



# **Te Araroa Trust**

## **Trustee Information Pack**

**April 2022**

**This is an excellent opportunity to be involved in the governance of Aotearoa New Zealand's internationally recognised 3,000km walking trail, rated among the top long walks in the world.**

Te Araroa Trust is looking to add up to four new trustees to its national board. It is seeking expressions of interest from those who have enthusiasm, and affinity for outdoor recreation and tramping, along with demonstrable experience and capability in at least two or more of the following:

- Governance experience
- Community service fundraising and partnerships
- Active recreational development regionally or nationally
- Land and property legislation
- Marketing and communications experience
- Financial and commercial acumen,
- The role of Te Araroa Trail in adding value to tourism to Aotearoa New Zealand

The Board is also seeking applicants with an appreciation and understanding of the importance of Māoritanga, iwi partnerships, and the stories of the first people of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The trust's purpose is to develop, promote and protect Te Araroa. Whilst the Board is in the process of completing its strategic direction, the strategic priorities include:

- Partnerships — achieving reciprocity and enhancing the relevance, identity and guardianship of Te Araroa.
- Maintain — enhance the integrity of Te Araroa as a continuous and connected pathway.
- Sustain — secure the future of Te Araroa through partnerships and funding.
- Advocate and popularise — position Te Araroa as an iconic walk amongst New Zealanders and globally.

Te Araroa Trust supports the development of community and economic opportunities for New Zealand and in regions. The trail offers a valuable local recreational asset for those walking short or long sections and is a magnet for domestic and international visitors.

Te Araroa Trust relies extensively on the work of volunteers through a network of active regional trusts to sustain, promote and support the trail as an inspiring iconic representation of the geographic and cultural diversity of Aotearoa New Zealand.

**To apply:** Send your governance CV and covering letter to [matt@teararoa.org.nz](mailto:matt@teararoa.org.nz)

For more information, you can review the website [teararoa.org.nz](http://teararoa.org.nz)

## What is Te Araroa?

Te Araroa is Aotearoa New Zealand's national walking trail, traversing 3,000 kilometres of stunning scenery as it winds its way from Cape Reinga in the far north to Bluff at the bottom of the South Island.

Opened in 2011, it has been rated among the top long walks globally by CNN and National Geographic for its scenic beauty and how it connects walkers with Aotearoa New Zealand communities, cultures and historic sites.

During the 2019-2020 walking season (October-April), the number of people walking the entire trail exceeded 1,200 for the first time. Hundreds of thousands more walked individual sections on weekends, holidays, or at the end of the day as part of their weekly exercise regime.

Walking the trail provides people with an immense sense of achievement and significant mental and physical health benefits. The growing number of walkers is also making an immense contribution to the many communities the trail passes through by boosting regional economies, re-invigorating towns and enabling local businesses to thrive.

Te Araroa Trust is the kaitiaki (guardian) of the Trail, responsible for developing, promoting and managing the trail for the good of Aotearoa New Zealand.



## High-Level History

1975 — The New Zealand Walkways Commission is formed. One of its goals is a New Zealand-long “scenic” trail.

1983/84 — A NZ Taranaki man Rex Hendry did a wilderness walk that explored a possible route for a long NZ trail.

1987 — The New Zealand Walkways Commission is folded into the Department of Conservation without achieving a long trail.

1994 — Te Araroa Trust is formed after a newspaper article by Geoff Chapple advocating a New Zealand-long trail.

1995 — First trail Kerikeri-Waitangi was opened by then Prime Minister Jim Bolger.

1997 — Te Araroa Trust maps a North Island route in consultation with local and regional councils en route and Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) Conservancies.

1998 — Geoff Chapple walks the North Island route to prove viability, test land-owner response, raise funds, and heighten the project's profile. He authors a popular weblog, and the trail idea begins to take hold.

1999 — Te Araroa Trust gets a Millennium grant and hires a construction manager and work teams for its first linking track down the Waikato River.

2002 — Te Araroa Trust maps the South Island trail, again with extensive consultation, and Geoff Chapple walks the trail and tests land-owner responses en route.

- Te Araroa Trust signs an MoU with Te Papa Atawhai (DOC). Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) agrees to assist Te Araroa Trust with a continuous tramping corridor east of the Southern Alps.
- The Mayors Taskforce, led by Christchurch mayor Garry Moore adopts Te Araroa as a “priority project.” Over 20 councils en route begin to co-operate.

2003 — *Te Araroa — The New Zealand Trail*, a book published on the trail, wins the ‘Environment category’ Montana book award.

- Regional Te Araroa Trusts were established to coordinate volunteer efforts. Eight regional trusts in total, including Wellington, Southland, Otago, and Canterbury/West Coast.

2006 — New Te Araroa tracks now total over 400km. The links to legal thoroughfares on the coast and river margins make over 80% of the route walkable, including a 15% back-road component. Local authorities have begun to put Te Araroa into district plans, and regional authorities include it in regional walking strategies. Crown Tenure Review results extend the SI trail.

2007 — Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) is voted \$3.8 million to put in Te Araroa across the public estate — previously, Te Araroa had financed such tracks. With cooperation from local territorial and regional authorities, Te Araroa Trust and its eight regional trusts continue to develop all sections outside the public estate — two-thirds of the distance.

2008 — New track openings and access to previously inaccessible legal thoroughfare make over 90% of the trail walkable, including the road component, which has shrunk to 13.5%. Not all of that 90% is signed — just another job to be done. Te Araroa Trust plans for an opening at the end of 2011.

2011 — Te Araroa was officially opened by Governor-General Sir Jerry Mateparae in Wellington on 3 December 2011. The publication *Te Araroa: A Walking Guide to New Zealand's Long Trail* is released.

2015 — Te Araroa Trust receives a Walking Access Award from Ara Hikoī Aotearoa (New Zealand Walking Access Commission) to recognise what they have achieved in opening up many locations for public walking access.

2015 — Te Araroa Trust and Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) agree on a further \$1.6million in funding to conclude the construction programme over the next two years.

2016 — Te Araroa Trust opens the Escarpment Track, a \$1.4million project between Paekakariki and Pukerua Bay, another track specifically aimed at day-walkers

2020 — Te Araroa Trust partners with Ara Hikoī Aotearoa (Walking Access New Zealand)

## Position Description/ Kōrero Mō Te Tūranga

### Position Description — Trustee

**Our Vision:** The world's greatest walk and spiritual journey.

**Purpose of the trust:** To develop, promote and protect Te Araroa.

**Reports to:** **Te Araroa Trust Chairperson**

### Scope of the position:

The appointed Trustee is a fully accountable member of the Te Araroa Trust and is expected to exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Trust as set out in the Constitution of the Te Araroa Trust and adhere to the Te Araroa Trustee Code of Conduct.

### Appointment and tenure

The Trustee will be appointed for an initial three (3) year term after they are eligible to stand again. The appointment panel will manage the application process for the role.

### Time Commitment

The Trust will meet on a six-weekly basis; there is likely some work required between meetings, including potential participation on Board subcommittees, all with the expectation that this is not a largely consuming role.

### Personal Attributes and Skills

General:

- To see the big picture and the implications and impact on issues in the broader sense
- To make sensible, astute recommendations and business decisions
- To interpret both factual and conceptual information and make sound judgements based on that information
- To contribute to the creation and not merely the preservation of stakeholder value; and to be able to distinguish between the separate but complementary roles of governance and management
- Ability to network and connect with people

Strategic:

- To hold all the interconnecting components of the strategy and planning together and to develop and drive a cohesive work programme to achieve Te Araroa's Vision and Purpose
- To understand the position of the Te Araroa Trust, its market and its relationship with key stakeholders
- To look beyond the short-term and ensure that the trust adopts a longer-term stewardship approach

Analytical:

- To interpret financial statements and statistical information and the significance and meaning of appropriate performance indicators
- To question and probe information, assumptions and assertions in a quest for improved understanding and better decision-making
- To remain objective and measured under pressure

Social:

- To participate actively and harmoniously, respecting and valuing the contributions of others and contributing to effective teamwork
- To articulate a point of view coherently and persuasively without dominating the Trust's proceedings



- The strength of character to maintain an independent point of view when others disagree