



**Te Araroa Auckland Tāmaki Makaurau Trust**  
**Volunteer Trustee Information Pack**

October 2024



## Would you like to get involved?

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

Te Araroa Auckland Tāmaki Makaurau Trust is looking to add up to three new trustees, and is seeking expressions of interest from those who have experience in one or more of the following:

- An enthusiasm for, and interest in Te Araroa (and walking access across Aotearoa)
- Volunteer organisation governance
- Community service fundraising and volunteering
- Promotion and marketing; ability to network with business partners, local government
- Experience in community development projects
- An appreciation for the importance of Māoritanga, iwi partnerships, and the stories of the first people of Aotearoa New Zealand
- The value of tourism to Aotearoa New Zealand

Te Araroa Auckland Tāmaki Makaurau Trust (a regional group) assists Te Araroa Trust (at a national level) in creating community and economic opportunities for the region. The trail offers a valuable local recreational asset for those walking short or long sections, as well as being a magnet for domestic and international visitors.

Te Araroa Auckland Tāmaki Makaurau Trust is specifically tasked with the generation of community ownership, support for the trail, regional sponsorship, and overseeing trail development and maintenance.

If you have a passion for the outdoors, are actively involved in the community, and understand how governance works, then we would love to hear from you. If you are enthusiastic, but have more to learn about governance, the existing trustees can help you build this in a united goal to build a trail that belongs to everyone, and make sure our walk of a lifetime is always growing and improving.

**To apply:** please email [auckland@teararoa.org.nz](mailto:auckland@teararoa.org.nz) with a CV, some information about you, your background, your connection to Te Araroa and why you think you would make a good Trustee.

All information will be kept confidential and used only for the purposes of selecting new trustees. The application process for the role will be managed by regional and national level trustees.

For more information, please feel free to reach out to any of the current regional trustees listed on Te Araroa's website: <https://www.teararoa.org.nz/te-araroa-auckland-tamaki-makaurau-trust/>

## 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 in the world by CNN and National Geographic for its scenic beauty and the way 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 length of the trail exceeded 1,200 for the first time. Hundreds of thousands more walked individual sections in their weekends, during their 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, as well as 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 having achieved 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 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, to test land-owner response, to raise funds, and heighten the project's profile. He writes one of the first weblogs which becomes popular, 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) under which 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 ‘Environment category’ Montana book award.

- Regional Te Araroa Trusts established to co-ordinate volunteer effort. Eight regional trusts in total, including Wellington, Southland, Otago, Canterbury/West Coast.
- Te Araroa is not open, but walkers begin to do it anyway – up to 10 a year, using roads as by-passes where necessary.

2006 – New Te Araroa tracks now total over 400km. The links through to legal thoroughfares on the coast and river margins, make over 80% of the route walkable, including a 15% back-road component. Local authorities begin 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 public estate – previously Te Araroa had financed such tracks. Te Araroa Trust, its eight regional trusts, with co-operation from territorial local authorities and regional authorities 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 makes over 90% of the trail walkable, including the road component which has now been 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 officially opened by the 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.

2012 – Geoff Chapple stands down as CEO of Te Araroa Trust and is subsequently honoured with an ONZM in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Rob Wakelin assumes the role of CEO.

2014 – Te Araroa Trust opens the Puhoi Track, a track specifically built for day-walkers to experience Te Araroa.

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

2015 - Te Araroa Trust and Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) agree a further \$1.6million 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

2018 – Mark Weatherall is appointed as the Te Araroa Trust Executive Director.

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

2022 – Matt Claridge is appointed as the Te Araroa Trust Executive Director.

2024 – Te Araroa Trust, with Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation, release The Trail Pass.

### **Te Araroa Trust Strategy: Te Araroa Whakahou**

Link to PDF document (14 pages): <https://www.teararoa.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Te-Araroa-Whakahou-Strategy-Full.pdf>

## Kōrero Mō Te Tūranga/Position Description

### Volunteer Regional Trustee

#### Te Araroa Auckland Tāmaki Makaurau Trust



**Our Vision:** “Walk of a lifetime”

**Purpose of the trust:** To promote and advance the development of Te Araroa within the Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland region.

**Scope of the position:**

The appointed Trustees are fully accountable members of Te Araroa Auckland Tāmaki Makaurau Trust and are expected to exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Trust as set out in the Trust Deed. We embrace diversity and inclusiveness, are passionate about our mahi, and welcome experiences from different backgrounds to strengthen and support the pou of our whare.

#### Time Commitment

The Trust meets on a monthly basis. Some work is required between meetings, but the expectation is not large. Regional Trustees also carry out work on track maintenance to make the trail more enjoyable.

#### Personal Attributes and Skills

General:

- To hold a love for the outdoors
- To recognise, understand, and embrace the values of Te Araroa – Kaitiakitanga (guardianship), Tuakiritanga (identity), Iwi Kainga (community), Matatoha (adventure), and Whakapumau (sustainability)
- To have a desire to improve public walking access in Aotearoa
- 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 contribute to the creation and preservation of stakeholder value
- To network and connect with Te Araroa participants

Strategic:

- To hold all the interconnecting components of 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 Auckland Tāmaki Makaurau Trust, its market and its relationship to 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
- 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 in a coherent and persuasive manner without dominating
- The strength of character to maintain an independent point of view when others disagree