

OZANAM HOUSE TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2002

It gives me pleasure to report on some of the highlights of our year as we complete the 30th year of providing support to those who from the Central Districts region of the North Island who have been unfortunate enough to contract the disease, Cancer. This requires them to journey to Palmerston North for some of their treatment. While we proclaim our gratitude at being able to complete this work over such a period of time and while there is evidence of advances in treatment being made, the increasing numbers requiring treatment are a trend which we would prefer to see reversed and soon.

While our guests, almost without exception, indicate a satisfactory level of acceptance of the facilities we provide we are ever vigilant in our efforts to maintain a high standard.

To this end we completed, in the financial year, the substantial refurbishment of and additional rooms in the Summers Wing. We are happy to report that despite the disruptions which the loss of this building caused we able to complete the year accommodating a number of guests only slightly less than the previous year. On 23 March the Summers Wing was rededicated by His Lordship Bishop Peter Cullinane of the Palmerston North Diocese and was assisted on this occasion by the presence of a large number of guests and visitors, including family of the original owners of the building. Also present on this occasion was His Worship the Mayor, His Honour Mark Bell-Booth. The presence of His Worship continued to cement the excellent relationship, which exists between the City and the Trust.

The City Council, in a number of ways, recognises the presence of the Trust as a vital contribution to the life of the City. It has recognised this over the years by granting the Trust the privilege of a rebate on its rates, which amounts to a figure of some \$15,000 to \$16,000 in recent years. The Trustees have expressed to the Mayor and Councilors their thanks for this generosity on the appropriate occasions.

As has been reported in last years report a further Linear Accelerator at the Palmerston North Treatment Centre was commissioned during the year. Its introduction into the treatment cycle, while contributing to the high level of occupancy which we enjoy and continue to enjoy, it is reported also to have made some inroads to the waiting lists.

In this regard I would like to record disappointment in the trend which has recently been established. I refer to the fact that a large number of patients now travel large distances for a one night visit. It is my understanding that this visit is for the purpose of preparing them for their treatment. Following this brief visit, for reasons which are unknown to the Trust but which obviously have been effected by the staff at the Oncology Unit, these patients are then returned home for an indefinite period before they return for their treatment. It is a pity because of after raising the hopes of patients their subsequent treatment patterns are not immediately certain.

I acknowledge the Manawatu Centre of the Cancer Society's controversial decision to donate a substantial portion of its recent fundraising activities towards the purchase of equipment. The purpose of this donation was to meet the expectation of the Oncology Department that it would enhance the treatment cycle and enable patients to be treated earlier. It is acknowledged that waiting times have been reduced and the occupancy over recent months, at our establishment, is a testament to that.

Once again the Trust has issued its newsletter 'Update'. This is a colourful and cheerful magazine of activities which keeps our many friends and donors informed. As a matter of interest it also served to raise a net \$60,000 in funds as the readers of 'Update' responded very generously with donations.

VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In addition to the fundraising efforts I have just mentioned there were numerous other donations which we gratefully acknowledge. Included in these figures is the anonymous donation of the stained glass window in the Summers Wing acknowledging the patron of one of our Trustees, Saint Vincent de Paul. The figures, on this occasion, do not recognise the donation from Palmerston North City Council I mentioned previously. Bequests during the year bought us \$125,809.00 and I note that amongst the donors the following names appear;

- Saint Vincent de Paul Society – Hastings
- Mr and Mrs DW & DE Haigh
- Mr and Mrs GP Davies
- Mr and Mrs FT Herbert

- Shamrock Indoor Bowling Club
- Springhill Charitable Trust
- Frimley Foundation
- Mrs O Jones – Napier
- Mr and Mrs W Upton
- Saint Vincent de Paul Society – Hawera
- Zephyr Zodiac Club Central Region
- Estate of Robert Gordon Johnston
- Mr and Mrs J Argent
- Mr and Mrs I McLennan
- Clarke Charitable Trust
- Mr and Mrs Vervoort
- Mr and Mrs N J Bishop
- Mr and Mrs G Gibbons
- Wairarapa Centre Cancer Society of New Zealand
- Estate of Joyce A Chappell
- FW Alderton
- Mr and Mrs E Flaws
- Opunake Friends of Hospice
- Mr and Mrs B Winter
- Mrs G Dent
- Mr and Mrs IM Dick
- Miss J Pilmer
- Gisborne Centre Cancer Society of New Zealand
- Mr and Mrs D O’Sullivan
- Mrs T Timball
- Higgins Charitable Trust

A brief and representative list of our generous donors whom we particularly wish to acknowledge. There has been other donors including Country Womens Institutes throughout New Zealand, R.S.A.’s and Lions Clubs continue to be very supportive. As I will mention again later in this report it is the generosity of our supporters that enables us to continue to expand and maintain the complex at the level which meets the requirements of our visitors.

STATISTICS

While the catchment area of the Oncology Treatment Centre is based largely on the Central Districts Region, from the East Cape across to Taranaki down to Otaki, we are also host to patients from the Wairarapa.

Central Patients and Caregivers

	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Patients	423	442	388	319	312
Carers	287	264	265	277	228
Carers Only	26	60	84	72	50

Midland Patients, Caregivers and Others

Patients	283	304	167	241	190
Carers	205	185	101	179	148
Carers Only	13	36	32	49	31
	<u>1237</u>	<u>1295</u>	<u>1037</u>	<u>1149</u>	<u>988</u>

FINANCES

Whilst we achieved a surplus income of \$314,348 added to our overall financial position, \$572,000 was received by way of interest on our investments and voluntary donations from the public. This indicates that without the support of our donor base we suffered a deficit in our accommodation account of \$261,200. This continuing trend is a worry.

A substantial amount of the Secretary's time has been spent in addressing the problem endeavouring to improve the support which we regard as a legal obligation of the Ministry of Health to provide and not by bludging on the sick tax payer.

Our overhead costs, \$669,206 compared to \$659,432 the previous year, have only moved slightly and do not show the substantial increase such as we experienced the previous year. As a result of a policy change the Trust was able to reduce its costs in providing accommodation in motels by \$17,500. While the shortfall on the funds provided for patients from the Midland, Gisborne and Taranaki area was \$26,151 this reflects a reduction in the number of patients from that region when compared with the figure of \$30482 the previous year.

This matter of arrangements with the Ministry is under constant review. The Trust is grateful for the efforts of the Central Districts Division of the Cancer Society which has opened up

another avenue of communication. The Trust is yet to a meaningful result from that effort. Compared to our accommodation income last year at \$612,900, the 2002 receipts at \$545,316, reflect the reduction in the number of patients able to be treated as a result of the strike and other problems which the Treatment Centre had during the year.

SHUTTLE SERVICE

While a popular facility provided by the Trust the service again operated at a deficit. Income, for the reasons mentioned previously, was down substantially on last year. Despite the obvious increases in the costs in operating a service of this sort, the contribution to its cost provided by the Ministry of Health remains at the same level when the service started in 1997.

	2002	2001	2000
Patients	594	687	432
Carers	335	174	177
Mileage	68505	52393	50309
Capacity	86%	89%	86%

GENERAL

I wish to pay tribute to all members of the Oncology Department with whom our staff have dealings. The relationship, as always, continues to be very cordial despite difficulties caused at administration level.

It always amazes me that in an area of such positive acclaim for the service which is provided, and the support which pours forth from our public, we do not see reflected in our dealings with the authorities.

Also, I would like to mention in these comments the favourable reports that come to me relative to our relationship with those members of the MidCentral Health staff and other hospitals throughout the district who look after the welfare of the patients. This they do very well in, often, difficult circumstances.

It comes now for me to give a brief recognition to the fact that Lloyd Morgan, in whose name, one of our buildings has been dedicated, passed away during the year. The Trust was unable to be present at his funeral in Tauranga but our condolences were conveyed to Lloyd's widow, Ngarie. The inspiration of Lloyd Morgan permeates itself throughout the Lions movement who have been the backbone supporters of our Trust since our inception.

I assumed the office of Chairman during the year as a result of our rotation policy. I would like to pay a tribute to my predecessor, Dr Percy Bydder. Perc needs no introduction to anybody associated with Cancer treatment and he is well recognised throughout the region, and, for that matter, throughout the country and overseas as a leading exponent of his medical speciality. There was a feeling of some sadness when he announced his retirement from MidCentral Health, effective 31 July 2002. This is due to the fact that he has been associated with our hospital for more than 25 years and during that time, while making numerous friends, has performed marvelous work in treating cancer throughout the region. We would express the hope that he will continue to serve as a Trustee for what it is hoped will be a reasonable time into the future.

To my fellow Trustees. Les Walden, who has once again provided us with stalwart support. Dr Bernard Forde has provided insight into the operation of other organisations with which we deal and this has been helpful. To Mrs Eileen Day and her staff who have had a very disturbed year with the added pressures exerted by the unavailability of a number of our rooms and the upsets in treatment caused by circumstances beyond her control. As usual the Secretary, complemented by his staff, continues to provide for our needs in a very able way. The completion of the Summers Wing to such a high standard is a tribute to Mr Colin Campbell, our architect, and Mr Phil Wolland our builder. My fellow Trustees join me in this expression of gratitude.

I expect new challenges to surface and we will deal with them as we have done in the past. I am confident about this by the fact that our benefactors trust us to do this and I intend to lead my team to effect a satisfactory response to that trust.

Cliff W. Craven

CHAIRMAN