



## CANDIDATE PROFILES for 2020 ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

*Disclaimer: The Returning Officer of Ngāti Koata Trust accepts no responsibility for the content or accuracy of the statements as supplied by the candidates.*

### Benjamin HEMI

I am Pene Wahanui Hemi and you know me as Benjamin. I am grateful for my parents and my grandparents and the sacrifices they made for me. My beautiful grandmother Louise was the ultimate example of how we should treat each other by being kind, caring and putting others before our self.



We are whanau and just as my tupuna wanted to help, so too do I, want to help our iwi to be and do better.

I want to acknowledge the current and past trustees for the commitment you have made, and I too want to make a difference, but I do not do this alone. I am privileged to bear the name Pene Wahanui, which means that I speak for those who can't, and stand up for those that don't know how, but I do it with the strength of my sisters Vicki-Lee, Nicolla and my brothers Rawiri, Hohua, Tiwini, Apihai. You know all of us and you know that we can help take what has been established and continue to build a bright and prosperous future, so vote for me and together we will make a change for good.

It is with the support of my whole whanau that I consent to my nomination as a candidate for the Ngati Koata and Te Pataka a Ngati Koata trust.

I may have been raised in Waikato but my blood is in Nelson and to grow our iwi it's time we look outside the community, to ensure that we can tap into the expertise we need, to make wise decisions that will bring more profits that will help in more places and in more ways.

I have managed my own business, worked for local council and for corporations. My experience has enabled me to advise community, regional, and national organisations.

I am currently the Health Safety Adviser for Tainui Group Holdings and manage the health and safety for the company including, forestry, farming, commercial and residential construction, events, fishing, carving, environmental projects and property. During the recent COVID-19 lockdown I advised senior management on how to navigate through tough times and we continue to perform in a volatile environment.

I too can help our iwi to prepare for the future to ensure that our tamariki are supported in all aspects of life.

In my current role I work with management in developing the combined vision for the iwi. By operating within the values of manaakitanga and whakapapa I am able to achieve extraordinary outcomes. Elect me so that we can ensure the protection of Ngati Koata assets and investments, while maintaining a cultural and economic balance.

I live the values of manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga and pono me te tika and I know my heritage, who I represent, and the way our decisions reflect on our tupuna and tamariki. Help me to help you protect the interests of Ngati Koata and contribute to our collective wellbeing and prosperity.

### Tom SPEERS

Ko Maungatapu te Maunga  
Ko Maitahi te Awa  
Ko Aorere te Tai  
Ko Tainui te Waka  
Ko Ngāti Koata te Iwi  
Ko Whakatū te Marae  
Ko Tom Speers toku ingoa  
Nō reira tēnā kōutou katoa te whānau whanui ō Koata



I have served on the Ngāti Koata Board as a trustee for the last three years. It has been an exciting and challenging

time for Koata as with many other iwi. Although there are barriers and challenges to overcome, so too are there many opportunities for Koata.

My home is here in Te Tau Ihu. Our whānau includes my wife and two children. Our eldest is in her first year at university, our son is in year 11 at college. My wife runs a graphic design business and I work in education. I work as a secondary school teacher in Outdoor Education as well as being the Dean for Māori students within our school. Relationships are a key part of my work and are integral to the success of our rangatahi. I am passionate about our whenua.

The highlights of my time on the Board include having served on the Audit and Risk Committee as Chair. Also being able to continue with the work involved in the ongoing Moawhitu (wetland) Restoration project on Rangitoto ki te tonga.

### Challen WILSON

Tēnā koutou e te whānau  
Ko Tekateka tōku tupuna  
Ko James Wilson rāua ko Mona Stretch ōku kaumātua  
Ko Hohepa Mangkahia rāua ko Darcia Mangakahia ōku mātua  
Kei Tāmaki Makaurau au e noho ana  
Ko Challen Wilson taku ingoa



It would be a great honour to be selected as a trustee and to serve our people of Ngāti Koata. I am highly motivated to support our overall success and wellbeing for our people and have the skills to work with our team to champion strategic oversight and political advocacy in our social, economic, cultural, and spiritual spheres. I am passionate about bringing our collective voice together and adding a fresh and transformational perspective to the Trust.

My governance and leadership experience spans more than 15 years in a multitude of roles. Currently I hold a Board role in a political organisation, I provide policy and legislative input for the environmental committee at the National Council for Women Auckland branch and I am the treasurer for Te Arataki ki Te Ao Marama, one of the Tāmaki Makaurau branches at the Māori Women's Welfare League.

I started my leadership journey in the international indigenous leadership space in my early-20s in the early 2000s as a board member for grassroots collective, Conscious Collaborations. The work of this collective of over 40 young indigenous leaders from across the globe, had me participate in many worthy initiatives, including an international collaboration with the 9 iwi of Alaska, primarily the Inupiaq people of northern Alaska and the Diné people of Arizona; bringing a union between our peoples that still stands strong to this day. As a rangatahi leader I represented Ngāti Kahungunu on the rūnanga board in Whanganui-a-tara and have been acknowledged for my work in academic research and arts excellence as a creative writer.

While I hold a BA (HONS) in theatre and film, and post-graduate qualifications in business management specialising in strategic communications management I have engaged in a succession of professional development opportunities from critical thinking and tiriti training to project management and community engagement training. My vast experience and varied skills in strategy, communications and marketing, government (Health, Leadership Development and Local Government), community development, creative industries, and small business ownership will lend to strong leadership as a trustee for Ngāti Koata.

Outside of all the mahi I do I like to spend quality time with my whānau through connecting with diverse cultures, sharing in kai, exploring the whenua, moana and awa, and bringing more wellness into our lives through exercise and creativity.