

## **OZANAM HOUSE TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2001**

The 29<sup>th</sup> year of Trust activities has been completed and I am pleased to report on recent highlights. The activities of Ozanam House of themselves are a highlight. There are many interesting and satisfying occurrences happening all the time.

During the early part of the year we completed the upgrading of the Vincentian Cottage and the Urquhart Wing. These resulted in substantial improvements which are for the benefit of our guests.

During the year the 'Society of Vincent de Paul' held its conference in Palmerston North and we were grateful to be able to host a luncheon on the last day of their conference at which many members of the Society from all over New Zealand were able to view the facilities operated here under the name of their founder, whom we note was elevated recently to the Sainthood.

The intermittent newsletter 'Update' which is of interest to our ex guests appears to have become a regular feature and has, while it is not its prime purpose, resulted in the Trust being financially rewarded. Our Secretary and Ms Nicola Barnes of Morris Communications Limited are to be congratulated on the high standard they have achieved with this publication.

Perhaps the real highlight of the year was the decision of the Trustees to re erect the additions to the Summers Wing, upgrade the original house and provide extra bedroom facilities. At the time of writing this work is well underway and hopefully will be commissioned and available immediately in the New Year. The extra rooms that will be provided will be more than welcome. The Trust continues to make good use of the Clendon Court flats. These provide a very useful addition to the range of facilities that we can make available to our guests. While we are experiencing a lull currently with accommodation, due to low patient numbers accessing treatment there is no doubt that the demand for accommodation will be pressing next year.

Last year I reported on the possibility of a new linear accelerator being installed at the Palmerston North Treatment Centre. I can confirm that the original equipment, well past its use by date, is being replaced, and the new accelerator should be commissioned shortly. What we do understand is that the Board of Midcentral Health is considering the purchase of an additional lineal accelerator to expand capacity to relieve the stress experienced at the present time. The shortage of reliable and available equipment together with variations in the number of staff available at various times has placed considerable strain on waiting lists.

### Voluntary Financial Support

In addition to the net fundraising efforts of \$40,000.00, donations of \$228,414.00 were received during the year. Our bequest income at \$91,312.00 provided a useful addition to the funds of the Trust. Amongst the donors this year the following appear:-

- Estate of James McTavish
- RSA's from all around the district
- Mr & Mrs MD Caulton

- Estate of MD Stock
- Estate LM Ross
- Mrs MA Burgess
- Mr K Nottingham
- Estate ET Hawkins
- Clarke Charitable Trust
- Society St Vincent de Paul – Hawera
- Mr & Mrs DL Thompson
- Mr & Mrs FT Harrison
- Pam Torbett Charitable Trust
- Lions Clubs from around the districts
- Society St Vincent de Paul – Hastings
- DW & DE Haigh
- Mr & Mrs FT Herbert
- Mr & Mrs GP Davies
- Shamrock Indoor Bowling Club

Among our donors are those who provide us, not with cash but with a contribution in kind. The Trust has not been generous with its thanks to the local City fathers who have for all but one of the years the Trust has been in existence, forgiven, by way of grant to the Trust, the rates on the property. In the year under review this amounted to a donation of \$15,585.00. The Trustees acknowledge the generous support for this facility in our city by the Council.

### Statistics

Our district is covered by what was formally the Midland and Central Health Funding Authorities representing patients from Taranaki and Gisborne East Coast together with all the Central region which sometime includes patients from Masterton.

#### Central Patients and Caregivers

	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1997</b>
Patients	442	388	319	312	288
Carers	264	265	277	228	230
Carers Only	60	84	72	50	82

#### Midland Patients, Caregivers and Others

	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1997</b>
Patients	304	167	241	190	236
Carers	185	101	179	148	182
Carers Only	36	32	49	31	32
Other Patients	0	0	17	29	8
	<u>1295</u>	<u>1037</u>	<u>1149</u>	<u>988</u>	<u>1058</u>

## Finances

The Trusts financial position was satisfactorily improved during the year. This happy position is entirely due to the generous support of our benefactors. While the Board continues to maintain a prudent review of the costs associated with administering the facility it is important also that the facilities are maintained to a high standard.

Compared to overhead costs of \$436,000.00 last year, this year they are \$659,430.00. These costs represent an increase of 51% over those incurred the previous year. They include an additional \$32,500.00 of motel accommodation costs to take up on the increased number of patients whom we accommodated during the year when our facilities were being upgraded. In addition there is a figure \$30,482.00 which represents a shortfall in the accommodation provided to patients from the Gisborne and Taranaki areas which was not met by the contribution from Midland RHA under their contract.

Although our income rose to \$612,927.00 as compared with \$512,718.00 the previous year it is plain to see that the operation of our accommodation facility runs at a substantial loss.

The funds generated by our generous benefactors are regarded by the Board as not being available for basic maintenance of the facility.

## Shuttle Service

This continues to be a popular feature of the facilities provided and shows substantial increase in income over the last year but still operates at a deficit.

It is disappointing that the attitude of Midcentral Health Limited in the provision of funds for this facility remains stilted on the basis of costs operating in 1997 while there have been substantial increases in operating the vehicle service.

While the service is sometimes supplemented with the help of volunteer drivers the Trust took the step during the year of providing a further vehicle.

	<b>2001</b>	<b><u>2000</u></b>
Patients	687	432
Carers	174	177
Mileage	52393	50309
Capacity	89%	86%

## General

In the area of giving thanks and recognising contributions I must first refer to a policy which has been instigated by Midcentral Health Limited which reflects in what we consider to be an unfortunate way on our patients and also provides the Trust with difficulties.

More recently there has been a tendency for a large number of patients to be brought to Palmerston North for one night only. These patients are not treated but return home to await a further call at some undefined but later date. This practise together with the 'Hospital in the Home' patient the Midcentral Health Limited Company began to operate

during the year placed unnecessary demands on our relatively small staff and facilities. In order to deal with this, and in particular, while the Trust is short of accommodation, a policy has had to be defined. This policy was only arrived at after much consideration and frustration as it is difficult for the Trustees as providers of a facility without qualification. The Trustees feel that they cannot sustain the same level of losses which are increasing on those sustained over the previous two years.

Our continuing attempts to negotiate an accommodation contract with Midcentral Health have been frustrated and certainly not fruitful. The Board also has an issue of principle, about which there is ongoing debate, but which affects the income of the Trust relating to its shuttle service.

One final negative comment I wish to make is that the Trust was very disappointed that after many months of discussions between our Board and the staff at the Midland HFA we were unable then and cannot seem now to renegotiate the contract with them which has been unchanged since 1997.

On the positive side the staff in the Oncology Department and the Welfare Office and our Trust enjoy a good working relationship which ensures the health, welfare and general satisfaction of our guests is maintained as being of paramount importance.

Finally, and with much gratitude, I recognise the contributions made by my fellow Trustees. Mr Les Walden, an original Trustee of the Trust, suffered a set back to his health during the year and we wish him well during his recovery and express the hope that he will continue to serve the Board for many years to come. We welcomed Doctor Bernard Forde during the year and he has fitted in well with the Trust Board making a wise and useful contribution to our deliberations. Mr Cliff Craven, of the St Vincent de Paul Society, continues to be extremely supportive.

Mrs Eileen Day and her staff have contributed to an extremely busy year and have continued to provide the friendly and welcoming face of Ozanam House.

To the Secretary and staff once again thanks for his continued contribution.

Some other faces which have become very familiar in the environs of our Trust property have been Mr Norm Pearce one who has been a great benefactor to the Trust with his continual and almost unrecognised contribution to the maintenance on the grounds and gardens. Mr Phil Wolland is the building contractor currently involved in the completion of the Summers Wing. We regard the quality of Phil's work extremely highly but in particular his caring and helpful attitude have made, what is a difficult time for all concerned, acceptable. Another person who works quietly in the background and ensures that the standard of the facilities we provide are of the highest is Mr Colin Campbell, the Trusts architect. We thank him for his very valuable and complimentary contribution in providing good counsel to us in our renovations and building.

While we recognise there are gains on a number of fronts we acknowledge that the treatment of patients with cancer has not kept pace with the rate at which the disease is increasing. There have been stresses and strains on all those associated with this work but

there is hope that at Ozanam House we provide a safe haven where people can relax and feel that they have the opportunity to reflect and be thankful for what they do have.

I close my final report with my best wishes to all those who may read this report. My grateful thanks to our benefactors and I trust that their support will continue for a long time.

Percy V Bydder  
CHAIRMAN