



# Horowhenua Village welcomes their new Manager

**The Horowhenua Masonic Village was happy to welcome Mary 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. She started her tenure at the

grand opening in 1996 and left 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 Burnett,  
Horowhenua Village, Manager**





## New retirement village joins The Masonic Villages Trust

The Masonic Villages Trust has added another retirement village to its growing stable as part of its strategic expansion goals.

The latest to join the Trust is Wharekaka Village in Martinborough in the Wairarapa. It is home to 13 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 The 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 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," he says.

"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 organisation.

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.

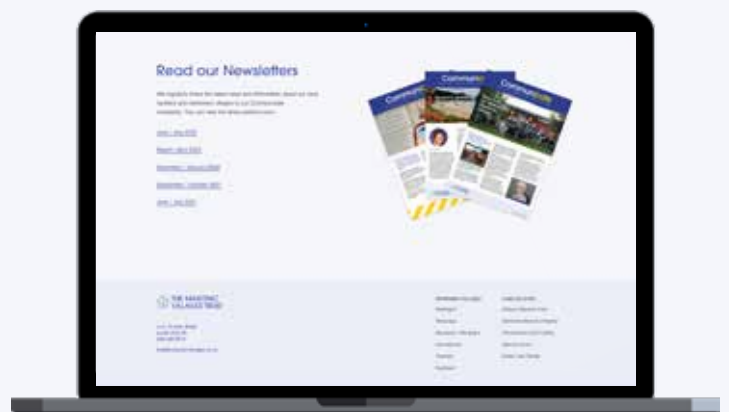
Best regards,

Warick Dunn,  
Chief Executive  
The Masonic Villages Trust

## 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.





# Horowhenua Masonic Care appoints new Care Manager



Rachel de Burgh has been a nurse for 30 years, and The Masonic Villages Trust has been fortunate to have her for 13 of those years.

Rachel began working night shifts at Horowhenua Masonic Care when she was a busy mother of three.

Since then, she has held various positions, including Charge Nurse for the hospital unit and Clinical Nurse Manager.

In December 2022, Rachel took on her biggest role yet as the Care Manager.

Rachel said that when she moved to Levin, she met a group of people at a yoga class who recommended that she look into job openings at the local Masonic village and care facility.

She was drawn to the organisation's core values and the fact that it is part of a charitable Trust, and the community holds it in high regard.

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

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

Rachel completed a transformation leadership course recently and has a continued love for the industry, which puts her in good stead.

There is no typical day in the Care Manager's role, which can range from preparing budget reports to caring for all staff, on-floor nursing, and ensuring that the residents are comfortable and happy.

On 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," Rachel says. "I know it sounds corny, but I love looking after those around me. That's the nursing part of me."

Rachel de Burgh,  
Horowhenua Care Manager