

**THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2005-2006**

BARRIER FREE NZ TRUST



**Barrier Free
NEW ZEALAND
TRUST**

September 2006

P O Box 25064
Panama Street
WELLINGTON

BARRIER FREE NZ TRUST

PERSONNEL INVOLVED:

The Trust is made up of consumers and individuals with experience and expertise in local government, the building industry and disability sector.

TRUSTEES:

Ann Maddox, President	LLB(Hons) MJur(Distinction). Senior Associate Simpson Grierson, Auckland. Occupational Therapist
James Bowler, Tony Gemmell,	President Elect, MNZIOB, Abldg SI FCI Arb FARBINZ FNZIQS Gemmell Consultants – Past President Arbitrators & Mediators Institute of NZ
Vivian Naylor,	BSc (Hons) London Access Co-ordinator CCS, Auckland
Chris Orr Alexia Pickering,	Royal NZ Foundation of the Blind, Auckland CNZM, QSO, JP Founding Trustee, Director Accessible Options
Michael Pusinelli	First CEO of Qualmark, Consultant Tourist Hospitality
Bill Wrightson,	MBSArch, BA, TGDip, Past President of DPA (NZ) Inc., Director Wrightson Associates
Jonty Tetley	B.Sc. Post graduate study Victoria University.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Vivien Rickard, BA, BPlan, MNZPI

SEMINAR ADMINISTRATOR: Ronwen Bowker, BA, CertComServices

ADVISORS:

Margaret Wilson LLB(Hons)MJur	Former Dean of Law, University of Waikato, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Wyn Hoadley, MA, LLB(Hons)	First Chairperson of the BIA, Former Mayor of North Shore. First Chairperson of the Barrier Free NZ Trust

The Mission of the Trust is to:

Encourage, promote and facilitate the creation of environments that are accessible and useable by everyone in the community including people with disabilities –

Universal Accessibility.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR PERIOD 1 JULY 2005 TO 30 JUNE 2006



Looking back over previous annual reports I am astounded to see that it was a mere 4 years ago, in 2002, that the Trust employed its first, very part-time Executive Director and an administrative officer. Before then, and since then to a slightly lesser degree, the Trust has had to rely on the good will of its dedicated Trustees to voluntarily give their free time to ensure that the Trust's core business of providing high quality education and training on the "Accessible Journey", was realised. The increasing demand for seminars that has been experienced over the past year demonstrates how successful the Trustees have been in that regard.

With that growth came a challenge for the Trust as to how it could continue to meet those demands while ensuring that Trustees were not swamped with so much work that they lacked the time to develop appropriate strategies for the future.

This past year the Trust has risen to that challenge by taking the necessary steps to fully separate management and governance roles. The Trustees will now be able to step back from the day to day management and assume a governance role. This is indeed an exciting development and a demonstration of the strong future that the Trust has to look forward to.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (ED)

Our ED Gary Tye resigned from his position in February 2006. The Trust decided that this was an opportune time to reconsider the role of the ED and whether additional hours were required to fulfil that expanded role.

As the Trust's work and opportunities to provide education and training continues to grow, the Trustees decided that if those opportunities were to be realised it was essential that the role be redefined to require the ED to be fully responsible for management of the Trust and to assume a leadership role to ensure that the strategic plan developed by the Trust was realised. This would mean that for the first

time the Trustees would be able to step back from running the Trust on a day to day basis and would be able to assume a governance role.

A robust recruitment process, assisted by Jim Pope (Human Resources Consultant), was undertaken to find the new ED. From a number of high calibre applicants, Vivien Rickard was appointed. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Trustees Jim Bowler and Vivian Naylor for the time and effort that they put in to the two day interview process.

The Trust is indeed fortunate to have Vivien as its new ED. Viv brings to the job a wealth of experience in the public sector



Vivien Rickard joined the Barrier Free NZ Trust in June 2006, and comes with a background of employment with local authorities, government and non-government organizations. She has a BA degree and a Bachelor of Planning degree and is a member of the NZ Planning Institute.

Since the 1980s Vivien has worked in a number of territorial authorities. For several years she was on the statutory policy staff of Manukau City Council. Following this she was appointed to a Department of Conservation position as the Manager of the Auckland-Northland regional office of the NZ Historic Places Trust based in Auckland, in which role she worked closely with regional and territorial authorities throughout Auckland and Northland.

In 1996 Vivien was promoted to a senior management position with the NZ Historic Places Trust in Wellington. She worked in the areas of building restoration and compliance, community planning, and managed a team of professionals including architects, planners, architectural historians and archaeologists. During this time she developed programmes of seminars for local authority staff to help with training staff on understanding and meeting legislative compliance requirements. A major aspect of this work was funded through the Sustainable Management Fund of the Ministry for the Environment and resulted in the publication in 2004, of a handbook for use by local authorities on restoration and compliance requirements for heritage buildings.

In 2002 she left Wellington to move to Northland where she established a consulting business, covering community consultation, resource management issues and education. Until early 2006 this business was based in Whangarei, Northland when she moved back to Wellington.

At the Barrier Free NZ Trust Vivien is working with the Trustees to ensure that the public and the Trust's Barrier Free Advisers are kept up to date with developments which impact on accessibility.

CHANGE OF CHAIR

At the forthcoming Annual General Meeting the Chair-Elect, Jim Bowler, will become the Chairperson and I will be the Past-Chair for the next year.

Jim has worked closely alongside me over the past year and has an in-depth understanding of the Trust's business. This, together with my continued involvement as the Past-Chair, will ensure a smooth transition with the change of leadership.

I wish Jim well for his period as Chairperson and know that he has a vision for the Trust that will see it continue to grow from strength to strength.

TRUST MEMBERSHIP

The number of Trustees remains at nine, including representatives from DPA and NZFB. The mix of expertise and experience that the members of the Trust Board bring to its governance role makes it vital that the Trust continues to assess whether further people with specific skills should be approached to join the Board and to spread the work load of Trustees.

Furthermore, the number of Wellington based Trustees is of particular relevance due to their availability to join the ED in representing the Trust at relevant meetings with Government Departments or national offices of other organisations in the disability sector. This is an ongoing consideration that needs to be addressed in the coming year

During this past year Trust Meetings were held on September 2005 (AGM), 2 November 2005 , 21 February 2006 and 19 July. The meeting in November was held in the Wellington offices of Simpson Grierson, while all other meetings were conducted by way of telephone and video link between the Auckland and Wellington offices of Simpson Grierson. The Trust is very grateful to Simpson Grierson for their support.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Trust has had a successful year providing education and training on the "Accessible Journey" to people employed in the building and construction industry. This core activity continues as our most important function.

Two-day seminars were held during the reporting period in Hamilton (July) Westport (September), North Shore (November), Wellington (March), Auckland (April), Christchurch (May), Wanganui (June). A one day programme requested by the Wellington City Council was held in November 05 and again in February 06.

The attendees are mainly building consent officers from the territorial authorities, Architects and IQPs (Independent Qualified Persons) plus self employed Access Advisors. The number of registrants has been consistent throughout the year. Auckland attracting the largest attendance.

At these two-day seminars the Trust offers the regulatory authorities and building industry the opportunity to become accredited Barrier Free Advisors (BFAs). This qualification is particularly relevant in the current environment and assists those territorial authorities seeking registration as a Building Control Authority (BCA) or others who wish to become registered as Licensed Building Practitioners (LBP)

A development during this reporting period is that the relationship with the Building Officials Institute of NZ (BOINZ) has been strengthened. The Trust delivered a presentation at their annual Conference on provision of training programmes specific to BOINZ members. The current training programme has been accepted by the BOINZ Training Academy.

Our principal presenters are Ron Pynenburg (Pynenburg & Collins Architects Ltd),

Simon Tonkin (Regulatory Manager, Invercargill City Council), with Vivian Naylor (NZCCS) and Alexia Pickering (Accessible Options) as the presenters with disabilities. The commitment of these presenters to the work of the Trust is acknowledged and appreciated.

The Resource Handbook for Barrier Free Environments is used as the base document for the training seminars and every registrant receives a copy. The Handbook is also sought by those unable to attend seminars – particularly architectural practices.

The Trust appreciates the professional standard the leader of the Assessment Team, Bruce Rattray, has worked hard to see maintained. This pool of BFAs is a significant asset that the Trust continues to do its best to promote via the Trust website. It is understood that Government Departments and others seeking audit reports on their building used the website to contract BFAs to carry out their audits.

Relationships continue with Royal NZ Foundation of the Blind, NZCCS, DPA (NZ) Inc and regular meetings are held with the Director of the Office for Disability Issues.

Overall it has been an busy year keeping up with implications of the changes in the Building Act 2004 and reflecting these in our training seminars. Developing new modules continues. Increasing the number of seminars to meet the demand. Training new presenters. Training and accrediting more BFAs. Building up relationships with disability sector organisations as well as the building industry.

Without the support of the Trustees, Executive Director, Seminar Administrator and members of the Education and Training Working Group the successful outcomes experienced during the past year would not have been achievable. Their contribution has been very much appreciated.

For sometime the Trust has been aware that more information was needed on 'when and how' the International Symbol of Access should be displayed. Likewise the need for counters to have an accessible section also raised questions on 'when and how'. In partnership with the Department of Building and Housing, pamphlets are in the process of being produced. They will be distributed to territorial authorities to assist their staff when responding to questions on these topics.

LEGAL/LOBBYING

This year the Legal/lobbying working party has continued to address the issue of the compliance schedule regime and its failure to include features of buildings relating to access for people with disabilities. To this end, in late March a number of Trustees met with The Hon. Clayton Cosgrove, Minister for Building Issues and The Hon. Ruth Dyson, Minister for Disability Issues. We will continue to pursue this issue until satisfied that the current failure has been addressed.

In August 2006 the Trust lodged a submission on the Department of Building and Housing's document "Building for the 21st Century – Review of the Building Code (May 2006)". Our particular emphasis was on the proposed accessibility requirements under the reviewed building code. The Trust was greatly assisted in

the preparation of its submission by an exchange of information with Bill Wrightson for the Disabled Persons Assembly and Vivian Naylor for the CCS. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Bill and Vivian for their support and willingness to share information.

Finally, the legal working group has supported the Trust throughout the year by drafting and reviewing legal documents including the contracts for the ED and the administrative officer.

FINANCE

Following Gary Tye's resignation George Matthewson very kindly resumed the role of managing the Trust's finances. I would like to thank George for willingly stepping in to assist in the interim period while long-term arrangements were put into place.

Following the appointment of Viv as the ED it was decided that monthly financing accounting and tax would be contracted out to an agency with an established reputation for undertaking that role for a number of other similar organisations. The Tax Lady Ltd is a Wellington based company which prepares the accounts and end of year financial reports for a large number of small businesses, trusts and incorporated societies. It is anticipated that this process will ensure that the Trust's accounts can be managed as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The Finance Committee met early in the year to establish the terms of reference and had a set of financial records prepared for the first Trust meeting which were well received.

TRUST OFFICE

The Trust office has continued over the past year to be located in the Betty Campbell Centre but with the imminent closure of the centre will have to relocate. A central Wellington office is currently being sought and it is anticipated that we will move to new premises early in 2007.

During this year the administrative officer, Natalie Gray, left to be replaced in June 2006 by Ronwen Bowker who has a BA (Sociology) 1987 from Victoria University of Wellington and a Community Services Certificate 1981 from Wellington Polytechnic (now Massey Wellington University). She has worked part-time as a tutor at Victoria University, advising students and assessing their assignments

Recently, Ronwen has worked as an IT Support Officer in the Statistics New Zealand Information Technology Programme and as a Social Statistics Analyst in the Social Policy Division of Statistics New Zealand.



In the private sector Ronwen spent three years in Market Research. She managed around 300 market research interviewers, located throughout New Zealand, in both rural and urban regions.

In the non-paid work sector Ronwen has held a range of positions including as an active leader with the Girl Guide movement; as a church vestry secretary and a weekly-rostered worker with the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Ronwen's involvement in the disability arena was intensified with the diagnosis of her teenage daughter with a life-threatening, hidden disability. Over the past twenty years, through her daughter's journey, Ronwen has a personal understanding of disability; the discrimination experienced by those with a disability and the

compounded discrimination experienced by those whose disability is not clearly identifiable.

Ronwen is an invaluable member of the office team undertaking the administration and organisation of the seminars.

FUNDING

The majority of our funding still comes from a contract that we have with the Ministry of Health. This support from the Ministry has made it possible for the Trust to develop our education programme. We cannot however be complacent as continued funding from the Ministry is not guaranteed.

The Trust has the continued support of the Minister for Disability Issues, The Hon. Ruth Dyson. She has assured the Trust in a recent meeting with Jim Bowler, Alexia Pickering and Vivien Rickard, that she will continue to support the work that the Trust is carrying out, in particular the training and education seminar programme.

CONCLUSION

This has been the second and last year of my tenure as chairperson of the Trust. I am delighted with the progress that Trust continues to make in developing a robust structure that will ensure that it provides quality education services, thereby remaining the preferred educator in accessibility.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for their support over the past two years and their hard work throughout this year. It is their commitment to universal access that is the lifeblood of the Trust.

Ann Maddox
Chairperson
October 2006