

Tauhara Centre Trust

Annual Report for the Year Ending June 30th, 2016

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.

What Did We Do in the 12 Months to June 30th, 2016?

The last 12 months have been one of the busiest periods on record, which is 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 (e.g. Tauranga University of the Third Age exploring the Volcanic Plateau retreat)

Earth-based Spirituality (e.g. Aotearoa Journey retreat)

Education study camps (e.g. Study NZ gathering for overseas students studying in NZ; Malaysian High Commission retreat for Asian and other students in NZ)

Family gatherings (birthdays, weddings, wedding anniversaries)

Healing retreats (e.g. 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 and respite opportunities (e.g. Aratika Cancer Trust complementary medicine retreat-dietary and meditation practices; Stormie Lewis Cultural Bodywork training)

Meditation retreats (e.g. Diamond Approach, Kriya Yoga, Meditation Conference)

Personal development retreats (e.g. The Heart of Freedom-yoga and emotional therapy, Psychodrama, Authentic Voice retreat)

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

Religious organisational retreats for clergy and laity (e.g. Anglican Diocese of Waiapu)

Universal spirituality: groups fostering interfaith understanding (e.g. Dances of Universal Peace, One Light NZ gathering)

Sport and recreation (e.g., Aikido Training and Grading seminar)

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

Yoga (Great Emptying Out retreat, Anahata Yoga annual retreat, Wanderlust Yoga training retreat)

In addition, Tauhara provided a meeting space for local groups, such as walking groups, women in business, garden clubs. Weddings continue to grow in number, 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.

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 have been a year of great achievement in financial terms. Our total gross income rose from \$284,912 in 2014/15 to \$358,034, with expenditure (especially in the areas of accommodation and catering) rising from \$219,877 in the previous year to \$241,799. This produced a gross surplus of \$67,021 compared with \$24,902 in 2014/15, so *for the first time in recent memory, we have achieved a net surplus of \$15,575 after depreciation of \$51,446 has been taken into account.* Staff have worked hard to produce this result, and the Trust Board is most appreciative of their efforts.

The 5 year 3% interest loan for \$90,000 we took out in 2011 with the Bay Trust, to fund conversion of the Centre to solar water heating, and the installation of wet-backed fireplaces in the main kitchen, self-contained accommodation and staff quarters, has now been fully paid off.

As we have pointed out in previous annual reports, the biggest issue for the Trust remains the same: how do we take care of these assets, maintaining them to the best possible standard within the restraints of income generated by Centre activities?

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. For the first time, 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. With such a good financial year behind us, we are currently replacing major items of equipment in our kitchen, installing new shower facilities in our self-contained accommodation, 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) and Gilma (Administrative Assistant).

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, holding it dear in their hearts.

Tauhara Centre Trustees,
November, 2016