



Aged Care Commissioner

Government to introduce Aged Care Commissioner

Recruitment for an Aged Care Commissioner has commenced.

The new Commissioner will sit within the Health and Disability Commissioner's office and be in place within the next six months.

The Government hopes introducing the new role will give older people, their friends, and families greater confidence in the quality and safety of services.

In a recent press release Associate Minister of Health and Minister for Seniors, Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, said the Government needs to make sure older New Zealanders experience consistent, quality care.

The current system to ensure quality and safety in the sector is fragmented, and it can be complicated navigating services to get help.



Dr Ayesha Verrall

This disconnect has made it difficult for those who want to make a complaint about aged care to speak up, be heard, and receive a timely response.

"The Aged Care Commissioner will proactively provide leadership and advocacy for systemic change across the entire sector, and be a recognisable figure for resolving complaints."

Masonic Villages Trust Chief Executive, Warick Dunn, agrees the current system can be confusing and welcomes the introduction of the Aged Care Commissioner role.

"The aged care sector offers a plethora of services variously provided by many different entities. It is little wonder that accessing care can be a bewildering and confusing experience."

Warick believes that whilst the aged care sector has many processes already in place to ensure proper care it is hoped that this role will provide much needed advocacy and leadership to ensure major issues are raised and lobbied for with Government.

The Trust plans to follow the Aged Care Commissioner's work closely to ensure they are keeping up with best practice and providing the best possible quality of care for residents.

"As one of the larger charities offering aged care services, as well as housing designed to support older people, we will watch the early days of this new role most closely," Warick said.

"We have a keen interest to see long running issues identified and taken up with Government by a credible Commissioner who can make a difference."

Communicate

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Well done to those of you who have 'been jabbed'



It's with a great deal of pleasure that we want to congratulate the residents of our care facilities and our villages for the efforts you have made to get vaccinated against Covid-19.

Over 90 per cent of care village residents are now vaccinated. That's great news and means we are all doing our bit to keep ourselves and others safe from the virus.

And as the Prime Minister and Minister Hipkins have been at pains to point out – the faster we are all fully vaccinated, the faster we can return to some semblance of normal and be better protected against Covid.

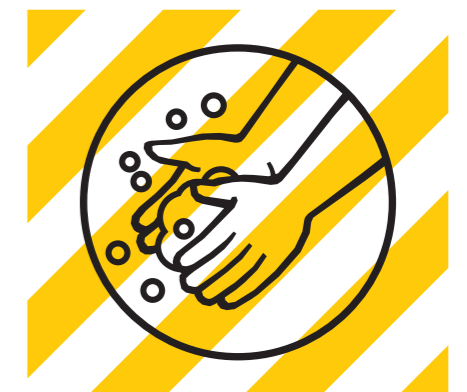
Lockdowns are uncomfortable experiences for many of us, but a necessary evil, given the circumstances.

All our village and care facility managers have plans in place to cater for a variety of Covid scenarios and we work closely with regional public health agencies to ensure we are doing right by all our residents.

We take our duty of care to you, to your families and to our hard-working and committed staff extremely seriously and adhere to best practice health and safety protocols.

So, let's all sanitise, use the Covid app, wear our masks when in public and remember to socially distance. And get a test if you feel unwell, or advise one of our staff.

So, vaccinate, vaccinate, vaccinate. Again, congratulations to those of you who have already done so, and to those who haven't yet had your two doses, please do so when you can.



Washing and drying your hands kills the virus

Wash often. Use soap. 20 seconds. Then dry. This kills the virus by bursting its protective bubble.

Find out more at [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)
New Zealand Government

Unite against COVID-19

Let's all keep safe out there.



Tena Koutou katoa. The Masonic Villages Trust needs you!

An open letter to residents and all Freemasons

The Masonic Villages Trust oversees the operations of our villages and care facilities through Masonic Villages Ltd and Masonic Care Ltd respectively, and we are now seeking new members to join The Trust.

The Trust has its roots in Freemasonry and is one of the most publicly visible aspects of it today, and we'd like to attract Freemasons, especially younger Brethren, to take an active interest in what we do.

Membership of The Trust has been falling over the years, and we are committed to turning this around.

But we also urge our residents to join The Trust – you don't have to be a Freemason to live in our villages and care facilities; nor do you have to be a Freemason to join The Trust.

We hope this membership drive will, in future, provide a pool of skilled and qualified Trust members, some with a Freemasonry background, but not all, to serve at a governance level as Trustees.

As a Trust, we are very proud of the villages and care facilities we offer, and we're proud to provide facilities that meet the needs of those in our communities.

At present we are developing a village in the Wellington suburb of Wainuiomata where our range of quality, affordable, lifestyle villas are snapped up as soon as they become available.

And that's just the start. As part of our five year strategic development plan we have considerable expansion plans on our drawing board right across our 17 villages. These are exciting times for us and a great time to become involved with The Trust. You could really help to make a difference!

The Trust's 2021 AGM will be held on Monday, 15 November. It will start with a light lunch at 12.30pm and the AGM itself will commence at 1.00pm. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend, to learn more about us – and to join as a member. For those intending to attend please watch out for the meeting notice that is sent with our annual report. I shall look forward to seeing you there.

Nga Mihi
Marie Gillies
Chairperson
The Masonic Villages Trust.

Foxton and Palmerston North Villages get new manager



Vera, in the black and white dress, with members of her team

Introducing Foxton and Palmerston North Village Manager Vera Anderson

The Foxton and Palmerston North Masonic Villages were very happy to welcome new Manager, Vera Anderson, in February of this year, and Vera is equally enthusiastic about her new role.

"I enjoy my job. I enjoy everything about it. It really is the best job in the world."

Vera describes herself as a people person and has always been drawn to roles where she can support others. Before this role Vera worked as a Registered Nurse, and held management positions within that field. Vera's favourite part of her current role is spending time with the residents.

"They are all wonderful people. They are proudly independent and I do my best to support them. I enjoy getting to know them better and learning about their lives. They are all from different walks of life, they have such interesting backgrounds, and I learn a lot from them."

Vera has introduced many new initiatives to her villages. New residents are welcomed to the village with a small gift basket and buddied up with another resident to help them transition into their new accommodation.

"In Foxton we are introducing exercise classes, and a safe driving course for



those over 75 who may soon have to retake their driver's test. We had a florist come in before Anzac Day and run a wreath making workshop. The residents made two beautiful wreaths that were presented at the dawn service.

"The more services we can offer on site the better it is for the residents. I hope these activities will make life easier and more enjoyable for our residents and help with social interaction and combat loneliness."

"Although we have fewer residents in Palmerston North we still have monthly fish and chip get-togethers, day trips, a knitting group and a regular newsletter."

The Palmerston North Village has five rental units and 14 villas whereas the much larger Foxton Village has 35 rental units and 25 villas so managing

the two villages keeps Vera extremely busy. Vera believes that running a successful village is a real team effort.

"I couldn't look after the villages or the residents without the support of the team around me. I am lucky to have such a wonderful group of colleagues. Everyone is passionate about what they do and they work hard every day to make a community the residents will be happy in. Wonderful management from the Masonic Villages Trust has also helped immensely."

Vera lives in Feilding with her husband, Stuart. The couple have six children and thirteen grandchildren. Outside of work you will find Vera spending time with the family, gardening, or exploring the region in their roadster car with the top down.

Masonic Court celebrates olympics with smorgasbord.

A few weeks ago the Masonic Court care facility in Palmerston North celebrated the olympic games in style. Residents experienced the culture and cuisine of many countries competing in the games by taking a culinary trip around the world from the comfort of their very own dining room. This 'olympic smorgasbord' was a hit with both staff and residents...well, mostly. Some did not enjoy the taste of their first olive.

Catering authentic dishes from more than 20 countries for the 49 residents would be no easy feat, yet aside from a few dishes the smorgasbord was prepared in house thanks to the hard work and culinary skills of their amazing cook.

Residents enjoyed exotic dishes such as Indian curry, Greek salad, Mexican tacos, Italian pizza, or sushi to represent the host country Japan. Of course, New Zealand was also represented with a classic Kiwi roast lamb.



Mains were followed by Turkish baklava, American pumpkin pie, and German Black Forest Gateaux.

Facility manager, Karen Adrian, says the event was a great way to get everybody together and she was glad to see the residents enjoying themselves.

"The residents tried all different dishes from different countries, many trying things for the first time and they loved it. The smorgasbord certainly widened their culinary horizons and extended their palate as well as providing a great opportunity for us to get together."

Karen says staff at the Masonic Court Rest Home love to plan topical activities for the residents.

"We like to flavour our activities towards current affairs. Anything that is in the news, holidays, or annual events, such as the Melbourne Cup, big rugby games, or daffodil day. Planning an olympic-themed event was an obvious choice because the residents loved watching it on TV and were very enthusiastic New Zealand supporters."

Residents were also busy in the lead up to the event. The table and room were both beautifully decorated with flags and bunting that the residents helped to create.