

Introductions - Pepeha

The pepeha is the way to introduce yourself in Maori.

Keeping in mind I nga wa o mua and the fact that our people in their tikanga face that direction for guidance, what better place could there be to start introducing ourselves! For, we are the children of the whenua, of the moana and of the tupuna.

To introduce ourselves we should tell the story of how we arrived here, and the story does not start with ourselves!!! But before we journey back in time we should anchor ourselves to this whenua. Mau means hold, therefore our Maunga (mountain) will anchor us here.

How did our tupuna come? They crossed the Moana, (oceans) the vast stretches of Te Moana Nui a Kiwa and followed the Awa (rivers) to come to the final resting places of their Waka (canoes). From the Waka came the Rohe (districts) which sub divided into the Iwi then into the Hapu. Each hapu is affiliated with a Wahi (place) and in each wahi is a Marae. Your Kaumatua (Grandparents) come from the Marae, your Matua (parents) come from them and then there is you.