

Residents' News

MAY 2025

Hello everyone,

We trust you all had an enjoyable Easter last month, with Anzac Day as well there were quite a few Public Holidays, and many people taking advantage of a nice long break. The weather was a mixed bag with a cyclone and very warm. The Easter raffle was drawn and three lucky winners received baskets of decadence, no doubt good for sharing with grandies, or saving for a rainy day (of which we have had a few!).



The presentation from Francie Hills from Age Concern was informative and useful, refreshing us on how to be prepared for emergency situations such as flooding, earthquakes, and power outages. It was rather good timing being just before the cyclone over Easter, but which thankfully didn't come to much and emergency kits did not have to be used! *We will be handing out more information for you soon.* In the meantime, rest assured that we have a plan in place, and designated wardens in every street/apartment block. Feel free to be in touch with any queries. We have some extra copies here of the hand-outs from the meeting if anyone would like them.

The visit from the Tararu Entertainers was short notice but well attended and enjoyed. I hear the Easter Friday pot luck dinner went down well, lots of food to go around and good attendance even though a cyclone was in town.

Importantly, this month, is the **Residents' Committee AGM, 22nd May at 1:30pm.** This is a good opportunity to support the process and hear what the Committee have to say. If anyone is toying with the idea of going on the Committee – please do – more hands make light work and more minds bring fresh ideas/enthusiasm.

AND... this month also sees the return of the popular **Mens' Night on 10th May, 4:30pm.** Take this opportunity to be entertained and fed by the 'men' of the village. *See flyer insert.* Also, if you happen to have family visiting for Mothers' Day, you can invite them along too - they'll be very welcome.

The Committee have been planning the **Art & Craft Fair** to be held in our Community Lodge on **Saturday 17th May from 10am – 3pm.** This will be open to the public, and will have stalls

with produce/items for sale, as well as displays. Wander down and have a look, invite your friends/family, grab a bite to eat, tea & coffee is available, also raffles at \$2 each.

Anna Dunwoodie & Len Salt (yes, our Mayor!) will be performing as **“Saltwood”** on **Friday 30th May at 1:30pm**. This will be an “entry by donation” event, and funds received will go towards our chosen charity; Hospice Waikato.

Take care everyone, enjoy the month of May!

From Stephanie, Amy and all staff at Richmond Villas 😊

Residents Committee & Upcoming Events

Message from the Committee:

Residents A.G.M: Please consider going on the committee – without a committee to plan entertainment and outings, they will not be possible.

▶ **Now is your chance to nominate someone you know is interested in being on the Committee.** Remember Nominations close 3 weeks prior to the A.G.M but will remain open in the event that insufficient nominations have been received by this date, to ensure a quorum. Nomination Forms are now on the reception counter.

If anyone would like to display a stall at the **Art and Craft Show on Saturday 17th May** please speak with Karen Gulley or see the office for more information.

We are also going to have a **pre-loved stall** so if anyone would like to donate second hand items that are in good order then these will be sold on the day and the funds raised will go towards the Committee expenses. A box is in the dining room for anyone wanting to donate their pre-loved items.

Mark this on your Calendar: **Mid-Year Christmas Lunch** – Saturday 21st June

▶ **Friday Mix n Mingle Happy Hour: 4:30pm start.** Raffles: The weekly Raffle is drawn on Friday night @ 5:30pm. Tickets are \$1 for 2 draws; the **jackpot** is running – the winner must be present to collect the jackpot. *Come along at 4.30pm grab your Raffle Ticket and join in the fun & surprises.*

▶ Events this month:

❖ **Mens' Night Saturday 10th May 4:30 – 8pm**

When the men of the village wine dine and entertain you!
Cocktails – dinner – dessert – entertainment & raffles.
See flyer insert...



❖ **Art & Craft Fair Saturday 17th May 10am – 3pm**

Come along and meander through the displays and stalls, this is open to the public, no door charge. Free tea & coffee for residents, food available, raffles at \$2.

❖ **Residents' Committee AGM: Thursday 22nd May 1:30pm.**

❖ **Saltwood: Friday 30th May 1:30pm.**

Entry by donation.

All proceeds go to Hospice Waikato. Saltwood is made up of Anna Dunwoodie on Harp (previously has visited the village with 'Forest of Harps') and Len Salt (Thames Coromandel District Mayor) on guitar. Poster on page 9.



► **Coming Up, June:**

❖ **Mid Winter Christmas Lunch – Saturday 21st June 2025**

❖ **Performance by Nur Peach & Dylan – Saturday 7th June 2025, 6:30pm**

Nur & Dylan will perform original music. The show will be open to the public, but with a special price for RV Residents. Price is yet to be confirmed.



Happy Birthday to those born in MAY!

😊 02 Laraine Laing 😊 03 Elaine Pye 😊 13 Marie Rendall
😊 14 Brian Meek 😊 15 Sheryl McConnell 😊 15 Pauline Loader 😊 16
Claire Cowley 😊 16 Brian Fisher 😊 21 Jean Payne 😊 26 Faye McKinnon
😊 30 June Le Leivre

Regular Activities

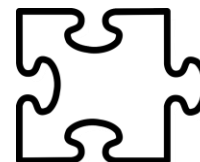
► Visitors entering the Community Lodge are required to sign in under our health and safety policy.

- ❖ **Spec Savers: Tuesday 13th May 9:45am.** FREE clean of glasses and minor repair, held in the small lounge off the foyer in the Community Lodge. Hearing checks can also be carried-out at Spec Savers; feel free to pop in and enquire.

- ❖ **Thames BLIND & LOW VISION Support Group: Thursday 1st May at 10:00am.** Every FIRST THURSDAY of the month. This group is open to the public and is for anyone affected by low vision, including support people, e.g. partners and friends. Extend an invite to anyone you may know who can benefit.

▶ Any queries, contact **Michelle Mackie**, Community & Volunteer Coordinator at Blind Low Vision NZ. Ph: **022-010-3254** or email: **mmackie@blindlowvision.org.nz**

- ❖ **JIG SAW:** most of the jigsaw puzzles have now been done!! Participants are running low on choice! – **any donations or swapping would be greatly appreciated...**



- ❖ **Rates Rebate 2024/2025:** Applications Forms for 2024/2025 are available at reception these applications need to be submitted before 30th June 2025. If you couldn't meet with them in August 2024, you can still complete a form and take into the council yourself to get it signed-off by a Council representative in your presence. If you need some help with completing the form please let us know.

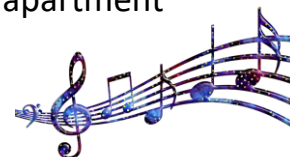
- ❖ **TAI CHI – Fridays at 10:30am** – try out the relaxing and uplifting benefits of Tai Chi. Organised by Graham Woodward and done via You Tube on our new projector screen along with a lovely sound track. Come and try it out - a wonderful way to enhance your day!

- ❖ **BOLIVIA – Every Wednesday at 12:45pm.** Do you enjoy playing cards? If interested in learning and playing Bolivia, come along and try it out. Played in groups of four, with partners. Contact Jilly Warburton 027 314 2582.

- ❖ **INDOOR BOWLS- Every Wednesday at 10:00am** in the Main Hall, Community Lodge

- ❖ **CHESS CLUB – Are you interested in playing Chess?** Please contact Dennis Matthews on 027 292 1376. Held on Level 2 in the small lounge (“Tea Room”) of the apartment block on Tuesdays at 10.00am, beginners are welcome.

- ❖ **CHOIR: 2.00pm Every Tuesday in the Community Lodge Main Hall.**



- ❖ **Beginners Line Dancing:** With Judy every Tuesday at 9.45am

- ❖ **Exercises with Judy:** classes are held at the Community Lodge, Main Hall 10-11am Mondays.

- ❖ **Exercise Class with Jenny Brett: 11:00 am Mondays – exercise for strength and balance, can be done sitting or standing.** Come along and give it a go, or come and get back in to it (as the saying goes: use it, don't lose it!) – **a very beneficial class for maintaining strength and balance.** Small charge of \$3 per class paid to Jenny, class is open to the public.

- ❖ **500 Card Group:** Mondays at 1:30pm: All welcome to join, we are happy to teach new players.
- ❖ **Line Dancing:** Tuesdays from 9.45am: Community Lodge, main lounge
- ❖ **Rummikub – Learn To Play:** Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursdays, Learn to play every Wednesday at 2.00pm.
- ❖ **Mahjong – 1pm Tuesdays – New people welcome!**
- ❖ **Scrabble: Wednesday at 1.30pm**, anyone interested in playing scrabble or giving it a go please come along, currently a small group - *more players very welcome*
- ❖ **Needlework Craft Mornings 10.00am:** The Wednesday morning needle craft group is meeting in the Apartment Block ground floor lounge at 10:00am. *All welcome to come along.*
- ❖ **Crafts: Thursday's 10.00am** held in the Community Lodge craft room.
- ❖ **Pool - every Tuesday & Friday 1.30pm – More players wanted** - come and join the Pool session!! This is a call-out for more people to come along and try it out – whether a beginner, a shark, a woman, a man - *all are welcome to join this fun activity!*

Movie Afternoon: Saturday 24th May at 1.30pm: “A Man Called Otto”

Comedy/Drama 2022. The film stars [Tom Hanks](#) and his son [Truman](#) in the title role. Heartwarming and humourous, the plot follows a bitter, suicidal old man, who cannot/will not come to terms with his wife's death. He reluctantly gets involved in the lives of his new neighbors...



- ❖ **Mix and Mingle Evening: Every Friday 4.30pm**, at the Community Lodge.
- ❖ **Housie: every Sunday at 2pm, with Afternoon Tea at 3pm.**
- ❖ **Shopping Main Street: Every Thursday – Depart using the Thames Connector at 09.47am** (from community lodge foyer) and the **Village Van will pick you up at 11.00am** outside the Civic Centre.
- ❖ **Shopping Pak n Save: Every Friday – 9.30am** The Village Van will drop you off at Pak n Save and pick you up at **10.30am.**

- ❖ **Pre-Loved Clothes Rack** – for all newcomers who may not know – there is a very popular clothes rack in the craft room for anyone who has a garment (in good condition) that they no longer want. You can leave the garment on the rack for others in the village (free of charge). You can also help yourself to anything on there that you may fancy. The rack is emptied-out every couple of weeks, with anything left on it taken to a second-hand shop in town.
- ❖ **Hairdresser Appointments: With Carina, Tuesdays & Fridays.** Appointments can be made via Reception.
- ❖ **VILLAGE PHYSIOTHERAPIST: Wednesday's 1.30am to 4.30pm, at the Community Lodge.** Half hour appointments. **NOTE: Julie is not available on the 14th MAY.** Phone/txt **Julie: 027 281 4980** to book your appointment.



A reminder to please refrain from feeding birds in the village.

it is healthier for our feathered friends to eat naturally foraged food, rather than our scraps. Uneaten scraps can encourage rodents and the like, and clean washing on the line can be spoiled!

We also do not want to encourage Pigeons in to the village, which generally stick to the wharf area, but have also been seen lately in our construction area!

Reminder: GREENWASTE pick-ups every Monday and Friday mornings – except Public Holidays. Please put your green waste out regularly to avoid a rotting pile and to keep the load light, for Linda to lift on to the truck.

Also, please leave it out the night before pick-up, or by 7:45am on Monday/Friday. Thanks.

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Book Review: “The Nazis Knew My Name ”

Author: Magda Hellinger

The memoir of Australian Slovakian Magda Hellinger, a holocaust survivor. In 1942, Magna, a kindergarten teacher at the age of 25yrs was deported along with nearly a thousand other young women to Auschwitz concentration camp.



As a prisoner in the camp, she was selected to be, over 3 years, in charge of many leader roles and eventually camp leader for over 30,000 women. In this position, although finding herself walking a dangerously fine line, she was able to save an untold number of lives.

Based on Magda's personal account and completed by her daughter Maya's extensive research, including testimonies from fellow Auschwitz survivors.

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General:

Are there any ukulele players or learners interested in forming a group here in Richmond Villas? Anyone interested please contact Shayle at Villa 72.



Abridged Report.

From Our President, Why Are Residents Joining RVResidents?

It is simple: residents are fed up. They now clearly understand the need for legislative change. The Coalition Government has agreed to continue the review which is good news.

Three Priority areas-

- 1 Repairs and Maintenance**
- 2 Complaints and Disputes**
- 3 Repayment of the Capital Sum within a specific timeframe**

Items 1 and 2 could be addressed swiftly with the right political will. But the third item - **Capital Sum Repayment**—remains *“the elephant in the room”*. We still have a long way to go with this priority.

Nigel and I will meet with the **Retirement Villages Association (RVA)** on **5 May 2025** to discuss this further. We will also be talking with other Ministers during May.

Thank you all once again for your outstanding support. We are making real progress—but there is still more to do. Together, we will get there.

Warm regards, **Brian Peat**
National President.

It is that time again when subscription are due. Joanna and I will be available for you, that are unable to pay online, to handle your payments in cash. The subscriptions are the same as last year. \$50.00 for couples and \$15.00 for singles.
Village Contacts for RVRA. John Edmonds Villa 36 and Joanna Farrell Villa 54.

COMMUNITY LODGE & APARTMENT FACILITIES: Please remember when using the dining room or any other lounges or rooms it is important to leave them tidy and as you had found them.

Reminder: Village Master Key / AFTERHOURS contacts: Gary Pye holds a Master Key to ALL villas and knows how to access the Apartment master tags also. You can contact Gary outside office hours if you need to access your villa or apartment. Of course, Gary may not always be onsite, but there is a good chance that he is, and if not try Christine Rogers in Apartment 84 as a back-up.

► If for some reason the OFFICE phone is not connecting through, you can contact Amy or Stephanie on their cell phones - this is preferable to leaving a voicemail.

PHONE: Amy: 021-150-0697 or Stephanie: 027-355-5068.

SPEEDING: Please make sure that your visitors are aware of the speed limit, **15km**, as it is predominantly visitors, service people, caregivers, who forget, or who don't see the signage.

RECIPE: Get Pickled Feijoa Jam

Ingredients

- 1kg of feijoas chopped or minced
- 2C sugar, raw or brown (brown makes it sweeter)
- 60gm of crystallised ginger minced
- 1 vanilla pod (fresh and good quality) split, seeds scraped out and pod all put in the mix.
- Juice and zest of 1 lemon



Method: Boil until the setting point is reached, remove the vanilla pod prior to bottling in sterilised jars.



SALTWOOD

Len Salt and Anna Dunwoodie

**Contemporary, traditional and original
songs and tunes for guitar and harp**

Date: Friday 30 May

Venue: Richmond Villas, Thames

Time: 1.30pm

Entry by Koha

All proceeds go to Waikato Hospice



*Richmond
Villas*
LIFESTYLE VILLAGE



Getting Around...

► **TOTAL MOBILITY SCHEME - Discounted Taxi Fares 50% off taxi fares!** To be eligible for the discounted fare you must apply for this through **Age Concern**. set-up charge is \$25 or you can JOIN Age Concern Hauraki-Coromandel for \$15 and get free set-up (saving \$10), as of 1st November 2024.

It is funded in partnership by central government and The Mobility Scheme, for people who are unable to drive due to a disability (for e.g. vision impairment). ***To apply for a card***, phone **Age Concern: 07-868-9790** or **email: info@achc.org.nz** This is a simple and friendly process and worth doing for those times outside of Connector Van hours (9-3pm), or on weekends and public holidays, or any other time.

What are the benefits of joining Age Concern Hauraki-Coromandel?

- Free Total Mobility Card for any age if you fit the criteria. (As of 1st Nov 2024)
- Receiving the quarterly newsletter via email, or you can choose to have this posted.
- Receiving email updates and information on local events or news that may be of interest
- As a financial member, your voice can be heard at our Volunteer Board Meetings. You can meet with one or all of our Board members and/or present your case at a full Board meeting.
- You will be invited to our AGM and have voting and nomination rights.

What does Age Concern do? Age Concern Hauraki-Coromandel provides valuable services such as; their Volunteer Visiting Service, Chinwag Café, Steady As You Go, Driver Refresher courses, quarterly newsletters and the Total Mobility service. They are the 'go-to' for information.

► **St John Health Shuttle:** Please allow **at least 24 hours** prior to your appointment booking. Call them between 9am and 3pm Monday to Friday on **0800 934 287**. The shuttle will transport to Doctors/Hospital appointments in the Waikato district. A donation towards the cost of the journey is appreciated.

► **Thames Connector:** Thames Connector, Monday – Friday, 9 – 3pm. Free for Gold Card holders. Time tables available at Reception, and on TCDC website.

► **Thames Taxis:** (07) 868 3100