

Residents' News

OCTOBER 2025

Hello everyone,

Thanks to those of you who were able to make it to the AGM last month. If anyone would like to see the minutes from the meeting, we will have copies at Reception. They will of course be handed out before next year's AGM with all other relevant doc.s.



Alas, online scammers are still something to be wary of, and the tactics they use change, to catch us off guard. Banks do a great job of keeping an eye out and are quick to act once an anomaly is noticed / reported. Jess Griffiths from **ANZ** Thames branch, will visit us on **Thursday 9th October at 10am**, in the Community Lodge dining room. Come along for morning tea, and be informed.

The outing this month to the **Flat White Café** on **Thursday 16th October** should be a lovely day out. There is more info over page.

There has been some discussion lately around passenger's contribution to petrol / running costs for trips in the village van, and private cars. A charge of \$10pp is fair for a return trip to Waihi. For the van, the trip to Waihi would be a contribution of \$100, based on \$10pp. The van has 10 seats (no charge for the driver), so filling-up the seats is recommended to keep the cost at \$10pp, to reach the \$100 for the trip.

For longer journeys, for example to Hamilton or Auckland, the contribution would be \$200. Our bi-weekly shopping trips to town are free.

October 1st is the **International Day of The Older Person** and Age Concern Hauraki Coromandel are celebrating with a **Flowers for Friendship** day. This is a friendly, casual, drop-in style day including a display of locally crafted flowers, entertainment and refreshments, all free of charge. *We can use the van - if anyone would like a lift down to the Civic Centre, let us know.* Dance displays are on at 10am, 10.30am, and 11am. Every attendee can choose to take a flower home!

The Turua school are putting on a production of **Oliver Twist** at the Civic Centre, with a matinee on **Monday 20 October 1pm**, for only **\$6pp**. Robyn is taking names, if anyone wants to go, let her know. *We can use the village van for transportation to and from the Civic.*

With the spring weather typically still a bit unpredictable, don't let this put you off participating in activities... you can use the **village buggy** and be picked-up from

your door! Graham Woodward will gladly pick you up and drop you back home. Phone Graham to arrange or phone us here at Reception and we can pass on the message.

The Faces & Places Competition was drawn at the end of September – congratulations to the winners (we don't know who you are yet, while writing this!), and thanks to the Committee for thinking up something a little different for all to try.

And, we hear the Games Afternoon went off really well last month, and along with special guests from Tararu village, it was a fun afternoon enjoyed by all.

We wish you all a happy month, taking time to enjoy the warmer spring weather!

From Stephanie, Amy and all staff at Richmond Villas 😊

Residents Committee & Upcoming Events

September has been a busy month in the village with the Quizz Night & Pizza, a fun time had by all, and the games afternoon with Tararu – awesome! Lunch outing to Turua Bakehouse with the sun shining for us, and we also had a number of candidates for Council & Community Board speaking to us throughout the month, most informative.

► **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. If you want a lift – phone Graeme Woodward: 868-6252 (or phone Gary Pye, or the office), and the village buggy will pick you up!

► Events this month: -

- **ANZ Fraud & Scams Awareness Presentation: Thursday 9th October at 10:00am**
Come along to listen, ask questions, enjoy some morning tea, and get up to date information around fraud and scams.
- **Lunch at Flat White Café: Thursday 16th October leaving 10am.** There is a list on the noticeboard to add your name to if coming along for lunch at the Flat White Café at **Waihi Beach**. Leaving 10am from the Community Lodge foyer, travelling by village van and car pool.
- **Friday Forum: Friday 31st October 10:30am.** Come along at 10am for a cuppa, Amy and Stephanie will be along at 10:30am to chat about current

happenings in the village and provide you an opportunity to give feedback on / discuss any relevant village matters.

► **Coming Up in November: -**

- **Melbourne Cup & Dinner: Tuesday 4th November**
- **Village Choir Concert & Afternoon Tea: Friday 28th November 1.00pm.**

► **Community Events, October: -**

- **"Flowers for Friendship": Wednesday 1st October 10am – 12pm**
Celebrating the International Day of The Older Person. Age Concern are putting on a free event to celebrate!! Held at the Civic Centre, Thames.
If anyone would like a lift to the event, let us know.
- **"Oliver Twist": Monday 10th October 1pm \$6pp.** Held at the Thames Civic Centre. Robyn is taking names, *if we can get together a group, can travel by village van (local trip, no charge).*

Happy Birthday to those born in OCTOBER!!



😊 01 Sandra Smith 😊 04 Joan Flynn 😊 04 Wendy Booth 😊 04 Tony Cole
😊 08 Bronwyn Williamson 😊 11 Palma Wallace 😊 13 Hilary Taylor
😊 15 Graeme Brighthouse 😊 22 Lenice Erceg 😊 25 Philip Law
😊 30 Marion Fisher 😊 30 Mary Pinnell

Regular Activities

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

► **VILLAGE BUGGY:** Phone Graham Woodward to arrange pick-up / drop-off, to / from any events or activities in the village

❖ **Spec Savers:** **Tuesday 7th October 9:45am.**
Call in for a free clean / minor adjustment of your glasses.

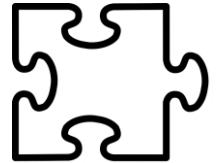
❖ **Thames BLIND & LOW VISION Support Group:** **Thursday 2nd October at 10:00am.** Every FIRST THURSDAY of the month. This group is open to the public and is for anyone affected by low vision, including support people, e.g. partners and friends. Extend an invite to anyone you may know who can benefit.
► Any queries, contact **Michelle Mackie**, Community & Volunteer Coordinator at Blind Low Vision NZ. **Ph: 022-010-3254 or email: mmackie@blindlowvision.org.nz**

❖ **SuperBlues Meeting: Friday 17 October 1.15pm for afternoon tea**
Held at in the Community Lodge dining room.

Guest speaker is Hon Tama Potaka, our Spokesperson for Māori Development, Whānau Ora, Conservation, Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, and Associate Spokesperson of Housing (Social Housing). He is also the MP for Hamilton West. *Tama is an engaging and insightful speaker. If you have friends or family who you think would enjoy hearing from him, please feel free to bring them along.*

We do need to know numbers in advance, so please let Ron know ronjamieson@xtra.co.nz or phone reception. Cost is \$10 you can pay cash on the day.

- ❖ **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...**



- ❖ **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! *Note: start time will change to 9:30am when the Friday Forum is on.*

- ❖ **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.**

- ❖ **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.

- ❖ **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!*
- ❖ **Housie: every Sunday at 2pm, with Afternoon Tea at 3pm.**

- ❖ **Movie Afternoon: “Paddington” Saturday 18th SEPTEMBER at 1.30pm:** 2014: the first film in the series (of 3). **Adventure-comedy film.** A young Peruvian bear with a passion for all things British travels to London in search of a home... he eventually meets the kind Brown family – and all goes well until he attracts the eye of a museum taxidermist (Nicole Kidman), who wants his hide!



- ❖ **Mix and Mingle Evening: Every Friday 4.300pm**, at the Community Lodge.
*Remember the **village buggy** can pick you up!*
- ❖ **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: New Hours in October!!!:-**

- **TUESDAY Afternoons from 12pm**
- **WEDNESDAY Mornings from 9am**

Half hour appointments. Phone/txt **Julie: 027 281 4980** to book your appointment.



A reminder to please refrain from feeding birds in the village. There is plenty of food around for birds at this time of year, and 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 even feeding bird seed can still lead to clean washing on the line being 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 venturing in to the 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.

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.

General:

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.

Reminder: Doggy 'Business'! While we love our furry friends, we can not really say the same for their 'business' left on lawns and gardens.

Please always pick-up, to keep everyone happy.

The gardening staff are also very thumbs-up to this!

And, as we all know, dogs must be walked on a lead in the village. Thanks!



BOOK REVIEW: “The Seven Sisters”

AUTHOR: Lucinda Riley



The Seven Sisters is a series of eight books with the last book, Atlas: The Story of Pa Salt, is the eighth book in the Seven Sisters series and is written by Lucinda Riley's son, Harry Whittaker, after her death. Lucinda left very detailed and specific details to enable him to do this. As I read through the series, I was desperate to know more about Pa Salt who was the adoptive father of the sisters which the books are about. He was a constant through all seven of the books, but he was mostly in the background, and we didn't learn much about him.

The series was inspired by the Seven Sisters of Pleiades, from Greek Mythology. Each mythological figure was, in its own right, unique and powerful, as were each of The Seven Sisters. Lucinda Riley was drawn to the stories of the mythological seven sisters and wanted to celebrate the achievements of women throughout history.

Each book in the series is rich in historical detail, with very detailed plots. The Seven Sister series has 5371 pages in total, with each book being 750+ pages, so is a huge time commitment to read through the whole series. But after reading the first book in the series I was hooked. Each book left me impatient to know about the next sister. As I closed the book, after reading the final page, I felt that there were further revelations waiting in the background to be solved. Each book in The Seven Sisters series, has a very intricate plot and is quite complicated, with great emotional depth. “Atlas: The Story of Pa Salt” concludes the series with a story that sweeps across many decades and continents and is told in two time frames – the 1920s and today.

I did wonder, if perhaps there will be an unexpected 9th book. That would be wonderful, as I'm not yet tired of reading about the wonderful characters in the series. As I was reading the seventh book, not realizing there was an eighth book, I was feeling quite disappointed that the series was about to come to an end. When I discovered that there was an eighth book, about the girl's 'Dad', Pa Salt, I was overjoyed. There were so many questions in my mind, from each of the seven books, and Atlas answered all those questions nicely, giving me closure.

To understand the series completely, the books should be read sequentially.

► *The village has copies of ALL books in the series. If you are having trouble finding one, let us know.*

RECIPE: Lemon Risotto with Pea and Rocket Puree

INGREDIENTS:-

Pea Puree

2 Cups frozen peas
2 Cups packed rocket, roughly chopped
(plus a little extra for serving)
3 tablespoons olive oil
Sea salt and ground pepper

Risotto

5-6 cups vegetable stock
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 large leek, thinly sliced
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1 bay leaf
Pinch sea salt
2 cups risotto rice (e.g. arborio or vialone nano)
1 cup white wine
Finely grated zest of 1 lemon
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 cup freshly grated parmesan, plus extra for serving
Sea salt and ground pepper

To Serve

½ cup crème fraîche
4 poached eggs (optional)
Crusty bread (optional)



Pea Puree: bring the peas to the boil in a saucepan of salted water.

Drain and place in a food processor with the rocket and olive oil and season generously. Process until smooth, scraping down the sides. Set aside.

Risotto: Put the stock in a saucepan, heat and keep warm.

Heat the oil in a large saucepan and add the leek, garlic and bay leaf with a good pinch of salt. Cover and cook until the leeks are soft but not coloured.

Stir in the rice and cook for another minute until the rice is warm. Add the wine and stir

until most of the liquid has been absorbed.

Begin adding the stock a ladle at a time, stirring and allowing the liquid to be absorbed before adding the next quantity. When the risotto is tender to the bite and has a creamy consistency (this should take about 20 minutes), stir in the lemon zest and juice and the parmesan. Season to taste.

To Serve: Place the risotto in warm shallow plates and swirl through the pea puree and spoonfuls of crème Fraiche. Top with poached eggs, if using, then extra rocket and a grating of parmesan. Serve immediately with crusty bread, if desired.

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

