

91231R



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 2 History 2023

**91231 Examine sources of an historical event that is of significance to New Zealanders**

Credits: Four

### RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for History 91231.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–10 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

**YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

## INTRODUCTION: The first country to standardise time

In 1868, 155 years ago, New Zealand became the first country in the world to introduce **standardised time** (a uniform time for places in approximately the same longitude, established in a country or region by law or custom, including daylight saving time).

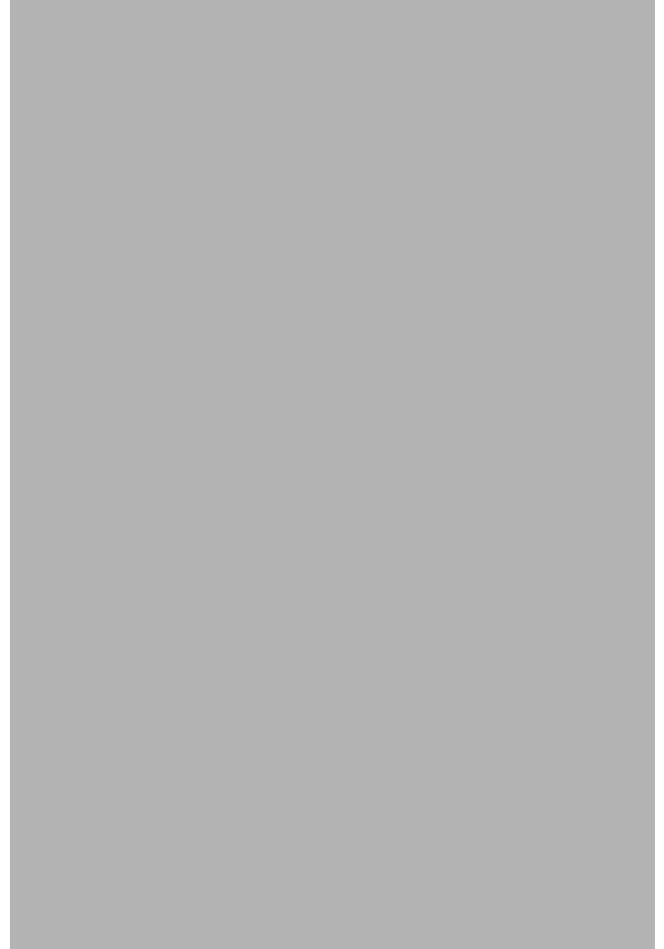
Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) did not become the international standard until 1884, with Greenwich, England, considered the official **prime meridian** (the line of 0° longitude, the starting point for measuring distance both east and west around Earth).

Before 1868, New Zealand provinces had their own time zones, each slightly different from the other, but some of them the same. This worked for most areas, as they all ran independently of one another, but it began to prove difficult with the advent of the telegraph and the need to communicate effectively across the nation in a timely manner.

The decision was made to 'standardise time' across New Zealand and base it on the time used in the capital city of Wellington. This decision was met with various degrees of support – some areas were happy to follow this time and others saw it as a **dictate** (an order that must be obeyed) from Wellington, refusing to follow suit. The 'Battle of the Clocks' soon ensued.

However, time did not stand still after the establishment of New Zealand Standard Time (NZST). New Zealand continued to engage in various forms of standardised time with changes adopted during World War II and during the trial of daylight saving between the 1920s and 1970s, before it became a permanent fixture in New Zealand in 1975.

10.00 a.m. 10.16 a.m. 10.32 a.m. 10.48 a.m.



The map shows relative times according to sunlight and longitude. As the Earth rotates, sunlight reaches the east before the west.

Image: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_New\\_Zealand#/media/File:Map\\_New\\_Zealand-en.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_New_Zealand#/media/File:Map_New_Zealand-en.svg)

## SOURCE A: New Zealand Standard Time (NZST)

On 2 November 1868, New Zealand discarded its numerous local times in favour of a standard time nationwide. In a decision which was a triumph for convenience and economic rationality over tradition and local identity, the colony became the first country to regulate its time in relation to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

### What's the time?

In the mid-1860s you could ask a neighbour with a reliable clock, listen for the town bells or a cannon, wait for the time ball to drop, or make a trek to view the nearest public clock.

People using the post office or sending telegrams from their local telegraph office found that the clocks in these buildings showed a different time – Wellington mean time, or ‘telegraph time’ as it was commonly known.

### Who decided, and why?

The Postmaster-General, John Hall, had become aware of growing frustration among his staff and the general public that the country's hundreds of post and telegraph offices opened and closed according to local mean time.

In January 1868, he instructed all telegraph offices to open and close according to Wellington mean time. Post offices, many of which shared the same building, were to do likewise.

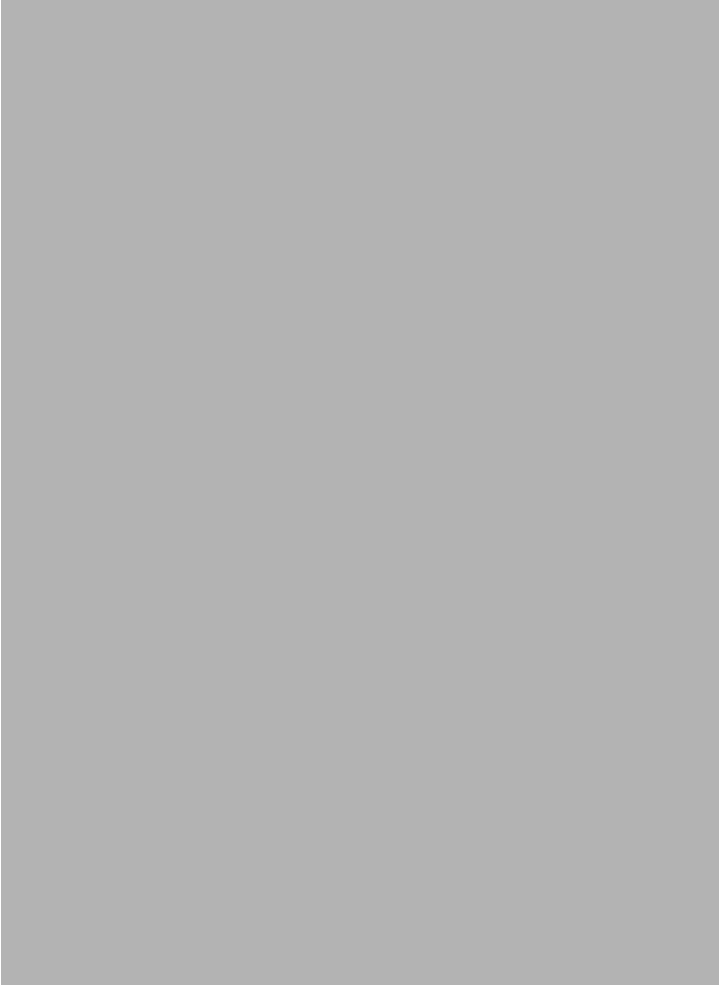
### Making it possible

Hall's edict was practicable only because of the extensive groundwork that had been laid since 1862, when the first telegraph lines had been erected between Christchurch and Lyttelton, and Dunedin and Port Chalmers. By January 1868, about 74% of the 220,000 non-Māori New Zealanders had access to the telegraph.

### Battle of the Clocks

*Before 1868, the local mean time difference (in minutes on a clock) between Wellington and other town centres:*

Town centre	Time if Wellington is 8.00	Time difference in minutes from Wellington
Auckland	8.00	Correct
Christchurch	7.52	Fast 8
Dunedin	7.43	Fast 17
Hokitika	7.45	Fast 15
Invercargill	7.35	Fast 25
Napier	8.09	Slow 9
Nelson	7.54	Fast 6
New Plymouth	7.57	Fast 3

**SOURCE B: New Zealand's telegraph network, 1868**

The coming of the telegraph established New Zealand Standard Time. By 1868, a telegraph network extended from Napier down to Bluff. For efficiency, telegraph operators had to observe the same time at all places on the network. The upshot was a parliamentary resolution establishing a standard New Zealand time.

Image: Phillips, J. (2006, June 12). *Timekeeping – New Zealand mean time*. Te Ara – the Encyclopedia of New Zealand. <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/map/6693/new-zealands-telegraph-network-1868>

**SOURCE C: The enforcement of Wellington mean time**

As the telegraph services stabilised and grew in popularity, a number of operational problems became apparent.



A local watchmaker and clockmaker, Mr Brewer, erected a public clock outside his shop that was most likely set to Napier mean time.

Hall's decision divided some communities and united others. ...

In addition, the central North Island was a war zone; much of it was controlled by tribes aligned with the King Movement, who thought Pākehā clock time was irrelevant and therefore ignored it.

Source (adapted): Morris, G. S. (2012). *Time and the making of New Zealand: A theme in the development of a settler society, 1840 to 1868*. [Master's thesis, The University of Canterbury]. [https://ir.canterbury.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/10092/7084/thesis\\_fulltext.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y](https://ir.canterbury.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/10092/7084/thesis_fulltext.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y), pp. 87–93.

#### **SOURCE D: Christchurch mean time**

Mr Reynolds ... said that it must be known to many honourable members of the House that some months ago, the Government had found it desirable to give instructions in various districts in the Colony that Wellington mean time should be observed at the telegraph stations, and also at the post offices. ...

... He saw no necessity for departing from the sun, which was a sufficient regulator of time.

Source (adapted): (1868). Christchurch Mean Time. *New Zealand Parliamentary Debates*, 3, pp. 106–8. <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.32106019740254&view=1up&seq=130>

## SOURCE E: Public debate in Otago newspapers

Otago was New Zealand's most populous, richest, and proudest province, and many of its citizens resented being subjected to Wellington time. Over a period of 12 days in March 1868, its newspapers were the forum for intense debate. The following is a day-to-day account of that debate as it occurred in the *Otago Daily Times* (ODT) and *Otago Witness* (OW):

**12 March 1868**, ODT, no. 1934, p. 4:

[Redacted text block]

**18 March 1868**, ODT, no. 1939, p. 4: J.

[Redacted text block]

**19 March 1868**, ODT, no. 1940, p. 4:

[Redacted text block]

**20 March 1868**, ODT, no. 1941, p. 5:

[Redacted text block]

**21 March 1868**, OW, no. 851, p. 11:

[Redacted text block]

**23 March 1868**, ODT, no. 1943, p. 1:

[Redacted text block]

**23 March 1868**, ODT, no. 1943, p. 5:

[Redacted text block]

**23 March 1868**, ODT, no. 1943, p. 5:

[Redacted text block]

## SOURCE F: History of daylight saving in New Zealand


In 1941, wartime emergency regulations moved New Zealand clocks forward half an hour. New Zealand first introduced daylight saving time in 1927. The current times have been fixed since 2007.

Year	Timeline
1868	New Zealand officially set a national standard time – called New Zealand Mean Time – at 11 hours and 30 minutes ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
1927	[REDACTED]
1941	[REDACTED]
1946	[REDACTED]
1974–5	[REDACTED]
1985	[REDACTED]
2006-07	[REDACTED]
2008	A daylight saving public attitude survey was carried out by Research New Zealand.

Source (adapted): Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa New Zealand Government. *History of daylight saving in NZ*. <https://www.govt.nz/browse/recreation-and-the-environment/daylight-saving/history-of-daylight-saving-in-nz/>

**SOURCE G: Time back and forth**

In 1941, wartime emergency regulations moved New Zealand clocks forward half an hour when the current half an hour's daylight saving was adopted for the whole year. After the war, the Standard Time Act 1945 made this change permanent, setting what was now called New Zealand Standard Time (NZST) 12 hours ahead of GMT, or Universal Time. The process of keeping track of time changed considerably, too. New Zealand began to rely on the US Naval Observatory in Washington, DC, which broadcast time signals every two hours.



In 1984, the small rural Northland community of Ararua rebelled and rejected daylight saving. That year, while the rest of New Zealand rose an hour earlier through spring and summer, the good people of Ararua slept in.

<sup>1</sup>. scupper      defeat or ruin



**SOURCE H: Ararua time**

In 1945, New Zealand Standard Time was advanced permanently by half an hour. 'Summer time', gained by advancing the clocks one hour, ceased. However, in 1974, an advance of one hour in summer was reintroduced. Dairy farmers objected to getting up in the dark to milk the cows, and some mothers pointed to the difficulty of getting young children to sleep while it was still light. The small Northland dairy farming community of Ararua decided to ignore the new time, and at the end of October 1984, when the rest of New Zealand switched to daylight saving, locals put up a sign announcing "Ararua time".

Image: Unknown photographer. (1974, November 3). 'Summer time' reintroduced on trial basis. [Photograph]. *Ministry for Culture and Heritage*. <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/reintroduction-of-summer-time-on-a-trial-basis>; Phillips, J. (2020, September 14). *Timekeeping – Modern times*. Te Ara – the Encyclopedia of New Zealand. <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/photograph/6707/ararua-time>

**SOURCE I: Keeping everybody happy, 2007**

'The Politician' cartoon strip. The Minister gives in to demands from the public for extended daylight saving, but there is some opposition.

Image: Fletcher, D. (1952). "Okay, okay!!! If it keeps everybody happy I'll extend daylight saving!" "There are some very angry dairy farmers and a 'not happy' vampire outside to see you." [Cartoon]. Ref: DCDL-0003032. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/22853151. <https://natlib.govt.nz/records/22853151?search%5Bi%5D%5Bsubject%5D=Dairy+farmers&search%5Bpath%5D=photos>

Please turn over  
for Source J ►

## SOURCE J: New Zealand Public Attitude Survey, 2008

The 2008 survey found that 82% of New Zealanders approved of the 2007 extension to the period of daylight saving time.

Results from the general public:

- The extension to daylight saving was approved of by 82% of respondents, with 57% strongly approving. In contrast, 5% disapproved and 6% strongly disapproved.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Daylight saving in general was approved of by 90% of all respondents, with 72% strongly approving. In contrast, 6% disapproved.

Results from dairy farmers:

- Just over one-half (54%) of dairy farmers approved of the extension to daylight saving. In contrast, 41% disapproved.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Daylight saving in general was approved of by 82% of all dairy farmers, with 45% strongly approving. In contrast, 15% disapproved.

Source (adapted): Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa New Zealand Government. (2022, April 4). *Public attitudes to daylight saving*. <https://www.govt.nz/browse/recreation-and-the-environment/daylight-saving/public-attitudes-to-daylight-saving/>



