



Government House, Wellington, official residence of the Governor-General of New Zealand

New Zealand's Governor-General Representing our King and our Country

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Photo: King Charles III, King of New Zealand.

King Charles III is King of New Zealand. He is also King of 14 other countries.

King Charles does not live in New Zealand. The Governor-General does all the jobs the King would do, if he lived here.

Australia and Canada have their own Governor-General representing King Charles III.

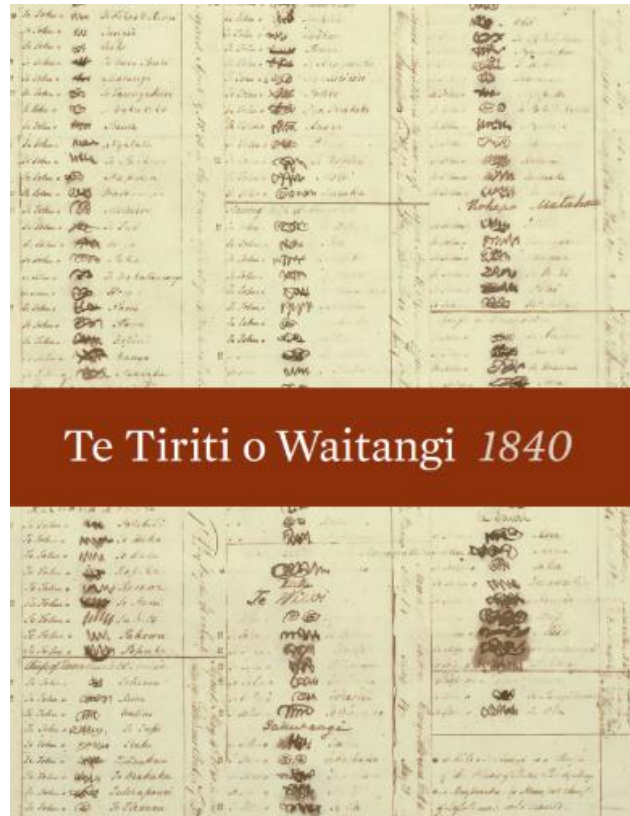


Photo: Some of the signatures of the Māori chiefs who signed the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840.

The first Governor of New Zealand was William Hobson. He was the representative of the Queen of England, Queen Victoria. In 1840, William Hobson signed the Treaty of Waitangi – Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We remember the signing every year on Waitangi Day, 6 February.

After 1840, New Zealand always had a Governor or Governor-General.

Between 1840 and 1967 all the Governors and Governors-General came out from England. From 1967 all the Governors-General have been born in New Zealand.

Who can be a Governor-General?

The Prime Minister chooses a new Governor-General every 5 years. The Prime Minister talks to the King about the person chosen to be the next Governor-General. The King uses the Prime Minister's recommendation to formally appoint the next Governor-General.

The people chosen as Governor-General have shown skills of leadership and have a good understanding of our country. They have often had long careers serving New Zealand, before they get asked to be Governor-General.

These are some of the jobs held by New Zealanders before they became a Governor-General:

- Judge
- Lawyer
- Mayor
- Archbishop
- Chief of Defence
- University Academic



Photo: Sir Anand Satyanand. Sir Anand was a Judge. He was Governor-General of New Zealand 2006-2011.



Photo: Her Excellency, Dame Cindy Kiro, Governor-General of New Zealand.

Her Excellency, Dame Cindy Kiro, has been Governor-General of New Zealand since October 2021. She was chosen by former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, and appointed by Queen Elizabeth II.

Dame Cindy has worked for universities, and for health boards. She has been the Commissioner for Children.

Dame Cindy is the 4th woman to be Governor-General. She is the 3rd Māori Governor-General.



Photo: Government House, Newtown, Wellington.

The Governor-General lives at Government House in Newtown, Wellington. Government House is her home and her office. The Royal family stays at Government House if they are visiting Wellington. There is a second, smaller Government House in Auckland.

Government House in Wellington was built in 1910. It was built to look like a British building. The house has changed a lot since it was built. On the outside the house still looks very British. On the inside there are many artworks and treasures from New Zealand and the Pacific.

Thousands of people visit Government House every year as guests at events, or to have a tour of the house.

These are some of the different parts of the Governor-General's job:

Signing laws and documents for the Government and meeting with the Prime Minister and Ministers so they can tell her about their decisions.

Photo: Dame Cindy Kiro signing a bill into law.



Making sure New Zealand has a stable Government after the election.

Photo: Dame Cindy Kiro appointing the new ministers after the 2023 election.



Helping charities promote their work and celebrating their achievements.

Photo – the logo of the New Zealand Red Cross. This is one of the 150 charities the Governor-General works with.



Giving awards to people who have worked hard for New Zealand. This might be through volunteering, showing bravery, and helping others.

Photo – Dame Cindy Kiro with Barbara Dreaver, the Radio New Zealand Pacific Issues reporter. Barbara was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) in 2024



Representing New Zealand at special overseas events and welcoming important visitors to New Zealand.

Photo – His Excellency Mr Riadh Dridi, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia, with Dame Cindy Kiro at Government House in Wellington.



Remember the Governor General and the Prime Minister do different jobs.

The Governor-General represents the King of New Zealand. Her job is not about politics. She is not an elected politician. She does not make policy decisions for New Zealand. She lives and works at Government House. A Governor-General serves the country for 5 years.



Photo: Her Excellency, The Rt Hon* Dame Cindy Kiro, Governor-General of New Zealand
(* Rt Hon = Right Honourable)

The Prime Minister (PM) leads the New Zealand Government. The Prime Minister is a politician and is the leader of the political party, or group of political parties, that get the most seats in a general election. The Government is elected every 3 years. It makes the laws and decides policies for New Zealand. The Prime Minister lives at Premier House and works at the Beehive.



Photo: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister of New Zealand

Would you like to visit Government House?

If you would like to visit Government House look at our website: www.gg.govt.nz/tours, email bookings@govthouse.govt.nz or call 04 3820837

We can run virtual tours if you aren't in Wellington.

All tours are free, but you need to book.



Photo: Children from Vietkids gave a performance to Government House staff, when they came on a tour of Government House Wellington.