

Through the lens of Jill Northcott

By day, Jill Northcott is a jack of all trades - overseeing six villages with a total of 112 independent units in the Taranaki region. But by night, she's an award-winning photographer.

She started her photography journey with advice from a friend who shared her interest. Their encouragement sparked her passion. Now, five years in, she embraces low-angle, travel, and wildlife photography, drawing inspiration from others and immersing herself in the beauty of landscapes.

Jill's talent earned recognition at the recent 21st Taranaki Art Awards. Of numerous entries from all over New Zealand, her photograph, titled Solid Foundation stood out.

The grayscale image captured the strength and resilience of large concrete blocks, symbolising the human struggle against the forces of nature.

Judges Professor Bob Jahnke from Massey University and Taarati Taiaroa from Govett Brewster Art Gallery appreciated the photo's framing and scale, which accentuated the power and significance of the subject. As a result, she received the highly commended award, a testament to her artistic vision and technical prowess.



The awards evening offered not just recognition but also a night of entertainment, with local musicians, complimentary drinks, canapes, and an annual dress-up theme. The theme for 2023 was "Bring the Bling" and the committee, including Jill, dressed for the occasion.

"It was quite a glamorous event, with a lot of talent and opportunities to network."

Despite her humble nature and attempts to keep her achievement a secret, the family at the Manadon Masonic Village found out, and she was met with an outpouring of support.

The Masonic Villages Trust's Operations Manager, Nick Merrett, highlights the Trust's commitment to encouraging creative pursuits, expressing pride in Jill's talent.

"Everyone from residents to staff was very proud to see her talent recognised and excited to hear about it."

Beyond her photography, Jill wears multiple hats as the village manager of the Taranaki region, overseeing six villages with a total of 112 independent units. Her role involves various responsibilities, from property management to organising renovations and reselling units.

"It keeps me on my toes," says Jill. "You could say I'm a Jill of many trades."

With a background as a funeral director and a registered wedding celebrant, she is a versatile asset to the Masonic family.

"Outside of work and photography, I love going on short trips in my motorhome."

"It aligns well with my husband's fishing adventures, and it's a perfect balance of quiet nights and inspiration for my next project."

Wishing you a peaceful and relaxing Christmas season!



To all our residents, their families, and our dedicated staff, along with their loved ones, I extend warm wishes for a peaceful and relaxing Christmas. Undoubtedly, you've all earned it after navigating through another challenging year.

Reflecting on 2023, while it has had its fair share of ups and downs, it has been marked by some notable milestones in furthering the development of the Trust. Of particular note was the opening of the rebuilt Woburn Care Home; the Masonic stone-laying ceremony at our Wainuiomata Masonic Village; and the commencement of site and civil works at our major expansion for the Horowhenua Masonic Village.

During the year, we were thrilled to welcome many new registered nurses who have come to us from overseas and who have chosen us, and the caring of older New Zealanders, to build a new life. This has greatly assisted in ensuring we have a resilient team of registered nurses working with our carers to oversee the care we provide.

In November, I had the pleasure of attending the annual general meetings we hold at each village. It was rewarding to hear, over many cups of tea, how grateful our residents are for the communities we offer and how much they enjoy their lives in those communities. It is a real gift to know that people can find peace of mind within our villages and that they value the sense of community that is offered.

It was a privilege to welcome Wharekaka Village, in Martinborough, as our newest village. While small, with 12 villas, it is a town and community with a big heart, and the village offers a good opportunity to build our presence in the Wairarapa.

It's been a demanding year, but now is the time to take a well-deserved break. I hope each of you finds the time to unwind, surrounded by good friends and family, allowing yourselves the chance to recharge.

As we look forward to 2024, hopeful for good weather and further achievements, we wish you all a delightful Christmas and New Year.

Best regards,



Warick Dunn
Chief Executive
The Masonic Villages Trust



Christmas wishes from Marie Gillies



Christmas is just around the corner, and once again, I am forced to reflect on where the last 12 months have gone.

New Zealand has not been without its adverse events, and I know there are many so badly affected by natural events and family tragedies who will be wondering how to celebrate and enjoy the Advent Season.

For me, Christmas began on Tuesday, December 5. I joined the Friends of Old St. Paul's and those Wellington citizens who turn up each year at the church for the annual traditional carol service to share and celebrate Christmas once again.

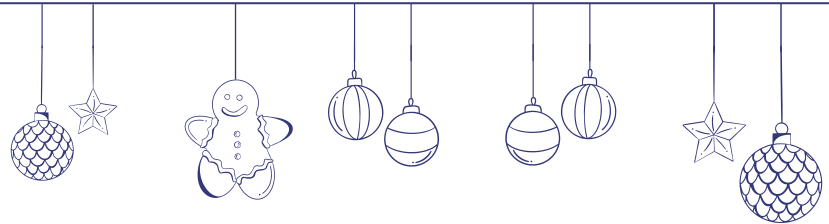
Peace, goodwill, and understanding, set against the backdrop of one of our most loved and iconic buildings, are the messages that cut through the hype and commercial nature so associated with Christmas.

On behalf of the Trustees and Directors, I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Best wishes,
Chair, Marie Gillies

"The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: The presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other."

Christmas words from the team



Woburn Apartments is embracing the festive spirit with our Fridays at Four Christmas Special on the 22nd of December, infusing our usual Friday drinks gathering with a Christmas theme.

On Christmas Day, we're hosting a special lunch for approximately 50 residents, ensuring a warm and traditional Kiwi celebration. Adding to the festive spirit, two Christmas trees adorn the village; they have been gracing each of our bars since the first week of December.

Spread joy and create cherished moments this holiday season.

- Chris Wilson, Apartment Manager, Woburn Apartments

Taranaki Region

The spirit of Christmas has flourished across the Taranaki villages with several Christmas events taking place.

Residents gathered for a festive Christmas lunch at the Novotel Hotel in New Plymouth, where 88 attendees enjoyed delicious food and a cheerful atmosphere.

Welbourn Village hosted a Christmas craft market, while Eltham Village organised a heartwarming potluck Christmas lunch within the village.

Manadon spread holiday cheer with a carol-singing night, followed by a stroll through four villas adorned with Christmas decorations. Additionally, they held a potluck Christmas dinner in the hall, featuring live music to accompany the festive spirit.

- Jill Northcott, Village Manager of the Taranaki region

Northland Region

At our place, the Christmas spirit was alive and well. We hosted a festive lunch at the RSA for Wellsford Village, at the Northern Wairoa Hotel for Hokianga Village, and at the Northland Club for Maunu and Lupton Village.

May the simple pleasures of the season bring you comfort and happiness.

- Megan Christie, Client Services Administrator

Wharekaka & Masterton

I want to wish each one of you a heartwarming Christmas season and all the best for the New Year ahead.

It's a time of togetherness and positivity, and the staff and residents are looking forward to the joy this holiday season will bring.



Horowhenua Masonic Village residents



Eltham Masonic Village residents



Woburn Masonic Care foyer



Taranaki Masonic Village residents

Masterton and Wharekaka Villages are very busy in December with Christmas dinner at Lansdown House and Christmas lunch at the Village HUB, the Brass band will be doing carols in Masterton, while Rotary will be at Wharekaka doing carols. A remembrance service will also be held at Wharekaka.

Christmas day at the Masterton Village there will be a pot luck style lunch.

Residents are doing a stall of home-made goods and there will be Christmas shopping at Glenwood with Duncan's Pharmacy.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us.

- Julie Ward, Wharekaka & Masterton

Horowhenua

Delicious food, live music and good cheer was the order of the day for the Horowhenua Masonic Village Christmas party!

Our residents' Social Committee decorated the tables and Christmas tree so the cafe looked very festive for over 65 residents.

Sharon and her team produced a beautiful Christmas meal with ham carved off the bone, roast chicken and all the trimmings followed by ambrosia and Christmas cake.

One of our local kaumatua blessed the food with a karakia and Nick was on hand to help serve the buffet.

After dinner we had the wonderful Unity singers with guitar and piano accompaniment. We had a sing-a-long with Christmas carols and other popular songs.

Merry Christmas to all from the Horowhenua Masonic Village

- Mary Burnett, Horowhenua Masonic Village