



MANU AO  
Academy

## Seminar Series 31 August 2011



### **Tai Ahu**

#### ***Te Reo Māori in Western legal contexts***

This presentation raises a number of issues about the use of Māori language in Western legal contexts generally. Tai will discuss some observations as a researcher for the Legal Māori Project, which began at Victoria University of Wellington in 2008. The aim of the Project is to produce a legal Māori dictionary for publication in 2012. As a result of this research, a number of interesting issues have emerged about the historical and contemporary use of Māori as a language of Western legal expression. Tai will present some of these issues during this presentation; in particular, the tension between Western legal meanings and their customary applications.

*Tai Ahu, from Waikato and Te Paatu, is an Assistant Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Victoria University of Wellington. He graduated in 2010 with a BA (History, Māori Studies) and an LLB. Tai is currently completing an LLM on the use of Māori terminology in Western legal contexts, and is employed as a Research Assistant for the Legal Māori Project.*