



A JOB WELL DONE

Looking back at last year's superlative effort, I can only say I am still overwhelmed by the enormously successful telephone appeal and with subsequent support such as the very generous contribution by LCIF.

It was an overwhelmingly pleasing result and is obviously a great credit to those Lions and other volunteers throughout the region who gave their time and organisational skills to the cause.

Thanks must also go to Telecom - without their support in providing lines and equipment, the approach would have been totally unviable.

The Bank of New Zealand too was extremely co-operative in accepting donations at all its branches.

The generosity of all the people who made pledges - and who in some cases have even given more than their original pledge - has been humbling, especially when they've told stories about why they're giving. In many cases they, or a friend or family member, have at some time stayed at Ozanam House and appreciate just what a valuable facility it is.

Tony Finnigan (left) with Ozanam House Administrator Eileen Day and Minister of Health Bill English

The need for Ozanam House continues to grow and need for additional funds will be ongoing.

But for now, it's "well done" all round. Thank you everyone.

Tony Finnigan,

Lions Ozanam House Appeal Co-ordinator



OZANAM HOUSE FUTURE ASSURED



District Governors Roger Malthus (left) and Ray Seymour (right) along with Ozanam House Trustee, Mr Cliff Craven examine the bound book which contains all the Ozanam House donors names. The book will go on display in the Lloyd Morgan Wing at Ozanam House which was funded by money raised in the appeal.

The Lions Club International Humanitarian Fund has made a \$US75,000 (nearly \$NZ106,000) to the Ozanam House Trust Appeal.

This sum has been added to the cheque for \$570,000, presented by the Lions Clubs from throughout the central North Island as well as additional substantial donations from NZ Lottery Grants Board and the Eastern and Central Community Trust, swelling the total to well over \$750,000.

The official handover of the Lions clubs' cheque, followed by a celebration dinner on November 22 last year, was attended by representatives of the Lions Club, Ozanam House and Minister of Health, Bill English.

This newsletter has been prepared to encapsulate months of work by many hundreds of Lions and volunteers over last year's major campaign. It also acknowledges their contribution to ensuring Ozanam House continues to play its important role in supporting cancer sufferers and

Guests, already under great personal stress, are reassured to know their accommodation during treatment will place no financial burden on their families. They can also appreciate the common concerns of other guests and gain support from this shared experience.

The comfortable and supportive accommodation provided by the Ozanam House Trust has proved invaluable over the years to many thousands of New Zealand families.

SPREADING THE WORD

Throughout last year's appeal, media in the central North Island were kept involved and informed with a series of news releases and feature articles relating to the fund raising progress.

The following is an edited version of a human interest feature written from interviews with a number of Ozanam House guests.

GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE HOME NOBODY WANTS

Nobody wants to stay at Ozanam House.

That's what the attractive dark-haired young woman said. "But if you have to, you're damn glad it's here."

Natalie (not her real name) is the mother of a five-year-old boy and has come from Napier for a month of radiation treatment at Palmerston North hospital.

She's being treated on an out patients basis, and while she can go home at weekends, during the weeks, she needs somewhere to stay.

"Having to juggle things at home with our little boy is hard and having to have treatment away from home is bad enough. But at least with Ozanam House, we don't have to worry about money."

It's Natalie's second stay at Ozanam House, a facility which has met the needs of cancer patients and their families, since 1967.

Operated by an independent Trust Board, Ozanam House has grown with the needs of the surrounding communities. But in recent years health sector re-structuring has seen the majority of cancer treatment in the region centralised at Palmerston North, resulting in a large increase in demand for Ozanam House facilities.

There is no charge for people staying at Ozanam House and no "rules" which is why many of the people staying there call it "a home away from home".

Another of the younger residents, Janet from Inglewood in Taranaki who is also a mother with two small children, is in her third week of treatment at Palmerston North. She says "it felt a bit strange at first, but living with strangers was a lot better than I expected.

"I think it's because you can do what you like when you like. If you feel like sleeping in, you can. If you want to go out, you can."

One of the most important features of Ozanam House for many cancer patients is they can bring their "carers" with them - they're not alone when going through a very stressful experience in a strange place.

Mrs K from Hastings was having a cup of tea while her husband slept after treatment.

"We've been here one week today," she says. "We've got



A home-like atmosphere helps relieve the stress of cancer treatment

five weeks to go. Six weeks in a motel would have sent us broke - staying here is like a holiday."

For Mr K, the thought of having to stay in an unknown place with unknown people was traumatic. But, says Mrs K, "the minute he walked in here he said he felt better."

"While we're here I'll knit, talk, eat and sleep and go for a walk each day - and be here for my husband."

Out off the sun room, three elderly gentlemen sit in companionship, coffee mugs and newspapers spread about them.

"They're great here," says one of them, a 64-year-old from Gisborne. "They go out of their way for you. If you don't have a car, they'll run you down to the hospital if you don't feel up to the short walk. It's a top place."

"Ozanam House has been there for well-known New Zealanders such as playwright Bruce Mason and former All Black Greg Cooper," Mr Finnigan says. "But it's also there for anyone who needs it."

Administrator Eileen Day ensures the smooth running of the house which can accommodate up to 70 people in rooms, all of which have their own en suite.

There's a special unit for families with children. Mrs Day says Ozanam House recently had a blind guest who brought her guide dog with her.

"There's not one bad thing I could say about Ozanam House. I just hope the Lions raise enough money so nobody has to miss out on what it has to offer - real peace of mind when you need it.

LIONS PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS LAUNCH APPEAL

A visit by an international past president of the Lions organisation is a significant event on any Lions Club calendar.

But last May, the Papaioea Lions Club hosted not one, but two past presidents.

Dr Bill Biggs from Omaha, Nebraska in the United States and New Zealand’s only international past president Lloyd Morgan, met at Palmerston North’s Ozanam House to open the extensions and launch the fund raising appeal.

The extension was named the Lions Lloyd Morgan Wing in recognition of the huge contribution made by Lloyd Morgan to community work through Lions.

Lions from throughout the Central Region committed themselves to raising these funds to secure the future of Ozanam House and many of them attended the official opening ceremony followed by the formal lunch to honour the two past presidents at which Dr Biggs was guest speaker.

“We’re delighted Bill Biggs made the grand gesture of support by officially opening the Lloyd Morgan Wing,” said Ozanam House Trust secretary Tony Finnigan.

It fits well with his own interests in the United States, he says, where he is active in professional organisations such as Project Hope which provides food, clothing, education and medical services to those in need in Omaha.

He is also a member of the youth education organisation, Quest International, supported by the Lions, and attended a Quest meeting while in Palmerston North.

It was a great start to the fund raising appeal, said Mr Finnigan.



Meeting of the past presidents: Lloyd Morgan (left) and Bill Biggs.

OZANAM HOUSE TEAM PULLS TOGETHER

While Ozanam House has grown dramatically over the past few months, the team keeping the organisation running like a well oiled machine remains the same.

Administrator Eileen Day, assisted by June Spicer, cleaners Nancy Tawharu and Lorna Wonnocott and volunteer gardener Norm Pearce have carried on their duties as always, while new walkways have been established, the old shed demolished and replaced with a new conservatory, the Ryan Wing updated with en suite bathrooms and the Lloyd Morgan wing completed.

And the developments haven’t stopped, Eileen reports.

“We’ve bought the section next door on which the building of six new units will begin in the next few weeks, and we also have leased an additional nine flats nearby for the overflow.”

Visitors coming back to Ozanam house notice big changes, but for Eileen and the team, the evolving nature of Ozanam house is a little like their ongoing jobs - “No two days at Ozanam House are the same,” says Eileen “And that’s part of the enjoyment of working here.”

REGIONAL WRAP UP

A key feature of last year’s fundraising was the telephone appeal held over Queens Birthday Weekend with more than \$450,000 being pledged.

Many hundreds of volunteers undertook to ring all households from Hawkes Bay to New Plymouth; from Gisborne to Wairarapa. Without their help, the support of Telecom, which provided telephones and free calls, and media support, the appeal could never have been the overwhelming success it was.

“While we’re well on the way to meeting this particular challenge, the need for Ozanam House will, sadly, continue to grow. We want to be sure it’s there for the people of the central North Island should they ever need it,” appeal co-ordinator Tony Finnigan says.

Regional breakdown:

The following is a breakdown of the regional totals pledged over last year’s Queens Birthday Weekend telephone appeal:

Taranaki	\$113,775
Wanganui	\$52,762
Manawatu	\$92,332
Wairarapa	\$30,797
Hawkes Bay	\$149,181
Gisborne	\$36,000
Total	\$474,848

OZANAM HOUSE - HOUSE OF HOPE FOR CANCER PATIENTS AND THEIR CARERS IN CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND

In many cases when people were approached for contributions to the Lions Ozanam House Appeal, they already knew what the facility was and the service it provided.

But for those who wanted more information, a summary sheet answered most questions.

What is it?

- Ozanam House is a facility which provides accommodation for cancer patients (and their carers if required) while undergoing treatment at Palmerston North's Base Hospital.
- Because this hospital provides cancer treatment for patients from throughout the central region of the North Island, and because many patients are treated on an out-patient basis, hundreds of people every year need accommodation in Palmerston North for periods of up to five or six weeks.
- Ozanam House was started by the St Vincent de Paul Society in 1967 and has grown - along with the need for its services - from a four-bedroomed house to a facility which can accommodate up to 70 people at any one time.

How is it operated?

- The Ozanam House Trust is run by a Management Board comprising of the two trustees – the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Cancer Society. Members are, Mr Ian C Mark, Mr Les P Walden (chairman), Dr Percy V Bydder, and Mr Cliff W Craven.



Left to right:
Dr Percy V
Bydder,
Mr Ian C
Mark, Mr Les
P Walden,
(chairman).

- Guests are encouraged to treat the house as their own home, with housework and cooking, as well as recreation, often being shared by mutual consent. There are no rules and no charge is made for people's stay, although contributions are welcomed.

History

- While carrying out hospital visits and welfare work in the 1960s, Palmerston North St Vincent de Paul Society members saw a need for accommodation in Palmerston North for out-of-town cancer patients.
- From this idea came the Society's purchase in 1967 of a comfortable four-bedroomed home a short walk from the hospital, which was named after St Vincent de Paul Society founder, Frederick Ozanam.
- In 1972, a new six-bedroom accommodation block was built behind the original house in response to growing demand. Funded by an appeal organised by the local Cancer and St Vincent de Paul societies, this new block met the demand for accommodation for less than two years.
- In 1973, the Palmerston North Hospital announced plans to extend its cancer treatment facilities, indicating demand for Ozanam House services could be expected to also increase. Manawatu Lions Districts No 202B, 202D and 202H, assisted by other Lions Districts, responded with an appeal throughout the lower half of the North Island.
- The appeal successfully raised \$120,000, which was used to fund an impressive 12-bedroom addition to Ozanam House in 1974. The replacement cost for that building is now approximately \$700,000.
- In 1987, with the need for even more accommodation evident, Lions Clubs throughout the region responded again with a joint effort to raise enough for a further six-bedroom block.

Ozanam House is a house of hope.

SAINTHOOD CONFIRMED FOR FREDERIC OZANAM

On Friday, August 22, Frederic Ozanam, founder of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, and the man for whom Ozanam House is named, was made a Saint.

The ceremony was held in Paris at Notre Dame and a strong contingent of New Zealanders took part, along with some 3,500 people inside the cathedral and 9,000 in the space outside.

The Cause for Frederic Ozanam's beatification was introduced in 1925 and for it to succeed, there had to have been a miracle.

This proved to be the saving of a child's life, Fernando Luiz B Ottoni, who at the age of 18 months was believed to be dying until his grandfather



prayed to Frederic Ozanam to send a miracle. The child recovered, and the congregation for the Cause of Saints has declared the miracle proved.

Frederic Ozanam was born in Milan on April 23, 1813. He studied law and while at the Sorbonne became involved in a religious debate during which someone asked what good the church was doing for the poor of Paris. The result of this was that Ozanam became determined to visit the poor; to finish with useless debates and devote himself to practical work of charity - the start of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

Like Frederic Ozanam, Ozanam House serves a very practical purpose in accommodating cancer patients and their families. All involved with Ozanam House are proud to be associated with his name.