

OZANAM HOUSE TRUST
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT
2006

I have enjoyed my first year and another term as Chairman of the Board, as during this period the high maintenance of our accommodation standard has continued and the assets of the Trust remain in pristine condition.

One might correctly expect the world of Health to be an evolving one and that, from the experience of the Trust, is certainly the case. Not only in the area of treatment and hospitalisation but in administration. It is appreciated that the increasing costs associated with the provisions of Health mean a constant involvement of Government.

Like others involved in serving the industry we face our costs and their increases while on the other hand we have to co-operate/liaise with those charged with administering the funds made available for the purpose by Government.

It has always been the Trusts philosophy and principal objective to provide accommodation, which in the circumstances, replicates as closely as possible that which our guests may experience at home. Because of that high ideal we find that they appreciate almost without exception what is provided at Ozanam House.

The intention of the Board is to ensure that to the best of our ability the costs of running Ozanam House are costs borne by the Health providers. We, realising how fortunate we are in this regard, use the generosity of our friends to maintain the high standards we have always set ourselves.

In this our 35th year of service as a Trust Board, the tenor has continued as previously in achieving the aims that I set out previously.

Apart from the District Health Boards we have firm but less formal associations with the:
Regional Cancer Treatment Centre; our liaison with them has continued and is found to be helpful to both of us. We are grateful for the frank and informative manner the General Manager, Ms Penny O'Leary and her staff relate to us. This is reflected also at the level of accommodation and treatment. While recognizing that this might be an expected outcome it is all the better achieved because of the nature and goodwill of all those individuals involved.

As fellow Trustees with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

With the Cancer Society at Manawatu Centre level we have a very close relationship.

We are grateful that at the Divisional level our needs and requirements are at the forefront, when appropriate, during the Division's dealings with the Health providers.

The Taranaki and Hawkes Bay centres continue to administer a service, which is now an integral part of Cancer Treatment spectrum, in the Central Districts region which is served by Mid Central District Health Board and the and the Regional Cancer Treatment Centre. We thank those responsible for the continuing high degree of professionalism displayed in the Transport service provided.

VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

While, a little later than expected in its publication, "Update" was well received by our previous donors. The response to the suggestion that a further donation may be appropriate has been outstanding.

With donations at \$167977.00, we think we can be grateful for an increase over last year at \$173024.00 by reason of the fact that there was no "Update" income reflected in the 2006 figures.

Both Palmerston North City Council and Horizons Manawatu have continued their recognition of the economic advantage that Ozanam House brings to the city by granting again, a remission of a portion of our rates.

Bequests were not a feature in 2006 when \$5877.00 represented about 10% of the bequests received the previous year.

The late William G Johnston's generous perpetual bequest was acknowledge last year. In addition we noted his life in "Update". A suitable memorial to remember this man is in the process of being placed within the complex.

While previous readers of these Annual Reports may recognise some of the names hereunder I set out some of the many generous benefactors of ours during last year.

Mr & Mrs Barron, (Gisborne)	Lions Club of Pakeke, (Hastings)
Mr & Mrs J Nathan, (Napier)	Esme & Tom Tombleson Trust, (Gisborne)
Mr H Vosper, (New Plymouth)	Womens Auxillary Cancer Society, (Masterton)
Southgate Rugby Club, (England)	Lions Club, (Woodville)
Lions Club, (Hastings)	Mr & Mrs G Peters, (Hawera)
Tasman Charitable Trust, (Hastings)	Havelock Bowling Club, (Havelock North)
Mrs H Petersen, (Napier)	Mrs JL Carey, (Opunake)
Miss P Kennedy, (Wanganui)	Mr & Mrs A Ross, (Wairoa)
Mr B Hayman, (Paraparaumu)	Mr & Mrs J Hawkesworth, (Gisborne)
Mr & Mrs BW & KH Meyer, (Manaia)	Society of St Vincent de Paul, (Hawera)
Mr & Mrs IA Lean, (Hastings)	Society of St Vincent de Paul, (New Plymouth)
Mrs M Roberts, (Hawera)	Mrs D Russell, (Gisborne)

We have been delighted to welcome the return of a number of our friends for visits. During the year members of that most generous Gisborne family, the Williams, were welcomed.

STATISTICS

There may be a need to extend the statistical DataBase to include other regions if the current trickle grows. The following table sets out trends over the last five years.

MID CENTRAL (including Hawkes Bay to Wanganui)

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Patients Only	152	127	142	151	223	242
Patients with Carers	257	304	307	244	287	264
Carers Only	93	81	55	7	26	60
	502	507	504	402	536	566
<i>Room Nights Occupied</i>	9355	9858	9712	-	-	-

TARANAKI (up to 2003 includes Tairawhiti)

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Patients Only	62	34	55	73	83	104
Patients with Carers	191	201	203	260	205	185
Carers Only	49	39	37	5	13	36
	302	274	295	338	301	325
<i>Room Nights Occupied</i>	6085	6507	7339	-	-	-

TAIRAWHITI

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Patients Only	21	21	17			
Patients with Carers	67	64	64			
Carers Only	24	23	14			
	112	108	95			
<i>Room Nights Occupied</i>	2324	2414	2361			

ANNUAL TOTALS

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Annual Guests (patients & carers)	916	889	894	740	837	895
Available Room Nights	22656	23630	23630			
	79.3%	79.5%	82.2%			
<i>Room Nights Occupied</i>	17959	18779	19412			

FINANCES

I will comment only briefly on the financial results, which are reasonably similar to the previous year. We maintain a strong financial position. Our aim is to be able to undertake substantial capital work, to which I will refer again in this report, and maintain a reserve against Government funding being dramatically cut or even ceased.

A feature of the accounts is the recognition of 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.

Those Carer costs, met from Donations, were \$65190.00 (L/Y \$70263.00). The short fall in the Contract payments received as compared with actual accommodation provided was \$26328.00 (L/Y 20072.00). This is a feature we anticipate will be greatly reduced this year under a new funding scheme.

Our operating revenue at \$754158.00 (L/Y \$753403.00) we are particularly satisfied about. The administration argue long and hard to increase our returns in this area.

Overhead costs continue to creep and some faster than others. Our staff we absolutely regard as top rate but we do not regard them as being over paid. Small increases occurred last year and in fairness we keep a careful eye open.

While our overheads are well managed at \$722296.00 (L/Y 721101.00), a charge for depreciation at \$139526.00 is included.

The increased cost in Motel accommodation reflects our policy relating to caregivers.

The careful administration of our Investments ensures a good return from 'safe' investments resulting in a slight increase in this source of income.

All in all, as I said, a sound position.

I wish to note also the valued role our Auditor, Darryl Pinny plays and has done so for a number of years now. I have every intention of nominating him for this position again this year.

GENERAL

A major development in the latter part of the year and more recently is likely to impact on the Trust in a number of ways in the future.

At a time when there was an urgent need to be met the Board entered into an arrangement regarded as being temporary. We have been leasing now for some 10 years, 11 flats known as 'Clendon Court'. While they have met a need they have not always measured up to the criteria for the type of accommodation we wish to provide.

The Trust was made aware of a reasonably large piece of land with access to Newhaven Place and behind St Mary's School on the boundary of the playing area of Freyberg High School. Recognising that such an opportunity, which could enable us to provide for the release of the Clendon Court lease and future expansion, might not re occur. The Board thought long and hard about its purchase.

As I have said, we considered the matter very carefully before participating in the transparent process of tendering to the owners and securing ownership of the property.

We await Title at the present time but are beginning to investigate the requirements for the successful intermingling of the property with our existing resources. The planning is long term and development will be gradual. A primary objective is to establish and maintain the same good relationships we enjoy with our neighbours on our existing sites.

We thank God, Saint Vincent de Paul, and all others who supported and helped during this consultation period. This brings me to thank my fellow Board members for the ongoing and much appreciated support.

I repeat what I have said many times previously when I come to express our gratitude to Mrs Eileen Day and her staff. While there were one or two changes (we were sad to see Mrs Barbara Crow retire to have more time with her family) the staff remain constant and faithful. We take the opportunity to thank them as often as we can and this small recognition in this report is part of that.

The Secretary and his staff are a fixed feature, or so it seems. We continue to operate in the manner I have alluded to above so I have no doubt some of that is due to them also.

Suffice it for me to say we all enjoy our association with this worthwhile contribution to Cancer patient welfare and I hope to be able to report in a similar vein 12 months from now.

Mr Les P Walden
CHAIRMAN