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New Zealand/Aotearoa

Beyond the Labour Machine: Aotearoa, the Alliance, and the Question of Working Class Independence



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[1] Joe Hendren, "Mega Strike in New Zealand Demands Funding for Public Services, Raises," *Labor Notes*, November 2025, <https://labornotes.org/blogs/2025/11/mega-strike-new-zealand-demands-funding-public-services-raises>; Tom Peters, "More Than 100,000 Join New Zealand's Biggest Strike in Over 45 years," World Socialist Web Site, October 24, 2025, <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2025/10/24/crch-o24.html>.

[2] Penny Smith, "Maritime Union affiliates with Alliance Party, keeps door open to Labour," RNZ News, June 7, 2026, <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/597493/maritime-union-affiliates-with-alliance-party-keeps-door-open-to-labour>. On MUNZ's own affiliations, see Maritime Union of New Zealand, <https://munz.org.nz/>. By contrast, the Post Primary Teachers' Association states explicitly that it is not affiliated to any political party; see "PPTA is not affiliated to the Labour Party," <https://www.ppta.org.nz/publication-library/ppta-is-not-affiliated-to-the-labour-party/>.

[3] Wendy Zeldin, "New Zealand: Controversial Changes to Pay Equity Legislation Enacted," Global Legal Monitor, Library of Congress, June 26, 2025, <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2025-06-26/new-zealand-controversial-changes-to-pay-equity-legislation-enacted/>; NZEI Te Riu Roa, "Government changes to pay equity — May 2025," <https://www.nzeiteriuroa.org.nz/help-advice/knowledge-base/government-changes-to-pay-equity-may-2025>. Finance Minister Nicola Willis's NZ\$12.8 billion figure is from her 2026 Budget announcement.

[4] Jamie Ensor, "Budget 2026: Nicola Willis' public service cuts to save \$2.4b, 8700 jobs to go," *New Zealand Herald*, May 19, 2026, <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/politics/budget-2026-pm-christopher-luxon-promising-job-cuts-as-nicola-willis-to-unveil-public-service-shrink/ERIJH-W5CHJDRTPTZHNA7O6CAYVA/>; see also "New Zealand budget 2026 raises concerns over jobs, public sector cuts and long-term unemployment," People Matters Global, May 2026.

[5] Tom Peters, "Homelessness worsens in New Zealand," World Socialist Web Site, January 5, 2026, <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2026/01/05/cayx-j05.html>.

[6] "Cost of Living Crisis NZ 2026: Why Household Expenses Are Surging and What Families Need to Know," Kalkine NZ, 2026, <https://kalkine.co.nz/by-topic/economic-news/cost-of-living-crisis-nz-2026-why-household-expenses-are-surging-and-what-families-need-to-know>; Stats NZ, "Household living costs increase 3.0 percent," <https://www.stats.govt.nz/news/household-living-costs-increase-3-0-percent/>.

[7] For the Alliance's foundational history, see the party's official account at <https://allianceparty.nz/about/>; and "New Zealand: Alliance Adopts a Socialist Manifesto," *Green Left*, January 14, 2004, <https://www.greenleft.org.au/2004/566/world/new-zealand-alliance-adopts-socialist-manifesto>.

[8] The Christchurch Trade Union Centre is the longstanding home of the city's organized labor movement and a working union building rather than a conference venue. Holding the founding conference there, rather than in a hired hall, signaled the party's intention to root itself in existing union structures, rather than in the activist milieu—a claim the MUNZ affiliation gave substance to four months later.

[9] See Kim Moody, *Breaking the Impasse: Electoral Politics, Mass Action, and the New Socialist Movement in the United States* (Chicago: Haymarket, 2022); and Charlie Post, "Beyond Electoralism: Mass Action and the Remaking of the Working Class," *Spectre*, November 25, 2025, <https://spectrejournal.com/beyond-electoralism/>.

[10] Lyttelton Port posts record half-year profit," RNZ News, February 4, 2026, <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/business/585958/lyttelton-port-posts-record-half-year-profit>; "Maritime Union Vows To Fight Lyttelton Port Privatisation

Plans," Scoop News, June 5, 2026, <https://business.scoop.co.nz/2026/06/05/maritime-union-vows-to-fight-lyttelton-port-privatisation-plans/>

[11] Post [electoralism](#).

[12] Paul Ginsberg, "For a United Front Against Neofascism," *Spectre*, May 19, 2026, <https://spectrejournal.com/for-a-united-front-against-neofascism/>.

[13] James Stout, "The Only Way Out Is Together," *Spectre*, June 2, 2026, <https://spectrejournal.com/the-only-way-out-is-together/>.