

Renee Rewi Profile for Te Whaiti Nui A Toi Trustee



Ko Tuwatawata, te maunga
Ko Whirinaki, te awa
Ko Maatatia te Waka
Ko Ngati Whare tōku Iwi
Ko Ngai Te Au, te hapu
Ko Waikotikoti, ko Murumurunga, ngā Marae
No Murupara ahau, ko Murupara tōku ūkaipō, engari kei
Kirikiriroa ahau e noho ana.
Ko Rewi tōku whānau
Ko Douglas rāua ko Hariata ōku matua
Ko Renee Rewi ahau

Master of Law Degree, and Bachelor of Law Degree (University of Waikato) | Barrister Solicitor, High Court of New Zealand | Justice of the Peace.

Introduction

With over 30 years' governance and management experience, I offer deep expertise and commitment as I stand for re-election as a trustee for Te Whaiti Nui A Toi. My career has been shaped by service to my whānau, hapu, Iwi through Māori, Marae Trusts, Iwi – Runanga, Treaty Settlements, social services, environmental advocacy, Te Tiriti o Waitangi training, and I am dedicated to advancing the values and wellbeing of our shareholders, whānau and whenua.

Extensive Governance Experience

I have a proven track record in effective governance and management, with a strong commitment to supporting Māori and wider communities. My vision prioritises sustainable, values-based, development alongside responsible financial responsibility, diversity and growth for future generations.

Current Governance Roles

- Trustee, **Te Whaiti Nui A Toi** (2010–present)
- Deputy Chairperson, **FinCap** (2021–present): Māori representative guiding financial mentoring strategy nationwide, supporting vulnerable whānau.
- Co-President, **NZ Council for Christian Social Service** (2020–present): Leading sector collaborations and championing social justice across six Christian networks and 100+ organisations.
- Chairperson/Deputy Chairperson, **Hamilton Combined Christian Foodbank** (2018–present): Improving governance and resources, enhancing support for families in need.
- Board Member, **Waikato Christian Social Services Village Trust** (2025–present): Overseeing strategic growth and sustainable service delivery.

Past Governance and Leadership Roles

- Ngati Whare Claims Committee Member (2015–2018): Treaty settlement negotiations and iwi advocacy.
- Manager, Te Runanga o Ngati Whare (2010–2014): Organisational leadership and stakeholder relationships in Treaty Settlements.
- Trustee, Te Runanga o Ngati Manawa (2002–2005): Governance leadership and community wellbeing initiatives.
- Galatea School Board of Trustees (2008–2011): Educational governance and policy review.

Education & Professional Background

My academic background includes a Master of Law, Bachelor of Law from Waikato University. I am a Barrister Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand and Justice of the Peace. Prior to this, I contributed significantly to advancing the interests of my iwi, Ngati Whare and Ngati Manawa, through active involvement in Treaty Settlements and Waitangi Tribunal processes.

My commitment to community service is matched by a solid legal foundation and a deep connection to our people and whenua. My professional journey also reflects working and serving in the Social Sector for over 20 years. Professional highlights include serving as Manager of Kake Oranga Hāhi Katorika Catholic Family Support Services (Hamilton & Rotorua), where I oversee, manage and lead the operation of comprehensive family, whānau social support services, financial mentoring, supervised contact, and a range of programmes. I provide strategic direction, leadership, management, and oversee funding and service delivery aimed at improving the well-being of families, whānau, individuals, and ensuring the care and protection of our tamariki and mokopuna. In 2023, I led the establishment and opening of our social service office in Rotorua, extending support to the Waiariki community.

Previously, as Research Centre Manager for both the Māori and Indigenous Governance Centre and the Centre for Environmental, Resources and Energy Law at Te Piringa-Faculty of Law, University of Waikato, I worked alongside students, academics, and community members to advance teaching, research, and initiatives in Māori and Indigenous governance, environmental protection, climate change, renewable energy, heritage conservation, and natural resources management.

As Business Manager for Waikato Women's Refuge, I provided strategic advice and operational leadership, developing evaluation frameworks, quality systems, HR policies, and securing funding for ongoing, sustainable progress—all anchored in the organisation's core values and vision for a secure, independent future.

In my role as Project Manager at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, I managed the redesign, integration and restructuring of the Student and Home Base Learning Registry Teams, ensuring changes were aligned with organisational goals, timelines, and values.

Vision for Te Whaiti Nui A Toi

I am committed to promoting sustainable, values-driven, development, fostering growth, encouraging diversity, forest management and ensuring sound financial responsibility. In my role as trustee, I will maintain the highest standards of integrity, transparency, accountability,

offer strategic guidance and development, legal, and strengthen relationships among our shareholders, whānau, and whenua.

My ongoing service is anchored in experience, empathy, and a genuine commitment to the long-term prosperity and wellbeing of Te Whaiti Nui A Toi, our shareholders, whānau and whenua as we prepare for the return of our forest.

Ngā mihi ki a koutou katoa
Renee Rewi