



ORATORS: Calais Tumarae, Heremia McGarvey and Te Urupounamu McGarvey took part in the Waiariki Maori Women's Welfare League Rangatahi Oratory competition.

Photo Troy Baker D0760-06

Kids speak volumes

John Boynton
AUT student

TUHOE leader Tamati Kruger has served as a winning inspiration for one student at a regional oratory competition.

Te Urupounamu McGarvey, 11, said Mr Kruger was someone she looked up to "because he fights for the land", and her speech about him led her to the title.

It is the second year the Kura o Tawera student has taken the

junior girls' title at Waiariki Maori Women's Welfare League Rangatahi Oratory competition, with fellow student Heremia McGarvey, eight, taking the junior boys' title.

Classmate Calais Tumarae, 12, didn't win but shook off the "nerves" to speak about how she is inspired by former Silver Fern netballer Temepara Bailey.

Twenty-two students from 10 schools gave speeches at the event, held at Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi.

The winning students will join

other winners from the competition at the National Nga Pu Korero o Apopo competition at the MMWL national conference in Tauranga in September.

Waimanea Nuri, from Te Kura o Te Koutu, won the intermediate girls and Tihema Hare, from Te Kura Maori a Rohe O Waiohau, won the intermediate boys.

Awhimate Tamiana, from Te Wharekura o Huiarau, won the senior girls and Aquira Tiakiwai, from Whakatane High School, won the senior boys.