



## ENGLISH

Welcome to Mitai

This sheet will take you through your evening with us.

### **Hangi Unveiling**

Cooked in traditional style your hangi meal includes chicken, lamb, stuffing, potatoes and kumara (sweet potatoes) cooked in the hangi pit. See your meal being unveiled and say a karakia (prayer) prior to leaving.

### **Waka**

A hand carved waka (war canoe), carved by the Mitai family. Witness a pass-by on the Wai o Whiro Stream with warriors dressed in traditional dress.

### **Cultural Performance**

*Pohiri (welcome ceremony):* begins with a challenge to the Visitors' chief. A challenger with fierce gestures lays a peace token to be uplifted by the visiting chief. Picking up the token means peace and not picking it up means war. In the past this ceremony determined whether the visitors were peaceful or hostile. In today's society it is always performed with peaceful intentions.

*Karanga:* the women's call of welcome.

*Haka:* a dance of strength and vigor not only to welcome visitors but also to warn them of our strength and readiness should they decide to attack our village.

*Whai-korero (speeches):* speeches of welcome are followed by song in order to protect the speaker from spiritual harm or tapu which may be directed at him by the visitors. This followed by a speech from the visiting chief.

*Hongi:* pressing the nose means friendship and sharing the breath of life. This signifies the end of the welcome ceremony.

*Explanation:* time to relax, the serious side is over, lets lighten up and have some fun.

*Origins:* Maori originate from Polynesian particularly from the Tahitian Islands. We are related to the people of Tahiti, Cook Is, Hawaii, Marquesses, Easter Is, Samoa, Tonga and many more. The language is similar but the culture is different. Maori have inhabited NZ for over 2,000 years. In NZ all Maori speak the same language but make up over 70 main tribal groups.

### *Dance Implements Introduction*

*Poi ball:* used by men to strengthen the wrist in order to use the heavy short club without damaging the wrist. Stones were placed inside flax or swamp reed to make poi ball heavier.

*Stick Games:* for fun, fitness and eye to hand co-ordination.

*Poi Dance 1:* story of two lovers and the troubles they face to be together. The woman is a Princess and the man is of low rank from another tribe, a marriage forbidden by woman's parents.

*Weapons Display:* basically Maori had two main weapons, short or long clubs of various shape. This includes various exercises for fitness and agility.

*Long Poi:* depicts the flight of the White Heron. This is the most difficult of the poi simultaneously manoeuvring 4 long pois.

*Haka (war dance)*: translated means “breath on fire or words of fire”. At home it is used as exercise for fun or for entertainment. The Pukana is the protruding of the tongue, an act of defiance. In the past it is said to the enemy, “my mouth waters and I lick my lips for soon I will taste your flesh”.

*Moko explanation (tattoo)*: on the face of the men are 4 birds the bat, parrot, owl and kiwi. The women wear the owl on the chin. The story explaining the moko has two messages (a) look after your woman (b) how the Maori obtained the moko. A husband follows his wife into the underworld after she suffers a beating from him and runs off. He finds her, restores the marriage and becomes a devoted husband never hitting her again. The tribe follows this example and through time this story becomes law, “treat all women well”. Maori had no means of written language so all history is passed down through story telling, song and carvings.

The four birds the man gave to a chief of the underworld in exchange for the moko is the bat, found on the forehead, the parrots beak on the nose, the owl on the chin and the kiwi on both sides of the face. The bat means wisdom, the parrot skill in speech making, the owl protection, the kiwi protection of earth mother. The design on the men’s legs represents the ocean waves which mean power and speed. This design also placed on the bow of the canoe. The spiral on the backside represents mother earth and energy patterns of mother nature found in the wind and waters. Tornados and water spouts.

### **Hangi Meal**

Served buffet style your selection includes:

lamb	chicken	stuffing
potato bake	gravy & mint sauce	garlic bread
ranch slaw	corn salad	lettuce salad
fruit salad	chocolate log	trifle with cream

### **Guided Bush Walk**

*Fairy Springs (Te Puna tapu o Tuhoë)*: The Chief Tuhoë lived in this area. The rainbow when seen over the spring was a good omen meaning all is well. The Fairy people of Mount Ngongotaha visited this spring often thus giving this spring its name. The spring releases over 24 million litre of pure spring water every day.

*Glow worms*: Mitai is home to Rotorua’s only glow worms in their natural setting. The glow worms are a maggot which attracts insects using its luminescent tail. The insects are trapped in a cotton like web hanging from the sides of the bank and covered with the paralysing saliva of the glow worm.

### **Farewell**

Ma te kaihanga kotou e tiaki e manaaki i roto i nga haerenga katoa. (Let the creator guide and protect you in all your travels).