The physical demands and competitive challenges of Waka Ama keep Tupuria King motivated, but it’s the sport’s ability to create strong social bonds that make it fun. Tupuria King has been the national premier men’s 250 metre champion for the last five years, and for the last four years he’s taken the 500m and Distance titles as well. He’s also won two golds and two bronze medals at the World Championships, and when he’s not racing he’s coaching, encouraging other young paddlers to find their winning edge.

Himalayan Trust Fundraising Day

“I declare that I have had a full life with much happiness and a share of sadness. I have little cause for complaint. If, however, some people in New Zealand feel I have made some contribution to the prestige of my country then they could best demonstrate this by continuing modest support to the Himalayan people I have worked with for so many years.”

Sir Edmund Hillary’s last will and testament.

Annually on 20 May, or the nearest Wednesday, the University of Waikato holds a Himalayan Trust Fundraising Day. 20 May 1953 is the day that Sir Edmund Hillary conquered Mount Everest. The University and the Sir Edmund Hillary scholars work together to support this fundraising effort. In the process the story of the achievements of Sir Edmund Hillary are shared and cherished by the campus community, and they return their appreciation to Sir Edmund for giving his name to the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme.

Contact us

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The Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme is sponsored by Calder and Lawson’s Orbit Travel.
**Step higher pikake**

“My achievements have resulted from a goodly share of imagination and plenty of energy. As a Hillary scholar you are given every opportunity to challenge yourself. Seize this chance.”

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**Academic support**

- The Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship is worth up to $10,000 per year subject to meeting the programme conditions.
- Personal support from the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager who is a dedicated advocate for Hillary scholars, and coordinates all the services available to scholars. The High Performance Student Scholarship Manager liaises with partner organisations and University lecturers, and can provide you with advice or support academic, leadership, sporting and arts pursuits.

**Leadership Pathway and personal development**

- The Leadership Pathway aims to develop exceptional all-rounders. The main focus being the Hillary Challenge – Personal Purpose, Sir Edmund Hillary’s personal challenge to scholars.
- A schedule of events throughout the year, including team building activities, enable scholars to share experiences and build networks with the cohort of scholars.
- Scholars are expected to participate in volunteering, fundraising, community engagement, University ambassadors’ work, and/or mentoring.
- The development of an annual plan encourages scholars to be aspirational and balance their pursuits. The annual plan defines scholars’ commitments to the University, their sport or creative and performing arts and leadership.

**Awards and Medals**

- Leadership Excellence is awarded to senior Hillary scholars with the selection of the Sir Edmund Hillary Medalists and Step Higher Award.

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**Who can apply?**

- The Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme is focused on three pillars: excellence in your sport or creative and performing art, leadership, and academic achievement. Applications need to show evidence of excellence in these three pillars.
- School leavers who have, or will have achieved an NCEA Level 3 Certificate with Merit or Excellence and University Entrance.
- School leavers who have, or will have achieved the equivalent of NCEA level 3 in the Cambridge International examinations or the International Baccalaureate examinations.
- Students intending to study at the University of Waikato at either the Hamilton or Tauranga campuses.

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