



Seasons greetings filled with peace and joy of Christmas!

A gentle Covid reminder

As Covid-19 continues to move around the country it is important to remain vigilant.

Remember to:



- Stay home if you are unwell



- Focus on your hygiene
- Wash your hands with soap and water often



- Cough or sneeze into your elbow



- Avoid touching your face
- Clean frequently touched surfaces in your home regularly



- Wear a face covering when leaving the house

Record your movements. If you have a smart phone use the NZ Covid Tracer app, otherwise sign in physically when out and about.

If it has been more than six months since you had your second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine you are now eligible for your booster shot.

Over time the protection offered from the vaccine decreases so having a booster shot tops up your immunity. Booster shots are available at vaccination clinics, and some pharmacies and GPs. Please let staff know if you need any assistance in booking or getting to and from a vaccine appointment.

The Masonic Villages Trust has comprehensive Covid-19 plans in place and we are taking extra precautions to ensure the health and safety of our residents and staff.

If you have any Covid-19 symptoms or have been identified as a close contact please have a Covid-19 test.

We also ask you to let village staff know immediately if you are being tested for Covid-19. It is important staff know so they can help if you are feeling unwell, and protect other residents.

If you are concerned about any Covid-19 symptoms you are experiencing and need further advice call your GP clinic or Healthline on 0800 358 5453.



Kia ora koutou

How swiftly the year is drawing to a close. Do you remember how long it was between one Christmas and the next when you were a child? – now it seems you hardly have time to recover from the last one and the next is just around the corner! I have a similar feeling about the year I have just completed as Chair of The Masonic Villages Trust but as I look back over the months, I am aware that in spite of the unusual Covid world we are a part of, The Trust has continued to pursue an ongoing policy of growth and development that ensures we can

continue to offer quality across our range of villages and care facilities.

In recent weeks I have been able to visit with residents in our newest village in Wainuiomata and share with them their pleasure at being “Pioneers” as they settle in and enjoy the opportunity this village provides in settings that are familiar to them.

After our recent AGM, Trustees were able to have a very early sneak preview of the new care facility being built at our Woburn village. Whilst it is still a building site, there is a sense of well planned, spacious accommodation designed to provide a level of accommodation and care for those who can no longer live independently.



There are other exciting developments on the drawing board too but I will leave those for another day. In the meantime, I wish you:

Seasons greetings filled with the peace and joy of Christmas.

May this Christmas bring you many reasons to smile and share this wonderful time of the year with those near and dear to your heart.

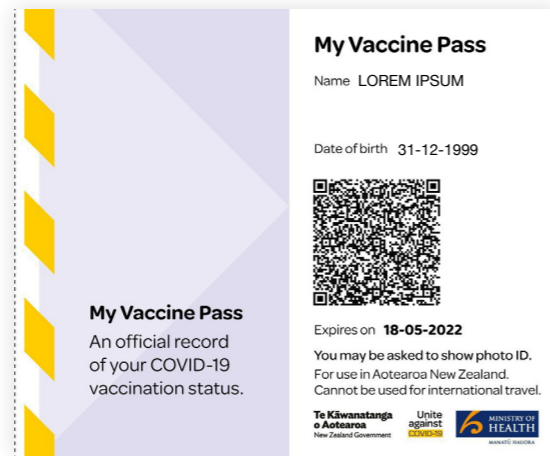
Nga Mihi

Marie Gillies
Chairperson
The Masonic Villages Trust.

My Vaccine Pass - Digital



My Vaccine Pass - Printed Version



Traffic Light System

We have now moved into the Covid Protection Framework, commonly known as the Traffic Light System.

While the majority of our villages and care homes are at Orange, we do have some villages and one care facility in the Red zone.

As you can appreciate the health and safety of all our residents is a non-negotiable so all staff and contractors who work on any of our sites are required to be vaccinated.

All visitors to our care homes are also now required to show their vaccine pass as an extra protection to keep our residents safe.

The Covid booster shot is now available to residents who have had their second dose of the vaccine more than six months ago. We're pleased to report most of the residents in our care homes will have this before Christmas, if they haven't already.

The Masonic Villages Trust has comprehensive Covid-19 plans in place and are taking extra precautions

to ensure the health and safety of our residents. As Covid-19 continues to move around the country we continue to remain vigilant and will continue to prioritise the health and safety of our residents.

Finally we ask that if you have any Covid-19 symptoms or have been identified as a close contact please have a Covid-19 test. We also ask you to let village staff know immediately if you are being tested for Covid-19. It is important staff know so they can help if you are feeling unwell, and protect other residents.

Symptoms of Covid -19:



Fever



Shortness of breathe, cough, sore throat



Fatigue, Tiredness



Headache

Edale resident takes to the sky

In April this year Edale resident, Ate Sjollema, began taking flying lessons and at nearly 86 he has finally fulfilled his life-long dream of becoming a pilot.

Ate grew up in the Netherlands and dreamed of joining the Air Force but his family worried for his safety and would not give him permission to join.

"All my life I wanted to be a pilot.

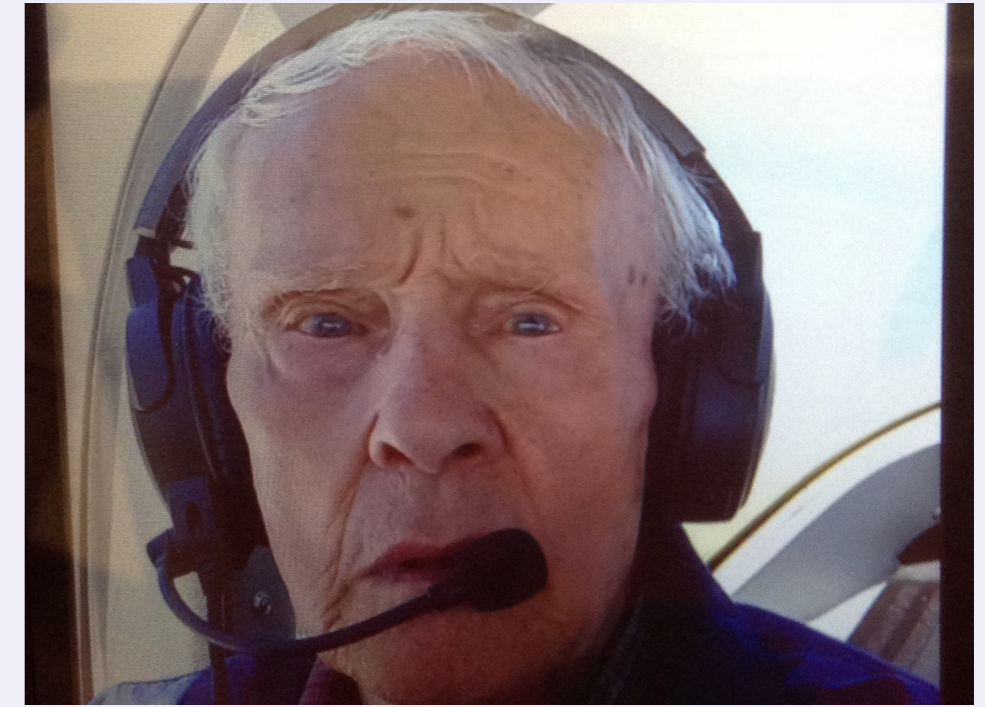
"I wanted to be a fighter pilot in the Air Force in Holland in the 1950s but I was too young to join without my parents' consent. My father refused and said if you want to kill yourself you're going to have to do it some other way.

"At that time joining the Air Force was quite dangerous. We changed from propeller driven aircraft to jet aircraft and were losing about one person a day."

But Ate's passion for planes never went away and he has always been an avid plane watcher who dreamed of flying himself.

Now the dream has finally become a reality and every Wednesday Ate takes to the skies. He no longer takes lessons, but has formed a friendship with his former instructor. The two meet up each week for a flight over Marton with Ate in control of the plane.

"Every Wednesday I try to take a plane up and he comes with me and we fly



over Marton, around the coast and over the Patea windmills. People are always watching and waving and I always like to take lots of pictures too.

"I'm not a licensed pilot, and I don't want to be. I just love it and do it for fun."

For Ate the best thing about his new hobby is when he gets to go up in his favourite plane, a Piper Tomahawk.

"It's an older plane and it has these levers and gears you have to pull instead of just pushing buttons. You've got to really manhandle this plane and it feels like I am really flying it." At almost 86 years young Ate believes it's never too late to learn something new.

"It's not about how old you are, it's about how old you feel."

Ate moved to New Zealand in 1955 and worked in the forestry industry in Southland. He also had a career as a carpenter.

He moved to Wellington a few years after arriving in New Zealand and this is where he met his wife, Maria. They were married for nearly 60 years before Maria died last year. Together they moved around New Zealand and even went back and forth to the Netherlands.

Ate has lived at Edale for three years and previously lived in the Levin and Masterton Masonic Villages.



Edale Masonic Village