

See you, Sue. Thanks for the great memories



Sue Maney and the Masonic Horowhenua Village team

“I will definitely miss the people – the staff, the residents and their families. That will be the biggest thing for me, not being part of that great team.

“But, at the same time, I’m excited for new opportunities.”

So says Horowhenua village and care facility manager, Sue Maney, who is stepping down from her role after 22 years working with the Masonic Villages Trust.

“We’ve had lots of successes over the years, won some awards, been through some hard times, but I’ve been lucky – I’ve had some really great people around me and that’s what makes this job so wonderful.”

Sue oversees both the village and the care facility – a unique role.

She started at the care facility in 2000 providing on-contract physiotherapy services to care facility residents rehabbing after a hospital stay.

She took on the manager’s role 13 years ago.

She’s noticed some significant changes in that time.

“We have to contend with considerably more, and more complex, compliance and regulatory issues, particularly in the health and safety area. That can be challenging.

“And on top of that we have staff shortages to deal with, with all the pressures that brings.”

But there have been highlights aplenty over the years.

And true to form, Sue’s list of memorable moments centres very much on the people she’s worked with and helped look after.

“Deciding to move into a retirement village, or into a care facility, can be momentous for some people and can take a bit of getting used to.

“It’s not for everyone and it’s a decision that needs a lot of thought.

“People often need a lot of support, including close family members for whom there’s also an impact.

“But that’s the really great part of this

job – being in a position to nurture and support people, to make them feel safe and to give them the best quality of life you can.”

In her time, Sue has worked with over 100 staff, and she’s proud of the culture she and her team have developed over the years. She describes it as “very rewarding”.

She leaves her role at the beginning of December.

A keen gardener and exerciser, she’s looking forward to spending time outdoors and with her family in New Zealand over Christmas, and her family in Australia in the new year.

She’s got six grandchildren to look after, so we can assume she’ll be pretty busy!

As to next steps, Sue says she’ll “evaluate opportunities”.

“I want to do the things I want to do while I’m still fit and healthy enough to do them.”

We wish you all the best, Sue. We’re sure you’ll be missed.

Stone laying attracts big audience at our newest village



The newly-elected Mayor of Lower Hutt, Campbell Barry, attended, along with the local electorate MP, Labour's Ginny Anderson, and her list MP National Party colleague, Chris Bishop.

They were joined by the Grand Master and Grand Master-elect of Freemasons NZ, Graham Wrigley and Jim Watt respectively, with a host of other senior Brethren.

They, in turn, were supported by many, many happy village residents, who were in fine singing voice on the day, and staff from The Masonic Villages Trust.



Campbell Barry, Mayor of Lower Hutt (left) with Warick Dunn, Chief Executive of The Masonic Villages Trust

The occasion? The formal ceremony to mark the opening of the Wainuiomata Masonic Village on Saturday October 15, 2022.

The ceremony itself revolved

around a traditional laying of the Foundation Stone, complete with the Freemasons' ritual, prayers and presentations that reflect Masonic morals and history.

A formal ceremony was held on Saturday 15 October, 2022 to mark the opening of the Wainuiomata Masonic Village.



MW Bro Graham Wrigley, Grand Master Freemasons NZ (Second from the right) and the Freemasons





Wainuiomata Masonic Village Opening Ceremony Continued



In keeping with the Trust's vision the Wainuiomata village provides the people of that Lower Hutt suburb with retirement living options within their own local community.

This means that, like most residents of our 17 retirement villages around the North Island, they can enjoy their retirement years while remaining close to friends and family, and relaxing in a familiar environment.

Grand Master Graham Wrigley and the Freemasons contingent attended to mark that organisation's close association over many years with the Trust.

In fact, it was Freemasons, back in the early 1960s, who helped build our first ever Masonic retirement village at Woburn, Lower Hutt.

Our two organisations still share those Masonic values of community friendship and support.

Stages 1, 2 and 3 of the Wainuiomata village are now complete with a total of 43 villas.

A further 29 are under construction, and when the village is complete it will offer 80 retirement villas.



MW Bro Graham Wrigley, Grand Master Freemasons NZ with local Iwi



Rest and relaxation on the cards for Christmas

Let me start by wishing all our residents, their families and our staff along with their families a very restful and relaxing Christmas.

I'm very sure you all deserve it after what's been another challenging year.

I know for us at the Trust, and for many of you dealing with the day-to-day realities of 2022, it's been particularly difficult on many fronts.

And certainly our staff have done an absolutely amazing job helping us all navigate those challenges, particularly in our care facilities which have required substantial support these last two years.

So, I really do hope all of you get the chance to sit back over Christmas, spend some time with good friends and family and recharge.

While 2022 has been difficult, it's also produced some wins for us at the Trust.

With some luck and a lot of hard work from our dedicated teams around the country, we managed to get through this year's Covid outbreak without too much upset.

We made some excellent progress on our new-build care home at Woburn in Lower Hutt. Once complete in early 2023 that facility will feature 62 modern, well-outfitted care suites.

We also completed the refurbishment of our Wairarapa Masonic Village Hall, started on Stages Three and Four at the Wainuiomata Masonic Village and began the earthworks and Stage One civil works for the planned major expansion to our Horowhenua Masonic Village.

So, it's been a busy time. But now it's time to have a well-deserved break.

Hopefully 2023 will contain less disruptions for all of us, but in the meantime, we wish you all well for an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Best regards

Warick Dunn | Chief Executive
The Masonic Villages Trust



Dickie Hammond was surprised that reaching 100 years was seen as such an achievement.

To celebrate the occasion, Dickie decided to have a quiet day enjoying the comfort that her two-bedroom cottage in Edale provides her. Edale has been Dickie's home since she was 85 when she built one of the first own-your-own villas at the Masonic village.

Dickie says "do everything in moderation"

She was pleasantly surprised by the friends, residents and family who poured into her home throughout the day bearing food and gifts. Those who could not visit sent cards and bouquets of flowers. Dickie said her home looked more like a florist before the day was out.

Her local supermarket and furniture store placed ads in the paper to honour her big day and thanked her for being a long-standing customer. "If I'm now a part of their advertising scheme, they better cut me in," Dickie joked.

"And I heard from the Queen," she said. "I just got in on time. It wasn't really for me, my daughter kindly pointed out I should apply for a letter as my grandchildren have really gotten a kick out of their grandmother being 100 and the letter from the Queen was the icing on the cake."

Born in Marton in 1922, she was one of four siblings.

All her siblings lived long lives and Dickie announced to the family, in healthy sibling rivalry: "I'm going to outdo all of them". She has promised a few people that she won't slow down now and jokes she has another seven years, minimum.

Dickie attended school in Hamilton and left home to work in a bank in Palmerston North, until she fell in love and married Sid Hammond. The pair settled just out of Marton on a family farm and raised their two beautiful children.

When asked about her secret to reaching 100, Dickie giggled, paused, and then said: "Well, it's not diet. Mum always told us to eat a little of everything, and diet wasn't a word we used in our house." She has carried this mantra throughout her long life, to do everything in moderation.



Build it and they will come



The Horowhenua Retirement Village in Levin is set for a major upgrade, with 100 modern, functional and lifestyle-oriented villas and rentals being added over the next seven or eight years.

Project Director, Alan Attack, says stage one of the ambitious building programme is already underway with earthworks having started.

The first of the new villas are expected to be ready to welcome their new owners in two years.

The remaining villas, and a new community hub, will be built over a further six construction stages, spanning seven or eight years in total.



When all building works are complete the extended Levin village will expand to 190 villas. 160 of these will be occupied under Occupation Right Agreements (ORAs) and the other 30 as rentals.

The new builds will comprise a mix of one, two and three bedroom units. The two and three bedroom options will have garaging, some offering two-car spaces.

Alan says this project, covering 4.5 hectares of land, will make the Horowhenua village the biggest in the Masonic Villages Trust's stable.

"This is the second major extension to our Horowhenua village since it was first built in the 1970s," Alan said.

The building project sits alongside ongoing development works at the Trust's Wainuiomata village, which will feature 80 villas when complete, and the redevelopment of the Woburn Masonic care facility in Lower Hutt.

Alan said other new build projects and extensions are "on the radar".

This is in keeping with the Trust Board's ongoing growth strategy, being executed to meet the demands of New Zealand's aging population.

The Trust's decision to invest in the Horowhenua village reflects the population growth projections for the area.

The Horowhenua District Council has allocated land for an additional 2500 houses in the region, demographic reports indicate an increase in population over the next 30 years

"It's a popular spot," Alan says. "Small enough to have a good community feel, but close to Wellington and the Kapiti Coast."

Communicate magazine is now available online at 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.

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