

## EARLY WORK ON LAND AND MAORI LAW

The final section, that on Land and Maori Law somewhat breaks this mould of the other two parts of this book. It contrasts the work of Victoria's second law professor, the remarkable Richard Cockburn Maclaurin with an early Victoria LLM thesis written at Victoria by the also remarkable FA Acheson, later a Maori Land Court judge. Maclaurin published the first book, based on his prize-winning thesis at Cambridge, by a Victoria legal academic. The section builds on work already being carried out by current Victoria legal historian, Richard Boast. Maclaurin's and Acheson's early works point toward the challenge of a new century, where the place of Maori and of Maori law is as much on the legal agenda as it was at the beginning of our first century.

Beaglehole in his volume on the first 50 years of Victoria University College, noted that Maclaurin used Maning's *Old New Zealand* as a way of illustrating Maine's *Ancient Law* to New Zealand students.<sup>1</sup> In the same way academics at Victoria used Maning in their revival of interest in Maori Law. While Maclaurin or Acheson's early endeavours failed to foster the academic interest that it perhaps ought to have, fortunately the 1970s revival led by those like Alex Frame, Tony Angelo and and has found firmer ground for development. Maning has been put back on the shelf.

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<sup>1</sup> J C Beaglehole *Victoria University College* (New Zealand University Press, Wellington, 1949) 41.

