

Chairman's report for year ended 30 June 2024

It is my pleasure to present the T.E.T. Chairman's report for 2024.

This year has been a very busy one, with reviewing our Trust Deed, and appointing a local investment company in managing the trust's investment portfolio, plus granting to our community \$9.5 million.

Trust Deed

The Trusts Act 2019, which came into effect in 2021, has necessitated the need to review our Trust Deed. The new Act is intended to update existing trust law, ensuring beneficiaries have enough information so that the terms of the trust are being carried out correctly.

We engaged a Wellington company that specialises in drafting trust deeds for philanthropy organisations, which has assisted in guiding the trustees in the due process, with input from our legal advisers.

When completed we will engage with our community and seek feedback.

Investment Portfolio

I acknowledge Michael Chamberlain from MCA Ltd in Auckland, who has managed our investments for the past 20 years.

Michael has conducted our investments professionally, and as a result has grown our fund to what it is today.

During the year, the Trustees appointed Craigs Investment Partners, which has a branch in New Plymouth, to look after the portfolio. We need a refresh of our investment policy. Three of their local partners will manage our investments.

Aged Care Investments

T.E.T have significant investments in two care facilities, Age Care Central Limited in Stratford & Inglewood Welfare Society (Marinoto) in Inglewood.

We had loan facilities for both rest homes, valued at over \$9 million. Post-covid and with the difficult current economic conditions, both rest homes have struggled with increasing operational costs, compliance, staffing, and wages. The T.E.T trustees agreed to retire \$4 million of Age Care Central loan and will review the Marinoto loan facility latter in the year.

Coupled with this generous grant and to assist them both, with their increasing operational cost, the Trust has granted “holiday” periods for loan repayments and interest to help their cash flows. This last year has been a very challenging time for both of the rest homes.

As Chair I have been a strong supporter of these two facilities, as they are an integral part of our community, not only are they large employers, but they also supply “meals on wheels” for our elderly in both Stratford and Inglewood. Also, I believe that families should be able to visit their loved ones without having to travel to larger centres like Hawera and New Plymouth.

Mobility Scooters

As the cost of replacement scooters has increased, plus, the share number of units, approximately 100, we discussed capping the number at 100 units. However, no decision was made, but this could be an option in the future. To lower our cost of purchasing new scooters, we have engaged an importer to bring in a container with 32 units.

I acknowledge the Lions clubs of Waitara /Inglewood /Stratford/Eltham who identify the people in our community with either physical immobility or related restrictions, the four Lions clubs deliver these scooters to those in need, which we appreciate.

Large Grants:

Otupaiia (N.P.D.C.)

T.E.T. granted \$950,000 for a children play area at Marine Park – Otupaiia in Waitara. This is part of a large development by N.P.D.C. to establish a park, playground recreation area for the community.

Stratford Medical Centre:

This year we granted \$400,000 to upgrade the medical centre in Stratford. The health centre provides a facility for medical practitioners to deliver health needs to 7000 patients in Stratford.

Sports Organisations in Total: \$971,000

Other large grants were awarded to:

Bowls Waitara: \$144,500

Inglewood Community Mini Putt: \$100,000

Inglewood Dramatic Society: \$125,400

Nga Pakanga Catholic Māori Trust: \$350,000

Stratford District Council: \$200,000

Toko Domain: \$235,600

Tutaki Youth Trust: \$100,000

Nga Rahiri Hapu: \$ 99,000

Total grants for 2023/2024: \$9,660,282.11, less prior year grant refunds of \$120,512.93, giving a net grant cost for the year of \$9,539,769.18. There was 216 applications received and 163 of these were awarded monies.

I express my thanks to all our trustees – Melissa, Tony, Peter, Jono and Alan for their work in our community, as T.E.T.

trustees personally peruse all applications and engage with applicants to ensure due diligence is completed.

Our Executive Secretary Grant Hassall, who manages the trust and ensures that we are compliant in all aspects of our trust deed and manages the day-to-day operationsthank you Grant on behalf of the trust and the trustees.

Mike Davey
Chairman
Taranaki Electricity Trust