

## OZANAM HOUSE TRUST CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

2007

My second year in this current term as Chairman of the Board is now coming to a close. Although this is a report on 36 years service by the Trust I can reflect on 40 plus years of association with this work.

In August of this year an opportunity was taken to recognise the early beginnings of Ozanam House commenced 40 years ago with the establishment of Ozanam House in what has now become Vincentian Cottage. At the conclusion of my Trust Board involvement with this magnificent project I am conscious of numerous highlights and have many happy memories.

During the year in review the Trust made a decision on its future relative to expansion. With problems in the Health sector currently, the Trust has not always been at full capacity. Despite this and with the knowledge that Palmerston North will be a treatment centre well into the future, when the opportunity presented itself, the trust made the decision and purchased a 7000 sq metre section.

This land is situated at the back of St Mary's church in Ruahine Street. The site is big enough to allow the Trust to develop a community almost adjacent to the hospital and just a short walk from the rest of Ozanam House. In time the development of this site could replace the lease of Clendon Court Flats. Those 11 units became part of Ozanam House more than 12 years ago when the Taranaki Oncology unit was closed resulting in patients being referred to Palmerston North for their treatment. I am satisfied that I am

leaving the development of this project in capable hands and I wish the Trustees every success in developing the site and maintaining the spirit and philosophy which the Trust has guarded so jealously for these past 36 years.

As I have stated before it has been the Trust's philosophy and objective to provide accommodation, which, in the circumstances, replicates as closely as possible that which the resident's might experience at home.

Again, I wish to acknowledge, with gratification, the continuing good relationships and associations with those involved in the treatment of cancer patients in the Palmerston North hospital. I refer to the Regional Cancer Treatment centre in particular but, during the year we developed a good relationship with the Ministry Of Health. They have as a result of policy changes, taken a more direct interest in providing us with the funds that go some way towards meeting our running costs. That difficult transition has been achieved with very little disruption.

My fellow Trustees on the Board, Cliff Craven, Bill Bly and Bernard Forde have made a continuing high level of contribution and I thank them for their support.

### **VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

The 'Update', a publication of items of interest, has once again encouraged our benefactors into a very generous frame of mind. This publication results in a good level of donations which is reflected in the \$64,000.00 increase in donations during the year. Because of the interest in the Trust's response to the Arson attack earlier in the year a further 'Update' advising of the developments is currently being prepared.

The rating authorities in our area continue to support the Trust and granted again a remission of a substantial proportion of our rates. Last year benefactors in Hawkes Bay conducted a car raffle for the benefit of the Trust and after the deduction of some expenses, \$26,987.00 resulted. The Williams Trusts from East Coast Region continue to be generous and a special donation of \$20,000.00 is earmarked for the development of the future increase in our accommodation and it was gratefully received. Other major donations and bequests received during the year are included in the list which I set out here under. Those who read our annual reports may recognise some of the names which I set out representing some of the many generous benefactors during last year.

Mr & Mrs H Hughes (New Plymouth)	Mr & Mrs J H Hanlen (Napier)
Mr R Fairbrother (Stratford)	Aronui & District Lions Club
Mr & Mrs Dick (Hastings)	Mr & Mrs A Pittar (Napier)
Miss C Lorck	Mr W Beattie (Gisborne)
Mr & Mrs B D Wisnewski (New Plymouth)	Mr W J Wilton (Havelock North)
Mr & Mrs T Norris (New Plymouth)	Miss P Dewar (Masterton)
Mr & Mrs Beutch (Napier)	Westpac Bank (Auckland)
Westpac Bank - On behalf of staff members	Lions Club of Hastings
Mr & Mrs F Addis (Waipawa)	Mr & Mrs S Taufrey (Napier)
Mr & Mrs B P Fleming (Opanake)	Mr & Mrs S Johnson (Waverley)
Mr & Mrs Nolan (Gisborne)	Jasmin Smith Charitable Trust
Mr & Mrs T Morrison (Napier)	Mr D Walsh (Inglewood)
Mr D Kalihara	Pam Torbett Charitable Trust (Wairoa)
Mr G Mason (New Plymouth)	Mr & Mrs B J Butler (Inglewood )
H B Williams Turunga Trust (Gisborne)	Higgins Charitable Trust (P. North)
St Vincent de Paul Society (New Plymouth)	St Vincent de Paul Society (Hawera)
Mr & Mrs K R Mulligan (Danniverke)	Mr & Mrs G A Jury (New Plymouth)
Mrs R Palmer (Hastings)	Clark Charitable Trust (Gisborne)
Mangatawa Beale Williams Memorial Trust (Gisborne)	Mr R Tempear (Wellington)
Mr & Mrs E Coombes (Hastings)	Ashmore Trust (Palmerston North)
Wairarapa Cancer Society Ladies Auxiliary	

These donors represent our Benefactors but there is a long list of names of lesser amounts all of which have been acknowledged.

## **STATISTICS**

The following table sets out the trends over the last seven (7) years which are of general interest and indicate trends.

<b>MID CENTRAL (including Hawkes Bay to Wanganui)</b>							
	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Patients Only	137	152	127	142	151	223	242
Patients with Carers	243	257	304	307	244	287	264
Carers Only	80	93	81	55	7	26	60
	460	502	507	504	402	536	566
Room Nights Occupied	8398	9355	9858	9712	-	-	-

<b>TARANAKI (up to 2003 includes Tairawhiti)</b>							
	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Patients Only	52	62	34	55	73	83	104
Patients with Carers	144	191	201	203	260	205	185
Carers Only	29	49	39	37	5	13	36
	225	302	274	295	338	301	325
Room Nights Occupied	4720	6085	6507	7339	-	-	-

<b>TAIRAWHITI</b>							
	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Patients Only	23	21	21	17	-	-	-
Patients with Carers	65	67	64	64	-	-	-
Carers Only	19	24	23	14	-	-	-
	107	112	108	95	-	-	-
Room Nights Occupied	1982	2324	2414	2361	-	-	-

<b>ANNUAL TOTALS</b>							
	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Annual Guests (patients & carers)	792	916	889	894	740	837	895
Available Room Nights	22460	22656	23630	23630	-	-	-
	67.2%	79.3%	79.5%	82.2%	-	-	-
					-	-	-
Room Nights Occupied	15100	17959	18779	19412	-	-	-

The somewhat alarming reduction in “room Nights occupied” is something which the Trust Board will have to give serious consideration in the next few years.

### **FINANCES**

Thanks to a careful administration of our funds, together with the continued generosity of our supporters we maintain a strong financial position. Because of that the Trust was able to enter into the purchase of the land which I have mentioned previously safe in the knowledge that the support was always there for such a move.

The accounts indirectly recognise the cost of supporting caregivers for whom no government support is available. These guests are not accommodated at the expense of patients who always receive priority. These costs, met from donations, amounted to \$64,253.00 (L/Y \$65,190.00).

The short fall in contract payments received compared with actual accommodation provided was \$4,698.00 (L/Y \$26,328.00).

The new funding scheme has ensured that all accommodation charges incurred for “approved” patients are met, albeit, at the rate set by government.

Our operating revenue at \$652400.00 (L/Y \$754158.00) reflects the substantial reduction in occupancy levels during the year. An explanation for the reduced level of occupancy could be the difficulties at the local Treatment Centre who have been unable, due to staff shortages, to provide treatment for all patients who presented.

The arrangement whereby patients are sent overseas for treatment still reflects as a cost against that Centres budget but reduces the Trusts’ income at a time when our costs remain fixed and increasing.

This remains a matter of concern for all involved.

On the other hand overhead costs do not abate but continue and increase. Staff costs do not reflect a high rise in individual’s payment which have been increased only slightly

during the year. While the overheads are under constant surveillance at \$628217.00 (L/Y \$722296.00) they include a depreciation cost of \$124666.00.

Continuing costs in motel accommodation reflects our policy relating to caregivers.

The return on investments, as has been the case in previous years, is satisfactory and shows a slight increase on the previous years. All in all as I have said above, the Trust is in a sound financial position.

Finally in this section, I would like to pay tribute to our Auditor, Darryl Pinny. We are grateful to him for the consideration shown to the Trust and the promptness with which he conducts the audit. It is my intention to nominate him again, as Auditor, for this coming year.

I also wish to acknowledge the guidance and advice given to the Trust Board by our legal advisor, Larry Florentine. His help has been of great assistance.

## **GENERAL**

It almost goes without saying that the Trust is and has been blessed with the quality of the staff that looks after the interest of our treasured guests. Led ably by Mrs Eileen Day, staff continue with great diligence to attend the needs of our guests and carry out duties beyond those one could normally expect.

We continue to be grateful to them for this helpful attitude to their work.

There have been one or two changes and in particular we are taking the opportunity to express our thanks to Mrs Lorna Wonnocott a staff member for an excess of 13 years. Lorna has come to the decision that her ability in the future to spend the time she wishes with her grandchildren may be shorter than she thinks and now wishes to take up that opportunity.

Our expressions of gratitude to the staff are only mirrors of the many messages we get from patients after they return to their homes. My thanks go out to them.

The secretary and his staff continue to provide the service we have come to expect over the years. It is regretted at this point however that I draw to the attention to the untimely demise during the year of a member of the Secretaries staff, Mrs Michelle Quinn, who was employed by the secretary. She was generous with her time for the Trusts' affairs and she was sadly missed at the time of her death in January of this year.

The time has come now that I must relinquish my position on the Trust Board and I do this with some sadness but safe in the knowledge that the Trust is in excellent hands and will continue with the help of God, St Vincent de Paul and all our benefactors to maintain the high standard of accommodation that is always provided and will flourish into the future.

**Mr Les P Walden**

**CHAIRMAN**