their neighbours



Maori King Koroki greets Queen Elizabeth II at Turangawaewae, North Island, in 1953

would ask: 'So, how was home?'

The loyalty<sup>23</sup> of New Zealanders to Britain was remarkable<sup>24</sup>. Wherever Britain went, New Zealand went. For example, in the two World Wars, many New Zealanders enthusiastically gave their money and their lives to help their 'mother country' (Britain). And, apart from the fear that the Japanese might make their way to New Zealand after conquering Australia (in fact they never got that far), it was more important for New Zealanders just to show that their loyalties were still with Europe.

The relationship between Britain and NZ today is a completely different story. Since Britain decided to focus on the European Union in the 1970s, New Zealand has undergone<sup>25</sup> a painful period. It went from being a wealthy small nation to a country with enormous monetary problems<sup>26</sup>. New Zealanders were suddenly on their own. They had to learn how to live in a country no longer directly supported as a British colony. The inhabitants had to ask themselves who they were, what kind of society they wanted and how they could get there.

The resurgence<sup>27</sup> of Maori identity has also helped New Zealanders develop a genuine self-confidence<sup>28</sup>. And the willingness to right the wrongs<sup>29</sup> made against the Maori has brought new pride and appreciation<sup>30</sup> between the cultures. Of course, not everyone is happy with these efforts. A small group of Maori continue to protest and make a long list of demands. But there are more people who want to make it work, and some Maori speak out<sup>31</sup> against the wilder radicals.

Nowadays, there is still a great deal of affection<sup>32</sup> between New Zealand and Britain. Many New Zealanders continue to enjoy their connection to the mother country, through their membership of the Commonwealth, and to support the monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, even though she is not so significant<sup>33</sup> to them any more.

# 3. PEOPLE

## MAORI

Today, Maori make up about 15 per cent of the population. They consist of many tribes<sup>34</sup> who often went to war against each other in the early days to gain dominance over an area of land. The famous 'haka', performed by the All Blacks rugby team at their international matches, comes from these origins. It is in fact a war dance once used in varying forms by Maori tribes as they tried to frighten their enemies into submission<sup>35</sup>. There is a lot of knee-slapping<sup>36</sup> and they stick their tongues out as a challenge. The losers of the war usually ended up as slaves or food.

Evidence of Maori fortifications<sup>37</sup> still exists, and here you can try to imagine the religious worship<sup>38</sup>, sacrifices<sup>39</sup>, rituals, dances and art forms of past times. As you imagine these acts, picture the Maori in clothes made from woven flax<sup>40</sup> and covered with dog fur<sup>41</sup> or feathers<sup>42</sup> from many native birds, including the kiwi and moa. Sadly, some of the birds, including the moa, were hunted to extinction<sup>43</sup> by the Maori. The moa was a spectacular flightless bird that could reach 3.7m in height.



All Blacks perform the famous 'haka' before rugby matches

Many Maori also had tattoos over their faces and buttocks<sup>44</sup>, while important women often had chin tattoos.

Greenstone (jade)<sup>45</sup>, bone and wood were used to make impressive works of art. This still continues today. Maori designs are very popular and sell well around the world.



Moa.

## THE PAKEHA

The country was a bit of a shock for the European settlers, who started arriving to live in New Zealand in the 1840s and hadn't realised just how 'uncivilised' New Zealand was. The land was covered with bush, and frightening looking natives in their



Akaroa, in 1910, with mail coaches leaving outside the furnishing warehouse of T. E. Taylor

traditional costumes were waiting at the seashore to greet the new arrivals. The settlers had to start completely 'from scratch' (the very, very, very beginning): building a house, trying to get food when there were no shops, and holding dear<sup>46</sup> the things they had brought with them such as crockery (plates, bowls etc), knives and forks. Bought cheaply in Scotland, they suddenly became priceless<sup>47</sup> in NZ.

The author's great, great, great, great grandmother was very proud of herself when she buried the family's crockery so it would be safe if Maori attacked the house. At that time, in the 1860s, the Maori were unhappy at the number of settlers and had started burning down Pakeha homes. So the Hill family's house was burnt down but the crockery was saved - and that was the most important thing!

Today, European settlers make up about 73 per cent of the country's population, and the burying of crockery is no longer considered normal. After all, you can easily buy it from a store now, can't you?

## **PEOPLE'S ATTITUDE**

"She'll be right, mate", which means "Don't worry my friend, everything will be fine", is the stereotypical response of a New Zealander. The people are generally considered laidback<sup>48</sup>, friendly and kind, and are more likely to speak to strangers than people in other countries. Most will also try to help anyone who is in trouble. This attitude is a combination of the European colonial experience, and the Maori's famous hospitality to guests and friends.

The people are very proud of their country. Some even call it Godzone, meaning God's own country, although Australians often call their country by the same name too.

On the other hand, New Zealanders are still fascinated by the power and opportunities to be found in Britain, especially in regard to work. Many

Kiwis (NZ people) go to Britain to try to trace their family history or just to get a feeling of the place where their ancestors<sup>49</sup> lived.

For a New Zealander, one of the most fascinating aspects of Britain, and Europe generally, is its history. New Zealand doesn't have any 200-year-old castles. It's an exciting thing when a Kiwi visits his or her first castle in Europe. A mountain of photographs will be snapped<sup>50</sup>. Some Kiwis will go on a kind of castle trail<sup>51</sup>, taking even more photographs, until they start to think: 'Oh, another castle. Mmm. It looks the same as the last one.... I'm a bit sad I don't find this as exciting as before'.

The oldest building in New Zealand is the 160-year-old Stone Store in the north of the North Island. Every Kiwi stops to look at it when they drive past it for the first time, because, well, it's soooo old!

One other thing about New Zealanders - we don't like arrogance. Perhaps this attitude comes from our pride in being a predominantly<sup>52</sup> middle-class country. Traditionally we didn't have extreme rich or extreme poor, and although we do have a few homeless people now, they usually go to charities where they are fed and clothed. Most New Zealanders are happy to give to charity but would become resentful<sup>53</sup> if they were stopped in the street by people demanding money. They would be even more shocked if 'begging' was a form of business or a way for people to buy drugs. It's a side of Europe that New Zealanders never want to take home.

Another trait<sup>54</sup> of Kiwis is that you'll hardly ever find them boasting<sup>55</sup> about their successes. They would prefer to downplay<sup>56</sup> them, i.e. make them seem of less significance than they are, rather than appear 'too big for their boots' (an expression meaning 'arrogant' and, colloquially, 'cocky').



The Stone Store is the oldest building in NZ (in the north of the North Island)

## **NEW ZEALANDERS VERSUS AUSTRALIANS**

Like most people, Kiwis will become more boastful after a few beers, especially if there is an Australian around and New Zealand has recently beaten them at sport (even though this doesn't happen a lot! With a much larger population and big investments in sport, Australia usually wins). This attitude is often seen as a way of putting those brazen<sup>57</sup> Aussies (Australians) in their place. They're often perceived as being boastful and 'too big for their boots'. A typical Australian will, for example, tell you of his or her sporting successes quicker than you can 'throw another shrimp<sup>58</sup> on the barbie<sup>59</sup>, mate.'

Fortunately the rivalry is restricted to sport and to making jokes about each other's accents. Otherwise Kiwis and Aussies get on well together, and frequently travel across the Tasman Sea to work, or just for holidays in each other's countries.

# 4. SPORT

As already mentioned, New Zealanders love to play sport and they lead a very active outdoor life. They play rugby, touch rugby (a gentler form of the sport), netball<sup>60</sup>, cricket, basketball and also enjoy other activities such as sailing, kayaking, diving, skiing, rock-climbing, or mountaineering.

Our most famous international team is the All Blacks. It is one of the world's best rugby teams, always ranking<sup>61</sup> in the top four. It won the first ever Rugby World Cup in 1987 and has come close to winning it a couple of times since then.

One of the All Blacks most-loved sportsmen and the highest-paid player in international rugby, Jonah Lomu, is famous especially in Asia, America and Britain, as well as in the Southern Hemisphere, for his powerful and fast rugby skills. Very recently this 29-year-old 'giant' had to have a kidney transplant or he would have spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair<sup>62</sup>.

The All Blacks who dominate newspaper headlines and other New Zealand sports have given their national teams related nicknames. The basketball team is called the Tall Blacks and the women's rugby team is called the Gal Blacks (or officially the Black Ferns).

In addition to the All Blacks, another famous group of athletes is Team New Zealand. This brilliant yachting team has had excellent results over the past 10 years in the America's Cup, and won the competition twice. As a result, the America's Cup has been held in New Zealand twice. It really made the Auckland waterfront a wonderful place to be, with many bars and restaurants built around the area where all the yachting action was taking place.

And there are also the successes of NZ fishermen, who don't always win medals, but regularly satisfy their families with delicious varieties of freshly caught fish.



Rugby is one of the country's most popular sports



The America's Cup 2003

# 5. MOVIES AND MUSIC

New Zealand has become famous in recent years thanks to some talented local directors such as Peter Jackson, who has made films such as *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy in New Zealand to support his home country and take advantage<sup>63</sup> of the cheaper dollar and stunning<sup>64</sup> scenery.

Indeed, it is probably Peter Jackson who has had the biggest impact<sup>65</sup> on the industry, starting with his extremely low-budget<sup>66</sup> 1987 film *Bad Taste* which was filmed on the wild west coast of Wellington. It's a gory<sup>67</sup> comedy about aliens<sup>68</sup> taking control of a small NZ town. The movie was made during Jackson's weekends over a four-year period in the 1980s, using money he made from his job at a local newspaper. The budget was extremely small. There was also no written script for the movie, so the



A typical NZ countryside that inspired the film-makers of *The Lord of the Rings*

dialogue was created as the movie was being made! Jackson played two of the main characters as well as producing, directing and co-writing<sup>69</sup> the script. He also did the special effects, make-up, editing.... Well, actually, he did pretty much everything and, after it was released, *Bad Taste* won international awards for its innovative entertainment value.



Peter Jackson was awarded an Oscar in 2004

Nowadays he has moved on, making big budget movies like

*The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, using NZ and US money. The trilogy won a large number of Oscars at the Academy Awards earlier this year, including Best Director for Jackson. His next big project is a remake<sup>70</sup> of *King Kong*.

Another NZ director who has hit it big<sup>71</sup> internationally is 50-year-old Jane Campion who comes from the nation's capital city Wellington. She became famous internationally for her film *The Piano*, released<sup>72</sup> about 12 years ago. This was also filmed in NZ and starred Kiwi Sam Neill and America's Holly Hunter. Local girl Anna Paquin, who played Hunter's daughter, won an Academy award for her role, and Campion earned an Academy award for Best Original Screenplay. She was also the first female director to win the Palme D'Or award at Cannes.

The movie *Once Were Warriors*, directed by Lee Tamahori and starring Temuera Morrison, was also a big hit. It took a violent look at a small part of modern Maori society.

NZ actors are well known around the world too. Actor Sam Neill took the lead role in the *Jurassic Park* movies, and Russell Crowe became a major

star in Hollywood movies such as *Gladiator*, *LA Confidential*, and *Master and Commander*. You'll often mistakenly hear him described as an Australian because he owns<sup>73</sup> some land in Australia. Unfortunately, there is a tradition, that New Zealanders suddenly become Australian when they achieve<sup>74</sup> international success.

As for NZ musicians, well, unfortunately, you probably don't realise they are New Zealanders. For example, the songwriter and singer of the hit band Crowded House was Kiwi Neil Finn. Perhaps you have heard of him and the band?

And about ten years ago a song called "How Bizarre" by the Otago Millionaires Club was a big hit across the world. Sung by Pauly Fuemana, it had an extremely catchy tune<sup>75</sup>.

Other very talented groups or singer-songwriters include Bic Runga, Dave Dobbyn and Greg Johnson. You've probably never heard of them either because it is almost impossible to gain recognition in the international market. Hopefully, in the future, there will be more variety on the international music charts.



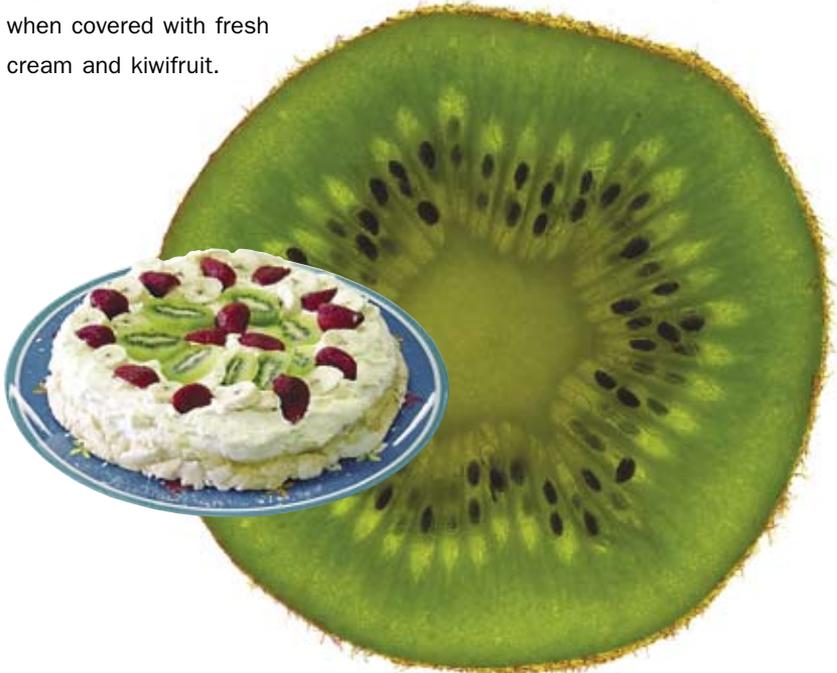
Russel Crowe in *Master and Commander*

# 6. FOOD AND DRINK

Kiwis like a good drink of beer or wine, although NZ didn't start making good beer until about 15 years ago. About that time a couple of small, independent breweries<sup>76</sup> opened and began making good quality beer.

New Zealand has always had good wine, although New Zealand's industry has only become well-known internationally in the past 10 years. Many brands<sup>77</sup>, such as Montana, have won international awards.

New Zealanders love food. In particular<sup>78</sup>, fresh food. Fish, fruit and vegetables play an important part in our diet as do lamb<sup>79</sup>, chicken and beef. Our traditional dessert is the Pavlova, a cake made from egg whites and sugar that is absolutely delicious when covered with fresh cream and kiwifruit.



The Pavlova is the traditional dessert in New Zealand

# 7. THE ENVIRONMENT

New Zealand is 1500 kilometres away from Australia, and perhaps its greatest strength and weakness is its isolation. Large sections of the country are still the same as they were hundreds of years ago, untouched by the so-called 'progress' of civilisation.

Kiwis have really come to value their environment, and New Zealand has 14 national parks and more than five million hectares - a third of New Zealand - is protected in these parks and reserves. There is an incredible<sup>80</sup> variety of landscape and vegetation for so small a country. From the mangroves<sup>81</sup> in the bays<sup>82</sup> of Northland to the picture-perfect volcanoes of the



Lake Tekapo, Southern Alps, South Island

central plateau<sup>83</sup> of the North Island, from the forests of Te Urewera to the majestic fiords, glaciers<sup>84</sup> and mountains of the south, this land is unique.

Many plants and animals are found nowhere else on Earth. There are about 50 types of birds endemic<sup>85</sup> to New Zealand. These birds include the kea, kakapo, tui, weka and kiwi. The kea is the world's only mountain parrot<sup>86</sup> and it's about as intelligent as a monkey. It has a playful nature and is well-known for being a thief! So be careful about leaving your things in a mountain area unguarded<sup>87</sup>. You may find your boots have been stolen by this beautiful-looking green and orange bird, which thinks that stealing your boots is good fun!

New Zealand has lots of unique<sup>88</sup> birds, partly because it split off<sup>89</sup> from the super-continent of Gondwanaland early, developing<sup>90</sup> an ecosystem in which birds adapted to fill the role normally held by mammals<sup>91</sup>, many becoming flightless<sup>92</sup> because there weren't many predators<sup>93</sup>. That all changed when the arrival of Polynesian navigators made this the last major land mass<sup>94</sup> to be settled by humans. They changed the fragile<sup>95</sup> ecosystem with the hunting<sup>96</sup> of animals such as the giant ostrich-sized<sup>97</sup> moa, which formed a major part of their diet, and which no longer exists.

However, the human damage is still considered minimal and much of the country is unchanged. The country's border control, called Customs, monitors what goes in and out of the country and works hard to ensure<sup>98</sup> that our environment is not affected<sup>99</sup> by any new or unwanted animals, diseases<sup>100</sup> and viruses.

However, visitors should watch out for the bright sun. You may find you need to wear your sunglasses more, and use more sunscreen. Sadly, there is a high rate<sup>101</sup> of skin cancer in this corner of the Southern Hemisphere, due to ozone damage caused by pollution from the Northern Hemisphere.

# NORTH ISLAND

Many people prefer the South Island because of its mountains and huge lakes, but the North Island is also beautiful. Here you'll find lovely beaches, geothermal activity such as geysers, great forests, places to dive, and picturesque bays.

Northland, in the north of the North Island, is often referred<sup>102</sup> to as the 'winterless north' because of its year-long mild<sup>103</sup> temperatures, and at Cape Reinga you can see the white line caused by waves of the Pacific Ocean and Tasman Sea crashing against each other.

In the North Island you'll also find the capital, Wellington, with its many festivals and cafes, and Auckland, the largest city, where more than a third of the country's population live.

Rotorua is the 'stinky'<sup>104</sup> capital of the country due to its sulphuric<sup>105</sup> thermal activity, but it's interesting to go and have a look at the geysers and gaze<sup>106</sup> at the bubbling mud<sup>107</sup> pools.



Wellington harbour

# SOUTH ISLAND

More well-known for its stunning scenery, it's also colder there in winter and in some places it's hotter or as hot as Northland in summer. (The North Island's Northland doesn't have excessive<sup>108</sup> temperatures in winter or summer because it is a narrower piece of land surrounded by water).

Queenstown, in the southern half of the South Island, is famous for its scenery, which is often seen in movies. It is also the country's adventure capital. Here you can bungy-jump from bridges or helicopters, go river rafting, race around gorges<sup>109</sup> in high-speed boats, go paragliding ... and then go for a nice relaxing walk in the bush!

A popular walk, the Routeburn, starts from here and you can drive to the well-known Fiordland National Park, where you can go for bush walks that last days or weeks. Fiordland takes its name from its glacier-carved<sup>110</sup> coast, and is filled with mountains, ice and beech forests.

In comparison, Otago Peninsula is well known for its wildlife such as albatross, penguin and seal colonies, plus aquariums, museums and historical sites. Around Lake Te Anau in Southland, you'll find caves full of waterfalls and whirlpools<sup>111</sup>.



Pancake Rocks in the South Island

# 8. POLITICS

New Zealand became famous in the 1980s, when the government told the American military that nuclear powered<sup>112</sup> ships were not welcome in NZ waters. It left NZ without guaranteed American support if attacked by any other country.

Worldwide attention was also focused on<sup>113</sup> NZ after French secret service agents blew up<sup>114</sup> the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior, which had been protesting against French nuclear testing in the South Pacific. New Zealanders were disgusted<sup>115</sup> by the French agents' actions, especially as someone on board the ship was killed by the explosion.

Such an act of aggression is highly unusual in NZ. The people feel relatively safe and watch from afar<sup>116</sup> the problems of other countries as they fight for political, religious and military freedom.

In terms of international wars, in a country where there has been no major fighting for over 110 years, they all seem terrible and tragic. New Zealand accepts refugees<sup>117</sup> from other countries and also speaks out against<sup>118</sup> international military action it thinks is unnecessary, such as the war in Iraq. It didn't support Britain's and the United States' actions, although it has recently sent soldiers to help with rebuilding.

New Zealand's governments have become more left-wing (socialist) than right-wing, and the current<sup>119</sup> government has a centre-left focus.

## CRIME

People in NZ are not allowed to use guns without special licences<sup>120</sup>. Our policemen don't have guns either. There is a special police group known as the Armed Offenders Squad<sup>121</sup>, who can be called on to combat<sup>122</sup> armed criminals.

In New Zealand we don't have problems with pickpockets<sup>123</sup>, but you should use your common sense<sup>124</sup> and not leave your belongings<sup>125</sup> in places where they can be easily stolen.

# 9. THE FUTURE OF NZ

Now you know much more about Aotearoa - the land of the long white cloud! The country has changed in many ways since its founding<sup>126</sup> document, the Treaty of Waitangi, joined the two cultures - European and Maori.

Many other cultures have also come to live in New Zealand, making it a truly multicultural society.

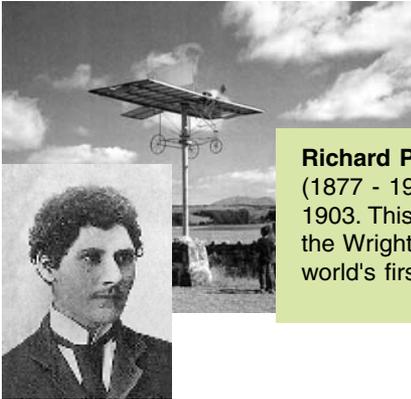
New Zealand can't claim<sup>127</sup> to be a picture of perfection. Challenges<sup>128</sup> remain<sup>129</sup>, but the people are doing a good job of working together in harmony for a better place to live. The country is relatively small, but these beautiful south seas islands offer a land of hope and peace for many people of the world.



Volcano on White Island

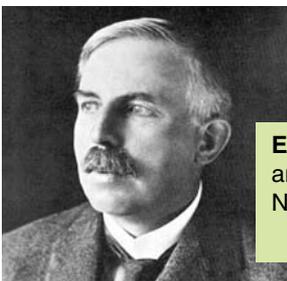
# FAMOUS NEW ZEALANDERS

**Sir Edmund Hillary** (1919 - ) - the first man to stand on the top of the world's highest mountain - Mount Everest. He climbed it with Sherpa Tenzing Norgay in 1953.



**Richard Pearse** (1877 - 1953) - he flew his monoplanes<sup>130</sup> 140m in 1903. This was about eight months earlier than the Wright Brothers, who are credited<sup>131</sup> with the world's first controlled flight.

**Jean Batten** (1909 - 1982) - the first woman who made a return flight between England and Australia in 1934. Two years later she flew from England to New Zealand.

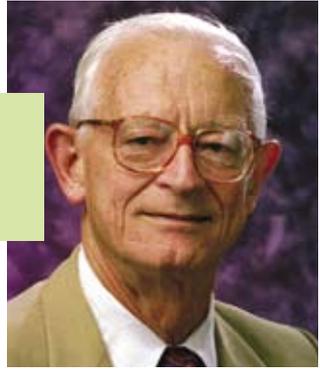


**Ernest Rutherford** (1871 - 1937) - split the atom and created modern atomic physics. He received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1908.



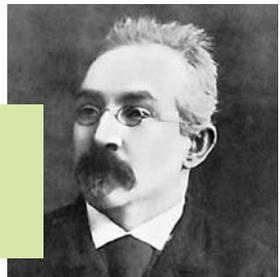
**John Britten** (1950 - 1995) - made the world's most advanced motorcycle design<sup>132</sup> in his Christchurch backyard, 15 years ago.

**Alan McDiarmid** (1927 - ) - discovered plastics that could conduct electricity<sup>133</sup> and was awarded the 2000 Nobel Prize for Chemistry.



**Katherine Mansfield**<sup>1</sup> (1888 - 1923) and **Janet Frame**<sup>2</sup> (1924 - 2004) - well-known writers who were born in New Zealand, as was famous soprano singer **Kiri Te Kanawa**<sup>3</sup> (1944 - ).

**Czech Gottfried Lindauer** (1839 - 1926) - became one of New Zealand's first and best-known painters when he moved there.



# NEW ZEALAND BIRDS



**The kea**, NZ's mountain parrot, grows up to 50 cm long and although it is mostly vegetarian, it also enjoys insects.



**The tui** is often seen on flowering trees and shrubs, and feeds on nectar, fruit and berries. It has a distinctive song like a frog that can be heard through the bushland in most parts of New Zealand.



**The kakapo** is the only flightless night parrot in the world, and is found only in NZ.



**The albatross** is the largest seabird that can fly thousands of kilometres each year.



**The kiwi** grows to about the size of a chicken and it has no tail. Kiwis have survived because of their three-toed feet, which enable them to kick an enemy.



**The weka** is a comical bird with a bad reputation for stealing shiny objects as building material for its nest. It was hunted by the Maori and Europeans for food and oil.

# GLOSSARY

## 1.

- 1 **to inhabit** - to live in a place
- 2 **a skyscraper** - a very tall building

## 2.

- 3 **gifted** - talented
- 4  **prowess** - strength
- 5 **arguable** - uncertain
- 6 **evidence** - information that makes sth more clearly true
- 7 **were conquered by** - were defeated by
- 8 **had settled** - had started to live
- 9 **a legacy** - sth which is left for later generations
- 10 **sovereignty** - the government's right to control a place
- 11 **efforts had been made** - they tried their best
- 12 **a loan** - sth that you borrow from somebody
- 13 **confusion** - chaos
- 14 **problems arose** - problems began
- 15 **become tense** - become unfriendly
- 16 **to pay back its debt** - to return sth (e.g: money) that has been borrowed
- 17 **an outcome** - a result
- 18 **a welfare state** - a system of health care, unemployment pay, etc., provided by government
- 19 **to give the vote to sb** - to allow sb to help choose their government
- 20 **aligned to sb** - working together with sb.
- 21 **a fair-skinned man** - sb with light, white skin
- 22 **referred to** - mentioned, named
- 23 **loyalty** - being a true friend
- 24 **remarkable** - extraordinary
- 25 **has undergone** - has experienced
- 26 **monetary problems** - difficulty managing the national economy
- 27 **a resurgence** - growing strength
- 28 **genuine self-confidence** - authentic belief in your own power to do things successfully
- 29 **willingness to right the wrongs** - readiness to change something which is unjust
- 30 **appreciation** - understanding and enjoying good qualities or value of sb
- 31 **to speak out** - to express opinion (criticism)
- 32 **affection** - love, friendliness
- 33 **significant** - important

## 3.

- 34 **a tribe** - a group of people with the same cultural and family traditions
- 35 **submission** - an acceptance of someone else's power over you
- 36 **knee-slapping** - hitting your knees with your hands to make a loud noise
- 37 **fortifications** - protective structures around villages
- 38 **religious worship** - traditional forms of showing respect to a god
- 39 **sacrifice** - act of offering sth to a god in a ceremony
- 40 **woven flax** - linen
- 41 **fur** - the hair of an animal
- 42 **feathers** - things that cover a bird's body
- 43 **extinction** - death of animals of a certain kind
- 44 **a buttock** - one half of a person's bottom
- 45 **greenstone (jade)** - precious green stone used to make jewelry
- 46 **to hold sth dear** - to like something very much
- 47 **priceless** - if something is priceless, it is so valuable that nobody will sell it
- 48 **laidback** - relaxed
- 49 **ancestors** - earlier generations of a family
- 50 **a mountain of photographs will be snapped** - many photos will be taken
- 51 **a trail** - a path going from place to place
- 52 **predominantly** - mainly
- 53 **resentful** - angry, in a bad mood
- 54 **a trait** - something which is typical of somebody's personality
- 55 **to boast** - to talk too proudly about sth they have done
- 56 **to downplay sth** - not to talk much about sth because you are a little shy about it
- 57 **brazen** - bold (the opposite of 'shy')
- 58 **a shrimp** - a kind of seafood, a small prawn
- 59 **a barbie** - a barbecue, a cooker for cooking food outdoors

## 4.

- 60 **netball** - a sport similar to basketball
- 61 **ranking** - a position that shows how good sb or sth is when compared with others
- 62 **wheelchair** - a chair with wheels used by people who cannot walk

## 5.

- 63 **to take advantage** - to use a particular situation to do or get what you want
- 64 **stunning** - very beautiful

- 65 to have a big impact** - to make a strong impression
- 66 low-budget** - inexpensive, low-cost
- 67 gory** - with lots of blood and injuries
- 68 aliens** - creatures from other planets
- 69 to co-write** - to work together with another writer
- 70 remake** - a film that has the same music or story as one that was made before
- 71 who has hit it big** - who became famous
- 72 to release** - to make a film available for people to buy or see
- 73 to own** - to have sth
- 74 to achieve** - to succeed in doing sth good after trying hard for a long time
- 75 extremely catchy tune** - a song or a melody that is very pleasant and easy to remember

## 6.

- 76 brewery** - a place where beer is made
- 77 brand/label** - a product name used by a manufacturer
- 78 in particular** - especially
- 79 lamb** - sheep meat

## 7.

- 80 incredible** - extremely large
- 81 mangroves** - small trees that grow in shallow, warm water
- 82 a bay** - a smaller part of the sea that is partly surrounded by land
- 83 a plateau** - flat highlands (contrast to 'hills' or 'mountains')
- 84 a glacier** - a river of ice
- 85 endemic** - present only in a particular place
- 86 parrot** - a colourful tropical bird
- 87 unguarded** - a time when you are not paying attention
- 88 unique** - being the only one of its kind
- 89 to split off** - to completely separate from sth
- 90 to develop** - to gradually begin to have
- 91 a mammal** - one of class of animals that drinks milk from its mother's body when it is young
- 92 flightless** - not able to fly
- 93 a predator** - an animal which attacks and kills other animals
- 94 land mass** - a large area of land
- 95 fragile** - easy to damage
- 96 hunting** - the act of chasing and killing animals for food or for sports
- 97 ostrich-sized** - the height similar to ostrich
- 98 to ensure** - to make it certain that sth will happen
- 99 to affect** - to do sth that produces an effect or change in sth

- 100 disease** - illness
- 101 'a high rate' of something** - that it happens a lot
- 102 to refer to** - to mention or speak about
- 103 mild** - not too cold and sometimes pleasantly warm
- 104 stinky** - bad-smelling
- 105 sulphur** - a substance in the form of a light yellow powder, used in drugs and industry
- 106 to gaze** - to look at sb or sth for a long time
- 107 mud** - soil in fluid form
- 108 excessive** - much more than is necessary
- 109 a gorge** - a deep valley with high walls
- 110 glacier-carved** - formed by the slow movement of ice rivers
- 111 a whirlpool** - a powerful current of water that spins around and can pull things down into it

## 8.

- 112 powered** - supplied a vehicle or a machine with energy
- 113 to focus on** - to pay special attention to
- 114 to blow up** - to destroy sth by an explosion
- 115 to disgust** - to make sb feel very disappointed about sth unacceptable
- 116 afar** - from a long distance
- 117 refugee** - sb who has to leave his country
- 118 to speak out against** - to speak in public in protest about sth
- 119 current** - happening or existing now
- 120 licence** - an official document giving you permission to have or do sth
- 121 squad** - the police department responsible for a particular kind of crime
- 122 to combat sb** - to fight against sb
- 123 pickpocket** - sb who steals things from people (usually from their pockets in a crowd)
- 124 common sense** - basic intelligence
- 125 your belongings** - things which you own

## 9.

- 126 founding** - sth that begins sth new
- 127 to claim** - to say that sth is true
- 128 a challenge** - a difficult task that you have to do
- 129 to remain** - to continue to exist
- 130 monoplane** - a plane with only one wing on each side
- 131 to credit** - to believe that sb has done sth especially good
- 132 an advanced design** - a very modern design
- 133 to conduct electricity** - to allow the electricity to travel along



**Briony Hill** is a New Zealander currently living in Prague, teaching English. Prior to her arrival in Prague she worked as a writer, photographer and sub-editor for various newspapers, magazines and internet sites (*The Daily Mail* newspaper and *Marketing Week* magazine in London, and the *New Zealand Woman's Weekly*, *Focus*, and *Golf* magazines in New Zealand). She likes architecture, history and pubs, and so is enjoying her time in the Czech Republic.