

Tauhara Centre Trust

Annual Report for the Year Ending June 30th, 2018

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 three 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.

How did Tauhara Centre Trust come to 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 30th, 2018?

The last 12 months have seen a wonderful series of groups coming to stay, to learn and to deepen in their understanding of a particular spiritual practice or body of professional knowledge, thereby fulfilling the spirit and letter of our founding Trust Deed.

The following will help to give greater understanding of what does happen at Tauhara.

Community education (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 to orientate overseas students coming to stay with NZ families and to study in NZ; Wonder Voyage supervised group of teenagers from the USA exploring NZ as part of an international study tour)

Family gatherings (birthdays, weddings, wedding anniversaries)

Healing retreats (Healing Touch Practitioners' retreat; 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)

Health related education (Homoeobotanical retreat; Midwives Homebirth Conference; Stormie Lewis Cultural Bodywork training; Kate Magic Raw Food workshop; Aratika Cancer Trust Wellness and Healing retreat)

Meditation retreats (Diamond Approach; Self-realization Fellowship-Yogananda; Sri Chinmoy Meditation, the Secret to Happiness retreat; Ananda Yoga)

Personal development retreats (Psychodrama; Shine)

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

Professional education and training workshops (Family Therapy workshop)

Sport and recreation (Aikido Training and Grading seminar; Ballroom dancing; Seido Karate Instructors' training; Swing Dance Camp)

Universal spirituality: groups fostering interfaith understanding (Dances of Universal Peace-Heartdance with NZ leaders; Dance and Sufi teacher, Allaudin Ottinger from Kansas City, USA;

Women's Spirituality and Personal Development (Women's Well-Being retreats; Walking in Beauty, Living in Grace)

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

Yoga (Anahata Yoga annual retreat; Kara-Leah Grant Great Emptying Out retreat; Ji Living Yoga Meditation 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 80 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. One of them this year was an exclusively vegan wedding, allowing our cooks to display their depth of experience and knowledge in catering for this need. We also host annual musical performances, such as the evening concert with Sri Chinmoy professional spiritually focused musicians, and a Sound Journey evening with crystal bowls and gongs. Both of these last events attracted really good local audiences of 40+. And our series of Soul Food evenings bring good numbers of local people up for presentations and discussions of a wide range of topics, including environmental matters, numerology, meditation.

When Did We Do It?

Throughout the year, but more variable in timing this last 12 months compared with earlier years.

What has been the focus of the Trust Board in 2017/18?

After two good years in 2015/16 and 2016/17, which enabled the Trust to build up its reserves, the Board agreed to a big push in 2017/18 to deal with a wide range of projects that needed to be implemented, especially treework, upgrading of accommodation, and major issues that had been growing with stormwater drainage, septic drainage, and upgrading of flooring in public areas. With the Centre having opened in 1977, some 41 years ago now, greater investment has been made in the past year in restoration and improvement.

The following is a summary of the work that was undertaken.

Drainage around the Hall and Centre offices, which had been invaded by tree roots and was preventing the flow of stormwater into the large soak pit established back in 2008, was uplifted and replaced with sealed joints. Invasive vegetation was removed.

Septic drainage under Kereru Lodge, which had been invaded by opportunistic self-sown tree roots causing slow drainage, was replaced with larger diameter pipes to meet the new code, and vegetation removed.

The **chalet** was given a **new deck railing** to bring it up to code.

Porches were fitted to **sleep-outs** to give shelter to exposed doorways and windows.

Roof leaks around various buildings were tackled, with most being fixed and ongoing work planned for seepage that typically accompanies horizontal rain from the northeast, an old foe at Tauhara since its buildings were first opened.

Various **ranchsliders** around the Centre had new rollers, handles and fittings to make their use much easier and quieter.

Our very productive **compost-making 4-bin system**, which has become increasingly subject to the intrusion of too much rainwater, has been given **new covers** that have made an immediate, positive improvement in the quality of compost produced. Our gardens, vegetable and ornamental, plus the many fruit trees we have planted in the last 10 years, depend on our compost-making capacity, as we do not use artificial fertilisers.

Trees along our northeast boundary with our neighbour, including a couple of massive pines that had taken to shedding large limbs, were felled at a cost of just under \$12,000, and firewood retrieved.

A significant number of **replacement beds and mattresses** for our bunkrooms and self-contained accommodation, including three bed settees, were purchased.

The two **foyer bathrooms** in the Centre had **new flooring** installed, much to the delight of staff and visitors.

A **new Rheem Lazer hot water boiler** was purchased and installed in the Centre dining room.

New, **water-saving shower heads** and fittings were installed in staff accommodation.

A **new amplifier system** was purchased for group use, matched by the latest model Samsung large flat screen TV with USB and HDMI inputs donated by an appreciative, long term retreatant from Auckland.

New mobile whiteboards were purchased for group use in the main Centre meeting spaces.

Secure storage in the Hall was built to house our AV and other expensive equipment.

Our main **Centre kitchen** had a complete **repaint**, restoring it to its former glory.

Our **wifi system** was **upgraded** to give complete coverage of all meeting spaces and accommodation around the Centre.

Our **website** was **completely reviewed and upgraded** to the latest version of Joomla, giving staff greater ability to modify content.

Our **log-splitter** was **retro-fitted with greater safety features** making splitting easier on operators and less hazardous in terms of lifting and removal of firewood.

Our **Suzuki ute** had a **new clutch** fitted, after a great deal of hard work imposed on it by operating on our steep slopes retrieving firewood.

Health and Safety procedures have been under regular review, especially around keeping documentation and training of the stream of volunteers that flow through Tauhara Centre. This includes warnings around steep slopes and tracks that are popular with visitors and retreatants. Health and Safety has its own place on the agenda of all Trust Board meetings. Trustee Les Wraight has taken a leading role in this aspect of our operations.

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.

So what did this all cost, and what were the financial results for the 2017/18 year?

Total income in 2017/18 amounted to \$347,724 gross compared with \$352,983, so not far short of the previous year. Net income, after taking account of the cost of sales (basically, purchases for catering and foyer goods on sale) plus interest received, was \$288,467 in 2017/18 compared with \$296,965.

Costs, on the other hand, reflecting all the maintenance and upgrading that was carried out, amounted to \$280,655 compared with \$245,200 in the previous year.

Over-all result? A cash surplus (income less expenditure) of \$7,812 compared with \$51,765 in 2016/17. After depreciation of \$43,840, the result is a deficit of \$36,028 compared with \$1,040 surplus after depreciation of \$50,724.

Clearly, the Trust would love to be in surplus after depreciation every year, but with aging infrastructure, this is probably going to be an untypical result as it has been over many years of the Centre's operation. In the year ahead, 2018/19, the Board has already commissioned tree work with an estimated cost of \$30,000, dropping and processing eucalyptus trees bordering Mapara Road. Originally planted back in 1994 to provide firewood, these will become hazardous if left any longer, endangering traffic and visitors alike.

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 1st to June 30th). Other information about the Trust's activities are listed each year on that website, as well as our Trust Deeds. The Trust's accounts are prepared in accordance with the External Reporting Board (XRB) standards for tier 3 charitable organisations. The Trust Board has really appreciated the professional advice that we have received from Business Like, who manage to undertake their professional role in a supportive and friendly manner that enables us to understand and remain consistent with the accounting standards expected of us by both Charities Services, Department of Internal Affairs and the IRD.

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. We are in the process of displaying on our website and Facebook page a list of areas that we could really appreciate some help with, so if you would like to help us keep Tauhara Centre vital and relevant in a rapidly changing world, do contact us and we will send you a copy.

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 sixth year in the role, Gilma (Administrative Assistant), our kitchen chef, Bridgett, who continues to produce tasty and nutritious dishes that delight our guests, and our housekeeper, Julie, who leads a team of volunteers helping the Centre to shine.

For the cultural exchange 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,

December, 2018