

A brief history of New Zealand food

- 1769 — Captain James Cook arrives with kai Pākehā — pigs and potatoes — which will over time complement the Polynesian staples brought by Māori 700 or so years earlier.
- 1817 — The first vines are introduced by missionary Samuel Marsden and planted in Northland.
- 1864 — *The English and Australian Cookery Book*, published in London, opens with a zesty chapter on New Zealand fish.
- 1873 — In Dunedin, Henry Shacklock invents the Orion cast-iron coal range stove.
- 1882 — Oyster bars are so popular that the seafood needs to be imported from Australia.
- 1884 — The Chelsea sugar refinery opens on Auckland's North Shore.
- 1900 — Kellogg's, the country's first dedicated vegetarian breakfast food company, arrives from Michigan and starts making cornflakes.
- 1902 — The quintessentially Kiwi lamington begins life in, er, Queensland. The recipe will soon feature in a Dunedin newspaper.
- 1907 — Sure to sell. The *Edmonds Cookery Book*, mainly put together as a way for Thomas Edmonds to sell his baking powder, first appears, before going on to shift more than three million copies by 2021.
- 1918 — Opening of the vegetarian restaurant the Sanitarium Cafe on Queen Street in Auckland, serving nutmeat pie and vegetarian veal roasts.
- 1918 — Wellington's future food emporium, Moore Wilson's, begins life as a wholesale merchant.

1920

Tomatoes appear for the first time in local recipes.

1922

The Foodstuffs Co-operative is formed in Auckland.

1925

H. E. Shacklock produces the first electric range.

1927

The recipe for pavlova appears in *Home Cooker*, for New Zealanders, although since the Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova had not yet visited the Pacific and given her name to our national dish, it goes under the name of 'Meringue with Fruit Topping' for the next couple of years.

1930s

Brussels sprouts, grown by home gardeners for decades, finally make it into fruit and vege stores. Generally boiled to a mush, their reputation with young people as a 'torture food' is repaired in the 2020s, when they are ubiquitous on restaurant menus.

1934

Radio host Aunt Daisy's (Maud Basham) *Cookery Book of Approved Recipes* is first published.

Olive Paykel asks her importer husband George to import a refrigerator that she had seen advertised in an American magazine. Their son Maurice starts a company with Woolf Fisher.

1940

Wartime food rationing is introduced: sugar, tea, butter and meat are kept in tight supply.

1940s

Frosted Foodstuffs begins life in Auckland. All hail the frozen peas.

1948

New Zealand's first self-service Four Square grocery store opens in Onehunga, Auckland.