

Hutt Electorate, General Election 1922

The lead up to the 1922 General Election resulted in all three Hutt Electorate candidates using the new Taita Public Hall.

David Kennedy Pritchard, the Labour candidate, acted as a scrutineer at the first election of the Hall Committee on 19 June 1922, contributed £3 2s to the Hall funds, and at the end of July was asked to type a draft letter to subscribers.

The Committee granted Pritchard the use of the Hall on 31 October 1922. The evening meeting was largely attended and was chaired by Frederick Seymour Hewer. Topics included the advantages of having a State Bank and a State Insurance provider and the Labour Party land policy was exhaustively dealt with.

On 7 November 1922 Thomas Mason Wilford, Leader of the Opposition and incumbent Hutt MP for the Liberal Party held a meeting at the Hall that was attended by more than 250 people. Fred Futter presided. After talking about the political subjects of the day a vote of thanks and confidence was moved.

An amendment was also moved, thanking Wilford for his address, but expressing more confidence in either Mr Bennett or Mr Pritchard. This was lost and the first motion was declared carried.

The Prohibition Party inaugurated political use of the Hall on 13 November 1922.

Henry Dargaville Bennett, the Reform candidate for the Hutt Electorate, addressed a large meeting of electors on 29 November with Maurice Edward Denniston presiding. Mr Bennett said that in the Hutt electorate the people had a special opportunity to serve the country, in that they had the opportunity of decapitating the Liberal Party by refusing to return its leader.

The meeting was an enthusiastic one throughout. There were some attempts at demonstrations by opponents, but these were overwhelmed by Bennett's supporter counterdemonstrations. A vote of thanks and confidence was accorded to the candidate, and this was carried with acclamation and cheers.

Thomas Mason Wilford, the Liberal party candidate, and Leader of the Opposition, was also granted use of the Hall at the same time as Bennett. The Wilford Committee used the Library Room before and after the election.

Hutt Electorate Results

Thomas Mason Wilford (Liberal-Labour)	3572 majority 763
David Kennedy Pritchard (Labour)	2809
Henry Dargaville Bennett (Reform)	2271

