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**TERROR IN
OUR MIDST?**

SEARCHING
FOR TERROR
IN AOTEAROA
NEW ZEALAND

EDITED BY
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3rd

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Raupatu: the line is drawn

The continual raiding between the tribes of the Mātaatua area was only heightened by the trials for the murders of Völkner and Fulloon. Governor Grey planned to restore order and hoped to disband Pai Mārire by invoking the Suppression of Rebellion Act 1863, and the New Zealand Settlements Act 1863. He declared that the lands in the Eastern Bay of Plenty would become Districts under the Settlements Act – effectively confiscation – on 17 January 1866. The proclamation was subsequently amended on 1 September 1866 because the boundaries of the original declaration were inaccurate:

The western boundary of the confiscation began at the mouth of the Waitahanui river at Otamarakau, ran south then eastward to the Tarawera River, bisected Putauaki (Mt Edgecumbe), crossed the Whakatane, Waimana, Waioeka, and Otara Rivers to take in the entire Whakatane, Ohiwa and Opotiki districts, then turned north-east, crossing the Motu River to the Haparapara River, in the Whanau a Apanui rohe (and included lands of Ngai Tai to the east of Opotiki).⁶

The lands confiscated in the Bay of Plenty were clearly the prime lands of the area. For Tūhoe, the land taken encompassed all of their rich agricultural lands; the confiscation line forced them back to the untenable hills and valleys. The confiscation of land was part of the government's policy to threaten Māori so as to 'tame' them. 'This was a policy designed explicitly to divide Māori into loyal and rebel categories, and to force Māori to prove their 'loyalty' by acts, deeds, and a compulsory taking of the oath of allegiance to the Crown.'⁷ The other reason for enforcing the confiscation of land policy was to open up areas of prime Māori land for European settlers. Tūhoe were prime candidates for the enforcement of this policy. They were still operating autonomously, outside of the government's authority which did not reach as far as Te Urewera. For Europeans, the landscape of dense bush and mountainous ranges still seemed mysterious, and a place of refuge for fugitives. The confiscation of their lands allowed the government to begin a process of opening up Te Urewera, exposing and 'taming' the 'wild men' within.