

Parihaka History

Who?

Parihaka was founded by Tohu Kākahi and Te Whiti o Rongomai.

Where?

Tohu and Te Whiti wanted peace for their people and they decided to lay down their weapons and work for their rights through peace. Through passive resistance, they worked against the Government of New Zealand and its confiscation of land plan.

What?

Tohu and Te Whiti fought the government by getting their followers to do things such as pull out surveyors' pegs or rebuild fences that the government troops pulled down. Meetings were held on the 18th and 19th of each month to talk through issues and ideas.

When?

On 5th November 1881, government troops arrested many of the men of Parihaka, including Tohu and Te Whiti. When the men were released back to Parihaka after 18 months, they continued their peaceful protests and Te Whiti was arrested again in 1886.

Now

In 2003, Parihaka was visited by representatives of people such as Martin Luther King Jr, Mahatma Ghandi and of the Japanese peace movement. There remains a small community living around the Parihaka marae and they still meet on the 18th and 19th of each month.

