To make your stay more enjoyable, we have listed a few of our basic kawa (rules) as kawa can differ from marae to marae.

- Don’t sit, stand or place hats or sunglasses where food maybe placed
- The head is tapu (sacred) so please avoid touching someone’s head
- Don’t sit on pillows
- Don’t move around while a speaker is addressing a group
- Ask for permission before taking photos inside the whare or cemetery
- Shoes may be worn inside, but please ensure that all excess dirt has been removed
- Please do not take or consume food in the wharenu i
- Please do not step over any person
- Please do not smoke, consume alcohol/drugs on these premises at any time
- Karakia/prayers are recited before food is eaten
Arowhenua continues as a vibrant and active community today, with Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua Society Incorporated having responsibility for both upholding the aspirations of Kāti Huirapa while maintaining strong relationships and engagement with the wider community.

The executive and management team are responsive to members of the hapū and wider community, undertaking activities to meet the current and future needs of the community to ensure that future generations have a place that acknowledges the unique history of the region and upholds the cultural practices and beliefs of Kāti Huirapa.

Our intention is to work collaboratively and in partnership with the local, regional, and national community to preserve and protect the unique history of this region and the iconic natural features within it, whilst upholding the ongoing aspirations of Kāti Huirapa.

**Pōwhiri (Welcome ceremony)**

- **Dress appropriately**
- **Men – smart casual**
- **Women – long skirt**

The information provided relates to Arowhenua Marae and has been prepared for your assistance, particularly for first time organisers and visitors.

- **Karanga** – formal call
- **Kaikaranga** – caller (role of wahine – women)
- **Whakaeki** – arrival of manuhiri – guests
- **E Nono** – Take seats: Tāne – Men at front  
  Wahine – Women at back
- **Whaikōrero** – Formal speeches
- **Waiata** – song after each speaker
- **Hongi** – Sharing of breath of life (to press nose in greeting)
- **Kai** – Sharing of food

**Packing list**

**Must have:**
- Sleepwear (pyjamas)
- Sleeping bag
- Towel
- Change of clothing
- Medication
- Toiletries
- Sturdy shoes
- Rain jacket
- Swimwear
- $5 for Koha (gift to marae)

**Optional:**
- Ear plugs
- Slippers
- Wet suit
- Flounder net
- Hinaki

**On arrival to the marae someone will take you through the following:**

- Health & Safety
- Fire Safety and Evacuation Procedures
- Damage and breakage agreement