Attributes of Members of
Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board

Members will usually be well-established and respected professionals within their community.

Board members are drawn from different walks of life and disciplines, to provide a range of expertise, perspectives and critical thinking on New Zealand society and history. While there are no formal specifications for attributes desirable for Board members, they should be able to apply expertise, knowledge, scholarly interest or qualifications in one or more of the following areas:

- New Zealand history
- geography
- onamastics[1]
- te reo Māori
- tikanga Māori.

Additionally, members should have a good understanding of:

- government responsibilities and processes
- community interests.

A personal interest in toponymy[2] and nomenclature[3] are desirable attributes for any Board member.

Prospective Board members are asked to provide information on their academic qualifications, positions held, awards, activities, experience, research, reports and publications, etc. as appropriate.

Six Board members are appointed to represent five bodies and their perspectives. Those members are expected to draw on and apply the attributes and knowledge in the table below when performing the Board's functions.

[1] Onamastics is the science or study of the origin and forms of proper names of people, places, etc.
[2] Toponymy (Greek: topos = place, onyma = name) is the discipline of dealing with all aspects of place names or geographical feature names, whether purely theoretical and scientific, or practical and applied.
[3] Nomenclature is the system of selecting names for things in a particular field.

Recommended / Nominated by	Attributes
Minister for Māori Development (two recommended members)	• knowledge of tikanga Māori, te reo Māori and Māori connection to place • understanding and broad knowledge of the geographical, cultural and historical aspects of the whenua
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu	• knowledge of tikanga Māori, te reo Māori and Māori connection to place • knowledge of the geographical, cultural and historical landscapes of Te Waipounamu
New Zealand Geographical Society Inc.	• expertise in geography • high-level qualification in geography and/or earth sciences
Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand Inc	• high-level knowledge and understanding of the back country and alpine environment • understanding of place names used by outdoor recreation and mountain communities • understanding of the role geographic names play in navigation, safety and heritage
Local Government New Zealand	• knowledge of local government processes, governance, and functions, especially any practical implications for councils and the public • experience engaging with diverse communities and stakeholders