

# The Tauranga Yoga Centre Constitution

## 1.0 Name

- 1.1 The name of the society is **The Tauranga Yoga Centre Incorporated** ("TYC").
- 1.2 The Society is constituted by resolution dated 14 November 1972.

## 2.0 Registered Office

- 2.1 The Registered Office of the Society is **173 Elizabeth Street West, Tauranga.**

## 3.0 Purposes of Society

- 3.1 The purposes of the Society are to:

- (a) Make the study and practice of yoga accessible to the community (refer Appendix One for meaning, purpose and principles);
- (b) Provide a meeting place for the study and practice of yoga;
- (c) Purchase, sell, lease, transfer, take or lease or otherwise acquire or dispose of any real or personal property and rights or privileges which the Society may think necessary or convenient for the purpose of its business;
- (d) Hold investment and management of all funds for the purposes;
- (e) Borrow sums of money as may from time to time and at all times be necessary for the proper administration of the Society and for that purpose pledge by way of security the whole or any part of the Society's assets;
- (f) Do anything necessary or helpful to the above purposes.

- 3.2 Monetary gain is not a purpose of the Society.

## 4.0 Managing Committee

- 4.1 TYC shall have a managing committee ("the Committee"), comprising the following persons:

- (a) The Chairperson;
- (b) The Secretary;
- (c) The Treasurer; and
- (d) Such other Members as the Society shall decide.

- 4.2 Only Members of the Society may be Committee Members.

4.3 There shall be a minimum of three Committee Members, including one teacher representative, in addition to the Officers.

4.4 In addition to the Committee the Society shall have an Executive Council ("Executive Council") of senior yoga practitioners consisting of at least three persons who are not members of the Committee.

4.5 The Executive Council shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting for a term of three years and may offer themselves up for re-election at the end of the term.

4.5.1. To be eligible for membership of the Executive Council nominees must have, within the five years immediately preceding their nomination, been active members of TYC.

4.5.2. Nominations should be endorsed by the current Executive Council and Committee.

4.5.3. The name of each member nominated to the Executive Council must be sent in writing to the Secretary, accompanied by the nominee's consent in writing to serve if elected, at least 7 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary shall then cause a copy of the nomination to be communicated to members by affixing to the Society's notice board, email and posted on website forthwith.

## 5.0 Appointment of Committee Members

5.1 At a Society Meeting, the Members may decide by majority vote:

- (a) How large the Committee will be;
- (b) Who shall be the Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer;
- (c) Whether any Committee Member may hold more than one position as an officer;
- (d) How long each person will be a Committee Member, although in the absence of a nominated period Committee Members will hold office for one year ("the Term").

## 6.0 Cessation of Committee Membership

6.1 Persons cease to be Committee Members when:

- (a) They resign by giving written notice to the Committee.
- (b) They are removed by majority vote of the Society at a Society Meeting.
- (c) Their Term expires.

6.2 If a person ceases to be a Committee Member, that person must within one month give to the Committee all Society documents and property.

## 7.0 Nomination of Committee Members

7.1 Nominations for members of the Committee shall be called for prior to or at an Annual General Meeting. Each candidate shall be proposed and seconded by Members and the completed nomination delivered to the Secretary. All retiring members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.

7.2 If the position of any Officer becomes vacant between Annual General Meetings, the Committee may appoint another Committee Member to fill that vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting.

7.3 If the position of any Committee Member becomes vacant between Annual General Meetings, the Committee may appoint another Society Member to fill that vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting.

7.4 If any Committee Member is absent from three consecutive meetings without leave of absence the Chairperson may declare that person's position to be vacant.

## 8.0 Role of the Committee

8.1 Subject to the Constitution of TYC, the role of the Committee is to:

- (a) Administer, manage, and guide TYC;
- (b) Carry out the purposes of TYC and Use Money or Other Assets to do that;
- (c) Manage TYC's financial affairs, including approving the annual financial statements for presentation to the Members at the Annual General Meetings;
- (d) Set accounting policies in line with generally accepted accounting practice
- (e) Delegate responsibility and co-opt members where necessary
- (f) Ensure that all Members follow the Rules of the Constitution;
- (g) Decide how a person becomes a Member, and how a person stops being a Member;
- (h) Decide the times and dates for Meetings, and set the agenda for Meetings;
- (i) Decide the procedures for dealing with complaints;
- (j) Make a recommendation to the Annual General meeting as to the level of membership fees, including subscriptions and any other charges;
- (k) Make regulations.

8.2 The Committee has all of the powers of TYC, unless the Committee's power is limited by the constitution, or by a majority decision of TYC.

8.3 **All decisions of the Committee shall be by a majority vote.** In the event of an equal vote, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote, that is, a second vote.

8.4 Decisions of the Committee bind TYC, unless the Committee's power is limited by the constitution or by a majority decision of TYC.

## 8.5 Role of the Executive Council

8.5.1 To expeditiously give its recommendation on any matter referred to it by the Committee or by members.

8.5.2 Without in any way placing a restriction on the generality of Clause 8.5.1 the Executive Council has the power to comment on:

- a) any alterations to the Society's purposes or constitution;
- b) the spending of amounts in excess of \$3,000.00;
- c) the proposed exercise of any borrowing or lending powers;
- d) the proposed purchase or disposal of any major assets of the Society and generally the significant preservation of the building and assets of the Society for the free and full use of the disciplines of yoga.

8.5.3 If the Committee or any member refers, recommends or moves any matters of the type set out in Clause 8.5.2 then, prior to its adoption by the Committee, the Committee must obtain the Executive Council's recommendation on the proposal.

8.5.4. The Executive Council has the power to call a meeting with the committee on matters relating to the society.

8.5.5 **If the Committee and the Executive Council cannot agree** on the outcome of the proposed action, the proposed action together with the Executive Council's recommendation will, within the following two months, be put before a Special General Meeting of the Society.

## 9.0 Roles of Committee Members

9.1 The Chairperson is responsible for:

- (a) Ensuring that the **Constitution** is followed;
- (b) Convening Meetings and establishing whether or not a quorum (half of the Committee) is present;
- (c) Chairing Meetings, deciding who may speak and when;
- (d) Overseeing the operation of the Society;
- (e) Providing a report on the operations of the Society at each Annual General Meeting.

9.2 The Secretary **(or properly delegated person)** is responsible for:

- (a) Recording the minutes of Meetings;
- (b) Keeping the Register of Members;
- (c) Holding the Society's records, documents, and books except those required for the Treasurer's function;
- (d) Receiving and replying to correspondence as required by the Committee;
- (e) Forwarding the annual financial statements for the Society to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies upon their approval by the Members at an Annual General Meeting.
- (f) Advising the Registrar of Incorporated Societies of any constitutional changes;

9.3 The Treasurer is responsible for:

- (a) Keeping proper accounting records of the Society's financial transactions to allow the Society's financial position to be readily ascertained;

(b) Preparing annual financial statements for presentation at each Annual General Meeting. These statements should be prepared in accordance with the Societies' accounting policies (see 8.1.d).

(c) Providing a financial report at each Annual General Meeting;

(d) Providing financial information to the Committee as the Committee determines.

## 10.0 Committee Meetings

10.1 Committee meetings may be held via video or telephone conference, or other formats as the Committee may decide;

10.2 Subject to Clause 10.4, no Committee Meeting may be held unless **more than half of the Committee Members attend**;

10.3 The Chairperson shall chair Committee Meetings, or if s/he is absent, the Committee shall elect a Committee Member to chair that meeting;

10.4 Decisions of the Committee shall be by majority vote.

10.5 The Chair or person acting as Chair has a casting vote, that is, a second vote;

10.6 Only Committee Members present at a Committee Meeting may vote at that Committee Meeting.

10.7 Subject to these Rules, the Committee may regulate its own practices;

10.8 The Chair or his/her nominee shall adjourn the meeting if necessary.

10.9 Adjourned Meetings: If within half an hour after the time appointed for a meeting a quorum is not present the meeting, if convened upon requisition of members, shall be dissolved; in any other case it shall stand adjourned to a day, time and place determined by the Chair of the TYC, and if at such adjourned meeting a quorum is not present the meeting shall be dissolved without further adjournments. The Chair/Chairperson may with the consent of any Society Meeting adjourn the same from time to time and from place to place but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.

10.10 .1,.2,.3,4-HAS BEEN REMOVED

## 11.0 TYC Members

11.1 Members have the rights and responsibilities **set out in The Constitution**.

## 12.0 Admission of Members

12.1 To become a Member, a person ("the Applicant") must:

(a) Enter their personal details into the membership register or website;

(b) Supply any other information the Committee requires;

(c) Pay a term fee within the course of the relevant financial year, or

(d) Be granted life membership in respect of services to TYC, and are elected on recommendation of the Committee at any Annual General Meeting, or

(e) Be a Teacher with a current Individual Employment Contract to teach yoga for TYC. Teachers under this clause will be exempt from clause 12.1 (c).

12.2 The Committee may interview the Applicant if it considers Membership applications.

12.3 The Committee shall have complete discretion when it decides whether or not to allow an Applicant to become a Member. The Committee shall advise the Applicant of its decision, and that decision shall be final.

### **13.0 The Register of Members**

13.1 The Secretary shall keep a register of Members ("the Register"), which shall contain the names, the postal and email addresses and telephone numbers of all Members, and the dates at which they became Members.

13.2 If a Member's contact details change, that Member shall give the new postal or email address or telephone number to the Secretary.

13.3 Each Member shall provide relevant details as the Committee requires.

13.4 REMOVED

### **14.0 Cessation of Membership**

14.1 Membership can be terminated in the following way:

(a) If, for any reason whatsoever, the Committee is of the view that a Member is breaching the Rules or acting in a manner inconsistent with the purposes of the Society, the Committee may give written notice of this to the Member ("the Committee's Notice"). The Committee's Notice must:

(i) Explain how the Member is breaching the Constitution or acting in a manner inconsistent with the purposes of TYC;

(ii) State what the Member must do in order to remedy the situation; or state that the Member must write to the Committee giving reasons why the Committee should not terminate the Member's Membership.

(iii) State that if, within 14 days of the Member receiving the Committee's Notice, the Committee is not satisfied, the Committee may in its absolute discretion immediately terminate the Member's Membership.

(iv) State that if the Committee terminates the Member's Membership, the Member may appeal to the Society.

(b) 14 days after the Member received the Committee's Notice, the Committee may in its absolute discretion by majority vote terminate the Member's Membership by giving the Member written notice ("Termination Notice"), which takes immediate effect. The Termination Notice must state that the

Member may appeal to the Society at the next Committee Meeting by giving written notice to the Secretary ("Member's Notice") within 14 days of the Member's receipt of the Termination Notice.

(c) If the Member gives the Member's Notice to the Secretary, the Member will have the right to be fairly heard at a Society General Meeting held within the following 28 days. If the Member chooses, the Member may provide the Secretary with a written explanation of the events as the Member sees them ("the Member's Explanation"), and the Member may require the Secretary to give the Member's Explanation to every other Member within 7 days of the Secretary receiving the Member's Explanation. If the Member is not satisfied that the other Society Members have had sufficient time to consider the Member's Explanation, the Member may defer his or her right to be heard until the following Society Meeting.

(d) When the Member is heard at a TYC General Meeting, TYC may question the Member and the Committee Members.

(e) TYC shall then by majority vote decide whether to let the termination stand, or whether to reinstate the Member. TYC's decision will be final.

### **15.0 Obligations of Members**

15.1 All Members (and Committee Members) shall promote the purposes of TYC and shall do nothing to bring TYC into disrepute.

### **16.0 Use of Money and Other Assets**

16.1 The Society may only Use Money and Other Assets if:

- (a) It is for a purpose of the Society;
- (b) It is not for the sole personal or individual benefit of any Member; and
- (c) That use has been approved by either the Committee or by majority vote of TYC and subject to clause 8.5.2.

### **17.0 Honorary and Life Memberships, Joining Fees, Subscriptions and Levies**

17.1 If any Member does not have a life membership or pay a Subscription, term fee or levy by the date set by the Committee or the Society, the Secretary will give written notice that, unless the arrears are paid by a nominated date, the Membership will be terminated. After that date, the Member shall (without being released from the obligation of payment of any sums due to the Society) have no Membership rights and shall not be entitled to participate in any Society activity.

17.2 Any person who has ceased to be a member pursuant to Clause 17.1 may, at the discretion of the Committee, be re-admitted to membership upon payment of all outstanding moneys, including payment of the then current term fee.

### **18.0 Additional Powers**

18.1 TYC may, subject where applicable to hearing the Executive Council's recommendation as referred to in Clause 8.5:

- (a) Employ people for the purposes of the TYC;
- (b) Exercise any power a trustee might exercise;
- (c) Invest in any investment that a trustee might invest in;
- (d) Borrow money and provide security for that if authorised by Majority vote at any Society Meeting.

## 19.0 Financial Year

19.1 The financial year of the TYC begins on 1 November of every year and ends on 31 October of the next year.

## 20.0 Assurance on the Financial Statements

20.1 TYC Committee shall appoint an Accountant to prepare the annual financial statements of the Society. The Accountant shall request and receive all information with the objective of providing the annual financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting policies. The Accountant must be a member of the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants, and must not be a member of the Committee, or an employee of TYC. If the Society appoints an Accountant who is unable to act for some reason, the Committee shall appoint another Accountant as a replacement.

20.2 Once every three years or more frequently, at the discretion of the Committee, the Annual Financial Accounts must be audited by a member of the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants and who must not be a member or employee of TYC. This is a minimum requirement. The auditor is to prepare an audit report and for presentation to the Annual General Meeting.

20.3 The Treasurer and Committee are responsible to provide the Accountant and Auditor with:

- (a) Access to all information of which the Committee is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters,
- (b) Additional information that the Accountant or Auditor may request from the Committee for the purpose of the review; and
- (c) Reasonable access to persons within TYC from whom the Accountant or Auditor determines it necessary to obtain evidence.

## 21.0 Society Meetings

21.1 A TYC Meeting is either an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.

21.2 The Annual General Meeting shall be held once every year no later than five months after TYCs balance date. The Committee shall determine when and where TYC shall meet within those dates. Members must be given 21 days notice of a Society meeting.

21.3 **Special General Meetings** may be called by the Committee. The Committee must call a Special General Meeting if the Secretary receives a written request signed by at least **10% of the Members**.

21.4 The Secretary shall:



(a) Give all Members at least **14 days Written Notice of the business to be conducted** at any Society Meeting

(b) Additionally, the Secretary will provide:

(i) A copy of the Chairpersons Report on the Society's operations and of the Annual Financial Statements and Auditors Report as approved by the Committee,

(ii) A list (verbally presented if appropriate) of Nominees for the Committee, and information about those Nominees if it has been provided. (The Secretary must not provide Members with information exceeding one side of an A4 sheet of paper per Nominee)

(iii) Notice of any motions and the Committee's recommendations (verbally presented if appropriate) about those motions.

(iv) If the Secretary has sent a notice to all Members in good faith, the Meeting and its business will not be invalidated simply because one or more Members do not receive the notice.

21.5 All Members may attend and vote at Society Meetings.

21.6 No Society Meeting may be held unless at **least 16** eligible Members attend. (**This will constitute a quorum.**)

21.7 All Society Meetings shall be Chaired by the Chairperson. If the Chairperson is absent, the Society shall elect another Committee Member to Chair that meeting. **Wherever possible a unanimous vote is the preferred option, however on the very rare occasions where that is not possible the casting vote may be used by the Chairperson. In those circumstances the status quo will be maintained.**

21.8 On any given motion at a Society Meeting, the Chairperson shall in good faith determine whether to vote by:

(a) Voices;

(b) Show of hands; or

(c) Secret ballot.

However, if any Member demands a secret ballot before a vote by voices or show of hands has begun, voting must be by secret ballot. If a secret ballot is held, the Chairperson will have a casting, that is, second vote **and that vote will be to maintain the status quo.**

21.9 The business of an Annual General Meeting shall be:

(a) Receiving any minutes of the previous Society's Meeting(s);

(b) The Chairperson report on the business of the Society;

(c) The Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report presented by the Treasurer;

(d) Election of Officers and Committee Members;

(e) Setting membership fees, including subscriptions and levies.

(f) Motions to be considered;

(g) General business.

21.10 The Chairperson or nominee shall adjourn the meeting if necessary.

21.11 Adjourned Meetings: If within half an hour after the time appointed for a meeting a quorum is not present the meeting, if convened upon requisition of members, shall be dissolved; in any other case it shall stand adjourned to a day, time and place determined by the Chairperson of the Society, and if at such adjourned meeting a quorum is not present the meeting shall be dissolved without further adjournments. The Chairperson may with the consent of any Society Meeting adjourn the same from time to time and from place to place but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.

## 22.0 Motions at Society Meetings

22.1 Any Member may request that a motion be voted on ("Member's Motion") at a particular Society Meeting, by giving written notice to the Secretary at least 14 days before that meeting. The Member may also provide information in support of the motion ("Member's Information"). A Member may also propose a motion at a General Meeting. The Committee may in its absolute discretion decide whether or not the Society will vote on the motion. However, if the Member's Motion is signed by at least **10% of eligible Members:**

(a) It must be voted on at the Society Meeting chosen by the Member; and

(b) The Secretary must give the Member's Information to all Members, who have provided email addresses, at least 7 days before the Society Meeting chosen by the Member; or if the Secretary fails to do this, the Member has the right to raise the motion at the following Society Meeting.

22.2 The Committee may also decide to put forward motions for the Society to vote on ("Committee Motions") which shall be suitably notified to the Society Meeting.

22.3 Documents which must be in writing, but not in deed form, may be signed by any two Committee members who have been duly and properly authorised by the Committee.

## 23.0 Altering the Constitution

23.1 Any proposed motion to amend or replace the Constitution shall be signed by 100% of the Committee and 100% of the Executive Council and given in writing to the Secretary at least 28 days before the Society Meeting at which the motion is to be considered, and accompanied by a written explanation of the reasons for the proposal.

23.2 The Society may alter or replace this Constitution at a Society Meeting by a resolution passed by a 75% majority of those Members present and voting.

23.3 At least 14 days before the General Meeting at which any Constitutional change is to be considered the Secretary shall give to all Members written notice on the website and noticeboard of the proposed motion, the reasons for the proposal, and any recommendations of the Committee and the Executive Council.

23.4 When a Constitutional change is approved by a General Meeting no Constitutional change shall take effect until the Secretary has filed the changes with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies.

#### **24.0 Winding up**

24.1 If the Society is wound up:

- (a) The Society's debts, costs and liabilities shall be paid;
- (b) Surplus Money and Other Assets of the Society may be disposed of:
  - (i) By resolution; or
  - (ii) According to the provisions in the Incorporated Societies Act 1908; but
- (c) No distribution may be made to any Member;
- (d) The surplus Money and Other Assets shall be distributed to:
  - (i) the Tauranga City Council in trust for the purposes of Yoga in the city of Tauranga.

#### **25.0 Definitions and Miscellaneous matters**

25.1 In the Constitution:

- (a) "Majority vote" means a vote made by more than half of the Members who are present at a Meeting and who are entitled to vote and voting at that Meeting upon a resolution put to that Meeting.
- (b) "Money or Other Assets" means any real or personal property or any interest therein, owned or controlled to any extent by the Society.
- (c) "Term Fee" is a member's quarterly subscription to TYC. The term fee can be paid on an annual or quarterly basis.
- (d) "Society Meeting" means any Annual General Meeting, or any Special General Meeting, but not a Committee Meeting.
- (e) "Use Money or Other Assets" means to use, handle, invest, transfer, give, apply, expend, dispose of, or in any other way deal with, Money or Other Assets.
- (f) "Written Notice" means communication by post, electronic means (including email, and website posting), or advertisement in periodicals, or written notice in the Society's Noticeboard located at the Registered Office, or a combination of these methods.
- (g) It is assumed that
  - (i) Where a masculine is used, the feminine is included

(ii) Where the singular is used, plural forms of the noun are also inferred

(iii) Headings are a matter of reference and not a part of the rules

(h) Matters not covered in this Constitution shall be decided upon by the Committee.

## **APPENDIX One: To the Constitution of the Tauranga Yoga Centre Incorporated Society Inc.**

**This appendix adds dimension and insight into the unique nature of the Tauranga Yoga Centre; it imparts clarity of purpose and honours the organisation's history and its founding members.**

**The primary purpose of the Tauranga Yoga Centre is to provide a sanctuary for the practice of yoga. The organisation places great importance on the non-aligned nature of the Yoga sessions practised at the centre and its non-profit, charitable intention – both towards its member community and the community at large.**

**PART ONE: Ancient Yogic Philosophy in the context of Tauranga Yoga Centre**

**PART TWO: Tauranga Yoga Centre Organisational Chart**

**PART THREE: Tauranga Yoga Centre History**

### **PART ONE:**

The ancient philosophy of Yoga underpins the purpose and intent of all Tauranga Yoga Centre activities. While asana practice is the dominant activity at the centre, all members; including teachers, committee and the Advisory Council, aspire to the wisdom embodied in and instructed by the eight limbs of yoga.

**THE EIGHT LIMBS OF YOGA - EMANATING FROM A CENTRAL CORE - CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:**

1. **Yamas:** Universal Morality (outer).
2. **Niyamas:** Personal Observances (inner).
3. **Asanas:** Physical Postures. Dynamic internal and external movement to help to keep the body strong, flexible, and relaxed. The practice strengthens the nervous system and refines the process of inner perception.
4. **Pranayama:** Breathing Practices: more specifically defined as practices that help us to develop constancy in the movement of prana, or life force.
5. **Pratyahara:** The drawing of one's attention towards silence: rather than toward things.
6. **Dharana:** Focusing attention and cultivating inner perceptual awareness.
7. **Dhyana:** Sustaining awareness under all conditions.
8. **Samadhi:** The return of the mind to original silence.

**YAMAS AND NIYAMAS** (*briefly outlined*):

**Ten ethical principles of Yoga to guide our inner/outer behaviour and how we present ourselves to the world: to allow us to be at peace with ourselves, our family, and our communities.**

**Yamas - Wise Characteristics/Universal Morality** (outer).

1. **Ahimsa--Compassion for All Living Things: do no harm** - but more than just the absence of violence and judgement – it also means kindness, friendliness and thoughtful consideration.

2. **Satya** - *Commitment to the Truth* – means to speak the truth, but in doing so we must consider what we say, how we say it, and the way it could affect others. Satya should never come into conflict with our efforts to behave with Ahimsa.
3. **Asteya** - *Non Stealing* – the practice of Asteya implies not taking anything which is not freely given – including non-material things. Demanding another’s attention or time, for example, is in effect, stealing.
4. **Brahmacharya** – *Responsible & Aware Behaviour in All Relationships*– non self-gratification: the goal is connection to higher self.
5. **Aparigraha** - *Not Grasping* – neutralising the desire to acquire and hoard wealth. Letting go of attachments to things: understanding that impermanence and change are the only constants.

**NIYAMAS** - Personal Observances (inner).

**Rules or laws that guide us to develop the attitude we adopt towards ourselves as we create a code for living soulfully.**

1. **Shaucha** – *Physical, Mental and Emotional, Purity and Cleanliness* – the cleansing of the mind of its disturbing emotions, like: hatred, judgement, passion, anger, lust, greed, delusion, jealousy and pride, are most important. The practising of Asana and Pranayama are essential means for attending to inner and outer Shaucha.
2. **Santosha** – *Contentment* - to be at peace within and to be content with one’s life– even while experiencing life’s difficulties. Accepting that there is a purpose for everything helps us to cultivate contentment with what we have.
3. **Tapas** – *The Disciplined use of Our Energy* - To literally heat the body and cleanse it – to burn up all desires that stand in the way of creating union with the divine. Attention to body posture, exercise, asana practice, eating habits & breathing patterns are all Tapas.
4. **Swadhyaya** - *Self-Study* - Creating self-reflective consciousness. Teaches us to be centred and non-reactive. And helps us examine and unburden ourselves of unwanted and self-destructive tendencies.
5. **Ishvarapranidhana** – *is the Celebration of the Spiritual* - To surrender our personal will to the higher power and to cultivate and honour some form of meditation to acknowledge the guiding force and creative wisdom which may direct the course of our lives.

*When spontaneously drawn to look at the purpose of our life with a new eye, the question of ‘how can my life be useful to others?’ may arise.*

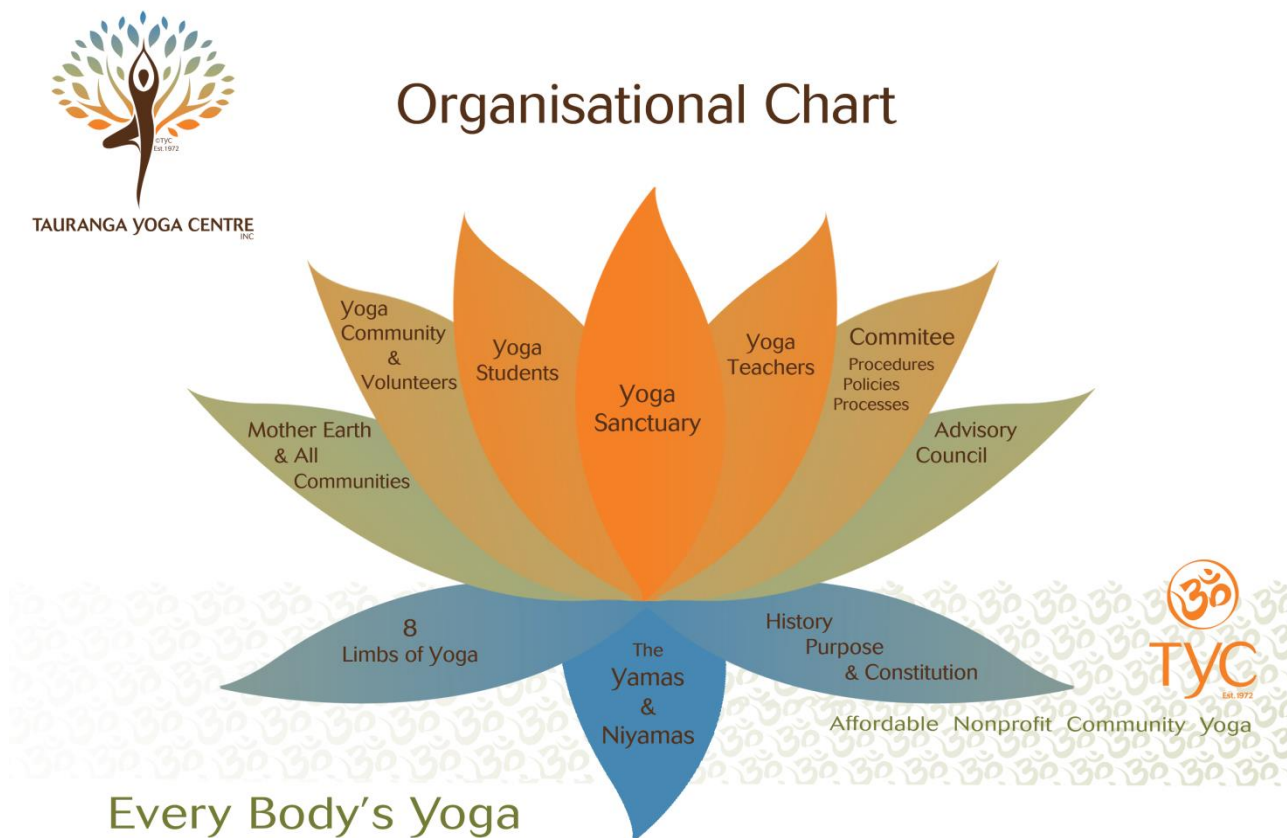
**The Tauranga Yoga Centre holds in high esteem the members of its Executive Council and seeks formal and informal guidance in all matters from this council. Council members are brought to office for their thorough understanding of the intent of the organisation and its management systems and requirements. Their yoga wisdom, knowledge and understanding: earned through their personal practice and awareness, is highly-valued and acknowledged by all society members. The Executive Council acts as the guardian of the purpose of the Tauranga Yoga Centre.**

**It is also acknowledged that the organisation’s teachers hold the essence of yoga in this community, and freely gift this to members through considered instruction. Collectively, the teachers offer important perspective and wisdom in any discussion relating to the society’s activities and purpose.**

**It is essential to note that the organisation’s structure, in harmony with yogic philosophy, is non-hierarchical and non-dualistic in nature. The ancient Eastern Philosophy of Yoga and the**

understanding that all beings are connected as one, lies deep in the heart of the Tauranga Yoga Centre.

## PART TWO: Organisational Chart



## PART THREE: History Document

### History of the Tauranga Yoga Centre

The Tauranga Yoga Centre was opened in 1975 and it evolved from a group of yoga teachers who gave yoga lessons in the community for a door fee. Their aim was to bring the benefits of yoga to as many people as possible.

One of the founding members Don Ayres stated at that time, "New Zealand has been very slow to accept yoga. Many still believe it is just a mystical art". The teachers sought to dispel this myth.

The lessons were held at the old St John's Ambulance Hall and St Peters Church Hall on Cameron Road. The decision was made to fund-raise for a purpose built facility. Teachers gave classes voluntarily, had massage days with teachers donating their time. They also

held handcraft and cake stalls in Red Square. All the income from these pursuits was saved and eventually there was enough money for a deposit for the Centre. During this period there was an enormous sense of community spirit and goodwill. With much time and effort they met, discussed and consulted to realize this aim. A bank loan was gained for the building and land leased from the Tauranga City Council for a small annual rental.

And so the Tauranga Yoga Centre was built. The deck was built by those founding members and during weekends, they continued to contribute to furnish the Centre by way of ongoing projects over numerous Saturdays. They made and hung curtains and glued carpet squares together to cover the floor and even yoga props were made. There was much fun, laughter and a great sense of mutual purpose and camaraderie existed along with a knowledge that this project was contributing to the health and spiritual wealth of the community. Members of the wider community also responded and contributed to the Centre e.g. the carpet consisted of sample patches donated by Greerton Furnishings.

The Centre started with approximately 30 members. The founding members included: Robin & Don Ayres; Noeline Shields; Mac Ensor; Hilda Pinfolde; Lyn Bernard; Audrey Prole; Terry Janes; Pat Combes; Murial Harvey; Marcus Wilson; Val Pitcher; Mrs Bartlett and Marilyn Waddicor.

Even in those early days, it was decided that the Centre should not be aligned to any particular kind of yoga. This holds with the Yoga Centre's philosophy which values and encourages the freedom for teachers and students to explore with no adherence to a particular form of yoga. This, to our knowledge, is unique to the Tauranga Yoga Centre.

The purpose of the Centre - to offer yoga to the community for a minimal cost -prevails and a voluntary committee continues to run the Yoga Centre. The momentum from those early times has continued. From a membership of 105 in 1985, to 40 years later in 2015, we now have a membership of approximately 450 members and approximately 400 casuals registering per term.

The Tauranga Yoga Centre continues to thrive.