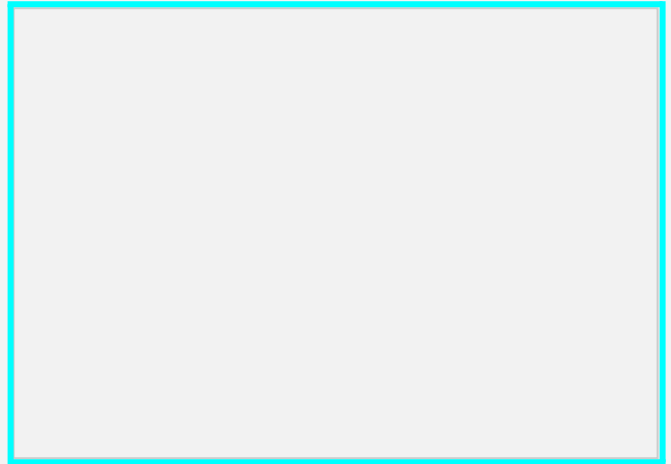


One of the biggest fish in 1890's New Zealand politics was the **aptly** named Henry Fish. He was the most outspoken voice against Kate Sheppard and her quest to gain women the right to vote.

Fish had a strong following among working men and he often spoke out quite rudely in public about Sheppard and the Suffragettes. He stated that they were nothing more than a "shrieking sisterhood!" Fish was so committed to stopping women voting that he organised two petitions outlining the dangers of women voting. When it was discovered that he had paid people to sign his petitions, his **reputation** was greatly damaged.

It is true to say that Fish may have delayed women gaining the vote in New Zealand. But it is also true to say that Henry Fish was so outrageous that he drew a lot of supporters to Kate Sheppard's cause. Many women's groups were formed in 1892 and they campaigned against Fish in his election for mayor of Dunedin, an election he lost. A year later the women of New Zealand delivered thirteen petitions to parliament from all around the country with more than 25,000 signatures. In the 1893 election that women voted in for the first time, a world first, Henry Fish was voted out of parliament. It is not known how Fish's wife or six daughters voted in that election.



Questions (look in the text for highlight clues!)

- 1) Was Henry Fish for or against women gaining the vote?
- 2) Who mostly supported Henry Fish?
- 3) What 'damaged' Fish's **reputation**?
- 4) How many petitions were in favour of women gaining the vote?
 - a) 2
 - b) 13
 - c) 25,000
- 5) What was a key reason that Fish lost two elections in 1892 and 1893?
- 6) Why do you think the author states Fish was, 'one of the biggest fish in 1890's NZ politics'?
- 7) Why do you think the author included the last line about Fish's wife and daughters?

Governing and equity

Produced by Paul Tucker@Orewa College (2022)

New Words (look in the text for highlight clues!)

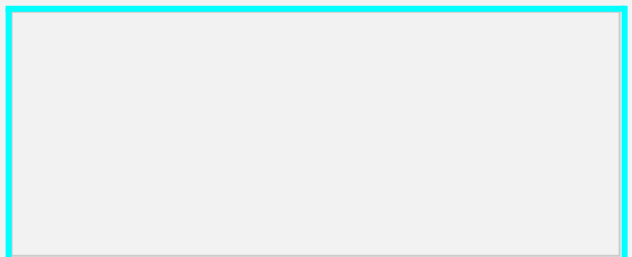
What do you think the word **aptly** means in the story? Does it mean:

- a) It is a type of fish.
- b) It is appropriate.
- c) It is quite strange.

Position Words (Prepositions)

For each sentence find the word that shows the location of something.

- 1) The petition rolled out on the floor.
- 2) Kate stored her bike under the house.
- 3) The Prime Minister went outside to speak to the crowd.



The successful petition was glued together and was some 270m long.