

VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND

BY DELEGATION FROM THE AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL
EXCHANGE COUNCIL

SATURDAY 13 MAY 2023 TO FRIDAY 19 MAY 2023



CONTENTS

Executive Summary	3
Day One – Sydney to Auckland	4
Day Two – Auckland War Memorial Museum / Waiheke Island	4
Day Three – Electoral Commission / Wellington City Council / Victoria University	5
Day Four - New Zealand Parliament / High Commission of Australia	6
Day Five - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade / Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu	7
Day Six - Christchurch City Council / Oi Manawa: Canterbury Earthquake Memorial and Quake city / Willowbank Wildlife Reserve.....	8
Day Seven – University of Canterbury / International Antarctic Centre	9
Conclusion	10

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the political exchange delegates experiences and learnings while on an exchange to New Zealand for the first time since the pandemic.

The exchange was full of great experiences and learnings for all delegates.

The highlights were learning about the different levels of government and the interactions between each tier. Also seeing first hand the integration of culture into daily business was a good eye opener for what's possible here in Australia in a post implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart nation.

Political exchange delegates

Senator Jana Stewart – Labor Senator for Victoria and Delegation lead

with Josie Kelly and Ari Stewart

Carina Garland MP – Federal Labor Member for Chisholm (VIC)

Jayne Stinson MP – State Labor Member for Badcoe (SA)

Hon. Taylor Martin MLC – State Liberal Member of the Legislative Council (NSW)

Stephanie Cameron – Senior Vice President, Tasmania Division of the Liberal Party

Caitlin Hardy – Director, Government Relations and Strong Australia, Business Council of Australia

DAY ONE – SYDNEY TO AUCKLAND

Everyone arrived in New Zealand safely.

The delegation enjoyed a dinner together at Andy's burgers minus Senator Stewart and her family due to flight booking errors. The errors meant that Senator Stewart could not travel with the delegation from Sydney to Auckland but instead travelled direct from Melbourne to Auckland on a later flight.

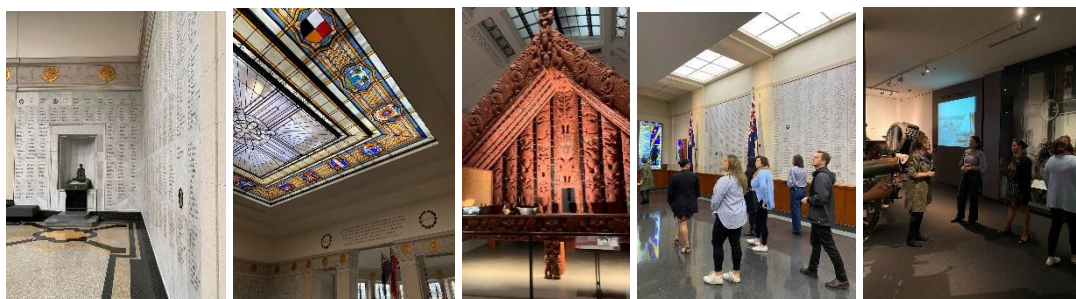
The team had ensured that the van was equipped with a rear facing baby seat for Ari which was great!

DAY TWO – AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM / WAIHEKE ISLAND

Auckland War Memorial Museum

The Auckland war memorial was a beautiful acknowledgement of the sacrifices made by New Zealanders across many conflicts and paid tribute to the special relationship between Australia and New Zealand.

A tour through the museum was lovely. Seeing and hearing stories that honored both Māori stories and artifacts as well as recent history was curated so thoughtfully. We even heard that the collection houses many Australian First Nations artifacts too.



Waiheke Island



Waiheke Island was stunning. During the ferry ride over we got to see the beautiful islands and landscapes around Auckland. The lunch at the Verandah at Cable Bay was yummy and picturesque.

Only one slight bump in the road with our van for the day not quite having the right anchor points for the baby car seat but we managed to work through it.

Dinner at Ocean bar and grill back on the mainland was a treat. The bar was set high on day two for food.

DAY THREE – ELECTORAL COMMISSION / WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL / VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

New Zealand Electoral Commission

At the electoral commission we learned about the history of the voting system, and the mixed member proportional system and the difference between a 'list' MP and a 'constituency' MP. We also heard how historic it was for Jacinda Adern to win the majority of the list and constituency spot and they believed it would be a long time before that happens again. It was also really interesting to learn about the Māori roll and voting especially in the context of the voice referendum conversation happening in Australia right now.

Wellington City Council

During our Wellington city council we got to meet with one of the city planners and see some incredible technology that is used to support the planning activities of the city and also the work that is being done to protect and preserve wildlife in the council electorate. We also met the Mayor, Tory Whanau, who is the council's first Maori mayor and got to hear about her platform of change for the city of wellington.



Victoria University of Wellington

We got to hear about the history of politics in the country and ask all types of questions ahead of going into the New Zealand parliament the following day.

DAY FOUR - NEW ZEALAND PARLIAMENT / HIGH COMMISSION OF AUSTRALIA

New Zealand Parliament

We started our day at the parliament with a traditional welcome to country, a Mihi Whakatau, which was incredibly moving. We met the speaker of the house for the first time as well as members of parliament and the head of the parliament. We were guided through the welcome with a cultural adviser who interpreted and translated the language for the delegation lead. They spoke about Ari and Josie and the significance of the delegation to bring her family something that is very special to Maroi people. They also spoke about the significance of having a First Nations person lead the delegation.

We were invited to sing a song in response to the song our hosts had sung. We chose to sing Innanay which is a Yorta Yorta nursery rhyme in the Yorta Yorta language. Our practice paid off because I think the group did a great job singing.

We had a private tour of parliament followed by lunch with members of the parliamentary friendship group where we all were given some great merch.



Question time was really interesting to observe and see the differences between each of our respective question times in Australia compared to New Zealand. One of the most interesting things is that the government gets the questions in advance and the allocation of supplementary questions.

The New Zealand Politics and Media 101 briefing was super interesting with lots of different views about the government and politics in the country that we had not heard yet including the behaviors and traits of some political parties and some thoughts about who is going to win the next election.

In the evening we were hosted by the Speaker and we got to meet more MPs and talk about all things politics including the upcoming referendum in Australia to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a voice.

High Commission of Australia

At the high commission of Australia in New Zealand we heard about the deep relationship of trust and friendship between New Zealand and Australia as well as multiple significant milestones that will be celebrated this year between the two countries.



DAY FIVE - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE / TE RŪNANGA O NGĀI TAHU

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade we got to hear some of the behind the scenes information about how the countries work together and the delegation got to ask questions about trade between the two countries.



Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

Another beautiful welcome from the Ngai Tahu. It was great to learn about all the possible for First Nations communities when treaties are stuck and honored. The Ngai Tahu are a thriving business who are a key partner in the local economy. They also do important things to look after their community.

The Ngai Tahu talked us through each of the arms to their business and the community work. We heard about great programs including having access to funds to pay for university or for a deposit on a first house. We also heard that when they are involved in a development and want to sell anything, their community gets the first chance to buy any homes before it goes to the market.

We got a three-course meal for dinner and some beautiful gifts. Ari in particular was very spoiled.



DAY SIX - CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL / OI MANAWA: CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKE MEMORIAL AND QUAKE CITY / WILLOWBANK WILDLIFE RESERVE

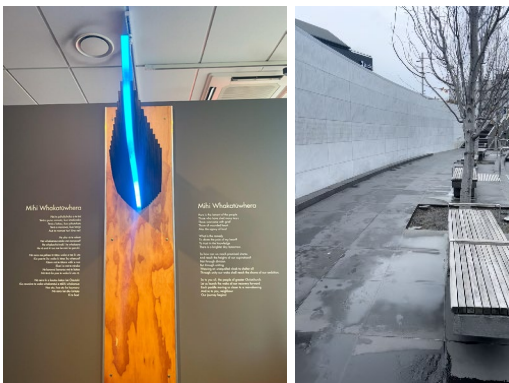
Christchurch City Council

In our meeting with Christchurch city council we learned about the incredible things to combat climate change and also be earthquake prepared and safe. We heard about how they work with the Traditional Owners in their everyday work including leasing the very building the council occupies from the Ngāi Tahu. They told us about their funding model and how they own shares in places like the airport to support their work.



Oi Manawa: Canterbury Earthquake National Memorial and Quake City

Oi Manawa is such a beautiful place to sit and remember those who lost their lives during the Christchurch earthquake in 2011. Quake city was an eye opener about the devastation of the earthquake and how earthquakes wreak havoc.



Willowbank Wildlife Reserve

Willowbank wildlife reserve was fun and we got to see a Kiwi! We got a guided tour around the reserve and learned about the native wildlife and the work that is underway to protect endangered species.



DAY SEVEN – UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY / INTERNATIONAL ANTARCTIC CENTRE

University of Canterbury

It was great to hear about the programs they have to make the university accessible to all New Zealanders including those who might not be able to afford it normally.

They had lots of questions for us about the referendum and are watching us with keen interest.



International Antarctic Centre

The Antarctic centre was great. We got to spend some time in a snowstorm simulation which was fun, meet some little penguins and pet a couple of very hard working dogs. The centre is a great educational space to learn about the Antarctic and all of its harshness and grace.



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, there was far too much delicious food to be consumed, we learned a lot about the different levels of government and interacted between one another.

New Zealand are watching with keen interest to see how the Voice referendum will go and the relationship between the two countries is as strong as ever.

The Trip was an excellent opportunity to learn from our New Zealand brothers and sisters about how to integrate Maori culture into everyday life for the country. it was everywhere that we went and accepted by every New Zealander we had contact with. what an incredible thing for our home country to aspire to. We have a lot more to learn on this front.

Thank You!

Thank you to each and every person that made this trip possible. From the selection committee through to the person who had to book all the flights and department staff that were on the ground on both sides.

The support that was given to each delegate was extraordinary.

A huge thank you for the extra logistics and thought that was required for Senator Stewart to bring her son Ari and mother Josie.