



Doors now open at Woburn Masonic Care in the Hutt



Masonic Village Wharekaka

Wharekaka Village and The Masonic Villages Trust unite for a new chapter.

The idyllic town of Martinborough has witnessed an exciting development in recent months with Wharekaka Retirement Village joining forces with The Masonic Villages Trust. The merger, which took place in March, allowed the 12-unit village to continue to operate.

Julie Rogers, who manages the Trust's Wairarapa Masonic Village in Masterton, has taken the reins at Wharekaka.

The merger means Wharekaka, which was on the verge of closing its doors, will remain home to its very grateful residents, who no longer face the daunting prospect of leaving behind their familiar surroundings or loved ones.

Instead, they are able to live within the comfort of their homes, enabling them to live with dignity and independence.

Julie says the residents have embraced the changes.

"They enjoy the newfound services, activities, and opportunities that have come with the merger without losing any sense of the familiarity and connection that have defined their lives for years," she says.

The Wharekaka team includes a chef, a gardener, and an administrator. They all share similar values when it comes to working with seniors.

They have useful connections with local trades, food providers and volunteers, which help keep the village and meals on wheels running smoothly.

"Our team is very focused on creating a warm, welcoming environment where residents feel comfortable and listened to," Julie says.

The merger has given residents the opportunity to embrace a more vibrant and engaging lifestyle, including greater access to a raft of community and village run activities. Not only does this allow them to connect with one another but also fosters a sense of belonging.

The integration of Wharekaka Village within the Trust has also created a bridge that connects the village with neighbouring communities.

Residents often embark on trips to Martinborough events and receive visits from residents in Masterton.

These interactions not only expand horizons but also strengthen the bonds between Wharekaka, the Trust's Masterton-based village and their wider communities.



At some point, many of us will consider a move into an aged care facility.

And if you, or a family member, live in the Hutt Valley, that move could well be into the recently refurbished and rebuilt Woburn Masonic Care.

Woburn Masonic Care is operated by The Masonic Villages Trust.

A state-of-the-art facility

Now thoroughly renovated, it is a state-of-the-art facility with all the very latest and most sophisticated care features, and an approach to supporting residents that is underpinned by the Masonic values of Care, Community and Compassion.

Woburn is one of five care homes (and 18 retirement villages) The Masonic Villages Trust operates throughout the North Island.

The new facility provides rest home, respite care, hospital-level, and palliative care for residents.

Bigger than usual rooms

It features 62 individual care suites, which are larger than the rooms usually available in aged care facilities, and each comes with its own lounge, kitchenette, and generous bedroom with discreet, ceiling-mounted hoists and full ensuite.

The care suites provide residents with a mix of personal space and room to entertain family or friends, so as to preserve as much as possible a homelike atmosphere.

Residents have 24/7 access to care by registered nurses.





Horowhenua Masonic Village comes together for a relief fundraiser breakfast

The Horowhenua Masonic Village was sombre as residents, staff, and family members shared stories of loved ones who had been affected by the recent flooding in Hawke's Bay – but all for a good cause.

The community of Horowhenua Masonic Village came together to organise a breakfast fundraiser to aid those in need following the devastation of Cyclone Gabrielle.

A successful event, despite the circumstances, saw the attendees raise nearly \$4,000 in donations by the end of the day for the Hawke's Bay relief efforts, which thrilled both organisers and attendees.

As many of the Horowhenua Village's residents grew up in or knew people from the affected area, the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle hit close to home for many.

So distressing were the stories of loss and devastation, village cafe Manager, Lynn Vowell, asked her husband and head Chef, Kevin, for ideas on how they could help.

Kevin came up with a plan: a breakfast fundraiser to support the recovery efforts in Hawke's Bay.

With the help of the community, they organised the event, inviting local businesses, contractors, and charitable organisations to donate food, drinks, and prizes for a raffle.

The response was overwhelming, with all the food and coffee being donated, and prizes valued up to \$1,500 collected for the raffle.

Held in March, the event was a huge success as people filled the village cafe from 7am to 9am. A local band, the Ukulele Ladies, provided entertainment and people came and went throughout the morning.

Despite the early morning start and the sombre context, the atmosphere was lively and warm, with everyone enjoying the opportunity to come together and support a worthy cause.

The success of the event highlighted the tight-knit and caring nature of the community, as people rallied together to support those affected by the cyclone.

Mary Burnett, the Horowhenua Village Manager, summed up the feeling of the day with one word - compassion.

"It's amazing. I mean, it's great to see people coming together to help others. And it's these things that show people's goodwill."

The residents, staff, and family members had a pleasant time exchanging stories while enjoying a meal. They were also reminded of the importance of community and the benefits that arise from offering support to one another.

The gathering of residents, staff, and family members served as a reminder of the strength that a community possesses when they unite to provide support for others. Additionally, sharing a meal together added to the enjoyment of the event.

"The need for donations remains crucial to support families and individuals affected by the devastating flooding."

If you wish to donate, please refer to the link provided below.

www.hawkesbayfoundation.org.nz

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Generous community spaces

There are also a number of smaller, more intimate public spaces and a variety of welcoming and well-planned community and social areas.

These include three community dining areas (with menus approved by a dietitian), three community lounge areas, space for church services and personal reflection, a hairdresser and personal care facilities, and four easily-accessible courtyards.

There is also a varied social programme and activities, giving residents the choice to be as active and outgoing as they please.

And the Trust has incorporated solar panels into the building's design to enhance its sustainability and reduce the environmental footprint.

Wheel chair accessible transport is available for those residents who want to venture out or participate in organised outings.

Putting people first

The Masonic Villages Trust Chief Executive, Warick Dunn, is very proud of the new facility, saying it fulfils the Trust's mission of prioritising people, and it provides a fantastic environment within which great care can be delivered.

"This focus on people first underpinned the construction of the first Woburn care home in the 1960s and it is still embedded in the approach we take to our care facilities and retirement villages today."

Warick says the Trust has a rich and special tradition of caring for the older person and those who need support, and this is reflected in everything the Trust does and is appreciated by everyone we care for.

"The lessons of the past drive our approach to the future," he says.



Prize winners from the relief fundraiser



Breakfast is served to help the cyclone recovery