TE RŪNANGA O NGĀTI MUTUNGA

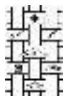
2026 KAITIAKI ELECTION CANDIDATE HANDBOOK

Nominations close 5pm Friday 18th December

2026 KAITIAKI ELECTION

This handbook outlines information which may be of interest to members of Ngāti Mutunga iwi wishing to nominate persons or be nominated themselves as candidates in the 2026 election of Kaitiaki for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga.

It has been prepared as a guide to assist interested potential candidates with information on the nomination and election process and the role and responsibilities of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga Kaitiaki.



RETURNING OFFICER

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga uses a returning officer to conduct the trustee elections.

The role of the returning officer is to conduct the election in accordance with the requirements set out in the Charter, as well as in accordance with standard election management practices.

The Rūnanga has appointed Anthony Morton from electionz.com as the Returning Officer. The company has considerable experience in conducting elections throughout the country and overseas, including for many Māori organisations.

They have conducted the Kaitiaki elections for the Rūnanga for a number of years.

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BACKGROUND AND GOVERNANCE



Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga (TRoNM) is the governance body which owns and administers all the collective assets for the benefit of Ngāti Mutunga. This structure was developed during the Treaty negotiations to manage and grow the settlement assets for the benefit of Iwi members.

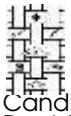
The Rūnanga owns and administers the assets through three subsidiary entities, a company (Maruehi Fisheries Ltd), a Limited Partnership (Te Pou Herenga Pakihi) which handles investments, and a community development trust (Ngāti Mutunga Community Development Charitable Trust), also known as Te Whiringa.

The Rūnanga operates according to an Iwi agreed set of rules called the Charter. Each subsidiary is a separate legal entity in its own right operating according to its own guiding Charter.

The Rūnanga is a Trust consisting of a minimum of three (3) and up to seven (7) elected representatives drawn from the adult registered members (being registered descendants of Ngāti Mutunga tūpuna or ngā Uri o ngā tūpuna o Ngāti Mutunga).

There are currently five (5) kaitiaki who serve for a term of three (3) years.

Kaitiaki elections will be held in two out of every three years, with three trustees then two trustees retiring by rotation.



ELIGIBILITY FOR APPOINTMENT

Candidates must, as at the closing date for nominations, be recorded in the Ngāti Mutunga Register as an Adult Registered Member of Ngāti Mutunga.

At least five (5) Adult Registered Members of Ngāti Mutunga must support the nomination of a candidate on the nomination form. The consent of each candidate to his or her nomination must be endorsed on the nomination form.

A candidate may at any time, by notice to the Rūnanga, withdraw his or her nomination.

2026 KAITIAKI ELECTION

The 2026 kaitiaki election is for two (2) positions which are for a three (3) year term. The term of office commences following the announcement of the election result in the week following the Wāhi Pōti held at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga.

The AGM will be held on Saturday 13th March 2027 at Urenui Pā

CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS

Fully completed nomination forms should be sent to:
Pouwhakahaere
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga
6 Ngakoti Street
Urenui 4375
Taranaki

Or via E-Mail to bevan@ngatimutunga.iwi.nz **by 5pm Friday 18th December 2026**.

Nominations received after this date will not be accepted.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONFIRMED CANDIDATES AND ELECTION DATE

A list of confirmed candidates and the closing date for the election will be published in the Taranaki Daily News.

NO ELECTION RULE

In the event that the total number of nominations of Trustees is equal to the total number of vacancies (2), no election shall be necessary and those persons nominated shall be deemed to have been duly appointed (Section 6.2 of Schedule 2 of the Charter).

Should no election be necessary the names of the appointed Trustees will be published in the Taranaki Daily News.

NOMINATION FORM

Please read the attached form carefully and ensure all requested information is provided. Failure to supply all requested information will result in the nomination being declared invalid.

Candidates must, as at the closing date for nominations, be recorded in the Ngāti Mutunga Register as an Adult Registered Member of Ngāti Mutunga.

At least five (5) Adult Registered Members of Ngāti Mutunga must support the nomination of a candidate on the nomination form. The consent of each candidate to his or her nomination must be endorsed on the nomination form.

KAITIAKI SKILLS AND DUTIES

AUTHORITY/RESPONSIBILITY:

The Board of Kaitiaki is the legal authority for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga. As a member of the Board, a Kaitiaki acts in a position of trust for Ngāti Mutunga Iwi and is responsible for the effective governance of the Rūnanga.

EXPERIENCE/SKILLS:

Knowledge and skills in one or more areas of Board governance: policy, finance, communications, commercial/investment and/or legal/personnel combined with an understanding of, and commitment to Ngāti Mutungatanga. Previous governance or business experience is highly recommended.

TERM:

Kaitiaki are elected by the membership and serve for a three (3) year term.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Commitment to the work of the organisation
- Willingness to serve on Board committees and actively participate
- Attendance at six weekly Board meetings
- A time commitment of 8-10 hours per month, (includes Board preparation, meeting and committee meeting time)
- Attendance at Annual General Meeting
- Be informed of the services provided by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga and publicly support them
- Prepare for and participate in the discussions and the deliberations of the Board
- Be aware of and abstain from any conflict of interest

MAJOR DUTIES:

- Governing Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga by the policies developed by the Board
- Establish overall long and short term goals, objectives and priorities for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga in meeting the needs of Ngāti Mutunga Iwi
- Recommend policy to the Board
- Promote Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga and Ngāti Mutunga Iwi through community networking, etc.
- Being accountable to members for any services provided and funds expended

- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga through a regular review of programs and services
- Being accountable and seeking nominations for election to the Board in accordance with the Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga Charter
- Adherence to and implementation of the Charter
- Appoint Pouwhakahaere and conduct performance review of Pouwhakahaere
- Grow the asset base by having involvement in all investment policy decisions
- Prepare for and participate in the discussions and the deliberations of the Board
- To foster a positive working relationship with other Board members, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga staff, Ngāti Mutunga Iwi members and external stakeholders
- Be aware of and abstain from any conflict of interest
- To uphold the tikanga of Ngāti Mutunga

PREFERRED TRUSTEE COMPETENCIES:

The following list of preferred competencies identifies the level of competency we are ideally seeking in a Kaitiaki of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga.

A MATTERS OF NGĀTI MUTUNGA TIKANGA AND TĒ RĒO MĀORI

Potential Trustees should have a commitment to Ngāti Mutunga tikanga and Tē Rēo Māori.

B BUSINESS SKILLS

Potential Kaitiaki should have a successful and a proven business record and should understand the reality and complexity of Iwi business.

C LEADERSHIP

Potential Kaitiaki must demonstrate leadership skills, leadership in directing the organisation and leadership to stakeholders within Taranaki and nationally.

D STRATEGIC THINKER

Potential Kaitiaki must have the ability to think strategically and consider the wider perspective of issues. They must be able to distinguish between governance and operational matters.

E COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Potential Kaitiaki must have a commitment to excellence, both personally and for the Iwi as a whole.

F DECISION MAKING

Potential Kaitiaki must be able to comprehend and distil issues, determine appropriate information and have courage to take effective decisions, even if unpopular decisions.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES:

A PROFILE

Potential Kaitiaki should have a well-regarded profile, particularly in the Ngāti Mutunga community.

B COMMITMENT AND ADDING VALUE

Potential Kaitiaki must be committed to the development of Ngāti Mutunga and be able to commit the time and effort required to carry out their role as a Trustee of the Board effectively. A Kaitiaki should strive to add value to the organisation in terms of strategic direction and through its decision-making process.

C DECISION-MAKING

Potential Kaitiaki must have the ability to consider and make decisions which benefit the Rūnanga and Ngāti Mutunga. They must demonstrate good judgement, common-sense and independence of thought, allowing for a wide perspective on issues.

D HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

Potential Kaitiaki must be able to demonstrate honesty and integrity at all times.

E INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Potential Kaitiaki must have good interpersonal skills, including the ability to interact and communicate with people from a wide variety of backgrounds and on a wide range of issues which include, but are not exclusive to, Ngāti Mutunga development, treaty issues, fishing industry and fisheries management, land development, Taranaki local government policies, national government policies, and sustainability issues.

F ORGANISATIONAL AWARENESS

Potential Kaitiaki must have knowledge of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga, its structure and the issues which are important to Iwi members.

REVIEW/APPROVAL DATE:

The Board regularly reviews the Board member job description. Recommended changes are presented to the Board.

BOARD MEETINGS AND REMUNERATION



ING FREQUENCY

The Board of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga meets six weekly at the Rūnanga offices in Urenui, or via Zoom with the schedule of meetings set at the beginning of each calendar year. Kaitiaki are expected to attend all meetings.

BOARD QUORUM AND VOTING

The quorum for a meeting is a majority of kaitiaki which is currently three (3), and voting is by way of majority vote, with the Chair having a casting vote if needed.

MEETING PACKS

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga uses the Convene electronic board portal in conjunction with tablets or iPads. Meeting packs are uploaded to Convene at least seven days prior to a Board meeting.

The Rūnanga is able to purchase a device for use by Kaitiaki, and they will then repay the cost of the tablet or iPad from their honorarium over their three year term, and they are then the property of the trustee.

REMUNERATION

Kaitiaki receives an annual honorarium, paid monthly

KAITIAKI NOMINATION FORM 2026

Please complete the nomination form on the following three pages

CHECKLIST

	ACTIONS
	Signatures of five registered adult iwi Members
	Signature of Candidate
	Photo e-mailed
	Candidate Statement of 150 words
	All sections completed

Nominations close 5pm Friday 18th December

KAITIAKI NOMINATION FORM 2026

For the Election of Kaitiaki of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga

NOMINATORS (To be completed by 5 adult registered members nominating the candidate)*

We, the undersigned nominate_____(Full name of nominee) for election as a Kaitiaki of the Board of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga for the three year period following the Annual General Meeting of the Rūnanga on Saturday 13 March 2027.

NAME OF NOMINATOR	SIGNATURE	ID NUMBER

NOMINEE (To be completed by the candidate)**

I _____ (name)

accept the nomination for election as Kaitiaki of the Board of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga for the three year period commencing in March 2027.

I declare that to my knowledge I am in good ethical standing and am not aware of any complaint or action that may affect my reputation or ability to perform the role. I acknowledge that a police check may be required as part of the election process.

Address _____

Telephone (H) _____ Cell _____

Email _____ ID Number _____

Signature _____ Date _____/_____/20

* The rules on nomination are on Page 12 ** The nominee is reminded to also complete Page 11 of this form

CANDIDATE DETAILS (Please note – this information will be reproduced in voting information packs)

Name: _____

Business and Governance Experience:

Candidate Statement (**150 words max** – please use separate sheet of paper if necessary):

PHOTOGRAPH: Candidates are required to submit a digital photograph for inclusion in the voting information pack.

POINTS TO NOTE

The rules for the Kaitiaki election follow the rules set out for Kaitiaki elections in the TRoNM charter.

The Rules governing eligibility for appointment and the making of nominations (Second Schedule, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga Charter) state amongst other things that:

a) KAITIAKI TO BE REGISTERED:
To be elected a Kaitiaki must, as at the closing date for nominations, be recorded in the Ngāti Mutunga Register as an Adult Registered Member of Ngāti Mutunga (Section 2.1, Second Schedule, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga Charter).

b) NOMINATION TO BE IN WRITING:
The nomination of a candidate for election as a Kaitiaki shall be in writing signed by not less than five (5) Adult Registered Members of Ngāti Mutunga shown on the Ngāti Mutunga Register as being entitled to vote in respect of the election of that candidate (Section 5.5, Second Schedule, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga Charter).

c) CONSENT OF NOMINEE:
The consent of each candidate to his nomination shall be endorsed on the nomination paper, provided that a candidate may at any time, by notice to the Rūnanga, withdraw his or her nomination (Section 5.6, Second Schedule, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga Charter).

This form needs to be signed by five (5) Adult Registered Members making the nomination and the nominee.

CLOSING DATE

Please send completed form and profile photographs to the Pouwhakahaere of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga **by 5pm Friday 18th December 2026, via E-Mail to** bevan@ngatimutunga.iwi.nz **or at 6 Ngakoti Street, Urenui 4375**.

Nomination forms will then be checked against the Rules quoted above. Confirmed candidates' details will be published in the official Ballot Paper and voter information pack to be distributed to all voting Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga members.

A Wāhi Pōti will be available at the Rūnanga Annual General Meeting on Saturday 13th of March 2027 where final votes can also be cast in a ballot box.

The results of the trustee election will be advised to candidates and announced early in the week commencing 20th March 2027.