

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 1991

Dear Members and Friends,

The second six months of the calendar year always seems to be the busiest period and 1991 has been no exception.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Women's Committees are a vital part of the Branch organisation and for them it has been a hectic period.

The annual RACE DAY at Ellerslie on Saturday 10 August 1991 was again a most successful function. It has become a recognised event in the Auckland Racing Club calendar and we are most grateful to them for their continued support. It was rather more difficult to obtain a full book of sponsors this year probably due to the economic climate but the last gap was filled at the last minute. Plans are already being made for August 1992 so please start thinking now of any Companies which we might approach to sponsor a race. The earlier we get Company confirmation the more exposure that company's name gets in racing calendars and pre-meeting publicity. In addition to the Racing Club our grateful thanks go to the following companies which sponsored a race:-

Wilson & Horton	K Mart (N.Z.)	Telecom Directory Services
Telecom Auckland	Glaxo (N.Z.)	Union Shipping
Cavalier Bremworth	Waste Management	Owens Group
Ansett (N.Z.)		

What has been described as the social event of the year was held on 27 September 1991. This was the CELEBRITY DINNER held at the A.S.B. Centre in association with the Pepsi launch and the visit of many overseas stars. It was a most successful function attracting a lot of publicity and we were most fortunate to be the charity selected to benefit from the dinner.

The next major function is the ANNUAL FAIR. This year the venue is to be Dilworth School on SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 1991 at 10a.m.. We are most grateful to Kings School for allowing us to use their Hall and Grounds for a number of years but as the Fair has grown it became necessary for us to seek a larger venue and we thank the Trustees and Headmaster of Dilworth for agreeing to us using their facilities. The ladies are actively making and seeking items to be sold and ask that you sort out now any items of produce, cakes, books, clothing, white elephants, sweets etc. etc.. If you would ring Helen Hunter 524-9024 she will put you in touch with the appropriate person.

In addition there have been the regular steady fund raising cake stalls, bridge days etc., while the Pakuranga /Howick Branch has held lunches and theatre evenings and is now hard at work making Christmas Puddings for the fair.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

It has been a difficult period as many of the organisations with which we deal such as Area Health Boards, Accident Compensation Commission, Social Welfare Department, Housing Corporation, Labour Department are going through a period of reorganisation and while we have been in close touch with them all it has been difficult to decide where we can best fit into the overall picture and what services we should be planning to provide.

With the reduction of many of the services previously provided by State organisations there is obviously a growing place for organisations such as the Laura Fergusson Trust. Obvious gaps are appearing which we could be equipped to fill. There is still a need for accommodation for disabled people and this will continue. Assessment, retraining and rehabilitation are essential areas where there is a growing need and we have been developing our skills in the provision of such services.

The Committee has recently commissioned a professional study with a view to establishing a longer term strategic plan so that we can decide on the course we should follow in the future and the facilities we will need to achieve our objectives.

In the meantime growth in demand for the services we can already provide is in some areas proving embarrassing. The therapy centre is overcrowded and has spread into the Mary Caughey Room and this is an obvious area for expansion.

PROPERTIES

The Home Property Great South Road

We have recently had the opportunity of purchasing the two adjoining properties at 228 and 230 Great South Road and the formalities are now being completed. This will make planning for expansion very much easier. While final plans for development will depend on the production of the strategic plans we already have in mind some possibilities such as gymnasium, swimming pool and possibly professional rooms. Meantime the site of the old house removed from 222 Great South Road has been developed into an attractive rose garden which is relocatable when the space is needed.

Knox Home and Kerr Taylor Developments

We have been working on these developments for quite some time. They have now reached the stage where applications for finance have gone to Housing Corporation and have been referred to Wellington. Unfortunately we have struck a time when Housing Corporation is in the throes of reorganisation and we have been caught up in the changes. However we are hopeful of approval in due course. Nine units at Market/Ranfurlly Roads and six at St. Lukes would be invaluable for housing more of our clients.

Moana Avenue and Joyce Fisher Lodge

The flats at Moana Avenue and at Joyce Fisher Lodge in Karetu Road are fully occupied and there is always a demand for this type of independent accommodation. A lot of work has been put into renovating some of the flats and the grounds at Moana Avenue and the property is looking most attractive.

Laura Fergusson - Clevedon

The farmlet is proving invaluable both as a recreation and retraining site for our clients and as a source of produce for the Home and for sale. We now have a married couple in residence to manage the property and this is a very successful arrangement. The double garage has been converted into additional accommodation and a new garage is being built adjoining the house.

STAFFING

Staff numbers have grown to help cope with the influx of clients to the therapy centre.

Advantage has also been taken of various Labour Department schemes to obtain the benefit of subsidies while from time to time for special purposes use is made of people sentenced by the Courts to Community Service or Periodic Detention.

The longer term full time staff have been fairly stable and their continued loyalty is very much appreciated.

We were fortunate that the weekend cook was available to take on a full time position when Manu was unable to continue. It may be a little confusing to some that there is now Kath Clark in the kitchen and Kath Clarke in the office but both are doing a tremendous job while Nick Bakker turns his hand to a variety of tasks.

As always I can never find adequate words to express the Branch's gratitude to our Matron/Manager Elaine Rice whose dedication, inspiration, drive and enthusiasm are a lesson to us all.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

It must be obvious that major expansion will require a lot of hard work both in the planning and implementation stages. In particular there will be a need for substantial fund-raising.

However, we are confident that if we can demonstrate the need we will get the support. It has happened this way in the past and with our tremendous team of workers and supporters we are sure it will continue.

CONCLUSION

We are justifiably proud of what has been achieved in the first 21 years of the existence of the Branch. We have a Home which has been extended twice. We have a Hall to which we have added a second storey. We have an adjoining house occupied by Elaine. All these properties are now freehold. We own a block of six flats at Moana Avenue and a block of three units in Karetu Road. We own a farmlet of 12 acres at Clevedon.

All of this has been achieved by the combined efforts of so many people.

We have no intention of resting on our laurels and are looking forward to exciting developments ahead for which we will continue to need your support.

What has been done so far is the result of the co-operation of the staff (especially Elaine) the Management Committee, the Women's Committees, our supporters in so many ways and all of you our friends.

We do thank you and trust that you all enjoy a very happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to your continued assistance in what should be an exciting 1992.

Sincerely



Graham B.Reid
HONORARY SECRETARY