

Rēkohu Timeline



Beginnings

According to the traditional stories of the Moriori, people were already living on Rēkohu when Kahu, the first voyager from Hawaiki, arrived in his canoe, *Tāne*. These were the descendants of Rongomaiwhenua (Peace on the Land) and Rongomaitere (Peace on the Sea).

900-1500

Archaeologists have evidence suggesting that Rēkohu was settled by groups of Polynesian voyagers from the mainland of New Zealand. But Moriori traditions tell us that many of their karapuna came directly to Rēkohu from Polynesia.

1791

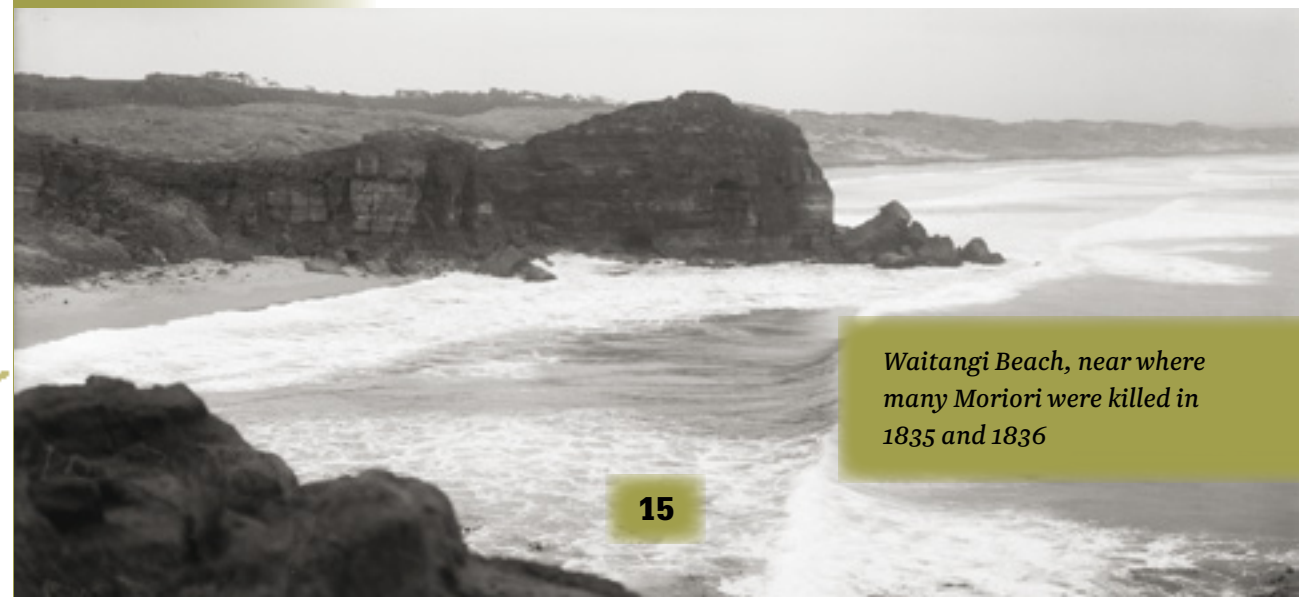
The HMS *Chatham*, captained by Lieutenant William Robert Broughton, was the first European ship to arrive at Rēkohu.

Plaque at Kāingaroa commemorating the arrival of HMS Chatham in 1791



1835

Rēkohu was invaded by Ngāti Mutunga and Ngāti Tama from Wellington, New Zealand. The Rēkohu chiefs obeyed the Law of Nunuku, deciding not to fight the invaders because of their belief in peace. Instead, they welcomed and looked after the new arrivals, who were sick when they first arrived. More than two hundred Moriori men, women, and children were killed by the invaders, and many others became slaves.



Waitangi Beach, near where many Moriori were killed in 1835 and 1836

1838-39

Influenza epidemics killed many Moriori and Māori on Rēkohu.



*Johannes Gotfried Engst
– a missionary who arrived
in Rēkohu in 1843*

1842

Rēkohu became part of New Zealand. The first European Christian missionary arrived.



1863

The last Moriori slaves were freed.

1870

The Native Land Court awarded 58 516 hectares (97.3 percent of the land on Rēkohu) to Ngāti Mutunga. 1640 hectares (2.7 percent) were set aside for Moriori.

1933

Tame Horomona Rehe (known as Tommy Solomon) died. He was the last person of full Moriori descent.



*Tame Horomona Rehe
in 1900*



1976

A programme began to save the endangered toutouwai (Chatham Islands black robin) on Little Mangere Island. In 1976, only seven birds remained. By 2010, the number of birds had risen to around 200.



*Toutouwai
(Chatham Islands
black robin)*

1986

A statue of Tame Horomona Rehe was unveiled by the Prime Minister, David Lange, on 29 December at Manukau Point as a memorial to the Moriori as tchakat henu of Rēkohu.



*The statue of
Tame Horomona Rehe
at Manukau Point*



1988


Moriore filed a claim with the Waitangi Tribunal seeking the return of land, fishing rights, and recognition of their identity and culture.

2001

The Waitangi Tribunal upheld the claims of Moriore as tchakat henu of Rēkohu. The Hokotehi Moriore Trust was formed to represent all Moriore people.

2004

Moriore won back a share of their fishing rights from the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission.



2005

On 21 January, Kopinga Marae was opened by Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand.

2008

Hokotehi and the Crown established a \$6 million trust fund to help rebuild Moriore culture and identity.



Hinemata Solomon at the ceremony to hand over the trust fund in 2008

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