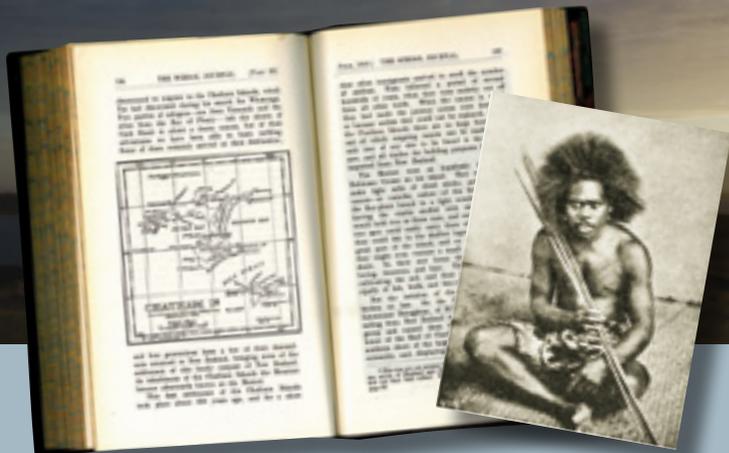


# Who Are the Moriori?



## Can you believe everything you read in the School Journal?

In 1916, the Journal published a series of articles called “The Coming of the Maoris”. These articles claimed that when the first Māori voyagers arrived in New Zealand, another group of people of Melanesian origin were already living here. According to the Journal articles, the descendants of these people later went to the Chatham Islands and became known as the Moriori. The 1916 Part 1 Journal described them as “lazy, stupid people, with flat noses and very dark skins”.

In 1916, many people believed this story, and they also believed that all the Moriori had died out.

In fact, we now know that NONE of this is true.

## So - who are the Moriori?

Like the Māori of mainland New Zealand, the Moriori are Polynesian. Moriori people trace their ancestry to the first waka that travelled from Hawaiki. In the 2006 New Zealand census, 945 people indicated that they were of Moriori descent.

Over many centuries, Moriori have developed their own culture and language, which still continues today.



You can find out more about Rēkohu and the Moriori from Te Ara – The Encyclopedia of New Zealand, at [www.teara.govt.nz](http://www.teara.govt.nz)



## Meet Māui and Hinemata Solomon.

**Māui Solomon** is the grandson of the Moriori leader Tame Horomona Rehe (Tommy Solomon), who died on Rēkohu in 1933.

Māui remembers what it was like growing up in Temuka in the 1960s. “We were taught at school that the Moriori no longer existed,” he says. “I was always proud of my Moriori heritage (as well as my Māori and Pākehā heritage). But I didn’t know anything about who the Moriori really are or what happened to them in the past.”

Māui is determined that his own children will grow up knowing more about their Moriori heritage.



**Hinemata Solomon** is Māui’s daughter. In 2005, when she was eight years old, Hinemata flew to Rēkohu with her father and brother for the opening of the new Moriori marae, Kopinga.

This is what she wrote:

*Our marae is special – it’s the only Moriori marae in the whole world. Hundreds of people attended the opening. The Prime Minister was there to open the marae.*

*There are some amazing views from the marae – especially the crooked trees in the sunset.*

*After the opening, we had a feast. I especially remember the puddings. There was a cheesecake with a chocolate fern on top and strawberries dipped in chocolate sauce. Yum!*

*While we were on Rēkohu, I went to see the statue of my karapuna, Tame Horomona Rehe. We saw his gravestone, too.*

*Dad told me that when his father was a boy, he and his friends used to have running races along the beach on the way to school. In those days, there were no bridges. My koro used to ride his horse everywhere, but his horse didn’t like riding through the lake because of the slimy eels touching its legs.*

*Dad took us fishing to a place he called “the fishing rock”. We knew why he called it that because we’d only been fishing there for about twenty minutes when we caught eight huge blue cod.*

**That was an awesome holiday!**

# Who Are the Moriori?

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The photograph of Hinemata Solomon on pages 6–7 is copyright © Māui Solomon.

Every effort has been made to contact Natalia Solomon and five unknown children (pages 4–5). Please get in touch if you have any information relating to these images.

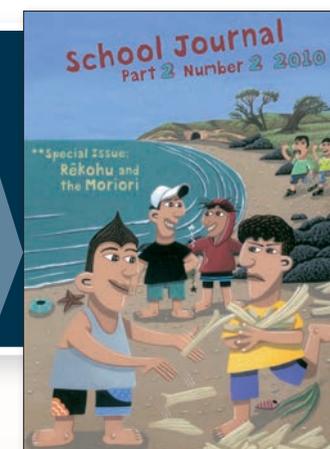
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First published 2010 by the Ministry of Education,  
 PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.  
[education.govt.nz](http://education.govt.nz)  
 This edition published 2022.

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ISBN: 978 1 77690 694 9 (online)  
 ISSN: 2624 3636 (online)

Publishing services: Lift Education E Tū  
 Series Editor: Patricia Glensor  
 Designer: Meredith Biberstein



SCHOOL JOURNAL PART 2 NUMBER 2 2010	
<b>Curriculum learning area</b>	Social Sciences: ANZH
<b>Reading year level</b>	Year 4
<b>Keywords</b>	ancestry, Aotearoa New Zealand histories, change, Chatham Islands, culture, explorers, family, geography, heritage, Hinemata Solomon, history, Kopinga, language, marae, Māui Solomon, Moriori, Polynesia, racism, Rēkohu, Tame Horomona Rehe, Tommy Solomon, truth, whānau