

**OZANAM HOUSE TRUST  
ANNUAL REPORT  
1999**

I am pleased to be able to report on the Trusts activities in its 27<sup>th</sup> year of operation to 31<sup>st</sup> March 1999.

After a number of years in relative turmoil the latest additions were officially opened in May 1998. By January of this year the transformation of the Family Units / Administration block into the Walden Wing was complete. This increased our capacity to 48 double rooms, all ensued.

Our occupation of the Clendon Court flats continues despite our hope that their use would decrease. The demand for the accommodation that the Trust provides has never eased from the day we opened the Vincentian Cottage over 30 years ago.

In most respects the operations of the Trust have proceeded as usual, Trustees and staff are pleased that a period of consolidation has ensued.

In order to keep our many friends and supporters informed, the Trust published its second newsletter "Update" and this was forwarded to approximately 16000 friends who have supported us over the years. We are always saddened to see at such a time that a number have passed on. We offer to the families of our deceased benefactors our condolences. In keeping with the philosophy of spirituality, which plays a part in the operations of the Trust, we offer prayers for the happy repose of our friends who have left us.

The Trust has always been committed to the charitable purpose of ensuring that any person suffering from cancer or closely associated with a cancer patient requiring treatment and accommodation in Palmerston North, would always be accommodated during the period of their enforced stay.

To this end we subsidise motel accommodation as well as that which we provide ourselves.

Our benefactors over the years have generously ensured that our aim is always met. This support has nearly always been supplemented by contributions wrung but never generously given by the various Health Authorities whose patients benefit more than can be measured. This support is the reason we can provide such a good class of facility.

When asked, we confirm that patients and carers are never requested to pay for their accommodation, the privilege being theirs, as of right. We acknowledge now as we always have, that, many if not most, patients voluntarily make a contribution (such donations having the benefit of being tax deductible).

A look at any of our published financial statements would confirm that if it were not for the donations, bequests and interest on funds donated we would soon have to stop operating. Our costs are always in excess of income from these sources.

It goes without saying then that I am more than a little disturbed when I understand that there have been published statements to the effect that the Trust is telling "half truths" when it says "Patients (and / or their carer) stay free at Ozanam House.

The Trust has no assurances, and is in fact often fearful, that the begrudging support from the Government will not continue let alone increase.

A considerable and totally unnecessary amount of our administrative costs are involved with constant wrangles over recent years in achieving even less than what we consider our patients are entitled to receive from the H.F.A. We will continue to seek equity in this area and will take legal steps to ensure it, if needed.

### **Support**

During the year we noted with sorrow, the passing of Peter Harris from Hawkes Bay. Peter was a long time supporter and many cancer sufferers benefited from Peter's generosity.

We received no bequests during the year.

After the high level of generous donations of previous years there was a drop by comparison. This did not apply to our regular donors, the larger of whom included

- Clarke Charitable Trust – Gisborne
- Eastern & Central Trustbank Community Trust
- The Wairarapa Cancer Society
- Lions Clubs
- The Rotary Club of Taradale
- RSA Clubs
- CWI Federation
- Church Groups throughout the District
- A N & J C Hyslop
- E H & W A Teutenberg
- I P Stevenson
- M J & M F Evans
- V R & S J Sarten

Our thanks also to our golfing friends in Gisborne and Wairoa who have been acknowledged elsewhere as well.

## Statistics

The Trust serves the areas administered by the Central and Midland Health Funding authorities, as they used to be called. While there are some patients from other areas, they constitute a relatively low number. The figures set out here only indicate the numbers accommodated by the Trust from each of the areas mentioned above. Midland provide us with patients from Taranaki and Gisborne, and Central patients are those who are covered mainly by other areas in the Central Districts region.

### Central Patients and Care Givers

	1999	1998	1997
Patients	319	312	288
Carers	277	228	230
Carers only	72	50	82

### Midland Patients, and Care Givers and Others

Patients	241	190	236
Carers	174	148	182
Carers only	49	31	32

<b>Other Patients</b>	<u>17</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>8</u>
	1149	988	1058

## Finances

The Trust is pleased to report that our financial position remains sound and we are truly grateful to our benefactors for this situation.

While the financial future of the Trust seems assured the Trustees are always conscious of the ever increasing pressure on the facilities in the Oncology Department at Palmerston North Hospital where more patients are being treated each year. The Trust is well placed should any urgent project come to our notice when our resources can be applied quickly to effect some satisfactory outcome to assist with any problem which may arise.

In the meantime the Trustees administer a policy of continuous improvement and careful investment. The income from investments provides some much needed additional funds to support the day by day operations.

## The Shuttle Service

For some time now the Trust has watched the development of the Patients Shuttle Transport Service which was operated by the Taranaki Centre of the Cancer Society. This Operation is generously supported by Midland Health Funding Authority.

During the year the Cancer Society, representing the balance of the district being served was asked to provide a similar service. The Cancer Society was unwilling to provide such a service and we proceeded with the provision of a Shuttle Service, mainly, for the Hawkes Bay area.

The demand for the service and the satisfaction achieved in serving our guests has more than justified the operation of the Hawkes Bay bus.

The success of the service is to a large extent due to the amiable and helpful attitude and service provided by Don Andrew the regular bus driver. There are times when a volunteer of the Manawatu Cancer Society has also supplemented the service by driving the Trusts car.

The service commenced in January 1999 and in the first month we transported 38 patients and carers and covered 3642 kilometres. The latest figures show that we carried 68 patients and carers during the month involving 4354 kilometres.

It is regretted that despite an assurance by an employee of Mid Central Health Ltd the service has not been supported by them financially and no payments towards the patients cost of travel has been received by them to date. The Trust has not even had acknowledgment why negotiations for a contract for the service did not eventuate as promised. Needless to say this matter is receiving constant attention and you will be advised of its hopefully successful outcome in next years report.

### **Acknowledgments**

I wish once again to give thanks and recognition to the contributions which are continuing to be made to the Trust by my fellow Trustees Dr Perce Bydder and latterly, Ms Kate McKenzie who has replaced Mr Ian C Mark from the Cancer Society. My fellow representative from the St Vincent de Paul Society, Mr Cliff Craven also deserves my grateful thanks.

During the year Mr Ian C Mark who had represented the Cancer Society as a Trustee for many years, retired from the committee of the Manawatu Centre of the Cancer Society. Grateful thanks are due to Ian for his contribution to the Ozanam House Trust.

My period of chairmanship was made easier by the support given to me by my fellow Trustees.

To Eileen Day, the favourite of all our patients for whom she has continued to make a substantial contribution in regards their welfare and comfort, we are indebted. Also I acknowledge the work of our support staff.

The team of assistants was extended by Mrs Barbara Crow being employed to assist Nancy Tawharu and Lorna Wonnocott in maintaining the premises to the high standards that we have always maintained. We acknowledge their substantial contribution which has been of great assistance to our administrator also.

Once again it gives me pleasure to thank the Secretary Mr Finnigan and his staff for their able administration and accounting support.

Because of the continuing support demonstrated so generously and often by our benefactors, the Trust is confident that the future holds no fears for the continuation of the aims and objects of the Trust.

We do however applaud and add our support to the efforts of the Cancer Society in their attempts to seek an answer and a cure to this dreadful scourge. We are pleased to be able to make a small contribution by way of assisting patients during their enforced visits to Palmerston North for treatment.

Les P. Walden  
CHAIRMAN