

Residents' News

AUGUST 2026



Hello everyone,

July was a month dominated by the All Blacks, Soccer World Cup, and some sensational sunny winter days, especially around the Matariki public holiday, which proved to be prime star gazing weather. The Saturday Pizza night, and Sausage Sizzle conveniently timed with the AB's games worked well, creating the opportunity to stay on to watch the game or simply soak up some of the excitement before heading home.

The lunch outing to **Ohinemuri Club in Paeroa** was very much enjoyed by all who went. And the interesting visit from **Joe Zhou** all about Chinese medicine and other interesting bits of knowledge he shared, was worthwhile and appreciated by all who attended. Free complimentary acupuncture was also part of this, and those who took up the opportunity were very impressed. We have a few vouchers here (at Reception) for a \$20 discount if anyone would like one.

It is that time again for **RATES REBATE** submissions; Council will be visiting the village on **Friday 14th August from 10am to 11.30am.** We should have the forms available at Reception for you to pick-up, early next week (when Council drop-off). You can then bring the form with you on the 14th, to submit (alternatively it can be dropped-in to Council offices yourself, at a time that suits you).

Saturday the 15th August sees the return of **Menz Night**; a fun night where all guests are fully catered for by some of our village blokes. Not to be confused as being 'for men only' - it is for ALL residents to attend. A rare chance to see what the blokes can 'cook up'. Includes cocktail hour, dinner, desert, and entertainment - all this for \$20pp! *Keep an eye out for the flyer to be delivered, with more details.*

Also, this month is the first of the **Take-Away Friday** nights which are being trialed on the first Friday of every month after Friday Happy Hour. *Orders are taken on the night, by 4:45pm at \$10pp (see over page for specifics).*

The Dylan Wade Band is also on the **7th August, starting at 6.30pm.** This is open to the public and if it is anything like last year's performance, it will be quite busy with a lot of 'outsiders' coming along.

There is also the quarterly **Birthday Afternoon Tea** on the 27th, and the (every second month) **Friday Forum** on the 28th.

We also have **Leisuretime Travel** visiting, a special introductory presentation for **Mindful Movement**, run by **Sarah Shepard**, a chance to try **meditation** with **Melissa Ireland** and a visit from our local **Green Party** candidate! Quite an assortment, and opportunities to try something new. We encourage you to come along and hear of what these visitors can offer. *See over page for a full list of what is on this month.*

The AB.s sweepstakes will be on the go again for the 4 test matches in South Africa, starting August 23rd. Last test 13th September. Keep the goldies handy, only \$1/pick!

Keep warm, stay well, and have a fantastic month!

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

Residents Committee & Upcoming Events

The Committee would like to thank all those who were able to chip in with tidying-up after recent functions.

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

Committee Members have been making their way around the village in July, to collect the \$15 membership fee - they are mostly all collected now, just a few more to go.

The All Blacks sweepstakes are now \$1 /pick (reduced from \$2 /pick!). Next game 23rd August.

► **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, August: -**

➤ **Meditation Get Togethers with Melissa : Friday 7th August 10:45am**
Special introductory class. Melissa is experienced in Transcendental Meditation, Primordial Sound Meditation and mudras and mantras. She is not fixed to using any one method, but enjoys sharing what she has learned. This is a FREE introductory get together. For more info, see flyer on Noticeboard.

➤ **Take-Away Friday: Every first Friday of the month, \$10pp:** after Happy Hour, some type of take-away food will be ordered. This week it falls on **Friday 7th August** and will be **Fish Bites & Chips.** Simply come along on the night, to get your name in **BEFORE 4:45 pm.** Names in by 4:45pm on the night, pay on the night.

➤ **DYLAN WADE BAND: Friday 7th August 6:30pm.** **Open to the public,**
costs: \$15 Richmond Villas residents (\$20 public price). A concert by DYLAN, show casing his new album. Consists of Dylan and Nur (our village Choir conductors)

and drummer, Nigel. Also featuring the village choir. Cover charge payable at the door, or can be pre-paid at Reception (special price for choir members; if this can be paid beforehand it will help on the night).

➤ **Mindful Movement with Sarah: Thursday 13th August 10:30am.**

Come along and meet Sarah. She is a Mindful Movement & Wellbeing facilitator with experience running 'Stretch, Breathe, Relax' classes. Her style is slow and relaxed, helping build coordination, balance and mobility. The classes are for all body types and mobility levels. She is offering a FREE introductory class (or two) to gauge interest - **PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME DOWN AT RECEPTION or NOTICEBOARD** if interested in coming along.
For more info, see flyer on Noticeboard.



➤ **RATES REBATE: Friday 14th August 10am – 11.30am.** Council Rates officers will be here to collect and sign-off your Rates Rebate forms. Forms will be at Reception, for you to pick-up, take home and bring back on the day. You must be present on the day for Council to sign & submit.

This is an easy and effective way to submit your form, however if you can't make this date, you can drop it in to the Council offices yourself, when it suits.

➤ **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.

➤ **MenZ Night: Saturday 15th August at 4:30pm, \$20pp.**
An evening fully catered by some of our village blokes.
Come and see what they can 'cook up'!
Cocktail hour, dinner, desert & entertainment...
A flyer will be delivered to all letterboxes with further details...



➤ **Meeting with Green Party candidate, Pamela Grealey:**
10:30am Tuesday 18th August. An informal chat over morning tea, from the local Green Party candidate. Pamela is interested in hearing about what issues matter to you, any questions you may have about local issues, parliament, the election, the Green Party, or anything else, and having a respectful conversation around the future of our region. *Flyer on noticeboard.*



➤ **Birthday Afternoon Tea: Thursday 27th August 2:30pm.**

ALL residents welcome to come and celebrate. Tea/coffee & cake, to celebrate those born May, June, July & August.

- **Friday Forum: Friday 28th August at 10:30am.** Come along at 10am for cuppa and bickie, Amy and Stephanie will be along at 10:30, to update on anything to do with the village and to give you an opportunity to discuss anything you may want to bring up with them.

▶ **Events Coming Up, September: -**

- **QUIZ NIGHT:** *More details to come...*
- **Village AGM: Monday 28th September at 1 pm.** We have a new Relationship Manager, **Karen Cottle**, who is taking over from Jan Signal and who will be chairing this meeting.



Happy Birthday to those born in AUGUST!!

😊 01 Barry Greem 😊 04 Gwen Lee 😊 09 Bob O'Leary
😊 17 Stuart Rothwell 😊 20 Vivian Rapley 😊 22 Linda O'Leary 😊 29
Doug Fraser

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

Regular Activities

- ▶ **VILLAGE BUGGY: Phone Graham Woodward to arrange pick-up / drop-off, to / from any events or activities in the village**

▶ **REMINDER: Van Trip Costs: FREE in town, \$10pp ½ hour trip, \$20pp for hour trip.**

- ❖ **Exercises with Judy: 10-11am Mondays,** classes are held at the Community Lodge, Main Hall
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Spec Savers: Next visit will be on Tuesday 11 August, 9:45am.**
Set-up in the small foyer lounge. *Call in for a free clean / minor adjustment of your glasses.*
- ❖ **Probus Club: new members welcome! Second Tuesday of the month 10.00am. NOTE: THIS MONTH is the Birthday Lunch which will be in the Dining Room from 10am – 1pm.**

- ❖ **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.
 - ❖ **Mahjong** – 1pm Tuesdays – *New people welcome!*
 - ❖ **CHOIR: 1:30pm Tuesdays** in the Community Lodge Main Hall.
New members always welcome! (singing is good for you!).
For those participating in the Dylan Wade Band performance, please pay your entry fee beforehand if possible.
 - ❖ **Rummikub – Learn To Play:** Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursdays, Learn to play every Wednesday at 2.00pm.
 - ❖ **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!*
 - ❖ **INDOOR BOWLS- Every Wednesday at 10:00am** in the Main Hall, Community Lodge
 - ❖ **Needlework Craft Mornings: Wednesdays at 10.00am:** The Wednesday morning needle craft group is meeting in the Apartment Block ground floor lounge at 10:00am.
 - ❖ **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.*
 - ❖ **Crafts: Thursday’s 10.00am** held in the Community Lodge craft room.
- Message from the Craft Group: -**
- **Excess wool, patterns and accessories** are now stored in the Apartment Block. Contact Jean Payne or Lorraine Laing.
 - **Clothes Rack** in the Craft room: please ensure items are laundered before adding to the rack.
- ❖ **Thames BLIND & LOW VISION Support Group: Thursday 6th August 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!



- ❖ **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.



- ❖ **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: Julie away from Tuesday 18th August to Friday 28th August.

- ❖ **Movie Afternoon: “Juror 2”** Saturday 22nd August 1:30pm.
2024 legal thriller
Directed by Clint Eastwood.

A Juror for a high-profile murder trial finds himself struggling with a serious moral dilemma that could influence the verdict and potentially convict, or free, the accused killer.



- ❖ **Housie: Every Sunday from 1.30pm, for a 2pm start**, followed with Afternoon Tea at 3pm.

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... to avoid it sticking to the bottoms of shoes and trampled inside houses. Thank you.*



Patchwork Unlimited Turua

QUILT SHOW



An Exhibition of Members Quilts & Club Challenges

Where: THAMES CIVIC CENTRE, 200 Mary Street Thames

When: August 7th & 8th 9:30am-4pm (Friday & Saturday)
& August 9th 10:00am to 3.00pm (Sunday)

\$5.00 ENTRY – Bring cash (Café & Raffles available).

Raffles \$2/ticket, first & second prize is a quilt.

PLUS! Other handmade items for sale in the artisan market.

Book Review

The Correspondent

Virginia Evan

Winner of the Women's prize for Fiction 2026.



The Correspondent is a delight: melancholy without being sentimental, warm without being cosy, witty without being silly, while highlighting the power of human connection through the main character, Sybil Van Antwerp, a 73-year-old retired lawyer and chief clerk. The novel follows the letters and emails of Sybil, sent between 2012 and 2022. Virginia Evans weaves a moving story about regret, forgiveness, family, and belonging. It also reflects on finding comfort and joy later in life. It is Evan's first published novel, after having completed seven unpublished novels.

Sybil Van Antwerp has throughout her life used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. Most mornings, around half past ten, Sybil sits down to write letters – to her brother, to her best friend, to the president of the university who will not allow her to attend a class she desperately wants to take, to Joan Didion and Larry McMurtry to tell them what she thinks of their latest books, and to one person to whom she writes often yet never sends the letter.

Sybil expects her world to go on as it always has – a mother, grandmother, wife, divorcee, distinguished lawyer, she has lived a very full life. But when letters from someone in her past force her to examine one of the most painful periods of her life, she realizes that the letter she has been writing over the years needs to be read and that she cannot move forward until she finds it in her heart to offer forgiveness.

Filled with knowledge that only comes from a life fully lived, ***The Correspondent*** is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age, and the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime. Sybil Van Antwerp's life of letters might be "a very small thing," but she also might be one of the most memorable characters you will ever read.

This review was adapted from Carsons Bookshop on line review originally written by Renee and Angela.

The book is NOT currently in the village library but available from Carsons Bookshop, Amazon, Fishpond and other online sites.



STAYING SAFE
REFRESHER COURSE
THAMES

Monday 14th September
Thames Union Parish Hall
9.15AM - 1.00pm



Staying Safe is a FREE classroom- based refresher workshop for senior drivers.

Morning Tea provided. Bookings essential.

Phone JO on 027-324-0249
Or email info@achc.org.nz



Creamy Chicken Ricotta Meatballs

Ricotta helps make these chicken meatballs soft and tender. The rich sauce is an indulgent wintery treat which comes together quickly in one pan. Serves 4. Cook time:30 mins.

Ingredients

For the Meatballs: -

1 cup panko or dried breadcrumbs
400g chicken mince
250g tub ricotta
1 egg, beaten
Grated zest of 1 lemon
2 spring onions, finely sliced
1 clove garlic, grated
20g parmesan, finely grated
½ tsp salt
2 tbsp finely chopped parsley, dill, or chives

For the Creamy Spinach sauce: -

300g baby spinach, rinsed
1 tbsp olive oil
Small knob butter
2 cloves garlic, finely sliced
125ml chicken stock or water
Juice of 1 lemon
300ml cream



Method:

In a large bowl, combine all the meatball ingredients and mix well. Put into the fridge for 30 minutes to help the mix to firm up. Shape into balls and set aside.

Heat a wide pan and add the spinach. Cook until just wilted, then refresh in cold water. Squeeze out any excess water and set aside. In same pan, heat the oil, then add the meatballs and cook over a medium low heat, frying all over until golden.

Add the butter and garlic and cook until fragrant. Add the chicken stock, lemon juice, and cream. Bring up to a simmer and cook gently for 10 minutes until the meatballs are cooked through and the sauce is slightly reduced.

Continued over page.....

Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper and stir in the spinach just before serving. Serve over noodles, rice or mashed potatoes.

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

