



Parliament of Australia

**Parliamentary Delegation
to New Zealand**

**Tuesday 5 April 2016 to
Friday 8 April 2016**

Commonwealth of Australia 2016

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Members of the Delegation

Leader of the Delegation

The Hon Tony Smith MP

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Member for Casey, Victoria
Liberal Party of Australia

The Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP

Member for Cowper, New South Wales
The Nationals

Mr Graham Perrett MP

Member for Moreton, Queensland
Australian Labor Party

Senator Catryna Bilyk

Senator for Tasmania
Deputy Opposition Whip in the Senate
Australian Labor Party

Officials

Mr Peter Banson

Advisor to the Speaker of the House of Representatives

Ms Julia Agostino

Delegation Secretary

Mr Oliver Whitehead

Executive Assistant

Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives (NZ)

Mr Peter Guinness

Visits and Events Organiser

Visits and Ceremonials Office

Department of Internal Affairs

Ms Alanna Mackay

First Secretary

Australian High Commission

Introduction

In February 2016, the Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives, the Right Honourable David Carter (Speaker Carter), invited the Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives the Hon Tony Smith MP (Speaker Smith), to visit New Zealand at a suitable time with a parliamentary delegation.

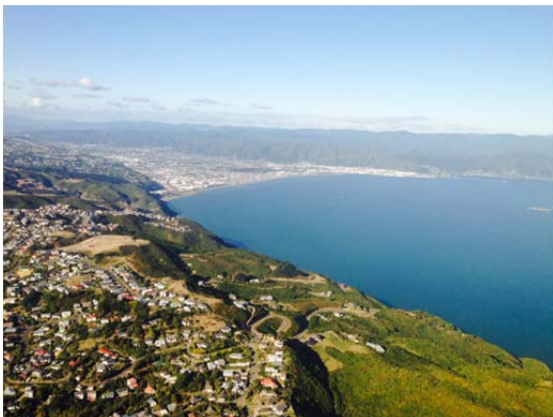
Speaker Smith was pleased to accept this generous invitation and led a Parliamentary delegation to Wellington, New Zealand from 5 April to 8 April 2016.

The Australian delegation also included Mr Graham Perrett MP, the Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP, and Senator Catryna Bilyk.

Members of the delegation met with the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Right Honourable John Key, Speaker Carter and other Members of Parliament.

Much of the discussion during meetings focused on the very strong and positive relationship between Australia and New Zealand and their respective parliaments.

The delegation also visited important cultural sites, including the Pukeahu National War Memorial Park and the Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Ara Whanui during which a traditional Maori welcome was performed by students.



Wellington, April 2016

Background

Australia and New Zealand are natural allies with strong trans-Tasman connections. Migration, trade and defence ties, keen competition on the sporting field, and strong people-to-people links have helped shape a close and co-operative relationship.

Hundreds of thousands of Australians and New Zealanders cross the Tasman each year as tourists, for business purposes, or to visit family members. Over 647,000 New Zealand citizens live in Australia, while there are around 65,000 Australians in New Zealand.

Freedom of travel is facilitated through the Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangements (TTTA) of 1973, which allow Australians and New Zealanders to visit, live and work in either country without restrictions.

New Zealand and Australia continue to share a close and productive relationship and have fought side by side in successive military conflicts. New Zealand almost joined Australia in Federation in 1901 and maintains close political contact with Australia. At a government-to-government level, Australia's relationship with New Zealand is the closest and most comprehensive of all its bilateral relationships.

Prime Ministers hold annual formal talks and Foreign, Trade and Defence Ministers meet regularly. New Zealand ministers and government officials participate with their Australian federal and state counterparts in relevant Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meetings, which span the domestic policy agenda and support the COAG.

The Australian and New Zealand Prime Ministers hold an annual Leaders' Meeting, as part of a commitment by

both governments to the importance of the relationship and an intention to strengthen links further, especially through deeper economic integration.

The most recent Australia New Zealand Leaders' Meeting was held in Sydney on 19 February 2016. The main outcomes of that meeting was the reinvigoration of the bilateral relationship and the announcement of a Pathway to Citizenship for those New Zealand citizens, resident in Australia for at least five years and who have contributed significantly to Australia.

Australia and New Zealand cooperate closely in the international arena and in regional bodies, such as the Pacific Islands Forum, APEC and the ASEAN Regional Forum. The Australia, New Zealand and ASEAN free trade agreement, AANZFTA, entered into force on 1 January 2010.

Both Australia and New Zealand cooperate closely in pursuing World Trade Organisation (WTO) goals, notably through participation in the Cairns Group – a coalition of 19 agricultural exporting countries seeking the liberalisation of trade in agriculture.

New Zealand has made valuable contributions to security in areas of high priority to Australia, notably in East Timor, Bougainville, Solomon Islands (RAMSI), Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum (ANZLF) is an important annual private sector-led event which brings together a diverse group of leaders from business, government, and community sectors to contribute ideas on developing the bilateral relationship.

The Forum examines and debates economic, defence, political and social

ties between Australia and New Zealand as well as broader strategic issues of domestic and international significance.

It is worth noting that Australia and New Zealand also share a strong bond due to the ANZAC tradition. Recognition and commemoration of the ANZACs is especially important to the relationship between the two nations.

Welcome reception and dinner

Speaker Carter hosted a cocktail function in his official rooms to welcome the delegation to the New Zealand Parliament. All New Zealand MPs were invited to attend and meet with the delegation. Speaker Carter then hosted dinner for the delegation and several MPs at a local restaurant.

The delegation enjoyed the opportunity to meet with so many parliamentary colleagues to continue strengthening the parliament-to-parliament relationship.

Meeting with HE Peter Woolcott, Australian High Commissioner

The Delegation received a briefing from the High Commissioner regarding areas of economic importance to New Zealand including agriculture, tourism and services.

Discussion also focused on comparisons between the New Zealand and Australian parliament and politics, including the differences in electoral systems, as well as the trans-Tasman exchange of people between the two countries and some of the immigration challenges that arise as a result.

Meeting with Leader of the Opposition, Andrew Little, and Assistant Speaker, the Honourable Trevor Mallard MP

During this meeting discussion focused

largely on economic issues, including the following:

- challenges present in the manufacturing sector;
- the need for economic diversification and the challenges this presents; and
- development and support of niche industries, such as horticulture and technology.

The group also compared operational aspects of the parliaments and the makeup of the Houses of Representatives and Australian Senate.

Meeting with Right Honourable David Carter, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Honourable Chester Burrows, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Lindsay Tisch, Assistant Speaker of the House of Representatives, Honourable Trevor Mallard, Assistant Speaker of the House of Representatives and Mr David Wilson, Clerk of the House.

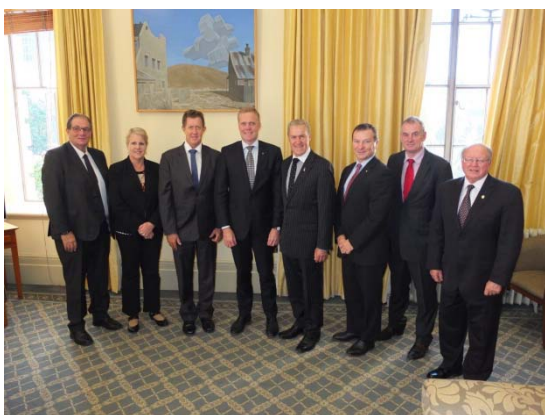


Photo: Delegation members with (left to right) Honourable Trevor Mallard, Right Honourable David Carter, Honourable Chester Burrows, Lindsay Tisch.

Speaker Carter formally welcomed the delegation and the visitor's book was signed by members of the delegation.

In response, Speaker Smith presented a

letter of invitation to Speaker Carter for a reciprocal delegation to visit the Australian Parliament in the future.

Meeting of the Social Services Select Committee, chaired by Mr Alfred Ngaro MP

The delegation attended a meeting of the Social Services Select Committee (the Committee) and was welcomed by the Chair, Mr Alfred Ngaro MP.

In the New Zealand Parliament, select committees work on behalf of and report their conclusions to the House. Similar to Australian parliamentary committees, select committees may ask the public for input during the course of considering a bill or inquiry.

The Social Services committee considers matters relating to housing, senior citizens, social development, veterans' affairs, and work and income support. The committee consists of ten members from across the parties.

The committee explained their process for the benefit of the delegation and invited questions and discussion.

Speaker Smith outlined the Australian Parliamentary committees, including joint and select committees, and provided some information about the Senate Estimates process. He then called on Senator Bilyk to outline Senate committees.

Some of the interesting differences included that the New Zealand committees can conduct their own inquiries, but do not often do this. In addition, MPs generally do not sit on more than one or two committees. This is in contrast to Australian senators who often sit on a range of committees.

The committee heard from the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Anne Tolley who presented an issues paper in relation to New Zealand's social work sector. The delegation was invited to observe.

The Chair of the committee explained that the purpose of such presentations is to try and convince the government to hold an inquiry or consider issues and make recommendations.

The Minister explained the reasons for wanting a review of the relevant legislation included wanting to raise the quality of social workers through registration and training. She categorized this as a genuine attempt to get parliament to deal with a significant issue and she indicated that cross-party support was needed.

Following the presentation, the committee raised a range of issues including potential timeframes and public support for an inquiry and requested access to the issues paper. The Minister responded to questions from the committee and discussion took place.

At the end of proceedings, the committee indicated that it would consider the matter in a closed forum and make a decision.

The delegation was grateful for this invaluable opportunity to observe the committee in action.

Private Tour of Parliament Buildings

The delegation was afforded a private tour through the Parliament buildings.

These buildings show how the New Zealand Parliament has grown and changed over time. For example, in 1952, New Zealand moved to a unicameral

system. Thus, the very elaborate chamber which previously housed the Senate is no longer in use as a chamber.

Notably, the architecture changes throughout the building as different parts were expanded, repaired and rebuilt over time.

Two excellent examples are 'the Beehive', a modernistic building constructed between 1969 and 1979 that houses the Executive Wing, and the Gothic revival style Parliamentary Library which has been restored and refurbished after fires in 1907 and 1992.

The delegation was led through the underground walkway that connects the buildings and was shown the impressive base isolation earthquake proofing system that is used in the building.



Photo: Parliament building foundations demonstrating the base isolation earthquake proofing system.

This system is a New Zealand development and is now used worldwide. Construction commenced in 1992 and involved separation of Parliament House and the Parliamentary Library

from their original foundations and placing the buildings on rubber bearings using base isolation techniques.

Materials provided to the delegation explain how base isolation reduces the transfer of earthquake forces from the foundations to the building above, thus reducing the need for other forms of strengthening.

Lunch with members of the New Zealand-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group

The New Zealand-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group generously hosted lunch for the delegation in the Member's Dining Room at Parliament House.

This was an opportunity for informal discussion between members and the delegation, and the delegation is grateful to the Parliamentary Friendship Group for its warm hospitality.

Parliamentary Question Time

The delegation attended Parliamentary Question Time. Speaker Smith was escorted to the chamber and accorded a seat to the left of Speaker Carter and the remaining delegation members were escorted to the Speaker's Gallery.

The delegation received an enthusiastic welcome from the parliament prior to question time commencing.

The delegation was delighted to observe the New Zealand Parliament's question time, and engaged in discussion afterwards about the significant differences from the Australian processes.

Meeting with Prime Minister the Right Honourable John Key, the Honourable Gerry Brownlee, Leader of the House, and Tim Macindoe MP, Senior Whip.



Photo: Delegation members with, the Right Honourable John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand

The Prime Minister welcomed the delegation to his offices and was quick to reaffirm the importance of the relationship between New Zealand and Australia.

Opening comments involved both Prime Minister Key and Speaker Smith paying tribute to the Australians and New Zealanders who fought alongside each other, including at Gallipoli. The delegation remarked that it was looking forward to attending a wreath laying ceremony at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park later in the day.

During the meeting, a number of topics were broadly discussed, including Prime Minister Key's visit to Australia in early 2016 during which he met with the Australian Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP.

One of the most interesting issues discussed was the recent efforts in New Zealand to change the national flag.

The delegation was extremely interested to learn more about how the process was

managed, and an interesting discussion took place about the challenges associated with tackling something so central to a country's identity. Prime Minister Key talked about the referendum and a number of the challenges his government faced during the process.

Prime Minister Key again highlighted the strong and ongoing relationship that exists between Australia and New Zealand and expressed positive views about working together in the future.

Wreath Laying Ceremony, Pukeahu National War Memorial Park

The Pukeahu National War Memorial Park is a fitting tribute to the more than 300,000 New Zealanders who served their country and the 30,000 who died in war.

The National War Memorial is an impressive monument originally built to commemorate those fallen in the First World War. It is made up of the National War Memorial Carillion which was opened on Anzac Day in 1932, the Hall of Memories (1964) and the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior (2004) which sits in front.

The delegation was privileged to visit the Pukeahu National War Memorial Park in the company of Speaker Carter.

The delegation acknowledges the importance of participating in a moving wreath laying ceremony to commemorate the shared experience of our ANZACs and to symbolize the respect and close friendship between our countries.

An Australian Memorial was constructed in 2015 to commemorate the long and

close relationship between Australia and New Zealand. The delegation was informed that the red sandstone columns represent the 'red center' of Australia, and the grey bands of stone between them symbolizes the New Zealand landscape.

The Australian Memorial is a striking memorial which celebrates the close relationship between the two countries, and commemorates those lost fighting.



Photo: Right Honourable David Carter and the Hon Tony Smith MP at the National War Memorial.

Meeting with Honourable Anne Tolley, Minister for Social Development

Hon Anne Tolley was first elected to parliament on the National Party list in 1999. She is the MP for East Coast and in 2014, was appointed Minister of Social Development. Key areas of interest include reducing the number of people on long-term welfare, improving New Zealand's child protection processes and addressing family and sexual violence.

During this meeting, discussion focused on the issues and challenges related to New Zealand's child protection scheme.

Some of these challenges are the layers of bureaucracy that can hinder professionals from doing their jobs, issues associated with kin care, and the importance of a long term approach to

dealing with children in care.

Meeting with Labour Party Representatives

A meeting was held with members of the Labour party, primarily with Mr Chris Hipkins, Member for Rimatika, who is the Shadow Leader of the House and Senior Whip.

Broad discussion focused largely on political and parliamentary issues, including the voting system in New Zealand which has both electorates and party lists.

The current New Zealand Labour Party is represented by 32 members – 27 represent electorates and five are elected from the party list.

The group also compared operational aspects of each parliament, such as the differences between standing orders governing parliamentary procedure, as well as the makeup of the Houses of Representatives and the Australian Senate.

Meeting with Marama Fox MP, Co-leader of the Maori Party

Ms Marama Fox MP welcomed the delegation to her offices with a traditional Maori greeting.

The Maori Party is an indigenous party that was formed in 2004 by former Labour Party minister, Tariana Turia.

Ms Fox explained that the party was formed in the wake of a debate that centred on whether Maori people have ownership of part or all of New Zealand's foreshore and seabed. Maori Party policy includes Maori ownership of the foreshore and seabed, and the teaching of Maori and Pacific history in schools.

Maoris also have the choice of enrolling on the Maori electoral roll or the General electoral roll. Ms Fox explained that the choice is to opt on, not opt off the Maori roll.

Discussion traversed a range of issues, including the close people-to-people relationship that exists between Australian and New Zealand and which is reflected in the corresponding government-to-government and parliament-to-parliament relationships.

The issue of immigration of New Zealanders to Australia was raised, in the context of concerns about Maori people living in Australia and their ability to access Centrelink benefits. Particular concerns centre on vulnerable groups such as elderly and young people.



Photo: Delegation members with Ms Marama Fox, and Mr Woollcott.

Meeting with Miranda Thompson, Lead Parliamentary Educator

Both Australian and New Zealand parliaments provide a range of resources, both online and at Parliament.

Parliamentary education for school students is an important first step in raising awareness about the democratic process in countries such as Australia

and New Zealand.

A meeting took place with Ms Miranda Thompson, Lead Parliamentary Educator who spoke about the various resources used by the New Zealand Parliament in educating people about parliament, including bilingual and Maori language resources.

Ms Thompson outlined some of the challenges in providing parliamentary education, including the very practical issue where children who live further from Wellington are less likely to have the opportunity to visit parliament.

Following discussion, the delegation was shown the facilities which were in use at the time by a group of primary school children who had spent the day learning about parliamentary processes and engaging in mock parliament.

The delegation spoke briefly with accompanying teachers and some of the children about what they had learned, as well as posing for photos with the group.



Photo: Delegation members with a school group in the Education Centre's mock debating chamber.

Meeting with Mr Robert Peden, Chief Electoral Officer, New Zealand Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission is an independent crown entity responsible for the administration of parliamentary

election and referenda, maintaining electoral roles, promoting participation in parliamentary democracy, registration of political parties, conducting of the Maori electoral option and a number of other crucial tasks. As such, it occupies a pivotal role in the operation of democratic government.

The delegation was greeted by the Chief Electoral Officer, Mr Robert Peden, who proceeded with a traditional Maori welcome. Mr Richard Thornton, Education Advisor, also attended the meeting.

Mr Peden and Mr Thornton provided the delegation with a useful folder of information and also highlighted some of the most interesting details about the New Zealand Electoral Commission:

- there are 26 permanent staff in Wellington which grows to 17,000 trained staff on Election Day;
- the commission educates thousands of people every year, including through the Kids Voting Programme which teaches school children about voting, including by providing kids with an opportunity to vote through their registered school;
- over 147,000 students participated in Kids Voting for the second referendum on the New Zealand flag; and
- the commission offers voting in a number of forms, including by telephone for those voters who are blind, partially blind or have another physical disability that means they are unable to mark their ballot paper without assistance.

Mr Peden highlighted a major difference between the Australian and

New Zealand electoral systems - that while registering to vote is compulsory in New Zealand, voting is not.

Enrolment is declining by age group and ethnicity and a person does not need to be a citizen to vote, but only needs to have lived in New Zealand for twelve months.

Visit to Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Ara Whanui

On the final day of the delegation's visit to Wellington, the Australian High Commission facilitated a number of activities outside of the New Zealand Parliament.

The delegation attended Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Ara Whanui in Lower Hutt. Kura Kaupapa Maori are Maori language immersion schools, first established in the 1980s in response to the rapid loss of the Maori language in New Zealand during the 20th century.

The delegation was met by the school principal and a number of staff on arrival, and shortly after escorted to the school hall where students and teachers were waiting.

A traditional pohiri was performed by staff and students for the delegation. The pohiri is a traditional Maori welcome ceremony which usually takes place when going onto a marae (meeting place).



Photo: Children perform Pohiri, traditional Maori welcome ceremony

The pride and joy experienced by the young students in performing this very beautiful ceremony was obvious to the delegation.

Thoroughly outclassed in musical prowess, the delegation nonetheless performed its response as tradition dictates - the first verse and chorus of 'Waltzing Matilda'.

Following the pohiri, the delegation was further honoured by the invitation to visit the children in their classrooms. A small gift was given by the delegation to each child – a kangaroo pin.

Given the purpose and philosophy of the school in which the curriculum is taught in the Maori language, the delegation was respectfully asked not to speak in English in the classrooms.

After visiting the classrooms, the delegation was invited to share morning tea with kura staff and engaged in discussion about the education provided by the school and its benefits to the children.

The Tumuaki (principal) outlined the school's drivers for success. She explained that education in such a school required a strong commitment from the child's family, and that ongoing communication was the best way to bring

a child's family along on the education journey and to address any emerging issues as they arose.

Visit to Te Papa Museum, Weta Workshop's Gallipoli Exhibition

Te Papa is New Zealand's national museum and houses a range of exhibits, from precious Maori treasures, to the colossal squid exhibition, historic and contemporary art works and the world renowned Gallipoli Exhibition.

The Gallipoli Exhibition is the stunning result of collaboration between Te Papa and Weta Workshop to create a world class exhibit to tell the human stories behind Gallipoli.

The exhibition captures the extraordinary human experiences of the Gallipoli campaign through the stories of eight New Zealanders. It consists of lifelike models, artifacts and information that combine to give a fully rounded idea of what the featured individuals experienced.

The delegation found the exhibition both impressive in its technical representation and very moving in its telling of these human stories.

This exhibition is particularly relevant as both Australia and New Zealand commemorated the centenary of Gallipoli in 2015.



Model from Te Papa Gallipoli Exhibition

Tour of Weta Workshop

A 45 minute public tour of the Weta Cave Workshop was an excellent way in which to complete this delegation to New Zealand. The Weta Workshop creates props and special effects for movies and television and is a good example of one of New Zealand's successful industries.

The Weta Workshop has helped to bring the New Zealand film industry prominence through its work in high profile films such as the Lord of the Rings trilogy, for which it produced sets, armour, models and other props. Importantly, it provides jobs to hundreds of skilled individuals on a project basis.

The Weta Workshop was responsible for creating the lifelike models central to the Te Papa Museum, Weta Workshop's Gallipoli Exhibition. It added depth to the experience for the delegation to understand how these impressive models were made.

Conclusion

Members of the delegation were very pleased to visit New Zealand and to have the opportunity to contribute to the valuable relationship that Australia has with New Zealand.

The frank discussions that took place provided the delegation with a greater understanding of the various challenges faced by New Zealand in a number of areas, including economic and social challenges.

This delegation provided an excellent opportunity for the Australian Parliament to demonstrate strong bipartisan commitment to engaging with our closest neighbour, and a practical way in which we can support the work being done by the High Commission in New Zealand.

The delegation offers its sincere thanks to all those individuals who played a role in organising the extensive program of meetings and activities that took place throughout the visit. The delegation would like to make special mention of the dedicated staff from the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives (NZ), the Visits and Ceremonials Office in the Department of Internal Affairs (NZ), and the Australian High Commission in Wellington who worked tirelessly to ensure that the program proceeded smoothly.

The Hon Tony Smith MP
Delegation Leader

Attendance at New Zealand delegation

5 April 2016 – 8 April 2016

Hon Tony Smith MP, Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP, Mr Graham Perrett MP, Senator Catryna Bilyk

Tuesday 5 April 2016

Main delegation arrived Wellington, New Zealand

Cocktail function hosted by Right Honourable David Carter, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Dinner hosted by Right Honourable David Carter, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Wednesday 6 April 2016

Meeting with HE Peter Woolcott, Australian High Commissioner in New Zealand

Meeting with Mr Andrew Little MP, Leader of the Opposition, and Honourable Trevor Mallard, MP Assistant Speaker

Meeting with Right Honourable David Carter, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Honourable Chester Burrows, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Lindsay Tisch, Assistant Speaker of the House of Representatives, Honourable Trevor Mallard, Assistant Speaker of the House of Representatives and Mr David Wilson, Clerk of the House.

Meeting of the Social Services Select Committee, chaired by Mr Alfred Ngaro MP

Private Tour of Parliament Buildings

Lunch with members of the New Zealand-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group

Attendance at Question Time

Meeting with Prime Minister, Right Honourable John Key, Honourable Gerry Brownlee, Leader of the House, and Tim Macindoe MP, Senior Whip.

Wreath Laying Ceremony, Pukeahu National War Memorial Park

Thursday 7 April 2016

Meeting with Honourable Anne Tolley, Minister for Social Development

Meeting with Labour Party Representatives

Meeting with Ms Marama Fox MP, Co-leader of the Maori Party

Meeting with Ms Miranda Thompson, Lead Parliamentary Educator

Meeting with Mr Robert Peden, Chief Electoral Officer, New Zealand Electoral Commission

Friday 8 April 2016

Mr Graham Perrett MP and Senator Catryna Bilyk

Visit to Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Ara Whanui

Visit to Te Papa Museum, Weta Workshop's Gallipoli Exhibition

Tour of Weta Workshop