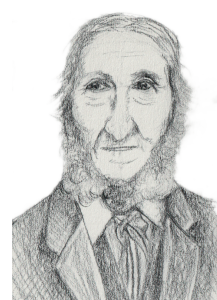


# Labour Day

*Do you know these three famous Kiwis?*

*Can you match their names with the pictures and with what they achieved?*



1. Sir Edmond Hillary
2. Kate Sheppard
3. Samuel Parnell

Led the fight for women's right to vote  
Father of the eight-hour working day  
First climber to have reached the summit of Mount Everest



*Match the words with the definitions.*

*Fill the blanks with letters a – h.*

1. immigrant
2. carpenter
3. recreation
4. parade
5. demand
6. funeral
7. obvious
8. strike

- a. a large number of people walking together to celebrate something
- b. (a way of) enjoying yourself when you are not working
- c. someone coming to a different country to live there
- d. easy to see or understand
- e. to stop work to ask for better working conditions or a pay rise
- f. a ceremony for burying a dead person
- g. to ask strongly for something
- h. someone whose job is making and repairing wooden things

1. \_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_



**Digital flashcards**

*Scan the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/3efqGtG>  
to access the digital flashcards*



*Chau Thai - NZ public holidays*

## READING



You might have known some of New Zealand firsts such as the first country to let women vote or the first man to reach Mount Everest. Do you know that New Zealand is also the place where the eight-hour working day started? This reading is about Samuel Parnell, a Kiwi who fought for this right, and the history of New Zealand Labour Day.

1. Samuel Parnell was born in England in 1810. In 1840, together with his wife, the young **carpenter** arrived at Britannia beach (Petone now) in New Zealand as an **immigrant**.

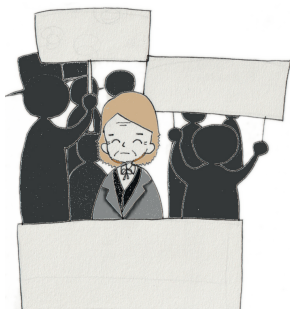


A man he knew from the trip, George Hunter, wanted to hire Parnell to build him a store. Parnell replied to his offer: "There are 24 hours per day; eight should be for work, eight for sleep, and eight for **recreation** (for men to do what little things they want for themselves). I am ready to start tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock, but it must be only for 8 hours a day or none at all". Parnell's idea was new and not normal at that time and Hunter was not happy about that. However, because there were not many skilled carpenters in New Zealand then, Hunter had to accept the condition.



2. Hunter was not the only one who disagreed with the idea. Many workers wanted to work for longer hours. Parnell worked hard to gain the support from other workers and he also talked to new immigrants.

In October 1840, a meeting was held in Wellington to reach an agreement that workers from then on, would work eight hours a day, from 8am to 5pm, and those who disagreed would be thrown into the harbour.



Fifty years later, on October 28<sup>th</sup> 1890, in Wellington, Parnell led the first Labour Day **parade**. Because even then, many workers still had to work long hours, parades like this took place in different cities in New Zealand to **demand** the government to make it a legal right. Parnell died a few weeks after and was given a public **funeral** by the city of Wellington. Ten years later, Labour Day became a public holiday and first celebrated in 1900.

3. Since 1910, Labour Day has been held on the fourth Monday in October. Today, an eight-hour working day is so **obvious** that celebrating Labour Day has become less about remembering the fight for this right but more about having a day off to relax and spend time with friends and family. Many Kiwis use this chance to enjoy their spring break by making short trips over the long weekend. Parades and **strikes** still sometimes take place on or around Labour Day because the fight for better working conditions is a never-ending fight.

4. Samuel Parnell arrived in Britannia beach in **February 1840**. Do you remember a very important event in New Zealand history that also happened in February 1840?

*Chau Thai - NZ public holidays*

## REFERENCES

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