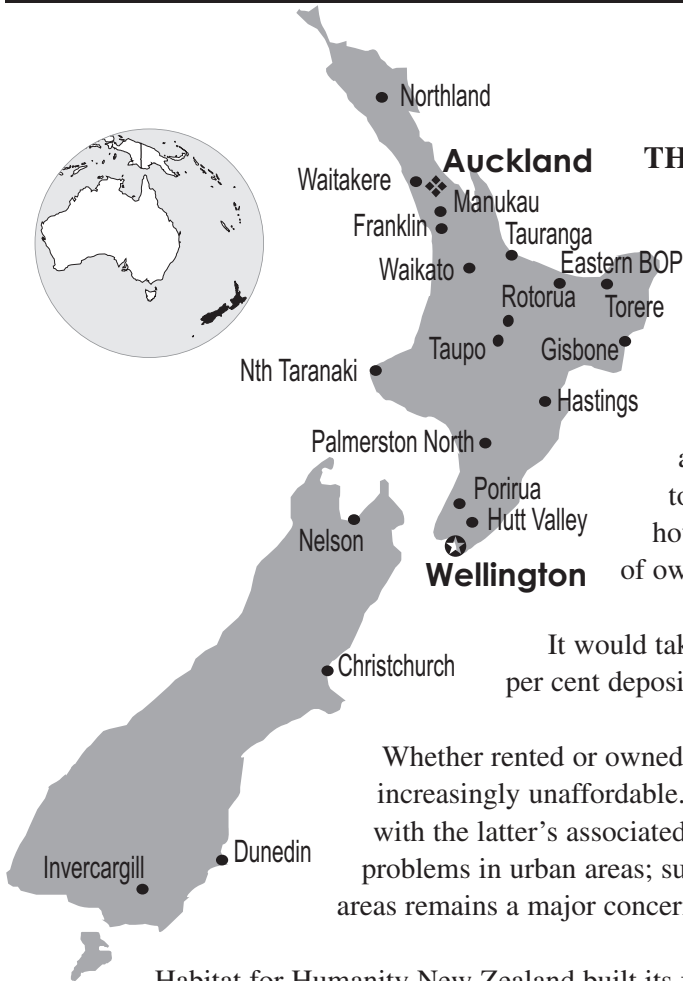


New Zealand

Country Profile

● Affiliates ♦ National Office ✦ Capital City



THE STUNNING landscapes of the South Pacific nation of New Zealand are the stage for a vibrant, modern and multi-cultural society where influences from early Maori settlement combine with decades of British colonisation and, more recently, increased immigration from Asia and other regions.

In recent years, New Zealand has reoriented from an agrarian economy dependent on a guaranteed British market to a more industrialised, free market economy. In the process, however, many low-income families have seen the opportunity of owning a home of their own become an impossible dream.

It would take 28 years for an aspiring family to save enough for a 10 per cent deposit on a new house. And house prices continue to rise.

Whether rented or owned, the cost of a decent home is increasingly unaffordable. High costs and overcrowding, with the latter's associated health issues, are significant problems in urban areas; sub-standard housing in rural areas remains a major concern.

Habitat for Humanity New Zealand built its first home in 1993 in Pukekohe, a small rural town just south of the main city of Auckland in the North Island. It has grown into one of the most innovative national programs in the Asia-Pacific region. HFH New Zealand works through a network of 19 urban and rural affiliates. Nearly two thirds of partner families are of Maori or Pacific origin.

A typical house is 100 sq.m. It is constructed of timber framing, fibrous cement cladding and iron roofing, which are the most suitable and economical building materials. The average build time is three to six months.

HFH New Zealand has an active program of hosting international volunteer builds, hosting an average of 12 teams each year. It also sends an average of five Global Village teams overseas for builds, mainly in the Pacific region.

COUNTRY FACTS

Population: 3,993,817
Capital: Wellington
Area: 268,680 sq. km.
Ethnic groups: European 79%, Maori 15%, Pacific Islands 3.8%, Asian & others 7.4%
Language: English, Maori
Religion: Anglican 24%, Presbyterian 18%, Roman Catholic 15%, Methodist 5%, Baptist 2%, other Protestant 3%, unspecified or none 33%

HABITAT FACTS

Families Helped

221

Cost Of One House*

US\$73,170

As of April 2005

* international sponsorship cost

Habitat Highlights

- First 100 houses built in seven years; second 100 houses built in three years.
- 'Blitz Build' planned for March 2005, marking the 10th anniversary of HFH Manukau by building five houses for families in need over a single week.
- HFH Manukau and Wesleyan Church of New Zealand supporting a 17-house project in a remote village in Fiji.
- The Torere Project completed in September 2003: 20 houses completed, thus eradicating sub-standard housing in one community.



HFH New Zealand

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