

A new cultural Experience for Migrants
23rd February 2009

Learning how to perform the *Haka* is the most popular activity for new migrants during their visit to Orakei Marae, organised by the Auckland Regional Migrant Services Charitable Trust (ARMS).

Many newcomers to New Zealand are very keen to learn about the culture and customs of Maori as the first people of the land. As a result, ARMS has been offering newcomer orientation visits to the Orakei Marae - the traditional meeting place of the local Ngati Whatua tribe - since 2006. To date, ARMS has organised six visits to the Marae, for more than 360 participants in total.

This enriching cultural experience provides newcomers with an introduction to Maori history and culture, the opportunity to participate in a traditional Maori welcome (powhiri), and to experience marae protocol and hospitality. During their time on the Marae, participants are taught Maori songs (waiata), the haka and some crafts such as flax weaving. Participants are hosted to a hangi lunch and a traditional farewell.



The Orakei Marae Visit includes bus transport from the ARMS Regional Centre at Three Kings Plaza. Participants must register for this orientation opportunity as it is very popular. It is open to any new migrant who lives in Auckland City.

This project is largely subsidised by the Auckland City Council. Participants must pay a small fee of \$15 per adult and \$5 per child, as a contribution

towards transport and catering costs.

Participants doing weaving during the Marae visit

ARMS also conducts interactive and very informative workshops on the Treaty of Waitangi and the place of migrants in the treaty relationships. These are also popular with limited places. Also ARMS is the official distributor of the Treaty Resource Kits which can be purchased from all our 3 branches at a nominal cost. For the Tangata Tiriti workshop schedules, please check our website www.arms-mrc.org.nz or call reception on 09 625 2440 or email reception@arms-mrc.org.nz