

Te Arawa Lakes Trust

Candidate Statements

Ngā Kōrero Whaitake a Te Kaitono

Te Kawatapuārangi Rohe



Reina ENGELEN

I was born and raised by my village on the shores of Lake Rotoiti at Tapuaeharuru marae. I worked at the Department of Corrections as a Probation office for 20 years and gained a diverse set of skills and abilities to access resources and programs and engagement strategies for tikanga-based solutions to assist our whānau. I have served on

Tapuaeharuru and Ngati Rongomai marae committees for years. I also served many years as the Chair of Rotoiti 15 Sports, the Waione Lands Trust and am a committee member on the Rotoiti-Rotomā Sewerage committee, Lakes Water Quality Society and Lake Rotoiti Community Association. Dedicated member of our Ngāti Makino and Pikiāo Koeke Council attending all the meetings and tangihanga. I am standing in this election because I am a kanohi kitea in our rohe and bring an intimate knowledge of local whānau and community issues at the grassroots level.



Mariana TE RANGI

As one of the youngest Trustee's on the Board, I would like to gain further achievements within TALT and therefore hopefully see another term on this Board.

With a deep commitment to protecting, preserving and revitalising native species, I will ensure to continue navigating through systems for the future generations. It is essential to our whakapapa, whenua, wai, tāonga.



Karen VERCOE

Karen is currently the Deputy Chief Executive, Māori, Strategy and Performance at the Department of Internal Affairs.

Before this she was the CEO of Te Arawa Lakes Trust for six years.

Karen owned her own company providing Management Consulting to PSGE's, Māori and Pacific providers and numerous government agencies.

Karen's previous governance roles include; Chairperson – Te Pumautanga o Te Arawa; Chairperson – Data Iwi Leaders Group; Chairperson – Te Kahui Rarāunga and Trustee – Ngāti Pikiāo Trust. Karen is a Trustee on Waerenga Inc and Paehinahina Mourea Trust. In 2021 Karen received a Queens Honour MNZM, 2020 Karen was selected for a global leadership programme and in 2016 Karen received the Dame Mira Szasz Māori Business Leaders Award. Karen is a double international athlete representing NZ in Rugby and Touch. Karen graduated with a Master of Management degree from the University of Auckland.



Georgina WHATA

My first 3 Year term on TALT and 2 year term as a Trust appointed Director on TAML has been an amazing and challenging experience. I have more to contribute, if successful I am committed to advocating for outcomes that really matter in the taiao space. I agree diversification has its place but only once we have secured and

embedded our taiao commitments. We can do better as a Board to prepare for the transfer of our lakes to whanau and hapu in a structured way, together with a plan that clearly sets out the support mechanisms to manage the lakes as well as a clear understanding of the role of TALT. As a TAML Director I have advocated for bold and crucial commercial decisions to be made. These decisions will support TALT to achieve its goals, aspirations and deliverables to our whanau, hapu and iwi.



Hare WIREMU

Tena tatou katoa.

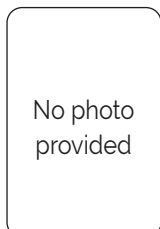
My strength is not singular, my strength is collective. My strength is cohesive. My strength is: The Mana of my Tūpuna Kuia, Makino.

Toitu te Mana, Toitu te Whenua, Toitu a Makinotanga, otira Te Kawatapuārangi, mihi mai karanga mai.

Makino have been left in the wilderness, compartmentized and disillusioned. This has to be corrected. Faith however, is stronger than fear. Through self determination of Makino values, strengths, and well-being, through empathy as a strength. To not lose focus but, promote each other thereby restoring inclusiveness and promoting simple Whanau values as an iwi ake tonu atu.

As Kawatapuārangi/Makino nominee on TALT, I bring sustained years of Public Service in High, District, Family and Rangatahi Court, 1975-current, together with my self-employment skills as builder, retail business and tourism Marketing, 1978-current.

Vote for me, is a vote for the iwi - by the iwi, Toitu a-Makino. Mauri ora.



No photo provided

Para MEHA

Ngāti Tamateatutahi-Ngāti Kawiti, Ngāti Pikiāo, Ngāti Hinekura, Ngāti Makino

Diploma of Teaching, Higher Diploma of Teaching, Bachelor of Education

Our lakes are a taonga and iconic features of our region's natural landscape. I grew up on the eastern edge of Lake Rotoiti living life at our

papakainga and pa, Tapuaeharuru.

I am actively involved in our hapu, iwi and marae through mahi ringa raupa in the back and when needed maintaining our reo and tikanga at the front for the many and varied kaupapa that occur. I am currently employed at Te Kuru Kaupapa Māori o Te Rotoiti (Principal).

Water quality, collaboration and the ancestral relationship of Te Arawa with the lakes, are paramount in preserving and protecting our lakes for present and future generations.

Integrity, accountability and transparency are important to me. If successful, I am committed to providing a valuable contribution to foster a positive future.



Annette SYKES

Raised at Hinehopu by Pirimi Whata Karaka and Tawhitoariki Morehu, Annette has devoted her life to championing Māori rights and Te Tiriti o Waitangi managing her own law firm in Rotorua. Educated at United World College of South East Asia (UWCSEA) and Auckland University, Annette's distinguished legal career spans four

decades focusing on Māori interests and constitutional justice. She has served on numerous boards, including Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Pikiāo and Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd and participated in the Fisheries Settlement arguing the case at the Privy Council. She is currently an advisor to the Ministry for the Environment on Māori rights in freshwater management and is a trustee on Crown Forest Rental Trust.

Her contributions were recognised this year winning the Access to Justice Award from the NZ and Australian Bar Association and received the Lifetime Membership Award from Te Hunga Rōia Māori. Her contribution to TALT would be immeasurable.



Arapeta TAHANA

Uia mai koe, ko wai au

Ko au ko te wai, he mauri no Ranginui, he mauri no Papatuanuku,

"E Ngati Ohomairangi, tohia te mauri o te wai, tungaengae"

Kua tau te whakaaro kia tu ano au. Ko te kaupapa whakauka, ko te mauri ora o nga Rotomoana, ka

tahi, ko te hononga o nga hapu ki ona wai whakaika, ka rua.

I've made the call to stand again to support my longstanding mission, to enhance the mauri of our lakes, and, the connection of our people with their ancestral taonga. The Trust is facing challenging times politically, financially and in terms of effective leadership for lakes water quality and the interests of our hapu. I believe we need strong and grounded leadership, people who can navigate the present challenges, and maintain a course that aligns with our culture and future vision.

Kawatapuārangi rohe, Tautoko mai koa!



Phyllis TANGITU

Phyllis has never left her ūkaipō and is a kanohi kitea, widely known across all of Te Arawa with a larger than life personality and infectious smile. She brings a wealth of experience from many years of working in the health sector.

Phyllis worked as the Lakes District Health Board as General Manager for 33 years and managed

the first ever kaupapa Māori mental health and addictions service in Rotorua. She is a director and member of several national and regional committees, including the Mental Health Review Tribunal of NZ where she has served as a ministerial appointment for 24 years. She holds several governance roles and senior management roles across national boards for over 35 years.

Phyllis is trained in governance, facilitation, mentoring and passionate about serving Te Arawa. These are all considerable experiences, skills and attributes when working across all the iwi of Te Arawa lakes.