



## Horowhenua village welcomes their new manager

The Horowhenua Masonic Village was happy to welcome Mary Helen-Burnett as its new village Manager during the festive season.

Mary was attracted to her new role because of her propensity for connecting with people from all walks of life and a strong desire to support the elderly of her community.

She was especially keen to live locally to be closer to her parents and to provide her, her husband Kevin and their beloved cat Emma with a lifestyle offering fulfilling and interesting work alongside good people, beautiful beaches, and a close-knit community.

“Horowhenua is such a scenic place, it’s stunning to wake up to these beautiful beaches and rolling hills.”

Her favourite part of the job is connecting and establishing relationships with the residents. “When we have a resident call, I can take the time to visit them in person, sit with them and establish, not only a working relationship, but a friendship.

“Since I started, there has been a whirlwind of afternoon and morning teas, Christmas parties for residents and their family members, and ‘thank you’ gatherings for our volunteers. All this has been such a lovely way to get to know everyone and start off my journey with the Trust.”

Mary has always been drawn to jobs with a focus on team management. Before this role she was an Operations and Facilities Manager at Sky City. Starting her tenure at the grand opening in 1996 and leaving her

role to pursue a slower-paced lifestyle in Horowhenua district.

Mary has also worked in the community supporting families looking for rentals and before that, enjoyed assisting couples as a wedding planner.

She now lives in Waikawa with her husband and cat and describes herself as “grateful and nurturing”.

“When I’m not at the village I love spending time on our lifestyle block where we have archery, or heading out for walks along the beach, swimming and enjoying the company of our family and friends.”

Mary Helen-Burnett,  
Horowhenua Village, Manager



# Communicate

NEWSLETTER OF THE MASONIC VILLAGES TRUST | NO 30 | FEB 2023

## New retirement villages joins Masonic Villages Trust



The Masonic Village Trust has added another retirement village.

The latest to join the Trust is Wharekaka Village in Martinborough in the Wairarapa. It is home to residents in 12 villas.

The merger was completed on March 1 this year.

“We are delighted to have agreed the recent merger because it means Wharekaka Village will continue to develop and meet increasing needs in Martinborough as well as providing a pathway to full residential care in Masonic’ facilities elsewhere, for village residents, if needed ” says Wharekaka Trust Chair, Joy Cooper.

She says that post-Covid, the business of providing rest home and hospital level care became unsustainable from a cost and revenue standpoint. This meant the Trust had to make some tough decisions on its future. Sadly, it had to close Wharekaka’s hospital and rest home service in March 2022.

Wharekaka was fortunate in that the Masonic Villages Trust was – and still is – looking to expand.

This is in keeping with its goals of providing retirement living and hospital level care to New Zealand’s aging population in local communities.

So, Joy met with Masonic Villages Trust Chief Executive, Warick Dunn. The two of them had a chat or two, something Joy said proceeded very smoothly over several months, and the rest is now history.

“We wanted to align with a Trust that has the same goals and philosophies as us, and Warick and his team at the Masonic Villages made us feel confident that we had a shared set of values.”

Wharekaka Trust opened for business in the early 1970s. It was run by community volunteers for many years.

The Masonic Villages Trust is equally pleased with the merger. It follows its earlier merger several years ago with the Northland district Masonic Trust.

“We are very much focused on catering to the needs of our country’s aging population, particularly those

among us who need more affordable housing in their retirement,” Warick said.

“And often, people want to retire in the communities in which they have lived most of their lives.”

“So, we place our retirement villages in local communities, like Martinborough, so residents can continue to live close to family and friends.”

“Thanks to this merger, we are confident that Wharekaka, as a Masonic Village, will continue to provide services in Martinborough while also investing in and developing our facilities further for existing and future residents,” says Joy.

Joy Cooper,  
Wharekaka Trust Chair





## Welcome to the March edition of Communicate

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the March edition of our newsletter.

As the Chief Executive of The Masonic Villages Trust, I am pleased to have the opportunity to share with you the latest news and developments from our organization.

As you know, our mission is to provide a caring and supportive environment for our residents, and we take this responsibility very seriously. Our team of dedicated staff work tirelessly to ensure that our residents receive the highest quality care and support they deserve.

In this issue, you will find inspiring stories about our residents and staff, who have all contributed to creating a warm and welcoming community at our Masonic villages and care facilities.

We hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and that it provides you with a glimpse into the wider Masonic Villages Trust world.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work together to make a positive difference in the lives of our residents.

Best regards,

Warick Dunn,  
Chief Executive  
The Masonic Villages Trust



Horowhenua Masonic Village residents

## Horowhenua Masonic Village Trust appoints new Facilities Manager

Rachel de Burgh has been a nurse for 30 years and the Masonic Villages Trust has been lucky enough to have her for 13 of them.

Rachel was a busy mum of three when she began working night shifts at the Horowhenua Masonic Village. Since then, she has stepped into various positions throughout the Village such as Charge Nurse for the hospital unit and Clinical Nurse Manager.

In December 2022 Rachel stepped into her biggest role yet as the facilities manager.

“When I moved to Levin, I got chatting to a group of people at a yoga class, and they all recommended I look into Masonic Villages for job openings.”

“Levin’s a small place, with a tight knit community, and everyone holds the Village in high regard. That, along with their core values, and the fact the village is part of a charitable trust, is what attracted me.”

The facilities manager role became vacant after a long-standing and much-loved member of the staff, Sue Manney, took her leave.

Rachel said Sue was always one of her biggest mentors throughout her time at the Village and it has now come full circle with her stepping into Sue’s former role.

“Sue has offered me full support and encouragement in taking this step. Working with her over the years has given me invaluable knowledge and I only hope to do her, and the job, justice.”

Having recently completed a transformation leadership course and having an ongoing love for the industry places her in good stead.

There is no typical day in the facilities manager’s role. It can vary from preparing budget reports, to caring for all staff, to on-floor nursing and ensuring the residents are comfortable and happy.

During her days off, Rachel puts her interest in caring for people into her children and their hobbies.

You will find her supporting her youngest daughter at horse shows, cheering her son on at cricket, supporting her eldest daughter in her studies as a primary school teacher, running and spending time with her partner.

“I have always had an interest in caring for people. I know it sounds corny, but I love looking after those around me,” she says.

“That’s the nursing part of me.”

Rachel de Burgh,  
Horowhenua Village,  
Facilities Manager



## Communicate Newsletter now online

Communicate magazine is now available online at [www.masonicvillages.co.nz](http://www.masonicvillages.co.nz).

You can browse through past editions and tell your friends and family who may not get to see the printed copy of our newsletter.

