



MAORI WELCOME CEREMONY

With the wero challenge

All visitors will be accompanied through this process by a member of the Maori group who will be their guide.

Tangata Whenua	People of the land/whenua
Manuhiri	Visitors to the land

The protocol of the wero/powhiri is a formal Maori welcome that requires respectful silence from the visitors and that no food or drink is consumed during the ceremony. There are several components to a Maori Welcome. The following outlines the process.

PUKAEA (Conch)

Sounding of the conch to let people know visitors have arrived and are ready

TE WERO (Challenge)

Traditional challenge offered by a Maori warrior using the taiaha (long staff) weapon. This takes place in front of the guests. In traditional Maori protocol this was used to ascertain whether the visitors came in peace or war. A token of peace, a taki, usually in the form of a green leaf is placed on the ground before the guests. The leader of the visitors or VIP delegate picks up the token to signify they come in goodwill and peace. The leader of has to be male as Maori cultural protocols require.

TE KARANGA (Call of Welcome)

Once the green leaf is picked up a Maori woman offers an ancient call of welcome or karanga.

HAKA POWHIRI (Welcome Dance)

This then signals the tangatawhenua to start the welcome chants to the visitors using rhythmical hand actions.

MIHI (Welcome Speech)

After completion of the chants a speech of welcome to the visitors is offered by the male leader of the Maori group in the Maori language.

WAIATA (Song)

His speech is complimented by a song to add mana and strength to his words.

WHAKA-UTU (Reply Speech)

The leader of the visitors or VIP delegate who picks up the green leaf replies on behalf of the guests and offers words of thanks and the reason for their visit.

WAIATA (Song)

The visitor group may offer a song or the Maori guide may sing on their behalf.

HONGI (Pressing of Noses)

The leader of the visitors or VIP delegate meets the Maori male speaker and completes the hongi or pressing of noses to bring the ceremony to a close. The hongi is the sharing of life essence between Maori and the visitors.