



ganbina

Partner Update

Ganbina Agents of Change

Ganbina Youth Leadership Unique Experience 2025

Northland and Auckland, New Zealand

Cultural and Leadership Immersion

The 2025 Youth Leadership Program trip to New Zealand offered eight young participants a transformative five-day cultural and leadership experience. This condensed itinerary was rich in educational, cultural, and personal development opportunities, designed to deepen understanding of Māori heritage, foster leadership skills, and build cross-cultural connections.

Key highlights included:

- Visits to culturally significant sites such as the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, Waipoua Forest, and Kawiti Glowworm Caves.
- Engagements with Māori elders and community leaders.
- A university campus tour at the University of Auckland.
- A powerful cultural exchange dinner with local Māori communities.
- Guided tours by TIME Unlimited, a long-standing partner in delivering immersive cultural experiences.

This experience not only strengthened the participants' cultural identity and leadership capabilities but also reinforced the value of cross-cultural learning and respectful partnerships.

Ganbina Partner - October 2025

Program Highlights

Participants were welcomed at Auckland Airport by TIME Unlimited guides, who provided a personalised introduction to the city and its cultural landmarks. The group then travelled north to Paihia, where they explored the Bay of Islands and engaged in immersive cultural learning at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds and Museum. A special performance and ceremonial welcome highlighted the significance of the Treaty of Waitangi and Māori traditions.

The journey continued through the Waipoua Forest, home to Tāne Mahuta, the ancient Kauri tree, and into Hokianga for the Manea – Footprints of Kupe experience. These activities offered rich storytelling, interactive performances, and deep cultural insights.

Participants also visited the Kawiti Glowworm Caves and the University of Auckland, where they explored academic pathways and student life. The final day included a cultural exchange dinner with Māori community leaders, fostering meaningful connections and mutual respect.

Outcomes and Impact

Key Deliverables Achieved

- 8 youth participants and 3 Ganbina staff attended.
- Strengthened long-term partnership with TIME Unlimited Tours.
- Deepened cultural identity and pride among participants.
- Enhanced understanding of Māori history and leadership.
- Facilitated meaningful cultural exchange and community engagement.



DEEPENED CULTURAL IDENTITY AND PRIDE

Partnerships and Community Engagement

Engaged Partners:

- TIME Unlimited Tours
- University of Auckland
- Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Manea – Footprints of Kupe
- Local Māori community leaders

The success of this experience was made possible through the collaboration and generosity of our partners. Their contributions helped create a safe, welcoming, and enriching environment for our young leaders to grow and connect.

The cultural exchange dinner was a standout moment, where participants engaged in storytelling, weaving, karaoke, and shared traditional foods. This evening fostered mutual respect and deepened relationships between Ganbina and the Māori community.

Looking Ahead

The New Zealand experience continues to be a cornerstone of the Youth Leadership Program, offering a unique opportunity for cultural exchange, leadership development, and personal growth. The strong parallels between Māori and Aboriginal histories create a powerful platform for learning and connection.

Next Steps:

- Strengthen and expand partnerships with Māori communities and educational institutions.
- Explore opportunities to extend the trip duration or include weekend rest periods.
- Continue to prioritise cultural exchange dinners and interactive learning experiences.
- Share participant stories and outcomes with broader community and stakeholders.



We thank our partners for their continued support and commitment to empowering young leaders. Your contributions make these life-changing experiences possible.

Participant reflections

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



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

“ 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. ”

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



These reflections highlight the emotional and intellectual impact of the trip, with many participants expressing a renewed sense of pride, purpose, and connection.

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