

Tauhara Centre Trust
Annual Report for the Year Ending June 30th, 2015

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.

How Did Tauhara Centre Trust Come To Exist?

The Trust was originally formed as the Mount Tauhara Estate Trust 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 the second world war inexorably approached. 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 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.

What Did We Do in the 12 Months to June 30th, 2015?

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:

Christian retreats: organisational retreats for clergy and laity, Anglican Diocese of Waiapu,

Community education: Tauranga University of the Third Age

Educational training retreats: pre-school and childcare training with Pennie Brownlee, Sacred Urge to Play Conference, academic women writing retreats -"Women Writing Away", a holiday study retreat for young people from overseas studying in NZ

Family Trust gathering - LSPS, other extended family private gatherings

Healing retreats: Canteen Camp for teenagers dealing with cancer, Magnetic Healers biennial retreat, Medicine Woman annual retreat featuring the study and use of NZ flower essences and shamanic journeying, Reiki Practitioners' annual gathering, Augustine Fellowship retreat

Local Community Activities: Tauhara has provided a meeting space for local groups and regular activities, such as "Cutting Edge" evenings offering video presentations on a wide range of topics, followed by discussion; Dances of Universal Peace; free meditation seminars (Sri Chinmoy); a lantern festival for a local Steiner kindergarten; Police Youth Programme to support Maori youth at risk, plus a local Iwi initiative for youth development; Solstice sweatlodges; an evening mediumship healing demonstration with Jeanette Wilson; EnviroSchools day workshop for local students; weekly drumming and meditation evenings; visiting Tibetan doctor/healer evening; local garden club tour and talk

Meditation retreats: Diamond Approach, Kriya Yoga, Kriyananda

Personal development retreats: Innerwise retreat, Living Intuition retreat, Living Your Life's Dream, Psychodrama

Social Services hui: Regional Youth Workers' gathering

Sport and Recreation: Aikido Training and Grading seminar, Mountain Bike group

Trust sponsored activities: Working Bees, Tauhara Christmas and New Year Gathering - ChrissieFest

Universal Spirituality: groups fostering understanding among the many paths of belief and practice e.g. Dances of Universal Peace, One Light NZ gathering, International Spiritualist Alliance Spiritual Rendezvous, Sacred Light Journey

Weddings: A growing trend has been providing a venue for weddings, with Tauhara's beautiful, peaceful grounds and outlook over the Lake and township drawing people from many different parts of the country, as well as overseas. This year it included part of the Tauhara extended family, with the marriage of a young woman who spent part of her life growing up at the Centre

Women's retreats: annual winter gathering for local women, School of the Feminine Divine

Yoga: Anahata Yoga annual retreat, Astanga Yoga workshop, Yoga Breath retreat

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?

Our total expenditure for the year was \$219,877 funded from a total net income of \$244,779 (up from 228,622 in the previous year) received for accommodation, catering, donations and sales. This produced an encouraging surplus of \$24,902 (compared with \$12,644 year ending June, 2014) and after depreciation of \$54,845 the Trust showed an over-all loss of \$30,080 (compared with \$43,523 in 2014).

A major factor in this book loss is 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. At a total cost of around \$20,000 per year for principal repayments and monthly interest, this will continue to influence our annual accounts until the end of June, 2016. However, the good news is that we have only 7 months of the loan now to run.

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?

We do have some specific projects currently under way:

New firewood plantations to take the place of trees currently being felled to keep the Centre warm and cosy during our nippy Taupo winters, and with 9 fireplaces, this is a substantial need.

Improved wheelchair access: we are keen to upgrade our facilities to provide better access in general for people with disabilities. We wish to convert one of our existing bunkroom units for this purpose, with direct access into a disabilities bathroom in the next door bathroom. The estimated cost of this is \$25,000 - \$30,000.

Road repairs: the Centre driveways are now in need of substantial repairs.

Any assistance we can be given with these would be deeply appreciated by the Trust.

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 in summarised form before Christmas each year (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.

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, but it will not be until the year ending June 30th, 2017, when the loan for our solar water heating has been paid off, that we will make serious inroads into that over-all result after depreciation. 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.

Our Trust account for donations is: Kiwibank 38-9009-0271000-04

Please include your name and the word Donation

Please make a donation towards our disability access project.

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

Make a substantial donation to help us pay off our solar conversion loan earlier.

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 in 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 deeply respect, in particular, Harriot and Robert Felkin, Reginald and Ruth Gardiner, John and Michael von Dadelszen, Charles McDowell, Ethelwyn Felkin.

For the succession of Trustees, 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, helping out in the kitchen, housekeeping, organic vege gardens and grounds, while having the opportunity to explore their own consciousness and beliefs.

To all those facilitators who bring their retreats to Tauhara each year without fail, providing the Centre with a steady stream of income vital to our financial planning.

And to all those groups who try us for the first time, giving us the opportunity to show how the Centre may be of service to them.

For all the informal friends of Tauhara who continually think of this place, holding it dear in their hearts.

Tauhara Centre Trustees,
November, 2015