



***Ko Tautoro Te Pito o Tōku Ao: A Ngāpuhi Narrative* by Hōne Sadler. Auckland: AUP (2014). RRP: \$49.99. Pb, 200pp. ISBN: 9781869408145. Reviewed by Sue Wootton.**

Ngāpuhi elder, **Hōne Sadler**, is a senior lecturer at the University of Auckland, teaching

Māori language, oral literature and Mātauranga Māori. *Ko Tautoro Te Pito o Tōku Ao: A Ngāpuhi Narrative* is an account of the origins, history and culture of the Ngāpuhi people. The content is based on evidence presented to the Waitangi Tribunal in 2010. The book, which reproduces in written form information traditionally imparted orally, is a beautifully-presented publication. Under the striking dustcover (designed by Johnson Witehira) the crimson hardback is embossed with black lettering. The contents are easy to navigate, and the work is accompanied by a useful glossary, genealogies and bibliography.

In his introduction, Sadler outlines Ngāpuhi's position in relation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, namely that the iwi's tūpuna 'did not cede their sovereignty to anyone, let alone the Crown, on the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.' What follows, in well-laid out chapters written in Māori with accompanying English translations, is the story of Ngāpuhi's 'unbroken chain of sovereignty.' 'Know this,' writes Sadler in his chapter on The Deities, 'We look at the world differently than any other people.' *Ko Tautoro Te Pito O Tōku Ao* offers 'other people' – like myself, in this instance – a chance to glimpse the world through Ngāpuhi eyes. Sadler's text is clear and informative. More than a factual history (though it is also this), the book is also a record of Ngāpuhi philosophy. Indeed, as the chapter on Mātauranga (Epistemology) makes plain, an awareness of different attitudes to knowledge itself is an essential starting point for communication between cultures. This book forms a bridge between the traditions of the oral and the written, and carefully maintains the integrity of both.