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## Position Description: Tangata Tiaki

**Role Title:** Tangata Tiaki

**Organisation:** Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o Te Ika | Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust

**Location:** Across the takiwā, with Matiu Island and Eastern Harbour Parks as a priority focus

**Reports to:** CEO of Taranaki Whānui

**Employment Type:** Fixed Term (opportunity to extend)

### Purpose of the Role

The Tangata Tiaki role exists to provide a strong, enduring, and visible presence of Taranaki Whānui across our takiwā, with Matiu Island and Eastern Harbour Parks as priority areas of focus. The role reflects the responsibilities of mana whenua and ahi kā — ensuring that Taranaki Whānui tikanga, kawa, kaitiakitanga, and manaakitanga are upheld in all activities across the takiwā.

Matiu Island, Parangarahu, and Ōrua Pouanui hold deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance for Taranaki Whānui. Here, you find taonga species, historic pā, and layered narratives in a landscape shaped by environmental forces. As Tangata Tiaki, you will support the reconnection of uri (descendants) to these sites, protect and promote the cultural and natural heritage of the takiwā, and represent Taranaki Whānui in welcoming and guiding all who visit.

This position gives life to long-held aspirations for these sites as a source for reviving and sustaining the culture and tikanga of Taranaki Whānui, and as a central hub for the expression of identity for generations to come.

## Key Responsibilities

### 1. Iwi Reconnection

- Design, lead, and support programmes that reconnect Taranaki Whānui uri with Matiu Island, Ōrua Pouanui, Parangarahu (Parangarahu Lakes and North Forest Parks), and other significant sites across the takiwā.
- Facilitate wānanga, noho, and cultural activities that strengthen cultural identity and belonging.
- Actively encourage uri participation in conservation, heritage, and cultural initiatives.

### 2. Tikanga & Cultural Leadership

- Uphold and embody Taranaki Whānui tikanga and kawa in all day-to-day activities.
- Provide cultural leadership and support to staff, volunteers, contractors, and visitors.
- Embed tikanga into the operational practices, training, and processes of Greater Wellington and Department of Conservation teams.
- Ensure cultural narratives and practices are visible, respected, and appropriately expressed.

### 3. Kaitiakitanga / Environmental Stewardship

- Support conservation, biodiversity, and ecological restoration programmes in priority focus areas, and across the takiwā.
- Work alongside Department of Conservation and Greater Wellington staff, scientists, and partners to protect taonga species and restore ecosystems.
- Monitor and support the protection of cultural landscapes and historic sites.
- Advocate for Taranaki Whānui perspectives in environmental management.

### 4. Manaakitanga / Representation

- Represent Taranaki Whānui as the voice of welcome to all manuhiri, including schools, community groups, dignitaries, and researchers.
- Share the stories, histories, and aspirations of Taranaki Whānui in ways that enhance understanding and respect.
- Uphold the mana of Taranaki Whānui in all interactions.
- Ensure that manuhiri to our whenua experience the manaakitanga of our iwi.

### 5. Operational Support

- Contribute to and support established work programmes, including maintenance, biodiversity, heritage, and education activities.
  - Specifically: 5-6 days a month on Matiu Island as lead island staff covering all critical areas of work – biosecurity / meeting overnight visitors and maintaining infrastructure
- Participate in health, safety, and emergency management practices.
- Assist in seasonal or special projects such as weed control, pest management, and monitoring of taonga species.
- Provide reports, updates, and insights to the Matiu Kaitiaki Board and Rōpū Tiaki co-management group.

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## Skills, Knowledge, and Attributes

### Cultural Strengths

- Strong grounding in Taranaki Whānui tikanga, kawa, reo, and cultural values.
- Deep understanding of Taranaki Whānui whakapapa, history, and whenua
- Ability to guide others in cultural practice and embed tikanga in daily work.

### Engagement & Communication

- Confident communicator, able to engage with whānau, manuhiri, partner agencies, and the wider community.
- Skilled in sharing kōrero in ways that inspire connection and understanding.
- Ability to foster strong working relationships with staff, volunteers, and external stakeholders.

### Practical Skills

- Experience or interest in conservation, biodiversity, or environmental management.
- Capability and willingness to work outdoors, often in challenging conditions.
- Sound organisational skills with the ability to manage priorities and contribute to multiple workstreams.

### Personal Qualities

- Demonstrates whanaungatanga through building positive, respectful relationships.
- Embodies the values of kaitiakitanga, manaakitanga, and rangatiratanga.
- Adaptable, resilient, and able to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Committed to protecting taonga for future generations.

### Key Relationships

- **Internal:** Matiu Kaitiaki Board, Rōpū Tiaki Co-Management Group, Trustees, Taranaki Whānui staff, uri and whānau.
- **External:** Department of Conservation, Greater Wellington, conservation partners, local councils, researchers, schools, and community groups.

### What We Offer

- A unique opportunity to represent and give life to the presence of Taranaki Whānui on our whenua.
- A role at the intersection of culture, environment, and people, making a tangible difference for future generations.
- The chance to work in a culturally rich and environmentally significant setting.
- A supportive environment that values whānau, tikanga, and identity.