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MEDIA RELEASE

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SUMMERSET OPENS \$15 MILLION VILLAGE CENTRE IN DUNEDIN

Summerset today opened a \$15 million Village Centre at its Dunedin village, a significant step for the retirement village operator's first Otago site.

Summerset CEO Julian Cook was thrilled to be opening the Village Centre. "This building is the heart of the village and the centre of the community. The opening of this Village Centre signals Summerset is coming of age."

The Village Centre features amenities such as a cafe, resident bar and social areas, hairdressing salon, exercise room, library and IT suite, an all-weather bowling green and indoor spa pool.

It also houses the village's 41-bed Care Centre, and 20 care apartments where residents can receive DHB-certified rest home-level care in their own homes.

Mr Cook told assembled residents, staff and invited guests that the Village Centre represents a significant investment in Dunedin's community, providing both jobs for local people and services for the city's older population.

Mr Cook said: "When we develop a village, we don't just build buildings. We invest in our communities. Firstly, we do this by providing a solution to the ever-increasing need for housing and care for our older population.

"During the two year construction of this village, some 200 people have been employed on site. Building this village has put \$40 million into the local economy - \$15 million just from the construction of this building alone.

"As the village has grown we have hired more permanent staff, such as nursing staff, caregivers and admin staff, and will continue to hire more people as needed."

Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull said: "Summerset's \$15 million investment in the new building is an investment in Dunedin, its people and its economy, and has added to the already significant investment previously undertaken."

The village has a special relationship with Balmacewan Intermediate School next door. Pupils from the school's music group, choir and kapa haka group performed at the opening.

ENDS



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ABOUT SUMMERSET

- Summerset is a leading nationwide retirement village operator with a focus on providing residents with a continuum of care. The integration of care facilities into Summerset's villages provides residents with the knowledge that care is available for them should their needs change.
- Summerset is the third largest operator, and the second largest developer of retirement villages in New Zealand, with 18 villages across the country. In addition, Summerset has five quality land sites in Casebrook, Ellerslie, Lower Hutt, New Plymouth and Wigram bringing the total number of sites to 23.
- The company is continually evaluating new sites to support the development of further villages based on demand.
- It provides a range of living options and aged-care facilities and services to more than 2,600 residents.
- Summerset was named best retirement village operator in New Zealand and Australia at the Australasian Over-50s Housing Awards in 2010, 2011 and 2012 and 2013.
- Summerset's senior management team is led by CEO Julian Cook.
- The Summerset Group has villages in Aotea, Dunedin, Hamilton, Hastings, Havelock North, Hobsonville, Karaka, Katikati, Levin, Manukau, Napier, Nelson, Palmerston North, Paraparaumu, Taupo, Trentham, Wanganui and Warkworth.