

# Waiheke Island Steiner School Project Plan



Geometric pattern by class 5 student

*Inspiring innovative learning and creativity.*

# Waiheke Island Steiner School

## Who we are

We are a group of parents committed to creating a better future through the education of our children.

We believe a great education is one of the most important things that we can give to our children, which will in turn, create a better world for us all. We are passionate about Steiner based education; an approach that provides holistic education, helping to develop well-rounded people who can think creatively, compassionately and independently.

We are looking for financial support to help us realise our vision of a Steiner primary school on Waiheke Island. If, after reading our project plan, you feel inspired to become a WISE (Waiheke Island Steiner Education) founding supporter we would love to hear from you.



## Our vision

We believe in holistic education that nourishes our children, enriches our community and inspires innovative learning and creativity.

## Our Goal

Steiner educational principles are well-proven to nurture capable, confident and creative young people who are problem solvers with a strong ability to think for themselves. Currently there is a well-attended Steiner kindergarten on Waiheke, but no provision for Steiner education beyond the age of six. At six years old, sending children to the closest Steiner school in Ellerslie is unfeasible; so parents have very limited options to continue with this type of innovative, nurturing & holistic education.

Our goal is to set up a primary school based on Steiner principles that will provide continuous Steiner education on Waiheke Island.



## What will be unique about Waiheke Island Steiner School?

### Our school will:

- › Embrace the whole child through educating the head, the heart and the hands.
- › Be a community-based education that is creative and artistic, and one that celebrates innovative thinking.
- › Embody Waiheke Island's special character and embrace Maori culture.
- › Utilise Waiheke's unique environment as a stimulating and rich outdoor classroom experience, and a place to learn about kaitiakitanga.
- › Cultivate learning from real experiences and integrate learning from the many talented tradespeople and professionals on Waiheke
- › Embed a culture of collaboration, but also honour the child's autonomy and individuality.
- › Challenge children to imagine new ideas, solve problems in new ways and see the world in a new light.
- › Support children to develop into well-balanced young adults who have a strong sense of who they are, and their place within the community as well as the wider world.
- › Be available to all families who show a commitment to our special character, regardless of their financial situation.



# Waiheke Island Steiner School

## Our strategy

We have created a two-phase project plan for developing the school. **Our preferred option would be to skip Phase I and head directly to Phase II.**

### Phase I

Initially we are looking to lease premises with basic infrastructure in place; such as toilets, kitchen facilities and septic system, where we can quickly establish a school using relocatable classrooms. The relocatable classrooms can be moved once we have a permanent location.

### Phase II

Once we have the school established in a temporary location, we will focus our efforts on raising funds to purchase, or secure a long-term lease on, a larger piece of land where we can set up the permanent school.

Our ideal of success is to secure a piece of rural land where there will be a strong focus on the outdoors as a classroom. The children will be involved in caring for the land and maintaining the school; be immersed in a healthy and natural environment; grow food and learn about good stewardship and shared responsibility. The learning emphasis on creative and innovative thinking in such an environment, will give our children a solid platform of strong ethics, resilience and confidence. We believe these life skills are essential for the successful future of our world and developing a society that nurtures individuals as global citizens with mutual care and respect.

### Key milestones for Phase I

1. Raise funds for land and classrooms
2. Confirm school location
3. Resource and building consents obtained
4. Ministry of Education registration obtained
5. School opens

## Background and progress to-date

### Project background

We have a group of approximately twenty families who have been actively involved in the consideration and planning of this project since May 2014. A number of smaller project teams have also been set up to progress the critical aspects of the school development project. These teams include: Land/venue, Financial and Business Management, Fundraising, Ministry of Education registration, Marketing, Communication and School Operations.

### Who will be attending our school?

We currently have a list of 25 children who are ready and willing to attend a Waiheke Island Steiner School in 2016. The majority of these children are either currently at Fossil Bay Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten, or are being home-schooled using Steiner learning principles. Most of the children are between 4 to 8 years old with a mix of ethnicity.

A key tenet of our philosophy and vision is to provide education for all families aligned with the special character and intent of our school, regardless of their financial situation. Our intention is to base student fees on an equitable pledge system, where each family pledges generously based on what they can afford.



### Ministry of Education

We are in regular contact with Janet Schofield, Planning Manager for Schooling Networks, and her team at the Ministry of Education (MoE), who are very supportive of our proposal. The MoE is familiar with the Steiner curriculum and it has a good relationship with Michael Park (Steiner) School in Ellerslie, Auckland. In addition to this, demographic population projections clearly indicate the need for extra schooling capacity on Waiheke Island in the near future.

### Michael Park School

We are in discussions with the principal, a number of teachers and the Chair of the Trust Board at Michael Park School in Ellerslie, Auckland. Michael Park School has a very good reporting history with the Education Review Office (ERO), indicated by being on their maximum review timeframe. The school is providing invaluable support through their knowledge, and sharing of organisational processes, procedures and curriculum. We also aim to design our school for a possible alignment with Michael Park School at a later date, by operating as a satellite school under their umbrella. Both Michael Park School and the Ministry of Education have indicated their strong support for this ambition.

### Finance Team

We have a Finance Team which is investigating and supporting a range of fundraising opportunities including:

- Fundraising events, e.g. WaiTalks
- Crowd-funding
- Grant applications
- Donations via the website
- Weekly parent donations
- Approaching potential sponsors and supporters

### Marketing Strategy

To make sure we reach a maximum capacity and reach out to the Waiheke community, we have recently announced our intention to establish a Waiheke Island Steiner School to the community through an article in the Gulf News. We have a Facebook page and a website [www.waiheke.steiner.school.nz](http://www.waiheke.steiner.school.nz) as well as a media plan, which includes regular advertisements in the local newspapers and the release of our brand logo which is being professionally designed.





# Waiheke Island Steiner School

## Assistance required

We have the enthusiasm, and we have the children; now we need a home! To bring this idea to fruition there are a few key areas where we are looking for assistance.

### Phase I

#### *Temporary location*

We quickly need assistance to secure a temporary location for our school. We are looking for a site with at least basic infrastructure such as toilets, kitchen facility and septic system. One option we are exploring is the grounds of the former Old Blackpool School.

#### *Capital investment and set-up expenses*

We are looking for financial assistance to help with resource and building consents, and the purchase and set-up of three relocatable classrooms. (Details in separate budget).

#### *Operational expenses*

For the first year (Year 1) we will be 'provisionally registered' which means that there will be no funding assistance from the Ministry of Education. We are looking for financial support to assist with running the school during Year 1, with the aim of keeping fees as low as possible using an equitable pledge system as described above.

By Year 2 we aim to be operating as a satellite of Michael Park School, which would mean we would attract a share of the operational funding that Michael Park receives from the Ministry of Education (exact details still to be determined).

For further details refer to the attached budget attached which provides details of forecasted operational expenses and anticipated income for Years 1 and 2.

### Phase II

By Year 3 - Year 5 we would like to implement Phase II of our plan and be in the position to purchase or secure a long-term lease for a piece of land where the school can be situated permanently. Ideally this piece of land will be rural and approximately 2.5 hectares /6 acres.



## Risk Assessment

The primary risks we have identified are:

**1. Our proposal for a temporary location is not accepted.**

**Risk management strategy:** lease private property, which will likely raise the overall cost by around \$500 per week. This could be covered by raising student fees (equates to an extra fee of \$20 per week for a school of 25 children).

**2. We don't reach our fundraising target required for capital investment/set-up costs by December 2015.**

**Risk management strategy:** Delay the opening of the school until alternative sources of funds can be found.

**3. The required consents are not obtained in time for our planned school start date.**

**Risk management strategy 1:** Carry out careful planning assessment before lodging consent application.

**Risk management strategy 2:** Delay the opening date of the school until the appropriate consents are obtained.

**4. We don't receive the required number of registrations of students to make the school viable.**

**Risk management strategy:** Before committing to significant costs (including purchase of classrooms, a long-term lease, and hiring staff) ensure families enrol children and pay a non-refundable fee to confirm their commitment to the school. The number of registrations will then inform a decision about the number of teachers and classrooms required.



## Our project team

We have a team of around 20 families who are actively involved in various aspects of this project. Amongst these families we have a diverse range of professions including planners, accountants, teachers, builders, business entrepreneurs and people with legal skills. Leading the overall project are three core members:



Dr Claudia Hellberg holds a doctorate of Engineering from the University of Hanover in Germany and is an IPENZ Chartered Professional Engineer. Claudia is the Strategic Planning Team Manager in the Stormwater Unit of Auckland Council, and manages a budget spend of over \$1 million. Claudia moved from Germany to New Zealand 8 years ago, has lived on Waiheke for the past 5 years, and is mother to two children being educated on Steiner principles. Claudia is engaged in community work and is Chair of the Waiheke Island Rudolf Steiner Education Trust (WIRSET). Claudia's key role within this project is as strategic leader.



Tania Aroha-Twentyman is a mother of four children and is passionate about holistic education and health. Tania has been involved with Steiner education for over 16 years as a parent and has served on the school and kindergarten Trust Boards both in Hamilton and Waiheke. Her background is in Holistic Health, Accounting and IT. She holds a Diploma of Homeopathy and has completed numerous papers towards a Business Management Degree from AUT. Tania's key role in this project is as co-project manager.



Bronwyn Harvey is a full-time mother of two boys, aged 5 and 7. Bronwyn has a background in project management, trade marketing, and statistical design and analysis. Her most recent employment was as project manager for the primary health care team at Counties Manukau District Health Board. Bronwyn is involved at Fossil Bay Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten as a parent, as a member of the Tautoko group (the parent support group for the kindergarten), and as a main co-ordinator of the annual Fossil Bay Harvest Fayre. Bronwyn is passionate about the education of our young children and the potential for change that is possible through education. Bronwyn's key role in this project is as co-project manager

**For further information, or to discuss anything in this document, please contact:**

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**Our charitable trust has been established under Fossil Bay Kindergarten–  
Waiheke Island Rudolf Steiner Education Trust for over 20 years (Registration CC24137).  
Donations are tax deductible and can be made into the account below:**

***Waiheke Island Rudolf Steiner Education Trust – A/C 12-3114-0071847-52***