

Residents' News

JUNE 2026



Hello everyone,

We would like to give a big **welcome!** to **Jenny Beaumont** who moved in to **Villa 35** on **Wednesday the 13th May**. And to **Janice & Ross Coldicutt** who are moving in to **Apartment 219** on **Friday 5th June**. Janice & Ross will be coming and going from the Apartment, they won't be residing there full-time, straight away. We are very pleased to have you all as part of our village community, we look forward to getting to know you, and wish you a smooth transition in to village life.

As you all are very aware, the Residents' AGM was held last month and a new Committee for the coming year has been formed. There are 4 existing members continuing on and 4 new members. Many thanks to you all.

The 2026-2027 Committee is comprised of the following people: -

Graeme Woodward	Chairperson
Patricia Richards	Vice Chairperson
Wendy Booth	Secretary
Linda O'leary	Treasurer
Graham Glover	Member
Jean Payne	Member
Barbara Darrah	Member
Robin O'leary	Member

Coming up this month is the **Mid-Winter Xmas Dinner** on **Saturday 13th June at 4:30 pm** (eating at 5:30pm). Dinner will be catered by the Waihi RSA, who have a good reputation and there will be raffles drawn on the night – so bring along some cash - \$2 per ticket.

Thames Croquet Club Fundraiser: 12 noon Wednesday 10th June: the club have invited all residents along to a Soup, Buns and Games Day. Held at the Thames Croquet Club, 101 Beach Road, Thames. **\$10pp for lunch, \$5 to play croquet, \$2 Housie**. Add your name to the list on the noticeboard if you want to attend.

We have another visit from **Gary Darkes 'Mr Mobility'** on the **11th June 10.30am** – he'll be bringing along some items for demonstration. Come along for a cuppa & bickie and see what he has to share!

Also, we have **Scott Simpson** our local MP coming to talk on **Thursday 4th June 1:30pm**, which should be very interesting and relevant to residents and proposed changes to the RVA Act.

We have been blessed with fantastic, settled weather in May, let's hope June continues with this theme! Happy June everyone!

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

Residents Committee & Upcoming Events

Everyone is welcome to come along for a casual cuppa and a chat in the Lodge dining room on Saturday mornings, 10ish.

▶ **Friday 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. *If you want a lift – phone Graham Woodward: 868-6252 (or phone Gary Pye, or the office), and the village buggy will pick you up / drop you back home again.*

▶ Events this month: -

- **Thames Croquet Club: Wed. 10th June 12 noon.**

The Thames Croquet Club invites Richmond Villas residents to a Soup, Buns and Games event to be held at their clubhouse at 101 Beach Road, Thames. Commencing 12 noon Wednesday 10th June 2026. A list is on the Richmond Villas noticeboard in the Community Lodge to add your name to, pay at the club on the day.

- **Mid-Winter Dinner: Saturday 13th June, 4:30pm start, dinner at 5:30pm. \$35/pp. Pay at Reception by Friday 5th June. RAFFLES \$2 per Ticket**



- **Mr. Mobility (Gary Darkes): Presentation, Thursday 11th June 10:30am**

Come and see Mr. Mobility talk about mobility scooters, mobility safety, and maintenance. Also come and see the new carbon fibre light weight mobility scooter and powered wheelchair. There will also be daily living aids and a selection of light weight walkers for demonstration. Cuppa & bikkie provided.

Meeting Sott Simpson, 4th June, 1.30pm.

In the Lodge

A meeting with Scott Simpson has been organised to discuss the Retirement Villages Act 2003. Scott picked up the batten



from Labour for us after Labour lost the election and National came into power. This will be a great opportunity to see how the review of the Bill is proceeding from a politician's point of view. A must meeting to attend for all residents.

Everyone welcome!

- **Friday Forum: Friday 26th June:** come along for a cuppa at **10am**, Amy and Stephanie will be there from 10:30am, to update / discuss village matters and provide you an opportunity to raise any matters, queries, suggestions you may have.



Happy Birthday to those born in JUNE!!

- 😊 08 Lee Hall 😊 09 Pamela Yeates 😊 12 Peter Maloney
😊 18 June Baigent 😊 24 Elaine de Buisson 😊 24 Karen Gully
😊 25 Jocelyn Ranger 😊 29 Barbara Fraser

The next Birthday Afternoon Tea will be held in August.

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:** **Next visit will be on Tuesday 2 June, 9:45am.**
Set-up in the small foyer lounge. *Call in for a free clean / minor adjustment of your glasses.*
- ❖ **Thames BLIND & LOW VISION Support Group:** **Thursday 4th June 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 Sue Sloan, Community & Volunteer Coordinator at Blind Low Vision NZ. Ph: 022-386-795 – NOTE: NEW contact details (Sue Sloan)
- ❖ **TAI CHI – Fridays at 9:30am** – try out the relaxing and uplifting benefits of Tai Chi - 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
- ❖ **CHOIR: 1:30pm Tuesdays** in the Community Lodge Main Hall.
New members always welcome! (singing is good for you!)



- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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 – *a very beneficial class for maintaining strength and balance.* Small charge of \$3 per class paid to Jenny, class is open to the public. *(No classes during school holidays).*
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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 from 1.30pm, for a 2pm start,** followed with Afternoon Tea at 3pm.
- ❖ **Movie Afternoon: “Rescued By Ruby” Saturday 20th June.**
2022 Biographical Drama: Starring Katt Shea.

Based on a true story, it follows State Trooper Daniel O’Neil, who dreams of joining the K-9 search and rescue team.

He is unsuccessful in doing so until he adopts and befriends a shelter dog named Ruby.





❖ **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**.

❖ **Hairdresser Appointments: With Carina, Tuesdays & Fridays.**
Appointments can be made via Reception.

❖ **Village Physiotherapist: TUESDAY Afternoons from 12pm**
& WEDNESDAY Mornings from 9am

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

NOTE: NO Appointments available on Wed 3rd & Thurs 4th June.

General:

Parkinsons Session: Tararu Village Mondays at 4pm.

This is a 1 hour session using a DVD developed by Francine Hill. It is primarily to enhance movement for the whole body, and is fun to do.

Cost is a gold coin donation.

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.

Reminder: GREENWASTE pick-ups every Monday and Friday mornings – except Public Holidays. Leave your bin out the night before pick-up, or by 7:45am on Monday / Friday morning. Please use two bins if the load is heavy.

Book Review: Deborah Ann Challinor, Author.

Deborah Ann Challinor is a New Zealand writer and historian. Challinor has published more than twenty books, including several series. Her books cover historical New Zealand events such as the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, the Maori Land Wars, and the Otago goldrush, and New Zealand's involvement in the Vietnam War.



Her first work of historical fiction, *Tamar*, was published in New Zealand and overseas and has been reprinted six times. In 2018 she was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to literature and historical research.

In 2024 she published the first book in a planned series, entitled *The Tatty Crowe* series, centred on a female undertaker in Sydney. The *Tatty Crowe* series is a highly-rated historical crime series set in 1860s-1870s Sydney, following Tatiana "Tatty" Caldwell as a pioneering female undertaker. The series is lauded for its strong protagonist, meticulous historical detail on funeral practices, and suspenseful plotting.

In the series Tatty is portrayed as determined, angry, and willing to fight against patriarchal constraints and social injustice in Victorian Sydney, the books explore the gritty details of the funeral trade, including embalming, mourning etiquette, and local crime. Engaging, fast-paced, and often described as "fun" despite the serious subject matter.

Books in the Series: -

Black Silk and Sympathy (2024): Introduces 17-year-old Tatty, who marries into a funeral business and becomes a widow, facing accusations of murder.

Black Silk and Buried Secrets (2025): Follows Tatty as she investigates "backyard butchers" and baby farming in 1871 Sydney.

Black Velvet and Vengeance (2026): Confirmed as a #1 bestselling NZ. Reviews often highlight the excellent research, particularly the 29-page author notes detailing 19th-century undertaker procedures. Fans of historical fiction, such as those who enjoy Laurence Fearnley, are likely to appreciate this series. The books are recognized as a "rip-roaring yarn" that blends historical detail with engaging mystery.

The books are probably best read in order. There are some books by this author in the village library, but the series doesn't appear to be.



RECIPE: Moroccan-spiced Chicken with Veggie Couscous and Hummus

INGREDIENTS:

1 Cup boiling water
200g Couscous
2x 410g can corn, drained
Beetroot grated/thinly sliced
100g spinach
600g free-range chicken breast
1 tbsp Moroccan seasoning
1 drizzle olive oil
4 tbsp hummus



Honey Mustard Dressing -

1 tbsp Dijon mustard
1 tbsp honey
1 tbsp vinegar
1 tbsp olive oil

METHOD:

1. Bring a kettle to the boil.
2. In a heatproof bowl, combine boiling water, couscous, and a pinch of salt. Stir, cover and leave to swell for 5 minutes. Fluff up grains with a fork. Drain corn and set aside.
3. Pat chicken dry and cut into steaks by placing your hand flat on top of chicken and slicing through horizontally. Season with salt and pepper and coat in Moroccan seasoning.
4. Heat oil in a fry pan on medium-high heat. Cook chicken for 3-5 minutes each side (depending on thickness), or until cooked through. Set aside to rest, covered, before thinly slicing.
5. Combine ingredients for the honey mustard dressing in a small bowl.
6. Add corn and couscous to a bowl with honey mustard dressing, beetroot, and spinach, toss to combine. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
7. Spread hummus on plates and top with veggie couscous and chicken. Garnish with mint leaves.

Options: use store bought honey mustard dressing. For Gluten Free; use Millet grain or Quinoa, or any other GF grain, instead of couscous.

5-15 mins prep time, 15-30 mins cooking time, 4 servings

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 van, Monday – Friday, 9 – 3pm. Free for Gold Card holders. Time tables available at Reception, and on TCDC website.

► **Thames Taxis:** (07) 868 3100

