



**Welcoming
Communities**
TE WAHAROA KI NGĀ HAPORI

A VISIT TO HOANI WAITITI MARAE

A Journey of Cultural Understanding, Manaakitanga, and Community Connection

 Hoani Waititi Marae

 Monday, 22 June 2026



2026

MATARIKI COMMUNITY GATHERING



Monday, 22 June 2026



10:00 AM to 3:00 PM



451 West Coast Road, Oratia, Auckland

HOPE Worldwide—Pakistan, in collaboration with Welcoming Communities Auckland Council, organised a meaningful cultural experience at Hoani Waititi Marae. The event brought together people from diverse backgrounds to connect, learn about Māori culture, and celebrate the spirit of Matariki—a time of reflection, unity, and new beginnings. Through shared learning, whakawhanaungatanga, and community engagement, the day created a strong sense of belonging and mutual respect.



Purpose of the Visit

- Learn about Te Reo Māori, tikanga Māori, and marae protocols.
- Experience manaakitanga and a warm cultural welcome.
- Encourage belonging, wellbeing, and social inclusion.
- Strengthen relationships across diverse communities.

Participants

Students, volunteers, interns, community members, and support workers from diverse communities including **Pakistan, India, China, Taiwan, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Fiji, Māori and Somalia.**



ACTIVITIES



Whanaungatanga in Action

Whanaungatanga was at the heart of the visit creating space for people from diverse cultures to build relationships, share stories, and feel a strong sense of belonging. Through shared experiences, participants connected with one another and with the values of manaakitanga, respect, and community.

Key Activities

- Pōwhiri and warm marae welcome Introductions and whakawhanaungatanga
- Learning Te Reo Māori , tikanga Māori , and marae protocols
- Group discussion, storytelling, and cultural exchange
- Shared kai and informal networking
- Reflection, gratitude, and group photos



Community Outcomes

- Stronger connections across cultures
- Increased respect and understanding of Māori values
- Greater inclusion, belonging, and wellbeing
- Encouraged ongoing collaboration and support



NEW BEGINNING UNDER MATARIKI STARS

Cultural Experience & Community Gathering

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY



PŌWHIRI (FORMAL WELCOME)

We were warmly welcomed onto the marae with a traditional pōwhiri, setting the tone for respect, unity and manaakitanga.



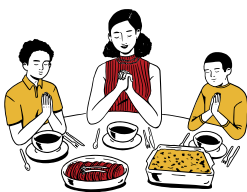
LEARNING & SHARING

Participants learned about Te Reo Māori, tikanga (protocols), marae kawa, Māori values, history and cultural practices.



CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

Interactive activities, storytelling and cultural exchanges helped deepen understanding and appreciation,



SHARED KAI

A delicious shared lunch brought everyone together encouraging conversation, connection and whanaungatanga.



MATARIKI REFLECTION

We reflected on the significance of Matariki and its guiding values: remembering the past, celebrating the present and looking to the future.



SPECIAL MOMENTS



FEEDBACK

We asked participants to share their feedback anonymously. Here are some of the reflections from our diverse community:

 Participant from Pakistan

“ I am new to this country and have never had an opportunity like this before. Thank you HOPE, for giving us this meaningful experience. ”

 Participant from China

“ I have been living here for 15 years, and this was my first time having this kind of cultural experience. It was a great experience. ”

These reflections show how important the visit was for participants from diverse communities. The experience created opportunities for learning, connection, belonging, and deeper understanding Of Māori culture and protocols.

"He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata."
What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.

REVIEW

The day was filled with meaningful learning experiences, cultural activities and opportunities to build relationships and strengthen **whanaungatanga**.

OUTCOMES

- ✓ Strengthened community connections
- ✓ Increased understanding and respect for Māori culture
- ✓ Promoted social inclusion and belonging
- ✓ Encouraged ongoing collaboration and support among communities

WHAT WE LEARNT



TE REO MĀORI

Learnt basic greetings, introductions and phrases.



MĀORI PROTOCOLS

Understood marae protocols, pōwhiri (formal welcome), whakatau and tikanga.



MĀORI VALUES

Explored values of manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, kotahitanga, aroha and respect.



ENGAGING ACTIVITIES

Participated in interactive activities, storytelling, cultural exchanges and shared kai.

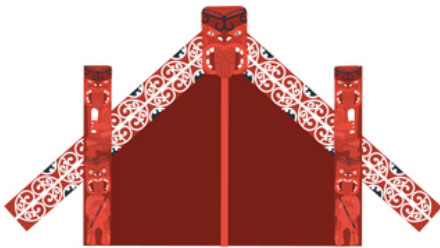
Together, we celebrate unity, culture,
and new beginnings under the Matariki stars.



THANK YOU



A heartfelt thank you to Welcoming Communities, Auckland Council, for providing resources and support for this important initiative.



Thank you Hoani Waititi Marae for hosting HOPE Worldwide—Pakistan with great manaakitanga.



Ngā mihi nui to everyone who joined, contributed and made this day so special.

