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AUCKLAND BRANCH  
**LAURA FERGUSSON TRUST (INC.)**



NEWSLETTER - MAY 1992

Dear Members and Friends

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch will be held on Wednesday 17 June 1992 in the Mary Caughey Room of the Farrell Hall, 49 Omaha Road at 8 pm. A Notice of Meeting is enclosed. Only financial members of the Branch are entitled to be present and an account for the annual subscription is enclosed.

GENERAL

The six months since our last newsletter have seen a continuation of the period of uncertainty with many of the Government agencies with whom we have close contact, being themselves in doubt as to their future funding and structure. We refer particularly to organisations such as Social Welfare, Accident Compensation Commission, Housing Corporation and Health Boards.

In this climate it has been difficult to obtain any reliable indication of where the services we provide can best fit into the overall health picture. All of these agencies have co-operated to the best of their ability but it has been difficult for them while their own future is in doubt.

While we have often been envious of bodies such as CCS and IHC which have had a high level of Government subsidy, we are now relieved that we have not had this backing as it has been substantially reduced and such bodies have been experiencing financial difficulties.

The Laura Fergusson Trust does not receive any Government funding towards its running costs, apart from the odd capital subsidy for buildings. Practically all of our clients do of course rely on a State benefit of one form or another but we receive no direct subsidy.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Without any Government funding we have always been and continue to be reliant on the enthusiastic support of the Women's Committees to maintain and indeed increase our current level of activities and meet the budgeted shortfall in our running costs. Despite the present economic climate funds raised have again been at a record level and we do thank the ladies for their tremendous efforts.

Worthy of particular mention is the Pakuranga/Howick Branch which despite its small numbers has this year contributed a record \$10,000. This is a great achievement and is sincerely appreciated. Their main activities have been a lunch with a speaker, film evening, catering and the making of hundreds of Christmas puddings for the Fair.

The main event organised by the Central Committee in the last six months was the Fair. The move to Dilworth School was most successful. We had a good deal more space and when a shower of rain interrupted proceedings, most activities could be moved under cover.

A record sum of over \$22,000 was raised and we do thank the Dilworth School Trust Board and the headmaster for their co-operation and assistance and the ladies for all their hard work.

Planning is well underway for events for this year, which include a Fashion Parade at the Hyatt Hotel on 27 May The Auckland Racing Club are again allowing us to held a Race Day which this year will be on Saturday 8 August. Already we have a full complement of race sponsors which is the result of a great effort by the Women's Committee organisers.

Other functions are being planned and details will be available later.

#### REORGANISATION

Since the Branch was incorporated some 22 years ago it has operated satisfactorily and we believe efficiently, in a fairly informal way. However, with the growth of our activities, both in size and in the services we provide, misunderstandings have occurred and it has become apparent that a full review of our structure and our rules is due. This is not a short term project and is likely to take a full twelve months to complete.

A combined meeting of the Branch Management Committee and of the Women's Committee was held recently, at which the Women's Committee produced many helpful and constructive suggestions and we thank them for their co-operative approach. Members will be kept fully informed of any proposed changes which will have to be approved by a General Meeting of members before being implemented.

#### BRANCH ACTIVITIES

With so many things in a state of change, the professional production of a strategic plan has been held up, waiting mainly for the completion of the Area health Board's "FOCUS" report.

Meantime, continuing discussions have been taking place with various organisations to clarify the areas where our services can be used to best effect.

After a brief period before Christmas when we had some vacancies our accommodation is again fully occupied and we are having trouble meeting the demand.

It has been most noticeable in recent years that there has been a change in the nature of the disabilities of our clients. The members disabled congenitally or due to illness have fallen off. Families are tending to keep these people living at home longer for economic reasons and also some other centres have been set up for people with specific disabilities.

However this fall off has been more than overtaken by the large increase in accident victims; a large proportion of whom are disabled as a result of motor-cycle accidents.

The Therapy Centre is bursting at the seams and it is most rewarding to observe the progress towards rehabilitation being made by many of our clients. The staff at the centre has been increased and includes physiotherapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists and therapy co-ordinators. We have been fortunate to have the assistance of a highly regarded neurosurgeon, Mr Eddie Mee in the supervision of the centre.

### PROPERTIES

#### The Home Property Great South Road

A programme of renovation and upgrading has continued with cooking facilities being added to a number of the older units.

The purchase of 228 and 230 Great South Road has been completed and pending completion of the overall strategic plan, a satisfactory income is being received. The back part of 228 has been converted into two units for the accommodation of disabled clients while the front portion is still a medical clinic.

#### Knox Home Development

Unfortunately the Knox Home Board of Trustees has put on hold the proposal to build nine purpose built units for housing disabled clients. This is due to uncertainty about their own finances as it is likely they will lose some Government subsidies. They have undertaken to review this decision at least at six monthly intervals.

#### Kerr Taylor Development

At last Housing Corporation have indicated that mortgage finance will be available for this project to build six units at St Lukes and working drawings have been produced and tenders are presently being called. As soon as these are received the final proposal will be considered by the Committee and hopefully construction will start very soon.

#### Moana Avenue and Joyce Fisher Lodge

These are both fully occupied. The Moana Avenue flats have been repainted and are looking most attractive. Joyce Fisher Lodge is in need of painting and this will be undertaken shortly.

#### Clevedon

The farmlet is providing a steady supply of produce for the Home and is being used as a country centre for visits by some of our disabled clients.

STAFFING

We continue to enjoy the assistance and co-operation of a loyal and stable staff who can and from time to time do, have to turn their hands to a remarkable variety of tasks, some of which can be rather unpleasant.

They are a happy team who work together under the leadership of our Manager, Elaine Rice, who has now been with us for over 16 years. Her enthusiasm, inspiration and dedication are a lesson to us all.

CONCLUSION

We are proud of what has been achieved by the combined efforts of so many people over the 22 years of the existence of the Branch.

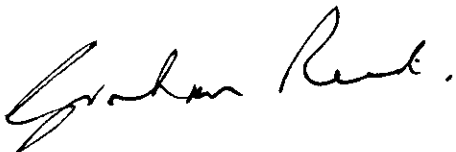
However, the further we go the more we become aware of the needs still to be satisfied.

Our tremendous team of workers and supporters has enabled us to reach the position we hold today as a highly regarded organisation, dedicated to the service of the physically disabled.

We are confident that we can rely on that continued help and support as we plan to expand our services and facilities.

On behalf of the Management Committee but more particularly of our disabled clients who are the ones who really benefit from your support, I thank you one and all.

Sincerely



Graham B Reid  
Honorary Secretary

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Branch of The Laura Fergusson Trust for Disabled Persons will be held in the Mary Caughey Room of the Farrell Hall 49 Omaha Road Remuera at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday 17 June 1992.

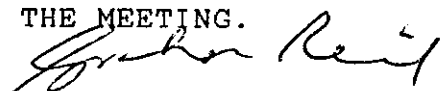
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AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of meeting held on 19 June 1991.
3. Annual Report
4. Treasurers Report and Accounts
5. Election of Officers:
  - (a) President ( Mrs Libby Fletcher has been nominated and is available)
  - (b) Vice-Presidents (3) ( Mr. Ross Craig, Mrs Anne Hudson and Dr. John Lovell-Smith have been nominated and are available)
  - (c) Management Committee:( Mr.A Barber and Mr A Coulam have resigned Mesdames M.Bell,B.Bates and Messrs D.Moncreiff K.McCook, A.Wright and Doctors J.Lovell-Smith and J.Simcock retire by rotation. Mrs Bell and Messrs Moncreiff and McCook are available for reelection. The President of the Women's Committee is automatically a member of the Management Committee).
  - (d) Honorary Solicitor ( Mr.A.Coulam is available for re-election)
  - (e) Honorary Auditor
6. Appointments of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer to be reported. ( Under the rules these appointments are made by the Management Committee)
7. General

NOTE: ONLY FINANCIAL MEMBERS OF THE BRANCH ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. ACCOUNTS FOR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION ARE ENCLOSED AND SHOULD BE PAID TO THE HOME OFFICE.

ALL NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT MUST BE PROPOSED AND SECONDED BY FINANCIAL MEMBERS AND COUNTERSIGNED BY THE NOMINEE AND MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE SECRETARY BY THE STARTING TIME OF THE MEETING.

  
Graham B.Reid  
HONORARY SECRETARY