

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The end of year 31 March 2020 marked the 49th 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!

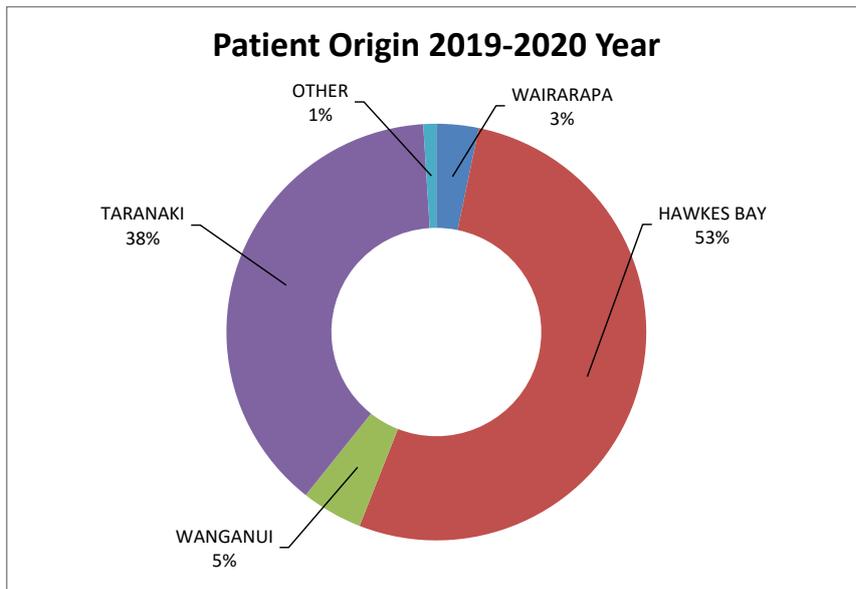
Once again our benefactors have been extremely generous. In addition to donations of \$115,392, bequests of \$14,636 were received. We enjoyed the goodwill and support of our local authorities. The Trust benefits from a rates remission from the Palmerston North City Council and Horizons Regional Council 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.

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