



## **Hillary House Leadership Centre Trust**

**Annual Report 2017 – March 2018**

**Presented at the AGM 29 May 2018  
(65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ascent of Mt Everest)**

### **Report from the Chair**

We note this is a historic and appropriate day for us to come together for our annual meeting. It is the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ascent of Everest so how fitting it is to be here in the home of that great mountaineer and adventurer Sir Edmund Hillary. Tonight is also an opportunity for us to reflect on this through the eyes of Michael Gill, our special guest and author of the recently published biography about Sir Ed. The planning for this event here in Hillary House has been a deliberate one which will see the Trust celebrating Sir Ed' and Tensing Norgay's achievement on or around this date while at the same time bringing us into better alignment with our annual reporting requirements as our financial year now finishes on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Therefore, this year's annual report is a slightly shorter one as it covers only eight months to date.

It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report for the Hillary House Leadership Centre. Having taken up the role of Chair following the annual meeting last September 2017, I have had a strong focus on streamlining some of our constitutional and fiduciary requirements while also addressing the infrastructure needs as we move forward. I have been often reminded of Sir Ed's mantra, "Life's a bit like mountaineering – never look down" taking one step slowly at a time will lead us to our eventual goal as we continue to face our challenges.

Part of the streamlining has also included revisiting our strategic plan goals in March under the guidance of an independent facilitator Jessie Keating. We reconsidered the objectives of the trust and its identity along with deeper consideration about what changes might need to be made to the structure of our trust given current resourcing. We have well and truly met one of the key objectives of the trust which was to relocate and restore the former house of Sir Edmund Hillary onto the grounds of Sir Edmund Collegiate College in Otara and as this report will outline we are well into a visiting programme where those coming are feeling that they are engaging with an important part of New Zealand's history - a second objective. A further objective is to develop leadership and motivational programmes and to this end the report will outline the links which are being made with leadership programmes for young people, while at the same time considering how the house links to national and international endeavours which reflect the legacy of Sir Ed.

One of the outcomes of our strategic planning session was identifying that the trust itself will require some alterations to meet the above objectives so we are now in a formal process where amendments to the deed will enable us to further meet our aspirations and objectives – in particular, being able to bring much needed wider skill sets to the Trust Board.

A further issue identified last year was that we wished to position Hillary House more strategically with our public, and this included branding. Personally, this has been a key focus for me and I am delighted to formally show you tonight our new logo developed by Peter Burt. As a result of the logo being confirmed by the trustees recently, our website is well underway with the support of David Baron. Both these people have contributed significant time, energy and skills pro-bono and we are hugely grateful for their enthusiasm and expertise. Having a website is fundamental for any organisation however it is not one of the easiest things to find funding for and we are indebted to those who are driving these initiatives. It will make it easier for people to learn about, and engage with, Hillary House while at the same time we can grow our social media platform. Another person who has been important in the positioning of the House to our public has been a Hillary Helper (our term for those providing on-going voluntary assistance) Christine Foley, who has shared her expertise by developing our database and recently ensuring our first e-newsletter has been distributed to our funders, supporters and visitors.

### **Resourcing/Visiting Programme**

Goal three of our strategic plan is about resourcing the work /visiting programme which currently is being carried out by the Chair with some support from trustees when they can (most of our trustees are in full time employment). This focus has been to continue presentations about the journey of Hillary House from Remuera to Otara to community groups, such as Rotary, which can offer helpful links for us to grow both visits to Hillary House as well as engage with their youth leadership programmes. At the same time Rotary members have individually stepped up to support us with ideas for fundraising. The Chair has presented to Rotary Downtown, Rotary Penrose, Rotary Devonport in the past four months. These presentations have also taken place with our senior citizens as we seek to grow the visiting programme which brings income to the trust, while also linking people back to the heritage here – these groups have included; Sir Edmund Hillary Retirement Village (presentation September, visit October 2017); Probus Epsom/Royal Oak (presentation November 2017, visit April 2018), Grace Joel (presentation November 2017, visit February 2018) and more are planned. The stories and connections with Sir Ed and his endeavours shared by our senior visitors have been fascinating and are contributing to our archives here.

School leadership groups such as prefects and senior leaders also remain a key focus of our visiting programme and again presentations via personal connection have been the most successful connections whilst our website is underway. Presentations about the journey of the house and discussions about leadership have been held for St Thomas Primary School, Campbells Bay Primary School, Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate senior and junior prefects, One Tree Hill College Interact Youth leadership group.

Discussions have been held with organisations who are already offering leadership development to young people with the intention that they learn about the opportunities here at Hillary House while we explore overlap and shared collegiality with these groups. We can report that personnel/members from the Lions Club of Otara/ Papatoetoe, Leos (Collegiate), YWCA Future Leaders programme, John Walker Field of Dreams Foundation, Rotary Penrose Interact Youth Group, the Rising Foundation, and MATES programme have either visited or are regularly coming here for meetings or for part of their leadership programmes. The young people also offer us useful perspectives about what is needed here going forward.

This coming year we will continue to work alongside these groups, growing connections to ensure that Hillary House is fully utilised by them. In all cases young people are in awe of being in the

home of Sir Ed, interested in the history that is here and keen to develop their knowledge about Sir Edmund Hillary and his legacy, particularly in Nepal. Reciprocal relationships and opportunities are starting to occur also for the Collegiate school students such as the invitation for some students to perform at the 25th year celebrations of the Sir Edmund Hillary Retirement Village in November with Lady June Hillary in attendance. This resulted in some excellent publicity.

We also continue to promote the use of Hillary House as a venue where leadership groups can meet and support our work through the fees collected for use of the house. In the last few months this has included two international groups from the University of Auckland, and an early childhood leadership group working in the Educational Leadership Project contract. More than 150 people have signed our visitors book since the annual meeting in September last year including a school group from Tahiti, and we look forward to encouraging more groups and school leaders in the forthcoming year.

We have been fortunate this year to have the assistance of a wonderful Duke of Edinburgh/Hillary Award Gold level student, Olivia Cody-Matheson from Baradene College, who provides more than the weekly hour expected to support the Chair and the work of the trust. We thank her for her enthusiasm in this voluntary work.

### **House Maintenance**

We are delighted and indebted to the support of Karcher New Zealand for their incredible assistance with the ongoing maintenance and care of Hillary House. Their commitment to a twice yearly clean from top to toe (September 2017 and May 2018), is hugely appreciated and lifts an enormous load off the trustees. Mike Roberts, CEO, is a committed and driving force within the company to this sponsorship and we have so enjoyed meeting various members of their team when the clean comes around. They have also involved their partner roofing company, TPS Roofing as this cleaning now becomes a separate item requiring attention due to the current health and safety laws. We received some delightful news earlier this month from Mike after he took their Hillary brick and its certificate to the Head Office in Germany. It has taken pride of place in Karcher Germany's archive centre but soon we hope with a letter under our new logo that it will be re-sited in the Gallery of Excellence Museum - Karcher's exhibition section of corporate sustainability. Its current position has already resulted in queries and interest about Sir Ed and Hillary House. We are also grateful for the ongoing support for the lawns and smaller maintenance from time to time that the Collegiate and Board of Trustees provide us – it is very much appreciated.

### **Trust Activity/Funding**

The trust has met every month since September 2017, full minutes are kept and are available for each meeting. The financial report for the trust is presented separately today and it is noted that our income has been drawn from visitor fees, rental of the House, the sale of Hillary bricks and funding from two trusts. We were delighted to receive a small grant from the Auckland Airport Trust which has enabled us to continue to resource the house with essentials, open a PO Box, and will provide some initial website and IT development. A small grant has also been received from the Sir John Logan Campbell Residuary Estate which has supported our visiting programme – enabling the installation of a new dishwasher and resourcing of student materials. We are very grateful and appreciative of this funding as while it is small steps, we do see some big outcomes. The most pressing issue remains the need to find funding for a Manager/Admin Coordinator

because currently all the work and engagement mentioned is carried out voluntarily by a very small number of people. The Chair continues to meet with various potential stakeholders and trusts to explore funding opportunities. A special guest who has offered her support for this focus is Dame Rosie Horton who visited us in October and was very impressed with the achievements to date.

While not strictly part of the last year of activity the annual meeting provides a time to look ahead and the next exciting chapter for the house is our application to be part of the Auckland Heritage Festival in October this year. Once again with the drive of a volunteer in Christine Foley, our heritage event application has been lodged and a significant amount of work has taken place already in anticipation that our event will make the selection process which will be announced soon. Mindful of the festival theme for 2018: *Nga iwi o Tamaki Makarau, the People of Auckland*, we intend to hold an Open Day on October 6 at which Sarah Hillary and Peter Hillary will attend and informally share and reflect with our visitors about growing up in this house. We thank them for their interest and wish to note in this report the support provided us by the Hillary family and Peter in particular, as we now move to build our displays and highlight how the house was in earlier days (Peter was interviewed at the House in December for a NZ Herald article reflecting on the 10 years since Sir Ed's passing in 2008). We are working with the Auckland Museum and Peter Burt to develop some large photographic displays and will seek funding from a variety of trusts for these resources. It will start to bring the house alive for our visitors and we trust, if we are accepted, that the Hillary House Leadership Centre will always be part of the Auckland Heritage Festival.

On behalf of you all I want to thank the trustees for their support for the vision for Hillary House and particularly our past chair and the visionary for this amazing project Gail Thompson. Her unflinching positive attitude really helps us to box on when the knockbacks come. We also acknowledge and thank the Board of Trustees of Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate and we look to every opportunity that arises to engage the students and alumni in this taonga. We can be confident that the number of people coming here is growing every year (estimated more than 250 since last AGM) and for each of them we know that the impact of being in Sir Ed's house has a lasting impression.

## **Trustees**

Robin Houlker  
Gail Thompson  
Shauna Eldridge  
Kallie Ngakuru-Syder  
Gerschen Van Niekerk  
Michelle Tierney

Robin Houlker, Chair

## **Hillary House Leadership Centre Trust**

Email: [hillaryhouseleadershipcentre@gmail.com](mailto:hillaryhouseleadershipcentre@gmail.com)  
Fbk: [www.facebook.com/hillaryhouseleadershiptrust](https://www.facebook.com/hillaryhouseleadershiptrust)  
Website: [www.hillaryhouse.nz](http://www.hillaryhouse.nz)