



A board may also produce a Plan of Management for its reserve, although this is not necessary.

A reserve trust is set up under the *Crown Lands Act 1989*. A copy of the Act can be found at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

Reserve trust boards

A trust board acts like the board of directors of a company. It can be made up of community volunteers, local government councillors or other people appointed by the NSW Government. Trust board members are empowered to make decisions regarding the use and management of the reserved land and are responsible for the implementation of those decisions.

Trust board members must be over 18, have no criminal record and have a passion for the local community and environment and a sense of responsibility.



Becoming a trust board member

Simply fill in the application form located at your local Lands office or at www.lands.nsw.gov.au/land_management/trusts/trust_membership, have two referees sign the form and then post it or lodge the application at your nearest Department of Lands office. If there is a vacancy, Lands will consider you for selection and let you know. If there are many applicants, you may be interviewed for the position.

To find out about reserves in your area, go to www.lands.nsw.gov.au/land_management or call into your local Lands office.

Time needed

Most tasks should be able to be completed in a few hours a week. Boards can appoint community volunteers, management committees or even employ caretakers to help with maintaining the reserve, if needed.



The length of service is a personal decision and how long you stay as a member is up to you. Many trust members find themselves enjoying the experience so much they stay on for years.

Trust membership is voluntary and it gives you an opportunity to get involved and have a say in how your community is being run. However, certain reserves listed in Schedule 1 of the *Crown Lands (General Reserves) By-law 2001* are able to employ and pay elected trust board members to act as secretary and treasurer.

The trust may reimburse you for reasonable out of pocket expenses while carrying out your duties as a member provided the expenses are approved and a receipt is provided.

For help or information

If you are unclear on anything, ask your local Department of Lands office. A list of offices is supplied on www.lands.nsw.gov.au/about_us/lands_offices.



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The Trust Handbook – A handbook for trust boards managing Crown land reserves and commons, and trustees of schools of arts provides detailed information for trust board members. The Trust Handbook may be accessed at www.lands.nsw.gov.au.

Be recognised!

Crown reserve trust members are acknowledged for their efforts in the Crown Reserve Trust Award category at the Regional Achievement and Community Awards.

Winners receive a Commonwealth Bank AwardSaver Account of \$5,000.

For more information, go to http://www.awardsaustralia.com/RACA_nsw.html



For more information

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Queens Square
SYDNEY NSW 2000
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61 2 9228 6666
F 61 2 9233 4357

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**IT ONLY TAKES
A SMALL EFFORT
TO BUILD A
COMMUNITY**

**Join a Crown Land
Trust Board today**

www.lands.nsw.gov.au



NEW SOUTH WALES HAS **MORE THAN 33,000 CROWN RESERVES** WHICH HAVE BEEN SET ASIDE FOR PUBLIC USE



The Crown reserve system, the oldest and most diverse system of land management in NSW, dates back to colonial times when land was set aside to ensure it would be available for future uses. Many items of environmental, cultural or social significance are on Crown land.

Crown land can be reserved by the NSW Government for a multitude of purposes, including public recreation, showgrounds, cemeteries, environmental protection, public halls, racecourses and preservation of scenery. Once Crown land has been reserved, it cannot be used for private purposes.

New South Wales has more than 30,000 Crown reserves which have been set aside for public use.

More than 700 of these reserves are managed by community volunteers through reserve trusts.

The system of reserve trusts enable the NSW Government, local councils and members of the community to control and care for these significant parts of the state for the benefit of everyone.

Trusts allow communities, members of the public and councils, in partnership with the NSW Government, to care for and manage important land and public assets in their area.



What is a reserve trust?

A reserve trust is a legal body which cares for reserved or dedicated Crown land on behalf of the people of NSW.

Trusts are important as they allow communities, members of the public and councils, in partnership with the NSW Government, to care for and manage important land, environmental and cultural sites or community facilities in their area.

Get involved in your community

A trust is a way to get involved in the local community and become a caretaker for land which is important to you and your family. It is also a way to meet like-minded people, play a part in shaping the future of the community and making a difference to your neighbourhood.

You should get involved in a trust if you want to be responsible for and care for



reserved land in your area. This could be a local sporting park, a community hall, a showground, beach, or even a nature reserve you would like to see managed and preserved for future generations. A trust is a great way to get involved in your local community and become a caretaker for land which is important to you and your family.

Make a difference

You can make a big difference to your community on a reserve trust. A trust board can make decisions about such things as:

- the way a reserve is used
- the driving and parking or mooring of vessels on the reserve
- hours of entry
- fees charge for entry
- permitted or prohibited activities
- how trust fund are spent.

A board also ensures the natural environment is conserved and any pollution or natural threats to the environment are removed or controlled.



How trusts work

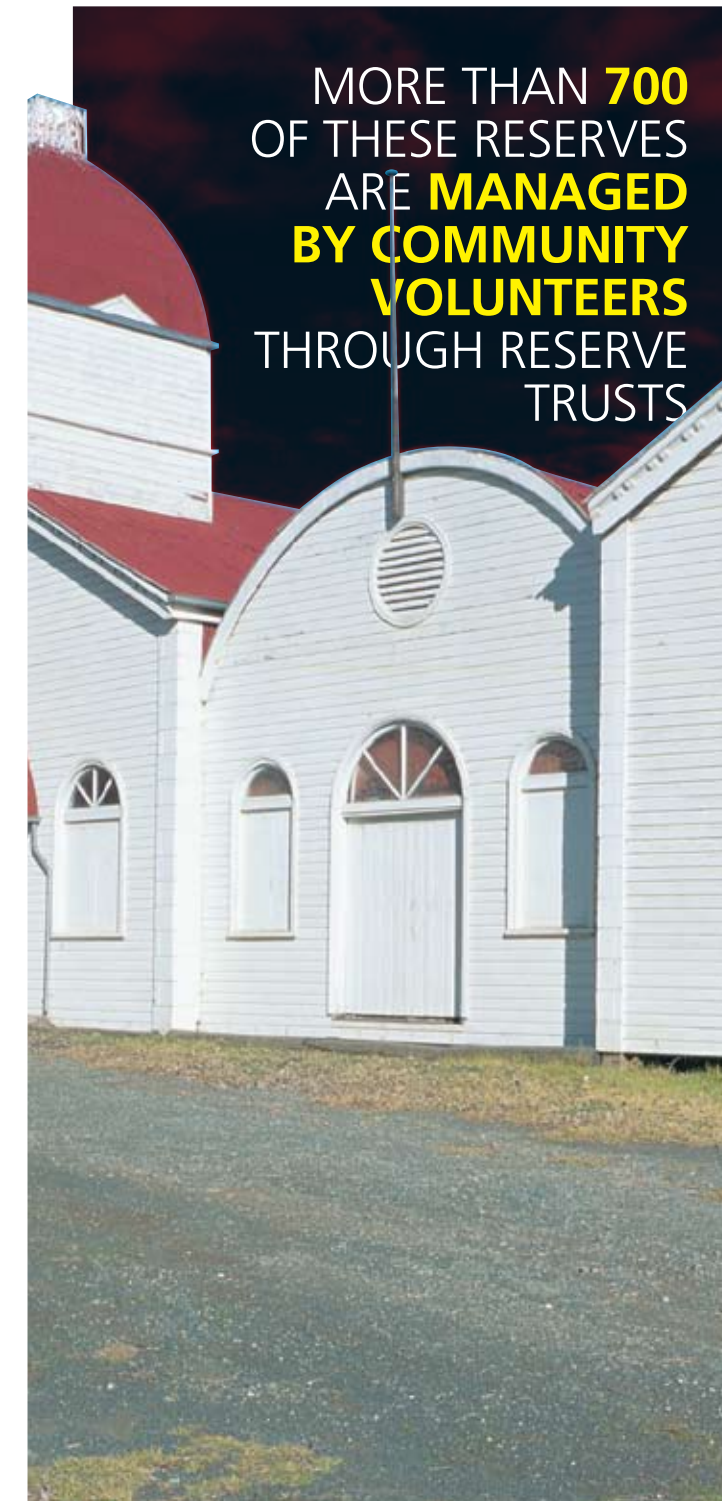
Like setting up a business, a reserve trust is given a corporation name and becomes a legal entity. It must then have someone manage its affairs, such as a trust board, the Minister for Lands, an incorporated body, such as a council, or an administrator.

If a board is appointed, a chairperson, secretary and treasurer of the board are elected. A trust board can then appoint a management committee, volunteers or employ others to assist it in managing its reserve, if funds are available.

Through a trust, you can help protect and conserve the environment and significant public assets for future generations

Reserve trust boards must produce and review:

- an annual Code of Conduct
- a financial balance book
- a risk management checklist
- an annual report.



MORE THAN **700** OF THESE RESERVES ARE **MANAGED BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS** THROUGH RESERVE TRUSTS