

# CRANFORD HOSPICE PUBLIC MEETING 2011

Summary of Proceedings of the First Public Meeting held on Wednesday 02 November 2011  
Elms House, Hastings, beginning at 4.00pm

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**Present:** Ken Gilligan (Chair), Helen Blaxland (General Manager), Mike Konig, Judie Webster, David Compton, Frane Rosandich

**In attendance:** Jackie Hantz (minutes),

1. **Apologies Received:** Hayley Anderson (Board Member), Tim Bevin (Board Member), Barbara Arnott, John Newland, Mary Schumacher (CEO Hospice NZ)
2. **Opening of Meeting:** Francis Te Pou (PSEC Cultural Advisor) opened the meeting with a karakia.
3. **Welcome:** Ken Gilligan welcomed all present, being members of the public, Presbyterian Support East Coast (PSEC), the Hawke's bay District Health Board, Cranford staff, community supporters and media, to this first public meeting of the Cranford Hospice Board. He said he expected this will become a regular event.

Mr Gilligan introduced Board members to the meeting and gave an outline of proceedings to follow.

Speaking about Cranford Hospice in general terms, he acknowledged the drive of Mr Jack Mackie, his commitment and also that of Dr Libby Smales, as well as the enthusiasm of PSEC and Hawke's Bay people for the start up and successes of Cranford over the past 29 years. Mr Gilligan referred to the printed copies of *Cranford Hospice Annual Review 2011*, which was available at the meeting, and also the *Cranford Hospice Strategic Plan*, also available. He said Cranford Hospice was fortunate to be held in high regard by the community and that, despite the impact of the recession and Canterbury earthquakes, we were able to maintain solid volunteer help and financial support.

He noted that in it's first year, the Board picked up the challenge to position Cranford Hospice to lead palliative care in the Hawke's Bay District Health Board region. Last 12 months had been a 'fresh start' for the board and staff. He acknowledged that there is more to do. Cranford Hospice has a highly professional and motivated team and community support is strong in a very competitive fundraising environment.

Mr Gilligan introduced David Compton as a new Board member who provides sound financial advice as an accountant. The Board operates well as a team, with the right skills mix to govern Cranford Hospice. He assured the meeting, and the public in general, that all funds donated to Cranford are given directly to Cranford, for its use and benefit.

3. **General Manager Presentation:** Helen Blaxland also welcomed everyone to this inaugural meeting and acknowledged Anne Denton as a life member of PSEC and former staff member at Cranford Hospice and President of HNZ. Cranford will celebrate 30 years at the end of 2012.

The General Manager spoke to a PowerPoint presentation - a copy of this is attached.

Helen Blaxland acknowledged the commitment and efforts of all staff and the hard work they have put in over last 12 months. She referred to the strong links between the Hospital Palliative Care Team and Cranford, and noted that Dr Carol McAllum had been appointed as Clinical Director of Palliative Care for the Hawke's Bay region this year. The General Manager also acknowledged the voluntary contribution by the Cranford Committee and the valuable and supportive work that they do.

It was noted that Mary Schumacher, Hospice NZ CEO, who was hoping to attend this meeting, had to apologise due to changed commitments at late notice.

4. **Question and Answer:**
  - Kevin Atkinson (Chair, Hawke's Bay District Health Board) expressed his gratitude on behalf of the HBDHB Board for the work put in over the last 12 months by staff, the General Manager and the Board.
  - A member of the public noted how calm and peaceful the atmosphere was at Cranford Hospice, contrasting this to the tension that had been felt at meetings in the past.
  - Ken Gilligan commented on the Bay Buzz interview, reported in July 2011 and invited Editor, Tom

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Belford, to give his assessment of commitments made in the article. Mr Belford did not offer any observations on the matters raised at the meeting, but asked about the ongoing recruitment on staff. Helen Blaxland responded that the roles recently advertised were for replacements, such as covering for parental leave and resignations etc.

- Dr Carol McAllum spoke to the difficulty around recruiting medical staff nationally. Cranford team is stable for next 12 months, but can take 6-9 months to recruit into roles.

5. **Financial Summary:**

**Mr Gilligan gave a brief overview of the financial performance and status of Cranford's financial performance as at 30 June 2011.**

- Details of 2011/2012 financial information were provided in the *Annual Review* document.
- If further clarification required members of the public are invited to contact Ken Gilligan or Helen Blaxland directly.

**The Cranford Hospice Board and staff sang the 'Cranford Song'**

**Francis Te Pou closed the meeting with a karakia**

**Meeting closed at 5.00pm**