

Reflection:

Wednesday 17th October 2012-10-17

Monday, Tuesday, first day back Term 4. Whole of year 7 taking apart in marae week, effectively a Maori Emersion Week.

Monday am, hall effectively designated as Marae, and was wonderful to be a part of the whole protocol of been welcomed onto marae.

The karanga is an exchange of calls that takes place during the time a visiting group moves onto the marae, or into the formal meeting area.

The karanga usually indicates the start of the pōwhiri (formal welcome ceremony). Carried out exclusively by women and in the Māori language, karanga is initiated by the hosts (tangata whenua).

The karanga generally begins with the initiating caller (kaikaranga) from the tangata whenua, and response caller (kaiwhakatu) from the manuhiri.

Like the whaikōrero (formal speech of welcome), karanga follow a format in keeping with correct protocol.

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 pōwhiri.

It is normal for both kaikaranga (women who carry out the karanga) to address and greet each other and the people they are representing.

To address and pay tribute to the dead of each other's acquaintance (especially those who have most recently died), and to refer to the reason that has brought the two groups together.

SOURCE: <http://www.eske-style.co.nz/maraeprotocol.asp>

My role for the 2 days was to assist a handful of chosen Year 8 boys teaching each Year 7 room in turn the Haka. Again, an amazing experience to see Ako at work, and watch the year 7 boys transformed in under an hour into proud 'warriors'.

Also observed some other sessions, including Maori plant use, and weaving with Harakeke.

Finally feel more at ease with the whole Maori culture, and far better equipped to understand the significance of the above. Whilst recognise the importance of MAOR110 in giving me some language background, this week, this week has given it all a context. And have even witnessed myself become more comfortable around the language as I have used it more, and certainly heard it used more.

I am also looking forward to helping out "the boys" with the hangi, early (3am!) Friday morning, and watching the final day performances on Friday.