

YKIA National Conference 2027

New Zealand's first national conference for young Kiwis in AI - a full day of keynotes, panels, mentor tables and a young builders showcase.

Friday 12 February 2027

Novotel Auckland Airport

200+ attendees

Sponsors get direct, opt-in access to 200+ of NZ's most AI-engaged students, grads and early-career builders – the recruiting pipeline AI employers can't find anywhere else.

200+

students, grads and early-career builders in one room

300+

members nationwide since YKIA launched in January 2026

Sold out

Auckland meetup at ZURU HQ - one LinkedIn post, 46 on the waitlist

1st

event of its kind in New Zealand - be there from the start

WHY SPONSOR

Talent access

A curated pool of young, AI-capable Kiwis in one room - the strongest reason anyone signs.

Brand association

Align your brand with the community backing NZ's next generation of AI talent.

Reach beyond the room

Logo and mentions across YKIA socials and event promotion, before and after the day.

Good cause

Help keep young AI talent in New Zealand and help them break into the industry.

THE HERO BENEFIT: THE OPT-IN TALENT POOL. Attendees can opt in at registration to share their CV and contact details with sponsors - a privacy-first CV book of NZ's next AI hires. Full access for Founding and Talent partners; shortlist access for Supporting partners.

CONFIRMED SO FAR: Brodie Dye (ZURU) and Georgia Singleton (Trade Me) - panel: AI inside large NZ businesses. More speakers to be announced.

PARTNERSHIP TIERS

TIER	SLOTS	TICKETS	WHAT YOU GET
Founding Partner \$6,500 + GST	1	5	Naming rights ("presented by you"), 5-minute stage welcome + keynote intro, premium expo stand in the best position, full talent pool, 3 dedicated social posts, first right of refusal on your tier for 2028 (at 2028 rates).
Talent Partner \$3,500 + GST	3	3	Full talent pool access, prominent logo placement, name a panellist or sponsor a session, expo stand, 2 dedicated social posts, first right of refusal on your tier for 2028 (at 2028 rates).
Supporting Partner \$2,000 + GST	5	2	Choose one named perk - lunch, networking drinks, coffee cart, content and video, or lanyards (allocated in confirmation order) - plus a compact expo stand, talent pool shortlist and group social posts.
Community Supporter \$750 + GST	up to 6	1	Logo on website and event slides, group thank-you post.

Every partner expo stand includes space for your banner and a seat for a team member to chat with attendees about what you do.

ADD-ONS AND IN-KIND - ALL PRICES NZD + GST

Student Fly-In Fund \$1,500 / \$3,000

In-kind venue, AV, prizes, software credits

The Student Fly-In Fund flies out-of-Auckland students, grads and young professionals to the event from your company's city - a great way to directly support the talent pipeline for future internships and roles. You choose how many people to fund and who, from the application process.

Lock in a tier – partners are named across the launch and every announcement that follows.

Blake Harkness, Founder – Young Kiwis in AI | blake@harknessai.nz | 027 518 3692

Tier availability is limited and allocated in confirmation order.