

Mīharo Murihiku Trust

*Programme of Events*

2026



## **WHAKAMANAHIA TE RANGATAHI 2026**

### **YOUTH MENTORING LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME**

- Applications open Friday 13th February
- Applications close Sunday 1st March
- Application forms are available on the Mīharo website

Whakamanahia Te Rangatahi (WTR) is designed to empower rangatahi by fostering a strong sense of identity, language, and culture. Through a carefully curated series of wānanga, workshops, and hands-on experiences, ranging from public speaking and event management at Polyfest, to artistic expression and collaboration with established Māori and Pasifika artists, the rangatahi develop essential leadership, communication, and creative skills that contribute to their personal growth and future success. This year we are offering:

- Marae Wānanga
- Art Workshops
- Waka Ama
- Polyfest Workshops
- Volunteering at Polyfest
- Aspiring Artist Scholarships 2026
- And more yet to be revealed!

### **ANA TEOFILO**

Exhibition: March 20<sup>th</sup> - May 8<sup>th</sup>

Workshops: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 6pm-8pm

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 10am-12pm & 2pm-4pm

We are honoured to welcome back Samoan artist Ana Teofilo to Mīharo this March. Ana combines her Samoan heritage with Western influences to create striking works featuring Polynesian motifs. Her unique process, carving patterns into painted boards and adding textured embellishments, results in layered, three-dimensional pieces full of meaning and visual impact.

Alongside her exhibition in the gallery, Ana will lead community workshops, offering a hands-on opportunity to engage with her art and creative practice.



## MĪHARO ART EXHIBITION

### LEGENDS OF OUR LANDS - OUR PEOPLE, OUR PLACES, OUR STORIES

- Entires due : Friday 3rd July, 5:00pm
  - Where: Mīharo, 28 Don Street
- Opening/Awards Evening: Wednesday 22nd July
  - Where: SIT Centrestage & Mīharo Murihiku

Māori and Pasifika peoples have always passed on stories to children to ensure the intergenerational transmission of knowledge, understandings, traditions and wisdom from their ancestors. The Mīharo annual Art Exhibition and Awards night is an opportunity to showcase art from Early Childhood Education, Primary and Secondary schools, and 18-25 year olds, based on the theme **Legends of our Lands - Our people, Our places, Our stories.**

The exhibition is free to enter and is displayed in our Mīharo Gallery and the Invercargill Public Library. For more information, visit our Mīharo website, as well as access to amazing resources, registrations, label templates and measurement requirements that will support you in the creative process.

## MURIHIKU POLYFEST T-SHIRT DESIGN COMPETITION

- Accepting entries now!
- Template available on our website
- Entries due: Friday 3rd July, 5:00pm

Our annual Murihiku Polyfest T-shirt Design Competition offers aspiring artists the chance to showcase their talents and creativity within our community. Each year, we receive hundreds of entries from local early childhood education centres, primary schools, and secondary schools. A design is selected by local artists and chosen for its originality and spirit. The winning design is worn by hundreds of volunteers and kaimahi during Polyfest week and is also gifted to distinguished guests from across Aotearoa and other events throughout the year.

## **MĪHARO MURIHIKU POLYFEST**

- When: 9:00am - 3:00pm, Monday 24th - Friday 28th August
- ILT Stadium Southland
- GOLD COIN ENTRY for whānau and spectators.

Our biggest annual event at Mīharo, Murihiku Polyfest, is a week long festival celebrating culture, language and identity through performing arts. With over 8000 performers and tens of thousands of spectators, both online and in person, this is one of the regions biggest spectacles.

Murihiku Polyfest is open to groups from ECE through to secondary schools. Groups work on their brackets year long, before taking to the stage in August each year. Due to the success of our combined online event in 2021, Polyfest is now delivered both in person and live streamed on our website. The full programme for Murihiku Polyfest will be available in July on our website and Facebook page.

## **MURIHIKU COMMUNITY SHOWCASE**

- When: Tuesday 25th August
  - Doors open 5:30pm - Starts 6:00pm
- Where: ILT Stadium Southland
- GOLD COIN ENTRY for whānau and spectators.

In 2024, we introduced a new evening showcase to celebrate our Māori and Pasifika cultural community groups in Murihiku. This event provided a platform for intergenerational performances, bringing together diverse communities to share their beautiful culture and language through performing arts. Rangatahi and tamariki had the opportunity to take the Polyfest stage alongside their parents, siblings, nannies, and extended whānau, beyond their school performance groups. We're excited to make this showcase an annual event, celebrating and strengthening our cultural connections each year.

## MURIHIKU RANGATAHI TOA SHOWCASES

- When: Wednesday 26th & Thursday 27th August
- Doors open 5:30pm - Starts 6:00pm
- Where: ILT Stadium Southland
- GOLD COIN ENTRY for whānau and spectators.

The Rangatahi Toa Showcase's continues to be one of the week's most attended and anticipated events. Dedicated to our secondary schools, this evening celebrates the senior students and their contributions to Polyfest over the years. It provides an opportunity for our rangatahi, especially Year 13 students, to perform for their whānau and community.

The calibre of Kapa Haka and Pasifika brackets strengthens each year, offering an enriching experience for all of Murihiku and this year is no exception! The number of participants and performing groups has increased exponentially. We are incredibly proud to see our rangatahi stepping into leadership roles within their rōpū and seizing new opportunities in the lead-up to the Rangatahi Toa Showcase nights.

## CENTRAL LAKES POLYFEST T-SHIRT DESIGN COMPETITION

- Accepting entries now!
- Template available on our website
- Entries due: Monday 7th September, 5:00pm

Our annual Central Lakes Polyfest T-shirt Design Competition offers young, aspiring artists the chance to showcase their talents and creativity with our community. This year's theme is **Legends of Our Lands – Our People, Our Places, Our Stories**. Each year, we receive hundreds of entries from local early childhood education centres, primary schools, and secondary schools. A design is selected by a panel of local artists and chosen for its originality and spirit. The winning design is worn by hundreds of volunteers and kaimahi during Polyfest week and is also gifted to distinguished guests from across Aotearoa and other events throughout the year.

## **CENTRAL LAKES ART EXHIBITION**

**LEGENDS OF OUR LANDS - OUR PEOPLE, OUR PLACES, OUR STORIES.**

- Entries due/Art drop off: Friday 18th September
  - Where: Te Atamira, Building 11, Dart House, Remarkables Park  
Town Centre, 12 Hawthorne Drive, Frankton
- Opening/Awards Evening: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

Māori and Pasifika peoples have always passed on stories to children to ensure the intergenerational transmission of knowledge, understandings, traditions and wisdom from their ancestors. The Mīharo annual Art Exhibition and Awards night is an opportunity to showcase art from Early Childhood Education, Primary and Secondary schools, and 18-25 year olds, based on the theme Legends of our Lands - Our people, Our places, Our stories. The exhibition is free to enter and is displayed in our Mīharo Gallery and the Invercargill Public Library. For more information, visit our Mīharo website, as well as access to amazing resources, registrations, label templates and measurement requirements that will support you in the creative process.

## **CENTRAL LAKES POLYFEST**

- When: Tuesday 20th - Wednesday 21st October
- Where: Queenstown Event Centre, 9:00am - 3:00pm Daily
- GOLD COIN ENTRY for whānau and spectators.

We are excited to celebrate another year of Central Lakes Polyfest! Each year, we have seen the festival grow in both quantity and quality, and we are proud to see increasing involvement from schools across the Central Lakes Region. This two-day event celebrates culture, language, and identity through performing arts. We are privileged to witness the incredible performances, showcasing the dedication and hard work of each student, tutor, whānau and kura. We look forward to the continued growth of this event in Tāhuna!



# *And so much more!*

We're thrilled to share an exciting year with our Murihiku and Central Lakes communities! We have an incredible lineup of opportunities, events, and programmes that you won't want to miss. To stay in the loop and be the first to know about all the amazing things we have in store, make sure to keep an eye on our social media accounts and website.

We've curated an extraordinary roster of talented artists who will be joining us, along with a diverse range of events and programmes designed to inspire, celebrate, and connect. Whether you're an artist, a creative mind, or simply looking for something new and exciting, there's something for everyone this year.

Don't miss out on the chance to be part of these unforgettable experiences. Follow us, stay updated, and get ready to celebrate creativity and community with us!

Mauri ora.