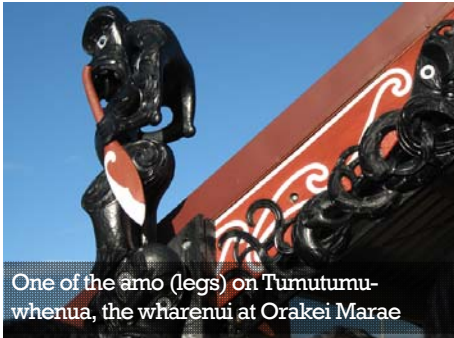


# “Court in the Act”

A regular newsletter for the entire youth justice community

THE YOUTH COURT OF NEW ZEALAND | TE KŌTI TAIOHI O AOTEAROA

## Te Kooti Rangatahi ki Orakei, the Pasifika Youth Court, and Te Kooti Rangatahi ki Owae - three inspiring community initiatives opened in the same week



One of the amo (legs) on Tumutumuwhenua, the whareni at Orakei Marae



Judge Eddie Paul, speaking inside the whareni at Orakei Marae



Courts Minister Georgina Te Heu Heu QSO hongis with Matt Maihi from Orakei Marae



Judges Taumaunu and Tremewen perform 'Paikaea' while Judges Paul and Aitken look on

In the last week of June 2010, three new Youth Court initiatives were launched in the North Island — Te Kooti Rangatahi ki Orakei at Bastion Point, the Pasifika Youth Court at Mangere, and Te Kooti Rangatahi ki Owae at Waitara.

### Rangatahi/Pasifika Courts launched so far

Poho o Rawiri Marae at Gisborne (June 2008)

Manurewa Marae in South Auckland (October 2009)

Hoani Waititi Marae at Waitakere (March 2010)

Orakei Marae at Bastion Point (June 2010)

Pasifika Youth Court at Mangere (June 2010)

Owae Marae at Waitara (June 2010)

### Te Kooti Rangatahi ki Orakei

Te Kooti Rangatahi ki Orakei is the fourth Rangatahi Court to be launched and the third in Auckland this year. Judge Eddie Paul will preside over the Court. Judge Paul, who has been a District Court Judge since February 2008, has previously spent 10 years as a youth advocate in Whakatane and Auckland and has recently been designated a Youth Court Judge.

At the ceremony inside the whareni Tumutumuwhenua at Orakei Marae, speakers from both tangata whenua (locals) and manuhiri (guests) spoke about the over representation of Maori in New Zealand's youth justice system and the role that the Marae can play in helping Maori youth face up to their offending under the gaze of their elders and ancestors.

Speakers at Orakei paid tribute to Judge Paul, as well as to Maori Youth Court Judge Heemi Taumaunu and Principal Youth Court Judge Andrew Becroft, for their support and encouragement of this latest Rangatahi Court.

For his part, Judge Taumaunu spoke about the opportunity provided by the establishment of the Rangatahi Court at Orakei to help mend the rift between the law of New Zealand and the tikanga of Orakei Marae that was severely damaged as a result of the violent break-up of the Ngati Whatua occupation of Bastion Point in the 1970s.

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### Pasifika Youth Court

Later that same day, many of the guests at Orakei made their way across town to the Mangere Polynesian Community Centre where Judge Ida Malosi hosted community representatives, Ministers, the Mayor of Manukau and other Youth Court Judges at the launch of the country's first Pasifika Youth Court.

In keeping with the pan-Pacific ethos of the Court, representatives from local Samoan, Tongan and Cook Island communities contributed to the opening ceremony. Judge Malosi asked representatives of other Pacific Island nations not to feel left out though, and suggested that it was a good thing if young people from Tuvalu and the Solomons were not regular users of the Youth Court system.



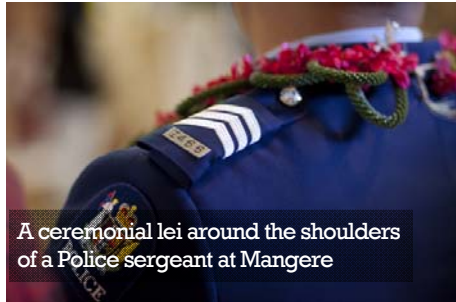
Guests received a traditional Cook Island welcome to the Mangere Community Centre



Judge Ida Malosi, outside the Mangere Polynesian Community Centre

The Pasifika Youth Court at Mangere will operate as an FGC monitoring court, in the same way that Rangatahi Courts also provide culturally significant environments for local young people to address their offending and the reasons behind it.

All speakers at Mangere paid tribute to Judge Malosi, as the driving force behind the establishment of the Pasifika Court. Judge Malosi, in turn paid tribute to Government Ministers Georgina Te Heu Heu and Tariana Turia — both of whom she said have given her inspiration and guidance in her life as a Soamoan woman and in her role as a judge.



A ceremonial lei around the shoulders of a Police sergeant at Mangere



Mariatalini Ropeti-Iupeli from Mangere College, who spoke inspiringly from a young person's perspective

Principal Youth Court Judge Andrew Becroft spoke at both events and encouraged everyone involved in both Courts to think of themselves as forming part of a team that needed to fully collaborate to make the Courts successful. He highlighted the fact that both Courts were community-based responses to youth offending and began to fulfil the vision encompassed in the seminal Department of Social Welfare report Puaote-Ata-Tu (day break), released in 1988, which challenged him personally, and many other lawyers and policy makers of that time.

Also at both openings, local judges and District Court staff sang the Rangatahi Court waiata, recently composed by Judge Taumaunu and fast becoming a theme song for Te

Kooti Rangatahi.

### Te Kooti Rangatahi ki Owae

On Saturday 26 June Te Kooti Rangatahi ki Owae was launched in Waitara near New Plymouth. The launch was part of the annual Maui Pomare Day celebrations for Te Atiawa, and as such, was attended by over 300 guests.

Maori Youth Court Judge Gregory Hikaka, who has tribal links in Hawera, will sit in the new Court. He will be supported by Judge Louis Bidois, who previously sat as a District Court Judge in New Plymouth for over 6 years and is now resident in Rotorua. Judges Hikaka and Bidois jointly led the preparation work for the Court.



Judge Gregory Hikaka, speaking at Owae Marae in Waitara

Photo by Jonathan Cameron Taranaki Daily News

The launch of Te Kooti Rangatahi ki Owae was attended by the Attorney General Chris Finlayson, Ministers Georgina Te Heu Heu and Tariana Turia, and District Court Judges including Chief District Court Judge Russell Johnson and Principal Youth Court Judge Andrew Becroft. Judge Becroft spoke about the long history of specialist youth justice in Aotearoa New Zealand, while

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Judge Johnson reflected on the disparity between the numbers of young Maori in the general population and those apprehended by Police or locked up in youth justice residences or jails.

Local speakers included kaumatua Harry Nicholas and Albie Martin (a relative of Sir William Martin, a previous Chief Justice of New Zealand in the 1840s and



Albie Martin, who blessed the gathering and officially launched Te Kooti Rangatahi at Owae Marae

Photo by Jonathan Cameron Taranaki Daily News

1850s). Mr Nicholas said that it was an extremely proud day, and he hoped that the Court would bring young people back to the Marae to identify with their people and their culture. Judge Becroft later said that the Kaumatua Committee at Owae played a very strong and forceful role in bringing Youth Court sittings to the Marae.



Judge Andrew Becroft standing with the Rangatahi Court team and addressing guests and visitors at Owae Marae

Photo by Jonathan Cameron Taranaki Daily News

Current resident New Plymouth Youth Court Judge Robert Murfitt was also recognised for his support of the Rangatahi Court at Owae marae.

## Te Waiata o Te Kooti Rangatahi

*Ko te whakatauki e korero nei  
Ka pu te ruha  
Ka hao te rangatahi*

Tēnei matou  
Te whakatipuranga  
O tēnei ao  
Te nui o  
Ngā rangatahi Māori  
E raru nei

Ko te anga whakamua nei  
Kia whakahoki tātou e  
Ki te Reo me ōna Tikanga  
Kia mohio mai  
Ko wai? No whea?  
A tātou rangatahi e

E whai nei matou  
I te ara tutuki pai  
Aratika  
Mō ngā tamariki  
Mokopuna e raru nei  
Kia ora ai

Ko te anga whakamua nei  
Kia whakahoki tātou e  
Ki te Reo me ōna Tikanga  
Kia mohio mai  
Ko wai? No whea?  
A tātou rangatahi e

Te Kooti Rangatahi  
(E) whakahoki nga taiohi  
Ki te marae  
Ka pu te ruha  
Ka hao te rangatahi  
Te kaupapa

Ko te anga whakamua nei  
Kia whakahoki tātou e  
Ki te Reo me ōna Tikanga  
Kia mohio mai  
Ko wai? No whea?  
A tātou rangatahi e

Kia mohio mai  
Ko wai? No whea?  
A tātou rangatahi e

*The well known saying goes  
The old worn out net is cast aside  
The new net goes fishing*

Here we are  
This generation  
Living in today's world  
(Alas) the great number  
Of our Māori youth  
Who are in trouble (with the law)

The vision for the future  
Is for us to return  
To our Māori language, its customs and protocols  
So that our Māori youth will know  
Who they are, and where they are from

We are seeking  
The pathway to achieve success  
The right path  
For our children  
And grandchildren who are in trouble (with the law)  
To secure their well-being (for the future)

The vision for the future  
Is for us to return  
To our Māori language, its customs and protocols  
So that our Māori youth will know  
Who they are, and where they are from

The Rangatahi Court  
Returns the young person  
To the marae  
On the basis that  
The old worn out net is cast aside  
And the new net goes fishing

The vision for the future  
Is for us to return  
To our Māori language, its customs and protocols  
So that our Māori youth will know  
Who they are,  
and where they are from

So that our Māori youth will know  
Who they are,  
and where they are from

## Youth Court Judges acknowledge Ministry of Justice

Following the Rangatahi and Pasifika Court launches, the Principal Youth Court Judge Andrew Becroft paid tribute to the "wonderful support of Ministry of Justice staff, both local and national" to the success of the events, and to the establishment of the Courts.

**STOP PRESS** The sixth Rangatahi Court 'Te Kooti Rangatahi o Kirikiriroa' (Hamilton) is due to be formally launched at Turangawaewae Marae in Ngaruawahia in the presence of the Maori King Tuheitia Paki on Saturday 7 August 2010.