



Hillary House Leadership Centre Trust

Annual Report April 2018 – March 2019

Presented at the AGM 29 May 2019
(66th anniversary of the ascent of Mt Everest)

From the Chair

We come together on the 66th anniversary of the ascent of Mt Everest reflecting upon some considerable milestones and steps reached in the past year at Hillary House Leadership Centre. It has been again another significant and very busy year. The very good news is that we started the new calendar year with the arrival of three new trustees. This effective power has been a huge boost for our Trust albeit that our [new trustees](#) - Connie Miller, Tim Woolfield and Kathryn Harvey - only officially took up their roles in late January. Each of these trustees brings specific skills much needed by Hillary House, and we look ahead to a year in which our marketing and IT development, fundraising endeavours and financial accountabilities are strengthened.

Our strategic planning session in May 2018 reconfirmed our focus on three key areas for development of activity in Hillary House. These are growth of our Student Leader and Seniors Visiting Programme; brand development and marketing; and engagement with national and international organisations focused on Sir Ed's legacy. All of this is underpinned by a search for funding for paid personnel to support these initiatives.

Growth of Student Leader and Seniors Visiting Programme

Student Leaders: we have been dedicated to building the Student Leader Visiting programme, including seeking funding to enable this growth as it requires the people resources to facilitate the visits, which are workshop focused. Young student leaders have the chance to learn about the vision for Hillary House in a presentation about the journey of the House, as it is a wonderful way to reinforce how important it is to set goals, have persistence and never, never give up. This is followed by a tour of the House where they learn more about Sir Ed and his legacy, while also workshopping ideas on leadership and goal setting.

We were unsuccessful in our 2018 application to Sir John Logan Campbell Residuary Estate to support more Student Leader Visiting and we have therefore had less groups through in the second half of last year. However, a small grant from Otara Papatoetoe Local Board at the end of 2018 has enabled us to plan for more of these visits in their local Board area up till June 2019. By utilising the expertise of education consultant and Hillary Helper, Bernadette Philips, whose strong background in education means she has been able to engage quickly with schools, our 2019–2020 programme looks stronger. We would add that this can only be maintained if we receive the funding being sought for her to continue.

Meantime, organisations such as the Rising Foundation have found great value in bringing their student and team leaders for workshops here. The feedback has been very positive and more than 50 young leaders from the Rising Foundation came through Hillary House in the latter part of 2018.

Other student groups have been drawn from Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate (SEHC): class captains, Young Leo's and a group of YWCA Future Leaders students from SEHC. The local Kahui Ako Community of Learning group of teachers started to come here for meetings in March.

Seniors: in the past year visiting groups remained a key focus, it brings a different age group and an income stream to the House. These visitors delight in seeing our storyboard exhibitions and Hillary memorabilia and our documents. There were not as many visits as in 2017 due to the Chair being engaged with other priorities, notably website development and our first open day, but there is progress looking ahead to 2019–2020. The Chair spoke to a group of 22 at the Meadowbank Village in July, and this was followed by a visit on 2nd August.

As part of meeting mandatory Health and Safety requirements we also spent many hours working on the development of RAMS (Risk Assessment Management Strategy) and SAMs (Safety Assessment Management plan) ably assisted by our Hillary Helpers Bernadette Phillips and Christine Foley. This work is now on our website for visitors to complete.

Growth in awareness, branding and marketing

We have been delighted, and are indebted, to David Camacho Baron, GM of YourWeb company, who has contributed significant expertise over the past year assisting with the establishment of our website and continuing to support us, without funding. The launch of www.hillaryhouse.nz in September, just before the Auckland Heritage Festival, was a significant milestone. This was achieved by your Chair, along with marketer and Hillary Helper, Christine Foley, through days of writing, editing and proofreading to get to launch. It can be seen from the analytics that our website traffic continues to grow each month, and it has been fascinating to note that 50% of the traffic is regularly from countries other than NZ. Our Facebook page also showed some growth. An [e-newsletter](#) has been established and our database continues to grow, offering a chance for supporters, the Hillary family, sponsors, seniors, corporates, trusts and possible funders to know of our activities, milestones and events.

Events

The highlight of our year was the successful selection of Hillary House to participate in the Auckland Heritage Festival in October with an open day and exhibition. The festival focus: *Our People, Our Stories* was a fitting beginning for this engagement with the public. We decided to introduce large, themed photographic storyboards about Sir Ed's life and legacy in the House, which could then be regularly changed as we offer other activities and events in the future.

With the support of Auckland Museum and its curator Shaun Higgins in particular, Peter Burt, our brand designer, along with our Hillary Helpers we were proud to launch our four 1m x 1.4m themed storyboards: *Early Years, Peter Hillary Explorer, To the Ends of the Earth* and *Expeditions*. These have been a significant and uplifting addition in the House and we will continue to store and use them as new exhibitions open. We were delighted to receive some funding from the BlueSky Trust towards costs associated with the printing and installation of these large storyboards.

On the Open Day on Saturday 8 October, we were ably supported by Hillary Helper Christine Foley, who project managed the day. Other supporters included our trustees, Denise Sutton, an inaugural pupil of SEHC; Olivia Cody- Matheson, our Duke of Edinburgh/Hillary Award student helper from Baradene College; and volunteer marshals from Rotary Downtown.

Sarah Hillary also joined us for the day and her generosity in sharing information about Sir Ed and family experiences with our visitors was very much appreciated. In the spirit of the event, Sarah wore a Nepalese dress that had belonged to her mother, Lady Louise.

Our participation in the heritage event enabled some growth in awareness of Hillary House, and we look ahead to developing new displays, as we focus on the centenary of Sir Ed's birth on 20 July 2019. The trustees spent time in the first three months of this year planning towards the centenary celebrations and considering our focus. It was agreed that we would focus on a mini Mt Everest physical experience for young people by having snow dumped outside Hillary House, followed by an open home when new storyboards focused on Sir Ed's Antarctica will be installed.

Engaging with national and international groups focused on Sir Edmund Hillary's legacy

Reaching out to work alongside other organisations that support Sir Ed's legacy began in 2017 and it has been very positive. Recently we welcomed the new CEO of the Himalayan Trust, John Loof, and we are getting behind their initiatives for the celebration of the centenary of Sir Ed's birth.

During the year we also reached out to the Antarctic Heritage Trust (AHT), which resulted in a wonderful formal agreement (MoU) with SEHC to enable the inclusion two of their senior students in the AHT *Inspiring Explorers* expedition for young leaders to Antarctica in February. Accompanied by Olympic kayaker, Mike Dawson, this initiative generated considerable media attention and quite a bit of that was filmed or occurred at Hillary House. This opportunity reflects the vision to establish Hillary House in the grounds of SEHC, thereby enabling young people in the school to grow leadership and be part of inspirational experiences. It was also gratifying that one of the recipients from the 300 applicants for the *Inspiring Explorers* programme this year was Alex Hillary, Sir Ed's grandson.

The AHT also used Hillary House as the base for their training weekend for these young leaders before the expedition, and we look ahead to building this relationship, including their generous offer to share resources such as digital material and photos for our forthcoming events. Tonight, we welcome as our guest presenters the SEHC recipients of this incredible opportunity, Mele Fetu'u and Lana Kiddie-Vai.

Another potential initiative for SEHC is an art project with Sarah Hillary and the Auckland Art Gallery. Students will be invited to decorate some of the parquet tiles which were previously on the kitchen floor of the House. It is hoped that as the project develops that some of the tiles could be sold to support our fundraising efforts. The overall outcome of this project will be reported next year, but the initiative is another example of the possibilities for young people through being engaged with Hillary House.

Relationships with the directors of Edmund Hillary Clothing, Mike and Clare Hall-Taylor, were established in February. This company is developing a new brand of outdoor clothing carrying Sir Ed's name. Mike and Clare were very impressed when they met with the Chair at the House and were most interested in what has been achieved to date.

We have also linked with the Hillary Centenary Steering Committee which is spearheading celebrations for Sir Ed's forthcoming birth centenary in July, chaired by Clive Gibson from the University of Waikato.

Rotary Club Downtown Auckland became wonderful friends and supporters following a presentation in mid 2018. Led by Phillip Caughey and Miles Cain, their support can be seen in the practical help offered with small outstanding maintenance. Their members also supported us as marshals on our Open Day in October – thank you.

Both local and international teacher groups have visited the House in the past year; Otara Principals Association held meetings in the House; a group of Chilean teachers in New Zealand as part of the English Open Doors programme at the University of Waikato's Pathway College; and a group of Early Childhood Leadership teachers.

Activities of the Chair

As your Chair, I have represented the trust at various meetings including one held for voluntary organisations to meet with the Institute of Directors, and University of Auckland Leadership Centre to discuss the challenges of Chairs in voluntary organisations. The recurring theme was the need by all charities for more funding support (and less hurdles) to enable staff and people resources – it is the hardest thing to find funding for people resource.

Presentations given included speaking to various service and community groups including Rotary Downtown, Rotary Devonport and Eilerslie Probus. I continue to be passionate about sharing the vision and the ongoing goals of Hillary House with any group who wants to learn more.

Future challenges

While reaching out to other organisations, we are always conscious of the need to be on top of the long-term maintenance of Hillary House. We could not maintain it without the incredible sponsorship of Karcher NZ and their contractor, Total Property Services (TPS). Karcher continue to provide us with a twice-yearly clean, both inside and out, drawing upon their staff to do the work, and TPS similarly clean our roof.

The recent outcome of this work and their observations has resulted in a huge challenge, as a leak in the roof has been identified. It appears from their observations and photographic evidence that there are a number of holes in the roof. They have recommended that the roof needs to be replaced. Thank you to Mike Roberts, Karcher CEO and the TPS team – we cannot keep up all the maintenance without your help, and are grateful that all the recent work to sort out what was happening in the roof has been done pro bono.

In a quieter space, significant administration help was offered in the past year by Olivia Cody Matheson – Duke of Edinburgh/Hillary Award Gold level student – who turned up to help the Chair with filing, notices, research and general administration throughout the year. Olivia's cheerful manner and can-do personality was needed at crucial times when the emails and To Do list got very long. We wish her well as she completes her final year of secondary school study and for the tertiary studies ahead.

It has been a very busy and challenging year, however we are confident that Hillary House is well positioned to see significant growth in its vision in the next few years. Greater financial support will be pivotal for this growth, which is people focused. We need to fund an education facilitator and a general manager at the house soon in order to build on the traction already gained.

We continue to update and streamline our processes in line with current legislation and best practice, including monthly trustee meetings, and we remain committed to the digital and IT growth after we have found funding for basic requirements.

We can announce that Hillary House has been selected as a charity recipient for a fundraising event at the Gibbs Sculpture Farm in November (mark the date Friday 22 November.) It will be a relief to have some untagged monies after this event, but we cannot wait that long and will need to exhaust every avenue to boost our financial situation. As numbers grow both in our visiting programme and our events, we remain confident that Sir Ed's legacy found in here in the House will continue to have a ripple effect.

Our visitors book currently is a physical one, and in time no doubt we will have digital sign in, and better recording. However, we are proud to share that the number of visitors to Hilary House in the past year has exceeded 300.

Acknowledgements

The AGM is an appropriate time to acknowledge trustees, both current and past. This year I want to thank Michelle Tierney in particular for ably steering the Trust through an updating of our trust deed, and we were sorry to lose her as a trustee due to other demands. Also, we acknowledge and thank Peter Houlker for his accounting and financial services to our Trust over last three years. We have now been able to pass these responsibilities on to our new trustee, Tim Woolfield. Again, Peter's contribution has always been pro bono and he continues to pay for our accounting server Xero until we can find the funds. Consultant facilitator Jessie Keating, helps us with our strategic planning meeting each year and we are grateful for this – staying focussed on our strategic plan is key to an organisation as stretched as we are.

The SEHC Board of Trustees and Executive Principal, Kallie Ngakuru-Syder, are warmly thanked and acknowledged for their ongoing quiet support with the power and water costs, along with caring for the lawns.

Our current trustees have worked extremely hard over the past year as we have met new milestones. We recognise that we are all working in other jobs and roles, and Hillary House could not function and grow its activities without this huge voluntary contribution. In particular, Hillary Helpers, Christine Foley and

Bernadette Phillips, have been outstanding in the amount of work they have contributed to enable our Visiting Programme to operate.

Trustees

Robin Houlker, Chair
Shauna Eldridge
Kallie Ngakuru-Syder
Michelle Tierney
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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Links:

www.sehc.school.nz
www.himalayantrust.org
www.antarcticheritagetrust.org.nz
www.edmundhillary.com
www.creativenz.govt.nz/news/sir-ed-s-centenary-1919-2019
www.kaercher.com/nz/
www.tps.co.nz



Pic 1 School leaders, with Bernadette Phillips left



Pic 2 Gail Thompson & Sarah Hillary



Pic 3 Chilean teachers, with Robin Houlker, trustees Shauna Eldridge & Gerschen Van Niekerk



Pic 4 Denise Sutton & Olivia Cody-Matheson



Pic 5 Development of the Hillary House brand



Pic 6 Seniors, with Christine Foley left