



**INSPIRING
STORIES.**

**Future
Leaders**

www.futureleaders.nz

2022 REPORT

END OF YEAR REPORT FOR THE 2022 FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAMME

 **Future
Leaders**

POWERED BY...

**INSPIRING
STORIES.**

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“I want to make a difference and become better in all I do, while inspiring other rangatahi to do the same.”

CAMERON TAYLOR,
FUTURE LEADERS PARTICIPANT
WHAKATĀNE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



GUY RYAN, CEO & FOUNDER



ANNA MORETON,
FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAMME
MANAGER

Kia ora!

2022 has been another year subject to huge challenges and disruption from COVID. You don't have to look far to see the media headlines about the huge proportion of young people not engaged in education; the impact on mental health and wellbeing; or youth crime. With so many of our young people in Aotearoa struggling – something needs to change.

At it's core, our mahi at Inspiring Stories is about creating opportunities for young people to find their tribe; to gain inspiration and hope; and build their ideas and skills for the future. We have seen remarkable examples of young people overcoming adversity and struggle, discovering their voice, building their confidence, and stepping up to support others.

Despite extreme challenges, this year our team worked incredibly hard to support the development and growth of rangatahi in communities across Aotearoa.

Together, we created powerful in-person events and experiences at the local, regional and national level; provided mentoring and coaching throughout the year; skills and tools to support mental health and wellbeing; and increased access to opportunities to learn from some of the most inspirational changemakers and leaders in the country. We also prototyped and tested a bunch of online experiences this year too – from 'Leaders Like You' to online workshops, to live streaming Festival for the Future. We've learnt a lot, and are looking forward to integrating a number of key insights into our new model for 2023.

To our incredible community of alumni, partners and supporters who have walked alongside us on this journey – thank you. To our young people who have participated in one or more of the many opportunities of the 2022 experience – thank you. You are amazing, and we can't wait to build on this mahi with you in 2023!

Ngā mihi nui,

Guy, Anna, and the team at Inspiring Stories

WHO'S BEHIND IT?

INSPIRING
STORIES.

10
YEARS OF
IMPACT

Future Leaders is convened by Inspiring Stories – we're a Kiwi charity founded with a bold vision to back young people to change the world. Over the past decade more than 13,000+ people have taken part in our programmes, we've put more than \$2M+ into life-changing scholarship opportunities, and awarded more than \$100K to support some of Aotearoa's most inspirational young changemakers. We need your support – to back young New Zealanders, and make a difference for our future. Get involved!



The Festival is Aotearoa's biggest leadership and innovation summit, and in 2023 will be the opening event for Wellington's beautiful new convention centre – Tākina.

www.festivalforthefuture.co



The Impact Awards celebrate young New Zealanders making a difference with \$30,000 in prizes across six categories – climate, enterprise, inclusion, wellbeing, local and global impact.

www.theimpactawards.nz



The Future Leaders programme supports young people in rural and provincial New Zealand to build their entrepreneurship and leadership capability, and make a difference in their backyard.

www.futureleaders.nz



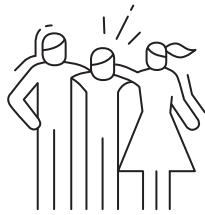
Inspiring Speakers is a social enterprise speaker bureau that represents top talent for paid speaking opportunities, and puts the profit back into scholarship opportunities for young people.

www.inspiringspeakers.co

OUR 10 YEARS OF **IMPACT**

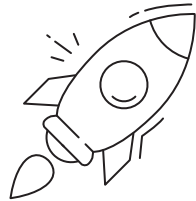
13,000+

people have taken part
in our events & programmes



180+

projects & ventures
supported



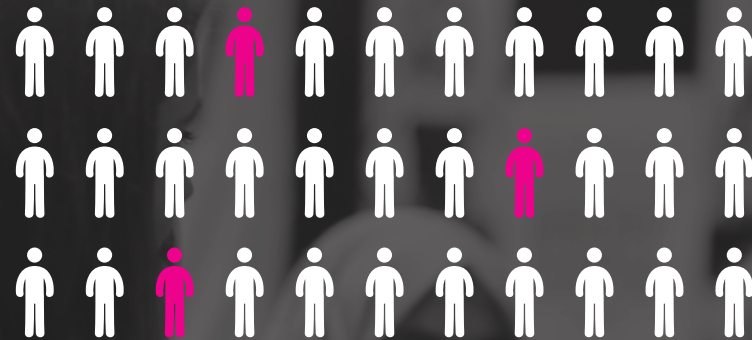
\$2M+

in-kind scholarship support
awarded across our programmes



\$100,000+

awards & seed funding
provided



50,000+

audiences reached via public speaking









“It’s been a life changing experience.”

SOPHIE WEENINK-SMITH
LOCAL IMPACT AWARD WINNER, 2021

**INSPIRING
STORIES.**

10
YEARS OF
IMPACT

FUTURE LEADERS – 2022 OVERVIEW

	KEY ACTIVITIES	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	KEY OUTCOMES
PARTICIPATE ONLINE	Leaders like you Facilitated [monthly] kōrero with guest speakers who share their story, the big challenges they've faced along the way and how they overcame them.		 Monthly kōrero with leaders like you (Zoom)	 Monthly kōrero with leaders like you (Zoom)	 Monthly kōrero with leaders like you (Zoom)	 Monthly kōrero with leaders like you (Zoom)	 Monthly kōrero with leaders like you (Zoom)	 Monthly kōrero with leaders like you (Zoom)			Feel inspired by connecting with a diverse range of relatable role models and leaders, and feel empowered to pursue their dreams
	Impact Challenges Challenges that support Future Leaders to take action and develop projects to make a difference around specific themes – climate and wellbeing.			<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Wellbeing / Hauora</div>			<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Climate / Te Taiao</div>				
PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON	Local / Regional In-person events, experiences, mentoring & coaching	Connect + Meet Up	Regional Youth Hui / Summits + Launch Connect + Meet Up	Supported locally in person by Coaches Coaching & mentoring			Supported locally in person by Coaches Meet up + Visit local impact org	Regional Youth Hui / Summits + Awards Meet up + Workshop	Pathways & Internships >>		In-community – regular coaching & mentoring supports personal development & confidence Regional youth hui / summits enable more local young people to connect & learn, building momentum
	National Events (scholarship only) Scholarship support to attend Festival for the Future and The Impact Awards in-person (or access the livestream online).			 FESTIVAL FOR THE FUTURE				 THE IMPACT AWARDS			

2022 PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE

Our vision is for Future Leaders to be transformative for young people and their communities, helping to create a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable Aotearoa. At its core, the programme puts young people at the heart of creating solutions to the challenges they face in their backyard, building their capability and confidence, and a community of support around them.

Largely due to COVID we have had to change the Future Leaders programme and experience significantly over the past two years. What was originally entirely built around in-person opportunities at the local and national level has been adapted to offer a hybrid experience with Future Leaders having multiple opportunities to connect and engage both online and in-person.

In 2022, our Future Leaders participants had the chance to engage in multiple opportunities in-person and online throughout the year. We aimed to build community, build capability, take action and inspire others.

Access to regular coaching and mentoring sessions with Coaches / Kaiako was a key touch point for rangatahi at the local level.

Participants had opportunities to engage online with the “Leaders Like You” series including Q&A with alumni; as well as skills-based workshops delivered by partners such as the “Growth Mindset” workshop delivered by Xero.

Crews collaborated at the regional level to design, develop and experience three in-person hui / wānanga in their rohe. This included a regional wānanga during Youth Week around the theme “Our voices matter, and we deserve to be heard!”; a regional wānanga focused on hauora / wellbeing; and regional youth summits with a focus on developing ideas for change. These wānanga and regional summits included significant collaboration with local community organisations and businesses during the year, and provided valuable in-person experiences.

Due to increased transport costs and funding limitations we could only support a smaller group to attend Festival for the Future and The Impact Awards in Wellington, though the live stream including keynote speakers and panel discussions enabled access online. We also had a number of Future Leaders alumni involved in Festival and the Awards, including as speakers and panelists, as well as finalists for the Awards.

As well as building connections and capability throughout the year, we challenged participants to take action through two separate ‘impact challenges’ – the first focused on wellbeing / hauora, and the second on climate / te taio.

Finally, we celebrated the year with national awards and graduation. It’s been a big year!

MEET OUR COACHES / KAIAKO

In 2022 we supported Coaches / Kaiako in four communities: Kaikohe and Whangārei in Northland; and Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki in Eastern Bay of Plenty. Future Leaders is led, supported and delivered by local people who live and work on the ground in each community. Our kaiako are true leaders who tautoko our Future Leaders throughout the year bringing warmth, passion and support to this kaupapa.



KAREN HEPI / KAIKOHE

Based in Kaikohe, Kaz brings a wealth of experience working directly with rangatahi in Te Tai Tokerau and across Aotearoa. She has held the Coach / Kaiako role for Kaikohe since 2020.



ANAHERA PICKERING / WHANGĀREI

Based in Whangarei, Anahera originally took part in the Future Leaders programme as a participant in 2018. She has spent the past few years working at Whangārei Youth Space, and this year as our Coach / Kaiako based in Whangarei.



NITA WALKER / ŌPŌTIKI

Nita has a background in public health, youth and community engagement. This year is the first year Nita has been involved in Future Leaders, and she has really enjoyed the Coach / Kaiako role alongside her other mahi as the Aspirations Navigator at Ōpōtiki College.



PETRA GRAY / WHAKATĀNE

Based in Whakatāne, Petra took part in the Future Leaders programme 2020–2021, and stepped into the Coach / Kaiako role this year. “I want to be someone our rangatahi know they can feel safe with, no judgment – to help them grow or guide them to be the best they can be.”

COACH / KAIAKO TRAINING

Every year we try to kick off the programme with in-person whakawhanaungatanga and training. COVID restrictions meant we couldn't gather in person in March as planned, and while we adapted with online alternatives, we finally got the opportunity to come together in person for training in April.

WHAT DID TRAINING COVER?

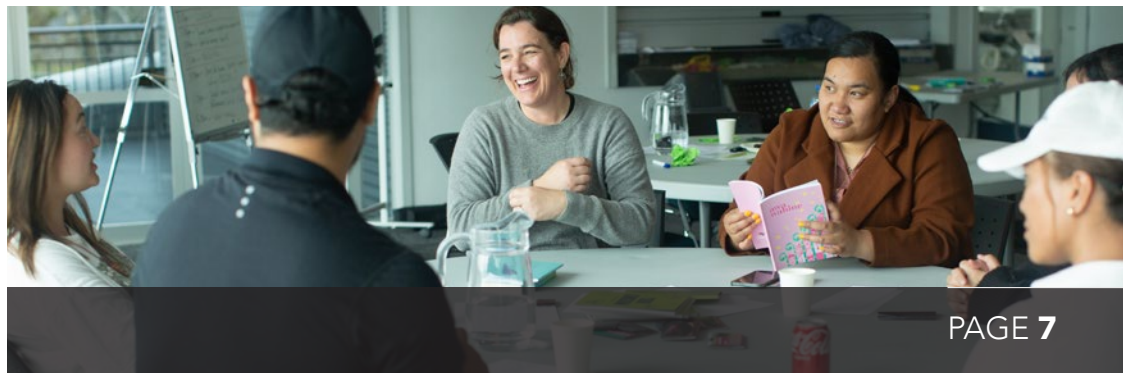
We spent time getting to know each other, going through the Coach Handbook, and planning the year ahead. We shared kai, and had fun practising icebreakers and facilitation. We shared our dreams and goals for the year ahead, and plans for enrolling this year's cohort of Future Leaders. Wonderful connections and conversations happened, along with some waiata and photos. We left Auckland tired but excited for the year ahead.

ONGOING SUPPORT

As the Future Leaders Programme Manager, Anna Moreton led weekly check-ins and provided ongoing support throughout the year for our Coaches / Kaiako, as well as support from the wider team at Inspiring Stories as required such as HR and wellbeing support. Each coach had a personal development plan, and elected to do training such as completing a First Aid Certificate and Mental Health First Response Training.

ABSOLUTE LEGENDS!

We have been incredibly lucky to have such passionate and hard working Coaches / Kaiako, who care deeply about this kaupapa and making a difference for rangatahi in their communities. They are amazing, and most of them have been involved in our mahi for many years. As well as their support of Future Leaders, there are many other roles they hold within their communities (including full time employment!). Ngā mihi nui kia koutou.



PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE – REGIONAL WĀNANGA #1

YOUTH WEEK WĀNANGA

We convened x2 regional wānanga as part of Youth Week 2022 around the theme – “Our voices matter, and we deserve to be heard!”. Our Future Leaders took part in workshops, heard from inspirational speakers, played sports and built connections. It was an opportunity to learn more about each other, the community, develop goals, share challenges, and motivation for the future.



“The biggest highlight for me was listening to all of the kōrero about wellbeing and what we want for the future of our community.”

Zaia Walker, Ōpōtiki



“My key takeaway from the wānanga was to keep passion alive, do what you love and take a step into the unknown.”

Kiara Jagoe, Whangārei



PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE – REGIONAL WĀNANGA #2

THE WELLBEING WĀNANGA

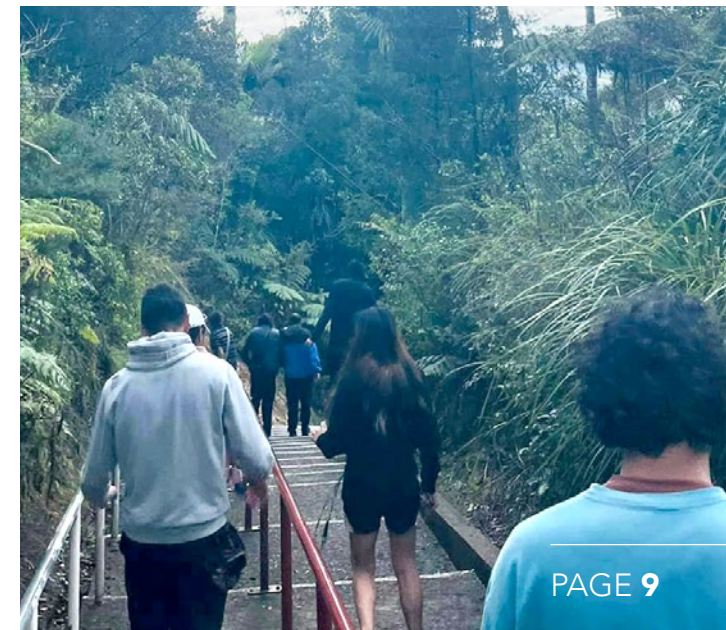
In July/August, our Future Leaders designed and delivered regional wānanga with the purpose of building whakawhanaungatanga, strengthening identity, and supporting Hauora / Wellbeing.

NORTHLAND / TE TAI TOKERAU

In Northland we collaborated with E Tū Whānau – a movement for positive change developed by Māori for Māori, about taking responsibility and action in the community to support whānau to thrive. The weekend wānanga was designed to enhance cultural understanding, hear stories of local hapu, learn haka, waiata and karakia. As well as explore a range of wellbeing tools, be inspired, create connections and have fun!

BAY OF PLENTY / TE MOANA A TOI

Eastern Bay of Plenty coaches worked together to put on a relaxing wānanga for their Future Leaders crews that focused on ways to enhance wellbeing that included time in nature, sports and connection. The crews caught eels, went fishing, visited the Awakeri hot pools, took part in wellbeing workshops and reflected on what tools they needed to include in their kete to enhance their own wellbeing.



REGIONAL YOUTH SUMMITS

In October we convened x2 regional youth summits – a free and inclusive experience for rangatahi in the Bay of Plenty (Ōpōtiki) and Northland (Whangārei) regions. Each event provided a high quality day of connection, inspiration and action. It was a great opportunity to collaborate with other organisations, and acted as a launchpad to develop and support youth-led ideas for change.

THE HIGH-LEVEL AGENDA

- Inspirational speakers – including young entrepreneurs; youth council rep's, local business and community leaders;
- a youth-led panel kōrero exploring key challenges and opportunities for the region;
- a 'world cafe' process connecting young people with a range of local businesses and community organisations who offered opportunities, pathways and support;
- a facilitated 'ideas for change' process whereby rangatahi worked together to develop and pitch ideas to make a difference in their community as part of a dragon's den style session, with the top-voted ideas from the community offered funding and ongoing support

KEY CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED

Young people were invited to identify and share key challenges they face in their community / region. There were strong themes with issues identified as (1) feelings of disconnection; (2) mental health and wellbeing; and (3) tall poppy syndrome – "it's not cool to step up and do well." While these are bigger systemic challenges, addressing them was the focus of a number of ideas developed.

SUMMARY OF YOUTH-LED IDEAS

About 10 "Ideas for Change" were developed and presented by rangatahi as part of the summits – these included a wellbeing festival; a drop-in centre and 'safe space' for young people to access services and support; a graffiti competition and associated youth development experience, auctioning off artwork to support the programme; using hip hop music and gaming as a vehicle for youth development.





“I loved it. The fact that someone is finally listening and believing in us. No words.”

ASAELI PENE
FUTURE LEADERS PARTICIPANT
WHANGĀREI, TE TAI TOKERAU



FESTIVAL FOR THE FUTURE

As part of the programme, we provided full scholarship support for a group of Future Leaders to attend Festival for the Future in-person, as well as access to the livestream for everyone else. The 3-day summit provided the opportunity to connect with some of the country’s most inspirational entrepreneurs and leaders, engage in future-focused panels, workshops, and develop ideas and skills.



“...our crew created lifelong friendships, a potential internship, career pathways... Attending the Festival was an experience we will remember forever!!!” **Nita Walker,**
Ōpōtiki Coach





“There were a lot of great speakers and I feel like I’ve come back with a lot of awesome matauranga (knowledge). I’m more willing to get out there, as the festival really fed my passion for my community.”

MJ Tuwairoa, Whakātane

“A lot of speakers had similar backgrounds, such as being involved with gangs. It was cool to see how they turned their lives around. The speakers really showed us that anything is possible.”

Ayesha Walker, Ōpōtiki



1400+
ATTENDEES

ATTENDEES FROM EVERY REGION
OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

★ ★ ★
8.6/10

LIKELY TO RECOMMEND



PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE – JULY

THE IMPACT AWARDS

The Impact Awards celebrate Aotearoa’s most inspirational young changemakers, with \$30,000 in prizes across six award categories – climate, enterprise, inclusion, wellbeing, local and global impact. In 2022 the Awards ran the same weekend as Festival for the Future. As well as supporting Future Leaders to attend on full scholarship, it has been amazing to have Future Leaders alumni represented amongst semi-finalists and winners, as well as stepping up to lead karakia to open and close the Awards Ceremony.



**JAYSIN WALKER & TE AUEPO BENNETT
LEAD KARAKIA TO OPEN THE AWARDS**

THE IMPACT CHALLENGE

Supporting participants to take action and learn by doing is a core part of the programme. This year Future Leaders had two different opportunities to work on projects to make a difference in their backyard. The first impact challenge focused on Wellbeing / Hauora, the second on Climate / Te Taio.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Future Leaders were invited to explore and learn more about Climate Change and the impact it is having locally in their communities.

The Ōpōtiki Future Leaders looked into ecosystems and weather patterns, energy use, emissions and the effect it's having on people, businesses and ways of life. They researched the topic and learnt more about fossil fuels and saw that there may be an opportunity to reverse these changes by choosing to live more, with less energy. As a result of these investigations the Ōpōtiki Future Leaders decided to hold a local event to encourage their community to ditch the cars for the day!

FUTURE LEADERS AWARDS



The Future Leaders Awards are an opportunity to celebrate commitment, leadership and contribution. Proudly supported by our partners at Xero, the prizes included HP Chromebooks and all-expenses paid experiences at the Xero office in Auckland. Last year's winners for the Xero Experience were hosted in January 2022; with this year's winners announced in October, with the experience set for January 2023.

THE 2022 XERO EXPERIENCE

Unfortunately, the day everyone arrived the whole country moved into Alert Level Red which meant the Xero office was closed to all visitors! So, 'Plan B' was implemented and we used the AirBNB accommodation booked as a base and moved all meetings to online. Rolling with the curveballs, it was an action-packed 3-days of curated learning and whakawhanaungatanga.

XERO EXPERIENCE WINNERS

- Cameron Taylor, Whakatāne
- Jaysin Walker, Ōpōtiki
- Tremaine Cotton, Whangārei
- Tahurangi Cherrington, Kaikohe

HP CHROMEBOOK WINNERS

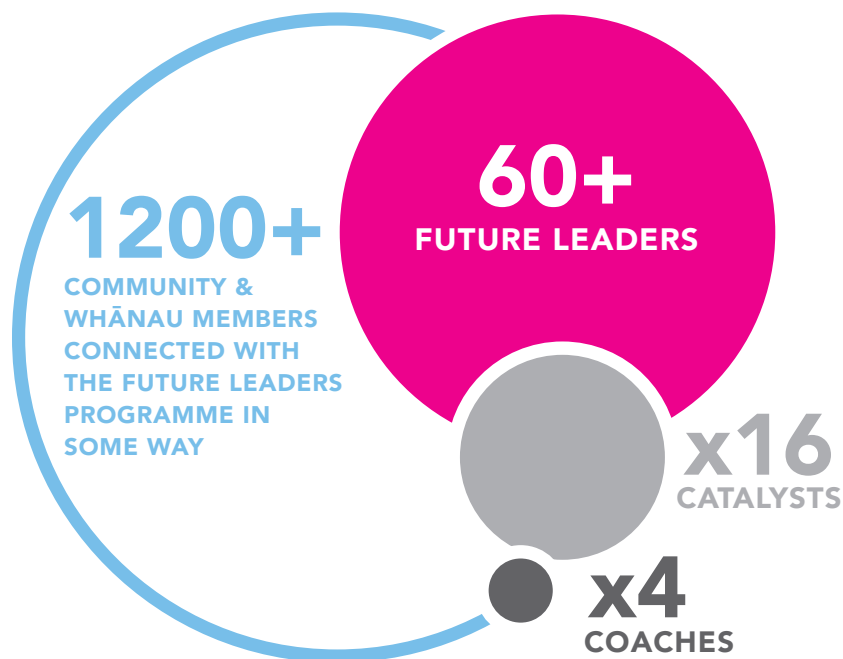
- Jordyn Hetaraka, Whāngarei
- Tiare Kerr, Ōpōtiki
- Tiaana Kururangi, Ōpōtiki
- Tahurangi Cherrington, Kaikohe

Read the 2022 Experience Blog – www.xero.com/blog/2022/02/xero-xperience-with-future-leaders/



THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

The 2022 programme ran in four communities – Ōpōtiki, Whakatāne, Kaikohe and Whangarei. There were 60+ core Future Leaders involved throughout the year, with many more rangatahi participating in the various opportunities including regional events and wānanga, Festival and The Impact Awards.



650+ FUTURE LEADERS ALUMNI

2022 was the 7th year of the programme, with 600+ people taking part since 2016. It was also our 11th year of operation for Inspiring Stories, now with 13,000+ alumni across all of our programmes since 2011.



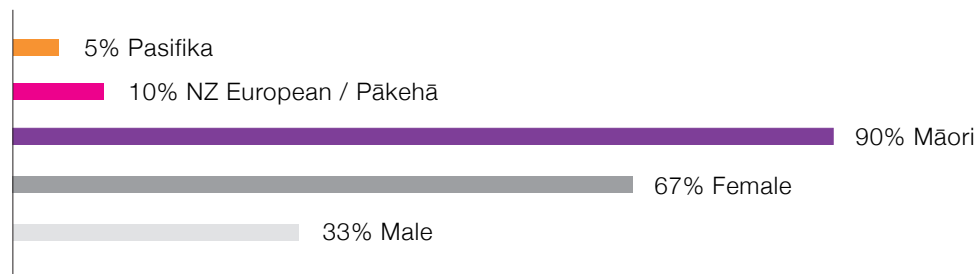
Overall, how satisfied are you with the Future Leaders programme?



How likely are you to recommend it to a friend, whānau member or colleague?

DEMOGRAPHICS*

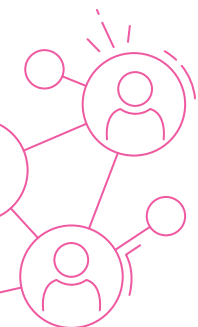
20 Average age of participants



*Ethnicity total is more than 100% due to multichoice question.

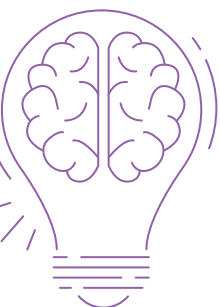
QUANTITATIVE OUTCOMES

The Future Leaders programme supports rangatahi to build strength across a range of outcome areas. The data below is a summary of 2022 survey responses, where participants indicated whether taking part in the programme had a positive impact on their development or not.*



100% FEEL BETTER CONNECTED TO A COMMUNITY OF PEERS

Participants report that the programme has helped them to develop their connections with a community of peers – locally and nationally.



95% FEEL BETTER CONNECTED TO LOCAL BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

90% FEEL THEY HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF FUTURE CHALLENGES

Participants report that the programme has helped them to develop a better understanding of a range of socio-economic issues that affect the future of their community.

100% FEEL MORE RESILIENT

Participants report that the Future Leaders programme has helped them to develop their sense of resilience, and their ability to cope with challenges.

94% FEEL MORE EMPLOYMENT READY

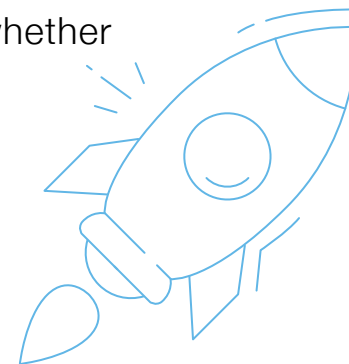
100% FEEL MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THEIR FUTURE

95% FEEL THEY HAVE A STRONGER SENSE OF PURPOSE



INCREASED CAPABILITY

- 95%** Problem solving skills
- 100%** Communication skills
- 100%** Personal & social skills
- 100%** Leadership skills
- 100%** Entrepreneurship skills,
& the ability to turn ideas into action



TURNING IDEAS INTO ACTION

- 62%** Worked as a team to develop a project(s) to make a difference in their community.



“Future Leaders has been a great programme over the years and it has done many great things for myself, my hapori and rangatahi.”

JAYSIN WALKER



Ko Jaysin Walker tōku ingoa. He uri au nō Te Whakatōhea, Ngāi Tai me Ngāti Porou.

I am a proud 17 year old wahine māori. I live in a beautiful small town called Ōpōtiki in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, and I have just finished my high school education at Ōpōtiki College.

I wanted to take part in Future Leaders to grow my leadership skills, hang out with my friends and be part of meaningful projects that make a positive impact in my community.

“The whole Festival actually inspired me to think about climate change more and take better care of our world. All of us had never really thought about climate change before.”

This year I was fortunate to be given a catalyst role, and had the opportunity to take the lead in many different ways such as leading icebreakers, organising events, creating content for our social media platforms and opening the 2022 Impact Awards. These different opportunities and experiences supported and nurtured my confidence, leadership qualities and the ability to give everything a go.

The most positive impact of joining Future Leaders was the connections I made with different people all over NZ. I have made some lifelong friends and support networks that I know have my back and I will cherish forever.

Next year I will be attending Victoria University where I will be studying a double major in Film and Te Reo Māori – two subjects I am very passionate about. I’m very much looking forward to the new experiences University and city life will bring!

How Jaysin rated her experience on the programme...



Overall, how satisfied were you with the programme?



How likely are you to recommend it to others?

CAMERON TAYLOR



“Before Future Leaders, I wasn’t involved in a lot of community kaupapa. The last couple years had seen me go through some very dark times, barely drifting through life and unmotivated.”

Ko Cameron McCausland-Taylor tōku ingoa. Ko Ngāti Awa ki Motītī rātau ko Ngāpuhi, ko Te Arawa, ko Waitaha ki Te Puke ōku iwi.

My name is Cameron and I am a 22 year old, plus-size, queer, Māori-Pākeha wahine. My current mahi is working full time as a Māori affairs newspaper reporter at the Whakatāne Beacon, but I am going into full-time study next year to finish my last year of a Bachelor in Creative Writing at Massey University.

After a very traumatic year in 2021, I am happy to say that my 2022 journey has seen me thriving in ways I never thought possible, and Future Leaders has been an integral part of that journey. I was blessed to be selected as the Chief Storyteller catalyst for the Whakatāne branch, which made the journey that much more fulfilling by being trusted to do what I do best; tell stories. Lucky I’m a journalist, hey?

Through the programme, I have strengthened my skills in many areas such as leadership, communication and community-based kaupapa. I’ve also made incredible connections with people from all over the motu that I really cherish, as well as connections in my community that I value wholeheartedly. I have learned so much about myself and how I can impact others in a positive way, and I’m lucky to have been surrounded by so much inspiration that has propelled me in that direction.

One of the core lessons I’ve learnt from the programme is that our community is everything, and our rangatahi are the future in making sure our community is nurtured and bettered for the wellbeing of all. I feel more empowered to put myself out there and tell my story to help others, and to help others share their kōrero too.

I’m looking forward to what lies ahead in my future, and am confident that the new skills and connections I have gained through this journey are setting me up for quite an epic ride.

How Cameron rated her experience on the programme...

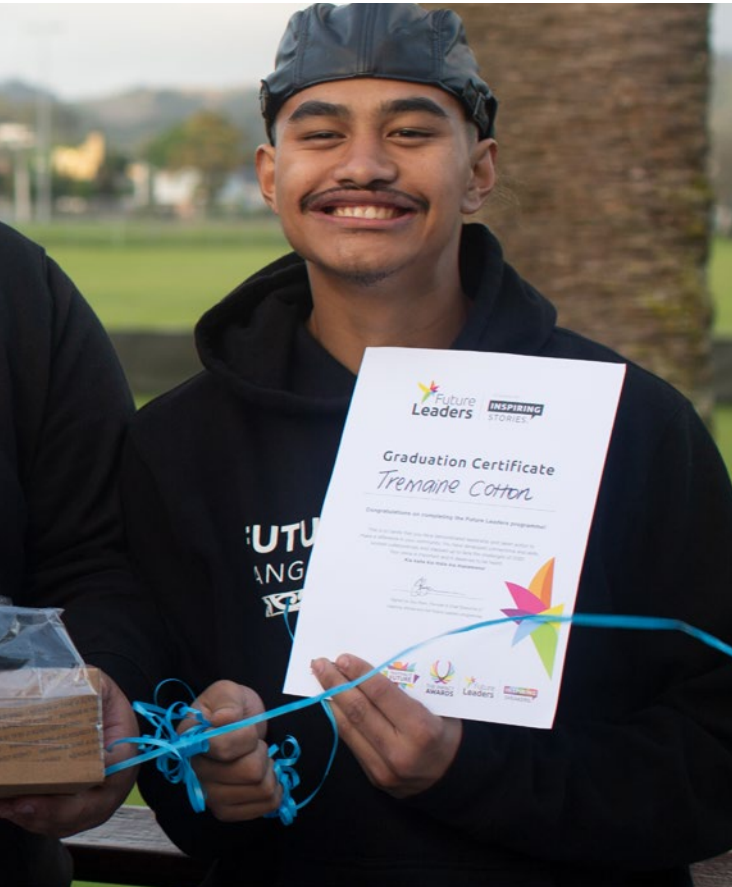


Overall, how satisfied were you with the programme?



How likely are you to recommend it to others?

TREMAINE COTTON



One of the most moving parts of the end of year graduation ceremony in Whangārei was Tremaine's dad sharing just how proud he was of his son's journey and transformation as part of the Future Leaders programme this year.

Having previously struggled to find his passion and voice, connecting with this kaupapa has seen Tremaine grow in confidence with communication and storytelling, public speaking and performance. He brought his passion for hip-hop to life performing on stage to 1,200+ people at Festival for the Future in July. In October he developed and pitched his idea for hip-hop focused youth development at the Regional Youth Summit, and also performed newly a written piece with fellow Future Leader, Asaeli Pene. It was incredible!

Tremaine's leadership and contribution has been recognised as part of the Future Leaders National Awards, with an all expenses paid trip to Auckland for the Xero Experience in January.

How Tremaine rated his experience on the programme...



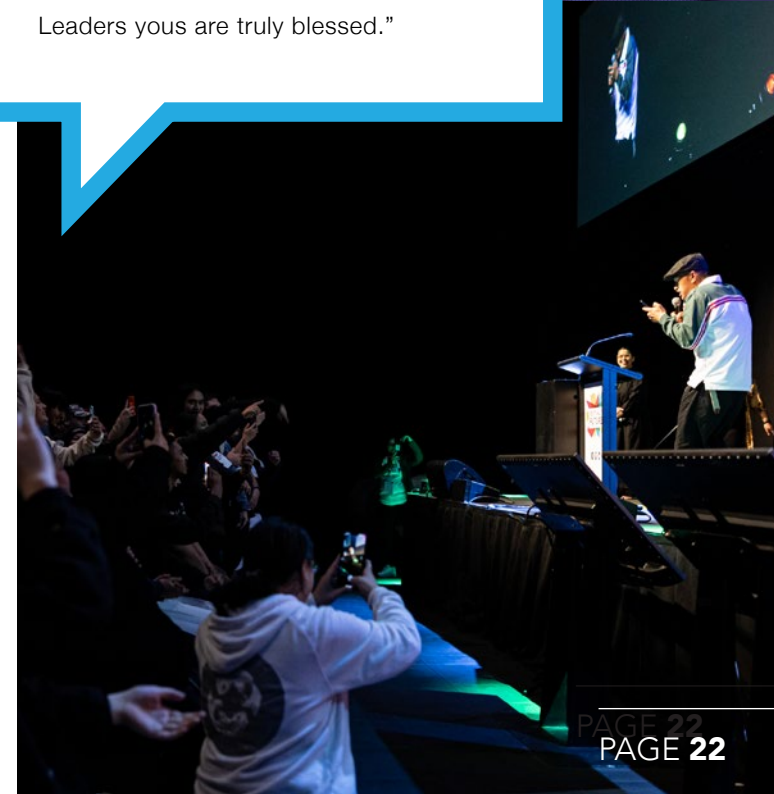
Overall, how satisfied were you with the programme?



How likely are you to recommend it to others?



“Big moment for me I jus want to say a big thank you to my crew who supported up to this moment. Thanks to tha Future Leaders yous are truly blessed.”



EXODYSS TEPAI



Based in Moerewa, Exodyss participated in the Kaikohe chapter of the Future Leaders programme as a Catalyst.

At Festival for the Future in Wellington, Exodyss stepped out of her comfort zone to support whakawhanaungatanga and connection facilitating ice-breakers with other scholarship recipients from across Aotearoa.

As Karen Hepi, our Coach / Kaiako for Kaikohe puts it – “her ambition to continue to show up and be / do better has been beautiful to see over the year. Her commitment to this kaupapa has been amazing! Whilst she has missed a couple meetings for various reasons, she has always encouraged others to commit and turn up. She has been the backbone for our team. She is the vibe, the energy and our MVP.”

“Being part of this programme made me really come out of my comfort zone, and it really just bought out the best in me.”



How Exodyss rated her experience on the programme...



Overall, how satisfied were you with the programme?



How likely are you to recommend it to others?

ALI MUHAMMAD



Ali Muhammad came to Aotearoa New Zealand, as a Quota Refugee in 2015 from Pakistan, originally from Afghanistan.

In his first two years of settlement, Ali experienced various challenges, including the effects of a lack of identity, mental health issues, and an inability to integrate into the larger New Zealand society.

“I am a big fan of the Future Leaders programme and it has played a massive role in the person that I am today. The programme is highly mana-enhancing and shows you light to possibilities. I believe every young person must attend Festival for the Future where they will get 3 years of knowledge and networks in 3 days. I would highly encourage every young person to be part of Future leaders.”

Ali participated in Future Leaders in 2018, and was also offered an opportunity to attend Festival for the Future.

These opportunities opened a whole different world for Ali, from comprehending different social issues to being inspired to create meaningful change. In 2021, Ali organised the SportFest project to remove barriers for young people of refugee backgrounds to participate in sports and recreation opportunities, and has established the Thrive Foundation to support refugee youth in Manawatu to reach their full potential.

Ali has been a vocal advocate for the rights of refugees, including working with the government to address the Afghanistan crisis and launching COVID-19 vaccination campaigns.

Ali has been recognised for his leadership as a Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Local Hero Medalist, and as a finalist for wellbeing for The Impact Awards.

ELICIA KEATING



I was born and raised in Greymouth. When I was in Year 13, Stephen, the Greymouth Future Leaders coach at the time, did a presentation at my school and it sounded like something I wanted to be involved in as I wasn't really involved in the community.

I was part of Future Leaders for three years and during that time my mindset changed – I always thought that as soon as I could, I'd get out of Greymouth but joining Future Leaders opened my eyes to lots of local opportunities and changed my mind – now I love my home town!

“I really enjoyed my time with Future Leaders. I definitely grew as a person and I wouldn't be who I am today without it. Future Leaders gave me lots of confidence, personal growth and opportunities.”

During my time with Future Leaders, I got involved in Grey District Youth Trust and Youth Council. I like that there is now a youth voice in Greymouth and I want to be part of that!

My highlights from participating in Future Leaders have been attending Festival for the Future four years in a row, the local community projects that we have made happen in Greymouth – especially our 'Paint the Town' project, and receiving a national award to take part in the Xero Xperience in Auckland 2022.

I am passionate about anything Tech, but mostly IT Support. So making connections at Xero who are one of the key partners with Inspiring Stories and supporting the Future Leaders programme has been life changing. Through those connections and with support from Xero, I attended the Girl Boss event, We the Woman HackFest, and am now doing a 3-month internship with Xero as part of the Summer of Tech programme working with the IT team in Auckland. None of this would have happened if it wasn't for Future Leaders!

KEY CHALLENGES & INSIGHTS

There have been many challenges throughout 2022, and COVID continues to cause and/or amplify many of these. As a result, we are now working through a significant evolution of our model and how we work to connect, inspire and support rangatahi making a difference in regional Aotearoa.

KEY CHALLENGES

1. Funding – big shifts in the funding landscape over the past year, and most funding is single-year as opposed to multi-year, which makes long term planning hard.
2. COVID complexity & complications – continued changes in alert levels and frameworks. Things had to be postponed, rescheduled, or parked completely.
3. Heavily dependent on very part-time Coaches / Kaiako in specific geographic locations – all holding down various other roles (some full time), and also get sick.
4. Lack of consistency across communities – the programme can be at very different stages, and different delivery approaches can mean a varied participant experience.
5. Not scaleable with current resourcing.

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

As a result of these challenges, we are working to evolve our model to take a more integrated approach to year-round community building and impact that works to connect, inspire and support young people making a difference.

This will include establishing our first ever formal Youth Advisory Group, and undertaking a co-design process working in partnership with young people to help ensure that what we deliver is relevant and fit-for-purpose.

While our three major initiatives – Festival for the Future, The Impact Awards, and the Future Leaders programme all create tangible impact and value, at times these can feel like separate things, and we can integrate these better.

At the heart of the new model will be the online community platform and associated experiences that will be accessible for young people everywhere – especially in regional Aotearoa.

As the platform and associated community building activity develops, young people engaging online will benefit from free and accessible opportunities to connect with a community of like-minded peers and support, build capability, be inspired, and take action.

Of course we'll continue to offer powerful in-person experiences at the regional and national level including Festival for the Future and The Impact Awards, but ultimately the new model will be much more accessible and scaleable.

MEET THE TEAM

Meet the team at Inspiring Stories – the crew behind Future Leaders, Festival for the Future, The Impact Awards, and more. We're a tiny team, driven by a shared passion to make a difference for rangatahi.



Guy Ryan
CEO & Founder



Anna Moreton
Future Leaders
Programme Manager



Anahera Pickering
Coach / Kaiako,
Future Leaders



Sonia Pearson
Head of Operations



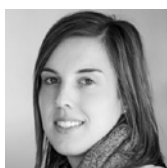
JJ Stuart-Manning
Business Development
Manager



Karen Hepi
Coach / Kaiako,
Future Leaders



Stephanie Jones
Head of Impact
& Programmes



Jo Bailey
Operations Manager



Petra Gray
Coach / Kaiako,
Future Leaders



Nik Shute
Chief People Officer



Katie Trott
Events & Experience
Manager



Nita Walker
Coach / Kaiako,
Future Leaders

www.inspiringstories.org.nz/our-team

FUNDING PARTNERS



COLLABORATION & SUPPORT

We would like to acknowledge the following organisations, and the generous people who have helped to make the Future Leaders 2022 programme possible – thank you. Ngā mihi nui kia koutou!

NATIONAL

Ara Taiohi
CoLiberate
Hell Pizza
Redvespa & Your Kingdom Resources
The Marion Hostel, Wellington

Te Puna Ora O Mataatua
Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi
Whakatāne Youth Council
Find Your Fish Movement
Whakatane Beacon
Ōpōtiki News
Sullivan Lake Care Group

Far North District Youth Council
Rawhitiroa Marae
Waipuna Ora – Moerewa
Fight Fitness - Moerewa
Te Pae Oranga – Moerewa
Patu Up – Kaikohe
Northland Regional Council
E Tu Whānau

BAY OF PLENTY / TE MOANA A TOI

Te Reo Hapori
Eastern Bay Community Foundation
Ōpōtiki District Council
Whakatohea Iwi Trust
Whakatohea Youth to Employment
Whakaatu Whanaunga Trust
Ōpōtiki East Bay R.E.A.P
Mataatua Movement
East Bay REAP
EBOP Chamber of Commerce
Jakob Carter
Bay of Plenty Regional Council

NORTHLAND / TE TAI TOKERAU

Te Runanga Ā Iwi O Ngāpuhi (TRAION)
Ngen Room
Whangarei District Council Youth Advisory Group
Emily Hendeson MP
Circus Kumarani
Eco Solutions
Awa Wahine
Papa Taiao Earthcare
Whangarei Youth Space
Te Kotahitanga e Mahi Kaha Trust (TKEMKT)

Te Ao Marama - Moerewa
Te Pae Oranga - Moerewa
Danyon Hati - Moerewa
Te Mana o te Kai - Kaikohe
Whakaoranga Whanau Recovery Hub
Bay of Islands Budgeting and Community Services
Project Boundless
Hush Dance Studio
Otiria Marae
The Station - Moerewa

HOW CAN YOU **HELP?**

As a small Kiwi charity, we need your support. Thanks to people like you, over the past decade we've been able to increase access to life-changing opportunities for thousands of people – including from our most challenged communities across Aotearoa. If you share our vision and values, and would like to help back more young New Zealanders – please become a supporter!

DONATE – BECOME A CHAMPION!

Champions for the future is a growing group of Kiwis just like you who make one-off or regular donations to support our work. Whether you're an alumni who's keen to pay it forward and can chip in \$5 a fortnight, or a senior leader who can chip in \$5K a year. Please support our work today.

Because we're a charity, you can claim 1/3 of your donation back in tax. Win!



Donate via online banking:

Kiwibank #38-9017-0138250-07.

Or, scan to use your **credit card**.



www.inspiringstories.org.nz/become-a-champion

FUNDING AND SPONSORSHIP – BECOME A PARTNER!

While fancy websites and reports can make us appear cash flush, the reality is we are always under resourced and it has been an incredibly challenging few years with COVID. If you share our vision and values, and would like to explore opportunities to assist with scholarship efforts and / or become an official partner to support our mahi please get in touch.

KEY CONTACTS



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“It's been a life changing experience.”

SOPHIE WEENINK-SMITH, NELSON
LOCAL IMPACT AWARD WINNER, 2021



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