

Newsletter,
November 2016

This year has been remarkably busy for all the team at MAA.

Last year the Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) made it clear that they wanted us to leave our existing rooms in the basement of building 17 (G17), where we had been operating for about 10 years. In February this year we were given permission to occupy what is called Building 6 (G6) or more traditionally – The Costley Building. This building was constructed in 1890 and has filled many roles over the years and is now a listed heritage site.

In May we started our big move to shift an enormous amount of stock from G17 to G6 (Costley). Having completed that task by the date requested by the ADHB, we then turned our attention to the stock held in the basement of our other building, G16.

Our MAA workers appreciated the help given by friends and family, by Gavin Smith with a truck loaned from his employer AlSCO and by a team of strong lads from De la Salle College.

The Costley Building, although old, musty and unused for about 10 years, was soon cleaned and ventilated, providing us with a work and storage area about ten times that of G17. We had some minor teething problems while the ADHB sorted out asbestos and rain water leaks, but this is now all behind us.

In this building we have a secure area where medicines are kept, privacy film on all lower windows to reduce the risk of break-ins, multiple entry and exit doors, a security alarm, toilets, hot water, a kitchen, an office and meeting room, plenty of light and all the shelving from our old rooms – plus many metres of metal shelving donated to us by the ADHB from an unused basement area. We feel very blessed to have the rooms we do. They suit us really well and we are delighted with them.

Our stock is better sorted and we have room to pack up orders and tables on which to work.

Our thanks once again, go to the Hospital Board for their help and cooperation.

Mid-way through the year we welcomed two new members onto the Executive. Paul is in freighting and logistics and Peter comes from a legal background. Both men have already helped us using their professional experience. We now have an Executive with a very wide range of interests and abilities.

AlSCO have once again made us a generous offer to have our van cleaned, polished, sign-written and maintained. Our Toyota now looks very professional as it travels the city.

We have been approached by pharmacists in Oamaru, Dunedin and Invercargill to start MAA style operations in Otago and Southland. We have put them in touch with the Canterbury people, which would seem to be their obvious point of connection. This is an encouraging development.

I write this before our fund-raising event at the end of November, which promises to be a great night.



Murray Kerr
Chairman
November 2016