

Newsletter from the Rudolf Steiner Centre Committee, May 2021

Dear members and friends,

Winter has arrived this week and we hope you are all well and warmed by your activities of body, soul and spirit. The committee certainly has been feeling the warmth of our working together.

We hope you enjoy this update.

Bernie, Robyn, Kate, Johnny and Nic

Committee Member Roles

With the formation of a new team, we felt it a good idea to look at what the roles of the committee need to be and the talents on offer. Below is a flow chart that shows how we carved the loaf, each slice having its own unique topping.

New Role – Website – www.anthrohb.nz

Nic has put her hand up to develop a website for the Hawkes Bay Branch of the Anthroposophical Society NZ. Hopefully, this will create a transparency and openness of who and where we are and be a means by which the younger generation especially can find us.

Notices and news will be posted doing away with many of the emails sent out. Room bookings will be managed online. The library catalogue will be available. Resource page with links to other websites and articles. Annual subs will be able to be paid online. Member Only section accessed by log in for AGM minutes, finance reports, etc.....

Much of the site building is done and now **we need your help** to do the interior decorating of the pages.

RS Centre Biography work: Do you have photos of, or written info about, days gone by? How did the branch start, how did the Centre evolve with buildings? Have you written any articles, or would you consider writing up a record of past happenings and people? Maybe there is someone out there who would interview the 'old guard' for posterity and good record keeping.

For the now – Are you involved in Anthroposophical Initiatives in fields of *Education *Agriculture and Food * Health & Wellbeing *Art, Music & Reading *Music & Eurythmy *Special Needs.

Please contact Nic (info@anthrohb.nz) with suggestions, offerings, initiative info & links.

As things progress, if we have your email address, then you will receive an email with log in details.



The garden & Working Bee

Over the last months, in fact since the AGM, your committee and friends have been busy, firstly with the garden and surrounds. Part of the fence was removed enabling cars to be parked on the property.

We had a great and enthusiastic turnout for our



autumn working bee - 9 people in total including various pieces of equipment and tools and even a tip truck. The large old cherry



tree, beloved by many, had in fact passed its prime and large branches were hanging over the Centre roof. So it and other intrusive trees (which began life as wild seedlings) were removed. It is never an easy decision to remove grown trees but sometimes for the good of the whole this needs to be done. The timber from the cherry is in the capable hands of

Chris Bacchus awaiting a new life. A wonderful bonus with the removal of the cherry tree is that the Centre building can now be viewed in all its glory and what a wonderful building it is. The tree stumps have all been ground out.

A contractor was employed to do some of the bigger work, namely the Buddleia which had overtaken the back fence - the cost of this was shared with Taikura School.

Jonathon Jordan was employed to renew the front path. This he did, and more, to create a more practical and welcome approach to the front door. The cost of the cement for this work was very kindly donated by Robin Bacchus.

We intend to have another working bee in the winter sometime to complete the garden and fence area.

Library vacancy

With Kevin Lyons moving away towards the end of the year we were all aware that a rather large space would be left in his absence in several areas but, in particular, the library. We are happy to report that Margaret Stevenson will be stepping into the library working with Fran, and Ursula who we have just discovered contributes the goodies for morning coffee. Just the other day Kevin was asked when coffee time (at the Library) was, his response was any time someone pops in to visit! So, take note, I know Margaret has never been known to refuse a coffee so assume the practise will continue.

Hanging of art in the main room.

Finally, there is a finer way for art pieces to be hung in the main room. A huge thank you is extended to Mike Lawn who has donated the same system which is used in the foyer for the hanging of pictures. This is such a big improvement and even the wall (such as it is) looks better. Thank you, Mike, for your very generous donation.

Room Rentals.

At our next meeting, time will be devoted to the area of room rentals at the Centre. A consultation document will then be circulated for feedback from members. Just a reminder that Robyn Hewetson is the person to contact if you wish to rent a space at the Centre.

Meeting with the Art in the Foyer group - Diana, Paulette and Andrea.

In the spirit of wanting to connect and work more closely with the different groups within the Centre Bernie met with the 'Art in the Foyer' group last Wednesday. One thing that was immediately present was our mutual desire to not only improve the Foyer space but also to beautify it and at the same time enhance the comfort of all who enter and use the space. The Foyer is a common space for members and friends of the Centre, it is the initial meeting place and as such needs to be a welcoming space. It was interesting that at the Conversation's morning on Monday last, there were several people new to the Centre. How do these people find out more about Anthroposophy? The question has been raised before of having the library open for one hour per week (early evening) to enable these people to meet and talk to someone and to bring their questions around what is Anthroposophy. Perhaps this question needs to be asked again?

The question of the chairs presently in the foyer was raised - these have been kindly donated over the years but are not comfortable for everyone - perhaps we could recover them, providing new and firmer cushions or we may look to the secondhand shops to see if something better is available.

This space needs painting and it is the committee's hope that this will be done before too long. The walls are very marked thus a distraction to the art hung in this space. The question of warmth especially in the winter months is already being looked at by the committee. The fact of the matter is that the Rudolf Steiner Centre is housed in a rather lovely but very cold old house and keeping all who enter warm needs to be done in a modern and financially effective manner and this is what is being looked at for the foyer.

We spoke about art in the foyer in general, what is the intention and who is this for? Is it still needed? A clear procedure for artists who wish to display works in the foyer needs to be established. It was discussed whether established local artists, (and prints from well known artists) could display works in the foyer and students arrange their displays in the art room. A wealth of questions and much contemplation to be entered into. Our conversations/discussions often moved beyond the foyer and into the needs of our young people today. Are we meeting their needs? What do they want to see, to feel, in order to become a part of this Centre.

It is so fruitful to have such conversations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conversations. Monday 14th June.

“The Wonder of the Candle”

By Robin Bacchus

“As we approach the Mid-winter solstice when festivals often feature lighted candles, we will consider the nature, wonder and significance of the fluttering candle flame.

Please refer to mail out.

