In contrast to my last three annual reviews, it is with much pleasure that I can report that the Cancer Society has experienced a largely ‘uneventful year’. ‘Uneventful’, in the sense that we have been able to re-focus our energies back to our guiding mission and work towards reducing the impact and incidence of cancer on our community. Sadly, after 2010 it was necessary to adopt a reactionary approach to the restoration of our facilities and services, therefore it is gratifying to note that much of the last financial year has permitted us to focus less on earthquakes, insurance claims and temporary solutions and a great deal more on relevant cancer services, financial sustainability and connections with our stakeholders – in fact, the goals determined in our Division’s Strategic Plan.

Since our last report, Daffodil Lodge and Daffodil House have catered for the accommodation needs of just on 1400 patients from throughout our Division; the new Christchurch Centre at 97 Fitzgerald Avenue has provided a welcoming environment for Christchurch clients, staff and volunteers; our Centre and staff based at Christchurch Hospital work closely with hospital services and personnel, with 4381 volunteer drive and taxi transfers to medical appointments arranged from throughout Christchurch and wider Canterbury; our South Canterbury Centre was bursting at the seams, so the reconfiguration and refurbishment of the internal garage and the addition of a storage shed have alleviated some of the immediate issues in Timaru; the Mid Canterbury Centre in Ashburton is warming-up for winter with the installation much needed
CANCER SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND  Canterbury-West Coast Division

Heat pumps and the West Coast Centre continue to maintain its high profile on High Street in Greymouth.

The generous people throughout our Division came out again and supported the Cancer Society on Daffodil Day 2014. Special thanks to our amazing volunteers, who year after year ensure this special day is so successful in raising essential funds and in promoting our cause. Once again, I would like to acknowledge the special relationship the Cancer Society has with the ANZ Bank as its principal sponsor of Daffodil Day and as major sponsor of the Cancer Society throughout the year. A significant milestone of our twenty-five year relationship with the Bank will be celebrated later this year on Daffodil Day 2015.

With the innovative and dedicated efforts of a wide range of people, Divisional fund raising is essential to ensure that our free cancer services continue, that our advocacy campaigns continue and that cancer research is supported.

A number of campaigns featured this year as part of a collective decision by the six Divisions of the Cancer Society of New Zealand. These included a very successful national Bequest Campaign which generated considerable interest and inquiries throughout the Canterbury-West Coast region; Junk Free June; and Movember 2014.

We have been actively involved with the Cancer Society of New Zealand in creating a new website and I am thrilled to announce its launch at the time of printing this report. For those able to, I encourage you to visit this new web site and find out more.

Fundraising initiatives throughout the year included six Relay For Life events in Hokitika, Christchurch, Rolleston, Timaru, Ashburton and at Chisnalwood Intermediate School; the Tranz Alpine Scooter Safari which raised $230,000 in May; the Biggest Morning Tea hosted at Ryman Healthcare facilities throughout New Zealand; South Canterbury’s Maize Maze which raised $14,000; the Cancer Society Ball in June; the social media innovation Ice Challenge in July; and the Cancer Society of New Zealand being selected as official New Zealand Charity for the ICC Cricket World Cup.
CANCER SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND  Canterbury-West Coast Division

During the year we said farewell to a number of senior and long serving staff members, including Clare Te Hau, Faye Flanagan, Sue Clark and Gail Clement. It was a sad year with the bereavement of a number of people of significance to the Cancer Society, not in the least Caroline Cartwright who died in September. Caroline was one of the original Cancer Society employees, establishing the Supportive Care Services and a staunch advocate for people with cancer and the work of the Cancer Society. Our special thoughts also go to the families of those who have sadly passed away this year, including several people with significant links to the Cancer Society – Ken McClay; Trevor Bougen; Marcia Westcott; Toni Reid; Eunice Yeatman; Betty Anderson and Marianne Ewan.

The Cancer Society has focused much energy and expertise into an advocacy role promoting a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach to all we do. Significantly, Our Place … Our Health has featured prominently in our submissions to local government agencies. Presentations by staff, volunteers and community representatives to the twelve local councils in the Canterbury-West Coast region on their Long Term Plans (LTP’s) have included a customized video and written and oral submissions. These have been extremely well received and have been a very effective way of influencing a range of public policies pertinent to cancer control.

A delegation from Canterbury-West Coast Division seized the opportunity to attend the UICC World Cancer Congress in Melbourne in December 2014. Rarely does the opportunity present to attend an international cancer forum so close to home. The participants returned with new enthusiasm for our work in reducing the impact and incidence of cancer, armed with new strategies, resources and challenges to benefit our region.

about all the services, latest news and donor information at www.cancernz.org.nz

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The Cancer Society continues to be a source of funding for both local and national research. Our ongoing support of the Cancer Society Tissue Bank ensures this facility is developed and maintained as a leading and innovative adjunct to research throughout New Zealand. A cross-section of local researchers and health professionals have received funding to undertake research projects and present to and attend national and international oncology related conferences. Support of the annual Summer Studentship programme through University of Otago, Christchurch continues to attract applications to fund diverse and leading edge projects undertaken by a talented and inspirational group of young potential cancer health professionals and researchers, boding well for an exciting future in this field.

Thank you to donors, staff and volunteers for all they do to ensure the Cancer Society is able to continue in its mission to reduce the impact and incidence of cancer on our community. It is such a privilege to work for an organization which makes an actual difference in people’s lives. I regularly hear stories from grateful and appreciative recipients about the help and support they have received from our caring staff and volunteers.

‘Just to say thank you for all your help. You have made a difficult time easier. I don’t think I could have coped without you.’ Jocelyn from Christchurch

The staff and volunteers work closely together as a team to make it possible for our services to be delivered in a timely, caring and sensitive manner.

I am indebted to the support I receive, especially from the Executive Committee under the Chairmanship of Kate Reid and financial oversight by David McCone. The cancer journey isn’t always fair or kind and certainly isn’t a journey we would choose to travel. However, if our organization can continue to lessen the impact of a cancer diagnosis on human lives, provide a listening ear, offer relevant information, advocate for prevention programmes and fund vital research, then I can be confident about the relevance of our services, services our community can value and depend upon and, rightfully, expect the Cancer Society to continue to deliver.

Elizabeth Chesterman
Chief Executive
Chairman’s Report

In last year’s report we featured the official opening of Daffodil Lodge, our new patient accommodation facility at 48 Riccarton Road, and the relocation of the Christchurch Centre. I am delighted to report both facilities have lived up to expectations, providing ‘fit for purpose’ environments for all who use them. Staying in Christchurch for cancer treatment, the Lodge provides a friendly, convenient and welcoming ‘home away from home’ for patients and their carers, complementing our other facility, Daffodil House on Papanui Road. The new Christchurch Centre at 97 Fitzgerald Avenue has a lovely atmosphere with ample storage and public spaces to meet our community focused mission.

During the year, the final earthquake insurance settlements occurred: Davidson House in June 2014 and Manchester Street in October 2014. This now allows the Executive Committee certainty in its decision making regarding future property and investment needs. As we consider building new foundations for our Division to meet the needs of those we serve, I am mindful of Cancer Society colleagues in Nepal after their devastating earthquakes. The Nepalese Cancer Society was established in 2004, where they have been working on anti-smoking programmes, as well as breast and cervical cancer detection. Rehabilitation centres that help the poor and needy with cancer and their families learn a trade and find employment is also part of their mission. As our Division emerges positively from the post-earthquake challenges, I am not sure our Nepalese colleagues will be as fortunate.

Proposed changes to Health and Safety legislation will offer ongoing challenges to our organization; with much reliance on the goodwill and kindness of a large pool of volunteers, the nature of much of our work relies on honesty, common sense and good faith. We do organize and participate in many outdoor activities which can be prone to ‘natural disasters’ and health and safety issues outside much of our control. It will be a challenge to ensure we meet the requirements of new legislation while taking into consideration the respect and safety of our staff and volunteers, and managing to meet the statutory requirements with limited means.

I wish to acknowledge the work of the Cancer Society Tissue Bank. Under the guidance and curatorship of Helen Morrin this innovative and valuable resource for research has enabled greater understanding of cancer biology, prognostic factors and the development of new treatments. When tissue samples are collected and stored for this research, it is done so with respect and consent of the donors, addressing ethical, legal and cultural issues. The tissue bank resource has enabled excellent research to be undertaken and greater knowledge gained locally, nationally and internationally since 1996 when a group of Christchurch researchers and clinicians recognized the need for human tissue to progress cancer research, to reduce the impact and incidence of cancer in our community. The Tissue Bank Research Trust was formed in 2005 to provide a capital base to assist in the ongoing funding of the Tissue Bank at Christchurch Hospital. Over the last 10 years, the Trust has been able to donate $690,000 from its investments to the Tissue Bank.

I draw your attention to the directory in this report that identifies the six Summer Research Studentships funded this year. These research projects are made possible through the support of the Division and several of our community based support groups, who raise funds for this valuable programme to support emerging researchers.

Our mission statement highlights our commitment to working with our community by providing leadership and advocacy in cancer control, with core services in: Health Promotion, Support, Information, Advocacy and Research. Our staff and volunteers have had a very positive and productive year in their respective roles working with this mission in mind. The Let’s Connect newsletters during the year have highlighted some of the innovative, crazy and fun ways of raising money and awareness, promoting health promotion messages and supporting people with cancer. The Executive Committee is grateful to you all for your time and energy given to this work under the tireless leadership of our CEO Elizabeth Chesterman and the senior management team. The governance role of the Executive is made easier due to the compassion, integrity and commitment you all have – thank you.

We are also very grateful to the major sponsors of all our events, especially the ANZ Bank and our collaborative relationships with other health and community agencies in the Canterbury-West Coast Division.

My final thanks to the Executive Committee who give their time willingly to support the work of the Division, with special acknowledgment to David McCone, our treasurer, and Kathy Conlan, our representative on the National Board.

Kate Reid
Chairperson
The financial year to 31 March 2015 has been a year of consolidation for both the Division and the Trust Board. The Division recorded a surplus of $4,538,818, before a $1,000,000 distribution to the Trust Board. However, this included $4,274,705 of income resulting from earthquake settlements. After this adjustment a surplus of $264,113 was recorded.

The Trust Board recorded an operating deficit of $746,832. This was after recording an impairment to the value of land and buildings of $1,226,667.

While on the face of it the surpluses look very healthy, the Division has some challenges ahead in respect to the Manchester Street property and the ongoing provision of premises to house the Division’s Christchurch operations. Currently we are paying approximately $240,000 a year in rent to occupy the Fitzgerald Avenue premises. Now that we have settled with our insurers in respect of the Manchester Street property, we can start to assess the various options for our ongoing office requirements. The insurance proceeds received are currently invested and will be available to fund any property projects in the future.

The income generated throughout the year from the various fundraising activities and bequests is once again very pleasing and is a credit to all those involved in its generation – the management and staff of the Division, volunteers and of course the many people who give so generously to the Division through their involvement in the fundraising activities we undertake.

Operationally our costs are being very well managed to ensure that we live within our means while, at the same time, ensuring the needs of the community with respect to the services we offer are being met.

It is great to finally be in a position where we can look forward to a year of ‘business as usual’, having finally dealt with many of the earthquake matters during the year.

David McCone
Treasurer

The Society has completed negotiations with its insurer over the settlement of all claims relating to material damage to buildings resulting from the Canterbury Earthquakes. Insurance income of $2,964,892 has been recognised in the financial statements. This represents payments being full and final settlement of the Society’s material damage claims at its Manchester Street and Cambridge Terrace properties. Due to the location of the Cambridge Terrace property within the ‘north frame’ of the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan’s blueprint released in 2012, the Society had also been in negotiations with the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) over the acquisition of its Cambridge Terrace property. Negotiations were completed in the current financial year, resulting in a gain on sale of $1,309,813.

Full copies of the audited Cancer Society of New Zealand Canterbury-West Coast Division Inc Annual Accounts and accompanying notes, along with those of The Cancer Society of New Zealand Canterbury-West Coast Division Trust Board, are available upon request and can also be viewed at our centres in Christchurch, Ashburton, Greymouth and Timaru.
Grants distributed by the Division
1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

National levy to the Cancer Society of New Zealand
Scientific Cancer Research $334,000
Operating costs $168,000

Grants to Research

Dr Kenny Chitcholtan, Research Fellow, Dept of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Otago, Christchurch
Pilot Study using the chicken embryo chorioallantoic membrane model to study the growth of advanced ovarian cancer ($3000)

Dr Aarmir Raja, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Centre for Bioengineering & Nanomedicine, Dept of Radiology, University of Otago, Christchurch
Spectral imaging for non-invasive quantification of gold nanoparticles in tumour relevance to cancer ($3000)

Dr Elizabeth Phillips, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Dept of Pathology & Biomedical Science, University of Otago, Christchurch
Identification of microRNAs in breast tumours after co-culture with adipocytes ($5000)

Local Clinical Research Grant
Ms Helen Morris, Curator, Tissue Bank, University of Otago, Cancer Society Tissue Bank ($15,000)

Cancer Society Tissue Bank
Annual contribution from The Tissue Bank Research Trust for operational costs of the Christchurch Hospital based Cancer Society Tissue Bank ($69,000)

University of Otago – Christchurch
Summer Studentships, 6 Research Projects @ $5000 each

‘Cardiovascular risks in women with endometrial cancer.’ Student: Kelly MacDonald (Funded by Elaine Jensen and the late Janet Collerton)

‘Cytokine and growth factor profiling in ascitic fluids from chemo-sensitive and resistant of ovarian cancer patients.’ Student: David Jin (Funded by Cancer Society of New Zealand Canterbury-West Coast Division, Elaine Jensen and the late Janet Collerton, and Cancer Society Ellesmere Group)

‘Human amylase gene copy number variation and breast cancer development.’ Student: Lucy de Jong (Funded by Elaine Jensen and the late Janet Collerton, Cancer Society Oxford and Kaipara Groups)

‘Incidence of complications after radiotherapy for prostate cancer.’ Student: Gabrielle McLean (Funded by Cancer Society Diamond Harbour, Ellesmere and Ashburton Groups)

‘Identification of microRNAs in breast tumour cells after co-culture with adipocytes.’ Student: Morgan Jones (Funded by Cancer Society Rangiora, Diamond Harbour and Amberley Groups)

‘Testing the validity of New Zealand’s low-risk drinking guidelines.’ Student: Jinhee Ahn (Funded by Cancer Society of New Zealand Canterbury-West Coast Division)

Paul Hawkins and friends donated funds towards upgrading comforts for patients at Daffodil House, seen here with Elizabeth Chesterman, Chief Executive, and Suzi Clarke, Manager, Accommodation

Grants for Professional Development and Education

Caroline Kuiper, American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting, San Diego ($1500)

Ali Mitchell, 15th Biennial Meeting of the International Gynaecologic Cancer Society Melbourne ($1080)

Felicity Cox, 2014 Combined Scientific Meeting, Melbourne ($800)

Mel Hendrie, PONZ Conference Palmerston North ($700)

Elizabeth Phillips, NZ Society of Oncology Conference, Tauranga ($645)


Grants for Equipment

Jacqui Keenan, Senior Research Fellow, Dept of Surgery, University of Otago, Christchurch.
STX2 Electrode ($530)

Christchurch District Health Board AYA Unit. Refurbishment of Room ($934)

Grants received from Trusts and Foundations 2014-2015

Ashburton Club & MSA
Cancer Society of New Zealand – Nelson Centre
Coates-McKay Charitable Trust
Hawarden-Waikari Lions
Jean Stabun Family Trust
Jones Foundation
Lochhead Charitable Trust
Lois McFarlane Charitable Trust
Margaret Hutchings Charitable Trust
NZ Charitable Foundation (Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Wood)
NZ Charitable Foundation (Elma Strath Ward Charitable Trust)
Phyllis Campion Charitable Trust
Rotary Club of Christchurch East
Rotary Club of Timaru South
Shepherd Ministries Charitable Trust
St Francis Charitable Trust
The J I Urquhart Family Trust
The Ken Waterman Charitable Trust
The Lady Tait Charitable Trust
The Tasman Charitable Trust

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