

ENM Board Nominees 2026

Dr Jean Hera

Member of Extinction Rebellion Manawātū & Natural Burials Manawātū

Nominated by Helena Judd, Extinction Rebellion Manawātū

Jean identifies as tangata Tiriti of Irish, English and Welsh descent, was born in Stratford, Taranaki and grew up in a number of small provincial towns around Aotearoa. She has lived in Palmerston North (with a few years in Feilding) since 1975. She has 2 adult children who live in the Manawātū, and 3 granddaughters. Jean is a registered social worker who studied social work and social policy at Massey University. She worked many years as a community health worker and manager at Te Hā o Hine-ahu-one Palmerston North Women's Health Collective, but is now mainly retired with a small private practice providing social service supervision. Part of her current community work is as a founding and lead member of Natural Burial Manawātū. and an active member of Extinction Rebellion Manawātū. Jean brings her passion for community development, for social, economic and environmental justice, and her strong commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi to the ENM Board. Jean has served one full term on the Board after initially being co-opted on to the Board in March 2024.

Dr Heather Meikle

Member of Royal Society NZ Manawātū Branch

Nominated by Jenny Slade, Palmerston North Girls High School EnviroGroup

Ko Fraser te awa. Ko Baker te maunga. No Kānata ahau. Ko Kaiārahi Enviroschools tōku mahi. Ko Heather Meikle tōku ingoa.

As a scientist, educator and passionate advocate for sustainability, my aspiration is to transform how our communities connect with and protect the natural world. This aligns with my work as a Secondary Enviroschools Facilitator (Kaiārahi Enviroschools). By blending my scientific background with a deep commitment to kaitiakitanga (guardianship), I work to inspire meaningful change, by empowering rangatahi and their community through connection with Te taiao (environment), through the Enviroschools kaupapa. I have also been a member of the Environment Network Manawātū Board since 2022.

Prior to this I was the sustainability coordinator at Palmerston North Girls' High School helping them to achieve silver status as an Enviroschool and onto Green-Gold. Other sustainability initiatives with which I am currently involved include the Environment Network Manawatu Te Tiriti Sub Committee and the Climate Clarity Group.

I am passionate about textiles, upcycling and fibre arts and am a recent graduate of Te Wananga o Aotearoa with a Maunga Kura Toi/Bachelor of Māori Art - Raranga/Weaving.

Alongside this, over the past 6 years, I have been connected to He Kaupapa Tūmanako/Project Hope. The programme supports and empowers rangatahi/young people to gain leadership skills and connect with their community to take action and create a more sustainable, hopeful future. This embodies my core beliefs and desire to contribute to the ENM kaupapa.

Kendall Palmer

ENM Affiliate Member

Nominated by Anthea McClelland, Forest & Bird Manawatū Branch

I have lived, studied and worked in Palmy all my life. I feel strongly that it is a great place to live and raise a family.

I have worked as an accountant for over 10 years and have been a board member as the treasurer for the last 6. My background is in auditing and now in financial/tax accounting for a medium sized local firm.

Outside of work I am a mum of two they keep me plenty busy with activities and park trips. One family activity we love is planting days and we try and attend as many as possible. Anything that our four year old can get stuck in with.

Arune Srichantra

ENM Affiliate Member, and volunteer for SuperGrans Manawatū at Palmerston North Repair Café.

Nominated by Joanne Baird, SuperGrans Manawatū

1. Who am I?

I am an experienced business owner with more than 16 years of experience in food, hospitality and business management in Palmerston North. As a Food Technologist with a PhD in Food Technology from Massey University, I enjoy working with people, sharing my knowledge, and supporting food-sector SMEs through my role as a Business Mentor with Business Mentors NZ.

For the past 5–6 months, I have also volunteered in the sewing department at Palmerston North Repair Café. I have greatly enjoyed being part of the community and contributing to repair, reuse and waste reduction by helping extend the life of clothing.

2. What is your connection with ENM and/or our Member Groups?

My connection with ENM is through the Palmerston North Repair Cafe, where I volunteer on the SuperGrans Manawatū sewing table. My volunteering experience has strengthened my interest in community-based environmental initiatives, sustainability and working with people who share these values.

3. Why do you want to be on the Board?

I would like to join the ENM Board because I want to use my experience, knowledge and practical skills to make a positive contribution to our community. I am also keen to learn from others, work collaboratively, and help support practical environmental and community initiatives that create meaningful local impact.

4. What skills or additional value will you bring?

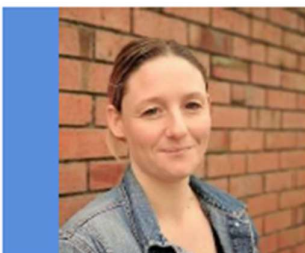
I will bring strong practical experience in Food Technology, hospitality, business management and business mentoring. I have managed people, purchasing, suppliers, food production and day-to-day business operations, with a strong focus on achieving sustainable and successful outcomes.

I believe my combination of business and food-sector experience, together with my community volunteering, can bring a practical and different perspective to the Board. I am willing to listen, learn and contribute my time, knowledge and ideas to help ENM and its Member Groups achieve their goals over the next two years.

Siobhan Karaitiana

ENM Affiliate Member

Nominated by Fiona Burke, Manawatū River Catchment Collective



SIOBHAN KARAITIANA

Kaupapa Taiao Specialist



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Papaoiea/Palmerston North

EXPERTISE

- Supporting Iwi-Crown planning and engagement to delivering large infrastructure projects
- Facilitating iwi/hapū responses for plan changes, consents and DOC concessions
- Applying a values based approach to three waters kaupapa and other planning issues
- Delivering kaupapa Māori based RMA and environmental training for kaimahi and kaitiaki
- Co-constructing Strategic Iwi Environmental Management Plans and Cultural Materials Plans
- Project Management

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Ecology, and Bachelor of Science in Ecology and Environmental Science
Massey University

ABOUT SIOBHAN

Siobhan works with a diverse range of Iwi, hapū and Māori groups through her mahi at Kāhu Environmental to build capability and capacity so they can participate in and influence the way resources are managed. Siobhan has an eye for strategy, making connections across the landscape to deliver positive outcomes for taiao, wai, whānau and communities.

Siobhan has married into Rangitāne, the mana whenua in Te Papaioea/Palmerston North and has spent much of her professional life supporting the iwi to engage in resource management. She has four children with her husband Lewis Karaitiana whom attend the local kura kaupapa.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Kaupapa Taiao Specialist, Kāhu Environmental (2021 - present)
- Volunteer Palmy Plastic Pollution Challenge (2018-2021)
- Planner and Ecologist, Te Ao Turoa Environmental Centre (2016-2021)
- Adjunct Faculty Environment, Open Polytechnic Lower Hutt (1.5 years)
- Research Assistant, Aquanet Consulting Ltd (1 year)

Te Ara Reo Māori (Language and Protocol) Level 4

Te Wānanga o Aotearoa ki Papaoiea

Conservation Field Skills

Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology