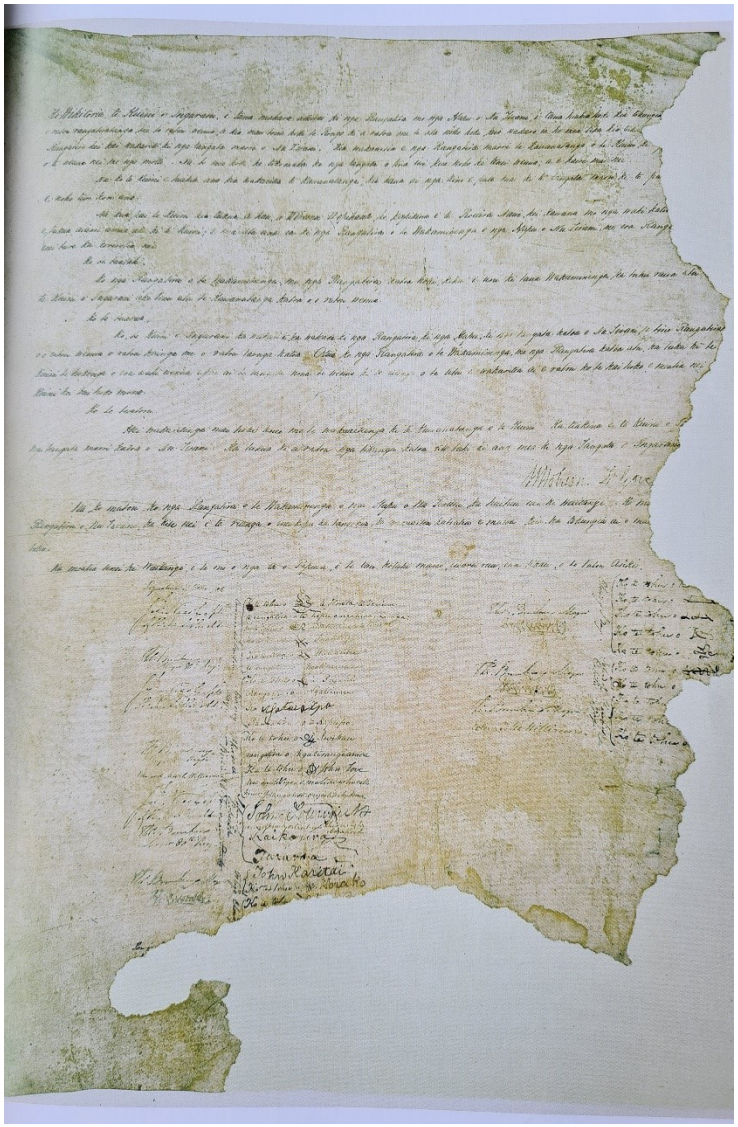
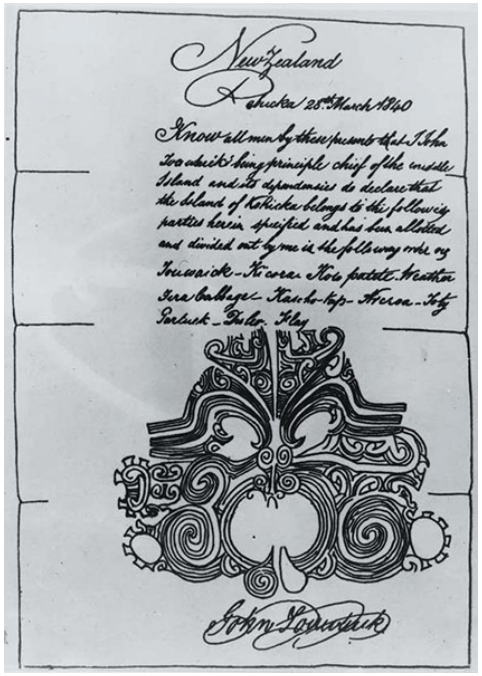
Turbulent Times – Ngāi Tahu in the nineteenth century





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University of
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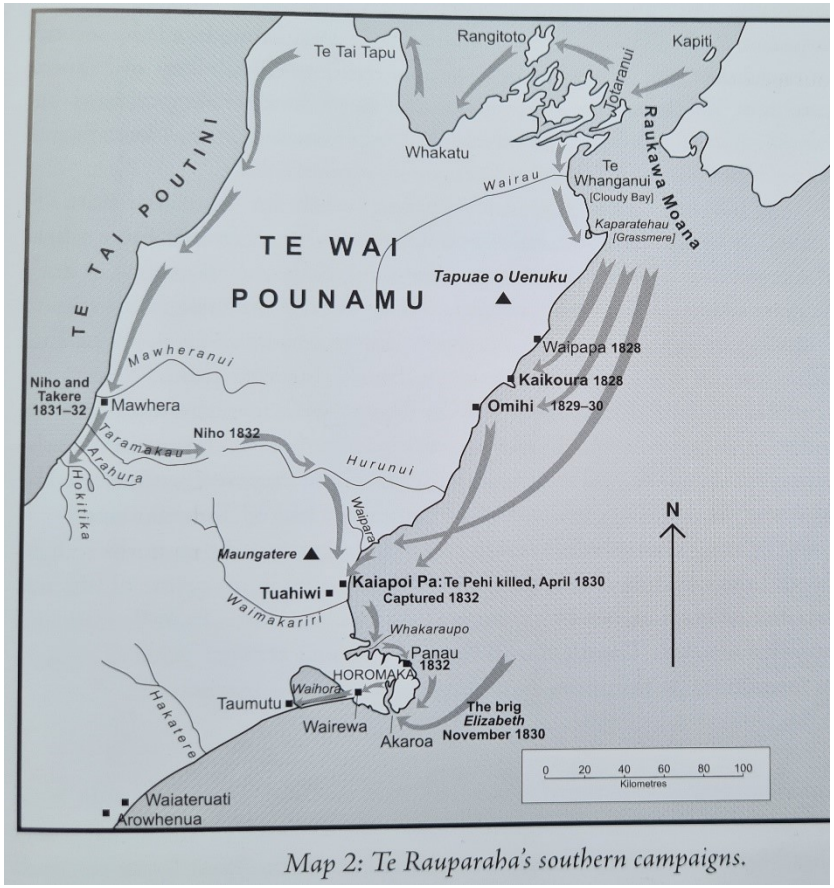
Invasions from the North

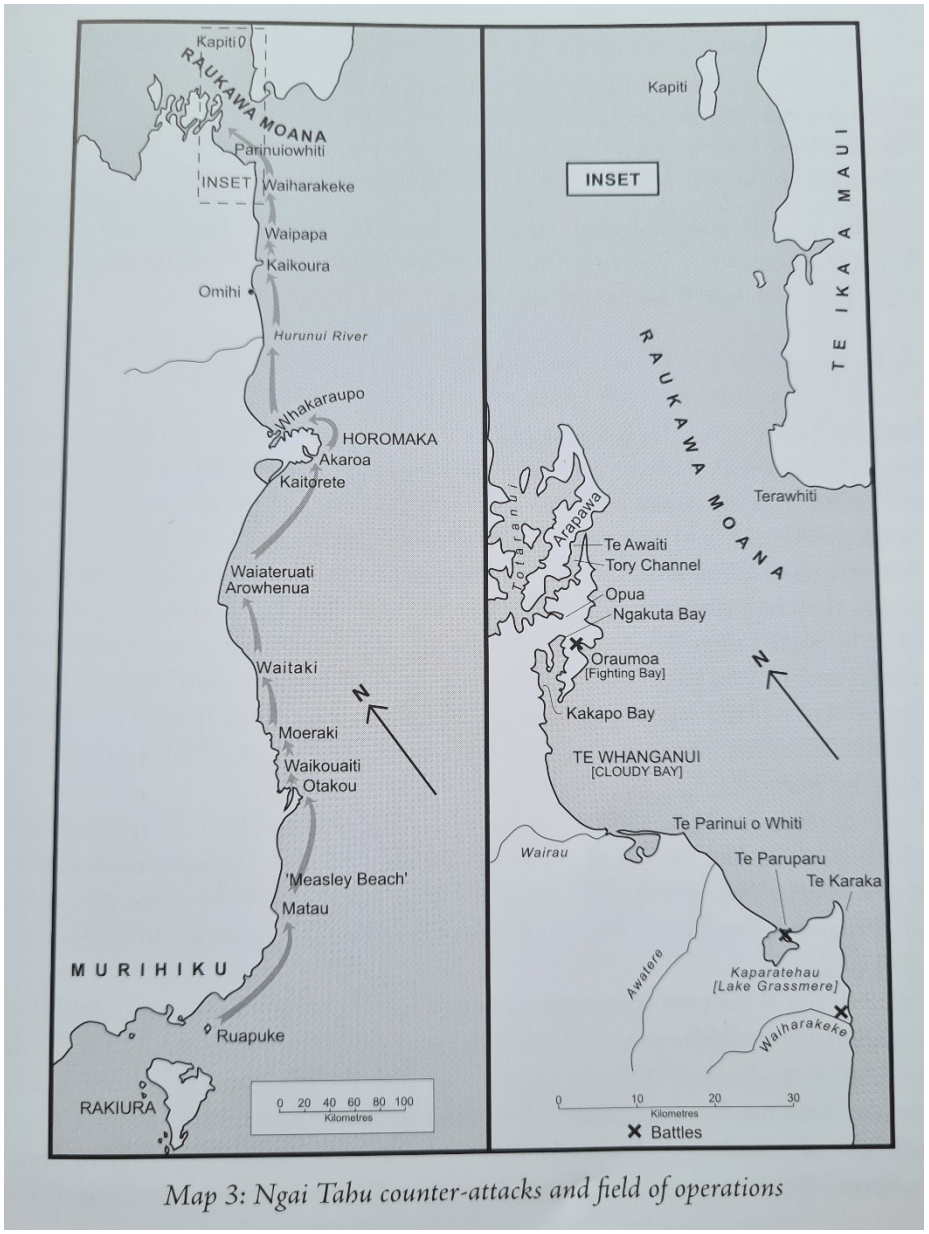
- Northern Māori attack from the Kaikoura Coast to Akaroa on the east coast and down to Hokitika on the west coast in the late 1820s and 1830s
- After suffering major casualties during their attack on Kaiapoi, Te Rauparaha hires Captain John Stewart and his ship, The Elizabeth, to attack Akaroa kainga and kidnap Tama-i-hara-nui, his wife and daughter
- The attacks unite Ngāi Tahu following internal strife of the early to mid 1820s, and Northern Māori are attacked in Te Tau Ihu in the second half of the 1830s



Map 2: Te Rauparaha's southern campaigns.

Resistance and counter-attacks

- At Otakou and Murihiku (Southland), Ngāi Tahu engage in sealing and whaling enterprises and help lead resistance to Northern Māori
- Similarly, southern rangatira lead repulsion of forces led by Te Puoho trying to move into Murihiku from the west coast, but with no support from Ngāti Toa



Map 3: Ngai Tahu counter-attacks and field of operations

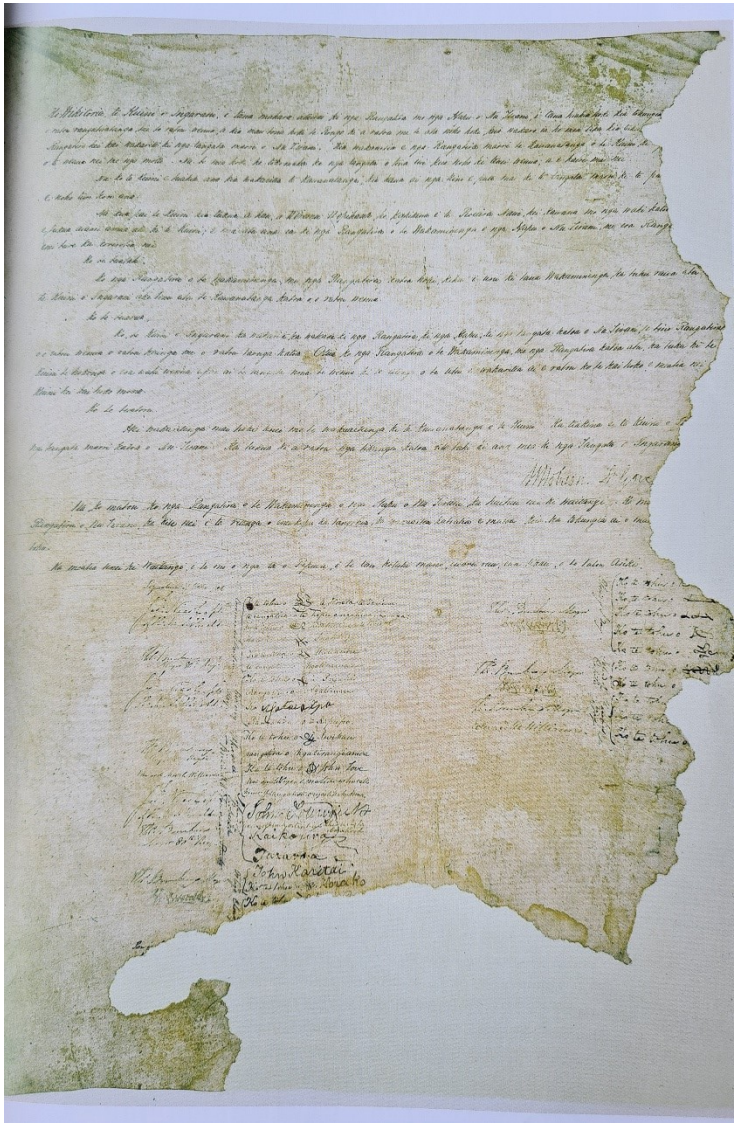
Background to the Treaty

- Lord Normanby's Instructions to Captain William Hobson, 14 August 1839:

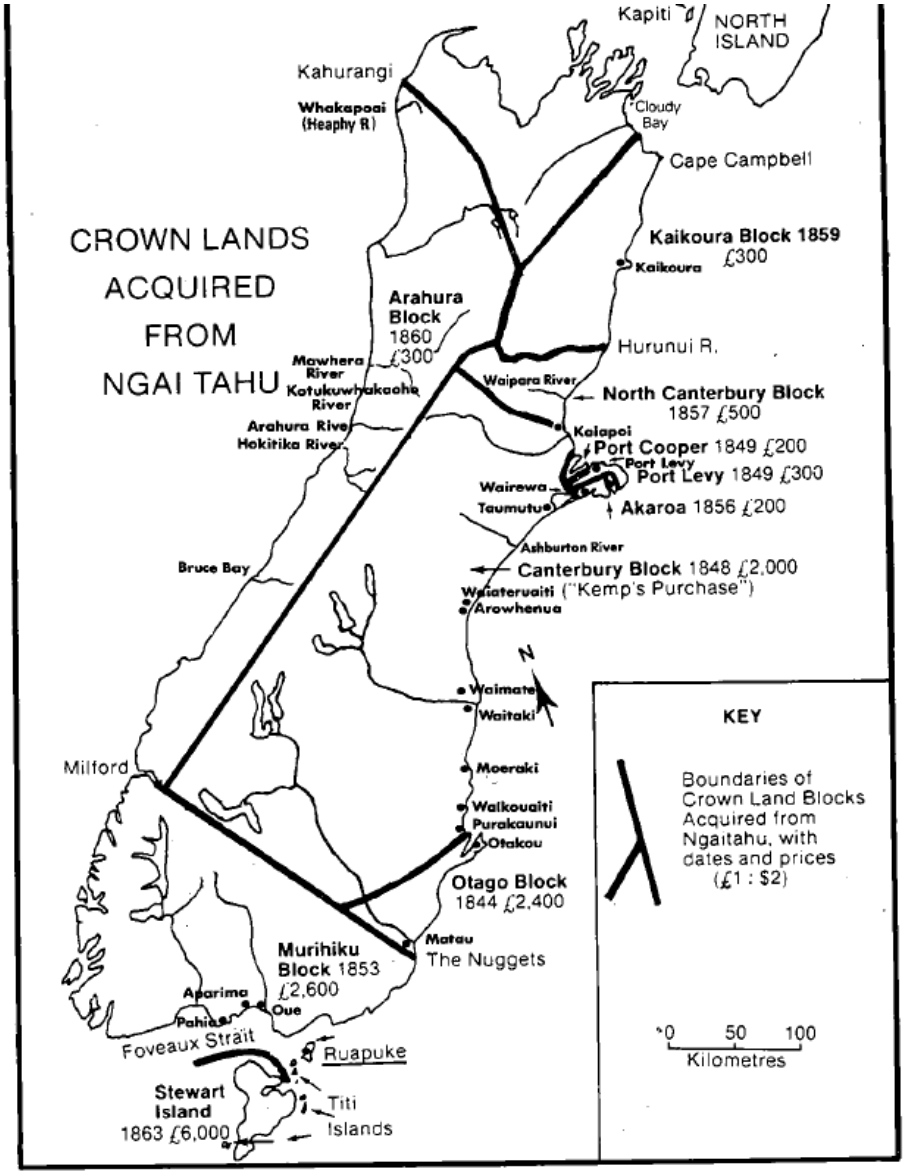
"All dealings with the natives for their lands must be conducted on the same principles of sincerity, justice and good faith as must govern your transactions with them for the recognition of Her Majesty's sovereignty in the Islands. Nor is that all: they must not be permitted to enter into any contracts in which they might be ignorant and unintentional authors of injuries to themselves. You will not, for example, purchase from them any territory the retention of which by them would be essential or highly conducive to their own comfort, safety, or subsistence. The acquisition of land by the Crown for the future settlement of British subjects must be confined to such districts as the natives can alienate without distress or serious inconvenience to themselves. To secure the observance of this - will be one of the first duties of their Official Protector."

Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi

- Signings around the country, for Ngāi Tahu at Ōnuku, Otakou and Ruapuke
- English and Māori versions: Does rangatiratanga and kāwanatanga = sovereignty and governance?



Te Kerēme – The Ngāi Tahu Claim

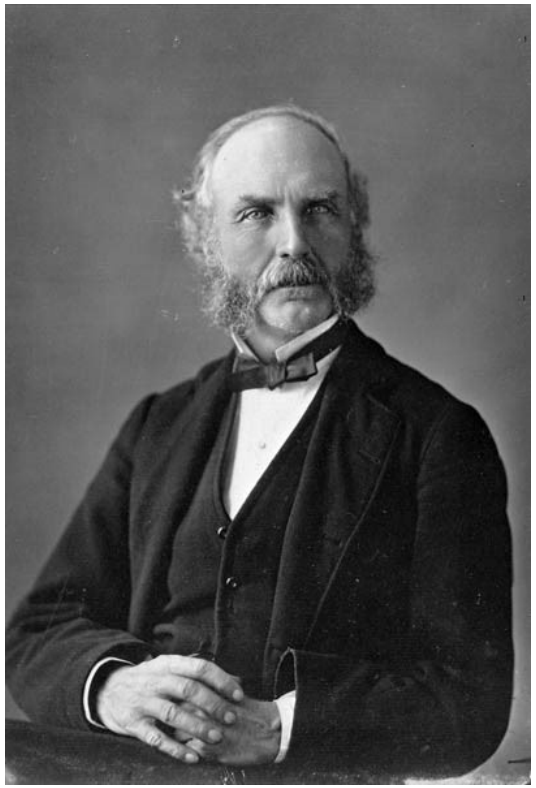


Crown Acquisitions of Ngai Tahu Lands

Purchase	Area in acres	Reserves in acres	Price (£)
Otago	533,700	9615	2400
Kemp	13,551,400	6359	2000
Banks Peninsula	251,500	3426	650
Murihiku	7,257,500	4875	2600
North Canterbury	2,137,500	--	500
Kaikoura	2,817,000	5558	300
Arahura	6,946,000	6724	300
Rakiura	420,000	935	6000
	33,914,600	37492	14750

Fighting for the claim

- Chief Judge FD Fenton and the Native Land Court: 1868
- *Ngai Tahu Reference Validation Act* 1868



- Hori Kerei Taiaroa's 1872 Petition to the House of Representatives

Crown delays resolution of claim

- Fenton's 1876 report finds claim invalid
- Taiaroa's criticisms of Fenton report
- Royal Commission on Middle Island Native Land Purchases (Smith-Nairn Commission), 1879-1881
- Native Affairs Minister John Bryce harasses the Commission which ends early
- Report validate most Ngai Tahu claims

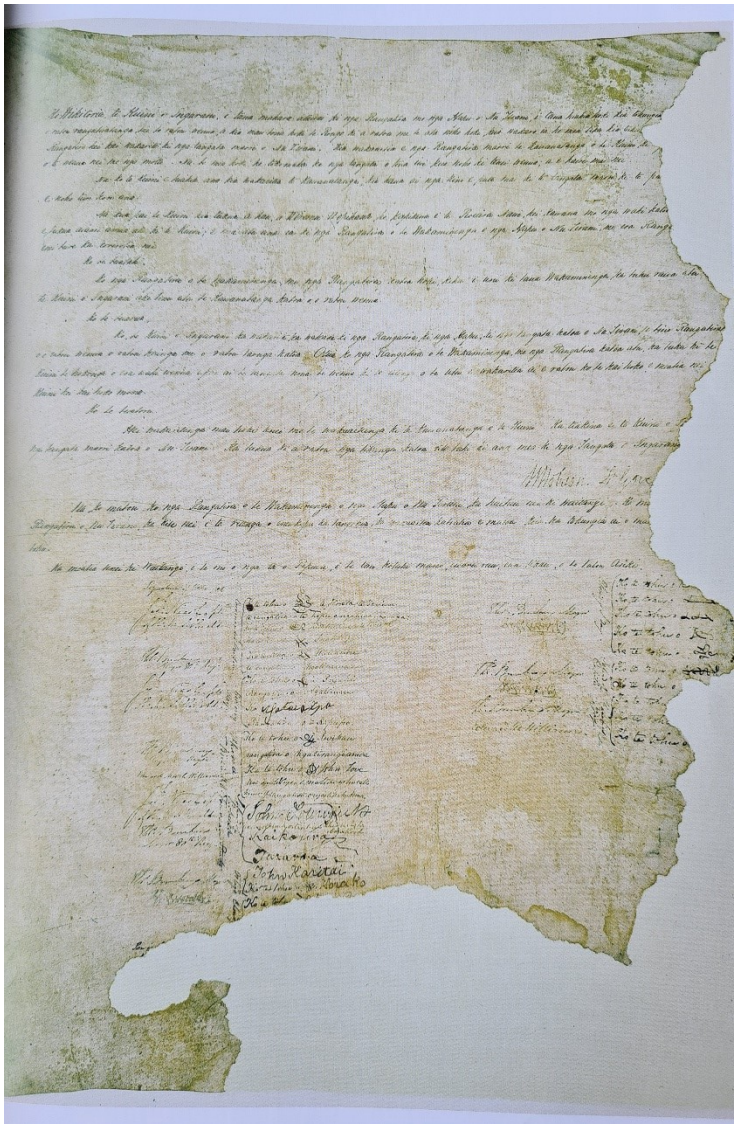
Ngai Tahu continues the fight

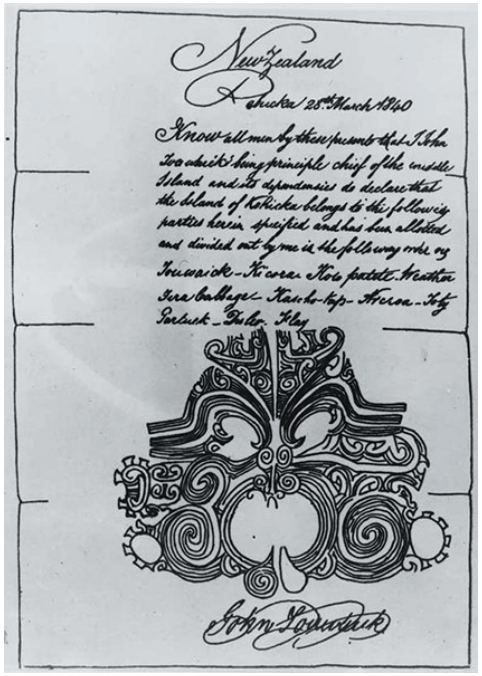
- Native Affairs Committee 1882 dismisses Smith-Nairn report
- Native Affairs Select Committee 1884 dismisses Ngai Tahu claim by Te Maiharoa and others
- In 1886 the Crown appoints Alexander Mackay as Royal Commissioner to inquire into state of “landless natives” in the South
- Mackay’s 1887 Report recommends endowment and personal grants of land

‘Better left for dead and out of the way’

- Reports of Joint Committees on the Middle Island Native Claims 1888-1890 dismiss Mackay’s 1887 report
- Mackay’s Second Royal Commission: 1890-1891 - > repeats 1887 findings
- In 1893 Mackay and surveyor Percy Smith are appointed to allocate Crown lands to “South Island Landless Natives”
- 1893-1904: surveying and allocation of poor quality inaccessible lands around Southland, Fiordland and Rakiura (Stewart Island)
- *South Island Landless Natives Act 1906*

Turbulent Times – Ngāi Tahu in the nineteenth century





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