

ANNUAL REPORT 1998

The end of the year 31st March 1998 marked the 26th year of the Trust's operations. I am pleased to report on the Trust's activities for this year.

As a result of the work completed during the year the Trust now provides beds for 46 patients and this will, during this current year, be increased to 48. All rooms are double rooms, ensuited.

This the first year, of the current term of my Chairmanship, has been one where consolidation of all the work which has been taking place in the previous two to three years has been effected.

During the year there were many highlights.

In May 1997 the Trust hosted a large gathering of friends and benefactors, and in particular members of the Lions International Organisation. During a visit of two World Presidents of Lions International the opening ceremony of the Lloyd Morgan Wing and it's Blessing by the Bishop of Palmerston North, Reverend Peter Cullinane D D took place.

The new Administration area which combines a recreation facility, was completed and is a handsome and extremely useful addition to our facilities. The accommodation now revolves around a central administrative block, and has effected efficiencies in the way in which this larger utility is now administered. The recreation room to which was recently added a new billiard table donated by the Eastern & Central Community Trust Inc has been in almost constant use since it was completed in January 1998.

We were also very gratified in being able to officially Bless and open the Williams Wing providing six double ensuited bedrooms, early this year, as well. We are grateful for the architectural conception of this addition which has given us an addition to the Complex which fits in giving the impression that it has been there for always. The name of the building recognises the generosity of the Williams Family from Gisborne and we were pleased that they were able to be represented at the opening by Mr Graham Vette a Gisborne resident with an association with the family.

A fine piece of artwork displayed in the entrance way to the Administration block was the gift of the late Agnes Harlen. It was presented on her behalf by members of her family from the Levin district, and depicts in Maori motif the benefits and advantages of Ozanam House as she experienced them during her stays over some weeks during recent years.

Bringing to a close the current flurry of activity, brought about by an increase in patient numbers being treated in Palmerston North, is the refurbishment of the building previously known as the Family Unit and in which the office was previously accommodated. It is hoped that within a very short time the rebuilding will be completed and the final two rooms bringing our numbers up to 48 will be available for use.

The Trustees are very grateful for this programme being so successful as a result of the support of many people throughout the district as we continue to be under pressure to provide an adequate number of accommodation beds for those requiring them while they are present in Palmerston North for treatment.

Support

The Trust's annual statements acknowledge the continued generosity of many of our benefactors.

The finalisation of and the continuation of support from the Lions throughout the Districts 202B and 202D is reflected there. Amongst the many others I would particularly like to thank the following for their ongoing and continued support:-

Clark Charitable Trust - Gisborne
Page Trust - Palmerston North and Hamilton
Eastern & Central Community Trust
Mangatawa Trust
Hutter Charitable Trust
H B Williams Turanga Trust
The Mt Egmont Lodge
Frimley Foundation
St Vincent de Paul Society
together with a large number of clubs, societies, individuals and families

General

As indicated previously the Trustees are always aware of the concerns which are caused as a result of recent and current Government health policies. During the year meetings were held with the local health authorities with a view to ensuring that the benefits available to all our visitors are fair and equal, and represent those to which they are properly entitled.

In the Spring of 1997 the Trustees advised, by way of newsletter, our benefactors of the various events which had taken place over the previous months including the fundraising activities. As a result of this advice to our many friends, donations in excess of the \$50,000.00 were received.

Statistics

On page 14 of the financial statements some statistics in relation to the numbers of guests attending at Ozanam House are set out.

The Trust serves the areas administered by Central and Midland Health Funding Authorities in the main. While there are a number from other areas they constitute a relatively low number. The figures set out hereunder indicate the numbers accommodated by the Trust from each of the areas mentioned above. Midland provide us with patients from the Taranaki and Gisborne area, and Central patients are those who are covered mainly by other areas in the Central Districts region.

Statistics

Central Patients, Central Care Givers

	1998	1997
Patients	312	288
Carers	228	230
Carers only	50	82

Midland Patients, Midland Care Givers and Others

Patients	190	236
Carers	148	182
Carers only	31	32
Other Patients	<u>29</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u>988</u>	<u>1,058</u>

Due to building renovations during the year some of our rooms were not always available. We are aware also that the lack of hospital facilities have caused the waiting list to increase during the year.

Finances

The Trust is pleased to report that our financial position remains sound and we are truly grateful to the support of our benefactors for this situation.

While the financial future of the Trust seems assured the Trustees are always conscious of the ever increasing pressure on the facilities in the Radiotherapy Department at Palmerston North Hospital where more patients are being treated each year. The Trust is well placed should any urgent project come to our notice when resources can be applied quickly to effect some satisfactory outcome to assist with any problem which may arise. It is to be noted that while the accounts showed a healthy surplus as a result of income and fundraising the cash has been largely applied for the purpose of increasing and improving the Trust's assets.

Acknowledgments

I wish to give recognition to the contributions which are continuing to be made to the Trust by my fellow Trustees Dr Percy V Bydder and Mr Ian C Mark representing the Cancer Society, and Mr Cliff Craven my fellow representative from the St Vincent de Paul Society. The contribution of the Trustees due to the high level of activity currently going on has meant their contribution has been very significant. In particular, I would like to take the opportunity now of thanking Dr Percy V Bydder for the able Chairmanship he displayed during the years prior to me taking up the reins again for a third term. The Trustees recognise the tremendous support which they also draw from their respective organisations, the St Vincent de Paul Society Manawatu District Council and the Cancer Society of New Zealand Manawatu Centre.

Mrs Eileen Day our ubiquitous and ever pleasant Administrator ably assisted by Mrs June Spicer, as always, continue to make a generous and well respected contribution to the welfare of all guests. They manage a small team of assistants who work extremely hard without a lot of recognition in supporting Eileen and June. Thanks once again to the Secretary Mr Finnigan and his staff for their administrative and accounting supporting.

I am pleased that I am able to say that the Trust looks forward to the future with some confidence. There are still some matters requiring resolution and attention, but we are hopeful that our administration will result in a continuation of the friendly and supportive atmosphere provided at Ozanam House.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Les P. Walden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Les P. Walden
CHAIRMAN