



THE MOORINGS

LIFESTYLE VILLAGE

16 years with Hopper Living

By Toni Hatton

This year, I will celebrate 16 years with Hopper Living, a company making its mark as a top competitor for high-quality retirement living options in New Zealand. For 15 of those years, I have been fortunate to work at their flagship village in Orewa, Auckland—Maygrove Village—where my career has taken me through a diverse range of roles, each contributing to my understanding of this dynamic industry.

My journey began in the private hospital at Maygrove, where I took on multiple roles, from Cleaner and Caregiver to Household Manager, Activities Coordinator, and Administrator. Those first ten years provided invaluable experience, not only in operations but in humanity & care—the moments of joy, the challenges, and the importance of fostering a compassionate environment for everyone.

The following five years saw me transition into the village itself, moving from a part-time Receptionist to Sales Manager and, eventually, Assistant Village Manager. Throughout these years, no two days were ever the same. Aged care and retirement living are demanding industries, but the people—the residents, the families, and the dedicated staff is what makes it so rewarding.

One of the defining aspects of Hopper Living is its deeply rooted family values. As a family-owned business, the Hoppers have maintained a strong presence across all their villages. Their hands-on approach is delightful and refreshing—Directors and senior managers are just as likely to be found chatting with gardeners as they are in the boardroom. Their leadership style fosters a workplace culture of genuine inclusion, support, and professional growth.

It was during one of these senior team visits 13 years ago that I first heard about plans for a fabulous new waterway village in Whitianga. The idea immediately resonated with me, though I never imagined it would one day become my reality. Yet, true to their ethos of internal development, Hopper Living recognised my aspirations and provided me with the opportunities to grow.

Relocating to a small town at this stage in life was not a decision we took lightly. However, my confidence in Hopper Living's vision, their progressive approach to the town, and their unwavering integrity made the move an exciting prospect. Today's retirement villages are no longer places where people simply "end up"; they are thriving communities where residents continue to live full and active lives. The Moorings in Whitianga is set to be just that—a vibrant, welcoming place for its future residents.





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Reflecting on my years in this industry, I have gained not only operational knowledge but also a deep appreciation for the ageing process itself. It is something we will all experience, and ensuring that people feel valued, supported, and connected in their later years is a privilege.

As I embark on this next chapter with The Moorings, I do so with immense pride and excitement. The Moorings will be a wonderful place for everyone who lives here, works here or visits us.

