



St Mary's development is planned

Ozanam House is extending its services to a new complex to be built in Newhaven Place, off Ruahine Street near Palmerston North Hospital.

The trust has bought a 700 square metre section at the back of St Mary's Church, and plans a \$1.9 million development there.

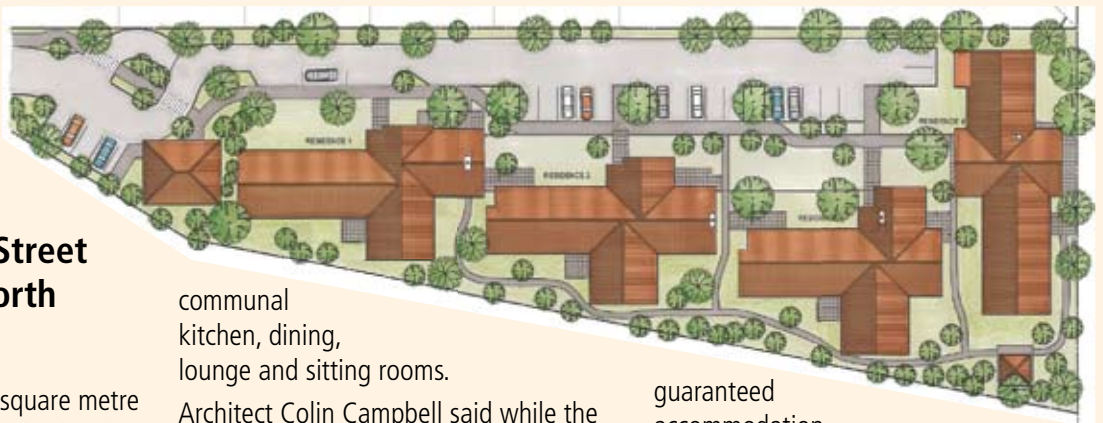
Trust chairman Les Walden says the immediate goal is to build two six-bedroom houses, and there is room to develop another two in the future.

Mr Walden said the trust would have loved to keep on developing on the Ruahine Street- Featherston Street block and have kept Ozanam House all together as a community.

But that wasn't possible. The only available neighbours are a couple of state houses on Featherston Street that weren't suitable for redevelopment to Ozanam standards, and then there would have been nowhere else to grow.

So the decision was made to tender for the St Mary's site, which was bought for \$425,000 – an investment the trust could afford to commit to after years of "prudent" accumulation of funds.

The new development will be built on the principles that have made Ozanam House what it is today, with each house having six twin rooms with en suites and



communal kitchen, dining, lounge and sitting rooms.

Architect Colin Campbell said while the site posed some challenges, it was the first time the trust had an opportunity to plan an integrated community – Ozanam House itself has grown like topsy over the years as opportunities have arisen to buy neighbouring houses and sections.

The four houses, while offering privacy, will be grouped around a central landscaped courtyard to allow opportunities for people to mingle and share living spaces.

While off-street parking is important, Mr Campbell has endeavoured to create parks close to each residence but in a way that doesn't dominate.

Likewise, a driveway with a planted roundabout near the planned administration building will discourage all but residents' cars to venture further along the lane.

In time, the St Mary's development could replace the leased Clendon Court apartments. Those 11 units became part of the venture 12 years ago when Taranaki's oncology unit closed, and the decision was made to refer patients to Palmerston North because there was

guaranteed accommodation available. Clendon Court was part of the answer to that growth in demand, said Mr Walden.

"It was not long before clinicians started referring people from around the lower North Island to Palmerston North because they could see the therapeutic value of having people grouped together and living together in a home-like environment."

Clendon Court, with its self-contained units, doesn't quite fit that philosophy, and the trust decided it was better to build new than further explore the possibility of buying the units.

St Mary's will be big enough to develop its own community spirit just a short walk up the road from the rest of Ozanam House. It is expected to be a good option for people who stay without cars, being even closer to the hospital, and there are hopes a walkway can be allowed that will make it even easier.

The trust needs to obtain a resource consent before plans to start building can go ahead. The goal is to complete the first two houses within a year.

Summers Wing is restored after arson attack



It's been a year of recovery and rebuilding for Ozanam House after the worst possible start.

In the small hours of New Years Day, the north end of the Summers Wing was set alight by an arsonist.

The fire service, alerted by the alarm, arrived at 5am to find the building well alight and windows blowing out in the intense heat.

The fire completely destroyed one room and blew out the beautiful stained

glass window featuring patron St Vincent de Paul. Smoke damage throughout the ten room building was extensive.

The second storey of the wing had been added five years before as part of a \$650,000 redevelopment.

But the man credited with the vision for creating Ozanam House, Dan Butler, says the prayers that support the endeavour were answered.

Firstly, there were no residents in the building, so no-one was hurt or at risk. Those who had been staying there had gone home for the holiday.

And a second fire set upstairs didn't ignite. Trust chairman Les Walden was told if that fire had taken hold, the whole building might have been lost.

Mr Butler was philosophical about the destruction.

"It makes you wonder what people are made of, to destroy something that means so much not just in our community, but for everyone else who comes from out of town.

"But there is no good in getting angry. We have to accept it and move on. It's not about us, but those who use it."

And so they did move on.

Administration manager Eileen Day was delighted with the co-operation of Ozanam House insurers who were happy to pay to see everything restored to at least its former glory, with the same builders who had worked on the wing before returning to repair the damage.

Even so, it was June before the building was handed back to the trust, which made intensive use of its other buildings, Clendon Court and the motels to ensure no one who needed accommodation went without during the upheaval.

The Summers Wing today shows no scars, and the stained glass window is back in pride of place.

New wall creates an outdoor shelter

Traffic noise from Ruahine Street and cool winds from the south have been walled off from a newly created courtyard between the Walden and Summers Wing.

There's still a path through for people on foot, but the new wall creates a more private and sheltered area that will be developed and landscaped into a barbecue area.

The project was made possible through donations from the United Manawatu Lodge and its Gisborne counterpart, The Turanganui Lodge.

The gift stemmed from Lodge master Brian Matthews' stay about 18 months ago, and his desire to give something back to the trust that doesn't ask anyone who stays for money. The two lodges raised \$1000 each, supplemented with \$5000 from the North Island Masonic District Charitable Trust.



Stuart Schwartz (left) from Palmerston North and Lodge Master from Gisborne Brian Matthews handed over the cheques to Ozanam House Trust chairman Les Walden at a short function in early November.

Happy Fortieth Birthday to Ozanam House

Ozanam House celebrated its 40th birthday in August this year, and among the guests at the blessing was one of its founders, Dan Butler.

"I never dreamed it would be so big," says the man who came up with a simple concept of offering a home away from home for patients' families back in 1967.

As a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society, he was one of a team dedicated to visiting patients at Palmerston North Hospital twice a week.

"Some of them were locals we knew very well.

"But there were others who had nobody to visit them. It was not so much the complaint they were in hospital that was worrying them, but the separation from their families."

And so the Ozanam House solution was

conceived, to alleviate the pain and suffering of separation by providing accommodation for the carers of people in hospital.

It started with the proceeds of the sale of a house no longer needed for refugees, about \$20,000, a district-wide fundraising project and a lot of prayers.

First there was the Vincentian Cottage on Featherston Street, an ordinary three bedroom house, renovated to provide homely accommodation for hospital visitors from beyond Palmerston North. There followed the Ryan Wing and its extension, the Urquhart Wing, the Walden, Williams, Lloyd Morgan and Summers Wings, building up to the 52



room complex that today accommodates both out-patients and carers.

Demand has seen the trust use apartments at Clendon Court and a couple of motels to ensure no one in need is ever turned down, and it is now planning to build a new complex to take it into the future.

Ozanam House's birthday, and recovery from a fire earlier in the year, were celebrated with a blessing led by Palmerston North Bishop Peter Cullinane on August 12.

Lorna retires from cleaning



Ozanam House cleaner Lorna Wonnocott has hung up her duster after 13 years of keeping the Ryan Wing spotless.

More than just a cleaner in many ways, she's remembered as a caring person who went the extra mile for staff and patients.

Coming up to 67, she's had her own health scare, a warning of a stroke, and says if she's learned one thing from the people her age and younger who have come to Palmerston North for cancer treatment, it's to get out and do the things you want to do while you can.

She and her husband Mark, who's also retired, have a large section, and a caravan at Foxton Beach. They have 10 grandchildren, and want to have the time to take them walking and fishing, and "generally doing nothing".

Lorna says there have been times when she's felt for the trials of the people around her, and knows sometimes it's easy for people to chat to the person who's busy with a dishcloth. She's been spotted by former patients around the district, and has been pleasantly surprised to be greeted with such warmth.

"People remember what you do. I remember their faces, but I don't necessarily remember their names.

"I've certainly learnt a lot from the people here, how they manage, and the crafts and things they do, and the places they have been.

"It is certainly not a depressing place – they are mostly such positive people. I've stayed so long because of the people."



Claire Murray

After 18 months in the assistant administrator's chair, Claire Murray is at a loss to explain

the amazing atmosphere of Ozanam House that makes working there so satisfying.

"You really have got to live it to understand," she says. "It's quite outstanding, and it's the patients who make it so."

Claire works 7.30am to 12.30pm during the week, and stands in for Eileen Day when she's away. She found herself in charge at New Year when an arsonist attacked the Summers Wing, quite some "baptism in fire".

Before Ozanam House she was a practice nurse, and made the change at Easter 2006, replacing Margaret Campbell.

Her job involves liaising with patients, calling those who are expected to make sure they will feel comfortable, to remind them what they need to bring, and what they don't have to burden themselves with. She also ferries patients who need a ride up and down to the hospital.

Claire also takes a particular interest in Clendon Court, making sure people staying there have what they need and that the units are maintained to a high standard. She says the ten units there, with their two bedrooms, have been invaluable for families, for patients from Gisborne who can't get home for weekends, and those who have a roster of caregivers to stay with them.

John takes over the Hawkes Bay shuttle

The Cancer Society's new shuttle driver from Hawkes Bay John Horton was mentally prepared for his new job to be just a little bit upsetting.

"I was all teed up for people being a bit depressed.

"But it's on the contrary. Most of them are quite accepting about where they're at, they're coming to a lovely place in Ozanam House, they are all in the same boat, and we really don't get any sad sacks on the shuttle. I quite enjoy it."

John came to the driving job in March, taking over from a string of casuals. He'd run his own company for several years until he injured a shoulder and went back to driving for Nimons.

The shuttle job suits him well. It's a three-day a week commitment, the regular Monday and Friday runs to Palmerston North, and most Wednesdays if there is a need. On his off-days, he's busy with building a new home.

John puts quite some time into planning his trips, contacting each passenger individually to arrange pick up times from their homes, sometimes zig-zagging back and forth across Hawkes Bay, all in the interests of making sure the passenger with the earliest appointment of the day gets to Palmerston North

Hospital on time.

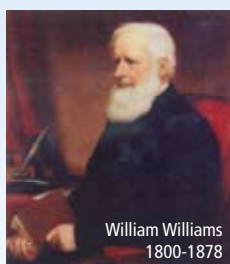
Once on the shuttle, John takes pride in making sure people are comfortable. The seats are good, and there's air conditioning, and there's putting people at ease.

"Most of the time they just start yakking to each other. I'm starting to learn a little about the whole business of diagnoses and treatment and what not, but it's entirely up to them whether they want to talk about that or something else.

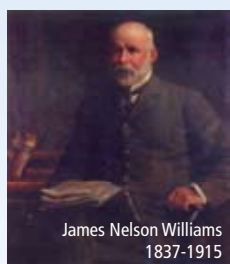
"I'm not supposed to talk – I have to make sure I keep my eyes on the road. But I ask in every town if people want to stop for a toilet break, and sometimes I give them a hard time, and say I'll stop at all the pubs.

"It's anything to help make life a bit more pleasant for them."

The other free shuttle to and from Ozanam House is driven by Jenny Green from New Plymouth who stops for extras in Wanganui.



William Williams
1800-1878



James Nelson Williams
1837-1915



Heathcote Beetham Williams
(H.B.) 1868-1961



Heathcote Beetham Williams
(Bill) 1922-

Williams family help is valued

The Williams family are well-known community benefactors in Gisborne, and their charity has stretched to Palmerston North as several of their trusts support Ozanam House to accommodate people from their area when they travel for cancer treatment.

The family's support is recognised in the naming of the Williams wing, where a book on the family's history takes pride of place and photographs of the family men are soon to join the display.

Among the family's outstanding contributions to the Gisborne community is the purchase, establishment and development of the Eastwoodhill Arboretum, one of the district's major tourist drawcards.

Donations to Ozanam House have been made through the Heathcote Beale Memorial Trust, the Turanga Trust, the Frimley Foundation and the Springhill Charitable Trust.