

Building strong futures through youth leadership



ganbina

At Ganbina, we believe in the power of opportunity.

The journey to New Zealand is a reflection of our commitment to providing young people with experiences that expand their horizons, build cultural pride, and inspire leadership. By stepping outside their own communities and engaging with others, our youth gain a deeper understanding of the world and their place in it. We are proud of every participant who embraced this journey with open hearts and minds.

Anthony Cavanagh, CEO



This trip was more than a cultural immersion; it was a leadership experience.

Watching our young people grow, connect, and reflect was incredibly moving. The relationships they built, the stories they heard, and the pride they showed in their own identities will stay with them for life. We thank our families and communities for supporting these journeys and look forward to continuing to create spaces where our youth can thrive.

Jean Miller-Fowler, General Manager



A Journey to Remember



In September 2025, eight young leaders from Ganbina's Youth Leadership Program embarked on an unforgettable five-day journey to New Zealand. This experience was more than just a trip, it was a deep dive into Māori culture, history, and leadership, filled with learning, laughter, and connection.

From the moment we landed in Auckland, we were welcomed with warmth and generosity. Our guides from TIME Unlimited made us feel at home, sharing stories, traditions, and the beauty of their land. The group explored stunning landscapes, visited sacred sites, and met inspiring community leaders who shared their wisdom and experiences.

This journey helped our young people grow in confidence, pride, and cultural understanding. It was a celebration of identity, leadership, and the power of community.



**A celebration of identity, leadership,
and the power of community**



Cultural Highlights and Experiences

Participants explored Northland and Auckland, engaging in experiences that were both educational and deeply personal:

Waitangi Treaty Grounds and Museum

A powerful visit where we learned about the Treaty of Waitangi and its significance to Māori people. We were honoured with a traditional welcome and cultural performance.

Waipoua Forest

Home to Tāne Mahuta, the ancient Kauri tree known as the **“God of the Forest.”** Standing before this majestic tree was a moment of awe and reflection.

Manea – Footprints of Kupe

A vibrant production that brought Māori stories to life through light, sound, and performance.

Kawiti Glowworm Caves

A magical underground experience where we learned about glowworms and the natural ecosystem.

University of Auckland

A glimpse into future possibilities as we explored the campus and imagined what university life could look like.

Community Dinner and Cultural Exchange

A heartfelt evening of sharing stories, food, music, and laughter with Māori community members. This was a highlight for many, where friendships were formed and pride was shared.

**A celebration of identity, leadership,
and the power of community**

What Our Young Leaders Said

Here are some reflections from our participants:

“ The community dinner was the best part – hearing stories, singing, and making new friends. ”

“ Seeing Tāne Mahuta and learning about its cultural significance was unforgettable. ”

“ I learnt that Kia Ora means hello, thank you, and good health – it’s more than just a greeting. ”

“ The University of Auckland opened my eyes to future possibilities. ”

“ The glowworms were amazing! I loved learning about their life cycle. ”

“ I’ll never forget the performances and the way we were welcomed with such respect. ”

These voices show just how meaningful the experience was. Our young people returned with new knowledge, stronger identities, and memories that will last a lifetime.



New knowledge, stronger identities, and memories

Looking Forward

The New Zealand experience is a cherished part of the Youth Leadership Program. It helps our young people grow as leaders, connect with culture, and build confidence in their future.

What's next?

- Continuing to build strong relationships with Māori communities.
- Creating more opportunities for cultural exchange and leadership development.
- Sharing stories and experiences with families and the wider community.
- Supporting our young leaders as they take the next steps in their journey.



**Thank you to everyone who
made this trip possible.
Your support helps
shape strong, proud, and
connected young leaders.**

New knowledge, stronger identities, and memories

our team

Farewell Klarindah and Katrina

Since our last *Focus on Our Team*, we say goodbye to Klarindah and Katrina — two much-loved colleagues whose contributions have helped shape our team and culture.

We thank Klarindah and Katrina for everything they've brought to our organisation and wish them all the very best in their next chapters. **You'll always be part of our story.**

At the same time, we're delighted to **welcome Chrystal Chapman** to the team as our new Education Program Project Officer – Primary. Crystal brings a **wealth of experience and a passion for education** that aligns beautifully with our mission. We're excited to have her on board and look forward to the fresh perspectives and energy she'll bring.



On the radar

October

Friday 17th	Youth Achievement Awards <i>Applications Close</i>
Thursday 23rd - 24th	Youth Achievement Awards <i>Winners Notified</i>
Tuesday 28th - 29th	Youth Achievement Awards <i>Photos</i>

November

Friday 14th	Youth Achievement Awards <i>Dinner Presentation</i>
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December

Sunday 14th - 17th	Youth Leadership Program <i>Camp Jungai</i>
Monday 22nd	Ganbina Head Office <i>(Shapparton) closes</i>

January

Monday 19th	Ganbina Head Office <i>(Shapparton) open</i>
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