

# What's been happening at Ozanam House



A unique style of 'home away from home' accommodation for out-of-town guests undergoing treatment at Palmerston North Hospital's Regional Cancer Centre

SPRING 2018

## A Half Century of Ozanam House

In September 2017, present and former members of the Ozanam House Trust – as well as over a hundred staff members, families, friends, supporters and representatives of local and national fundraising organisations – gathered to celebrate fifty years since the opening of our first house on Featherston Street in mid-1967. Long-time Secretary Tony Finnigan, Trustee Dr. Perce Bydder and Administrator Eileen Day, amongst others, spoke of their memories and experience of Ozanam, and their shared sense of good fortune at having been able to play a part in the Trust's long history. A plaque to commemorate this half century of service has been erected at both our Featherston Street and Newhaven Place sites to mark the occasion.

The current Trustees would like to convey their appreciation and heartfelt thanks to all those people whose unwavering support and tireless efforts on behalf of "the Ozanam project" have not only allowed us to



reach this milestone, but to confidently look forward to our next fifty years. The Trust's goal of providing the most comfortable and home-like accommodation possible to cancer patients receiving treatment at the Regional Cancer Treatment Centre in Palmerston North would not have been achievable without your efforts, and we look forward to sharing the next stage of this journey with you.

## New House Upgrades

Renovations at Ozanam are, as always, ongoing. The Trust is currently upgrading the ensuites in Lloyd Morgan House, while plans are also afoot to incorporate a chapel at Featherston Street. New furniture for the large Ryan lounge has been purchased, and this has certainly made the room very comfortable and inviting. New bedding has also been purchased for the bedrooms at the Featherston Street site, and all rooms have been standardised with smart new blankets and bedspreads.



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# Three New Houses for Ozanam

Ozanam has seen plenty of development since our last update. Most significantly, three new houses have been acquired and refurbished to meet the varying needs of our guests. Bydder and Finnigan Houses (named after long-serving members of the Trust, Perce Bydder and Tony Finnigan) were opened in 2015, specially reconfigured to accommodate families and/or patients in need of a more isolated environment. Most recently, Riverview House, purchased with funds bequeathed by the Estate of Ernest (Ernie) Newcombe, a retired milkman born on a family farm called Riverview near the Manawatu River, was modified along similar lines. All three were conceived with the goal of adding further flexibility for best accommodating patients and their loved ones, and we are sincerely grateful for all the community and organisational support that have allowed us to bring these new houses into being.



*Right: Opening Finnigan House*

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## A Fond Farewell to Nancy and Lorraine

Many former Ozanam residents will recall with a smile our long term housekeepers Nancy Tawharu (who served 22 years caring for guests in Summers, Walden and Urquhart Houses) and Lorraine Sutherland (who for almost 10 years looked after Ryan House), both of whom retired during the last year. Over the years both women have provided an excellent practical service to our guests as well as, when needed, a much-needed ear to listen or shoulder to cry on. Most of the time, however, both Nancy and Lorraine relished the joy, not sadness, that is the dominant feeling in Ozanam House. "It's part of the atmosphere," Nancy has said. "The positivity comes out of the walls, most of the time. Each person buoys everybody else up." The Ozanam Trust is sure that all our guests over the last thirty years will join us in thanking Lorraine and Nancy for their

long service, and in giving them our very best wishes for their much-deserved retirement.

We also welcome our new housekeepers, Michelle Nickson and Shar Dahlberg, and wish them an equally happy and rewarding experience at Ozanam House.



*Lorraine Sutherland*



*Nancy Tawharu*

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## Introducing Ruby, our new "Rodent Control Officer"

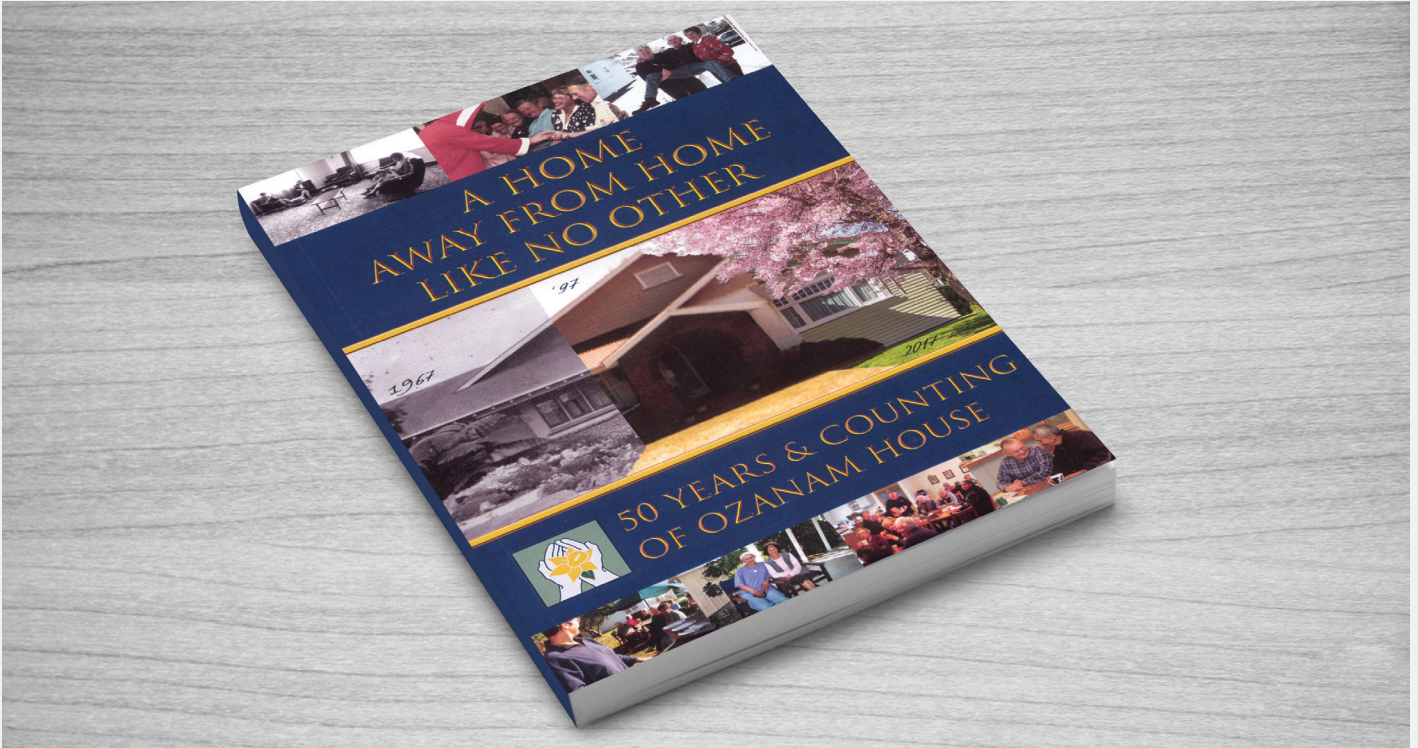


Ruby the cat appeared one day from out of nowhere, and soon became so friendly with the guests she decided she might stay a while. So comfy did she find Ozanam House that, not long after, a litter of three kittens appeared under Glenys' desk! This provided much amusement and entertainment for the next three months until they all found new homes. Fortunately, Ruby herself was happy to accept the post of "rodent control officer" and now (microchipped and spayed) she rules over Ozanam House with a friendliness and charm that is the delight of our guests. And why wouldn't she want to stay when she is spoiled continually and doted over by so many people?



# A Home Away From Home Like No Other

## *The story of Ozanam House*



One important aspect of Ozanam's semi-centennial was the publication of a fully-illustrated history, "*A Home Away From Home Like No Other: Fifty Years and Counting of Ozanam House.*"

Written by local author William Muirhead, and based on dozens of interviews with members of "the Ozanam family", this book tells the unique story of the Trust, its origins and ongoing expansion, and the many partnerships, such as the Cancer Society and Lions

Organisation, which have made Ozanam House truly "a home away from home" for so many cancer patients and their loved ones.

Copies of the book are available for those who would like to learn more about the ups and downs, joys and sorrows, challenges and triumphs of Ozanam's first five decades. Please email us at [info@ozanamhouse.org.nz](mailto:info@ozanamhouse.org.nz) to request a copy.

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## Meet Ozanam's Administrators, Glenys and Meg



Meg de Joux

Day-to-day operations of the House are in the very capable hands of our co-administrators, Glenys Brougham and Meg de Joux. Glenys has been part of "the Ozanam family" for some years, while Meg has brought her own considerable skills and experience to play in providing the same great level of warmth, understanding and administrative ability shown by their predecessors.

Both Glenys and Meg would love to answer your questions or otherwise touch base with future residents – simply give them a call on 063566316 during daytime hours, or email [info@ozanamhouse.org.nz](mailto:info@ozanamhouse.org.nz).



Glenys Brougham

# Weekly Guest Patient Morning Teas



A few years ago we were approached by Good Bitches Baking, a charity group of bakers who wanted to provide a bit of “sweetness” for those going through a hard time. They offered to drop off home baking once a week to Ozanam House, which they have done consistently over the last three years. We thought this would be a good opportunity to introduce a weekly morning tea for all the guests, and indeed these have proved a big success, with some guests contributing their own delicious treats baked right here in the Ozanam House kitchens.

## Donations to Ozanam House

Ozanam House is fortunate to receive financial support from many local and national organisations. However, as former Trustee Dr. Percy Bydder observes: “Cancer treatments aren’t getting simpler, quicker, easier, cheaper... There is no magic tablet. The need for Ozanam isn’t going to go away.”

As a charitable body, the Ozanam Trust constantly strives to offer the best possible accommodation for cancer patients and their loved ones, and to provide new forms of housing as required. Those needs, however, are always changing. For this reason, donations of any amount are welcomed and very much appreciated.

Please email us here: [info@ozanamhouse.org.nz](mailto:info@ozanamhouse.org.nz) or call us on: 06 356 4015 if you feel you may be able to make a contribution to the ongoing development of Ozanam House.

### I am pleased to be able to support the Trust's work.

☐

**Donate directly into our account**

Account No. 06-0729-0313001-26 ANZ Bank, Palmerston North  
**Please use your name and address as a reference**

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**Credit card** You may debit my credit card

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Visa

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Amex

Expiry date

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Signature

Address

An official receipt will be issued which can be used to claim a donation rebate

Charity No. CC28473

## Ozanam Online

Any questions about Ozanam House or the services we provide? Visit [www.ozanamhouse.org.nz](http://www.ozanamhouse.org.nz) for an outline of the facilities we offer, helpful FAQ's,

a brief history of the Trust, and additional contact information.

### Advise us of your email for future sending of newsletters



We'd love to keep you up to date with further happenings at Ozanam House! Please send us a message at [info@ozanamhouse.org.nz](mailto:info@ozanamhouse.org.nz) to advise us of your email address and go on the mailing list for future Ozanam Updates.