

Māori Land Court Minute Books Index

Search tips and detailed information

Search tips

If you don't find any records, or if you want to be sure you have found everything there is, try different versions of a name. Because the handwriting in the minute books can be difficult to read, there may be variant spellings in the index. Examples:

- Tamehana or Tamihana
- Nga Puhi or Ngapuhi
- Single or double vowels: Hori or Hoori
- Try substituting e for i, a for u, n for ri. Taria and Tana for example, can look very similar.

Iwi and hapū

Witnesses sometimes gave the hapū name rather than their iwi. If you are looking for information on an iwi, also look for hapū names that you know are associated with it.

Regions

There is significant overlap between some of the regions. Occasionally cases for one region may be found in a minute book belonging to another. In particular, while Auckland hearings are listed in the Taitokerau index, a lot of Waikato-Maniapoto cases were heard in Auckland. Otaki cases have even been found in Waikato-Maniapoto minute books.

Whakapapa

Whakapapa with more than 20 names have been indexed by the name of the person reciting the whakapapa, and by the names of the tupuna at the top of the whakapapa.

Cases containing whakapapa of less than 20 names have been noted with the phrase "short whakapapa" in the notes.

Other sources

New Zealand Gazette

Every case brought before the Māori Land Court had to be notified in the official government newspaper, the *New Zealand Gazette*. Notifications included names of the claimants.

Appointments of judges and assessors, lists of Crown lands for sale, and proclamations and orders-in-council are notified in the gazette.

Types of cases	
Case	Notes
Amend order	Often to add the names of more owners or amend boundaries.
Appeal	Cases heard by the Appellate Court.
Boundaries	Disputed.
Compensation	Cases brought under the Public Works Act.
Confirmation of alienation	By sale, lease or mortgage. In Māori Land Court from 1894 on and by Trust Commissioners from 1870s.
Court business	Arranging the order of business, other general matters, and announcements.
Enquiry	Into past transactions. Often a particular Act is cited.
Equitable owners	Equitable Owners Act, 1886.
Exchange of shares	Name of both blocks and both owners.
Inclusion of name	In list of owners. See also <i>Amend order</i> .
Incorporation	From 1894.
Injunction	Re timber cutting, erection of fences on land about to come before the Court.
Lease	See also <i>Confirmation of alienation</i> .
Mortgage	See also <i>Confirmation of alienation</i> .
Negotiations in progress	Purchase or lease of block already commenced when Crown pre-emption reintroduced.
Partition	Between owners, for sale of part of block (see "for sale" in the notes), or for sale of part of block to crown (see "Crown interests" in the notes).
Payment of monies	Usually from Public Trustee.
Rehearing	Second hearing under a different judge or judges.
Relative interests	To decide the value of individual shares.
Removal of restrictions	Restrictions on alienation.
Sale	Sale of whole block to the Government or to a private buyer. See also <i>Partition cases</i> with "Crown interests" in the notes.
Succession	Succession cases longer than 1.5 pages.
Survey	Includes liens and partitions to pay survey costs. Not recorded for Taitokerau.
Title investigation	To determine ownership.
Trustees	Appointment of trustees.
Relative interests, Equitable owners (Owners as trustees) and Partition	These cases involve ascertaining the shares of smaller hapū and individuals within the larger group and the evidence generally relates more to local events and more recent history. Many of the enquiry cases are similar. There is some overlap in the terms used to describe these types of case.