

Residents' News

NOVEMBER 2025

Hello everyone,

fair to say, and I'm sure we all agree, Spring has been rather wild so far! Now that we are in the last month, there's hope for better weather soon..

The outing last month to the Flat White Café at Waihi Beach went off well, and how lucky to strike nice weather in between the scruffy spring days!

Feedback from the ANZ scam presentation last month was good, and they plan to return again in April next year, so anyone who missed out and wanted to go, will have another opportunity. Forewarned is forearmed. We are always happy to help if you have any queries about anything 'suspicious'. If in doubt, leave it alone / hang up the phone..



First up this month of course is the **Melbourne Cup on Tuesday 4th November 4pm.** You will have received a flyer about this already, and Dennis, Peter, Gary or Graham were doing the rounds last week, collecting your entries into the sweep. If you missed them, there is still time to get in to the draw, before Monday – see Gary. This is a fun afternoon with some extra fun activities – bring extra coins along - and food is by 'Pot Luck'.

The charming **Te Puru School Kapa Haka group** are visiting us again on **Thursday 27th November at 2:00pm.**

Then we have the annual **Village Choir Performance**, **Friday 28th November at 1:30pm.**

Christmas is fast approaching, the **Village Christmas Dinner** will be held on **Saturday the 13th Decemeber** this year. The Committee have put the gift donation box out in the Dining Room, for you to drop-in an item of your choice, which will help to make up the Hampers that get raffled on the night.

We will be having our **Friday Forum** a bit earlier in December, it will be on **Friday 12th December.**

If anyone wants to enter a **tomato competition**, there are 10 plants approx. available – see or phone Brian Fisher 07-868-7179. There are also posters in the Community Lodge about this.

Have a great month, next month will be a busy one!

From Stephanie, Amy and all staff at Richmond Villas 😊



Residents Committee & Upcoming Events

Message from the Committee..

Thank you to everyone who was able to come along to the rather 'last minute' **Sunday Sausage Sizzle** on Labour Weekend. Also, *special thanks* to Judy for her help.

We have put the **Christmas donation box** out again in the dining room, for you to add an item to. Your contribution will be made up along with other donated items for the Christmas Hampers, which are raffled-off at the Christmas Dinner in December. Many thanks in advance everyone.

NOTE: All Blacks Sweepstakes: with the Melbourne Cup sweeps and things hotting up generally at this time of year, a decision has been made to **NOT continue** with the next overseas All Blacks games.

► **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: -**

- **Melbourne Cup Day: Tuesday 4th November from 4pm.**

Sweepstakes (up to 5 entries at \$2 each).

Free complimentary glass of punch on arrival.

Pot luck dinner. BYO. Bring along some extra coins!

There is a list on the noticeboard to add your name to if staying on after the race – to give the Committee an idea of how many tables to set.



- **Te Puru School Kapa Haka Group: Thursday 27th at 2pm.**

- **Choir Concert: Friday 28th November at 1.30pm.** Come along and listen to our village choir performing especially for us! Followed by a shared afternoon tea (bring along a small plate). Friends and family are most welcome!

► **Coming Up, December: -**

- **Santa Parade:** Saturday 6th December
- **Friday Forum:** Friday 12th December.
- **Christmas Dinner:** Saturday 13th December – *lock this date in!* 😊

Happy Birthday to those born in NOVEMBER!!



😊 03 Jeanette Ewers 😊 04 Val Brown 😊 05 Carol Moloney 😊 10 Barbara Darrah 😊 12 Alex Shirley 😊 14 Maureen Matthews 😊 16 Richard Papps
😊 18 Christine Rogers 😊 22 Christine Hovell 😊 23 Ann Harris
😊 23 Joy Gamby

*Birthday Afternoon Tea will be held in **December** for the months of September, October, November, December... (everybody welcome!)*

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 4th November 9:45am.**

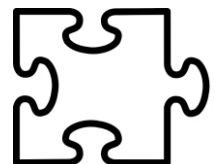
Unfortunately, due to sickness the October visit was cancelled. But they will be back in November - *call in for a free clean / minor adjustment of your glasses!*

❖ **Thames BLIND & LOW VISION Support Group:** **Thursday 6th November 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...**



❖ **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.**
Village performance, Friday 28th November at 2pm. Pot Luck afternoon tea. 
- ❖ **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: NOW ON Fridays at 1.30 pm.** 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: "TINA" Saturday 15th November at 1.30pm:

New Zealand Drama, 2024.

Director: Miki Magasiva.

Tina is a a Samoan teacher, Mereta, who is struggling after the death of her daughter in the Christchurch earthquakes. Mereta reluctantly takes on the role of substitute teacher at an elite, wealthy private school. She is surprised to find students crying out for guidance, inspiration and love. She sees an opportunity to form a choir, and so the story unfolds. A moving story with humour and good acting.



- ❖ **Mix and Mingle Evening: Every Friday 4.30pm**, 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.

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. **Use a second bin if necessary.** Also, please leave it out the night before pick-up, or by 7:45am on Monday/Friday. Thanks.

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.



A wee reminder to please be safe on your scooters!
Queen Street is a busy road and we urge you to **please use the appropriate crossings provided.**

There is a ramp access right opposite our village gates, on for easy access on to the Richmond Street footpath (look for the yellow lines).

There is also a special crossing place at the Richmond – Queen Street intersection. Have a look, see where it is,

and use this, rather than crossing as if you would in a car. Scooters are smaller and harder to see, some cars drive a lot faster than they should, and some drivers get impatient at the intersection. Using the crossing allows you to stop in the middle, and continue on when safe to do so.

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.



A **Spring Time** 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 village!

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!



REVIEW: AUTHOR, Jodi Picoult



Jodi Picoult is a prolific American writer known for her #1 New York Times bestsellers. She has written over 30 popular fictions which can be characterized as family saga, frequently centering story lines on moral dilemmas or procedural dramas. She is a skilled wordsmith and her books cover a wide range of topics and are well researched dealing with issues that not only provoke the mind but touch the heart. Because they are so well researched, readers often learn interesting facts from her stories which would normally be found in factual topical books. At least 5 of her books have formed the basis of movie scripts.

Many of her books tend to pit family members against one another. Some of her books include *My Sisters Keeper* published in 2004 which tells the story of a 13-year-old girl who sues her parents for medical emancipation when she learns that her parents have genetically engineered her birth and raised her with the expectation that she will donate a kidney to her seriously ill older sister. The story inspired the movie *My Sisters Keeper*.

Picoult spent considerable time with elephant researchers before writing *Leaving Time*. Written in 2014 it is about a daughter's search for her missing mother. It tells of her mother's life in an elephant sanctuary in Africa and later her mysterious disappearance from the sanctuary in America where she had settled with her husband and was studying the nature of elephant memory and how they deal with grief. It leads the daughter to uncover secrets about her past.

House Rules is a fictional account of a teenager with Asperger's syndrome (now called Autism). He enjoys forensic science and frequently attends crime scenes and gives advice to detectives. He is eventually charged with murder.

Picoult's books are frequently banned in American schools particularly those that deal with sensitive or controversial topics such as bullying, gender or racial themes and domestic violence.

► There are a number of Jodi Picoult's books in the village library, including a few in the large print collection. Thames Library also has some of the titles.

RECIPE: Indian Korma

INGREDIENTS:-

350 gms minced beef
1 jar Patak's Korma
2 large potatoes, boiled
40 gms butter
1 med. chopped onion
1 cup grated cheese
Pepper & salt to taste
3 tablespoons oil (for frying)
A little milk (for mashing potatoes)

METHOD:

Pre-heat oven to 300 deg.
Shift oven tray down to oven centre.

In a large frypan, cook the beef with pepper and salt added. Stir until well cooked (about 10 minutes).

Add the chopped onion and stir a further 5 minutes.

Mix in the Korma and pour into an oven-proof casserole dish.

Mash the potatoes, adding the butter and a little milk.

Spread potatoes over the meat mixture.

Place dish in the oven, cook until the cheese starts to brown.

Recipe donated by Barney. The photo is off the internet... not the actual dish, but close!



Phar Lap (4 October 1926 – 5 April 1932) was a New Zealand-born champion.

Achieving great success during his distinguished career, his initial underdog status gave people hope during the early years of the [Great Depression](#).

[3] He won the [Melbourne Cup](#), two [Cox Plates](#), the [Australian Derby](#), and 19 other [weight-for-age](#) races. He is universally revered as one of the greatest race horses of all time, not just in Australia but in the history of Thoroughbred horse racing.

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

