

MĪHARO

Whakamanahipa te Rangatahi

2026



Whakamanahia Te Rangatahi (WTR) is an annual youth mentoring programme, 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, participants develop essential leadership, communication, and creative skills that contribute to their personal growth and future success.

Since its inception, WTR has had a profound impact on its participants, many of whom have gone on to take on leadership roles within their communities, pursue tertiary education, and secure meaningful employment in the arts and cultural sectors. The programme's emphasis on practical skill development, ranging from public speaking and event management at Polyfest to artistic expression and collaboration with established Māori and Pasifika artists, ensures that each rangatahi leaves with a well-rounded toolkit for their future endeavours.



By providing a supportive and culturally enriching environment, WTR continues to equip the next generation with the knowledge, confidence, and experience necessary to lead and inspire within their communities and beyond.

Further details about the programme, including expectations and opportunities, will be provided at the first wānanga at Te Tomairangi Marae. This gathering will serve as an introduction to the journey ahead, allowing rangatahi to connect, ask questions, and gain a deeper understanding of what lies ahead. Whakamanahia Te Rangatahi has been co-designed with our rangatahi, ensuring that the programme reflects their aspirations, interests, and cultural values while providing meaningful opportunities for growth and leadership.

Applications close: Sunday 1st March

Who can apply: Māori and Pasifika rangatahi in years 11-13

Cost involved: NO COST

MĀRAE WĀNANGA

Tuakana (Year 12-13): Thursday 26th March

Teina (Year 11): Thursday 2nd April

- Venue: Te Tomairangi marae, Invercargill
- Time: Full day wānanga, approx 8:30am-3pm

Our first engagements with the rangatahi will focus on whanaungatanga and identity. The rangatahi will get to know each other, focus on developing their leadership skills, and take part in waiata, activities and kemu. The first wānanga is for **tuakana** in **year 12-13**, the second is for **teina/ year 11's**. Some tuakana will be invited to the second wānanga to help lead the new rangatahi.

ANA TEOFILO

APRIL 2026

- Venue: Mīharo, 28 Don Street, Invercargill
- Time: Session time to be confirmed

Ana is a renowned Samoan visual artist who is bringing her incredible talents back to Waihōpai to share with our community. During these workshops, rangatahi can learn about Samoan designs, patterns and stories, and work together to create their own pieces of art.

WAIATA & KAPA HAKA WĀNANGA

MAY 2026

- Venue: Mīharo, 28 Don Street, Invercargill

Rangatahi will have the opportunity to come together and learn a number of waiata from different Polynesian cultures. This builds on identity and leadership skills. If requested, there is possibility for a number of extra wānanga focused on waiata and kapa haka.



MĪHARO ART AWARDS - WORKSHOPS

JUNE 2026

- Venue: Mīharo, 28 Don Street, Invercargill

Each year Mīharo holds a Murihiku Art Awards and Exhibition. This year, we will be submitting an art entry on behalf of the Whakamanahia Te Rangatahi programme. These workshops will be about designing and creating a piece or pieces to be submitted for the exhibition, including the annual Polyfest T-Shirt competition.

WAKA AMA

WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT 2026

- Venue: Te Ara a Kewa Waka Ama Club, Oreti Awa

In 2025 we were able to collaborate with the fantastic team at Te Ara a Kewa Waka Ama Club, to take the rangatahi out on the awa to try waka ama. This year we are excited to offer the same opportunity. Rangatahi learn karakia, pūrākau, and skills around waka and water safety. Then, they have the opportunity to try it for themselves and race against each other. If interest is high, we can offer several waka ama workshops throughout the year. This kaupapa is weather dependent.

MURIHIKU POLYFEST

MONDAY 24TH - FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST

- Venue: ILT Stadium Southland
- Time: Five full days, approx. 8:30am-3:00pm
- **Volunteer spaces are limited.** Priority will be given to rangatahi who have shown commitment to the programme throughout the year.

In the lead up to Polyfest, rangatahi will workshop with our Key Leaders to learn the skills and knowledge involved in the different areas of Polyfest. Such as MC, Backstage, Tour Guiding, and Crowd Control. The rangatahi will work with their Key Leaders for the week of Polyfest, building their leadership skills so that by the end of the week, the rangatahi are leading their roles and areas.



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Whakamanahia te Rangatahi

MĪHARO MURIHIKU TRUST RANGATAHI ARTIST SCHOLARSHIPS SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER

Each year Mīharo offers 2 rangatahi scholarships for x1 Māori and x1 Pasifika aspiring artist. The scholarship recipients are chosen by a panel of passionate and creative rangatahi from our WTR programme. Rangatahi have the opportunity to apply for the scholarship, or the selection panel.

These scholarships honour our late patron, Ioane (Johnny) Reuelu Peninsula MNZM, a pioneering sculptor, stone carver, and painter who has been hugely influential, both nationally and internationally. Established with Johnny's whanau, the scholarships reflect his profound generosity in sharing his knowledge and his unwavering advocacy for the arts. Johnny's influence will continue to guide and inspire our communities into the future.

These scholarships are our way of continuing his incredible work. They are designed to support, uplift, and encourage any rangatahi with a passion for the arts, in any form.

FINAL CELEBRATION NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

- Venue: Mīharo Murihiku Trust

At the conclusion of the programme we invite all rangatahi, whānau and supporters to come along and celebrate the mahi and achievements of our rangatahi. This is a time for us to reflect on the year and the many kaupapa the rangatahi were involved in. We also announce our scholarship recipients, and celebrate their achievements as well.

Alongside these events, there are opportunities for rangatahi to be involved in performing arts, traditional cultural arts, tertiary scholarship workshops, and much more. Applications are essential, please email anjelina@miharo.org for an application form



Rangatahi Application Form

Due 1st March

First and Last Name

Date of Birth

School

Year Level Ethnicity

Iwi/Villages

Phone Number

Email

Parent/Whānau/Caregiver Name

Parent/Whānau/Caregiver Email

Parent/Whānau/Caregiver
Number

Dietary/Health Requirements
(eg, allergies)

Parent/Whānau/Caregiver
signature*

Teacher/Dean
signature

Date

Media consent (Please circle one): Yes / No

*Some information, including photos and data, will be used for funding, promotion and accountability purposes. By submitting your registration form, you consent for your photos and information to be shared. For more information regarding our privacy policy, please contact the Māharo office