



TĀMAKI PAENGA HIRA  
AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
AUCKLAND MUSEUM TRUST BOARD  
Horotiu – Level 2, Auckland Museum  
1pm, Thursday 26 June 2025**

**Present:** Ms Rachael Tuwhangai (Chair); Mr Alastair Carruthers (Deputy Chair); Lupematasila Misatauveve Dr Melani Anae; Ms Melissa Firth; Ms Penny Hulse; Mr Ben Palmer

**Apologies:** Mr David V Williams; Mr Paul Spoonley; Mr John Judge and Mr Martin Mariassouce

**Also present:** David Reeves, Chief Executive; Director Catherine Smith, People and Organisation; Jignasha Patel, Director Enterprise, Finance and Property Services; Catherine Hammond, Director Collections and Research; Te Arepa Morehu, Tumuaki Māori; Victoria Travers, Director Audience and Engagement; Mihi Aspinall, Kaiārahi Māori; Danielle Uniza, Board Secretary

### **1. Board only time**

A thorough discussion was had on the Board's financial position. The discussion concluded at 1.35 pm. No formal decisions or resolutions were made.

### **2. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone present and declared the meeting open at 1.35pm.

#### **2.1 Apologies**

Mr David Williams, Mr John Judge, Mr Paul Spoonley and Mr Martin Mariassouce provided apologies for the meeting.

#### **2.2 Register of interests**

The following changes were requested at the meeting:

- Melissa Firth noted that she has resigned from her position at Farmer Focus
- Ben Palmer and Melissa Firth to be added as Chair and Deputy Chair, respectively, for both the Future Fund Trust and the Endowment and Bequest Trust.
- Additional changes to be received from Rachael Tuwhangai

*Item 3 – Confirmation of Minutes and 4 – Action Register were considered later in the meeting.*

### **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION OR DECISION**

*Items 6 and 7 were moved forward in the order of business. The Director Collections and Research and the Head of Collection Information and Access were in attendance for these items.*

#### **6. Annual Drawdown from Library Trust Funds**

The Head of Collection Information and Access and the Director Collections and Research provided an update on the state of trust funds.

It was noted that there is currently no policy to preserve the capital of the Museum's trusts. This can result in a decline of their real value over time. A long-term perspective across all funds is needed to assess their positions and potential distributions.

## **RESOLUTION 2025/24**

**Moved** Ben Palmer, **Seconded** Melissa Firth

The Trust Board:

- a. APPROVED the drawdown of **\$321,935** as outlined in **Schedule A** in July 2025.
- b. DELEGATED to the Chief Executive the power to draw down a further **\$90,716**, as outlined in **Schedule B**, in November 2025 subject to funds becoming available.
- c. DIRECTED that detailed progress reporting is provided to the Trust Board annually, outlining the amount of money spent and whether intended objectives were met.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Actions:

- A report reviewing all permanent trust funds and a Trust Board policy to be presented to the Audit and Risk Committee. This is to consider the true value of each trust, and regularisation of capital adjustments.

## **7. Annual Drawdown from the Research and Publications Reserve**

The Head of Collection and Information Access provided an update on the reserve fund.

## **RESOLUTION 2025/25**

**Moved** Alastair Carruthers, **Seconded** Melissa Firth

The Trust Board:

- a. APPROVED the drawdown of **\$329,000** as indicated in Table 2 in this report.
- b. APPROVED the establishment of a permanent *Research Development Lead* 1.0 FTE role funded from this Reserve.
- c. NOTED the FY 2024/2025 Research and Publication Reserve Report (**Attachment 1**).

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Actions:

- The Trust Board to be provided a report in May/June 2026 that outlines the cost, outcomes and actual expenditure from the drawdown approved at the June 2025 meeting.

## **5. Chief Executive's report (open session)**

The Chief Executive provided a detailed update on the asbestos-related issues affecting the reopening of the northern galleries.

Discussion was also held on the Te Tiriti-led Workshop. The Chief Executive advised that the workshops are an important step in building a foundation for being Te Tiriti-led.

The Museum will fulfil its contractual obligation to host a celebration as part of the DIVA exhibit. Given current financial constraints, the celebratory event will be kept modest.

The Trust Board NOTED the report.

### Actions:

- A subgroup meeting to be convened to discuss upcoming Council reporting and engagement. Trust Board members are Mr Alastair Carruthers, Mr Ben Palmer and Ms Penny Hulse. The Board Chair will also attend as required.

- The social impact report previously presented to the Taumata-a-iwi be presented to the August Trust Board meeting.
- A WallWalk session to be organised for the Trust Board in the future.

### **8. 2025 Q3 Statement of Service Performance Results**

An overview of the Q3 Statement of Service Performance results, as presented previously at the June Audit and Risk meeting, was provided.

The Chair noted that Mr David V Williams raised concerns relating to the Museum’s inability to meet visitation targets to be noted and considered by the meeting.

The Trust Board NOTED the Q3 non-financial statement of service performance results.

Actions:

- The independent review into education to be presented to the Trust Board once completed.

### **9. Policy Review Program – Delegation of Financial Authority and Fundraising**

An overview of the Delegation of Financial Authority and Fundraising Policy was provided. The changes resulting from the Audit and Risk Committee were highlighted and it was agreed that the changes proposed were acceptable overall.

**RESOLUTION 2025/27**

**Moved** Ben Palmer, **Seconded** Rachael Tuwhangai

The Trust Board:

1. ADOPTED the Delegation of Financial Authority Policy
2. ADOPTED the Fundraising Policy

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Items 11 – 16 were held in closed session by resolution of the Trust Board in accordance with the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.**

## **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

### **11. Audit and Risk Committee Update**

The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee provided an update on the matters considered by the Committee, including policy reviews, service performance results, financial statements and legislative compliance.

### **12. Taumata-a-iwi Update**

The Chair noted that the ‘Working Group’ referred to in the report is a ‘Steering Group’ and queried the guiding principles implemented in the removal of taonga.

### **13. Pacific Advisory Group Update**

An overview on the update was provided, and the concern raised by the Pacific Advisory Group was discussed at the meeting with respect to community access to collections during gallery

closures. It was agreed that this would be included in the Museum's Risk Register to ensure it is appropriately managed.

Actions:

- The concern raised by the Pacific Advisory Group to be included under the 'Community Relationships' risk in the Museum's Risk Register.

#### **14. Auckland Museum Institute Update**

The Chair commended the reappointment of Dr Melani Anae and Professor Paul Spoonley.

#### **MATTERS FOR NOTING (DISCUSSION BY EXCEPTION)**

#### **15. Health and Safety Report**

A discussion on the Health and Safety reports for April and May 2025 was held.

#### **16. Financial Performance Reporting**

A discussion on the Financial Performance report for May 2025, and the Judgements and Estimates for 2025/2026, as tabled at the 5 June Audit and Risk Committee meeting, was held.

*The meeting returned to the consideration of remaining items – Item 3 and Item 4.*

#### **3. Confirmation of minutes for 24 April 2025**

*This item was circulated for confirmation to Trust Board members via email.*

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Trust Board:

1. CONFIRMED the minutes for the meeting held on 24 April 2025 as a true and accurate record.
2. AGREED to publish the open minutes on the Auckland Museum's website.

Actions:

- The minutes to be amended to clarify that the action relating to the holding of a Te Tiriti-led Workshop, and creation of a Te Tiriti-led Steering Group, was agreed by the Trust Board.
- The minutes be amended to clarify the purpose of the Taumata-a-iwi update.
- The Chair requested that the unconfirmed minutes for the 25 April 2025 meeting be circulated to Trust Board members via email for confirmation.

#### **4. Actions from previous meeting**

The Governance and Planning Advisor provided an overview of the action register – 6 of 11 outstanding actions were recommended for closure.

The delay of the Digital Strategy (including an AI Strategy) was discussed at the meeting and requested for presentation to the August Trust Board meeting.

#### **15. Meeting close**

Dr Melani Anae closed the meeting with a karakia.

The Chairperson thanked members for their attention to business and declared the meeting closed at 3.50 pm.