

Kia ora koutou,

I'm thrilled to let you know we have now confirmed our dates for the next Makaawhio – Te Ara Whakatipu Wānanga as follows;

Sunday 29th April – Saturday May 5th

This includes two travel days; to and from Te Anau; two walking days (in and out of the valley) and 4 full days in the valley. This year the program will be one day longer than previous years.

Our team of hīkoi leaders will be as follows;

Kara Edwards	Overall Lead
Kahurangi Wilson-Mahuika	Outdoor, Cultural Heritage, H & S , Admin
Rachel Forsyth	Kai and Manaaki
Hine Pounamu Apanui Barr	Outdoor/Cultural activities lead & support
Alex Solomon	Outdoor/Cultural activities lead & support

We now have an experienced rōpu of professionals who now have four years' experience delivering and refining this program that has specific outcomes. We are very choosy about the team of leaders/support folk because we have to be. Each of the team needs to fit in with program and have specific skills and experience that will add value.

I have also agreed to take two guides from the Hollyford Track to build connection and strengthen their cultural competence.

This means that there will be spaces for **13 rangatahi**.

Recruitment criteria:

Age: 15-18 (some flexibility on a case by case basis)

A mixture of gender – ideally a 50/50 split

A mixture of engaged and competent in their Māhakitanga as well as dis-connected

Having the right mix is key to the entire program. In a usual program, I make decisions on the final list of attendees with advice and a recommendation from Donelle (office admin support). This year, I would like to still make this decision with advice from Kahu who will be undertaking the admin as Kahu will actually talk with the rakatahi and their whānau.

It will be important that whānau understand that there is no guarantee their rangatahi will be selected this time around.

Manuhiri

We always invite Ta Tipene and our Kai Whakahaere as a core part of the program along with a kaumātua from Makaawhio and Oraka-Aparima. They usually fly in for one or two nights if possible. We cover all of the associated costs as part of the hīkoi.

We don't take manuhiri (including the rūnanga) on the hīkoi itself because that means there is one less rangatahi.

Advertising & Application

Kahurangi will pull together the first advert for distribution calling for expressions of interest. We will then upload all of the paper work to the rūnanga web-site as well as send the forms to interested whānau. The paper work will include;

- Background on the purpose of the hīkoi including expectations and behaviours
- Overview of the schedule
- Gear List
- Medical Declaration

Costs

The Rūnanga will be meeting nearly all of the associated costs. However, we'd like to introduce an element of reciprocity and request whānau to make a koha either cash to help with fuel costs and or baking.

Health and Safety

We have a plan in place which we will present to the Exec prior. While in the valley, we run under the H & S systems of the Hollyford Track Business. Kahurangi has (PHEC) Pre Hospital Emergency Care certification and Alex and Hine Pounamu have first aid certificates also.

Transport

Can we please have the use of the Rūnaka van for the hīkoi. The fuel costs can be met out of the over-all budget. We will also need additional transport.

Gear Requirements

We have a gear list that sets out what the rangatahi **must** have. However, we will work with whānau to find anything they don't have and we can help with the following;

Coats – Hollyford Track (we prefer they use our coats)

Boots – We can hire boots – we prefer rangatahi to have their own boots

Back-Packs – We have backs and pack liners available – Hollyford Track

I take spare clothing and will purchase extra thermals this year as a back-up.

We have a saving from the last program and I will use the savings to purchase 10 sleeping bags and liners so will have these available for use. Please note that these will be the property of TRONT and not Makaawhio.

Kā mihi ora,

Kara