

Residents' News

JULY 2026



Hello everyone,

We would like to give a big **welcome!** to **Ivan & Sandra Forrest** who are moving in to **Villa 63** on **Wednesday the 8th July**. We wish you a smooth transition in to village life and look forward to having you as part of our village community.

We had very good feedback from the Mid-Winter Xmas Dinner last month, the Waihi Beach RSA did a great job, providing good food and efficient service and clean-up. And many thanks to the Committee for your efforts in making this a successful event.

The Croquet fundraiser was a good opportunity to get out and about, Scott Simpson's visit was interesting in the current political climate and Gary Darkes, 'Mr. Mobility', was very useful advising and demonstrating some of the latest and greatest mobility solutions and touching base in general.

The Residents Committee will be calling around to each household through the month of July, to collect the annual subs, \$15 pp.

This month, the Committee have arranged an outing to the **Ohinemuri Club in Paeroa** for lunch on **Thursday 16th July**, we also have a visit from **Joe Zhou** who is coming to share some helpful and practical ideas for healthy ageing, mobility and wellbeing, from both a Traditional Chinese Medicine and a general lifestyle perspective. It will be relaxed, practical and interactive; **Friday 24th July 10:45am**. *More info page 2..*

This month sees the first of the All Blacks games, the first 3 games of the season being 'home games'. And for the punters out there, the village Sweepstakes start. Someone from your street will call round to collect entries, \$1/pick. First game is on Saturday 4th July: AB'S vs France.

Pizza & Chips \$5 pp Saturday 4th July at 5pm. To get an idea of numbers, please add your name to the list on the noticeboard, if you have a flavour preference you can write this down too.

The AB'S will be on at **7:10pm** for anyone wanting to stay and watch the game.

The second game is Sat 11th July against Italy and the third is Sat 18th July against Ireland.

A public holiday to mark **MATARIKI** falls on **Friday 10th July this year**. Something to look forward to in the heart of winter, it is traditionally a time to sit back, contemplate, and plan for the coming year, with food, fun, and thoughtful conversation. Perhaps a bit of stargazing too!

Laser Electrical have been carrying out the annual villa heat pump testing during June and this is now mostly complete.

Take care everyone and enjoy these winter months. It has been relatively dry and mild, which makes a nice change to the norm...

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.

Please Note: Committee Members will be making their way around the village in July, to collect \$15 membership fee.

Also: The All Blacks sweepstakes are now **\$1 /pick** (reduced from \$2 /pick!)

► **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, July: -**

- **Pizza & Chips Night 5:00 pm - \$5 pp.** Add your name to the list on the noticeboard, pay on the night. First All Blacks game of the season will be on in the Main Hall, starts at 7:10 pm. 
- **Ohinemuri Club Buffet Lunch:** **Thursday 16th July \$40 pp. (includes raffle). Leaving 11am lunch at 12am.** Pay to Reception Desk by Monday 13th July. This also includes a raffle draw. Travel by village van and car pool. **\$10pp** for travel (van / carpool).
- **Joe Zhou:** **Friday 24th July 10:45am.** in the Main Hall, Community Lodge. A registered Acupuncturist and herbalist in New Zealand, a lecturer at the NZ College of Chinese Medicine, and a former lecturer at a military medical university in China. Joe has over 30 years of clinical and teaching experience in both Western and Chinese Medicine, with a special interest in healthy ageing, arthritis prevention, lifestyle balance, meditation and community health education. This will be a relaxed, practical and interactive presentation. 


► Events Coming Up, August: -

- **DYLAN:** **Friday 7th August 6:30pm.** A concert by DYLAN, showcasing the new album. Consists of Dylan and Nur (our village Choir conductors) and drummer, Nigel. This event is open to the public. Cover charge payable at the door. The village choir will be performing a couple of songs also. *More details to come...*
- **MENZ NIGHT:** **Saturday 15th August: the Menz Night is back!** A fun night, catered and organised by some of the village blokes... *more details to come...*
- **Leisuretime Travel:** **Friday 14th August 1:30pm.** John McGough from Leisure Time Travel will give us a presentation on their fully escorted group tours for seniors. They have an excellent selection of tours within New Zealand and selected overseas destinations. A fun and informative presentation.
- **Birthday Afternoon Tea:** **Thursday 27th August 2:30pm.**



Happy Birthday to those born in JULY!!

😊 02 Moira James 😊 09 Janice Booth 😊 14 Gill Watson
😊 15 Shona Smith 😊 16 Diane Aikin 😊 17 Ross Coldicutt 😊 20 Allen Pryor
😊 22 Michaelena Trott 😊 26 Ross Yeates

The next Birthday Afternoon Tea will be held on Thursday 27th August 2:30 pm.

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 7 July, 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 2nd July 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.
- ❖ **Choir: Tuesdays at 1:30 pm.** New members welcome, singing is good for you! 
- ❖ **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: “Irish Wish” Saturday 25th July.**
2024 American Fantasy rom com: Starring Lindsay Lohan.

Set in the Irish country side, the plot follows Maddie Kelly (Lohan), a book editor whose dream man is days away from marrying her best friend in Ireland... then a magic stone alters her fate.



- ❖ **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.** **NOTE: NO TRIP ON MATARIKI HOLIDAY – Pak n Save shop will be on Wednesday 8th July (instead of Friday 10th July)**

- ❖ **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:

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.

Reminder: *another reminder to please pick-up dog 'business' in the village... it is not nice to have it stuck to the bottoms of shoes / trampled inside houses.*



The Pleiades star cluster can be seen on the Eastern Horizon just before dawn, when conditions are right. When it first appears in the sky, late May, it signals the beginning of Matariki. It stays around until early July. Traditionally it is celebrated over a 7-8 day period. This year, the public holiday is on Friday 10th July.

Book Review: Dilly Court, Author.

Dilly Court writes primarily Historical Fiction and Historical Romance, often specifically categorized as Historical Sagas. Her novels feature relatable, working-class characters in nineteenth and early twentieth century England, and centres on themes of resilience, family struggles, and overcoming societal challenges to find love. She has written over 50 historical romance and saga novels. While many are standalone stories, she has several interconnected series. Court's early career was writing scripts for TV programmes and commercials. She did not begin writing novels until 1997, and it took until 2005 and a string of rejections before her first one *Mermaids Singing* was accepted for publication when she was 65. Dolly's debut novel combines familiar rom-com themes with sharp and original insights on life as a thirty-something.



Despite her impressive sales, her books have largely been ignored by critics. In 2020, Robbie Millen, literary editor for The Times, admitted that he hadn't previously heard of Court and that his paper had never reviewed any of her titles, nor had other major British newspapers.

The Best Sisters, Dilly Court

The Thames carried him away from her, but would it bring him home...?

Twelve-year-old Eliza Bragg has known little in life but the cold, comfortless banks of the Thames. Living above her uncle's chandlery, she has grown accustomed to a life of penury and servitude, her only comfort the love and protection of her older brother, Bart. But one day Bart accidentally kills a man and is forced to flee to New Zealand. Alone, barefoot, beaten down and at the mercy of her cruel uncle, Eliza realizes that her very survival is at stake...

There are a number of Court's books in the village library including The Best Sisters and the Thames Library also has a number of titles.



RECIPE:

Chicken, leek and mushroom cobbler pie

This is a delicious alternative to the pastry topped pie. The cobbler topping is great for soaking up the sauce in the pie.



Filling

1. Heat oil and sauté leeks and mushrooms gently until soft
2. Add garlic and chicken and continue to cook until chicken is cooked through
3. Add mustard and Worcester sauce and set aside
4. Heat milk until just simmering
5. Wet cornflour with water
6. Slowly add cornflour mixture to heated milk and stir constantly until thickened
7. Add thickened milk to leek, mushroom and chicken mixture

Cobbler batter

1. Mix the flours and baking powder together
2. Rub in the oil and grated cheese
3. Mix together the egg and milk
4. Mix in the milk and egg mixture to the flour mixture

Baking

1. Heat oven to 180°C
2. Place filling into pie dishes
3. Top with cobbler batter
4. Brush with a little milk
5. Bake for approximately 20 minutes or until golden brown and hot through

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

