

Waitaki Whitestone Geopark

environment | science | culture
education | sustainable development



Waitaki Whitestone
Aspiring Global
Geopark

Trustee Recruitment Kit
December 2021

Our Geopark tells the story of our land, our whenua.
It inspires our people and visitors to learn, discover and be connected to
our living planet and cultural histories, so together we can care for and
contribute to thriving communities.



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WELCOME

"Ka titiro ake ki te tihi o
Aoraki,

Heke atu ki te awa
tapu o Waitaki,

Huri ki te Moana
o Araiteuru,

Tēnā koutou katoa"

"Look up to the top of Aoraki,

and back down the
Waitaki River,

to the Coast of the
ancient canoe of the Gods,
Araiteuru,

Greetings to you all"

Dear Prospective Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trustee,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Trustee of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust (the Trust). The development of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark is a broad partnership which includes Te Rūnanga o Moeraki and the wider Waitaki community. It is driven from the bottom up and is community driven, providing a game changer for New Zealand in terms of securing long term protection of our land and coast while promoting sustainable economic development and inclusive growth.

Currently, we are seeking additional Trustees who will bring some or all of the following assets or skills: Networks at central Government level, Fund-raising and financial management, Legal - particularly relating to planning, contract and consent issues, Engagement, communications and media management, and Youth engagement.

This kit has been designed to assist you in understanding the purposes of the Trust, the role and responsibilities of Trustees, and the process the Trust uses to appoint Trustees. Please read the information provided. If you have any further questions please contact me, Helen Jansen, at chair@whitestonegeopark.nz or by telephone to +64 27 390 1547. We hope you use the information provided in this kit to assess if you would like to take up the rewarding opportunity to become a Trustee and help make the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark a world class beacon for environmental care, community development and sustainable economic growth.

If you would like to apply for a position on our Trust please contact me in order to commence the process.

Yours Sincerely

Helen Jansen

Interim Chair

Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust

TRUSTEE POSITION

DESCRIPTION

The Role

Collectively the Trustees play the critical role in governing the Geopark. They are responsible for the strategic direction of the Geopark and the health of the Trust as an organisation, ensuring that diligent oversight of the business performance and compliance performance.

Currently, the Trustees meet in person each month and with teleconferences as required in between these meetings. You will be required to attend a minimum of 80% of the monthly Trust meetings annually. Additionally, time is required to remain current with the local, national and international contexts in which the Geopark operates.

The Trustees will elect the Chair.

Duties & Responsibilities

Trustees will be expected to contribute by

- a. Raising money and resources for the Geopark
- b. Building relationships and bringing networks – these networks need to be broader than just local networks.
- c. Ensuring that the strategic plan is developed, reviewed and carefully implemented
- d. Signing off the delivery programme and list of initiatives
- e. Ensuring the Trust can be financially viable
- f. Exercising due diligence, fiduciary and risk management responsibility and ensures that risks are identified and managed
- g. Build strong connections with the grass roots of a Geopark – namely, community, tangata whenua, farmers/land owners, geologists, University, Museums, Councils, Vanished World Inc., tourism operators etc
- h. Developing a strong relationship with key stakeholders - Ideally a number of Trustees should attend workshops and other meetings as required from time to time.
- i. Ensuring policy of the Trust appropriately reflects the Trust's aspirations
- j. Ensuring the Trust is accountable to the various stakeholders and communities
- k. Employing staff and ensuring that operational and Trust KPIs are met. Currently the Trust employs a Geopark Manager, and a Geo-educator. It is a lean organisation.

Knowledge Sets

Ideally the Trustee group will have knowledge across areas which align with the anticipated strategic direction:

- the concept of a UNESCO Geopark
- earth-based Science
- education and outreach
- cultural interpretation, including Māori culture
- the Waitaki District and current Geopark offerings

Currently, we are seeking additional Trustees who will bring some or all of the following assets or skills:

- Networks at central Government level
- Fund-raising and financial management
- Legal - particularly relating to planning, contract and consent issues
- Engagement, communications and media management
- Youth engagement

Attributes of Trustees

Generally, Trustees should display the following attributes:

1. Passion for the Geopark project
2. Time available to contribute over and above meeting attendance
3. Open-minded: In a group setting with many different viewpoints, keeping an open mind allows for healthy communication. Board members that come in with an open mind are far more likely to empower other board members to express their point of view and work toward solutions.
4. Takes responsibility for outcomes: Look for candidates who have a record of taking responsibility in decision-making environments, especially in team settings, when things have gone well and when they've gone wrong.
5. Forward thinking: outside-the-box thinkers who look for solutions to problems we might not even know we have. They want to grow the cause and will help push the rest of the Trustees on vision changes and innovations when necessary.
6. Respectful of others: It's impossible to act in a team setting if members of the team don't respect one another.
7. Teamwork and team management skills: This will ensure that they can manage conflict and come to collective decisions that are best for the WWGT and the Geopark as a whole.
8. Communication skills: Trustees are not only the governing body of the WWG, they are also partly the face of it: They will communicate with large donors, make speeches on behalf of the WWG, and make statements to the media. They also need the ability to present their views clearly, frankly, constructively and persuasively.

Desirable characteristics

With respect to UNESCO preferences, we seek gender balance across the Board of Trustees.

Skills Sets

Overall, Trustee group will possess the following skills:

- Strategy development and implementation
- Commercial and business development
- Fund-raising
- Marketing & Communications
- Networking (local and national) and partnership building

APPLYING TO BECOME A GEOPARK TRUSTEE

The Trust welcomes application from individuals who are passionate about being involved with the organisation, especially at this exciting time. It is key that individuals be enthusiastic and motivated achievers.

To apply, please email the following documents to chair@whitestonegeopark.nz :

You will need to attach

1. A governance or management C.V., which details the size, type, budget and staff numbers of your roles in each relevant organisation
2. A cover letter which outlines:
 - What attracts you to the role
 - Which of the skill sets listed in the recruitment document you can provide to the Trust
 - Identifies your areas of knowledge as described in the Trustee recruitment document
 - Examples of where you have demonstrated or will address the attributes described for the role
 - Other additional knowledge / skills you bring which you think would be relevant to the role

We look forward to receiving your application.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview with all the current Trustees.

When the selection process is completed, the Chair and Geopark Manager will bring the new Trustees up to date with:

- The Vanished World Centre and Trail, which is at the core of the internationally significant geology at the heart of our Geopark
- The philosophy and requirements of UNESCO Global Geopark Network
- The Application Dossier, submitted to UNESCO in Paris
- The challenge of enabling community ownership of their Geopark by embracing the “bottom up” philosophy, which should be reflected in the overall management structure of the Geopark.

Periodically, the role, responsibilities and membership of the Trustees group will be reviewed, as will the contribution of individual Trustees.

CONTACT

Helen Jansen - *Interim Chair*
Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust
t. +64 27 390 1547
e. chair@whitestonegeopark.nz



GEOPARKS

What is a Geopark?

UNESCO has established a site designation called a “UNESCO Global Geopark”. This is the first new site designation since the creation of the World Heritage site designation in 1972.

A Geopark is a defined area containing landscapes and sites of international geological significance which are managed within an holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. A Geopark explains how the geology and landscape of the area has shaped the lives of its inhabitants - be they plants, animals or people.

A Geopark contributes to a wide range of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals as it encourages us all to be involved in addressing the societal challenges we all face - such as climate change, environmental protection, biodiversity loss, sustainable use of resources and geohazards. It also promotes sustainable economic development and equality.

Obtaining a UNESCO Global Geopark designation for our district will

- Provide a framework of values and goals to guide our actions
- Provide the Geopark model as the unifying framework to tell our stories
- Generate worldwide brand profile for Waitaki and NZ – a reason for people to visit
- Create a fund-raising platform to fund our protection, education and sustainable development goals
- Increase visitor spend and business development
- Allow access to a network of Geoparks to learn from

Geoparks are about more than just geology. You can see more information on UNESCO Global Geoparks at: <https://en.unesco.org/global-geoparks>

Our Geopark aspires to be New Zealand's first UNESCO Global Geopark, and as such is driven by community engagement and provides a unifying platform to tell the varied and multi-faceted stories of our geological, natural, cultural heritages, from how Māori used the land and rivers of the district, the use of 35 million year old fossilised Bryozoans to build the whitestone buildings of Victorian Ōamaru, through to modern agricultural practices and the use of water for renewable energy production.

You can see more information on our Geopark at: <https://www.whitestonegeopark.nz>

THE WAITAKI WHITESTONE GEOPARK

Where is the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark?

The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark covers an area of 7,214 km² and has the same boundaries as the Waitaki District Council. This boundary was chosen as the Council was the key driver in establishing the Geopark and it was administratively easier to develop the project without having to cross territorial boundaries. The area contains approximately 16 towns and 22 000 people.



Beginnings

The Vanished World Centre and Trail in the rural Waitaki village of Duntroon has been in operation since 2001, introducing thousands of visitors to the unique geology, culture and history of our region. We aim to celebrate the work of this Centre and mature our Geopark into a UNESCO Global Geopark.

Current Status

The Trust (through the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO) applied to UNESCO for Global Geopark status in November 2019. We are currently awaiting an evaluation inspection, which has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Masterplan

The UNESCO term "Masterplan" equates to the Strategic Plan for the development of the Geopark. The Strategic Plan 2021-25 was published in September 2021 and is co-developed with local iwi. The Plan sets out the Mission, Vision, strategic direction, development roadmap and operating philosophy of the Geopark. It provides a descriptions of the Trust's workstream and provides a timeline for the key projects within each workstream up until 2025. You can find the full Strategic Plan on our website:

<https://www.whitestonegeopark.nz/the-trust>





Vision

"Where we all come together as kaitiaki [guardians] of the land and its stories."

Where we develop a generation of people who care for the planet and its people.

UNDERSTAND IT
APPRECIATE IT
PRESERVE IT

Purpose

Enable people to care for and connect to our land and our people.

Mission

Educate our communities to appreciate our land, its heritage and its stories.

Positioning Statement

Our Geopark tells the story of our land, our whenua. It inspires our people and visitors to learn, discover and be connected to our living planet and cultural histories, so together we can care for and contribute to thriving communities.

Goals

To achieve its purpose, the Geopark will strive to:

1. Enhance Waitaki's social identity and increase community pride by providing a unifying platform to share the stories of our land, culture and heritage.
2. Inspire locals and visitors to learn, discover and connect with the Geopark through educational programmes and by providing engaging experiences and activities, with a focus on youth.
3. Ensure key geological, cultural and heritage sites and assets are visibly part of the Geopark- well curated, accessible and protected.
4. Increase community wellbeing through sustainable tourism development

These goals align with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

THE TRUST

Purpose and Objectives

The purposes and objectives of the Trust are stated in the Trust Deed which was signed on 13 August 2018.

3. Whanga/ Purposes

The Trustees shall hold the Trust Fund upon trust to pay or apply in New Zealand the income and the capital of the Trust Fund in such amounts, at such times, and subject to such terms and conditions, as the Trustees may decide towards the establishment, maintenance, promotion and functioning of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark through any of the following objects and purposes (but only to the extent that they are recognised as charitable purposes by the Commissioner Inland Revenue).

3.1 Purposes

The purposes of the Trust are to:

- a. preserve geological heritage within the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark for present and future generations
- b. inform the public about issues in the geological sciences and their relationship to the environment
- c. encourage and monitor sustainable development within the local community
- d. foster multi-cultural bridges for heritage and conservation and the maintenance of geological and cultural diversity
- e. stimulate research
- f. promotion of education in relation to the geosciences;
- g. contribute actively within the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network through joint initiatives (e.g. communication, publications, exchange of information, participation in meetings, and common projects)
- h. contribute local articles to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network Newsletters, books and other publications
- i. contribute to and actively participate in International Geoparks Conferences as recommended by the Global Geoparks Network, with the support of UNESCO.
- j. Follow the principles of the UNESCO Geopark Network and such amendments, additions and/or variations as may be determined from time to time.

By way of illustration only, and not by way of limitation of the Trust's general purpose set out in clause 3, the Trust may:

- k. Implement projects to mobilise and coordinate bottom up and top down initiatives for the promotion, protection, maintenance and growth of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark;
- l. Fund raise and seek resources to be made available to the Trust and its projects;
- m. Distribute funds and enter into arrangements, contracts and other agreements, on such terms and conditions that the Trustees deem suitable, for the purpose of furthering the objects and purposes of the Trust
- n. Carry out such other lawful activities which are incidental or conducive to attaining the objects and purposes of the Trust;
- o. Coordinate and network with (not duplicate) existing geoscience, conservation and biodiversity projects;
- p. Share information and raise awareness within the community;
- q. Support developments and use of effective technological advances in geoscience and geopark education;
- r. Support research that contributes to the preservation and protection of fossils;

Current Trustees

The Trust may have up to nine Trustees, and may coopt Advisory Trustees as required. Two of the Trustees are appointed by the Waitaki District Council, and one by Te Rūnanga o Moeraki. The current Trustees are:



Helen Jansen
(Interim Chair)



David Higgins
(upoko of Te
Rūnanga o Moeraki)



Trevor McGlinchey



Gerald Carter



Melanie Jones



Brett Hudson



Mike Gray
(Advisory)



Albert Brantley
(Advisory)



Values

The core values that inform everything the Trust does include:

KAITIAKITANGA

We are guardians and protect our natural, built and cultural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

WHANAUNGATANGA

Whanau are at the core in everything we do. We build relationships through shared experiences and working together to create a sense of belonging.

MANAAKITANGA

We care for our manuhiri and we care for each other, are hospitable and generous.

WHAKAUTE

Respect for each other, and respect for all.

Remuneration

The position is an honorary role. Reasonable expenses incurred in the execution of your role as a Trustee will be reimbursed.

Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Ltd

The Company was incorporated in February 2019 and was established to isolate commercial risk should the Trust wish to undertake commercial operations of scale or to invest in any other entity. The company was wound down in June 2021 as the Trust is unlikely to enter into significant capital investments or trade operations within the next year or two. The company can be reincorporated if the situation changes.



www.whitestonegeopark.nz