

## REMEMBER THE 5th OF NOVEMBER

On 5th November 1881, about 1,500 armed settlers and soldiers invaded the Taranaki settlement of Parihaka, having seized surrounding Maori land for soldiers and newly arrived immigrant settlers.

The Maori Campaign of creative peaceful resistance, was led by Parihaka chiefs **Tohu Kakahi** and **Te Whiti o Rongomai**. It preceded Gandhi's first non-violent civil disobedience campaign in South Africa by over a quarter of a century and Martin Luther King's first US campaign for black civil rights by three quarters of a century.

### Contact Details:

**National Secretary:** Rob Ritchie  
ritchie@disarmsecure.org

**Auckland Committee Member:**

Graeme Carlé  
GraemeCarle@xtra.co.nz  
Phone: (09) 535 3770

## Recommended Reading

For ADULTS—

*The Art of Passive Resistance*

Ed. Te Miringa Hohaia & others

*Ask that Mountain* by Dick Scott

*Days of Darkness* by H. Riseborough

*The Parihaka Album: Lest we forget* by

Rachel Buchanan

*The Parihaka Woman* by W. Ihimaera

*Wanderings with the Maori Prophets, Te*

*Whiti and Tohu* by John P. Ward

*Waitangi Tribunal -The Taranaki Report -*

*Kaupapa Tuatahi*

**CHAPTER 8 – PARIHAKA**

Also: [www.parihakafilm.com](http://www.parihakafilm.com)

[www.emmausroad.org.nz/Parihaka.html](http://www.emmausroad.org.nz/Parihaka.html)

For CHILDREN—

*Te Tupuna Maunga o Taranaki: the*

*Ancestral Mountain of Parihaka*

by Keith Tonkin

*Remember That November*

by Jennifer Beck with Lindy Fisher

*Tohu, Te Whiti they'll never be defeated*

*And even at the darkest hour their*

*presence will remain.*

*... Oh I'll sing for you a song of Parihaka*

*Come to Parihaka weep for my lost brother*

*The spirit of non-violence has come to*

*fill the silence .....*

*Parihaka Tim Finn*

## WHY PARIHAKA DAY?

To raise public awareness of the ongoing legacy of Tohu and Te Whiti, who pioneered living in harmony with the land and humanity, non-violent resistance to injustice, and a belief in the peaceful and respectful coexistence of Maori with all others who have come to this land.



Tohu



Te Whiti

*Isaiah: 2:4*

*...they shall beat their swords into ploughshares ...Nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

## COLONIAL LAND GRAB

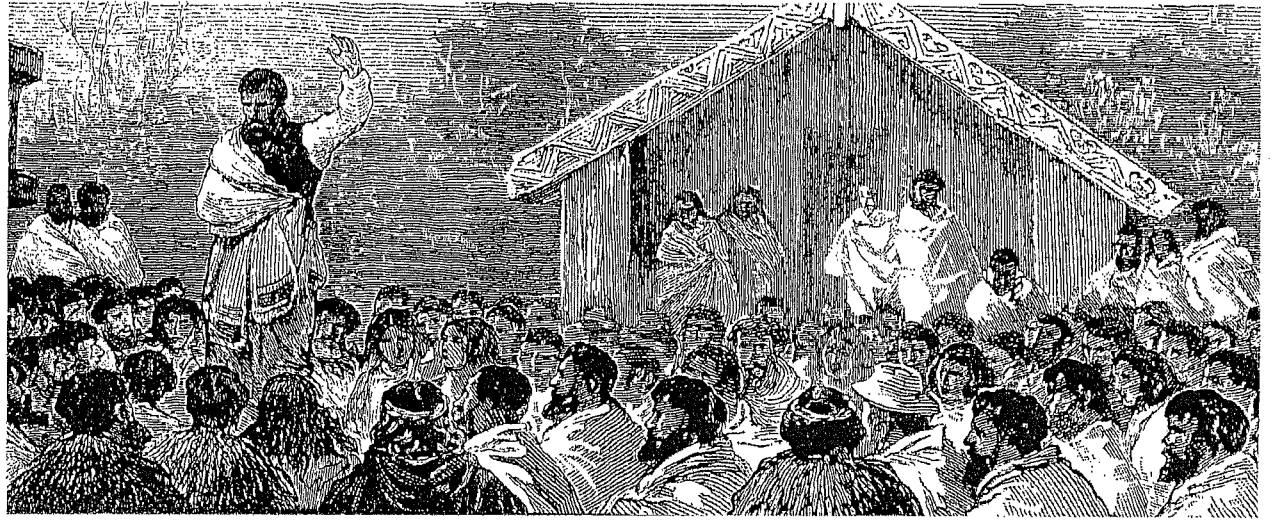
Disciplined Maori teams ploughed land recently allocated by the government to soldiers and other settlers. When asked what they should do if any of them were shot, Tohu replied, *"Gather up the earth on which the blood is spilt and bring it to Parihaka."* 600 armed constabulary started to build roads through some of the most fertile land in Taranaki, pulling down fences around Maori gardens. Tohu and Te Whiti responded by ordering their followers to re-erect fences across these roads.

## PLOUGHMEN ARRESTED

The government retaliated by imprisoning over 400 Maori ploughmen, mostly without trial, in prisons in Dunedin, Hokitika and Lyttelton. Over 200 "fencers" were arrested: none appeared in court; and all were illegally shipped to prisons in the South Island.

## PARIHAKA INVASION

On the marae on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1881, 2,500 unarmed adults sat waiting with Tohu and Te Whiti in their midst.



As the soldiers reached the entrance to the village, they were met by children playing with tops and dancing and singing. Others offered them freshly baked bread and watermelons.

The two leaders and several others were arrested and led away. Despite considerable provocation, they did not resist. Two days later rape, looting and destruction began. 1,600 people were forcibly dispersed but 600 were allowed to remain. However houses and crops were destroyed and animals slaughtered. Still there was no violent resistance, and not one life was lost: the spirit of non-violence prevailed.

## SOUTH ISLAND IMPRISONMENT

Some of those imprisoned died of cold and malnutrition. Tohu and Te Whiti were held without trial for almost two years. They returned home as heroes, and led the recovery of their community.

Despite further imprisonment, by the time they both died in 1907, Parihaka had become renowned as one of the most advanced municipal communities in the country. Te Whiti said: *"It is not my wish that evil should come to the two races. My wish is for the whole of us to live peaceably and happily on the land."*