

## **Tauhara Centre**

### **Annual Report for the Year Ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

#### **Who Are We?**

The Tauhara Centre Trust Board continues to consist of four Trustees: Catherine Grace (appointed 27/11/12); Leslie (Les) Wraight (appointed 11/11/13); Louise Belcher-Breuer, Chairperson (appointed 19/08/95); and Stephen Grace, Secretary/Treasurer (appointed 19/12/07). Louise Belcher-Breuer resides in Auckland, and the other 3 Trustees all live in Taupo. Two of the current Trustees are past Co-ordinators and staff members of the Tauhara Centre in Acacia Bay, Taupo.

#### **What Are Our Vision and Mission Statement?**

The following statements developed by the Trust Board in 2007 describe our work in the world:

**Vision:** Transforming Lives

**Mission Statement:** To provide a unique environment for individuals and groups to experience renewal with opportunities for participation, education, healing, writing and spiritual retreat.

#### **Why Does Tauhara Centre Trust Exist?**

The Trust was originally formed as the Mount Tauhara Estate in 1938, its origins lying in an initiative from farsighted visionaries resident in Havelock North who anticipated the huge upheaval and disintegration of the old political order in Europe as a result of World War I, the Great Depression of the 30's and the inexorable approach of World War II.

They perceived the need for an educational centre that would provide a meeting place for people of many different faiths, philosophies, methods of working and political beliefs, but united through goodwill to achieve mutual understanding. From these origins, momentum gradually built for the opening of a Centre in Acacia Bay, Taupo in 1977. The original Trust was reconstituted as the Tauhara Centre Trust in 1989.

Since 1977, Tauhara Centre Trust has provided through its retreat centre reasonably priced retreat and conference facilities, including accommodation, catering, meeting and quiet spaces. These have been put to good purpose by both individual people pursuing opportunities for inner renewal through taking time out from their regular lives; and a huge range of groups, many themselves founded on charitable principles, gathering to carry out their group work, whether that be educational, religious, broadly spiritual in nature, recreational, etc. Because the Trust has as part of its founding document (trust deed) the relief of poverty and any purpose beneficial to the community, the Centre regularly makes its facilities available to both individuals and groups (especially those with a charitable purpose) who are poorly resourced, and are in need of support.

It is often the intangibles of this place that visitors remark on: the sense of relief experienced as they pass through our front gates, leaving behind the tumultuous pace of modern life; the deep quiet and sense of spaciousness; the presence of Nature in all its many forms and beauty; the contemplative perspective on life offered by an elevated place overlooking mountains, distant ranges and a beautiful lake. How few places there are in our towns and cities where this is offered today. This is precious. And

our Trust Board is committed to the care of this place so that it may be offered intact to the coming generations, so that they, too, can enjoy what our Founders established so long ago.

### **What Did We Do in the 12 Months to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017?**

The last 12 months have followed the trend of the previous year, with a heightened level of activity making it one of the busiest periods on record, reflected in the financial results for the year.

In accordance with our Trust Deed, we provided conference and retreat facilities to a growing number of individual people, and especially to many different groups undertaking the following activities:

**Community education** (Navigation group teaching women how to use electronic navigational aids; our series of Soul Food evenings featuring a wide range of speakers and subjects; musical events offered by travelling artists/performers, e.g Gong concert, Sri Chinmoy ensemble)

**Community Tauhara experience opportunities** (working bees for people wishing to offer support for the Centre, combined with group inspirational and entertainment activities)

**Earth-based Spirituality** (Carolyn Robert's sacred sites travelling group from Australia retreat)

**Education/study events** (Study NZ gathering for overseas students studying in NZ; Ministry of Primary Industries national staff gathering; Youth Workers' Hui)

**Family gatherings** (birthdays, weddings, wedding anniversaries)

**Healing retreats** (Jeannette Wilson-clairvoyant/clairaudient- evenings; Medicine Woman annual retreat featuring the study and use of NZ flower essences and shamanic journeying; Reiki Practitioners' annual gathering; Magnetic Healers)

**Health related education** (Homoeobotanical retreat; Midwives Homebirth Conference; Stormie Lewis Cultural Bodywork training)

**Meditation retreats** (Diamond Approach; Self-realization Fellowship - Yogananda; Sri Chinmoy)

**Personal development retreats** (The Heart of Freedom- yoga and emotional therapy; Psychodrama)

**Pre-school and childcare training** (Pennie Brownlee "Dance with Me in the Heart" retreats and "Sacred Urge to Play conference")

**Religious organisational retreats** for clergy and laity (Anglican Diocese of Waiapu), and religious gatherings (United Church of God Festival)

**Sport and recreation** (Aikido Training and Grading seminar; Ballroom dancing; Papatoetoe Under 9 Junior Rugby team here from Auckland for winter tournament in Taupo; Seido Karate; Squad Run Runners -training for ultra marathons; Tai Chi for Health training with Dr Paul Lam from Sydney)

**Universal spirituality:** groups fostering interfaith understanding (Dances of Universal Peace-Heartdance, Maori Dances retreat with Shafia Stevens); One Great Spirit retreat; One Light NZ gathering; Sufi teachings retreat with Shabda Kahn)

**Women's Spirituality and Personal Development** (School of the Feminine Divine; Women's Well-Being Camp)

**Writing retreats for academic women** (Women Writing Away June and November, plus special Research group retreat February)

**Yoga** (Anahata Yoga annual retreat; Claire Baker Yoga retreat for Physiotherapists; Kara-Leah Grant Great Emptying Out retreat)

In addition, Tauhara provided a meeting space for a wide range of local groups (e.g walking groups; Steiner pre-school education lantern festival - around 60 children and parents; senior citizens' luncheon

outings; a local meditation group), who find the spacious walking spaces and gardens, the peaceful atmosphere and the delicious catering that our kitchen offers, a real drawcard. Weddings continued to feature in our annual programme, with Tauhara's beautiful grounds and views providing a dramatic backdrop for outdoor ceremonies, and its accommodation, catering and meeting spaces allowing extended family groups to make a weekend of the celebration. We are currently re-examining and refining our criteria for accepting weddings, so that they are in alignment with the vision of our Founders, and so that those who are drawn to hold their weddings at Tauhara share the values on which it was established.

### **When Did We Do It?**

Throughout the year, our most popular times being September-December and February-June.

### **What did it cost and how was it funded?**

This last 12 months has been the second year in a row where we have managed to achieve a net surplus **after depreciation**. The previous year (2015/16) was possibly the best year on record in the last couple of decades, with total gross income rising from \$284,912 in 2014/15 to \$358,034 in 2015/16, producing a gross surplus of \$67,021, and a net surplus of \$15,575 after depreciation of \$51,446 had been taken into account. This last year 2016/17 was not so spectacular, with gross income reaching \$352,983 compared with \$358,034 in 2015/16, producing a net surplus of \$1,041 after depreciation of \$50,724. A modest net surplus, but a surplus nevertheless.

The lower net surplus this year is in a sense very positive, as a great deal of maintenance work was carried out, some of it reactive, responding to weather events and equipment failures requiring replacement, but the majority related to improvements in our accommodation, general facilities and equipment (e.g new bread mixer, upright freezer and commercial food processor for the kitchen).

Our staff team is small, so to achieve this sort of result has taken a great deal of consistent and focused work, for which the Trust Board is most appreciative.

As we have pointed out in previous annual reports, the biggest issue for the Trust remains the same: how do we take care of our physical assets (land and buildings), maintaining them to the best possible standard within the restraints of income generated by Centre activities? And at a time when essential costs, after years of remaining static after the Global Financial Crisis, are on the move again, especially food costs.

### **How Did We Account For What We Did?**

The Trust has its annual accounts prepared by Business Like Accountants in Manukau each year, and these are made available on the Department of Internal Affairs Charities Services website before Christmas each year after the Trust has held its AGM, usually in late November or early December (the Trust's financial year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>). Other information about the Trust's activities are listed each year on that website, as well as our Trust Deeds. For the second year in a row, the Trust's accounts have been prepared in accordance with the new External Reporting Board (XRB) standards for tier 3 charitable organisations.

### What Do We Need in order to be Able to Continue What We Do?

Our biggest challenge is keeping up with maintenance of what we have. We don't have any grandiose plans to expand the Centre, but are keen to take excellent care of the facilities we already have, and to improve on them. Our depreciation schedule points to the ongoing costs of maintenance and replacement. Over the past year, we have undertaken major upgrades of bathroom facilities in our retreat chalet and one-bedroom cottage, and moving along our cycle of repainting buildings. The Trust's aim has always been - and remains - to be in surplus after depreciation at the end of each financial year.

### How can you help?

Become a regular donor. Those we have make a real difference, making it possible for us to replace equipment and upgrade our facilities. The Trust's bank account for donations is:

Kiwibank 38-9009-0271000-04

Bring your group to Tauhara, thereby creating the income that will aid its ongoing development and maintenance.

Come on a personal retreat or join a group retreat, helping to sustain our income flow.

Make a bequest in your will for Tauhara.

If you have enjoyed a visit or stayed at Tauhara, record that experience on social media (Tauhara has a Facebook page).

Come and help as a volunteer.

Organise a family gathering at Tauhara.

If you are a local Taupo person, come and join us on Volunteer Tuesdays, when we harvest firewood, look after the grounds, help in the kitchen, tidy our Library.

### Gratitude:

If there was one word that summed up how our Trust Board members feel about Tauhara, it is *gratitude*.

For the vision that inspires us to do all that *we* can to help Tauhara thrive.

For the Founders and early Trustees, for their commitment to a vision and purpose that almost all did not live to see manifested in the physical. We hold dear in particular Harriot and Robert Felkin, Reginald and Ruth Gardiner, John and Michael von Dadelszen, Charles McDowell, Ethelwynne Felkin.

For the succession of Trustees, Co-ordinators, staff and volunteers down the years whose dedication and hard work created the Centre that we hold dear today.

For the current staff so capably led by Tristan (Centre Co-ordinator), who is in his fifth year in the role, Gilma (Administrative Assistant), and our kitchen chef, Bridgett, who continues to produce tasty and nutritious dishes that delight our guests.

For the volunteers that continue to flow into Tauhara from all over the world, exploring their own consciousness and helping out in the kitchen, housekeeping, organic vege gardens and grounds.

For all the informal friends of Tauhara who continually think of this place, and who feel gratitude that it exists.

Tauhara Centre Trustees,  
November, 2017