

224 Great South Road,
Greenlane, Auckland 5, New Zealand.
P.O. Box 17-045.

TELEPHONE (09) 5240-537
(09) 5248-882
(09) 5248-928
FACSIMILE (09) 529-0123

AUCKLAND BRANCH
LAURA FERGUSSON TRUST (INC.)



NEWSLETTER MAY 1991

Dear Friends and Supporters,

At 31 March 1991 we came to the end of another financial year. It is the date at which we take stock of our financial position and our accounts are now being prepared and will be presented to the Annual General Meeting which is to be held on 18 June 1991 in the Mary Caughey Room of the Farrell Hall at 8.00 p.m.. Notice of meeting is enclosed herewith.

It is perhaps also an appropriate time to review what we have achieved and in case we become complacent, to set out our plans for development in the future.

The last ten years have seen very rapid developments including such achievements as:-

Installation of Spa Pool

Building of ten new units with cooking facilities and of the Farrell Hall.

Purchase of adjoining property in Omahu Road as a home for Matron.

Reconstruction of Karetu Road property (Joyce Fisher Lodge) to provide three units as Halfway house between the Home and independent living.

The main Branch property which was leasehold has been freeholded.

Purchased six flats in Moana Avenue Onehunga for independent living for disabled.

Purchased 12 acre farmllet at Clevedon.

Established a rapidly growing therapy unit.

Developments currently under way or being planned are:-

Six new flats for disabled at St. Lukes.

Nine flats at Knox Home in Market Road.

Extensions at Clevedon.

Removal of old house at 222 Great South Road and development of the site to provide more facilities.

Installation of cool-room at the Home.

All of this progress has only been possible because of the tremendous assistance we have received both financially and in hours of voluntary work so willingly contributed by you, our friends and supporters. We do thank you most sincerely and wish that more of you could see the results being achieved especially in the rehabilitation of our disabled clients.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEES.

Again the main fundraising drive has come from the Women's Committees who continue to lend the Branch their enthusiastic support.

2.

In the financial year just ended they raised the magnificent total of about \$ 90,000 and with interest of about \$20,000 were responsible for a grand total of about \$110,000. This was a tremendous effort in view of the current difficult times the country is experiencing.

The Branch could not manage without their contribution.

The annual fair was the major event in the last six months and this was a great success raising approximately \$13,500.

Groups are already hard at work preparing for this years fair and it is planned that it will be even bigger and better.

The Auckland Racing Club is again allowing us to hold a Race Day on Saturday 10 August. As for last year we will have the use of the Guineas Room in the new stand for lunch and our use for the day while some of our sponsors are arranging additional facilities for their guests. Despite the economic climate many of our friends have rallied to our support and it is hoped that by the time you get this letter we will have a full book of sponsors. This day has become a popular feature of the years racing calendar and we are very grateful to the Racing Club.

Shortly we hope to be able to announce details of another major event when the Branch expects to be associated with and benefit from another major promotion so please watch for further information about that.

In addition to the major events cake stalls, bridge days, tennis days, garden and home visits and other fund raising activities continue to be held and produce a steady flow of badly needed funds.

CLIENTS

The latest word for the people whom we aim to help is clients. In a way this is probably more appropriate than residents as we are assisting more and more who come in on a daily basis for therapy treatment.

The demand for accommodation has fallen off over the last six months and we have had some vacancies. There are a number of reasons for this not the least of which has been the encouragement given to the disabled to live independently. We are also finding that there appears to be a growing trend for families to want to keep disabled members at home as long as possible where they can make a contribution to the family expenses. Other organisations have also set up residences for disabled persons and are accommodating people who would otherwise have come to us.

We are not concerned about this trend. It will probably correct itself and in the meantime services are being provided in other areas where the demand is growing.

THERAPY UNIT

The services of the Therapy Unit which has been set up in association with the Karen George Physiotherapy Clinic are in increasing demand and the facilities are being stretched to the limit. More and more referrals are being received particularly of clients with head injuries. These people respond to treatment and training but it is often a long process and there have been some problems with limits on Accident Compensation benefits. We have continued to press for benefits to provide adequate treatment.

We are grateful to the I.B.M. organisation for the donation of a computer to assist in retraining clients in the clinic.

STAFFING

Staffing continues to be relatively stable and we are very fortunate to have a loyal and conscientious group of people.

The development of the therapy unit has resulted in the need for increased staff as therapy co-ordinators to arrange and control the therapy services provided.

The "Restart" programme has given us the opportunity to create new positions in the Branch and help in the development of our services.

As usual I find it impossible to express adequately my admiration of our Manager/Matron Elaine Rice who has now been with us for over fifteen years. Her initiative, drive and enthusiasm are responsible for the progress and development of the Branch in recent years. Her dedication is unceasing. Long may she continue.

Unfortunately Manu Te Puia our cook for many years suffered a stroke towards the end of last year. Although she has improved it is slow progress. She is at present receiving treatment in the therapy clinic. We are fortunate to have the services of a replacement cook in the person of Kathie Clark. (Not related to Kath Clark in the office)

The maintenance officer Roger Haddrell decided it was time he moved and we were sorry to see him go. In his place we now have Nick Bakker who has very quickly fitted into place.

Kath Clark continues to cope admirably with the many and varied problems demands and crises which arise in the office.

LAND AND BUILDINGS

The Governor-General Dame Catherine Tizard honoured us by officially opening the extensions to the Farrell Hall. The new first floor has been named the Mary Caughey room in recognition of the tremendous contribution of Lady Caughey right from the inception of the Trust.

The old house at 222 Great South Road had reached the stage of needing major renovations and it was therefore sold for removal. Plans are now being considered for development of the site to provide badly needed increased facilities.

The garage at the Clevedon farmlet has been converted to provide additional accommodation for our clients and another bathroom has been added. Good use is being made of the farm for short stays for our residents and to provide produce for the Home. We are now planning a new garage and storage shed as well as a room for sorting and storing produce.

The projects with Knox and Kerr-Taylor trustees are progressing slowly and we hope more significant progress will be made very shortly.

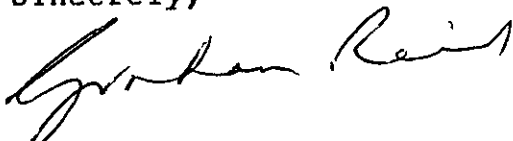
CONCLUSION

It must be apparent that this has again been a very busy and successful six months and there is no sign of any slackening in the near future.

What has been achieved has been the result of the combined efforts of the Management Committee, the Women's Committees under their very energetic President Rosemary Horton, the staff (especially Elaine who inspires us all with her inspiration, drive and enthusiasm) and you our friends and supporters.

We thank you all for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Graham B. Reid
HONORARY SECRETARY