TAMAHERE EVENTIDE HOME

The story of the early years

CAMBRIDGE ROAD, HAMILTON.
TAMAHERE

A place in the sun

Researched and compiled by D.H. Payne
October 1986
The Methodist Church officially came to New Zealand in 1822 when Rev. Samuel Leigh established the first Mission Station at Kaeo, North Auckland. Social service activity has been a hallmark of Methodism since its inception, manifesting itself in various forms and in various places throughout New Zealand, but mainly in city areas.

Early Auckland Methodism was pioneered by both Wesleyan and Primitive ministries with several churches being established within what is now the Inner City. Over the years, various social service agencies were operative and there comes to mind The Helping Hand Mission, The Door of Hope, The France Street Mission and the East Street Mission.

This activity was finally gathered up on the Airedale (former Alexandra) Street Church site in 1927 when a Social Services Mission was established under the direction of a Home Missionary the Rev. C.G. Scrimgeour who began a vigorous programme of Social relief work. In later life Rev. Scrimgeour was to become Director of Commercial Broadcasting for New Zealand.

He was succeeded in 1933, by Rev. A. Everil Orr who served the whole of his ordained ministry in this one appointment, and in so doing, made unique history in both New Zealand and Australian Methodism.

Major expansion, in a variety of social services took place under the auspices of the Auckland Methodist Central Mission, and resulting from a widening scope of Social Services there had been established in 1933 the New Zealand Methodist Social Services Association (M.S.S.A.) to give outreach and co-ordination on a national basis. The Auckland branch of this Association first met on the 29th July 1935.

It was during these days of expansion and outreach at the Auckland Methodist Central Mission that Rev. A. Everil Orr developed the habit of organising fund-raising forays into North Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty territory to augment his resources. Arising out of this activity there developed the idea that these areas could well do with Homes for the Elderly themselves and that locally raised funds could well support such local ventures. This sentiment received the support of the M.S.S.A.

During the late 1950’s Rev. A. Everil Orr investigated a number of suitable sites in the Waikato. There was a suggestion of a site in Te Awamutu, a site in the St. Andrews/Pukete area on the D.V. Bryant Estate was considered, while a site in Hillcrest was forestalled by University requirements. Arising out of a past friendship with Mr. J.R.N. Herbert, when he had lived in Mt. Albert, Auckland it was finally agreed to accept an offer from him to make available approximately 10 acres of his farm on the Cambridge Road, Hamilton - and so the present site was secured.
M.S.S.A. MEMBERS INSPECTING THE RECENTLY PURCHASED PROPERTY
Miss I. Lee-Martin, Mr. A.E. Bryant, Rev. C.B. Oldfield, Rev. W.R. Francis, Mr. A. Smith, 
Mr. A.C. Burgess, Rev. A. Everil Orr, Mr. J.R.N. Herbert.

The first Matron, Sister Edith James greeting the first resident, Mrs. Trouson
14th May 1966

The advocates of Tauranga as a suitable site were also on the job even to the extent of entering into an Agreement for Sale and Purchase of 5½ acres of land between Tauranga and Mt. Maunganui. However at a meeting of the South Auckland M.S.S.A.
on the 19th July 1961 it was decided that the purchase at Tauranga could not be proceeded with as the Health Department had indicated that a subsidy could not be assured, and in any case it was considered that local resources would be unduly strained by an attempt to establish Homes in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty simultaneously.

In 1968, however, the Presbyterian Social Services Association extended an invitation to Methodist Social Services to share in a major proposal for housing the elderly in Tauranga. This invitation was accepted at a joint meeting in Tauranga on the 2nd November 1968 and so Methodism became involved in the Melrose Home project - later sharing membership of the Tauranga Advisory Committee.

To the 10 acres, 2 roods originally purchased on 22 April 1959 for 5297 pounds, there was subsequently added a further 3 acres, 3 roods, 20 perches resulting from increasing the Cambridge Road frontage from 4½ chains to 6 chains. This acquisition took place on 27th September 1962 and cost 2906 pounds. Then to the 14 acres, 1 rood, 20 perches purchased to date, there was still further added 1 acre, 2 roods, 35 perches which purchase became necessary following the discovery of an earlier surveying error, when the subdivision of the balance of Mr. Herbert’s farm adjoining, into 10 acre lots, was undertaken. This purchase took place on 21st December 1971 and cost $2580. The total area, forming the Tamahere Eventide Home property comprises 16 acres, 0 roods, 15 perches (6.5128 hectares) and is recorded on D.P.S. plan 14769. The property is held on Freehold Title 13D Folio 477 in the South Auckland Registry, Hamilton and is unencumbered.

Following the purchase of the original part of this property, and the consideration of various building proposals it was the opinion of the Mission Trustees in Auckland that this was now a responsibility which could well be handled locally. The South Auckland Branch of the M.S.S.A. was therefore set up with the first meeting in Hamilton, to undertake this objective, taking place at the Methodist Church, London Street, on 28th July 1960.

The Chairman of this historic meeting was Rev. W.R. Laws (Morrinsville). Mr. A.C. Burgess, the retired Secretary of the Waikato Hospital Board was appointed Secretary/Treasurer and on the 29th March 1961 Mr. H. Longbottom, a Public Accountant, was appointed Auditor. The membership of the Branch represented the whole Synod District and totalled 42 people although most of the work was done by an Executive Committee and several sub-committees.

Regular meetings of the M.S.S.A. were held - 18 in all between July 1960 and December 1964 by which time the business was almost exclusively to do with the Tamahere Eventide Home. On the 11th August 1960 Mr. Jack Davys was appointed Official Collector to canvass the district for funds. Jack served untiringly for a number of years, visiting, interviewing, speaking to church and public groups and organising slide evenings. His was an outstanding contribution until his death on the 17th December 1973. The South Auckland Branch of the M.S.S.A. finally
disbanded to be succeeded by a Tamahere Eventide Home Board of Trustees. The inaugurual meeting of the Board was held on 1st September 1964 in the Methodist Centre, London Street, Hamilton. 21 men representative of the whole District had been appointed with Rev. V.R. Jamieson (Te Aroha) as Chairman.

Having recorded in general terms the background which brought about the establishment of the Tamahere Eventide Home project it is now proposed to proceed further with the story under appropriate headings.

**Board of Trustees**

The 21 trustees initially appointed were


To this number 12 have been subsequently added,

Messrs. K.W. Dey (25.10.68), H.J. Johnson #*, T.V. Bryant, W.J. Diprose (13.12.71), Mrs. M.J. Elton, Mrs. E. Grant#, Mrs. I.M. Storry* (9.3.73), Mrs. H.M. Ford, Mrs. G. Petch, Messrs. T.F. Mannell, R.M. Clarke and D.G. •Crabb (4.10.85).

Of these 33 appointments, 8 have died in office * and 8 have resigned #.

Of these 8, 3 died subsequently #*.

Mr. A.J. Yendell resigned to take up an appointment as New Zealand Trade Commissioner in Australia. Mr. D.G. Crabb an original trustee who resigned, was recently appointed for a second term. Mr. T.V. Bryant is a son of the late Mr. A.E. Bryant one of the original trustees. The Board now has 17 members including 8 of the
original appointments. Trustees now appointed have a maximum age limit of 75. Although the full Trust Board meets about six times a year much of the work, especially in earlier developing years was undertaken by 9 sub-committees. Now that the Home is operating on a more stable basis, the number of sub-committees has been reduced to 4.

Mr J.R.N. Herbert, the vendor of the Tamahere Eventide Home property is now aged 90. He was one of the Foundation Trustees and is still a member of the Trust Board. Although he is living in retirement at Mount Maunganui he was recently able to enjoy a “short stay” at the Home.

Mention should be made at this stage of the extremely valuable contributions made by the attendance at Trust Board meetings of the Superintendents of the Auckland Methodist Central Mission in the persons of Rev. A. Everil Orr from 1964 - 1971 and Rev. D.B. Gordon 1972 to the present time.

Since the appointment of the 33 Trustees listed above, the following appointments have been made to the Board.

W.G. Diprose (18.10.87) replacing his father W.J. Diprose who retired on 30.6.87.
A. Bettany and R.F. Mitchell (25.11.88),
Mrs Pat Bruce (representing NZ.M.S.S.A.) on 13.10.89 resigning on 31.12.90.
Mr G.E. Simpson and Mr E.L. Brokenshire both died in May 1987.
Alf Smith retired on 31.7.87 and is now hospitalised in Rotorua.
K.W. Dey retired on 21.4.89 to take up residence in Tauranga.
R.C. Wagstaff who retired on 17.10.86 died recently in Te Aroha.

Of the Foundation Board members appointed on the 1st September 1964 there are five still on the Board i.e. J.R.N. Herbert, H. Longbottom, D.H. Payne, N.B. Thomas and W.J. Walters. Mr T.F. Mannell was elected Deputy Chairman of the Board on 18.8.89. The present Constitution provides for a Board membership of not less than 10 and not more than 20 with retirement at age 75 mandatory.

**Board Chairmen and Ministers**

Board Chairmen have usually been the Chairman, for the time being, of the District Synod or their nominees. People who have so acted have been Rev. V.R. Jamieson (1964-68), Rev. G.H. Goodman (1968), Rev. A.K. Petch (1968-71), Rev. W.J. Morrison (1972-81), Rev. W.F. Ford (1982 to the present time).
Local ministers have also been associated with the Trust in the persons of Rev. A.O. Jones, Rev. A.K. Petch and Rev. T. Shepherd.

**Chaplains**

In the early life of the Home it was the practice of the Chairman to also act as the Chaplain of the Home. In more recent years however, with the greatly increased
number of residents, separate Chaplains have been appointed commencing with Rev. S.G. Barnes (1982-84) and Rev. H. Shaw (1985 until the present time).

Rev. D.B. Gordon Supt. of the Auckland Methodist Mission retired on 26.2.88 and was replaced by Rev. A.K. Woodley on 29.7.88.

Rev. H. Shaw continued as Chaplain until December 1989 and was replaced by Rev. N. Keesing on 16.3.90.

**Matrons**

The Home has been particularly well served by seven Matrons each bringing their own varying distinctive contribution. Details are as follows:

Miss Edith James (1st April 1966—70)
Mrs. Rona A. Hunt (1970-72)
Mrs. Amy Sievwright
Mrs. Kath Dibble 6 months jointly in 1972
Mrs. Jean Barnett (1972-1975)
Mrs. Grace Ronayne (1975-1981)

Mrs Joyce Farley resigned on 10.4.87 to be replaced by Mrs J. Mccarthy on 22.5.87. Mrs Mccarthy resigned on 27.4.90 to be replaced by the present Matron Mrs Lynne Carter on 11.6.90. The Home Continues to be served by Matrons (now styled as Principal Nurses) of a very high calibre. An Associate Principal Nurse in the person of Mrs Jan Holdsworth was appointed in April 1991, to enable fuller care to be given to an ageing and increasing number of residents.

**Administrative Staff**

Mr. A.C. Burgess after serving as Secretary— Treasurer of the South Auckland M.S.S.A. from July 1960 until December 1964, continued in the same capacity with the Trust Board from September 1964 until May 1968. Mr. E.L. Brokenshire was appointed Assistant Secretary on the 1st September 1964 and continued in this role until November 1973. On the 25th March 1966 Mr. H. Longbottom was appointed to attend to the financial operations of the Home, apart from the Trust Board accounting, continuing until Mr. Burgess retired in May 1968 when Mr. Longbottom assumed the full duties of Treasurer both for the Trust Board and the Home. On the 25th October 1968 he retired from this position and Mr. K.W. Dey became Treasurer, a position he has occupied ever since. In July 1966 Mr. Longbottom had been appointed House Manager, a position he held until the retirement of Mr. Burgess in May 1968 at which stage the recently retired Commissioner of Crown Land, Mr. D.H. Payne was appointed Secretary and absorbed the House Managers function from Mr. H. Longbottom. Eighteen years later Mr. Payne retired as Secretary in March 1986, when Mr. K.W. Dey took over the basic secretarial content of the position to become Secretary-Treasurer and Mr. F.B. Martin was appointed House Manager.
When K.W. Dey retired as Secretary/Treasurer on 21.4.89 he was replaced by Mr A. Bettany.

The first auditor of the Tamahere accounts was Mr. W.B.L. Williams appointed in 1965 followed by Mr. E.A. Taylor for some years and latterly by Mr. P.L. Shaw of the accounting firm, Messrs. Coopers and Lybrand.

Last but by no means least, tribute is paid to the substantial typing services which Tamahere has received, in particular from Jean Sims, Nita Carter and Merle Snell.

Many suggestions and ideas were floated concerning the nature and range of the buildings that were to comprise the first Tamahere Eventide Home, including a two storied block or women residents, cottage development, a sick bay, a geriatric hospital, occupational therapy, a chapel and a caretaker’s cottage, none of which however, proved to be part of the initial development. When the Home was opened on the 7th May 1966, free of debt, it comprised a women’s wing (20 residents), a men’s wing (10 residents), staff accommodation (4 rooms), a Matron’s flat and office, with appropriate kitchen, dining room and lounge accommodation.

Over the years as Tamahere became established and well known, the waiting list grew to 102 applications. To meet this increased demand, the original Matron’s flat was demolished and the new women’s wing was erected and opened on 19th May 1973 to provide for a further 20 women residents. An enlarged Matron’s flat was incorporated in this wing while at the same time the dining room and main lounge were doubled in size. The men’s wing containing 10 rooms for men and 4 rooms for staff was enlarged.
to 20 rooms to provide fully for men’s accommodation and at the same time provide 6
rooms linked with internal doors for 3 couples or friends. At the same time a
completely self contained staff wing was built with 7 bedrooms, lounge and associated
facilities.

The buildings have been maintained in first class condition at considerable expense.
The Main Home laundry has been upgraded with the installation of commercial
equipment, while the kitchen has also been further modernised including the
installation of gas fired equipment. Disused accommodation at the end of the Mens
Wing and vacant accommodation in the Staff Quarters has been converted into
residential accommodation so that the Home is now licensed for 69 residents.

Additional Buildings

While the programme outlined above provided for the present Home with its 63
residential rooms and 7 staff rooms there has been continuing building activity over
succeeding years. These buildings comprise 10 Car Ports (1972), the Sewage
Treatment Plant (1972), the Therapy Room (1972), the Glass House (1973), the
Medical Room (1974), the Secretary’s Office (1974), the Sluice Room (1975), the
sunny shelters on the main driveway (1975), the Sewing Room (1978), the Main
Home Laundry (1978), the Grounds- man’s House (1980) and the Recreation Room
(1980) built with valuable financial support from the D.V. Bryant Trust.

Architects and Builders

The original plans and drawings were produced by the Auckland firm of Messrs.
Haughey and Fox specialists in hospital work. Subsequent architectural work was
entrusted to Mr. Rodney Smith - a son of Mr. Alf. Smith one of the original trustees
and himself an architect - the Hamilton representative of the firm Messrs. Smith,
Grant and Associates. The original buildings were erected by W.B. Young Limited
and major extensions by Foster Construction Limited. Other building work from time
to time has been carried out by Mr. Keith Wilson and Taplin Bros. of Matangi.
Various maintenance contractors have subsequently been employed, those currently
serving being Hamilton Plumbing Co. (plumbers), Christieson and Lochore Limited
(electrical), Murray Charteris Limited (carpet laying), Jim Mitchell (painting and
paperhanging).

Property.

The present Home has operated on less than one half of the total area originally
acquired (16 acres 0 roods, 15 perches — 6.5128 hectares). The- unused land has been
used by adjoining owners for cropping and grazing.

Recent consideration of a more appropriate use of this surplus area has revealed that
the Main Highways Board and the Waikato District Council would restrict access
from the Main Highway to service such a development. It is planned that the
Tamahere Eventide Home – The Early Years by D H Payne

Tamahere Straight is to become a four-lane State Highway. It then became imperative to secure access to the rear of the property through an extension of Cherry Lane. Various negotiations resulted in a stalemate until the adjoining owner of the Hamilton side of our property Mr John Kemps subdivided his property. The Trust Board decided to purchase an adjoining section — Lot 9 on OP. 29783 — an area of 4.0735 hectares with possession on the 15 October 1990. This purchase not only solved the access problem from Cherry Lane but also provided Tamahere with a substantial additional area fronting the Tamahere Main Highway on which to contemplate some major future development.

Heating and Energy

The Home was built on the basis of electricity for lighting and kitchen use, and a boiler, consuming diesel fuel, for hot water and space heating. One boiler was installed initially but with major extensions to the Home a second boiler was required. This second boiler developed some faulty features and after some years major replacements were required, these being carried out in December 1980. This boiler was subsequently changed over to natural gas in 1984, after escalating diesel costs were becoming prohibitive. This change involved a capital payment of $160,000 being the cost of extending the main fuel line from the Hamilton City boundary. There was also an additional cost of $10456 for internal reticulation. The original electric stoves in the kitchen are at present being replaced with gas stoves at a cost of $45700. While there will be some “trade-in” credits, installation costs and replacement of equipment will add further to this expense. Not only will this represent a complete modernisation of the kitchen, but gas fuel will considerably reduce operating costs. The original diesel burning boiler has been retained for emergency situations.

Grounds

Over 16 acres is a lot of land to care for, but at Tamahere the lawns and flower gardens have always been a source of great pride and joy. The grounds around the Home were initially established by Mr. Alf. Smart of Te Awamutu who took three months leave from his position as Director of Parks and Reserves with the local Borough Council. He subsequently established the now well known Te Awamutu Rose Gardens. Quite a number have been employed in the care of the grounds but those who are particularly remembered are John Kemp (11 years), Eric Smart (brother of Alf.), Rob. Edwards, David Higham and Roy Wales, groundsman for the past 6 years. The surplus land at the rear of the main buildings has been leased for varying periods for maize growing and the grazing of cattle, sheep and goats. A large vegetable garden contributes substantially to the needs of the Home. For several years the gardens were made available to the Labour Department who used the opportunity to provide employment under the S.T.E.P.S. scheme to unemployed school leavers interested in acquiring horticultural knowledge. In earlier days when residents were more able bodied, good use was made of a croquet lawn which was laid out beyond the hedge adjoining the car park. The Japanese garden off the main corridor was
established as a memorial by the Bryant Family, the work being carried out by Mr. Bert Johnson, one of the trustees. Bert was always a man of action, and the Home is most grateful for this and many other paths, ponds and garden developments of a practical nature carried out by him. Russell Clarke as Outside Supervisor and Tom Bryant as Chairman of the Grounds Committee keep a watchful eye on property needs.

Establishing the Japanese Garden – April 1974
Bert Johnson, Eion Scarrow, Doug Payne, Tom Bryant

Trees and Shrubs

The grounds at Tamahere are planted with a substantial number of donated trees and shrubs. The main rose beds outside the front entrance were established with 120 high quality rose bushes donated after the closing of the World Rose Convention held in Hamilton in 1971. Replacements and additions donated by various residents have brought the number of rose bushes in the grounds to about 180. The grand kauri tree near the front entrance was donated in 1965 by Mr. Dennis when it was a relatively big tree. It became available when major slips on his Awatere Avenue property made it necessary for the tree to be removed for its own survival. The ‘Wilson Wonder’ walnut tree outside the staff wing was donated and planted by Matron Grace Ronayne prior to her retirement. Three hazel nut trees near the western boundary were planted at the same time by the Secretary Mr. D.H. Payne. A number of camellia bushes were donated by Mr. J. Dow, Mrs. N. Carter and Miss A. Parkinson. The large Liquidamber
tree outside the dining room was once a small shrub planted by Mrs. I. McDowall. We are grateful also to Mr. T.V. Bryant for providing the Almond tree and the White Magnolia on the western boundary.

The large weeping willow tree over the hedge beyond the car park was brought from Matamata as a cutting by our present cook Betty Dick and planted by our first groundsman John Kemp.

In June 1990, Mr D.H. Payne donated a sizeable kauri tree which was planted near the front entrance to form a Darby and Joan effect in relation to the existing kauri tree — a project very dear to the heart of the donor of the original Kauri in 1965 - Mr Dennis.

Water Supply

After deciding against an initial suggestion that water for Tamahere be drawn from the Waikato River at the Narrows, water was obtained from a bore put down in the backyard on a site located by one of the Trustees, Mr. W.F. Walters, who happened to be a water diviner, but over the years the cost of electricity and bore maintenance became unduly high. Finally it was corrosion in the pipes, arising from water being drawn from peat soil, that brought about the termination of this arrangements. Negotiations with the Hamilton City Council led to an arrangement whereby Tamahere piped city water from the City boundary at a capital cost of $10602 in 1977. Fortunately this expense attracted a Government subsidy of 80%. An excellent and adequate water supply has been available ever since.
Sewage Treatment Plant

The original home with 30 residents was adequately provided for by a septic tank. However the increase to 63 residents in 1973 made it imperative that a larger scheme be provided. An anaerobic aerobic sewage treatment plant was installed in 1972 at a cost of $6000 by Messrs. D. McL. Wallace Limited of Auckland. Apart from a few minor hitches the Home is now well equipped to handle this situation.

Fire Protection

The Home is well protected by an up to date fire protection system linked directly with the Hamilton Fire Service operating on a ceiling heat detector system. During the whole of its existence - over 20 years - Tamahere has never had a fire, which is a source of considerable gratitude, although over the years there have been numerous false alarms. One hesitates to contemplate the turmoil if the Home had installed a sprinkler system throughout as was once mooted. At regular intervals all the residents are required to completely evacuate the buildings for fire drill on the sounding of fire alarms.

Staffing

The record of the staffing situation over period of 20 years is one of competence, dedicative and caring. There can be few similar institutions where such a happy state has existed. There have been probably well over 100 so employed, as Relieving Matrons, Domestic Supervisors, Evening Supervisors, Night Supervisors and basic Domestic Workers. Pride of place must go to Miss Betty Davison, the Senior Domestic who has served variously for over 15 years as Domestic, Cook, and Evening Supervisor. Others who have served Tamahere long and well are Enid Claris, Muriel Bint, Cynthia Vaughan, Isobel White, Win Bain, “Robbie” Robertson, Lorna Hutcheson, Jess Jenkins, Kath Knox, Rita Wootton, Josephine Connolly and Ina Innes.

In the kitchen - the source of much resident satisfaction we recall with gratitude the services of these cooks, Jeannie Quinn, Margaret Walsh, Noeline Kemp, Paul Derikx and Diet Snijders, the present cook.

In recent years members of the domestic staff have attended annual courses on Residential Care of the Aged at the Waikato Technical Institute.

The following four have qualified and earned medals, Betty Davison, Rosa Billings, Lyn Doughty and Ina Innes.

The standard of service provided at Tamahere continues to be of a high order. In addition to the list of cooks in the booklet, we have since been served by Noeline King, Nola McCann, Valerie Vercoe, Christine Haines and now Betty Dick. Win Bain who has been associated with Tamahere almost since its commencement continues to be an invaluable stand—in for any emergency.
Domestic staff are encouraged to attend courses on Residential Care of the Aged at the Waikato Technical Institute, and since the original publication the following have qualified for medals — Rona King, Elaine Vicary, Dawn Turner, Ina Innes, June Edge, Rosa Billings, Laney De Lange, Natalie Jones and Conny Van der Werf.

**Tongan Staff**

Arising out of difficulty in securing suitable “live in” domestic staff in the early years at Tamahere, the Trust Board in 1973, entered into an arrangement with the Tongan Methodist Church to employ Tongan girls. They came, under special Pacific Island work permits, initially for 2 years but subsequently for 11 month periods, the first to arrive being Sineva and Tonga. About 30 people were recruited over a period of 12 years until the scheme terminated last year. They made a very happy contribution to the life of Tamahere especially in the earlier years. Six of these girls have since married and remained in New Zealand.

Due to changing circumstances, the scheme to secure Domestic Staff from Tonga terminated several years ago. We now have no difficulty in recruiting local domestic staff.

**Additional Care**

Besides being provided with full accommodation, and kept warm and happy, a number of ancillary services have been available to the residents. They have the choice of retaining their own Doctor or of using the services of a Doctor who regularly visits the Home by arrangement. Since the opening of the Home, the following medical men have served the residents in this way, Dr. A.B. Sturtevant, Dr. W.R. Fea, Dr. A.W. Bogy and Dr. K. Couper.
As an adjunct to the medical care, the Home has been generously treated by the Hillcrest chemist, Mr. Kevin Curran who has always been helpful and co-operative throughout the life of Tamahere.

The Hearing Association have regularly visited the residents and Mrs. Olwyn McDonagh has been outstanding amongst a number of their staff. The Blind Foundation has served the residents well in the person of Mr. Cliff Reay. Talking books have been a feature for many years. Two hairdressers in the persons of Mrs. Barbara Watson and Mrs. Dianne O’Regan have greatly assisted morale. A visiting Chiropodist, now known as a Podiatrist, Mrs. Anne Burley, has cared professionally for many more feet than she can remember.

Dr K.G. Couper continues to be the Doctor available to the residents who have no separate arrangements. Increased medical and chemist charges were becoming burdensome but these are now being met by the Home.

Part of the original Matrons lounge has now been converted into a Beauty Salon staffed by Mrs Dianne O’Regan, the Home’s hairdresser. The Canteen continues to play a most important part in the life of the residents. Easy access to many basic requirements is greatly appreciated. Management by residents has been increasingly difficult to secure and the House Manager, Mr F.B. Martin is at present operating this amenity.

Canteen

Ever since Tamahere opened, a well stocked canteen has been available to the residents to enable them to make day to day purchases on the premises, of everyday needs. This activity has been conducted by residents of the Home, Mr. and Mrs. Boon, Mrs. Meyrick, Miss A. Parkinson and Mr. Joe Springgay in particular having made valuable contributions.

Residents

The Home opened on the 7th May 1966 and soon filled with 30 residents, 20 women and 10 men, the first to arrive being Mrs. Trounson on the 14th May 1966. The story is told that this lady was so keen to have the first choice of room that she arrived unexpectedly at a very early hour! The Home now provides for 63 residents and the present waitlist contains 46 applications, 38 women, 4 men, married couples.

Although accurate records have not been kept it is estimated that well over 300 people have resided at Tamahere - a few short stay - several married couples, men in the minority, and the substantial balance women, which seems to be the proportion in most situations involving the elderly. Amongst this large number of residents, many personalities and celebrities are remembered, but it is probably better that they remain in the mind rather than in the record.

The age at entry has risen considerably since the Home was opened and the average age of the residents is now in the late eighties. About 10 are in their 90’s. Miss A.
McNaughton reached the age of 100 and is now 102 in “Resthaven” in Cambridge. Mrs. M. Rennie reached 100 on October 2nd 1986, the first Tamahere resident to become a centenarian at Tamahere. Splendid entertainment in the morning provided by Leo Dove’s Concert Party. Bagpipes before afternoon tea attended by about 80 residents, staff and friends. Greetings from the Queen and civic leaders, a beautiful birthday cake, baked and decorated by the staff, a gift from the residents all capped with a profusion of flowers. History was made this day. This supports the contention that people come to Tamahere to live, not to die! When Mr. Fred Hocking was in his 95th year he was visited by the Masonic Lodge fraternity to receive a unique and rare award - his 70 year long service jewel.

The weekly residential fee paid by the first residents entering in 1966 was six pounds ($12). The current basic fee is $150. So much for inflation and rising costs - With G.S.T. having recently added another $12.30 per week.

The Home now provides accommodation for 69 residents (62 women and 7 men). The waiting list has been reduced to a very low level and there is usually little delay in securing admission with priority given to urgent situations. Our oldest resident continues to be Mrs N. Rennie who hopes to reach 105 next October.
Residents fees have of necessity been raised to meet increasing costs, but there are few Homes whose charges are as reasonable as those charged at Tamahere.

Tamahere has never raised mortgages and incurred interest charges. In addition it is a charitable Institution with no profit incentive and keeping fees as low as possible is a major objective.

**Therapy**

The Tamahere story would not be complete without tribute to the outstanding part played in the life of the residents by the Therapy Department. Originally this was a small handcraft programme carried out in the main lounge when it was half its present size and Mrs. Weinberg and Mrs. Connolly directed its activity. The erection of the Therapy Department building in 1972 made possible a greatly expanded activity and a success story in whichever way it is judged. In the earlier years great credit must go to Mrs. Ngaio Stead who established the department in its present form during her years from 1972-79; a tradition carried on by Mrs. Madge Redwood as Assistant from 1973 and in charge from 1979 when Mrs. Stead moved to Helensville. Valuable assistance has been given by Mrs. L. de Lange, Mrs. S. Jamieson and Mrs. N. Hirst. One has only to see the range of finished products and the obvious interest and enthusiasm of those taking part to realise the worth of this activity and all that participation has meant to the residents. In addition to the basic handcraft activity a large number of the residents take part in physical stimulation in the form of limbs exercise and guided walking. Mental stimulation is provided by way of quizz sessions, bingo and word games.
As in 1986 the Therapy Department continues to play an outstanding role in the life of the residents. An extremely loyal and capable staff have continued to serve in this department with a fairly recent addition in the person of Mrs Beverley Keesing. Widely expanding and challenging interests provide a stimulus to almost all the residents who choose to attend. Where previously Therapy activity was part-time, it is now available on a full—time basis.

Therapy Staff and Residents – July 1978
M. Loveridge, L. De Lange, N. Stead, M. Redwood

Hatches, Matches and Despatches

Despite the approximately 300 people who have lived in Tamahere, relatively few have died there. In declining years, when needs are beyond the residential care which Tamahere provides, residents tend to move on to private rest homes, private hospitals, and geriatric wards of the Public Hospital where the appropriate additional care is available.

Although many friendships have developed at Tamahere there is only one case of a marriage of residents taking place, when Mr. E.G. Lusby and Mrs. E. Patrick were married. However with staff it has been different. Emily O’Brien was married at Tamahere, as were two Tongan girls, Kalina and Pauline. Other Tongan girls married elsewhere were Alisi, Tonga, Maata, Mele and Sepi.

Olive Wales, daughter of our groundsman Roy, and Pauline, has the distinction of being the only baby born to Tamahere.
Public Functions

There has been eight occasions when Tarnahere has been host to the general public. Details are as follows:

1. 26 June 1965 - Laying of the Foundation Stone which ceremony was carried out by Rev. V.R. Jamieson, Chairman of the Waikato-Bay of Plenty Synod.
2. 7 May 1966 — Opening of the completed Home by Hon. D. McKay, Minister of Health. On this occasion the builder presented the Home with a Phillips Radiogram while the Hon. D. McKay was the recipient of a volume of Peter Mclntyres paintings.
3. 3 May 1969 - First Open Day commemorating the third anniversary of the opening of the Home.
4. 2 May 1970 - A similar Open Day a year later.
5. 19 May 1973 - The opening of the major stage II extensions by Dr. Anthony Rogers, Member of Parliament for Hamilton East.
6. 30 November 1974 - A further Open Day.
7. 1 May 1976 - The fourth Open Day which proved a very wet day confining activities to inside the buildings. Nevertheless about 250 people attended and fund raising activities raised $540.
8. 26 March 1977 - The fifth Open Day - the best yet. A fine day, a large attendance and $1745 raised for Trust funds.

The sixth Open Day in the life of the Home was held on Sunday 9 November 1986. A good attendance appreciated the opportunity of meeting the residents and inspecting the Home and the grounds.

These activities have all been abundantly worthwhile - giving those without any special interest in Tamahere the opportunity of meeting the residents, enjoying the entertainment and seeing the size of Tamahere - usually an eye-opener to those who have judged Tamahere from passing by on the main highway.

Capital Value

In terms of financial measurement it is interesting to record that the total assets which comprise the Tamahere enterprise, were valued at 30 June 1986 at $2,269,325 including land and buildings valued in 1984 at $1,640,000.

Donations, Legacies and Gifts

Generous giving throughout the district in the early stages, coupled with a bed subsidy from the Health Department enabled the Home to be erected free of debt. While the Home has not received any really large bequests, we have reason to be thankful for sufficient public financial support which enabled the costs of all subsequent buildings and furnishings to be met without recourse to any mortgage finance.
This support included four legacies in excess of $20,000 and a larger number of lesser amounts.

In addition the Home is very grateful for gifts in kind including the following, a deep freeze chamber, the original tractor, a light tractor trailer, a large selection of pictures, two pianos, an organ and more recently a motor mower and a beautifully embroidered communion table cloth.

Possibly because Tamahere is now well established people can be forgiven for believing that there is not now a need for financial assistance, and as a consequence income under this heading has substantially diminished. We are however most grateful for one legacy of $20,000 and lesser amounts since the publication of the booklet. The need for financial support will never cease, particularly as the Home looks into the future.

And so we are brought to the end of our first 25 years. It can be confidently said that the original objective has been exceeded many times over. There has been major expansion of the buildings and associated amenities so that the original 30 residential beds have more than doubled to 69. The establishment and development of the Therapy Department under skilled and dedicated management has been a major contribution to the happiness and welfare of the residents. Hundreds of elderly people have enjoyed friendship and contentment in their declining years at Tamahere, while many domestic situations have been solved or assisted as a consequence. The overall age and dependence of the residents has markedly increased. The staff in their various capacities are highly commended for making possible the happiness and contentment which is now so apparent in the Home. Quoting from the final words in the Booklet “There is every prospect that the best is yet to be”. Events to date have amply proved that this prophecy has been fulfilled.

Conclusion

And what of the future? Tamahere has, during a period of over 20 years, provided residential care for more than 300 elderly people. It is impossible to measure the comfort and happiness it has brought to these people nor to assess the extent of the domestic and personal problems which has been solved in the process. It has fulfilled its task exceedingly well, and as a result, is highly regarded in the community.

Statistics reveal that people are living longer and that the senior age levels are rapidly rising. Although only about 10% of the country’s senior citizens finally live in the type of accommodation which Tamahere provides, it is obvious that the need is going to grow, despite all the other alternatives that are available.

While it is unlikely that the present Home will be further extended the Trust Board is currently investigating the prospect of providing self contained units for those in the community who need only minimal assistance. The land is available and the extent of the need is being assessed.
Tamahere Eventide Home – The Early Years by D H Payne

The Home is in first class condition and is fully equipped to ensure that our senior citizens live out their days in peace and contentment. The Home and grounds are spacious and everything is done to provide a happiness worthy of declining years. Entertainment beyond the expectations of people in their own home is a regular feature at Tamahere. Conversely the community at large is generous in the provision of entertainment away from the Home, often providing transport in the process. Church services are conducted each Sunday and a monthly Communion service is held.

Tamahere is staffed by dedicated, loyal and competent people, motivated by Christian love and compassion. It can look into the future with confidence to meet the needs which are unlikely to grow less.

And now we move forward into another era. What will it contain? At a recent meeting of the Trust Board a “brain storming” session took place when many ideas were suggested as worthy of development. Dreams some of them were, but capable of reality were many others. A few of them - A Chapel, A Quiet Room, the development providing accommodation before residential care is provided; a hospital or hospice building - a base for Day Care and Social services etc etc. Recently the Health Department granted the Tamahere Home a Grade 2 grading so that residents are no longer restricted to the frail elderly. Not only people involved in the ageing process, but with other disabilities are now capable of being accepted into the Home.

People classified by the Hospital Board over the three range of disability are now able to be cared for at Tamahere. This represents a giant step forward from the opening days in 1966. Staffing numbers have been increased and facilities considerably upgraded to allow the expectations of many people to become a reality.

Tamahere has the staff, the land and financial resources to enable a forward move to be made in confidence. It was the Therapy Department reading between the lines of all these possibilities who saw the urgent need of a Total Mobility Vehicle to service the needs of an increasing number of residents in this semi-rural community. In fact they have expectations that the purchase of such a vehicle could well become a 25th Anniversary Project.

There is no doubt that the Tamahere Eventide Home is on the eve of expansion and development. Its original objects have been substantially fulfilled. Before us lie unlimited possibilities. There exists a Board of ability and enthusiasm who are looking keenly into the future. They have a Christian motivation to ensure that the elderly in our community will increasingly find adequate loving care in their declining years. Reader, in this we hope we may have your interest, your support and your prayers.

D.H. Payne

There is every prospect that the best is yet to be.
The 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Home on the 7th May 1966 is an occasion well worthy of celebration. To this end, the Arrangements Committee has been authorised by the Trust Board to undertake the following programme.

1. On Saturday 4th May 1991 to organise an Open Day at the Home from 2pm to 4pm.

2. On Tuesday, 7th May 1991 at 6.30pm to arrange a Celebration Dinner at the Home, invitations being extended to Trustees, Matrons, Chaplains, Administration staff etc past and present, Civic leaders and Synod representatives.


4. Tusitala — a recording of reminiscences and life stories of residents for possible publication. The Therapy Department has agreed to undertake this. In connection with the updating of the booklet, the opportunity is being taken to correct errors in the original publication and to update that story with additional information which has become available. Developments since the booklet was published are included so that the story is now told of the full 25 years of Eventide Home Care at Tamahere.

This additional information and the correction of earlier errors is included in this online version.
TAMAHERE EVENTIDE HOME

As we leave behind us the first 25 years, the following personnel are at the helm in 1991.

**Board of Trustees**

- **Chairman**: Rev W.F. Ford
- **Deputy Chairman**: Mr T.F. Mannell

**Members**

- Mr A. Bettany (Secretary/Treasurer)
- Mr T.V. Bryant
- Mr D.G. Crabb
- Mrs M.J. Elton
- Mr J.R.N. Herbert
- Rev. N.R. Keesing (Chaplain)
- Mr R.F. Mitchell
- Mrs G.E. Petch
- Mr W.F. Walters

**Principal Nurse**
- Mrs Lynne Carter

**Associate Principal Nurse**
- Mrs Janet Holdsworth

**Senior Therapist**
- Mrs L. de Lange

**House Manager**
- Mr F.B. Martin

**Doctor**
- Dr K.G. Couper