



Hotu Rangitautau speaking to the kaumatua of Poho-o-Rawiri. (Photo Jocelyn Carlin)

Dissatisfaction with the way the powhiri to Prince Charles and Princess Diana was extended at Poho-o-Rawiri was accommodated in a Maori way.

On the rehearsal day, Saturday, a small ope came onto the marae during a practice by the several hundred strong group. The ope was called onto the marae for the mihi whilst the rehearsal went on in front of the house.

Against a background of song, Hone Ngata (nephew of Sir Henare Ngata) spoke out against using the marae to welcome representatives of the co-signatories of the Waitangi Treaty, co-signatories, he maintained who hadn't honoured the spirit or intent of the Treaty.

He said that without a close hard look at what the Treaty had promised and not delivered, traditional welcomes became meaningless. He said Maori youth were experiencing the reality of living out the broken promises. He appealed to the youth taking part in the rehearsal to think about their future and the value to the country of Maori culture.



Hotu Rangitautau, Hone Ngata and Maxime Ngata lead the ope in a waiata. (Photo Jocelyn Carlin)