

Reference Guide

Political Sources at the Hocken Collections



New Zealand Minister of Health Mabel Howard in her office, 28 June 1949, E.J. and Mabel Howard papers, MS-0980/286, Archives & Manuscripts Collection, S08-002e.

Nau Mai Haere Mai ki Te Uare Taoka o Hākena:

Welcome to the Hocken Collections

He mihi nui tēnei ki a koutou

kā uri o kā hau e whā arā, kā mātāwaka o te motu, o te ao whānui hoki.

Nau mai, haere mai ki te taumata.

As you arrive

We seek to preserve all the taoka we hold for future generations. So that all taoka are properly protected, we ask that you:

- place your bags (including computer bags and sleeves) in the lockers provided
- leave all food and drink including water bottles in the lockers (we have a researcher lounge off the foyer which everyone is welcome to use)
- bring any materials you need for research and some ID in with you
- sign the Readers' Register each day
- enquire at the reference desk first if you wish to take digital photographs

Beginning your research

This guide gives examples of the types of material relating to New Zealand politics held at the Hocken. All items must be used within the library. As the collection is large and constantly growing not every item is listed here, but you can search for other material on our Online Public Access Catalogues:

- for books, theses, journals, magazines, newspapers, maps, and audiovisual material, use Library Search|Ketu. The advanced search - <https://tinyurl.com/mtske2x9> gives you several search options, and you can refine your results to the Hocken Library on the left side of the screen.

The Library Search Guide <https://otago.libguides.com/ketuhelp> contains helpful tips and assistance for using Library Search|Ketu;

- for pictures, photographs and archives and manuscripts, use Hākena - <https://hakena.otago.ac.nz>. Listing of the ephemera collection has just begun on Hākena; please talk to desk staff if you have any questions about this collection.

The Hākena Search Help Guide <https://otago.libguides.com/hakena> contains helpful tips and assistance for using Hākena;

- some of the photographs from the Pictorial Collections are available for viewing online via Hocken Snapshot at <https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/>. Some other photographs and artworks can be viewed at <https://otago.ourheritage.ac.nz/>.

If you have any enquiries about ordering or other research questions, please ask the reference desk staff – they will be happy to assist you.

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Publications

Try searching Library Search | Ketu for the topics which interest you. Useful subject headings include:

- Legislators – New Zealand
- Local government – New Zealand
- New Zealand. Parliament
- New Zealand – Politics and government
- Political campaigns – New Zealand
- Politicians – New Zealand

The various political parties are also subject headings, for example:

- New Zealand Labour Party
- New Zealand National Party

Holdings include:

Bassett, Michael (2017). *New Zealand's prime ministers: from Dick Seddon to John Key*. Mangawhai, Northland, New Zealand: David Ling Publishing Limited

Peter Franks and Jim McAloon (2016). *Labour: the New Zealand Labour Party, 1916-2016*. Wellington: Victoria University Press.

Hayward, Janine (2015). *New Zealand government and politics*. South Melbourne, Victoria, Australia: Oxford University Press. 6th ed.

Colin James (2017). *National at 80: the story of the New Zealand National Party*. Auckland, New Zealand: Bateman

Official publications

We have many recent and historical official New Zealand publications, such as the *New Zealand Parliamentary Debates*, *Statutes of New Zealand*, *Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives* and numerous reports of government bodies. See the separate guide on Government Publications for further details at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/otago038951.html>.

Party manifestos

Try searching Library Search | Ketu under the name of the party, or under the headings:

- Campaign literature – New Zealand

- New Zealand. Parliament – Elections [year]

Ephemera and Posters

We have a collection of election ephemera (mostly party pamphlets) from New Zealand parliamentary elections. There are collections for every general election from 1957 onwards and a few items from the pre-1957 elections, as well as items for a few by-elections. The dates of general elections are recorded in the *New Zealand Electoral Atlas* (to 1987), available in the reference area, or can be found online via the Electoral Commission website: <https://elections.nz/democracy-in-nz/historical-events/>. There is also ephemera relating to Otago, mostly Dunedin, local government elections.

We also have ephemera and posters relating to a range of political and environmental issues. Listing of the ephemera collection has just begun on Hākena. Some material is arranged by organisation eg. Halt All Racist Tours: Ephemera (Eph-Gp-0097), Coalition against Nuclear Warships: Ephemera (Eph-Gp-0101), or by subject; please enquire at the reference desk.

Political pamphlets

We have a large collection of political pamphlets. Some of these came from individual collectors, including local communist and socialist Edgar (Ted) Hunter and politician J. T. Paul. All of the pamphlets are individually catalogued – you can use the link at the bottom of a record for items in the Hunter Collection to see all the items in that collection, or use the link from the Hocken's named collections

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/otago697638.html>.

Try searching Library Search | Ketu under the author, title or subject which interests you.

There is also a collection of political pamphlets in the papers of Erik Olssen – see below under miscellaneous archives.

Newspapers and Periodicals

Our holdings include many newspapers and periodicals that covered political events or were published by political parties or organisations. Try searching Library Search | Ketu with the subject headings:

- New Zealand -- Politics and government -- Periodicals
- New Zealand Labour Party -- Periodicals
- New Zealand. Parliament -- Periodicals

Many early New Zealand newspapers, including the *Maoriland Worker* for the period 1910-1924, are available online via Papers Past at <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>.

Use the database Index New Zealand <https://natlib.govt.nz/collections/a-z/index-new-zealand-innz> to locate articles in New Zealand journals and newspapers on the politician, political party or issue you are interested in. This database is not fulltext so you need to check Library Search|Ketu for holdings of the relevant publication and then order it to view the article.

Archives

Political party records

The Hocken holds the archives of several political parties, generally for branches in the Otago region. Please note that access to many of these is restricted and requires the written permission of the party concerned – see Hākena, the pictures, photographs, ephemera, archives and manuscripts catalogue, for details relating to any restrictions.

Communist Party of New Zealand. We have records of the Otago Branch of the Communist Party, ranging from 1912 to 1965 (MS-0675). These include election ephemera for various political parties.

Independent Political Labour League of New Zealand. We have a minute book for the Dunedin Branch of the League, covering the period 1905 to 1909 (MS-0919).

Knights of Labour. We have some records of the Rawhiti Assembly (Christchurch) of the Knights of Labour, covering the period 1890 to 1895 (MS-0747).

New Zealand Democratic Party. The New Zealand Social Credit Political League was renamed the New Zealand Democratic Party in 1985. We have records of the Southern Division, 1973 to 1986 (90-045) and the St Kilda Branch, 1981 to 1987 (90-046).

New Zealand Labour Party. Our holdings for the New Zealand Labour Party, Otago Region (ARC-0153) include the records of various Otago branches, along with records of some Labour Electorate Committees and the Otago Labour Regional Council. The earliest records date from 1919.

New Zealand National Party. We hold records of the New Zealand National Party, Southern Region (formerly the Otago/Southland Division) – (MS-1492, 82-170, 86-062, UN-032A). These include records of the division and of various electorates and branches. We also hold some records for the Hawkes Bay electorate (AG-538) and the Young Nationals (88-052 and 91-091). The earliest National Party records date from the 1930s.

New Zealand Socialist Unity Party. We have some minutes and correspondence for the Otago Branch of the Socialist Unity Party, which wound up in 1990 (MS-0676).

New Zealand Values Party. We have records of the Dunedin Branch of the Values Party, ranging from 1974 to 1981 (93-118).

Politicians' papers

We hold the personal and political papers of many politicians in our archives. The major collections are listed below (in chronological order) – try searching under the names or parties which interest you on Hākena for others. Please note that access to many of these collections is restricted (especially papers of current or recent MPs) and requires the written permission of the person concerned – see Hākena for details relating to any restrictions.

Mark Silverstone was a trade unionist and political activist involved in the Political Labour League, Socialist Party and Social Democratic Party. He helped establish the New Zealand Labour Party in Otago. His papers (MS-1016) include correspondence, pamphlets and newspaper clippings ranging from 1899 to 1951.

Arthur McCarthy was heavily involved in the United Labour Party and Social Democratic Party. His papers (ARC-0446) include political correspondence and pamphlets and range from the early 1900s to 1964.

Thomas Kay Sidey, who started his political career in local government, was Liberal MP for Caversham and South Dunedin from 1901 to 1931. His papers (ARC-0448) include correspondence, personal papers, political papers, and clippings.

John Thomas Paul was heavily involved in the labour movement in the early twentieth century. He served on the Legislative Council from 1907 to 1919 and 1946 to 1950. His very large collection of papers (ARC-0191) includes numerous items relating to his life in politics, including files from his time as New Zealand's Director of Publicity during World War Two.

William Downie Stewart started his political career with the Dunedin City Council prior to World War I. From 1914 to 1936 he was a Dunedin MP, serving as a cabinet minister from 1921 to 1928 and acting Prime Minister in 1926. He started out with the Liberal Party but later affiliated with the Reform Party. The large collection of his papers (ARC-0164) includes, amongst family papers, various items relating to his political career, including correspondence, conference papers, research material and newspaper clippings. Stewart's papers also include some papers of his father, also William Downie Stewart, who was a Member of the House of Representatives from 1878 to 1881 and 1884 to 1890, then serving on the Legislative Council. He was a lawyer who took a particular interest in law reform.

Ted and Mabel Howard. Edwin John (Ted) Howard was a Christchurch Labour MP from 1919 to 1939. His daughter Mabel Howard was also a Christchurch Labour MP, serving from 1943 to 1969. In 1947 she became New Zealand's first woman cabinet minister. The Howard papers (ARC-0441) include correspondence, diaries, election material and photographs.

David Gervan McMillan was Labour MP for Dunedin West from 1935 to 1943; thereafter he played an active part in local politics. He held various cabinet posts and was heavily involved in the development of the national health service. His papers (MS-1269) include correspondence, general political papers, election material and clippings.

Ethel McMillan served for many years on the Dunedin City Council and various boards and community organisations (she was the first woman elected to the DCC). Her husband, politician D. G. McMillan, died in 1951. In 1953 Ethel McMillan became Labour MP for Dunedin North and remained in parliament until 1975. Her papers (MS-1268) include material relating to her career in local and national politics, such as correspondence, electioneering material, speeches, and newspaper clippings.

William Fraser was Labour MP for St Kilda from 1957 to 1981 and held numerous cabinet posts. His papers (ARC-0450) include cabinet papers, correspondence, and election material.

Brian MacDonell was Labour MP for Dunedin Central from 1963 to 1984. His papers (MS-2541) include election pamphlets, papers on various topics, appointment diaries and photographs.

Rex Austin was National MP for Awarua from 1975 to 1987. His papers (MS-2780) include correspondence, subject files, speeches, and other political material.

Robin Gray was first elected to parliament in 1978 as National MP for Clutha, retiring from politics in 1996. He served as speaker of parliament for some years. His large collection of papers (ARC-0456) includes correspondence, subject files, speeches, and other political material.

Stan Rodger was Labour MP for Dunedin North from 1978 to 1990 and held several cabinet posts. We have a large collection of his papers – see Hākena for details.

Michael Cullen was first elected to parliament in 1981 as Labour MP for St Kilda, and remained in the house until 2009. He held various cabinet portfolios and was Minister of Finance from 1999 to 2009 and Deputy Prime Minister from 2002 to 2008. We have a very large collection of his political papers (ARC-0292).

Clive Matthewson was elected in 1984 as Labour MP for Dunedin West. In 1995 he left the Labour Party to join the newly formed United Party (which he led). He lost his seat at the 1996 election. His papers (MS-2491) include correspondence, subject files, speeches, election material and clippings. There are papers concerning the establishment of the United Party.

Jeff Grant was National MP for Awarua from 1987 to 1993. His papers (ARC-0469) include subject files relating to his political career, correspondence, speeches, and diaries.

Pete Hodgson was Labour MP for Dunedin North from 1990 to 2011 and served in cabinet from 1999 to 2008. We hold some of his papers, ranging from 1986 to 2000 (ARC-0468). They include correspondence, speeches, and various political papers.

David Benson-Pope was Labour MP for Dunedin South from 1999 to 2008. He was a cabinet minister from 2004 to 2007. We hold papers (ARC-0842) that relate to Benson-Pope's parliamentary and local government career, including council minutes, legal papers, government reports and briefing papers, correspondence, speeches, election material, press releases and photographs.

David Parker was first elected to parliament in 2002 as Labour MP for Otago. He has been a Labour List MP since 2005 and served as a cabinet minister from 2005 to 2008. We have a collection of his papers, but these are not yet fully processed – please enquire with the archives staff for further information.

Bill English was first elected to parliament in 1990 as National MP for Wallace. He held various cabinet posts, was deputy leader of the National Party and then leader in opposition, later becoming deputy Prime Minister and then Prime Minister from 2016 to 2017. We have a collection of his papers, but these are not yet fully processed – please enquire with the archives staff for further information.

Local government

The Dunedin City Council has its own archives, but we hold the historic records of many other local bodies in the Otago region. We have archives of the following:

Balclutha Borough Council

Bruce County Council

Clutha County Council

Hampden Borough Council

Kaitangata Borough Council

Lawrence Borough Council

Milton Borough Council

Otago Regional Council

Palmerston Borough Council

Queenstown Borough Council

Tapanui Borough Council

Waihemo County Council

We also have records of the Otago and Southland Provincial Governments available on microfilm (the lists in the ready reference area can help with locating material on these microfilms). In addition, we have the records of numerous pest destruction boards, catchment boards, harbour boards and other local authority organisations. Check Hākena for details.

Unions and employer organisations

We have the records of the local branches of many trade unions, professional associations, employers' associations, and other business groups. Try searching Hākena under subject headings such as *trade unions*, *employers' associations* or *professional associations*, or search for a specific organisation by name. Please note that access to some of these collections is restricted and requires the written permission of the organisation concerned – check the catalogue for details of any restrictions. A few examples of our many holdings include the Woollen Mills Industrial Union of Workers, the Service Workers' Union, the Educational Institute, the Medical Association, the Society of Physiotherapists, the Employers' Association, the Manufacturers' Association, and the Chamber of Commerce. We also hold the records of a wide variety of local business firms – try searching by the name of the firm or by the subject search *business enterprises*. See our guide to business sources for further sources - <https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/otago038951.html>.

Environmental issues

Acclimatisation and conservation

We have a large collection of records of the Dunedin branch of the Forest and Bird Protection Society (ARC-0431). We also have many records of the Otago Acclimatisation Society and its successor, the Otago Fish & Game Society. There are some other smaller collections of papers of individuals and groups with interests in the environment. Try searching Hākena under terms such as *conservation*, *wildlife*, and *ecology*.

Fluoridation

We have papers of people for and against water fluoridation, and a transcript of the 1957 Royal Commission of Inquiry on the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies (UN-108). Search under the heading *water – fluoridation* on Hākena.

Save Aramoana Campaign

The Save Aramoana Campaign was formed in 1974 to protest a proposed aluminium smelter at Aramoana. We have several collections of records of the organisation – see Hākena for further details.

Save Manapouri Campaign

We have a variety of materials relating to the Save Manapouri Campaign, which aimed to prevent the development of power schemes at Lake Manapouri (to provide power for the Tiwai Point aluminium smelter). A broad search under *Save Manapouri* on Hākena will reveal several relevant collections.

Other political issues

Abortion

We have papers of various people involved in campaigns for and against the legalisation of abortion. See, for example, the papers of Shirley Child (MS-2401) and John and Elizabeth O'Neill (AG-582). We also have the transcript of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion in New Zealand, 1977 (UN-104).

Nuclear disarmament

We have records of the Southland branch of the New Zealand Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (85-095). The records of the Dunedin branch of the international organisation Voice of Women (MS-1023) include material relating to various peace campaigns, including opposition to French nuclear testing in the Pacific.

Pacifism

We have the papers of two well-known conscientious objectors – Archibald Baxter (ARC-0353) from World War I and Ron Malcolm (AG-775) from World War II.

Race relations

We have many archives relating to early contact between Māori and Europeans, including a large collection of missionary papers. See also the separate guides on Māori Sources and on the New Zealand Wars <https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/otago038951.html>. We have a few items relating to late twentieth century issues such as the Springbok Tour protest and Bastion Point – check Hākena for details.

Vietnam War

We have various items relating to opposition to the Vietnam War, including the Dunedin Committee on Vietnam. For these and further related material, check Hākena under the subject heading *Vietnam War, 1961-1975 – Protest movements*.

Women's issues

We have material relating to the campaign for women's suffrage – see, for example the papers of Anna Stout (ARC-0021) and the records of various branches of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. We hold the papers of many women's organisations, both conservative and radical. For 1970s feminism and women's liberation, see the records of the Dunedin Collective for Woman (ARC-0279). See also the separate guide on Gender Studies Sources at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/otago038951.html>.

Miscellaneous

Erik Olssen papers

The papers of historian Erik Olssen (ARC-0316) include many items relating to rebel labour politician John A. Lee, of whom Olssen wrote a biography. There is also a series of political pamphlets, many of them relating to New Zealand.

Pictorial collections

The pictorial collections (upstairs) have many photographic portraits, including some of politicians. You can browse through the reader access file of portraits online at Hocken Snapshot <https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/>. Photographs from our collection are catalogued on Hākena.

We also have the originals of various political cartoons. Among the most notable are cartoons by James Brown relating to early colonial Otago and a large collection of twentieth-century cartoons by Sid Scales. Some items can be viewed online via OUR Heritage <https://otago.ourheritage.ac.nz/collections/show/35>. We also have several artworks relating to political issues – try a search on Hākena.

Please talk to desk staff if you wish to access the pictorial collections.

Websites

The website of the **New Zealand Parliament** has a wide variety of information relating to central government, including profiles of current, and former, MPs and electorates:

<https://www.parliament.nz/en>

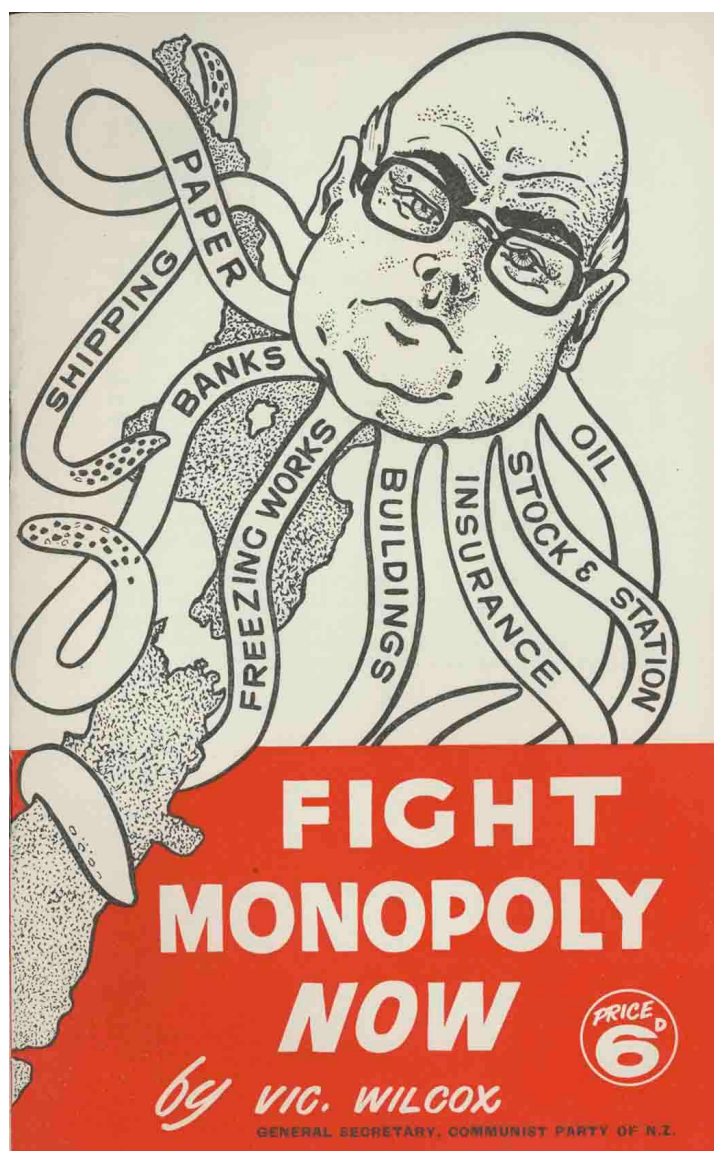
LGNZ is a portal to local government websites and information: <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/>

The **Electoral Commission** website provides information about current political events and has links to results of previous elections and electoral events <https://elections.nz/>

There are two University of Otago Library Subject Guides (Politics, and NZ Parliament,) that provide useful research resources <https://otago.libguides.com/>

The **New Zealand History** website includes a section on Politics and Government <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/politics-and-government>

Te Ara The Encyclopedia of New Zealand includes a section on Political Participation <https://teara.govt.nz/en/political-participation>



Communist Party of New Zealand election pamphlet, 1960. Election Ephemera Collection, S08-002b.

Hocken Collections/Te Uare Taoka o Hākena
90 Anzac Ave, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054
Phone 03 479 8868
reference.hocken@otago.ac.nz
<https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/>

For hours, please check our website:
<https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/>