

Residents' News

FEBRUARY 2026



Hello everyone and welcome to February!

As I started writing this in January, we were in the middle of some very heavy rain! It had that bleak look and the steady sound of "flooding rain". We received a Heavy Rain Alert from Civil Defence on our mobile phones later that day, and as we know many areas were badly affected. Luckily, our village wasn't affected much at all. We are lucky to be built-up significantly higher than neighboring parts of town. The gardens and lawns are now well watered, in preparation for some nice settled days in February – fingers crossed. 🙏

This month we have Waitangi Day on Friday 6th March. It is made all that very much more special this year as we also have our first resident, Betty Smith, turning 100 years young on this very same day! We wish Betty the **very best birthday wishes!** What an achievement!



Valentines Day will be celebrated with a special dinner starting at **4.30pm on Saturday 14th Feb.** Names need to be added to the list on the noticeboard by Tuesday 10th Feb.

The Committee have also organized an outing to a **Lavendar Farm, on the outskirts of Waihi on Thursday 26th February.** As usual, travel will be by carpool and the village van. A list will go up in the Community Lodge, a week or so prior, to add your name to.

Flu Vaccinations 2026; Pollen Street Pharmacy will come to the village again this year to administer flu vax's on **Thursday 30th April from 10am.** As per usual, Robyn has a list at Reception for you to leave your name and NHI number so that we can forward the names to the pharmacy well ahead of the day. This indicates how many vaccinations they will need. If you can't make this date, you can still pop in to the pharmacy to have it done.

Have a great month!

From Stephanie, Amy, and all staff at Richmond Villas 😊

Residents Committee & Upcoming Events

Message from the Committee.

The Committee would like to clarify that a sweepstake in the recent Karaka Million race was not organized by the Committee (all committee organized activities are advertised accordingly).

► **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: -**

• **Valentines Day: Saturday 14th February 4:30pm. \$15 pp.**

Dinner is a choice of either Lasagne or Quiche, with potato salad and green salad.

Desert will be Strawberries and Ice Cream.

BYO. Raffle \$2 for \$100 note.

► ***Names must be in by the morning of Tuesday 10th Feb.***
Add your name to the list on the noticeboard if attending.

Pay on the day. Note: no flyer will be distributed for this event.



• **Lavendar Farm Outing: Thursday 26th February 9.30am**

Visit to the Lavender Farm at Waihi. There will be a talk about the farm and the products they make (which will be for sale). Followed by lunch in their café.

They have a very reasonable excellent menu.

The cost for the van is \$10 per person, and those taking cars should also be paid \$10 towards running costs.

The van will leave from the Community Lodge foyer at 9.30am.

► ***Please add your name to the list on the noticeboard by 23rd February.***



► **Coming Up, March: -**

• **Thursday 5th March:** 10:30am, Special Meeting with Management and Richmond Villas residents to discuss the Facility Fee (“Weekly Fee”) proposal. A letter will be delivered in February with relevant information.

• **St Patricks Day:** 17th March – *details to come*

• **Outing:** local outing – *details to come*

Happy Birthday to those born in FEBRUARY!!



😊 01 Lorraine Hoggart 😊 02 Peter Clarke 😊 06 Betty Smith 😊 07 Leigh James 😊 07 Maureen Claassen 😊 11 Teddy Warburton 😊 14 Richard Watson 😊 21 Bob Smith 😊 24 Jilly Warburton 😊 24 Barney Bowen 😊 24 Janika Vethaak 😊 25 Barbara Van Arden


A Birthday Afternoon Tea will be held in April in celebration of those who had birthdays in January, February, March & April (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

- ❖ **Friday Forum: Friday 27th February 10am.** Come along at 10am for a cuppa, Amy & Stephanie will join you at 10:30am, to talk about, update you on recent happenings in the village, and welcome your feedback and anything you may wish to bring up for discussion.
- ❖ **Spec Savers: Next visit will be on Tuesday 3rd February, 9:45am.** Set-up in the small lounge off the foyer.
Call in for a free clean / minor adjustment of your glasses.
- ❖ **Thames BLIND & LOW VISION Support Group: Thursday 5th February at 10:00am. (no meeting in January). 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**
- ❖ **SWIMMING POOL CLEANING –** Every Thursday from 1pm – 4pm the pool is closed for cleaning
- ❖ **TAI CHI – Fridays at 10:30am** – try out the relaxing and uplifting benefits of Tai Chi. Done via You Tube on our new projector screen. 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: 1:30pm Every Tuesday in the Community Lodge Main Hall.**
▶ Starts back up on Tuesday 10th February at the NEW TIME of 1:30pm 
- ❖ **Exercises with Judy:** classes are held at the Community Lodge, Main Hall 10-11am Mondays.
starting back up 9th February
- ❖ **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.
starting back up 2nd February.
- ❖ **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: 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.* Held in the Community Lodge dining room.
- ❖ **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. ***Starting back up 5th February.***
- ❖ **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 from 1.30pm, for a 2pm start, followed with Afternoon Tea at 3pm.**

- ❖ **Movie Afternoon: “Last Breath”** Saturday 21st February at 1.30pm:
based on a true story.



Survival Thriller (2019) Starring Woody Harrelson. A team of saturation divers who work to maintain gas lines in the North Sea, working at 300 feet below sea level, encounter a problem when one of the diver’s umbilical cord snaps. An extraordinary true story that defies the odds and experts can not explain.

- ❖ **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:**

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.

General:

The NOW Project – UPDATE – the NOW Project (Black Soldier Fly trial) has had a breakthrough over Christmas and the flies are mating and laying many more eggs! They have processed a first batch of food waste and will be recording how the larvae thrive on the different feed recipes.

Over the next three months, waste collection will be phased-in as the project creates efficient systems to process the waste, to feed to the larvae, and ramp up into full production (2 full rearing containers). Over this period of time, there may be variations in the amount of waste they can take, as they work out how to get consistent breeding and production.

In relation to Richmond Villas, if anyone wants to contribute to the program, a method of collection can be discussed in due course, perhaps by one centrally located bin. For now, it is still in the very early stages.

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: 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.



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 them bird seed can still lead to clean washing on the line being spoiled!*

We have recently had Pigeons trying to nest in to the village, and in particular, on the Apartment Building. They are proving to have a remarkable resilience to stick around, once they decide on a 'home'! We certainly do not want to encourage them, cute as they may be.

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!



LEFT BANK THEATRE, Thames:



As you know, the last book review was about a book called Hamnet and it mentioned the movie by the same name coming to Thames soon. The movie is now showing at the Left Bank Theatre in Thames and it has had good reviews.

We will have printed copies of the upcoming films at Reception for anyone who wants one.

Prior to the theatre opening when the theatre owner visited us here in the village to see what residents thought about it, we were all very keen and discussed the possibility of taking a van load of people to a movie once a month. I know other groups are doing this already, but if anyone is interested in getting a small group from the village together to go to any of the daytime viewings, let us know. Food for thought. We could arrange the van to be used for transport.

We hear there are some more good movies coming up, in particular a movie called The Choral, coming towards the end of this month.

RECIPE: Sweetcorn Caesar Salad with Pan-Fried Chicken Breast

INGREDIENTS:

Prep: 15 mins / Cook time 15 mins

For Caesar Dressing:-

100g (approx. 1 jar) Farro
roasted garlic aioli
5 anchovy fillets
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp Dijon mustard
1 tbsp lemon juice
30g parmesan, freshly grated

For the Salad: -

2 skin on chicken breasts
1 tsp flaky sea salt
Olive Oil for frying
2 corn cobs, husks removed
1 bag summer butter crunch lettuce, or baby gems
Handful of Me Kiko Blue Corn Tortilla chips
Freshly grated parmesan to garnish



METHOD:

- 1. For the Caesar Dressing:** in a container suitable for a stick blender, put the aioli, anchovies, Worcestershire sauce, and lemon juice along with 1 tablespoon of water. Blitz until smooth. If the dressing is too thick, add a splash of water to loosen. Add a good grind of black pepper to taste. This can be made ahead and refrigerated for up to a week.
- 2. For the salad:** if you have time, an hour in advance of cooking, pat the chicken dry, rub with the salt and leave in the fridge for an hour.

Heat olive oil in a heavy pan, pat dry the chicken again and fry with the skin side down for 10 minutes on a medium heat. The skin should be golden. Flip it over and cook for another 4-5 minutes, then remove from the pan and rest for at least 5 minutes before slicing.

In the same pan, add a little more oil if necessary and char the corn all over until tender (alternatively, you could char these over the open flame of a gas hob or grill). Set aside and when cool enough to handle use a sharp knife to remove the kernels.

Just before serving, toss the greens with enough dressing to coat the leaves. Put into a serving bowl. Top with the sliced chicken, corn chips, and parmesan.

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

