

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

2006-2007



**Barrier Free
NEW ZEALAND
TRUST**

BARRIER FREE NZ TRUST

September 2007

**P O Box 25064
Panama Street
WELLINGTON**

BARRIER FREE NZ TRUST

DIRECTORY

For the Year ended 30 June 2007-08-21

NATURE OF BUSINESS	Charitable Trust to promote, encourage and facilitate Universal Access
REGISTERED OFFICE	Betty Campbell Centre 40 Panama St Wellington
POSTAL ADDRESS	PO BOX 25064 Panama St Wellington
TRUSTEES	James Bowler Ann Maddox Vivian Naylor Michael Pusinelli William Wrightson Jonty Tetley Ross Livingstone
ADMINISTRATORS	Jennifer Corbett Sheena-Marie Oughton
AUDITORS	Keith McGavin Chartered Accountant
ACCOUNTANTS	'The Tax Lady' Inc.
BANKERS	Westpac Trust Bank Victoria St, Wellington
SOLICITORS	Simpson Grierson Barristers and Solicitors Auckland

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 (as of June 2007):

James Bowler,	Chairperson. FNZIOB. Abldg Sl. Director, BUILDSURE Ltd.
Ann Maddox,	Past Chairperson. LLB (Hons) MJur (Distinction). Senior Associate, Simpson Grierson, Auckland.
Vivian Naylor,	BSc. (Hons) London Access Co-ordinator CCS, Auckland
Michael Pusinelli,	First CEO of Qualmark; Consultant, Tourist Hospitality.
William Wrightson,	MBSc, BA.Arch, TG. Dip Past President of DPA (NZ) Inc., Director Wrightson Associates
Jonty Tetley,	B.Sc. Victoria University Post-graduate Study
Ross Livingstone,	MA. Community Advisor, Wellington City Council

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

Sheena-Marie Oughton and Jennifer Corbett

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

CONTRACT PERSONNEL:

Vivien Rickard,

BA, B Plan.
MNZPI Consultant.

Ron Pynenburg,

FNZIA.
Partner, Pynenburg and Collins Architects Ltd.

Alexia Pickering,

CNZM, QSO, JP.
Director, Accessible Options.

Simon Tonkin,

Regulatory Manager. (Building)
Invercargill City Council.

Bruce Rattray,

Director. Bruce Rattray Architecture Ltd.

MISSION:

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 2006 TO 30 JUNE 2007



The Trust's core business of providing high quality education and training on the "Accessible Journey" continues, with more and more Government departments wanting their staff to become familiar with "Access". As a consequence we have designed a course that introduces them to "Access", provides background to the legislation, design, and the "accessible journey".

This past year the Trust has risen to the challenge by taking steps to move into the very lively field of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This together with the complete rewrite of our training seminars to be launched in 2008 has provided the Trust with an ongoing and increased thrust to educate in matters of access.

This action has been taken to accommodate both employers and employees needs by providing a "TRAINING PATHWAY" in a modular format. It allows for relevant learning, where the person selects modules most suited to their needs. The two day is still an option but with the modules on offer one can select any module, complete the module satisfactorily and gain a credit against that module.

This produces a high degree of flexibility, which has been a very sought after aspect by both employees and employers.

The increasing demand for in-house seminars is another way of providing a high degree of flexibility to accommodate the needs of both employers and employees.

The New Zealand Registered Architects Board has recognised our courses by providing 60 CPD points for any Registered Architects who satisfactorily attends. The CPD provision coupled with registration will hopefully flow on to Licensed Building Practitioners and Building Compliance Officers towards their registrations and continued registrations.

The separation of management and governance has been tasked for completion by early 2008 by employing an Education Manager. The workloads of the Trust continue to increase. This has placed more work pressure on the part time office staffing who not only deal with seminar venue bookings, enquiries, registrations, data base files, promotional material, accounts, corresponding with consultants on technical queries etc. etc. accordingly we must put in place resources to sustain and improve the services offered by the trust.

This is indeed an exciting development and a demonstration of the strong future that the Trust has to look forward to.

Our ED Vivian Rickard resigned recently from the position but is still being retained by the BFT in a consultative 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 person to drive and manage the trust should have an education base.

The position of an Education Manager has been advertised and we are hopeful to have some one take up the position by the end of this year. The Education Manager will be fully responsible for management of the Trust and to assume a leadership role to ensure that the strategic plan developed by the Trust is realised. With the increase in work loads the decision to engage a full time person for this position has to be met.

I have been working with 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 a Chair-Elect, will be appointed. I will have another year to serve as the Chairperson and then relinquish the role at the end of 2008 and become the Past-Chair for the next year.

TRUST MEMBERSHIP

The number of Trustees has reduced over this year to seven. The resignations of Alexia Pickering, Tony Gemmell and Chris Orr, were accepted and it must not go un-stated that their voluntary works in assisting the Trust to reach the high standards on access education is greatly appreciated. Ross Livingstone joined as a trustee early in the year and his experience in local government and the disability sector will be a great asset. We have representation on our trust board 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. Our most recent trustee is Carina Duke Practice Advisor Orientation and Mobility/O&M Instructor Royal NZ Foundation of the Blind who joined us in August 2007.

Furthermore, the number of Wellington based Trustees is of particular relevance due to their availability to represent 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

In 2006 the Trust Meetings were the AGM on the 26th October via audio conference and 8th December held at the Wellington city council. In 2007 Trust Meetings were held on March 23rd June 19th 2007 at the offices of Simpson Grierson - the latter conducted by way of telephone and video link between the Auckland and Wellington premises. 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.

For the reporting period Two-day seminars were held in KeriKeri (July/August), Oamaru (September) and the North Shore (November) during 2006 and Tauranga (March), Wellington (April/May), Christchurch (May), Auckland (June) 2007.

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 with Auckland attracting the largest attendance. One day "refresher" seminars were also held in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington and retain moderate interest.

At these two-day seminars the Trust offers regulatory authorities and building industry players the opportunity to become accredited Barrier Free Advisors (BFA's). 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).

During this reporting period there have been several promising developments. Firstly, the Trusts relationship with the Building Officials Institute of NZ (BOINZ) has been strengthened. The Trust is now in the process of finalising a Memorandum of Understanding with BOINZ on the Barrier Free New Zealand Trust's seminar promotion.

Additionally, the report to the Ministry of Health for the period 1 January 2007 – 30 June 2007 notes a changing demographic in attendees, particularly in terms of the younger age group.

Principal presenters are Ron Pynenburg (Pynenburg & Collins Architects Ltd), Simon Tonkin (Regulatory Manager, Invercargill City Council), 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. Enquiries from overseas as far away as Uganda and the U.S.A. and Australia have resulted in sales of our Resource Handbook.

The Trust appreciates the professional standard the leader of the Assessment Team, Bruce Rattray, has worked hard to see maintained. This pool of BFA's 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 BFA's 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 a busy year keeping up with the implications of changes in the Building Act 2004 and reflecting these in our training seminars. The task of building and improving relationships with disability sector organisations as well as the building industry has been an important ongoing project. The initiative to develop new training modules continues, while the trust has been introducing additional seminars to meet increased demand. The trust has also been busy working on training new presenters as well as continuing to train and accredit BFA's.

Without the support of the Trustees, Seminar Administrators 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 were produced. They have been distributed to territorial authorities to assist their staff when responding to questions on these topics.

The trust continues to recognise that there is room for development towards a seminar programme that addresses accessibility to Marae and other Maori facilities. This includes a greater acknowledgement of cultural issues and around accessibility to buildings that require Maori protocol or kaupapa. The Trust is working with the Maori Issues Manager of Enable to formulate a project aimed at addressing this issue.

LEGAL/LOBBYING

Last year, the Legal/lobbying working party tried 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 date we regret that this issue has not been resolved. 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)". A further submission is to be lodged in September 2007. Our particular emphasis was on the proposed accessibility requirements under the reviewed building code. Of great assistance to the Trust in the preparation of its submission were 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.

FINANCE

The monthly financing accounting and tax has been 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. The Anvil House accommodation offered in conjunction with

Wellington City Council has been accepted and it is hoped that we will move in to these premises by late December, 2007.

During this year the administrative officer, Ronwen Bowker left our employment and has been replaced with Victoria University Students Jennifer Corbett (left) and Sheena Oughton (Right). Both are in their final year of undergraduate study. Jennifer is studying towards



a BA in Media Studies and English literature with postgraduate study in mind; while Sheena is studying towards a BA/BCA in History and Management. Jennifer's interests are Media and Communications and this is her first administrative role, previously working in hospitality. Sheena has



previous experience in administration and hospitality and brings her excellent organisation and management skills to the office.

Both are currently working together to revitalise the Trust office. Sheena is dedicated towards the administration of Training Seminars, strengthening the Trust's Database and keeping track of daily Accounts; Jennifer is focused on assisting with the Trust's general media presence ,and projects include the re-introduction of the Trust's Newsletter, assisting with the website, and desktop publishing duties. Both students provide fresh perspectives, unique skills and an enthusiasm towards boosting the Trust's future prospects.

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 upgrade and redevelopment of our website has been funded by a grant made by the J.R. McKenzie Trust.

Education is our key focus and it has been very necessary to look at what we are delivering, how it is being delivered and targeting the groups that need to know specific aspects of access education. Our "Training Pathways" has been developed and this is as a direct result of funding by the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board.

Equipment purchase of a projector was provided by funding through the TG McCarthy Trust early this year.

The Trust has the continued support of the Minister for Disability Issues, The Hon. Ruth Dyson. She has assured the Trust, that she will continue to support the work that the Trust is carrying out, in particular the training and education seminar programme.



CONCLUSION

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 year and their hard work throughout this year. It is their commitment to universal access that is the lifeblood of the Trust.

W. J. Bowler.

**Chairperson
September 2007.**