

Epilepsy Waikato Charitable Trust

Board of Trustees AGM at: 6.30 pm on Tuesday 15th September 2026

Venue: Trust Waikato, 4 Little London Lane, Hamilton Central/Teams (online)

Patron's Message for the 2025 AGM (15th September 2026)

The creation of the Epilepsy Waikato Charitable Trust approximately 15 years ago arose from a prolonged and distressing battle fought by the former Epilepsy Waikato branch of Epilepsy New Zealand with the national organisation. Those issues have been well documented over time and I remain convinced that local members in that era, most of whom were volunteers with a strong commitment to serving others, were treated shamefully, causing widespread distress and significant financial losses.

For some years, Epilepsy Waikato had been operating out of their own premises in the Hamilton West electorate. Soon after I became MP for that constituency in 2008, I became aware of the challenges they were facing and formed a close working relationship with the Epilepsy Waikato committee and their members. I held them in high regard and formed the conclusion that they had been subjected to a dreadful series of injustices.

It was my privilege to support them over the ensuing years, and to advocate for them to health agencies and in Parliament, and I felt deeply honoured when I was asked to serve as their inaugural patron – which I have continued to be to the present time.

I was therefore very sorry to hear recently that the trust is needing to be wound up, and I join all current members in regretting that such action has proved necessary. I sincerely hope that whatever arrangements are in place for the years ahead will meet the needs of those who live with epilepsy in our region in the years ahead.

I hope to attend this year's final AGM of the trust and extend my deepest thanks to all who have served the epilepsy community in the wider Waikato region so well. You are all local heroes in my estimation.

Tim Macindoe,
Patron, EWCT