

Our story traverses 180 years of key court cases, major transactions, and groundbreaking legal work that has changed the way business is done in New Zealand.

History

1840 - 1860

1840 Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi first signed in the Bay of Islands.

1850 Canterbury settlement founded.

1858 Fire destroys more than 50 houses and businesses in Auckland.



Frederick Whitaker (later Hon. Sir Frederick Whitaker) sets up practice in Kororaraka (later Russell) in 1840. This practice will later move to Auckland (where it becomes Auckland's oldest legal practice) and become Buddle Weir & Co, then eventually part of Bell Gully.

1853 Whitaker is appointed Speaker of the Legislative Council then Attorney General in 1856 by New Zealand's first Premier, Henry Sewell. Whitaker will serve as Attorney General six times and as Premier twice.

1859 **Thomas Russell**, who will later join Whitaker in partnership, sets up the New Zealand Insurance Company (NZI - now owned by IAG).

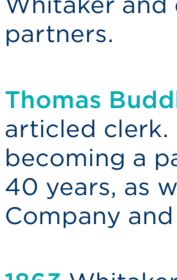
1860 - 1880

1861 Gold is discovered near Lawrence in the South Island, and the Central Otago Gold Rush begins.

1862 The first gold shipment leaves Dunedin for London.

1865 Wellington becomes capital of the colony.

1867 The Maori Representation Act introduces four Māori electorates and the first Māori elections are held the following year.



1860 **Charles Izard** founds the practice which would become known as Wellington's Bell Gully & Co.

Russell becomes a trustee of the Auckland Savings Bank (ASB). Whitaker is the bank's solicitor.

Izard appears before the Supreme Court in a case connected with the Union Bank of Australia (now ANZ Bank), along with William Fox, later Premier of New Zealand.

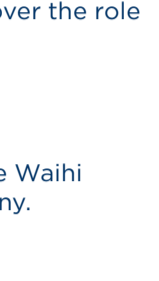
Bank of New Zealand (BNZ) founded by Russell, Whitaker and others. Whitaker and Russell become partners.

Thomas Buddle joins the Auckland firm as an articulated clerk. He serves the firm for many years, later becoming a partner. He is a director of NZI for nearly 40 years, as well as a director of the Auckland Gas Company and Colonial Sugar Refining Company.

1863 Whitaker is appointed Premier of New Zealand and Attorney General. He holds the position between October 1863 and November 1864.

1864 Izard is appointed Crown Solicitor.

1878 **Harry Bell** (later Rt Hon. Sir Francis Bell) is first appointed as Crown Solicitor, a role he holds twice, between 1878 to 1890, and from 1902 to 1910. He goes on to become the first Commissioner of State Forests and serves as Minister of Internal Affairs, Minister of Immigration, Minister of External Affairs and Prime Minister.



1880 - 1900

1882 First shipment of frozen meat leaves New Zealand for England.

1886 Mt Tarawera erupts destroying the famed Pink and White Terraces and killing 153 people.

1886 Oil is discovered in Taranaki.

1887 Te Heuheu Tukino IV presents the Tongariro National Park to New Zealand. It is the country's first national park.

1890-91 Serious outbreaks of typhoid fever occur in Wellington.

1893 Suffrage brings wider opportunities for women, and New Zealand becomes the first country to give women the vote.

Whitaker is named Premier of New Zealand for the second time.

Hugh Gully joins the Wellington practice which is renamed Bell, Gully and Izard, and takes over the role of Crown Solicitor from Bell in 1890.



Russell launches the Waihi Goldmining Company.

1892 Bell becomes Mayor of Wellington, and establishes the city's first proper rubbish disposal service and drainage scheme.

Bell Gully and Izard employ a female typist, **Miss Barnicoat**, the first in a Wellington legal office.

1900 - 1920

1905 Bell Gully and Izard lawyer, **Ernest Upham**, plays for New Zealand twice against Australia, 25 years before New Zealand gains test status. He is a founder of the Wellington Cricket Association.

1913 Waterfront strikes in Auckland and Wellington.

1914 World War I breaks out and New Zealand forces join in support of Britain.

1918 Spanish influenza rages through New Zealand, killing more than 8500 people.

Creation of power boards for electricity distribution.

1881 Izard becomes a founding director of the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company, which in 1908 became part of the New Zealand Railways Department (the forerunner of KiwiRail Holdings).

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1920 - 1940

1920 New Zealand gets mandate to govern Western Samoa at the League of Nations.

1922 New Zealand Meat Producers Board established and given control of New Zealand meat exports.

1923 New Zealand Dairy Board created and given control of New Zealand dairy exports.

1926 National public broadcasting begins in New Zealand.

1929 The Great Depression begins.

1931 Hawkes Bay earthquake kills 256 people.

1932 A series of riots by the unemployed rock Auckland, Dunedin and Christchurch

1935 Air services begin across the Cook Strait.

1939 World War II begins.

1907 Bell is appointed King's Counsel; one of the first ten named in New Zealand.

The Auckland practice loses its youngest partner, **Harold Buddle**, to the army and the firm is left with two working partners and fifteen staff, six of whom were women on wages.

1917 **William Henry Dillon Bell**, son of Sir Francis Bell and a partner in the Wellington firm, is killed in action in France.

A law clerk in the Auckland's practice recalled work in this year consisted mostly of winding up deceased estates, leading him to assume this was the major role of a solicitor.

1919 **Humphrey O'Leary** (later the Rt Hon. Sir Humphrey Francis O'Leary), joins the partnership, bringing a reputation for winning jury cases (at one time he has a nine-year record of unbeaten wins). The son of a blacksmith, he represented strikers in the 1913 waterfront strike.

1925 Sir Francis Bell, serving as Acting Prime Minister as William Massey's health fails, is named as Prime Minister after the death of Massey. He is Prime Minister for just 16 days, declining to take up the role permanently. It is the shortest tenure in that office in New Zealand's history.

Fletchers Construction begins building a four-story building for the Wellington firm, at that time described as the most modern in the city.

When the Depression is at its deepest, there are no dismissals in the Wellington office, but no new staff are taken on and those remaining have salary cuts.

Several staff members are enrolled as special constables during the riots, although not called for duty.

Legendary cricketer 'Ernie' Upham dies, having spent his entire working life of 45 years with Bell Gully. Although never qualified, he had a great knowledge of Māori law, a practice present since the beginnings of the Wellington firm. He was known as the 'White Rangitira' among Māori people.

Auckland partner **Peter Buddle** is the first Auckland partner to join the army in the war years, while another partner, **Clifford 'Kip' Richmond** (later Rt Hon. Sir Clifford Parris Richmond), joined General Bernard Freyberg's staff after three years as an officer with the 4th Field Regiment in the Middle East and Italy.

1940 - 1960

1942 Food rationing introduced during World War II.

1945 New Zealand signs United Nations charter.

1946 Bank of New Zealand nationalised.

1947 A catastrophic fire at Christchurch department store Ballantynes resulted in the loss of 41 lives.

1950 New Zealand sends naval and ground forces to the Korean War.

Christchurch (Harewood) Airport becomes New Zealand's first international airport, having opened a decade earlier.

1951 ANZUS treaty signed between New Zealand, Australia and the US.

1953 Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay become the first to climb Mt Everest.

Railway disaster at Tangiwai, 151 people die.

1955 Pulp and paper mill opens at Kawerau.

1940 **Joe Hore**, the acknowledged New Zealand authority advising insurance firms on workers compensation joined the partnership in Auckland.

Herbert Evans retires from the Wellington partnership to take up appointment as Solicitor General.

Rt Hon. Sir Michael Myers retires after 16 years as Chief Justice and is succeeded by another Bell Gully partner, **Humphrey O'Leary** (1945).

Denis Blundell (later Sir Edward Denis Blundell) appears before the Royal Commission to inquire into the Ballantynes fire, as counsel for the insurance underwriters.

Lyndsay Papps, who goes on to invent the 'open-ended debenture' and become a well-known company director, joins the firm.

Wellington-based partner **Bill Buxton** advises on the first big bank merger: the amalgamation of the Union Bank of Australia with the Bank of Australasia to create the ANZ.

1952 **Hawtorn Richmond** becomes Kings Counsel, one of three practitioners admitted together, a first for the Auckland legal profession.

1957 Wellington partner **Dick Wild** (later Rt Hon. Sir Herbert Richard Churton Wild) takes over from Herbert Evans as Solicitor General.

1960 - 1980

1961 Capital punishment abolished in New Zealand.

1964 Whangarei gets an oil refinery, with the opening of Marsden Point.

1965 New Zealand combat forces sent to Vietnam.

1966 An international airport opens in Auckland.

1967 Decimal currency is introduced.

1968 The inter-island ferry Wahine sinks in Wellington Harbour with the loss of 51 lives.

1971 An aluminium smelter begins operating at Tiwai Point.

1972 Equal Pay Act passed.

1976 Metric system introduced in New Zealand.

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1980 - 2000

1981 South African rugby team's tour causes widespread protest.

1982 Wage, price and rent freeze imposed.

1984 Finance Minister Roger Douglas begins deregulation of New Zealand economy.

1985 Waitangi Tribunal given power to hear grievances arising since 1840.

New Zealand declines visit of USS Buchanan under anti-nuclear policy.

1986 Goods and Services Tax is introduced.

1987 A major earthquake strikes Edgecumbe in March.

New Zealand sharemarket crashes in October, which will have far-reaching effects on the New Zealand economy.

1990 Commonwealth Games held in Auckland. Telecom sold for NZ\$4.25 billion.

1992 Sealord Fisheries deal between the Crown and Māori interests (1992).

1995 Resumption of French nuclear tests in the Pacific lead to launch of protest flotilla from New Zealand.

1997 Auckland's Sky Tower is opened.

1960 **Clifford Richmond** is sworn in as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Bell Gully partners represent the publishers of James Baldwin's *Another Country* in the first application heard by the Indecent Publications Tribunal in 1965.

Dick Wild (later Rt Hon. Sir Herbert Richard Churton Wild) becomes Chief Justice of New Zealand.

Wellington partner **Edward Denis Blundell** is knighted. Sir Denis is appointed High Commissioner for New Zealand in Great Britain in 1968.

Wellington's Bell Gully & Co. employs its first female law clerk, Geraldine Conway.

Des Dalgety is appointed to the board of Air New Zealand. He is involved in the merger of Air New Zealand and NAC and a member of the board at the time of the Erebus disaster. During the 1970's he acts for Sir Robert Muldoon in some highly publicised libel cases.

Sir Denis Blundell is appointed the first New Zealand-born Governor General of New Zealand.

1974 Auckland partner **Maurice Casey** (later Rt Hon. Maurice Eugene Casey) accepts an invitation to become a Judge of the New Zealand Supreme Court in Christchurch.

1979 **Laurence Grieg** (later Hon. Laurence Murray Grieg) retires from the partnership to become a Supreme Court judge.

2001 The firm advises on Fisher & Paykel's separation into two entities, Fisher & Paykel Appliances and Fisher & Paykel Healthcare.

2003 Bell Gully advises ANZ on its acquisition of National Bank of New Zealand from Lloyds TSB - the largest deal in New Zealand in 2003.

2005 The firm is New Zealand legal adviser to Goodman Fielder on its IPO of shares and ASX/NZX listing, the largest IPO in Australasia.

2006-2008 Bell Gully acts for Nga Kaihau Te Arawa Executive Council on its agreement in principle to waitangi a large number of Te Arawa's Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi's historical claims. The settlement package covers approximately 54 Treaty claims of the Te Arawa iwi (tribe) and hapu (sub-tribes), which collectively comprise over 20,000 people.

2008 Bell Gully creates a world first in carbon trading, by purchasing the first Certified Emission Reduction units to be transferred between countries. The Gold Standard units, originating from a biomass project in India, and additional units purchased, are used to offset Bell Gully's own emissions.

Bell Gully advises Crown Fibre Holdings, a Government owned investment vehicle, on the New Zealand Government's ultra-fast broadband initiative, which includes a number of transactions in 2010-2011.

2013 The firm advises the Crown on the design and implementation of the Mixed Ownership Model, and subsequently on the initial public offerings of Mighty River Power and Meridian in 2013.

Bell Gully acts for the NZ Transport Agency on the procurement of a new Road of National Significance, the Transmission Gully Motorway. It is the first PPP project in New Zealand that relates to road infrastructure. It is the third PPP to reach financial close since 2012 - a further two complete in 2015. Bell Gully advises the New Zealand Government on each of these.

Bell Gully advises Nuplex Industries on its acquisition by Allnex by way of scheme of arrangement. The billion-dollar transaction is the largest completed takeover involving a New Zealand target company in a decade and was the first large takeover to be implemented by way of scheme of arrangement under the new regime for schemes, which came into force in 2014.

Bell Gully is awarded the Rainbow Tick award for demonstrating its strong commitment to ensuring inclusion and support of the LGBTTI community.

Bell Gully backs the award-winning He Tohu exhibition, as one of the first corporate sponsors of the Te Puna Foundation. The aim of the exhibition is to improve access to the He Whakaputanga o te Rangitiratanga o Nu Tireni (Declaration of Independence of the United Tribes of New Zealand), the Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi, and the Women's Suffrage Petition (Te Petihana Whakamana Pōti Wahine).

2018 Bell Gully appoints its first female Chair, Anna Buchly.

Bell Gully won New Zealand Deal Firm of the Year, at the 2018 Australasian Law Awards.

2019 Bell Gully named a winner at the NZ UN Women's Empowerment Principles White Camellia Awards. The firm received an award in recognition of our work to promote education, training and professional development opportunities for women.

Bell Gully wins six awards at the 2019 New Zealand Law Awards. The firm was awarded Employer of Choice, while chair Anna Buchly was named Managing Partner of the Year.

Bell Gully advised Vodafone Group Plc on its sale of Vodafone New Zealand to a consortium of infrail and Brookfield Asset Management for NZ\$3.4 billion, making it one of the largest New Zealand M&A transactions on record.

NZ\$2.56 billion advised Apex Partners LLP on the NZ\$2.56 billion takeover of Trade Me-the largest takeover undertaken to date in NZ via scheme of arrangement.

2020 Bell Gully wins two awards at the Client Choice Awards 2020. The firm was named joint-winners in both Best Professional Services Firm (\$50-\$200m revenue) and Best Law & Related Services Firm (\$50-\$200m revenue) categories across Australasia.

Bell Gully wins seven awards at the 2020 New Zealand Law Awards. Bell Gully's Corporate team was recognised as New Zealand Deal Team of the Year, while the Vodafone New Zealand acquisition won M&A Deal of the Year, Debt Market Deal of the Year and overall New Zealand Deal of the Year. Bell Gully's Corporate team also won Equity Market Deal of the Year for the Napier Port IPO.

Bell Gully continues to support MBIE in its role leading New Zealand's global negotiations with the Vaccine Strategy Task Force, advising officials from MBIE, the Ministry of Health, PHARMAC, MFAT and The Treasury on securing a portfolio of COVID-19 vaccines, with sufficient vaccines to cover the Realm of New Zealand (Tokelau, the Cook Islands and Niue) and 's Polynesian neighbours (Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu) should their governments wish to take these up.

2021 Andrew Petersen, the firm's projects and real estate department leader, is appointed as Bell Gully's new chair.

For the second year in a row, Bell Gully wins New Zealand Litigation Firm of the Year at the Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific Awards 2021.