



## Appendix G: Native Land Court Minute Books

The minute books of the Native/Maori Land Court record the decisions made by the Court. They may also include notes of evidence given and reasons for the Judge's decision. The minute books recording investigation of title hearings are a particularly important source of information for researchers involved with Maori land claims. Sometimes Native Land Court Judges also kept their own records of proceedings, which may contain more detail about the case than the Court minute books. Some of these minute books kept by Judges have been deposited with the Court and are available to researchers. (Furthermore, there are various unofficial minute books which may have been kept by someone in the audience at hearings, references to some examples can be found in Appendix F: "Archival References").

Until 1990 the Native Land Court minute books were held at their respective Maori Land Court District Offices (see list below). During 1990 the National Archives (Wellington) undertook a project to collect, copy and conserve all available Native/Maori Land Court records. The original books were collected from the District Offices and taken to National Archives where they were copied onto acid free paper. The originals have been retained by National Archives for conservation and the photocopies were sent to the district offices where they are now available to researchers.

An earlier project to make Native/Maori Land Court records more widely available was undertaken in 1963 by the Church of the Latter Day Saints which made microfilm copies of minute books. Although the microfilms are more readily available than the photocopies, the reproductions are not of as high a quality as the photocopies.

Although both copying projects have aimed to be exhaustive, it is possible that some books held in Court offices have not in fact been copied. Some minute books are no longer in existence, but if the book you want does not appear on the microfilm or photocopy list it does not necessarily mean that the book does not exist. You should check with the relevant Court Office just in case.

### Location of Minute Books

**ORIGINALS** – all minute books from the North Island are presently held at National Archives in Wellington, but it is intended that books from the northern part of the North Island will be held at the Auckland branch when appropriate facilities become available. Minute books from the South Island are held at the Christchurch branch of National Archives.

**PHOTOCOPIES** – made from the original books have been returned to the Maori Land Court District Offices. The addresses for the Offices [as set out in *Te Ara Tirohanga: A Guide for researchers into Maori Claims* (Waitangi Tribunal Occasional Publication 3/1993)] are as follows:

**Head Office**

P.O. Box 180  
Wellington  
Tel: 0 - 4 - 472 5780  
Fax: 0 - 4 - 499 4410

**Whangarei**

(Tokerau District)  
P.O. Box 1764  
Whangarei  
Tel: 0 - 9 - 438 1088  
Fax: 0 - 9 - 499 4410

**Hamilton**

(Waikato-Maniapoto District)  
P.O. Box 620  
Hamilton  
Tel: 0 - 7 - 838 0970  
Fax: 0 - 7 - 839 0990

**Rotorua**

(Waiariki District)  
P.O. Box 3012  
Rotorua  
Tel: 0 - 7 - 348 9509  
Fax: 0 - 7 - 07 348 6811

**Gisborne**

(Tairāwhiti District)  
P.O. Box 849  
Gisborne  
Tel: 0 - 6 - 867 8200  
Fax: 0 - 6 - 867 8201

**Hastings**

(Takitimu District)  
P.O. Box 134  
Hastings  
Tel: 0 - 6 - 876 2962  
Fax: 0 - 6 - 876 2962

**Wanganui**

(Aotea District)  
P.O. Box 2200  
Wanganui  
Tel: 0 - 6 - 345 8188  
Fax: 0 - 6 - 345 8174

**Christchurch**

(Te Waipounamu District)  
P.O. Box 7178  
Christchurch  
Tel: 0 - 3 - 365 4182  
Fax: 0 - 3 - 366 2834

**MICROFILMS** – While copies of the microfilms are held at National Archives and Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington you are advised to first check with your local University and City or District Libraries to see if they hold copies of microfilms relating to your area.

**Photocopied Minute Books**

This summary list has been compiled from district lists provided by National Archives and includes books up to 1965.

<b>Minute Book</b>	<b>Book Nos.</b>
<i>Aotea District</i>	
Assessor MB .....	1 - 5, 7 - 33
Chief Judge Appellate MB .....	1 - 5
Judge O'Brien MB .....	2 - 3
Judge Scannell MB .....	2 - 4
Judge Ward MB .....	1 - 21, 24
Lake Waikaremoana Appeal .....	
Levin Appellate .....	1

Otaki .....	1 - 44, 46 - 70
Sec 32/1953 MB .....	1 - 2
Sec 452 MB .....	2
Sec 38/1931 .....	
Taihape .....	1 - 2
Taranaki Adoption .....	1
Taranaki Alienation .....	1 - 5
Taranaki .....	1 - 73
Taranaki West Coast Settlement Reserves Applications .....	
Taranaki West Coast Settlement Reserves Minutes .....	
Tokaanu Alienation .....	1 - 3
Tokaanu .....	1 - 44
Trust Commissioners MB .....	1 - 2
Wanganui Adoption .....	1
Wellington Appellate .....	1 - 8
Wellington .....	1 - 43
Whanganui Alienation .....	1 - 4
Whanganui Appellate .....	1 - 12
Whanganui .....	1 - 128
<i>Tairāwhiti District</i>	
Appellate Court Gisborne .....	8 - 9
Appellate Court Gisborne District .....	2
Appellate Court .....	11 - 29
Appellate Court Waiapu .....	1, 3 - 7, 10
Block Committee .....	1 - 6
East Coast Trust Lands Investigation .....	
Gisborne Subcommissioner Brooking .....	1 - 2
Gisborne .....	1 - 93
Gisborne Recorder Booth .....	1 - 3
Gisborne Trust Commission .....	1 - 12
Gisborne Trust Commission Original .....	
Gisborne Trust .....	4
Nuhaka .....	1 - 2
Papatipu Block Committee .....	1
Register Application to Trust Commissioner .....	

Ruatoria .....	1 - 7
Tairāwhiti District Māori Committee .....	1 - 19
Tolaga Bay and Waiapu .....	5, 7a
Tolaga Bay .....	1 - 5
Tolaga Bay Recorder Booth .....	
Validation Court .....	1 - 8
Validation Register .....	
Waiapu .....	1 - 11, 13 - 132
Waiapu Subcommissioner Brooking .....	
Waiapu Recorder Booth .....	1 - 5
Wairoa .....	1 - 3, 5 - 68
Wairoa No 1 Subcommissioner Thorn .....	
<i>Taitokerau District</i>	
Appellate Court .....	1 - 5
Auckland Adoptions .....	1
Auckland .....	1 - 10, 12 - 25
Bay of Islands .....	1 - 38
Consolidation .....	1 - 8, 10
Conversion .....	1
Hokianga .....	1 - 13, 15 - 30
Kaikohe .....	1 - 2
Kaipara .....	1 - 32
Kaitia .....	1 - 2
Mahurangi .....	1
Northern .....	1 - 88
Orakei .....	1 - 2
Taitokerau .....	16 - 23
Tokerau Adoptions .....	1 - 2
Tokerau Māori Land Board .....	11 - 15
Tokerau .....	1 - 10
Tokerau Native Appellate .....	1
Whangarei .....	1 - 38
<i>Takitimu District</i>	
Adoption MB .....	1
Adoption Register .....	

Appeals and Rehearings .....	
Appellate Court .....	8 - 9
Chief Judge MB .....	1 - 2
Confirmation Index .....	1 - 2
Ikaroa Maori Land Board .....	2 - 4, 6, 8, 10 - 11
Napier .....	1 - 2, 4 - 7, 9 - 50, 52 - 98
Probate Register .....	1
Trust Commission Register .....	
Trust Commission MB .....	
Waipaoa Porangahau Rehearing .....	
Wairarapa .....	1 - 40
Wairarapa Native Appellate Court .....	
Wellington Appellate Court Lake Waikaremoana .....	
<i>Te Waipounamu District</i>	
Chatham Island .....	1 - 5
Nelson .....	1 - 12
South Island .....	1 - 13, 15 - 40
<i>Waiariki District</i>	
Appellate Court .....	1 - 5
Consolidation .....	1 - 2, 4 - 6, 8 - 10
D F G Barclay MB .....	1 - 3
Judge Brabant MB .....	1 - 3
Judge Browne's MB .....	
Judge Scannell's MB .....	43
Judge Wilson's MB .....	2, 4, 9 - 10
Maketu .....	1 - 31
Mokoia .....	1 - 3
Murupara .....	1
Opotiki .....	1 - 39
Rotorua .....	1 - 31, 34 - 129
Taheke .....	1 - 6
Taupo .....	1 - 39
Te Kaha .....	1 - 6
Te Puke .....	1 - 3
Urewera Appellate Court .....	1 - 2

Urewera .....	1 - 7
Whakatane .....	1 - 38
<i>Waikato – Maniapoto District</i>	
Adoptions .....	1 - 2
Alienation .....	6 - 14
Alphabetical Index of Crown Grants .....	
Appellate Court Auckland Dist. ....	1 - 14
Appellate Court .....	1 - 5
Sect 50 Auckland Dist. ....	
Auckland Consolidation Record .....	1
Auckland Hauraki Alienation .....	1 - 2
Certificates of Title .....	2
Chief Judge Jones MB Sec 7/22 .....	
Chief Judge Succession Orders .....	1 - 27
Chief Judge's Appellate .....	
Commissioner Brabant's MB .....	1
Confirmation Register .....	
Consolidated Orders .....	
Coromandel .....	1 - 9
Block Boundaries by Tauranga Commissioner .....	
General Minute Book Register .....	
Hauraki .....	1 - 78
Index to Chief Judge Succession Orders .....	
Index to Hauraki Certificates vols 1 - 3 Coromandel ...	
Index to Testamentary Orders .....	
Judge Gudgeon's MB .....	1 - 3, 8
Judge Jackson Palmer's MB .....	
Judge Johnson's MB .....	1 - 3, 5 - 12
Judge MacCormack's MB .....	
Judge Mair's MB .....	1 - 2
Judge O'Brien's MB .....	1 - 35
Judge Puckey's MB .....	1-16
Judge Scannell's MB .....	6, 8 - 14, 17, 19 - 20, 23 - 25, 27 - 28, 30, 36, 39, 41

Judge Smith's MB .....	
Judge von Sturmer Rehearing .....	
Judge von Sturmer's MB .....	3, 12
Judge Gudgeon's MB .....	4, 7
Judge Wilson's MB .....	1, 3, 21 - 22, 29
Maketu .....	11
Maniapoto-Tuwharetoa .....	1 - 3
Maori Tribal Index of Waikato .....	
Maraehako No 2 Book .....	
Maraehako No 3 Book 2 .....	
Mercer .....	2 - 5, 7 - 43
Moerangi .....	1 - 3
Mokau Waitara .....	1 - 2
Ngatitamainu MB Hamilton .....	
Otorohanga .....	1 - 87
Succession Order Book .....	
Tauranga .....	1 - 15, 17 - 25
Waikato Alienation .....	4 - 5
Waikato Hauraki Alienation .....	2 - 3
Waikato Hauraki Maori Land Board .....	1
Waikato Maniapoto Alienation .....	15 - 30
Waikato Maniapoto .....	2 - 5
Waikato .....	1 - 13, 16, 26 - 35
Whareroa Blocks Compensation .....	

*Head Office*

Chief Judge MB .....	1 - 6 (spans 1923 - 1964)
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### Microfilmed Minute Books

*Maori Land Court Minute Books, Microfilmed, Record and Index of Minute Books 1865 - 1975* (Department of Maori Affairs) lists the contents of the microfilm reels, and indexes the reels by minute book, place of sitting, Judge and dates.

Note: A librarian at the New Zealand and Pacific Collection in the Auckland University Library, John Laurie, is working on a project to compile a database index to the Native/Maori Land Court minute books on Microfilm. The database is designed so that it can be searched by name of tupuna, block name, name of witnesses, place of sitting, etc. By the end of 1994, preliminary indexes for Tairāwhiti and Tokerau Districts had been completed.

#### LIST OF MINUTE BOOKS ON MICROFILM from *Record and Index of Minute Books 1865 - 1975*

Minute Book	Book Nos.
<i>Aotea District</i>	
Judge Ward's MB .....	1 - 21
Taranaki .....	1 - 79
Taranaki Alienation .....	1 - 7
Tokaanu .....	1 - 41, 43 - 52
Tokaanu Alienation .....	1 - 6
Wanganui .....	1 - 136
Wanganui Appellate Court .....	1 - 11
Whanganui Alienation .....	1 - 7
<i>Ikaroa District</i>	
Chief Judge .....	2 - 3
Deputy Registrar .....	1
Napier .....	1 - 108
Otaki .....	1 - 44, 46 - 78
Wairarapa .....	1 - 42
Wairarapa Appellate .....	1
Wellington .....	1 - 47
Wellington Appellate .....	1 - 8
<i>South Island District</i>	
Appellate Court .....	8
Chatham Island .....	1 - 5
Chief Judge .....	1
Judge Mackay's MB .....	4
Nelson .....	1 - 14



Ngaitahu Committee .....	23
South Island .....	1 - 13, 15 - 50
Titi Islands .....	

***Tairāwhiti District***

Chief Judge .....	1
Commissioner Brooking .....	1 - 2, 6
East Coast Investigations .....	1 - 2
Gisborne .....	1 - 108
Gisborne Trust Commission .....	1 - 12
Maori Land Board .....	1 - 19
North Waiapu Consolidations .....	1 - 3
Recorder Booth (Gisborne) .....	1 - 3
Recorder Booth (Tolaga Bay) .....	1
Ruatoria .....	1 - 11
Tairāwhiti Appellate .....	1 - 29
Tairāwhiti Sub-Commissioner .....	1
Tairāwhiti Validation Court .....	1 - 8
Tolaga Bay .....	1 - 26
Waiapu .....	1 - 11, 13 - 135
Waiapu Appellate .....	1 - 7
Wairoa .....	1 - 3, 7, 12 - 73

***Tōkerau District***

Auckland .....	1 - 7, 12 - 28
Auckland-Hauraki Alienations .....	1 - 2
Bay of Islands .....	1 - 35
Hokianga .....	1 - 30
Kaikohe .....	1 - 7
Kaitaia .....	1 - 8
Kaipara .....	1 - 31
Kawakawa .....	1 - 4
Northern .....	1 - 87
Rawene .....	1 - 3
Tōkerau Appellate .....	1
Whangarei .....	1 - 33, 35 - 50

### *Waiariki District*

Assessor Matenga .....	1 - 8, 12 - 13, 16 - 18
Commissioner Brabant .....	1
Judge Brabant's MB .....	1 - 3
Judge Wilson's MB .....	2, 9, 10
Maketu .....	1 - 31
Mokoia .....	1 - 3
Opotiki .....	1 - 49
Rotorua .....	1 - 31, 34 - 122, 128 - 129, 133 - 171, 174 - 176
Rotorua Appellate .....	1 - 2
Taheke .....	1 - 6
Taupo .....	1 - 34
Tauranga .....	1 - 17, 19 - 22, 24 - 34
Tauranga Alienations .....	1
Te Puke .....	1 - 3
Urewera .....	2 - 7
Whakatane .....	1 - 59

### *Waikato – Maniapoto District*

Appellate Court .....	1 - 13
Auckland-Hauraki Alienations .....	1 - 2
Compensation Court .....	12, 13, 16 - 18
Coromandel .....	1 - 9
Hamilton .....	1
Hauraki .....	1 - 82
Judge Gudgeon's MB .....	1 - 4, 7
Judge Johnson's MB .....	1 - 3, 5 - 12
Judge Mair's MB .....	1 - 2
Judge MacCormick's MB .....	1 - 2
Judge O'Brien's MB .....	1 - 34
Judge Puckey's MB .....	1 - 16
Judge Scannell's MB .....	2, 4, 6, 8 - 14, 17 - 20, 23 - 24, 27 - 28, 30, 36, 38 - 39, 41, 43

Mahurangi .....	1
Mercer .....	2 - 3, 7 - 43
Mokau-Waitara .....	1 - 2
Orakei .....	1 - 2
Otorohanga .....	1 - 20, 22 - 92
President's Appellate .....	1 - 7
Waiheke .....	1
Waikato .....	1 - 10, 12 - 13, 16, 26 - 28, 30 - 35, 44 - 51
Waikato Alienations .....	4 - 7
Waikato-Maniapoto Alienations .....	29 - 32