

## *Tauhara Centre Trust*

### *Annual Report for the Year Ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

#### **Introduction:**

At the close of yet another financial year, the Trustees of Tauhara Centre send their greetings to all the good folk who have brought their retreats, group and individual to the Centre, and all those who have had a connection with Tauhara over so many years. Although Aotearoa New Zealand has changed so much since the Centre opened back in 1977, when there was no such thing as the Internet nor social media, the Centre continues to serve many thousands of individuals coming on personal retreat, or participating in organised groups with an educational, spiritual, religious, recreational or personal growth purpose. It has also supported the work of other charitable organisations, who come to Tauhara for their self-renewal, reflection and planning. In March, 2027, we will celebrate 50 years of service to the NZ community.

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

The Tauhara Centre Trust Board has five Trustees - Catherine Grace (appointed 27/11/12); Gilma Orozco, Minute Secretary (appointed 23/05/20); Leslie (Les) Wraight (appointed 11/11/13); Louise Belcher, Chairperson (appointed 19/08/95); and Stephen Grace, Secretary/Treasurer (appointed 19/12/07). Louise Belcher resides in Auckland, and the other four Trustees all live in Taupo. Two of the current Trustees are past Co-ordinators, and three are working Trustees forming a Leadership Team at 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 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, may enjoy what our Founders established so long ago.

### **Financial Results for the Year 2023/24:**

After the challenging earlier years of the COVID epidemic and our gradual recovery from it, we are happy to report that for the second year in a row, we have managed to achieve a surplus, this time \$26,139 *after depreciation* amounting to \$35,319. It has taken a lot of hard work on the part of a small band of staff, sometimes very thin on the ground due to the fluctuating availability of mainly overseas volunteers (Wwoofers).

The 2023/24 financial accounts may be viewed on the Charities website by pasting into your browser (e.g. Google) search window the following link:

<https://register.charities.govt.nz/CharitiesRegister/ViewCharity?accountId=6c05a075-7c3b-dd11-84f2-0015c5f3da29&redirectUrl=https%253A%252F%252Freg>

## **Who Are the people Who Came to Tauhara Centre 2023-2024?**

Despite the lingering effects of the pandemic, the last 12 months have still 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. There has been a great combination of groups that have been bringing their retreats to Tauhara over many years, who still find it the right place for their purpose, and new ones that are either starting out or gathering strength. One of the stand-out themes is the increasing number of groups from the Maori community bringing their hui to the Centre, including tertiary education providers offering indigenous education and training, marae hui, etc.

### **Analysis of Retreats Held in 2023/24:**

The year 2023/24 saw a total of 1,305 people participating in 48 organised retreats, the majority for a weekend or longer, participation ranging from 8 to 139, and a number of day-long events. In addition, there were many personal retreatants, coming to stay for individual time-out retreats to decompress from busy lives.

### **Education**

Anthroposophical Society of NZ Conference

Astrology Training Retreat

Constellations and Internal Family Systems training

Department of Conservation: wild animal contractors workshop

GNS staff day seminar

Homeobotanical Conference

Kundalini Yoga training

Midwives Self-Care Conference

Pasifika Cultural Group

Rise Yoga: professional yoga teacher trainings (3)

Safeguarding Children Training

Steiner Winter Festival

Study NZ (overseas students, mainly from Europe, orientation to Aotearoa NZ before travelling to host families)

Taekwon-Do NZ: training for senior practitioners/instructors

Tu Mau Mana Moana: professional development for Pasifika staff in the Public Service

Women Writing Away: writing retreats for academic women teachers from tertiary institutions (4)

Youth Leadership Training: New Settlers Family and Community Trust

### **Health and Healing:**

Aratika Cancer Trust: wellness retreat for cancer survivors (good nutrition, meditation, coping strategies)

Mindfulness and Self-Love: retreat for women emerging from trauma

Reiki Practitioners annual retreat

Wellness Day Seminar

Wellness Fair: 2-day open forum with practitioners from diverse approaches to well-being

### **Personal Development:**

Co-counselling retreats (2)

Diamond Approach (2)

Franchelle: HypnoSuccess training

Journey of the Heart

Love Heals workshop

Sisterhood Retreats

Space Yoga

Women's retreat

### **Religious / Spiritual:**

Carolyn Roberts Australian travelling retreat: visiting sacred sites in the greater Taupo District

Dance Camp Aotearoa

Dances of Universal Peace Leaders' retreats (2)

Higher Consciousness retreat

Nectar of Blessing: Dances of Universal Peace annual retreat

Sacred Aotearoa (visiting sacred sites in the greater Taupo District)

Self-Realization Fellowship: annual retreat for followers of the teachings of Paramahansa Yogananda

Sri Sathya Sai service organisation: annual retreat for devotees of Sai Baba

Silent Meditation Retreat (Radha)

Tikanga Maori retreats/events run by Te Hapori Ora, including Matariki celebration

Vedanta Ramakrishna (making meditation non-religious and readily available to all)

Yoga in Daily Life: retreat for practitioners

In addition, Tauhara provided a gathering space for a wide range of local groups (e.g; Steiner pre-school education lantern festival - around 80 children and parents), who find the spacious walking spaces and gardens, the peaceful atmosphere and the delicious catering that our kitchen offers, a real drawcard. We also hosted musical performance events of various kinds, usually associated with particular spiritual paths and teachings, or to offer people deeply relaxing and reflective experiences.

### **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 typically 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 is listed each year on that website, as well as our own website ([www.tauharacentre.org.nz](http://www.tauharacentre.org.nz)). 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 again 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 (NZ Department of Internal Affairs) and the IRD.

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

As mentioned in previous annual reports, our biggest challenge is keeping up with the 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.

### **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. We are happy to provide a receipt for any amount over \$5.

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.

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, maintain and organise our Library.

### Gratitude:

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

For the vision that inspires us to do all that *we* can to help Tauhara thrive, and to pass it on in good spirits to the upcoming generations.

To 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 team who do all the liaison and organising with group organisers and individual retreatants, continue to produce tasty and nutritious dishes that delight our guests, our housekeeping crew who work so hard to help the Centre shine, and those who work in our beautiful grounds and building maintenance.

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

Tauhara Centre Trustees,  
November, 2024