

MAORI CULTURAL EVENT

Powhiri and Dinner at a Maori Marae

As part of the conference program, we will be having a traditional Maori hangi dinner at a local marae.

MARAE

A marae is a Maori village complex of carved buildings and grounds that belongs to a particular tribe (iwi). A marae usually consists of a wharenuī (meeting house) with a courtyard in front and a wharekai (dining hall). We will be going to Rehua Marae, 79 Springfield Road, St. Albans, Christchurch - a 6min minibus ride or 30min walk from the conference accommodation at Hotel GIVE. A minibus will be provided for those who do not wish to walk. Rehua Marae is home to Ngai Tuahuriri hapu (a subtribe) of Ngai Tahu iwi (tribe) the main Maori people group of the South Island - Te Waipounamu (the greenstone isle).

HANGI

A hangi is a traditional feast cooked in an earth oven for several hours. The kia (food) can include chicken, pork, seafood and vegetables (usually with kumara, New Zealand sweet potato). The food is placed in baskets on top of hot stones in the ground, covered with sac-cloth then topped with dirt to trap in the heat.

MAORI PROTOCOL

To enter the marae we will be observing traditional Powhiri welcoming protocols. First we will gather outside the marae as a group and collect a koha (gift) from all delegates. As part of the Powhiri process you will need to learn a Waiata (*pronounced why-ah-tah*) with 2 or more songs that represent your group, provide a koha (gift – a donation of NZD \$5.00 cash per person is appropriate) and learn your Mihimihi (*pronounced ma-hee-ma-hee*) a short personal introductory speech.

THE POWHIRI

The Powhiri (*pronounced poh-fee-ree*) is a process where the host people (Tangata Whenua – people of the land) welcome visitors (Manuhiri) onto the marae. There are multiple parts to a Powhiri and variations to the order which can differ from tribe to tribe.

At Rehua Marae you are likely to experience:

- 1 KARANGA – the call onto the marae
- 2 WHAIKORERO – speeches
- 3 WAIATA – songs
- 4 KOHA – giving a gift
- 5 HARIRU & HONGI – shaking of hands & pressing of noses together
- 6 MIHIMIHI – introducing yourself via a short speech
- 7 KAI – eating food together
- 8 POROPOROAKI – a formal farewell

WAIATA

You will need to learn two songs to sing at the Powhiri; one traditional song in Maori and one song in English. Songs are sung acapella without music. The song in English that shall represent our ICDF group is: **How Great is Our God** by Chris Tomlin. Please practice this and know the words by heart before you arrive.

You Tube link to **How Great is Our God**: https://youtu.be/E03V_TfvZa0?si=0cVuqLgE2t6LUuxW

The traditional song in Maori shall be: **Tutira Mai**. We will practice this at regular intervals leading up to our marae visit. You Tube link to **Tutira Mai**: <https://youtu.be/EAq2tFvWrfc?si=uMtRLQmtnYTDTFfh>

MIHIMIHI

Mihimihi are short introductory speeches which take place after the more formal Powhiri. Mihimihi are usually spoken in Maori (it is acceptable for speakers of other languages to do their Mihimihi in English) and involve individuals standing to introduce themselves by sharing their whakapapa (genealogy) and other relevant information. It is important for Maori to share their whakapapa – to know one's whakapapa is to know one's identity. A person will usually identify specific geographical features associated with their tribal area including their maunga (mountain) and awa (river). This information is considered more important than the individuals own name which may be the last piece of information given.

N.B. If you are uncomfortable with indigenous practices this event is optional – Rehua Marae has a long history of association with the Anglican Church Missionary Society and functions as a Maori Ratana Church once a month.