



MANU AO
Academy

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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.