

Woburn Masonic Care's innovative design nets top gong at national awards

The transformation of a tired, 1960s-era care building in Lower Hutt has been recognised for its innovative design at the Aged Care Association 2024 Conference in Auckland.

The redeveloped Woburn Masonic Care facility won the Spaceworks Environment Award at the recent 2024 ACA/EBOS Healthcare Excellence in Care.

The original building, designed to accommodate 57 residents, had become difficult to navigate due to its darkened corridors, small, narrow bedrooms and tired amenities.

The boutique 'new build' incorporates sustainable initiatives throughout its design and construction, reusing elements from the original structure to minimise waste. It can now accommodate 62 residents in 53 care suites and nine care rooms with ensuites.

Key features include abundant natural light from bay windows, thoughtfully designed corridors to enhance staff efficiency, and four internal courtyards that provide light and views.

Installing solar panels was another significant upfront investment, but one that reduces demand on the electricity grid.

The changes have created a superior environment that's enjoyed by

residents, their families and staff, says Masonic Villages Trust Chief Executive, Warick Dunn.

"The innovative design is a regular topic of pride, not only from the residents within the new care home but also the friends and family who visit, and potential residents who come in and are completely wowed by the environment within which they would be receiving care."



100 new retirement villas being built in Levin

Masonic Villages Ltd is building 100 new retirement villas at its existing Horowhenua Masonic retirement village in Levin.

Each of the new two and three-bedroom villas will be architecturally designed with a range of eco-friendly features and modern, state-of-the-art kitchens and bathrooms.

The new extension, called the Orchard Park extension, will be built in stages with the first villas ready for occupancy in 2025.

The existing Horowhenua Masonic retirement village was first built in 1977. It offers 55 villas and 28 rental units, plus a 77-bed care facility.

Masonic Villages Trust Operations Manager, Nick Merrett, said New Zealand's ageing population means demand for retirement living is increasing, hence the new extension which is part of the Trust's growth strategy.

Some 50,000 New Zealanders live in a retirement village and that number is expected to grow to more than 80,000 by 2033.



Masonic Care acquires Dannevirke care facility

Masonic Care Ltd, part of The Masonic Villages Trust, has acquired the Eileen Mary care facility in Dannevirke.

Trust Chief Executive, Warick Dunn, says the purchase is in keeping with both the Trust's growth strategy and its commitment to providing retirement and aged care living in local communities, with a particular focus on rural and regional New Zealand.

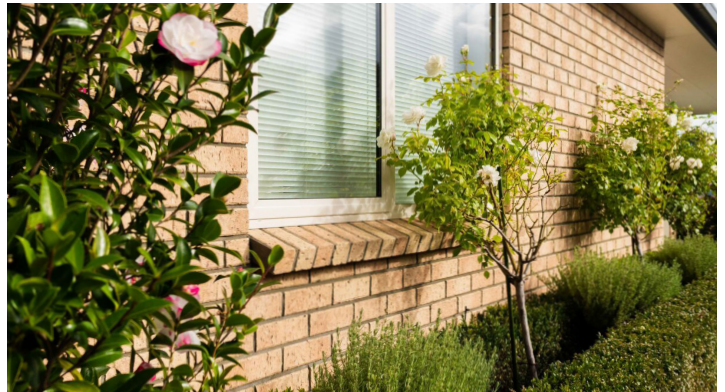
"It's important to us that older New Zealanders can get the quality care and support they deserve, in comfort, close to families and friends, and in the very communities they have made their home for many years," Warick said.

"Keeping it local is important to us."

Masonic Care Ltd is a significant provider of aged care facilities, currently looking after over 265 residents in five care homes across the North Island.

Eileen Mary, with its 58 beds, including 19 care suites, and a small number of onsite retirement units, is the sixth facility to join the Masonic Care family.

Warick says the Trust plans to retain all existing staff, strengthen relationships with local healthcare professionals and further cement its position as a preferred aged care facility locally.



We all need a relaxing break ...

... And a chance to recharge batteries that may be somewhat depleted after what's been a tough 2024 for many Kiwis.

Economically, politically and increasingly socially, New Zealand is facing challenging times. Very few of us are immune and many of us have families that are impacted by the headlines we see in the media almost every day.

And while NZ Inc may be doing it tough, those same headlines tell us we're not the only ones. We need to spare a thought for how other people and other families in other countries are also facing their own unique set of 'challenges'.

So, it's with a bit of a "Phew, it can't come soon enough" that we set our sights on Christmas and a holiday break that we hope will herald better days ahead.

At The Masonic Villages Trust, we are grateful for the commitment and hard work of our whole team.

Not just those few of us at the Trust's national office, but those many who look after and support our hundreds of residents around the country. Our staff in our villages and our care facilities work hard and passionately and we are grateful for their diligence and commitment.

And we want to thank our hundreds of residents for choosing us in their retirement, or to support them with care.

You don't have to choose us, but we are very pleased you opted to be part of the Masonic Villages family. Thank you and may you all – staff and residents – have a great Christmas and a relaxing break.

And may 2025 bring better tidings for us all.

“We want to thank our hundreds of residents for choosing us in their retirement, or to support them with care.”



A blue ink handwritten signature, likely of Warick Dunn, written in a cursive style.

Warick Dunn
Chief Executive
The Masonic Villages Trust



Barrister and solicitor, Iris Reuecamp, elected new chair of Masonic Villages Trust.

Congratulations to Iris Reuecamp, who has been elected chair of The Masonic Villages Trust.

Iris has been an independent director of the Boards of Masonic Care Limited and Masonic Villages Limited for the past eight years. She succeeds Marie Gillies, who chaired the Trust from 2021 to her retirement at the most recent AGM.