

## Janet Thompson named new Village Director at Palmerston North

Respected and well-known "head of hall" Janet Thompson has joined *Campus Living Villages* as the new Village Director at Massey University's Palmerston North Campus.

As recently announced, *Campus Living Villages* has won the tender to operate student accommodation at Palmerston North from January 1, 2006.

Ms Thompson is moving from her role as Deputy Regional Registrar (Student Life) at the Palmerston North Campus to take up the position of Village Director for *Campus Living Villages*.

"I believe that Massey University is a great university, and I am passionate about the Palmerston North campus - it is the best campus in the country," Ms Thompson said.

"I see the new partnership between the University and *Campus Living Villages* as a tremendously positive step. *Campus Living Villages* has shown itself to be extremely professional and very committed to the overall student experience," she added.

"I am looking forward to working closely with the University and the students to ensure Palmerston North's student accommodation is among the finest in New Zealand, reinforcing Palmerston North's reputation as the 'student city'.

"Accommodation and the campus experience are important factors when students are making decisions about where to study. High quality housing and student life programs are vital to helping attract enrolments to regional universities," Ms Thompson said.

*Campus Living Villages* CEO, Dr Patrice Derrington said, "Janet is well known as a person who cares deeply about the students. She has a wealth of experience and ideas, tremendous capability, and is absolutely committed to ensuring students live in an environment that enriches and supports their studies.

"We are extremely pleased she has accepted the position as Village Director and look forward to continuing the strong relationships and networks she already has within the University," Dr Derrington added

Dr Sandi Shillington, Deputy Regional Registrar - Student Life at the Palmerston North campus said, "The University's new relationship with Campus Living and Spotless Catering compliments a significant investment by the University, towards meeting and exceeding the expectations of new and returning students at the Palmerston North campus."

"Massey University is committed to providing students with a quality lifestyle while living on campus.

Janet Thompson shares this commitment, and is passionate about student welfare. We look forward to working with Janet and the Campus Living team, as we continually work to further enhance campus life."

*Campus Living Villages* specialises in student accommodation. Under the operating agreement with the University, *Campus Living Villages* will look after students' accommodation needs for the next five years. Each party will then have the option to extend the arrangement for a further five years.

The Palmerston North campus of Massey University has both Halls of Residence and University Flats catering for up to 940 students. The four village communities on the Turitea Campus in Palmerston North are Atawhai, Moginie, Turitea, and Courts .

*Campus Living Villages* specialises in the integrated development, financing and long-term operation of purpose-built accommodation for university students. The company already operates Sydney University Village and the RMIT Village Old Melbourne.

*Campus Living Villages* are in discussions with a number other universities in both New Zealand and Australia.

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