



Inside Te Niho — Saturday afternoon.



Putting down the hangi on Saturday morning (it rained so hard that the hangi took several hours more than anticipated).



Peeling potatoes — this group peeled 16 sacks.

Parihaka 1881

Parihaka is a place where I, and hundreds of other people went to remember not only the arrest of Te Whiti and Tohu, but everything else that happened. It was an experience that can't really be put down on paper because it was all totally new to me. I couldn't understand Maori language but I knew that I wasn't the only one.

I was surprised at the number of people that were there (both Pakeha and Maori) because, until earlier in the year when Miss Howell (our Drama Teacher) and Mrs McKorkindale (our Maori Teacher) decided to do the play of Parihaka, I'd never heard about this little place south-west of New Plymouth.

I have learnt a lot about the Maori culture through being in the play and on the marae. I feel sorry for anyone who couldn't be there because it was an unforgettable experience. And I'm glad that the awkward feeling of being a Pakeha at a Maori gathering didn't last.

Gillian Rogers

A sharp intake of breath and that typical empty feeling deep inside your stomach as you round the hill to find the cars buses and vans full of people waiting to enter the marae at the gate. Wiping your sleepy eyes you descend the bus steps to enter the atmosphere of the cold nippy dawn.

Around you stand hundreds of Maori people, all from maraes around N.Z. Slowly as you walk up the driveway, several people who obviously have not seen each other for years, greet with tear filled eyes.

Passing Rolleston Hill where one hundred years ago stood the cannon whose trigger never fired, you gasp as you see the people of Parihaka, a few of whom you recognised from your visit earlier in the year, welcoming you with their greenery waving as they chant and sing.

It is slightly drizzling as we begin singing and chanting our return. We began the hongi and during the awe — inspiring protocol two women wail bringing this emotional visit to a beginning.

Stephen Aitken

The entire events of the trip to Parihaka were to me an outstanding experience and I can honestly say that it was a real pleasure to have participated in that unique centennial.

On the marae the sense of one big family, of brothers and sisters, pakeha and maori alike, was truly amazing and the spirit of goodwill and peace found, was a real example of Te Whiti's symbolic feathers.

The centennial not only provided me with an unforgettable, memorable sensation, but also gave me the chance to pick up some of the maori language and accents first hand and get used to great chunks of potato and carrot in a thick morning stew.

Glenn Anderson