

# Residents' News

**MAY 2026**



Hello everyone,

We would like to give a big **welcome!** to **Margaret Carey** who is moving in to **Villa 2** on **Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> May**. We are very pleased to have you as part of our village community and wish you a smooth transition in to village life.

April was a good month, with movement in resales, as well as celebrating Easter and ANZAC Day. The Easter Bunny & Pot Luck Dinner was very successful. While not such a good turn-out in numbers, it was a very enjoyable and fun evening.

The trip to Kaiua for lunch is always a popular trip and the weather was superb. We hear that Brian brought along his guitar as a special surprise for the Committee, and everyone enjoyed a sing-a-long. Sounds like a great day out!

Also, the Richmond Villas Choir performed at St Georges Church last week (photo over page).

Unfortunately earlier in the month the **Kerepehi Band** cancelled due to the cyclone but they have rescheduled for: **1:30pm Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May**.

Speaking of the cyclone, Patricia Richards would like to thank George Carson for his help securing outdoor furniture on residents' balconies in the apartment block. We were fortunate to have plenty of prior warning for this one and our village was unaffected. Do know that if anyone needs extra assistance from staff, we are always available to help in these situations where you may need a hand securing outdoor items, and also to answer any queries you may have. We have group messaging set-up for making contact with village wardens, which we used, and it worked well.

We have Jan Signal, the village Relationship Manager from **Covenant Trustee Services** coming to talk to you about the role of the Statutory Supervisor on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 1:00pm**. A good opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

You will all be aware by now, that the **Residents' Committee AGM** is to be held on on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 1:30 pm**. We hope for a good turn-out to the meeting along with a few more nominations to boot! The current Committee have done a fantastic job, and we thank you all for your efforts; always appreciated.

The very last trip arranged by the current committee is lunch at the **Thai Restaurant** in Thames on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 12:00 noon**. Add your name to the list on the noticeboard by 5pm Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May if attending.

The **Mid-Winter Christmas Dinner** is to be held on **13<sup>th</sup> June from 4:30**, with an early eating time of 5:30pm. It will be catered by the Waihi RSA. The mid-winter dinner is always well supported and a good date to keep free!

Heat Pump servicing will be carried-out as we progress through May – June. If anyone feels that their Heat Pump needs attention, or if you want help changing the settings to Heat mode, let us know at the office.

That's about it for this month. Have fun!

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



### Richmond Villas Choir Performing.

The Richmond Villas Choir performed last Friday to a large audience at the St George's Church. A good number of Richmond Villas Residents were spotted in the audience and the comments from people was that the performance was a great success.

## *Residents Committee & Upcoming Events*

**A big thank you to Brian** for paying the guitar for sing along at the Kaiua Hotel lunch last month. An excellent lunch was enjoyed by 39 residents and guests.

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

► **Friday Happy Hour: 4:00pm 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: -**

- **Lunch Thai Restaurant: 7<sup>th</sup> May 12pm** – add your name to the list on the noticeboard. Lunch at 12 noon, leaving village 11:30am.
- **Meeting with Jan Signal, our Senior Relationship & Settlements Manager from Covenant Trustee Services: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 1.00pm.**  
Jan will discuss the role of Statutory Supervisor security they hold and information around same times and sector.
- **Kerepehi Band: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 1:30pm:** no charge for this, just turn up on the day, and stay for a cuppa with the band afterwards.
- **Residents AGM: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 1:30pm:** a new Committee will be voted in. So far 4 nominations have been received – could you be the 5<sup>th</sup> member??? (a minimum of 5 members is required).

- **AOK Clothing: will be back on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May from 11am – 2pm.**  
They will be set-up in the Main Hall area. Good quality warm clothing, worth a browse.

## ▶ **Coming Up, June: -**

- **Mid-Winter Dinner: Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June.** Keep this date free!! A nice warming winter meal - *More details to come.*



## **Happy Birthday to those born in MAY!!**

- 😊 02 Lorraine 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    😊 30 Maureen Green

*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 5<sup>th</sup> May, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 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!)*

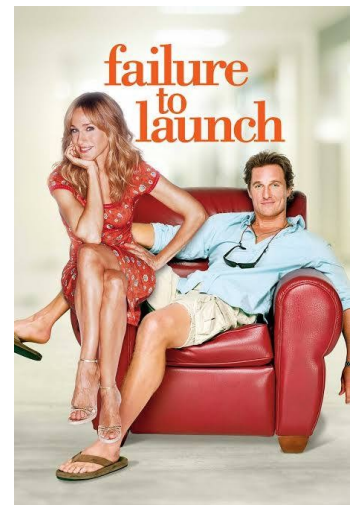


- ❖ **Chess Club** – *Are you interested in playing Chess?* Please contact Dennis Matthews on 027 292 1376. Held on Level 2 in the small lounge (“Tea Room”) of the apartment block on Tuesdays at 10.00am, beginners are welcome.
- ❖ **Exercises with Judy:** classes are held at the Community Lodge, Main 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: “Failure to Launch”** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**2006 Romantic Comedy: Starring Matthew McConaughey and Sarah Jessica Parker.**

A young man (Matthew McConaughey) continues to live at the home of parents who, in desperation to push him out of the nest once and for all, hatch a plan. They hire a beautiful woman (Sarah Jessica Parker) to entice him to assume the mantle of responsibility and get his own place.





❖ **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.

## **General:**

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### **Thames Croquet Club:**

the Spec Savers voucher was won by **Graeme Woodward**. Many thanks to everyone for their support. Cheers, Annie Sec.

### **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.

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## **Book Review: Peter James, Author.**

Peter James is a highly acclaimed, award-winning crime author renowned for his gripping, plot-twisting thrillers and the popular Roy Grace detective series, often praised for its high-stakes, detailed police procedural accuracy and authentic settings. With over 40 awards, his novels are described as addictive, well-researched page-turners. Beginning with ***Dead Simple*** James has gone on to write over 20 books in a series set in Brighton, England featuring Detective Roy Grace as the main character. Each book in the series by Peter James is a standalone novel which means that you can pick up any book and enjoy it without ever having read any other Peter James book.

The series has also been adapted for the small screen in ITV's starring John Simm as Detective Superintendent Roy Grace and Richie Campbell as Detective Sergeant Glen Branson. Season six began in March 2026.

Critics frequently praise his research into police procedures, citing his close relationship with the Sussex Police as the reason for the series' realism. His writing is often described as "hook line and sinker" from the start, utilizing short, snappy chapters to build. While most reviews love the "brilliantly crafted" characters, some critical reviews have suggested that after 20+ books, some of the secondary characters have begun to feel static or "cardboard cut-outs".

There are a number of this series by Peter James in the Richmond Villas library. Well worth a read.

James has also written supernatural thrillers, spy fiction, science-based thrillers, a children's novel, and the novella *The Perfect Murder*, which was adapted by Shaun McKenna into a stage play.



## **RECIPE: Chicken Satay with Easy Peanut Sauce**

### **INGREDIENTS:**

#### **For the Marinade: -**

3 cloves garlic  
1 lemon, juice only  
2 tsp turmeric  
2 tsp dried coriander  
1 tsp chilli powder  
1 tsp salt  
2 tsp vegetable oil  
1 kg skinless boneless chicken breasts, cubed

#### **For the Peanut Sauce: -**

4 tbsp natural peanut butter, smooth or chunky  
2 tsp brown sugar  
1 tsp lemon juice  
1 tsp grated ginger  
4 tbsp coconut milk  
1 tbsp Siracha or other Chilli Sauce  
Salt to taste  
water to thin it out  
1 tbsp chopped peanuts to top



1. In a large bowl combine the ingredients for the marinade, add the cubed chicken and coat. Cover and marinate in fridge overnight or at least 2 hours.
2. Make the peanut sauce – whisk peanut butter, soy sauce, brown sugar, lemon juice, grated ginger, coconut milk and Siracha in a bowl. Then start adding warm water one tablespoon at a time until you have desirable consistency. Season with salt to taste.
3. Preheat the grill. Meanwhile skewer the chicken onto wooden or metal skewers (if using wooden ones, it's best to soak them in water for 30 minutes to beforehand to avoid catching

fire). Don't overcrowd your skewers, this will ensure that the chicken will cook faster and more evenly. Cook the chicken for approx. 7 minutes on one side, then turn oven and cook for 5-7 minutes longer.

4. Serve with the peanut sauce and lime wedges.

*This could also be made as a stir-fry with veges, without the skewers. Plate with rice & sauce*

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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

