

Te Ara Whakatipu – Hīkoi ki Whakatipu Waitai

The pathway of Growth – Martins Bay

October 1st – 7th, 2017



Introduction

Te Ara Whakatipu is a rakatahi focused leadership program that combines Ngāi Tahu tūhono and outdoor leadership based in the Hollyford Valley/Whakatipu Waitai. This wānaka was developed by Kara Edwards nā Makaawhio and is funded fully by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. The hīkoi acknowledges the manawhenua of both Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio and Ōraka-Aparima Rūnanga.

Te Ara Whakatipu is delivered by a combination of professional Kāi Tahu guides, kaimahi . kaumātua and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu office staff.

The hīkoi is seven days long, with five days spent in the Whakatipu Waitai immersed in the natural environment and is dependent upon the support of the 'Hollyford Track', owned by Ngāi Tahu Tourism. We are very grateful to Ngāi Tahu Tourism who generously enable the use of their lodge, staff and assets.

The Whakatipu Waitai – Hollyford valley was specially chosen because of the cultural heritage and importance of this wahi taonga to Ngāi Tahu as a traditional settlement and trail linking the Tai o Poutini with Otakou and Muihiku.

Kaupapa-Purpose

The key purpose of this hīkoi is to engage our Ngāi Tahu rakatahi, through exploring their connection to self, to Ngāi Tahu, and to the natural environment.

This program was developed on the belief that engagement with te ao tūroa (the natural world) provides a strong platform to a greater connection to self-identity and by adding in a cultural framework, a great connection to Ngāi Tahu.

Core learning's and activities include:

- Mahinga Kai values and practise
- Ngāi Tahu culture and Heritage
- Ngāi Tahu reo, waiata and haka
- Completing physically challenges including walking in and out of the Hollyford Valley (21 km's each way)
- Outdoor skills including navigation, group management, Health & Safety
- Rongoa Maori

Criteria for participation;

- Registered as a member of Ngāi Tahu
- Fit and capable of safely hiking 21km, with a pack
- Passionate about learning about their Ngāitahutanga
- Interested in learning about and giving back to the natural environment
- Enthusiasm and a smile (provided on arrival if required :0)

Program

Rakatahi will travel to Te Anau with Papatipu Rūnanga staff, or course kaimahi (facilitators). Here everyone will come together for dinner at the 'Te Koawa roa o Takitimu. The next morning they will drive 1.5 hours to the Hollyford Valley, and begin their hike into the Hollyford Valley. The group will spend five days, in total, immersed in the beauty of Whakatipu Waitai/Hollyford Valley/Martins Bay. On the last day the group will walk out of the valley, and drive back to Te Anau for their final night together.

Personnel

Program Facilitator

Kara Edwards
Te Ara Whakatipu Developer & Lead -3yrs
Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio

Senior Outdoor
& Cultural Facilitator

Kahurangi Wilson-Mahuika
Te Ara Whakatipu Outdoor Guide/leader -3yrs
Hollyford Track Guide - 4yrs
YMCA Camp Leader 1yr
Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio

Facilitator	Alex Solomon Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Intern Alumni – Te Ara whakatipu
Facilitator	Hinepounamu Apanui-Barr Manawa hōu Facilitator Alumni – Te Ara whakatipu
Facilitator	Sam Gibson Ex-Teacher & Keen Outdoors man Good Nature Trap Relationship Manager
Jet Boat Driver/Lodge Host	Chris Hanson Hollyford Track contractor & jet-boat driver
Cook	Rachael Forsyth Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio Kai Awhina
Program Support & Ngāi Tahu Office contact	Donelle Manihera donelle.manihera@ngaitahu.iwi.nz 027 670 7243 / 03 974 0145

Health & Safety

The group will be operating under the health and safety plans for the Hollyford Track business that are the same for their guided tours. This means that they will have access to all of the health and safety equipment such as radios, satellite phones as well as clear procedures and back up support in the event of an incident or emergency.

The outdoor leader has the required training and experience for this group hīkoi. They will also have the support of the Hollyford track staff based in Queenstown along with the Hollyford Track boat driver, Chris Hanson who will be on the hīkoi also.

All successful applicants will be required to undertake a 20 min health check (on the phone) whereby you and your parents/care givers will be asked a series of questions. Please note that this is a very remote location so we need to ensure parents/caregivers fully disclose medical histories and health issues for their rakatahi.

Fitness

A medium to high level of fitness is required. Participants will be walking down part of the Hollyford Valley (21km's) and then returning along the same track. The track is reasonably flat but it is still a long way to walk with no alternative transport options.

Behaviour

All rakatahi will be expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner at all times. It is critically important that everyone listens and follows instructions. This is especially important when out on the track and or undertaking outdoor activities whereby adhering to expectations and rules are essential for the health and wellbeing of the hīkoi participants.

It will also be important for everyone to work in together to ensure an enriching experience for all, which include the following code of conduct:

- Listening to kaimahi/leaders at all times
- Following Instructions
- Being Respectful at all times
- Taking care of one another
- Being respectful of the natural environment
- Participating in all activities as part of the rōpū
- Helping in the kitchen
- Cleaning up after ourselves and each other

If rakatahi do not adhere to the above code of conduct, kaimahi will speak to them away from the group and remind them of their responsibilities as well as talk through any underlying issues that may be upsetting the rakatahi and or causing unwelcome behaviour. If unwelcome behaviour continues, the rakatahi will be spoken to again, reminded of their responsibilities and conduct agreement.

In the unlikely event that misbehaviour continues and is having a detrimental effect on the individual and or the rōpu health and wellbeing, then unfortunately the rakatahi will need to return home at the expense of the family. This could be a substantial cost for whānau and therefore we ask that you ensure that your rakatahi is well aware of the consequences of unwelcome behaviour.

There will be no access to cell phones or technology while in the Hollyford Valley. Whānau will be able to make emergency contact through the Kāi Tahu Office.

Finally, thank-you for entrusting us with your most precious taonga, your rakatahi. We will do our very best to ensure that this is a positive experience for this year's roopu. This will be our fourth consecutive hīkoi and we think of this opportunity to facilitate this experience as an absolute privilege.

If you have any questions or issues – please don't hesitate to contact me directly at any time.

Nga mihi,

Kara Edwards

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