

**The first stage** of the project will be the construction of a new porte cochere at the main entrance, development of a new reception area, creation of a larger resident lounge and general refurbishment of lounge, dining room, physiotherapy and occupational therapy areas.

The current courtyard garden is being incorporated into an atrium / lounge area – this will have a glass roof and will provide a more spacious and open area for Residents. All of this will require temporary relocation on site of reception and staff – plans are being developed for this.

**The second stage** is the construction of the new building in place of Kauri. This stage will of course require temporary re-location of current Kauri residents within Knox facilities and it is my intention to meet with affected residents and their families when we have well defined options for this re-location. I acknowledge this will cause some inconvenience to those people we move however this is essential and the residents moved from Kauri will be re-located in the lovely new facility when completed.

The new building will be designed around a “household” model of 14 rooms with each “household” having its own kitchen/dining/ lounge space.

**The third stage** is the complete refurbishment of Karaka. This will involve the disestablishment of all shared rooms with the creation of single rooms. Existing single rooms will be redecorated and modernized, however, these rooms will continue to have shared bathrooms.

During this stage the residents of Karaka will be temporarily located in the new building. Additional lounge / dining areas are also to be incorporated in line with a “household” model.

As you will note the completion of the new building will enable temporary relocation of residents to enable refurbishment of other areas. It is for this reason we are not able to accommodate requests from residents or their families wishing to permanently relocate from other areas of Knox to the new building – current Kauri residents of course will be offered a room in the new building.

It is intended that planning will commence for the refurbishment and redevelopment of the remainder of the building very soon and the space provided in the new building will be required for this refurbishment to progress as it provides temporary accommodation during ongoing developments.

As we all know from our own experience of home renovations, a project such as this offers a few challenges. I know that here at Knox we will have ours to deal with; however the work on the building is essential and we will have a more modern and appropriate home when completed.

I cannot say we won't have dust, noise, some inconvenience and at times a few frustrations – however it will be worth all this.

I plan to hold regular meetings for family and friends and we will keep you updated in newsletters and via the web site. I have also been meeting weekly with residents for approximately a year to discuss the plans and I have received a great deal of feed-back from residents and team members.

As described, the new building will incorporate a kitchen for residents wishing to prepare meals if they wish – this may be as simple as a sandwich or a main meal. Our first step in this direction (prior to the new building being built) is to set up the Totara kitchen so that residents wishing to cook are able to.

As you can see a lot is going on at Knox and daily I marvel at the spirit, energy and passion both residents and team display for making this a better place for those who chose it as their home.

Thanks to all of you for the support you show Elizabeth Knox Home and Hospital – please come along to the meetings we have planned it is always valuable to get together with family members.

Good health ....

*Jill*