

# Driven to add to Daisy chain

By Nathan Crombie

A business opportunity spied at an out-of-town wedding has put veteran Masterton nurse Ruth Day at the wheel of a franchise new to Wairarapa.

Mrs Day and husband Warren moved back to Masterton three weeks ago and next month she will launch a Wairarapa branch of the companion driving service Driving Miss Daisy.

The shift back to Wairarapa has brought the couple home again to where Mrs Day began training as a nurse at Masterton Hospital almost 40 years ago.

The former Wairarapa College pupil practised as a nurse in Dunedin after graduating. She and her husband were last in Wairarapa in the 1980s during a working lifetime that has taken them to some of the most beautiful regions in the country, Mrs Day said. She specialises in palliative nursing and has also spent nearly a decade as a rest home manager in Golden Bay.

It was at the March wedding of a friend in Hawke's Bay where Mrs Day saw the mother of the bride arrive at the ceremony as a passenger with a Driving Miss Daisy companion.

"I was very impressed. We were in the throes of coming back to Wairarapa to be closer to family and I thought, 'Here's an opportunity that's too good to miss'," Mrs Day said. According to company literature, Driving Miss Daisy offers "a safe, friendly and reliable" companion driving



service that is based on an award-winning Canadian business. Mrs Day said the service is tailor-made for older people wishing to maintain their independence, parents with a need to have children taken to and from after-school activities, organisations with members that have appointments to keep and people who don't drive.

"We're not a taxi service, we're a companion service," Mrs Day said.

She said clients were greeted at their door, and accompanied to medical appointments, shopping trips or on bill payment forays. Information could be relayed to client's family members as well, she said, and any special needs were also met, including assistance with a walker or wheelchair.

For further information or to make a booking call 0800 WITH DAISY (0800 948 432) or visit [www.drivingmissdaisy.co.nz](http://www.drivingmissdaisy.co.nz)