
Information for those considering

Standing for Election



The Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust is a community-focused, not-for-profit organisation with the kaupapa (purpose) of a better Rotorua for all.

Established in 1994 to serve the community of Rotorua, the Trust was formed out of the sale of Rotorua Electricity Limited, with an initial capital of \$32 million. Today, this capital has grown to \$150 million, with more than \$110 million invested back into the Rotorua community since inception.

To deliver on its kaupapa, the Trust focuses on effective management of its investments; supporting community organisations with funding and advice; and leading and advocating for positive change within our Rotorua community.

Trustee election

Every three years, the Rotorua Trust is required to conduct a public election to appoint six Trustees. The Trust's 2019 election will be held in November, six weeks after the Local Body elections and will involve both postal and online voting. The six candidates with the highest number of total votes will for the Trust's board through until November 2022.

All candidates looking to stand for the Trust must be nominated by an eligible voter. Eligible voters are all parliamentary electors within the Trust's district (the area of the former Rotorua Area Electricity Authority). This covers all of Rotorua and parts of the Taupo and Waipa District Council areas.

Governance experience is useful, as well as an understanding of the diverse needs of our Rotorua community.

Under the terms of the Trust deed, there are some people who are not eligible to stand for election. If you would like further information on these restrictions, please ask or visit the Trust website.

What is the role of a Trustee?

Trustees are responsible for governance, rather than management, looking at wider issues such as Trust values, vision and purpose.

Trustees of the Rotorua Trust have four main functions:

- To establish the strategic direction of the Trust in terms of investment and granting beliefs
- To oversee the effective investment of the Trust fund including regular monitoring of fund performance
- To decide upon the distribution of fund proceeds to a range of charitable purposes with the aim of ensuring the best possible outcomes for the people of the Rotorua district
- To advocate for, and facilitate delivery of, positive change in our Rotorua community

The Deed of Trust, and statutory legislation, also need to be followed, including the Trustee Act 1956 which requires Trustees to "exercise the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person of business would exercise in managing the affairs of others".

How much time does it involve?

The nature of the role does require a time commitment, which does vary. As a minimum, Trustees are expected to commit to:

- One full day a month to attend the Trust's monthly meeting
- Time for meeting preparation and follow up as required
- The equivalent of a half day per month to attend community events or subcommittee meetings
- Being available to the community as appropriate
- Up to six days a year for professional development including attending various training, seminars and workshops





What sort of personal skillset is beneficial?

Trustees of the Rotorua Trust should have:

- The ability to think strategically (to see the bigger picture)
- An understanding of, and passion for, the Rotorua community, including its bi-cultural nature
- The time and energy to commit to the role, in particular, attendance at the Trust's monthly meeting
- Strong communication skills including the ability to effectively listen, contribute ideas and a positive, solution-focused attitude
- An understanding of financial accounts, budgets and investments (and the commitment to learn more about these as necessary)
- An awareness
 - of the changing trends in philanthropy
 - the role of governance
 - the fiduciary responsibility of Trustees
- A track record of getting things done, an ability to maintain relationships and work as part of a small team
- The commitment to act honestly and in good faith, as well as respecting confidentiality

What are the values of the Trust?

While we each have our own personal values, these should be complementary to those of the Trust. Namely we:

- Act in an ethical and principled fashion at all times
- Understand and respect the unique bi-cultural nature of Rotorua
- Work alongside our community in a collaborative manner
- Are professional
- Are respectful and supportive of groups doing good in our community
- Look to make a difference
- Act with aroha

What is the Trustee remuneration?

The remuneration of Trustees is an annual honorarium, which is adjusted each year to reflect any change in the CPI. This is currently:

Chairman	\$38,438 p.a.
Trustees	\$21,720 p.a.

What next?

1 August
Candidate information evening

30 August
Nominations open

27 September
Nominations close

1 November
Voting packs distributed, online voting commences

23 November
Voting closes (at noon)



To find out more about the Trust,
and the work we do,
check out our website –

www.rotoruatrust.org.nz

*A nomination form will be available
online from 30 August.*