

Tauhara Centre Trust

Annual Report for the Year Ending June 30th, 2011

Introduction

Last year's annual report focused on the achievements and challenges of the life of this Trust Board from the beginning of 2008 to the end of June, 2010. This was a very busy period in the life of the Tauhara Centre from the point of view of maintenance and development, building towards a more strategic direction for the future. The past year has built on those achievements, with much effort being put into the planning, funding and preparation for solar water heating and rainwater storage. While the financial year ended at June 30th, much of the development that had been planned occurred in the next few months, so this has been included in this report rather than wait for another 12 months when it will have become, given the rapid pace of change in all our lives, rather ancient history.

Financial

The past year has been a relatively successful one in terms of financial results. While the Trust was hopeful of returning to surplus in 2010/11, this did not eventuate, but we came very close, with a deficit of \$7,715 after depreciation was taken into consideration, compared with \$43,893 in 2009/10 and \$82,613 in 2008/09. In all of these years, it must be added, considerable sums were moved from Trustees' investments into the operating budget to fund maintenance and development, which does somewhat distort the normal operating budget results for the Centre. The detail of this and previous years' results can be found on the Charities Commission website www.charities.govt.nz (search the register under Tauhara Centre).

The Board continues to feel optimistic for the future, despite the worrisome world financial situation deteriorating significantly in recent weeks. We continue to meet all our financial obligations without major stress, through paying all our ongoing predictable costs by weekly direct crediting to service providers. Bookings are looking quite positive for 2012. It appears that in these tough financial times, people are placing an even higher value on the need to withdraw and focus on their "soul work" in group and individual retreats. Long may it be so.

One other development is worthy of note. At the last general valuation undertaken by Taupo District Council in 2010, there was a significant drop in the estimated value of the Centre's land and buildings. While this would be of concern to any other property owner in the District wishing to sell their property, it brought only great advantage to us as an ongoing Trust in the form of a significant drop in rates to be paid.

Sustainability Project:

The major achievement of this past year has been the installation of solar water heating. While the actual work was carried out from August, 2011, the previous year saw a great deal of work behind the scenes to transform an idea into reality. The Trust would like to express its appreciation to Terri Eggleton of BayTrust, who assisted us with the negotiation of a 5-year, 3% loan (which appears as note 4 on page 8 of the Trust's annual accounts) for the cost of this project. The estimated payback period for the system is 7.9 years over-all (some parts will cover

their costs in shorter periods), with a 30 year estimated life. We estimate that most of the principal and interest on this loan will be covered by electricity savings. We would also like to acknowledge how impressed we were with the trade professionals (plumbers and carpenters) of Energy Options led by Iain Charity, who carried out all the installation work, including new wet-backed wood-burning fireplaces in the main Centre kitchen, and our two cottages. Working long hours to high standards, they have given us a system to be proud of. At <http://www.splashmonitoring.com/system/tauhara1> interested folk can monitor the performance of our solar installation.

The second leg of our sustainability project is to enable Tauhara to be less dependent on town water supply for its ongoing needs. The first of several 30,000 litre rainwater tanks has been installed, the contents of which are being passed through a UV treatment plant now installed in our pumphouse to ensure that water collected arrives at taps to a potable standard. In fact, it is an improvement on town water supplies, in that UV treatment will deal even with giardia, which chlorination does not.

Internet Access:

In our previous report, we identified the huge growth in demand for internet access as a difficult challenge, given that most people come away from their busy lives to do their "soul work", but expect to stay connected to the World Wide Web! Over the past year, we have been trialling a system that limits internet access to certain hours, and places restrictions around downloading, which had prior to this at times gobbled up our monthly bandwidth allocation in days. A very high proportion of people visiting the Centre now come equipped with all the trappings of the digital age, including smartphones, iPads, iPods, small travelling computers and so on. The Board will need to make a decision in the near future about providing better access, which some groups require for the educational work they are meeting at Tauhara for, but offering it on a full cost-recovery basis.

Getting the Help We Need and Can Afford:

Another Centre need identified in the previous year's annual report, was establishing a balance between volunteers who stay and work at the Centre for shorter periods, requiring frequent training and re-training, and suitable experienced local people who can cope with the irregular nature of work opportunities at Tauhara. This remains a challenge while the Trust is investing so much in infrastructural upgrading, but this will ease in the coming years and allow greater progress towards the desired balance.

Maintenance:

Much of the work identified in last year's report has now been completed, including repainting of the interior of the Hall, and replacement of our Massey-Ferguson tractor with a 2005 Suzuki Carry 4-wheel drive ute.

Unexpected work continues to thrust its way into the urgent action list. One example is the stormwater soak holes outside the Hall and dining room, which collapsed in June, requiring total replacement with concrete lined shafts going down to 7.5 metres, unplanned expenditure in the region of \$6,000.

Other projects still on our wishlist:

- replacement and extension of the deck on Tui Lodge to provide additional break-out, outdoors space for groups using the Meeting Room.
- repainting of Tui Lodge and new spouting.
- conversion of the laundry in Tui Lodge into an ensuite for the Manager's Flat, thus freeing up two back rooms for group usage, especially in conjunction with small-scale retreats based on Kereru Lodge (former Wwoofers' Lodge).
- addition of a second 30,000 litre rainwater tank in 2011/12, with others scheduled for 2012/13 and 2013/14.

Grounds:

Much effort has been put into the maintenance and extension of our organic gardens over the past year. New fruit trees have been planted down our western boundary, and these will be progressively espaliered to take advantage of the deer fence they are planted along. A new vegetable garden has been established above the new rainwater tank, with the slope stabilised by rubber car tyres. It is hoped that staff participation at the April 2012 International Permaculture Convention in Turangi will see the start of incorporating permaculture design into Tauhara's over-all sustainability plan, in line with the vision of our Founding Trustees. Great strides have been made over the past year in organic compost production, and ongoing use of Biodynamic preparations is encouraging the natural potential of our soils.

Conclusion:

The Board wishes to express its deep appreciation to all the people who have made, and continue to make, Tauhara Centre a place of relevance in the modern world. To its dedicated staff, volunteers, suppliers and maintenance folk, and especially to all the people who continue to hold Tauhara in their hearts, who come and stay at the Centre, or simply those who energetically support the Centre from a distance, glad that such a place exists for the upliftment of humankind, the Board offers its heartfelt thanks. Namaste.