

# New Zealand and Australia: A Shared Beginning

New Zealand is one of Australia's most important neighbours. Australia shares many things with this nation.

New Zealand was claimed as part of New South Wales by Governor Arthur Phillip on behalf of the British Government in 1788. It remained officially part of New South Wales under British law until 1841, when it was declared to be a separate colony.

### **First European Settlement**

From about 1800, Europeans and North American whalers and sealers started visiting New Zealand regularly. Missionaries soon followed, determined to convert the indigenous Maori people to Christianity. Other Europeans started to arrive to trade with the Maori, exchanging food, tools, muskets and other goods in return for timber and food.

One item that changed Maori life dramatically was the introduction of the musket. It led to a series of intertribal wars which resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of Maori people between 1800 and 1840. Diseases also resulted in widespread deaths, and the Maori population declined by about 40 per cent in the first forty years of British contact.

### **Federation Debate**

During the 1890s, New Zealand looked likely to join the Australian Federation, and become a state of the new nation of Australia. However, at the last moment it was decided that New Zealand would form its own nation. In 1907, New Zealand became an independent dominion, although it retained close ties with its old colonial ruler.

### **Migration**

Today New Zealand is one of the main sources of migration to Australia. In 2013 there were about 650 000 New Zealanders living in Australia, either as permanent residents or working in Australia. This means that about one in every seven New Zealanders lives in Australia.



Map of New Zealand

### **A Shared History**

*These are some of the events that New Zealand shares with Australia.*

- Both were explored by Abel Tasman (1642).
- Mapped by James Cook (1769-1770).
- Originally claimed by Britain in 1788, New Zealand was included as part of New South Wales.
- Colonised and settled by British immigrants (Australia in 1788, New Zealand in the 1840s).
- Indigenous people badly affected by European diseases, resulting in a dramatic reduction in population.
- Involved in the Federation debate of the 1890s, although New Zealand eventually decided not to join the Australian Federation, becoming a separate nation in 1907.
- Participated in the Boer War, World War 1 (including the Gallipoli landing), World War 2 and the Vietnam War.
- Both are members of the ANZUS Treaty (with the United States) and the British Commonwealth of Nations.
- Both nations commemorate Anzac Day.