



# TE WHIRIWHIRINGA 2026

TE KOROWAI O NGĀRUAHINE TRUST | 2026 TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

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## CANDIDATE INFORMATION HANDBOOK



*E kore au e mate  
Ka mate ko te mate  
Ka mate ko te mate  
Ka ora taku toa*

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Elections are formal processes. The purpose of this candidate information handbook is to assist candidates through the 2026 trustee election process.

If you have questions or want to clarify any part of the trustee election process, please contact the Tumu Whakarae (Te Aorangi Dillon) or the Chief Returning Officer.

Iwi governance is a dynamic space. The role of the Board is to lead and navigate Ngāruahine into the future, guided by the past. Congratulations on thinking about standing for the Board as a trustee.

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# 1 | INTRODUCTION

Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust (Te Korowai) is the Post-Settlement Governance Entity established in 2013 as a result of the Ngāruahine Settlement process. Therefore, Te Korowai is the representative body for Ngāruahine iwi.

As the mandated Ngāruahine entity, Te Korowai manages the settlement assets and carries out the objectives of the Trust as listed in the Te Korowai Trust Deed (Trust Deed). Elected trustees are bound to uphold the Trust Deed and Board Charter (Charter) and act in the best interests of Ngāruahine iwi.

## PURPOSE

The objectives of Te Korowai as led by the Board are:

- to give effect to the Ngāruahine settlement legislation;
- to hold and apply the treaty settlement in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deed;
- to perform the functions of a Mandated Iwi Organisation and Iwi Aquaculture Organisation, in accordance with the Māori Fisheries Act 2004 and the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004;
- to exercise strategic governance over the Trust entities and manage prudently the affairs, business activities, assets and liabilities of Te Korowai;
- to be a voice and representative body for Ngāruahine iwi;
- to foster and promote amongst members of Ngāruahine spiritual values, unity, support and cooperation, recognition of traditional customs and values and physical, social, and economic wellbeing and advancement;
- to facilitate positive relationships that foster Ngāruahinetanga, and
- to carry out any other objectives which may or may not relate to the above.

## BOARD MEMBER ACCOUNTABILITY

The trustees' paramount consideration when exercising their powers as the Board, is the collective benefit of Ngāruahine uri (clause 3.3 of the Trust Deed).

Te Korowai values strong and active relationships between trustees and uri, whānau, marae and hapū. These relationships enable trustees to bring their perspectives to the Board meetings.



# 2 | KEY ELECTION DATES

The Chief Returning Officer is responsible for maintaining the election timetable. Therefore, no extensions will be accommodated by the Chief Returning Officer or the Tumu Whakarae.

ACTIVITY	KEY DATE
<b>Phase 1 – Changing Primary Hapū electorate</b>	
Private notice to change Primary Hapū electorate / open	Thursday 30 April 2026
Changing Primary Hapū electorate close	5pm, Monday 18 May 2026
<b>Phase 2 – Call for nominations</b>	
Public notice calling for nominations	Thursday 21 May 2026
Nominations open	Thursday 21 May 2026
Nominations close	12noon, Friday 19 June 2026
Public notice confirming candidates seeking election	Monday 22 June 2026
<b>Phase 3 – Voting</b>	
Voting opens	Wednesday 15 July 2026
Ballot box available (AGM)	Saturday 29 August 2026
Postal and Online Voting closes	5pm, Saturday 29 August 2026
Election results published	4pm, Friday 4 September 2026
<b>Phase 4 – Appointment to the Board</b>	
Trustees appointed	Saturday, 5 September 2026
Deadline for election review	Friday, 18 September 2026
Review completed (if requested)	20 working days from an ERC

**PLEASE READ SECTION 6 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE REVIEW OF THE ELECTION.**

# 3 | NOMINATIONS

## TERM OF OFFICE

All successful candidates, whether elected unopposed or through a formal vote, will be elected for up to a maximum of three years.

The term starts on the date that the final outcome of the election (including any review) is confirmed and ends not more than three years from that date. If there is no review, then all trustees are taken as being appointed on the date that the Chief Returning Officer certifies the outcome of the election. This will be on Friday, 4 September 2026.

Trustees can be removed from office if they fail to comply with the Trust Deed and Charter.

## NOMINATION FORMS

Nomination forms can be requested from:

### CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER:

**FREE PHONE: 0800 666 038**

**EMAIL: [nominations@electionz.com](mailto:nominations@electionz.com)**

### TE KOROWAI O NGĀRUAHINE TRUST

**WEBSITE: [www.ngaruahine.iwi.nz](http://www.ngaruahine.iwi.nz)**

**OFFICE: 40A Union Street, Te Hāwera**

**PHONE: 06 278 7411**

## STATUTORY DECLARATION

Each candidate must submit a signed and witnessed statutory declaration form signed by a Justice of the Peace, barrister or solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand confirming that (subject to any criminal convictions history report) the candidate is eligible to be nominated for election as a trustee.

## ELIGIBILITY

To stand in this election, candidates must:

- be an adult registered member of Ngāruahine iwi;
- be registered with the hapū electorate they are standing for;
- be nominated by five other adult registered members registered with the same hapū electorate the candidate is standing for;
- meet the requirements of Section 1.1 Schedule 2 of the Trust Deed;
- complete and submit the official nomination form;
- complete and submit the Ministry of Justice Request for Criminal Conviction History form;
- provide a signed and witnessed statutory declaration confirming that they are not disqualified from being a Trustee;
- provide a statement of the candidate's relevant skill and expertise.

## CANDIDATE PROFILE

Submitting a candidate profile and photo is optional, however a statement of relevant skills and experience is compulsory. There are strict word limitations and the Chief Returning Officer has been advised to select the first 300 words from the profile. The following is a recommended structure of a candidate profile:

- Short pepeha
- Name (first name and surname)
- Hapū and iwi affiliations
- Statement of relevant skills and experience
- Occupation
- Qualifications
- Personal interests and community involvement
- Current governance roles

Special formatting is permitted (i.e. macrons, bold, italics, underlining, quote marks). Profile must be confined to the candidate and their political intentions.

Photos must be recent (i.e. less than one year old) of the candidate only (i.e. not part of a group), colour and in an electronic format. Hard copies will not be returned to the candidate.

## LODGMET OF NOMINATION FORMS

A completed nomination will include the following:

- The official nomination form signed by five nominators.
- Signed statutory declaration form.
- Signed Ministry of Justice Request for Criminal Conviction form.
- Candidate photo (optional).
- Candidate profile that includes the statement of skills and experience.

Nominations must be scanned and emailed to [nominations@electionz.com](mailto:nominations@electionz.com) no later than 12 noon, Friday 19 June 2026. Nominations received after the closing deadline are invalid and will not be processed. Te Korowai office can assist you with this prior to this deadline.

Once lodged, the Chief Returning Officer checks that the nomination forms are correct and the candidate is eligible to stand. Candidates will receive an email from the Chief Returning Officer advising that:

- the nomination has been received and is being verified to determine eligibility for the election, or
- more information is required and must be received before nominations close.

Please do not leave lodging the nomination to the last minute. If there are errors or information missing, there could be insufficient time for the candidate to correct the situation and they could be ineligible to stand in this election.

## 4 | VOTING IN THIS ELECTION

### TE KOROWAI ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll (being the list of adult registered members with current address details) is not available to any candidate, member or hapū for any purpose.

### ADULT REGISTERED MEMBERS ONLY

Only adult registered members who are registered with Te Korowai and have current contact details will receive voting papers.

Voters can cast their vote online or return their voting paper using the envelope provided. Instructions will be included on the voting paper.

Voters can also attend the annual general meeting scheduled for Saturday, 29 August 2026 to cast their vote in person. If the annual general meeting needs to be online due to unforeseen circumstances, the venue for the ballot box will be confirmed one month earlier. A representative of the Chief Returning Officer will manage the ballot box.

### NEW MEMBERS, UPDATING CONTACT DETAILS OR CHANGING HAPŪ ELECTORATES

New registrations can be made online through the iwi website. Current members who want to update their contact details can do this through the website or either contacting our Office Registrar on **021 083 64086** or Te Korowai office during business hours on **06 278 7411**.

New registrations and updating contact details can be done at any time.

However, members **who want to change their hapū electorate** must contact Te Korowai office by 5pm, Monday 18 May 2026.

### VERIFYING MEMBERSHIP TO TE KOROWAI

Te Korowai maintains an iwi register held in accordance with the Privacy Act 1993. The Membership Committee is responsible for verifying the applications for membership, specifically their Ngāruahine whakapapa and hapū affiliations.

Every effort will be made to provide any new members with a voting paper provided their application for membership has been received before 5pm, Friday, 28 August 2026.

The Chief Returning Officer may not be able to provide a voting paper after this date. So register early to avoid any disappointment.

If the Membership Committee cannot verify a new member's affiliation to Ngāruahine, the applicant will be invited to provide more information no later than 5pm, Friday, 28 August 2026.

### COUNTING VOTES

The Chief Returning Officer will only count voting papers where:

- an adult member is a verified member of Te Korowai; and
- their affiliation to the hapū electorate they are voting in has been confirmed.

## 5 | CAMPAIGNING

Election campaigning can be undertaken on the following basis:

- Commence from 12 noon, Friday 19 June 2026, after nominations close.
- Must occur in a manner consistent with the Charter. Failure to adhere to this could result in the candidate being withdrawn.
- Campaign costs are the responsibility of the candidate. No advertising material can contain any untrue or derogative statements.
- No campaign material may contain an imitation voting paper which has the name of a candidate, or use the Te Korowai tohu (logo).
- Candidates will be immediately withdrawn if they are discovered to have completed another member's voting paper.
- Voters must post, complete online or deliver their own voting paper to the Chief Returning Officer.

Any acts committed by candidates that constitute a criminal offence will be referred to the Police for action.

## 6 | REVIEW OF ELECTION

Any candidate may request a formal review of the election at anytime within 10 working days after the Chief Returning Officer has certified the results of the election. The request for a review must be in writing and sent to the Chief Returning Officer.

If there is no review, then all trustees are taken as being appointed on the date that the Chief Returning Officer certifies the outcome of the election.

If a review is received, Te Korowai will appoint a three person Election Review Committee comprised of an independent elections expert, an independent member of Te Ohu Arotake (Audit and Risk) and a person who has previously been a trustee or is a current trustee who is not standing at the election.

The Election Review Committee will notify the Trust of the outcome of the review within 25 working days from the date they were appointed. If they cannot complete the review by this time, the new Board will be appointed:

- Excluding any individual trustee who is the subject of the review; and
- If the review relates to the conduct of the election itself (rather than any particular individual), then the trustees will have no power to act other than to complete all matters relating to the review of the election; or
- If required, completion of a further election.

## 7 | BOARD MEETINGS

### BOARD QUORUM AND VOTING

The quorum at a Board meeting is a majority of trustees (paragraph 4 of Schedule 3 of the Trust Deed). Voting requires a majority of trustees who are present when the vote is being taken.

Trustees must table their apology to the Pouwhakarae (Chair) and are expected to attend each meeting, participate in the discussions and make decisions. Failure to do so or repeated abstention from decision-making could lead to sanctions.

### MEETING FREQUENCY

The Board meets in person every two months, with online meetings held in the alternate months. Committee hui are scheduled quarterly.

Up to three special hui may be scheduled during the course of a year and will usually be of a shorter duration.

Trustees must also attend a compulsory induction session.

### MEETING PACKS

Trustees receive an electronic meeting pack, five working days before each meeting. Trustees are required to read the reports, consider the recommendations and participate fully in the discussions during the meeting.

All meeting packs are confidential and trustees must not disclose the content with anyone outside of the Board.

## 9 | INDEPENDENT RETURNING OFFICER

### ELECTIONZ

Te Korowai has appointed Electionz.com Ltd to manage the election process. Electionz.com has a long history with Te Korowai and predecessor Ngā Hapū o Ngāruahine Iwi Inc and has considerable experience conducting elections across Aotearoa.

### CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER CONTACT DETAILS

**FREE PHONE: 0800 666 038**  
**EMAIL: [nominations@electionz.com](mailto:nominations@electionz.com)**

### ROLE OF THE CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

Electionz.com has complete and final control over how the election process is carried out and is responsible to the Tumu Whakarae. Electionz.com is responsible for ensuring that the democratic process is carried out with the utmost integrity, security and fairness to all parties. Electionz.com does not take any direction from any existing trustee or potential candidate.

Any questions regarding the actions or performance of the Chief Returning Officer should be directed to the Tumu Whakarae. The Tumu Whakarae is overseen in a governance capacity by the independent members of Te Ohu Arotake (Audit and Risk) in relation to elections.

## 8 | REMUNERATION

### REMUNERATION

Trustees receive \$17,000 per annum to perform their duties as a Board member. This includes attending the Annual General Meeting and any other meeting called by the Pouwhakarae.

Additional fees are paid to the Pouwhakarae and the Chairs of Te Ohu Arotake (Audit and Risk), Te Mataōwhiti and Tumu Herenga Tāngata (CE & Organisational Performance Review) governance sub-committees.

### TRAVEL EXPENSES

Trustee's actual travel costs within New Zealand are reimbursed in line with the Te Korowai Board Remuneration and Expenses Policy and must be arranged with the Te Korowai office.

If any Trustee resides outside of New Zealand they will be eligible for any domestic expenses incurred e.g. travel from Auckland to Te Hāwera, but not for any international travel components e.g. Brisbane to Auckland.





# *Tukuuna Tō Reo!*

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