



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 1990

Dear Friends and Supporters

The six months since our last newsletter has been a very busy period with a number of very successful functions held by our extremely supportive Women's Committees under the leadership again this year of Mrs Bettina Harold (Pakuranga/Howick Branch) and Mrs Rosemary Horton (Central) both of whom have unlimited enthusiasm for the task.

It has been a period of change and for planning for the future. The Government has provided funding for other organisations such as cerebral palsy association to set up their own residences for their members and hence we have seen a number of our residents with these disabilities move out from our Home and we currently have some empty units. On the other hand there has been a big increase in demand for accommodation for people with head injuries mostly as a result of accidents. These clients are usually capable of, or can be trained to cater for themselves to some extent and there has therefore been an increase in demand for our units with cooking facilities. We have been looking at some of our older units to see if cooking facilities can be added.

Properties:

The extensions to the Farrell Hall have now been completed and form a very attractive and functional addition to our facilities. On the recommendation of the Women's Committee the Management Committee agreed that the new upstairs meeting and work room should be called the Mary Caughey room as some recognition of the tremendous contribution of Lady Caughey both in the original formation of the Trust and in its activities since foundation.

The funds for the Hall extensions were more than covered by the very generous bequest of a former Committee member Mr A J Farrell. Alick was introduced to the Branch by Dr John Lovell-Smith to whom we are most grateful. We have been the recipients of a number of generous bequests so if you are revising your will please remember the Auckland Branch of the Trust.

The ground floor of the Hall is now being used almost exclusively as a physiotherapy clinic which we have set up in association with a private neurophysiotherapist Karen George. Karen has had her own practice but now operates from our premises and provides services to our clients as well as a growing number of day clients, many of whom are ex residents. Already the space is proving inadequate.

The Women's Committee had previously decided that funds they had raised would be used for the Hall extensions but when Alick Farrell's bequest became available for that purpose the ladies agreed those funds should be put towards the Clevedon farmlet purchase which was duly completed. The property needs some minor alterations so we can accommodate the maximum of clients and these will be completed as funds permit. However, it is already being put to good use for training and recreation for our disabled clients as well as providing produce for the Home use and for sale.

It is well worth a visit if you are out in that direction and is a few kilometres from Clevedon on the left hand side of the road to Kawakawa Bay. There is a sign at the gate.

The old house at the entrance to the Home at 222 Great South Road was needing a lot spent on maintenance and has never been very suitable for subdivision into separate units. It is therefore being sold for removal and a subcommittee is currently investigating proposals for the use of that area. We have a number of requirements for additional space which can hopefully be met by utilising this land.

Further Developments:

Our negotiations with the Knox Home Trustees and the Kerr-Taylor Foundation Trust Board have been lengthy but have continued to make progress.

Agreement has now been reached with the Knox Trustees to demolish three houses in Market and Ranfurly Roads and build three units for occupation by physically disabled clients. When completed this complex will be managed by us.

We have also now completed drafting a lease agreement with the Kerr-Taylor Foundation Trust for the occupation of a block of land near the St Lukes shopping centre where we plan to erect six units financed by the Housing Corporation who continue to be most supportive.

Staff:

There have been some staff changes but we are still blessed with a very loyal and conscientious staff who always seem to tackle even the most unpleasant of tasks willingly and cheerfully. They certainly contribute very substantially to the pleasant atmosphere of our Home.

Our maintenance officer Roger Haddrell decided it was time to make a change. We were sorry to see Roger go as he was always very willing to lend his help in many different ways not associated directly with his employment. We also lost our gardener Peter Budd who has left to enter the Ministry. We wish them well. We now have a replacement Nick Bakker who is fitting in well and who at the moment is managing to cope with both jobs.

Our thanks are due to all our staff for their support and enthusiasm but in particular we would mention our Assistant Secretary Kath Clarke who somehow manages to keep our office ticking over, Roger Haddrell our maintenance officer and Manu our cook.

LAND AND BUILDINGS

We have recently completed the purchase of a strip of land along the boundary with the railway line. This will enable us to build a fence along that side which will help cut down the noise from road and rail and improve the security of our grounds.

The extra land has also helped in planning to put a second floor on the Farrell Hall to provide additional space for development of the therapy unit and for working space for the Women's Committee. Work has started on these additions and should be completed in about three months. Meantime there will be some disruption of activities but it will all be worth it when finished.

We have also just completed the purchase of a 12 acre farmlet in the Clevedon area. It is a beautiful property and will be used to provide additional therapy and training in skills for selected clients. There is a large kiwifruit orchard on the property and we have an agreement with the previous owner to manage this and our return will be a percentage of the profits.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Plans have progressed to lease a block of land from the Kerr Taylor Foundation in the St. Lukes area. Town Planning approval has been given to erect six units specially designed for housing independent disabled. Housing Corporation approval in principle has been given to financing the project and formal application will be made in the next few weeks for final approval.

In addition the agreement with Knox Homes Trust has been completed to manage three houses owned by them to be converted to six flats for independent disabled. This proposal has been developed in association with the Crippled Children's Society and Counterstroke who agreed that because of our acknowledged experience and expertise Laura Fergusson should manage the project.

We can see no end to the possibilities for future development of the services we provide. We plan to develop in the area of providing more professional input including physiotherapy occupational therapy, education and research.

With these developments we are ever mindful of the atmosphere of the Home and the need to guard against institutionalism.

We are getting far more accident referrals who all require very specialised relearning skills. This is an area which has been neglected in the provision of health services in Auckland and we believe that the provision of these services is very much part of our responsibility to our clients.

CONCLUSION

If you have read this far you will have realised that it has been a very busy six months.

Progress has been made but there is no slackening in our development plans.

What has been achieved is the result of the combined efforts of the Management Committee, the Women's Committees, the staff (particularly Elaine who provides the inspiration and by her own example the drive to achieve) and you our friends and supporters.

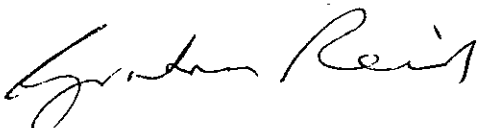
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Enclosed is a notice of the Branch Annual General Meeting and an account for this year's subscription. We have kept this at \$10 plus \$1.25 G.S.T. but ask those who are able to add a generous donation. Donations are not subject to G.S.T. and of course under current legislation if over \$5 are tax deductible.

Also please remember the Auckland Branch of the Trust if you are revising your will. We have benefitted from a number of generous bequests this last year.

Our grateful thanks and best wishes to you all.

Sincerely,



Graham B. Reid
HONORARY SECRETARY