

## CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The end of year 31 March 2020 marked the 49<sup>th</sup> year of the Trust's operations. 53 years of providing accommodation to Cancer patient and carers since its inception by the Society of St Vincent de Paul in 1967.

Our geographical area of interest remains from north of Wairoa, south to the Wairarapa, and from Otaki to north of New Plymouth. Encompassing the Hawkes Bay, Taranaki, Whanganui, and Wairarapa District Health Boards. This year we have hosted patients from Capital Coast and Waikato Health Boards.

The Trust and guests are grateful for the regular shuttle service transporting patients and carers between their homes in Taranaki and Hawkes Bay.

### Donors

The Trust appreciates the many donations received and support given, allowing the Trust to maintain and enhance the facilities to a high standard.

The list below recognises those who have given substantial support during the year.

Lighthouse Lions Club, Wairoa  
Mr DJ & Mr R Donnelly, Havelock North  
M/s MJ Dinsdale, Hastings  
Mr SJ Cowan, Napier  
Spoilt Beauty on the Terrace, Palmerston North  
Mr & Mrs ET & AA Evans, Napier  
Mr & Mrs R&B Jones, Napier  
Miss CE Olsen, Stratford  
Estate of Joan Marion Baillie, Hastings  
Mrs DM Corrigan, New Plymouth  
Mr & Mrs RL & L Swain, Napier  
Larmac Trust, Stratford  
M/s DC Ross, Havelock North  
Mr JR Cotter, Wairoa  
Ken Bedford, Friends & Family, New Plymouth  
WG Johnston Charitable Trust

Estate of Maurice Graham Maher, Taihape  
M/s AM McMinn-Collard, Hastings  
Mr SP Robinson, Stratford  
Mr KM Elvey, Hastings  
Mr H Corlett, Stratford  
Mrs BT Lewis, Hastings  
Mr PT Joe, Masterton  
Mr & Mrs M&D Podevin, Waitara  
Tasman Smith Charitable Trust, Hastings  
Joan Fernie Charitable Trust, Hastings  
St Patrick's Parish, PNth, Meals on Wheels  
Mr & Mrs WJ & EM Rawstron, Hastings  
M/s TJ Heke, Auckland  
Mrs JM Corlett, Carterton  
Mr DG MacDonald, Tolaga Bay

There are other types of non-financial donations received from Allflex NZ Ltd, The Good George team, Evening Flora, Halcombe CWI, Good Bitches baking (weekly patient morning teas), Kim Marshall and friends for holding the patients Christmas dinner and various service clubs, we appreciate their continued support.

Ruby the rodent control officer featured on Hadyn Jones TV's Good Sorts in July.

She has attracted a large fan base and relishes the limelight and is always welcoming to our guests, when not sleeping!

**House keeper Liz cuddles up to Hadyn Jones**





**Ruby the movie star languishing in the shade outside Urquhart and socialising with a guests!**

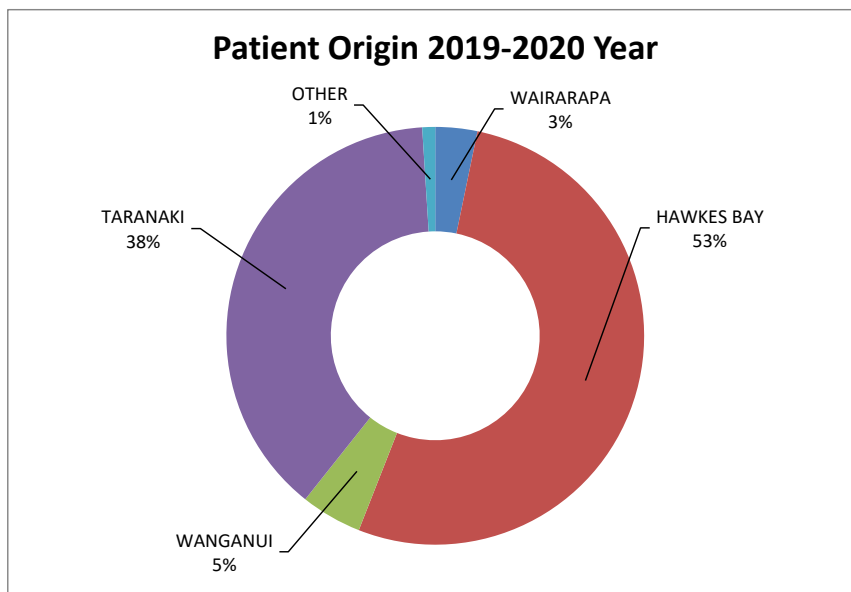
Once again our benefactors have been extremely generous. In addition to donations of \$115,392, bequests of \$14,636 were received. We enjoyed the goodwill and support of our local authorities. The Trust benefits from a rates remission from the Palmerston North City Council and Horizons Regional Council of \$21,243 / LY \$23,366 respectively, this support is much appreciated. The Board is disappointed that the Palmerston North City Council will remove over 3 years the rate remission it has earlier enjoyed as it was not entitled to an automatic remission under the Rates Act and further did not qualify under Council Policy because it did not support city residents. Uniform service charges around \$26,000 are paid annually. The Trust has conveyed its dismay at the attitude of the Council which has failed to recognise the economic benefit that the facility brings to the City while at the same time financially supporting entertainment, sporting, conventions and other events.

<b>Statistics</b>			
<b>HAWKES BAY</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Patients and Carers</b>	808	858	718
<b>TARANAKI</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Total Patients &amp; Carers</b>	500	443	456
<b>WANGANUI</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Total Patients &amp; Carers</b>	53	49	53
<b>WAIRARAPA</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Total Patients &amp; Carers</b>	41	49	43
<b>MID CENTRAL</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Total Patients &amp; Carers</b>	6	0	29
<b>OTHER</b>	4	0	2
<b>ANNUAL TOTALS</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Patients &amp; Carers</b>	1412	1398	1301
<b>Average Length of Stay - Days</b>	17	21	29
<b>Room Nights Provided</b>	10,204	10,515	10,895
<b>Gratis Accommodation Nights</b>	121	167	755

The average length of stay is continuing to trend down and is now considerably less than previous years at 17 days, now many patients staying only one or two nights. As a consequence of shorter stays and lower occupancy guests and carers were able to be accommodated within the Featherston Street complex. As a result of restructuring Marleen Kingi chose redundancy. Marleen has been the housekeeper at the St Mary's site since it was opened in 2009 and was valued and respected by the many guests in that time, she was farewelled in November.

## Finance

The financial position of the Trust remains strong thanks to the generous support of our many benefactors and careful investment of funds.



The greatest investment following our staff and guests, are the facilities. Regular maintenance and upgrading is continuing to ensure a high standard is maintained and the homely character is upheld. Operating costs of \$389,549, was similar to last year. Costs as always are under constant scrutiny to ensure efficiency is maintained and donations are put to good use. Operating revenue was comparable to last year.

However late in the year and flowing into next financial year the cost of motel accommodation is being utilised to comply with Covid-19 alert level 4.

Unsolicited income in this year was \$130,029 / LY \$145,067, the Trust is very grateful for the donations received.

Investment income of \$267,972 / LY \$274,870 a decrease of \$6,898 compared to the previous year. The Trust investments showed a capital increase of \$298,977 on the previous year.

Investments have continued to provide a source of income, enabling the Trust to maintain and enhance its assets and to provide capability for any future development and change in focus.

We adopt a compassionate policy towards those requesting accommodation with each case judged on its merits, always with patient accommodation taking precedence. In the past year over 121 bed nights of non-subsidised accommodation were provided to patients and carers.

The Trust continues as a sponsor of the Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life as we have since it first began 20 years ago.

A submission was made as regard to modernising the Charities Act 2005.

Our accountants, Coombe Smith, have supported our administration, responded to queries and offered advice. We wish to acknowledge their assistance.

Our auditor Darryl Pinny has retired, we convey our appreciation for his advice and acting in an efficient and capable manner over many years, and wish him well in his retirement.

## General



Guests sporting hats they created at the Melbourne Cup party -

Board member Peter offers drinks and racing tips.

The first of two new replacement linac (Linear accelerators) radiation machines at Palmerston North hospital are scheduled to commence treatment mid-year with two addition machines to be installed by the Taranaki and Hawkes Bay Health Boards in 2021-22.

The efficiency of the new machines providing shorter treatment times and the ability of patients to access radiation in their own region will impact on the occupancy of Ozanam House and the Board is continuing to actively explore alternative options to fully utilise the facilities and resources, while at the same time recognising that accommodation for Cancer patients remains the key role of the Trust and takes precedence.

The Trust wrote to the Minister of Health voicing concerns regarding pending changes in Cancer treatment and the effect upon occupancy at Ozanam House and urging action on the findings of the policy recommendations of The National Travel Assistance Scheme. Particularly support for changes based on frequency of patient specialist visits, a reduction in the distance travelled, and an increase in reimbursement of costs to reflect actual costs which have not increased for some time.

The Trustees met with representatives of Mid Central Health to discuss areas of common interest and meetings were held between Oncology staff and our Administrators. Overlying this was a future of lower occupancy, shorter treatment and stay times.

Looking to the future The Board is continuing to actively explore future alternative options with various organisations to consider other developments to fully utilise the facilities and resources. The Trust has contributed to a feasibility study on an innovative specialist residential care facility.

In late March together with the Regional Cancer Treatment Service the Trust responded to combat the Covid-19 virus and adapted the way we accommodated patients to comply with alert level restrictions. We reduced our occupancy in our own houses and utilised motels for the balance.

I would like to make a special mention of our Secretary-Manager Roger Clark, Administrators Glenys and Meg, and housekeeping and administration staff who in addition to their normal duties carry out many behind the scenes initiatives to enhance guest wellbeing. It is gratifying to repeatedly receive comments of appreciation from patients.



**Local group, Manawatu Overtones. Entertain guests at the 2019 Christmas Party, waitresses' staff member's daughters Serena & Nikitah**

There are many challenges the Trust faces going forward, adapting to a changing scene in Cancer treatment procedures and methods while continuing to provide a high level of service, and maintaining our facilities for our guests as a “home away from home”

As we move towards future challenges, I would like to thank my fellow Trustees Terry Comber, Barney O'Connor and Peter Noble-Campbell for their support and wise counsel and look forward to continuing to serve the interest of the Trust.



**Chairman**  
**Bill Bly – May 2020**