

MĀTAI MOANA CHARITABLE TRUST

Trustee

Position Description

Position title	Trustee
Entity	Mātai Moana Charitable Trust
Location	Te Whanganui-a-Tara / Wellington
Term	Three years or as specified
Time commitment	Board meetings every six to eight weeks, with additional strategy workshops, site visits and occasional stakeholder or community engagement as required
Board composition	Seven trustees: three appointed by Wellington City Council, three appointed by Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika (also known as Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust or PNBST), and one appointed by the Department of Conservation

About the Mātai Moana Charitable Trust

Mātai Moana, also known as Watts Peninsula, is a significant cultural, ecological and historic landscape at the northern end of Te Motu Kairangi / Miramar Peninsula. Covering approximately 72 hectares, the whenua forms a prominent headland at the entrance to Te Whanganui-a-Tara and is one of Wellington's most recognisable natural landmarks.

The whenua is recognised as a tūpuna landscape of Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika and contains wāhi tapu, pā and kāinga sites, areas of historic mahinga kai, coastal and bush environments, heritage structures and significant opportunities for ecological restoration, cultural reconnection, education and appropriate public access.

The Mātai Moana Charitable Trust is being established by Wellington City Council and the Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika, to provide long-term governance and stewardship of Mātai Moana as a public reserve. The Trust reflects a partnership approach based on tikanga, kaitiakitanga, collective responsibility and shared care for the whenua.

The Trust will serve as the administering body for the reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. It will be responsible for setting the long-term direction for Mātai Moana, protecting the mana and mauri of the whenua, enabling appropriate public access, and ensuring that cultural, ecological, historic and recreational values are upheld.

Purpose of the role

Trustees are responsible for the collective governance, stewardship and strategic direction of the Mātai Moana Charitable Trust.

This is a governance role, not an operational management role. Trustees will act in the best interests of the Trust and the reserve as a whole. Trustees are not appointed to represent individual organisations, agencies, sectors or interest groups, although they may bring relevant knowledge, experience and perspectives to the Board.

The role requires trustees to balance tikanga-based leadership, statutory duties, public interest obligations, charitable purpose, environmental stewardship and long-term intergenerational outcomes.

In the formative years, trustees will play a critical role in establishing the Trust's governance foundation, supporting a 100-year direction for Mātai Moana, guiding the development of a statutory Reserve Management Plan, overseeing planning and budgets, and championing the values and significance of the whenua.

Trustees are expected to understand and comply with their obligations under the Trust Deed and relevant legislation, including duties relating to good faith, proper purpose, care, diligence, conflicts of interest and acting in the best interests of the Trust.

Key Responsibilities

Area	Trustees will be responsible for
Strategic governance and stewardship	Setting and upholding the Trust's purpose, vision, strategy and long-term direction.
100-year vision	Supporting a long-term vision for Mātai Moana that reflects statutory, cultural, ecological, historic and intergenerational outcomes.
Reserve management planning	Overseeing the development and adoption of a statutory Reserve Management Plan and related governance settings.
Tikanga, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and kaitiakitanga	Supporting a governance approach grounded in tikanga, kaitiakitanga, mana whenua leadership and partnership.
Cultural, environmental and heritage management	Ensuring cultural values, whakapapa, wāhi tapu, biodiversity, heritage and landscape values are reflected in Trust decisions.

Public access and community use	Balancing appropriate public access and enjoyment with protection of sensitive cultural, ecological and heritage values.
Financial governance	Overseeing budgets, funding, financial reporting and long-term financial sustainability.
Risk, assurance and compliance	Ensuring appropriate systems are in place for risk management, assurance, statutory compliance, reporting and conflict-of-interest management.
Relationships and advocacy	Building constructive relationships with mana whenua, Council, Crown agencies, community partners, stakeholders and the public.
Board effectiveness	Contributing to a respectful, inclusive, constructive and high-performing board culture.

Core skills

All trustees are expected to bring the following baseline governance capabilities, regardless of their specialist background.

Core skill	Description
Governance	Understands the role of a trustee and the distinction between governance and operational management.
Strategic thinking	Contributes to long-term direction, priorities and intergenerational decision-making.
Cultural respect and partnership orientation	Demonstrates respect for mana whenua, tikanga, kaitiakitanga and the cultural significance of Mātai Moana.
Accountability	Understands the Trust's public interest role and the importance of transparency, integrity and public confidence.
Financial literacy	Can read and understand financial information at a governance level and ask appropriate questions.
Risk awareness	Can identify and consider legal, financial, cultural, environmental, operational and reputational risks.
Constructive communication	Listens carefully, communicates clearly and contributes respectfully to discussion.
Collective decision-making	Works effectively as part of a board, supports agreed processes and contributes to lawful collective decisions.

Collective skills matrix

The Trust is not seeking every trustee to hold every skill listed below. Appointments will be made to ensure the Board as a whole has a complementary and collectively sufficient mix of skills, experience and perspectives aligned to the Trust's purpose, statutory responsibilities and long-term stewardship role.

Candidates may bring depth in one or more areas. The overall Board composition should ensure the Trust has the capability required to govern effectively, uphold mana whenua leadership, protect the whenua and deliver enduring public benefit.

Domain	Skill Area	What Success Looks Like
Cultural and Place Leadership	Mātauranga Māori and Cultural Stewardship	Embeds tikanga, whakapapa, and mana whenua responsibilities into governance and decision-making
	Partnership and Community Engagement	Builds trusted relationships with iwi, Council, Crown, community, and stakeholders
	Storytelling and Advocacy	Represents Mātai Moana with credibility and articulates a compelling narrative
Environmental and Heritage Outcomes	Ecological and Biodiversity Leadership	Champions restoration, biodiversity, and sustainable land management
	Heritage Protection and Interpretation	Protects and enables authentic sharing of cultural and historic narratives
	Strategic Vision and Planning	Sets long-term direction aligned with statutory and intergenerational outcomes

Governance and Stewardship	Legal and Regulatory Literacy	Understands the Reserves Act, Trusts Act, charitable law, and Treaty frameworks
	Governance, Risk, and Compliance	Provides sound oversight and anticipates governance and reputational risk
	Conflict Resolution and Facilitation	Manages disagreement constructively in sensitive contexts
Commercial and Financial Capability	Financial Governance	Oversees budgets, funding, and long-term financial sustainability
	Tourism, Events, and Revenue Strategy	Understands visitor economy and appropriate activation models
	Fundraising and Partnerships	Attracts grants, investment, and partnerships aligned to purpose
Systems and Innovation	Data and Systems Literacy	Uses data and systems to support evidence-based governance
	Innovation and Adaptive Capacity	Anticipates future challenges and supports adaptive governance