



## **Hillary House Leadership Centre Trust**

### **Annual Report April 2019 – March 2020**

**Presented at the digital/Zoom AGM  
7pm, Monday 11 May 2020**

#### **From the Chair**

The annual report is a positive opportunity for us to share with our public the events, milestones and challenges of the past year. Having strengthened our Trust through the appointment of new trustees in early 2019, we have been able to share the load to improve our communications and marketing, engagement with schools and our financial capability.

Over the past year our three areas of strategic focus have shown growth and development. The highlight was joining with national and international organisations to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Sir Edmund Hillary (July 20, 1919). The Chair and trustees gathered with these organisations at Parliament with the Hillary family for an official function hosted by the Prime Minister. It was a significant milestone for Hillary House as we were able to raise our profile and create some lasting relationships to work more closely together with other trusts who are focussed on Sir Ed's legacy.

On Saturday 20 July, Sir Ed's actual birthday, the Trust also organised an event at Hillary House. A 'mini Mount Everest' of snow, along with an open home, was widely reported on national and international media. Members of the Hillary family also participated.

#### **Student Leader and Seniors Visiting Programme**

Significant growth has been achieved in our Student Leader Visiting Programme. With the support of a small grant from Otara-Papatoetoe Local Board, we were able to contract Hillary Helper and Education Facilitator, Bernadette Phillips to execute the administration required to bring small groups of student leaders to the House. After making contact with 32 schools in the Papatoetoe/Otara Board area, Bernadette and the Chair facilitated 12 student leader workshops for approximately 320 young student leaders and their teachers at the House. Feedback from these workshops reinforced that coming to Hillary House has a significant impact on young people, builds knowledge about Sir Ed and is a very meaningful experience in their leadership development.

This also applies to our seniors. Hillary House helper, Christine Foley and the Chair facilitated six visits from retirement villages enabling our senior community to enjoy the House. Every time senior visitors come to Hillary House they share their memories of Sir Ed and how they have been affected

by him in their lives. An additional benefit was when some of our senior groups unexpectedly joined with the student leaders in a shared overlapping workshop, leading to extraordinarily rich inter-generational engagement, and ongoing opportunities for seniors and students alike.

## **Branding and Marketing**

Growth in traffic to our website [www.hillaryhouse.nz](http://www.hillaryhouse.nz) and social media has been encouraging, given the voluntary nature of our endeavours. Bringing marketing expertise to the trust has seen improvements in streamlining our website and more timely social media engagement. Hillary Helper and Marketing Communicator Christine Foley has also continued to work with the Chair in the production of regular e-newsletters, circulated to our growing database three times this year. David Camacho, manager of YourWeb, continues his great voluntary support for our site – but we are aware this is not sustainable in the longer term.

An ongoing communication challenge remains to raise awareness that Sir Ed's home has been relocated into the grounds of Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate in Otara. The general public, and some of the Hillary organisations, still do not have a good knowledge of what has been achieved here over the past ten years.

## **Events**

Aside from the centenary events, Hillary House again participated in the Auckland Heritage Festival on 10 October with an open home and the storyboard exhibition. The theme was *Sir Ed's Antarctica* and we produced four new storyboards in collaboration with Tamaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum. They been an invaluable partner in the research required to launch these exhibitions and curator Sean Higgins is deeply committed to our cause. With help from Peter Burt, our brand designer, our storyboards have become an incredible resource for the visiting programmes now and will be in the future.

At our event renowned New Zealand photographer Jane Ussher, also shared insights of her recently launched book *Hillary's Antarctica*. For one of our trustees, Connie Miller, Sir Ed's birthday had a special significance as she was joined at Hillary House by her father, Bob Pinker, an Antarctic veteran.

Visitors were also able to see artwork created by Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate pupils in a shared programme of collaboration with Auckland Art Gallery senior curator Sarah Hillary, Sir Ed's daughter. We are indebted to the students' goodwill in offering their artworks as fundraising for Hillary House.

We acknowledge and thank Bluesky Trust and Pub Charity for small grants towards the design, printing and installation of the 2019 exhibition now remaining on display at Hillary House. Along with Z Energy Central and Snow Planet and our Rotary volunteer marshals, we have created new memories.

Our major fundraiser for 2019 was the Gibbs Sculpture Farm event on Thursday 27 November. In this stunning setting we were able to raise some much-needed funds and appreciated the support received from our friends, family and whanau who purchased tickets to support us, thereby helping to boost our financial situation. We are indebted to the trustees of the Gibbs Sculpture Farm for enabling our trust to build our ongoing vision through our Visiting Programmes.

## Engagement with other organisations

It has been heartening to see continuance of the partnership between Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate and the **Antarctic Heritage Trust** in their Inspiring Explorers programme. We were delighted to have Year 13 student leaders Mele Fetui and Lana Kiddie-Vai, who had been selected as the inaugural student participants, speak at our AGM in May 2019. At an event in December they returned to the House to support the newly chosen student participants for 2020, and we also acknowledge our trustee Shauna Eldridge, who was chosen as the SEHC teacher for the 2020 expedition to Antarctica. In February, Hillary House was again used by AHT for expedition training for this programme, also welcoming the Hillary family during the weekend.

Trustees also supported **The Himalayan Trust** celebration of Sir Ed's centenary by attending their gala dinner in July.

We continued in the early part of the year to work with the **Rising Foundation** to build upon the leadership visits of late 2018 but changes to the programme meant this engagement was not able to be advanced as well as in the previous year.

## Acknowledgements

Our partnership with Karcher NZ Ltd and Total Property Services (TPS) is part of the Karcher's international programme cleaning Buildings of National Significance. We are indebted for this significant sponsorship of an outside and inside clean of Hillary House twice a year. In particular, we thank Mike Roberts, Karcher CEO, who has been our staunch ally in this programme and wish him well in his new position. We look forward to building relationships with their new team, and our next clean in due course. Meantime, the Trust looks toward establishing more clarity with the SEHC Board about responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of Hillary House, with support from the Ministry of Education. This will be an important challenge for 2020.

We acknowledge the support of the Board of Trustees of SEHC and it has been heartening to welcome some of them to Hillary House events in the past year. Their support and engagement is fundamental to the vision for Hillary House.

Other supporters this year have included strategic facilitator Jess Keating, and management consultant Una Ryan assisting us with our strategic planning again; our Hillary Helpers Bernadette and Christine; Olivia Cody-Matheson our Duke of Edinburgh Hillary gold award student who continued to assist with administration help until she left for tertiary study in February and our departing trustee Gerschen Van Niekerk, who resigned in December after taking up a new position at a different school. Gerschen was a cheerful and reliable supporter who has given much time and commitment to the Trust over the past four years. We wish him well also in his new education position. As the annual year concluded we welcomed Iokapeta Magele-Suamasi to the trust who brings wonderful links with the local Otara community along with a background in the visual arts.

As the year concluded we faced an unprecedented and unpredictable world event with the unfortunate arrival of Covid-19 in Aotearoa /New Zealand. This has led to the closure of all public buildings, including schools and businesses, with an uncertain future ahead, including Hillary House. With very stringent public health requirements and guidelines being promulgated it will be some

time before we can look to the re-opening of Hillary House for the public and students. It will be a journey of Everest scale for us all to climb out of the setbacks this has created but in the spirit of working together, in due course, we will top the mountain again.

The AGM provides also the opportunity to thank and acknowledge the work of the trustees who give of their time voluntarily to advance our vision for the future at Hillary House. Thank you to all.

Nga mihi

**Trustees**

Robin Houlker, Chair  
Shauna Eldridge  
Kallie Ngakuru-Syder  
Connie Miller  
Gail Thompson  
Gerschen Van Niekerk

**Hillary Helpers**

Olivia Cody-Matheson  
Christine Foley  
Bernadette Phillips

Robin Houlker, Chair

**Hillary House Leadership Centre Trust**

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