

Year to 30 June 2016
PNCET Chair's Report

Tena Kotoa

On the Trust reaching 25, we've undertaken a year of substantial transition relative to our prior years. We began to implement our plan to build capacity and create influence. This involved a lift in financial activity, recruitment of a project team, and recruitment of new Trustees. The lift in financial activity began with a reasonably bold decision to access capital so as to bring in a professional project team, and then back ourselves to write a competitive grant and secure support for that team so as to prevent a rapid erosion of reserves. We succeeded well in contracting a highly capable project team, and in securing a 50% increase in our primary income stream via PNCC fee for service grants, ensuring resources to June 2019.

The project team, and the new Trustees have ensured we could work at a level above our prior model. We improved the rigor and quality of our grant making mechanisms. We delivered the Palmy Beyond Petrol event, a first for the community and the Trust, bringing us out of the shadows. And we supported the Climate March and organized a successful screening of 'This changes everything' movie. We've also adopted Reel Earth in a more complete sense, with some additional resource from PNCC for that project.

Increases in capacity and ambition also have implications for relationships and processes. We've continued to evolve relationships with ENM and other stakeholders, with our project team contributing substantially to relationship management. We've moved to online banking with a climate friendly bank.

Project Team has already had transitions ~ farewelling Helen Lehndorf to enable a closer focus on her writing career. We've welcomed Louise on in her capacity as Treasurer and new board members Heather Went and Claire Baldwin. And finally, you've managed to get me out of the Chair! Every gratitude to Gillian for serving in such a capable and classy manner as Acting Chair during my campaign for a seat on PNCC. I'll be concluding my time as a Trustee, which is a bit sad after more than 10 years involvement and seeing the Trust grow in capacity, focus and impact. I hope to stay closely connected through my new role as Councillor to Palmerston North City Council.

Looking ahead, there is a need for strong advocates. To focus on doing a few things well, creating space for others and protecting against burnout. Do use the terms of reference, they are approved by PNCC and are powerful license to act strongly on behalf of the environment. Within the wider context of groups and activity in the city, there is a need to focus on the urban and energy issues, and would encourage the PNCET to work to undertake or seed activity in those areas. And as always, focus on capacity building, linking across Cultural and Social and Economic sectors.

Nga Mihi