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SPECIAL PANUI 2

NGATI WHARE HIKOI KI TE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGES CONFERENCE

The Maori tribal community of Ngati Whare has offered conference delegates a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend two days at their Marae in the beautiful Whirinaki rainforest at the edge of one of New Zealand's most important National Parks.

The Ngati Whare elders have offered to open their Marae to conference delegates who are heading to Wellington for the Indigenous Knowledges Conference.

There are a limited number of places, so it is important that you decide quickly if you would like to experience the hospitality and generosity that the people of Ngati Whare have extended to us. Delegates will travel to the tribal area from Auckland and spend 2 days discussing the conference themes, and learning about the tribal history of the guardians of the Whirinaki rainforest before travelling to Wellington. Overseas visitors will gain a better understanding of Maori life in New Zealand in one of the country's more remote and beautiful areas. Maori delegates will also have the opportunity to meet with others who are travelling to the conference. There will be a separate sleeping area for delegates who have travelled a long way to New Zealand, and are feeling a bit jet-lagged.

Two Conference Committee members will meet conference delegates arriving early at Auckland Airport on Sunday 19 June. Travellers will then be taken to the Manakau Campus of Te Wananga o Aotearoa, the Maori University, where they will have the opportunity to eat and shower, before travelling by chartered bus, to the township of Te Whaiti in the Whirinaki Forest. There will be a brief stop on the journey at Rotorua, the tribal area of Te Arawa. Staff of Te Wananga o Aotearoa in Rotorua will be on hand to speak to you about the Wananga, and about the area. Our Committee members will travel with the group and can answer any questions you might have about the conference or about Maori cultural matters. They will also represent you at the formal welcome when you arrive in Te Whaiti.

You can find out more about Ngati Whare at their website at www.ngatiwhare.iwi.nz and www.whirinaki.org.nz

At the end of the 2-day visit, delegates will take the 6-hour bus trip to Wellington, arriving the day before the conference begins.

The total cost of the two-day trip is \$NZ220.00 per person. This includes the bus trip: Auckland - Te Whaiti - Wellington, as well as food and accommodation on the 2-day journey. This compares well with the cost of a direct airfare between Auckland and Wellington which is usually between \$NZ150-\$230. Please note, that this is a non-profit venture, and costs are directly related to the hire of chartered buses and associated travel expenses. We are currently working on reducing the costs further and will keep you informed about this.

We would like to let the Ngati Whare elders know as quickly as possible how many delegates would be interested in staying on their Marae, and we are not able to take more than 35 people on this trip, so

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please contact me by email as soon as possible at Joanna.Kidman@vuw.ac.nz if you wish to be involved.