
Life Member Policy

Purpose

1. The Life Member Policy relates to the bestowing of the status of 'Life Member' on a person who is deemed to have made an exceptional contribution to the Ngā Manu Trust (the Trust).

Life Member is a prestigious title and will only be awarded if in the Board's considered opinion, a person's contribution is deemed to have significantly enhanced the Trust's vision and purpose:

VISION: Ngā Manu inspires commitment to the natural world

PURPOSE: To provide a safe, accessible and welcoming place where people can connect with, and understand our place in the natural world, and are inspired to work together to protect it for future generations

2. Conditions of Life Membership

In accordance with Section 10 of the Ngā Manu Trust Deed:

- a) The Board may by resolution nominate any person as a "Life Member" of the Trust in recognition of their service to the Trust.
- b) A Life Member may hold this title for life but at any time:
 - (i) the Life Member may disclaim this title by notice in writing to the Trust; and
 - (ii) the Board may by resolution remove the title if the Board considers it is no longer in the best interests of the Trust that the individual continues to hold such title.
- c) The office of "Life Member" is an honorary position and shall not:
 - (i) have any duties or powers, or fulfil any functions, except such (if any) as the Board may from time to time determine; or
 - (ii) be, or be deemed to be, under any circumstances, a Trustee of the Trust or a member of the Board.

3. Like Member Nomination Criteria

- a) Nominees will have made a significant contribution to Ngā Mnu in any activity relevant to the work of the governance or operation of Ngā Manu.
- b) Nominees may be current or past volunteers engaged in an operational activity.
- c) Nominees may be persons who are not volunteers but have made a contribution such as a significant donation of funds, an advocate for our work in the community or a professional colleague or friend who has made a contribution to conservation which is closely aligned to our vision and purpose.
- d) Current staff and current Trustees may not be nominated while they are serving in this capacity. Former staff and Trustees may be nominated.

4. Nomination and Awarding Process

- e) Any person or group (the proposer) connected to Ngā Manu may nominate a person for Life Membership. If the proposer is an individual the nomination must be supported by at least one other person (seconded).
- f) Life Member nominations must be received by the General Manager no later than 31 January each year.
- g) All Life Member nominations will be acknowledged by the General Manager.
- h) There is no limit to the number of Life Memberships the Board may award in any year.
- i) All nominations will be considered by the full Board of Trustees at a regular meeting prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

- j) Successful nominees will be advised of the Board’s decision and must accept or decline the Life Membership in writing.
- k) The Board will announce Life Memberships that have been accepted by the nominee/s at the AGM and where possible the person/s to be made a Life Member will be invited to attend the AGM to receive their Life Member Certificate.

Nominations must be in writing and provide the following information:

- The full name of the person being nominated.
- The names of the proposer and seconder of the nomination. If a group, the names of group members.
- A description of the service provided by the nominee to Ngā Manu.
- Why the nominee’s service is considered an “outstanding contribution” to achieving the Trust’s purpose and vision.
- Any additional information that will assist the Board’s decision-making process.

5. Awarding Life Membership

Life Membership will be conferred under the conditions stipulated in Section 10 of the Ngā Manu Trust Deed (listed above).

The person made a Life Member will receive a Life Member Certificate from the Chair of the Board at the AGM. New Life Members will be listed in the Annual Report for that year and all Life Members will be included in the Ngā Manu website.

6. Revoking a Life Membership

Life Membership may be revoked at any point, if in the Board’s considered opinion, the reputation of the Ngā Manu Trust is at risk because of the person continuing to hold Life Membership. Such circumstances may include:

- Conviction or pending legal proceedings that has or may result in a custodial sentence.
- Allegations relating to an activity, action or conduct that is or would be a criminal offence and would attract a custodial sentence on conviction.
- Making unfounded allegations about Ngā Manu which are likely to undermine the trust and confidence Ngā Manu enjoys with stakeholders including funders and the community.

The Board’s decision will be conveyed to the person concerned in writing setting out its reasons for revoking the Life Membership.

7. Disclaiming a Life Membership

A person made a Life Member may disclaim their Life Membership by notice in writing to the Board Chair.

8. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed after the 2023 AGM and thereafter, on an as required basis.