

# The Karanga (call of welcome) & the Village

A Karanga is a ceremonial call of welcome performed only by the women of the tribe.

The start of the karanga indicates to a visitor that they are free to approach their hosts across the marae atea (sacred space directly in front of the meeting house).

The call also clears a spiritual pathway for the ancestors of both visitor and host to meet and partake in the ceremonial uniqueness of the powhiri.

The spine tingling, lament like chant of the karanga soars into the heavens. The call of the women acknowledges the ancestral spirits of the visitors before them. The women acknowledge who you are and why you have come, and invite you to stop and shed tears for those who have passed on.

It is said that the depth of this call represents the bottomless source of ancestral tears, otherwise known as puna roimata.

You will then be able to enter onto the village grounds where the "Tangata Whenua" or people of the land will demonstrate different activities such as poi twirling, hand games, weaponry displays and reciting chants - activities of an era gone by.

From the village you will enter our Wharenui or Meeting House. This building represents an ancestor of our past. Customs in our houses are: The men make all the welcome speeches. A speech of welcome is offered (whaikorero). A waiata (song) is offered in support of the speech.

