Residents' News

OCTOBER 2026

Richmond Villas
LIFESTYLE VILLAGE

Hello everyone,

Its October already, and summer is just around the corner. Greg will start to check the irrigation system and weather depending may even start watering towards the end of the month. Linda and Celeste were busy refreshing some plants around the village at the end of last month and pruned the Hibiscus and Hydrangea, ready for new growth now that the frosts are safely behind us.
The Joe Zhou visit was once again informative and useful and the Quiz Night organized by the Committee went off well along with the soup, bun and desert.
The monthly **Take-Away Friday** is proving to be a good idea, this month it falls on **Friday 2nd October.**
Thank you to those who were able to make it to the village AGM on Monday. It was good to meet our new village relationship manager, Karen Cottle.



This month we have the **New Residents' Morning Tea**, on **Thursday 8th October,** which is a special morning tea to celebrate all of our new residents who have moved-in over the last two years. Invitations have been delivered to all homes; this is a catered event so please **RSVP by Friday 2nd October** if you are able to come along. We hope you can make it, the more the merrier!

The Committee organized lunch outing is on **Thursday 15th October**, to the **Turua Bakehouse.** Travel will be by car-pool, leaving at 11:30am.
You could come along early and check-out **Murray's Mobile Shoes,** who will be set-up in the Main Hall from 10am to 2pm, also on the 15th.

If you are around on Sunday 18th October, a group of 35 year 6-8 boys from **Southwell School Choir** will visit, hopefully you can come along and support them, they will sing for 30min, starting 1:15pm.

We have two St John visits this month: the first is from our village relationship manager, Bronnie, who will discuss all things to do with the **St John medical alarm service.** If you have any queries about the service, it is a great opportunity to ask! **Thursday 22nd October at 2:30pm.**
The next, is a short 45minute presentation; **"3 Steps for Life"** on **Thursday 29th October at 11am.** This course is run by St John and includes information on procedure in the event of a cardiac arrest; carrying out CPR, calling 111, using a Defibrillator. This is a good opportunity to refresh your knowledge, and familiarise with our own defibrillator on site. We need to have a good idea of numbers for this, so please add your name to the list on the noticeboard if you will be attending.

We have a new **art/painting morning** in the Community Lodge Craft Room. The first one will be on **Monday 5th October, at 9:30am.** Bring own materials & easel or desk easel if you have one. Enquiries, phone Dennis Mathews or Stuart Roberston.

Also, the Croquet Club is having their annual fundraiser **Garage Sale on the 10th October from 7am.** If anyone has items they can to donate to the sale, give Graham Woodward a call (07-868-6252), he can pick them up, or you can drop them off to him.

We are now in to daylight saving as of last weekend and settling in to the extended hours of daylight, and more time to do more! We have a long weekend coming up with Labour Day on Monday 26th October.

Have fun everyone!

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

Residents Committee & Upcoming Events

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

The All Blacks sweepstakes are now $1 /pick (reduced from $2 /pick!).
Test Matches this month: -
vs Australia (Bledisloe Cup): ***Saturday 10th October 2026*** *Eden Park, NZ*
vs Australia (Bledisloe Cup): ***Saturday 17th October 2026*** *Accor Stadium, Sydney*
The NZ game kicks-off at 7:10pm
The Sydney game kicks-off at 6:45pm NZ Time

► **Friday Happy Hour: 4:30pm start.** Raffles: The weekly Raffle is drawn on Friday night @ 5:30pm. Tickets are $1 each, first and second prizes.
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, October: -***

- **Take-Away Friday: Every first Friday of the month, $10pp:** eat after Happy Hour. This month it falls on **Friday 2nd October** and will be **Mince & Potato Top Pie, mixed veges & desert.**
  Simply come along on the night, to get your name in ***before 4:30 pm***.

- **New Residents Morning Tea: Thursday 8th October at 10:00am.**
  Come along to celebrate our new residents, over the last two years! This is a catered event so please **fill-out & return the attendance slip** on the bottom of the flyer, by Friday 2nd October - thanks.



- **Murrays Mobile Footware Thursday 15th October 10-2pm**
  Murray will be set-up in the Community Lodge Main Hall from 10am to 2pm, with his array of quality, comfortable shoes at cheap rates. He can help you find the comfort you are looking for. Popular brands of walking shoes and sandals from $49!!.

- **Turua Bakehouse: Lunch, Thursday 15th October**
  A lunch outing to the Turua Bakehouse; leaving from the Community Lodge foyer, at 11.30am. Travel by carpool. Add your name to the list on the noticeboard if you would like to come along.

- **Southwell Choir Students:** Choir Performance: **Sunday 18th October at 1:15pm – 1:45pm.** This is a half hour performance, by 35 boys ranging from years 6 – 8. Come along and support them, they will sound great in the Main Hall! Conveniently timed to finish 15mins before Housie.



- **St. John's Medical Alarm – A Meeting with Bronnie: Thursday 22nd October 2.30pm** Bronnie, our village Relationship Manager is coming to catch-up and talk about medical alarms, the activation process, followed with Q&A. Your questions are welcomed and important for feeling confident about using your alarm.

- **"3 Steps for Life" Presentation: Thursday 29th October, 11am.** This is a St John's presentation focusing on cardiac arrest and the best procedure to follow. It includes how to do CPR, calling 111, and how to use a defibrillator. As you know, we have a defibrillator on the pillar outside the front of our Community Lodge Building entrance. This presentation will help to refresh and clarify what to do in the instance of a cardiac arrest occurring. ***Names in by Monday 19th October please.***

- **Friday Forum: Friday 30th October, 10:30am.** Come along at **10am** for a cuppa. Amy & Stephanie will be there by 10:30am to update and discuss all things to do with village life. An informal environment where you are encouraged to raise any queries, suggestions, feedback.

► ***Events Coming Up, November: -***

- **Melbourne Cup:** **Tuesday 3rd November.**
- **Richmond Villas Choir Performance:** **Tuesday 24th November at 1:30pm.**



Happy Birthday to those born in OCTOBER!!

😊 01 Sandra Smith 😊 04 Wendy Booth 😊 04 Tony Cole 😊 08 Bronwyn Williamson 😊 11 Palma Wallace 😊 13 Hilary Taylor 😊 15 Graeme Brighouse 😊 22 Lenice Erceg 😊 25 Phillip Law 😊 30 Marion Fisher 😊 30 Mary Pinnell

- **Movie Afternoon:** ***"Remarkably Bright Creatures"***

Saturday 24th October 1:30pm.



2026: Drama

Featuring; Sally Field, Lewis Pullman, Alfred Molina



While working nights at a small-town aquarium, a widow bonds with a clever octopus and an adrift young man in this moving drama based on the bestseller.

- **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: *the "Regular Activities" has not been printed-off this month. We can still include it from time to time or when it seems important to.*
It will always be available from reception, if anyone wants it. Most of the activities are on the Calendar, which will always be delivered with the Newsletter. If an activity has a special message, or any new activities are added, we can include it.

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.

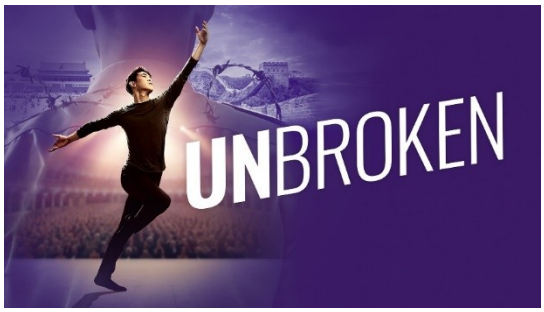
PHONE: Amy: 021-150-0697 or Stephanie: 027-355-5068.

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.*





THE UNTOLD STORY OF

SHEN YUN

Some of you will remember the Shen Yun show, the village has taken groups to Auckland to see the show a couple of times over the years.

Shen Yun have sent us a link to a documentary titled "Unbroken", 'the untold story of Shen Yun'. Excerpt from their email: Unbroken is a fascinating and uplifting film that takes viewers behind the scenes of Shen Yun and introduces the artists and families who are passionate about preserving traditional Chinese culture and its values for future generations. Alongside the beautiful music and dance, the film explores themes that many people can relate to – family, courage, perseverance, hope, cultural heritage and the importance of holding on to what we value. It is free, and can be watched from the following link:

NTD Films — UNBROKEN: The Untold Story of Shen Yun

It will come up on your smart TV, if you type in the above, or we can email you the link to watch on your PC / cast to your TV.

Morrocon-spiced Chicken, Pumpkin and Orzo

Packed with flavour, colour and textures, this delivers a delicious dinner every time. Serves 4.



Spice Paste

1-2 Tbsp harissa paste (available from Pak n Save, one jar lasts a long time)
2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 tsp each ground cumin, and Coriander
½ tsp ground cinnamon
¼ Cup natural Greek yoghurt

Chicken

2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 small red onion, finely chopped
1 tsp dried oregano
2 cloves garlic, crushed
Sea salt and ground pepper
2 ¾ Cups hot chicken stock
1 Cup orzo pasta
2 tsp finely grated lemon zest
600 grams boneless, skin-off chicken thighs (for larger sized thighs, cut into smaller portions)
500 grams butternut pumpkin, deseeded and cut into slim wedges – or any veges you have.
6 whole dates, pitted and halved
3-4 bay leaves

Method

Use baking tray about 33cm x 23cm x 3cm deep. Pre-heat the oven to 180^{o}C fan bake.

Spice Paste: Stir all the ingredients, except the yoghurt, together in a small bowl. Transfer half the spice paste to another bowl and stir in the yoghurt. Set this aside for the chicken.

Chicken: Heat the oil in a medium frying pan, add the onion, oregano and the garlic, season well with salt and pepper then cook for about 8 minutes until the onion is softened. Stir in the spice paste, season with salt and pepper and cook for 1 minute. Add the hot stock, orzo and the zest then tip into the baking tray and spread out evenly.

Brush the yoghurt mixture over the chicken and season with salt and pepper. Fold the thighs into neat parcels and place over the orzo. Nestle the pumpkin around the chicken then add the dates and tuck in the bay leaves. Drizzle everything with a little olive oil and season with salt and pepper.

Cook for 35-40 minutes or until the orzo is tender and the chicken is fully cooked.

Getting Around…



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.***

► **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 Connecter 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

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.***

- **ART Mornings: 9:30am Mondays,** in the Community Lodge Craft Room. This is a new group starting up, primarily for painting. Bring along your own material, easel / desk easel if you have one. Any questions… contact Dennis 027-292-1376 or Stuart 021-975-314.
- **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.
- **Coffee Mornings:** Tuesdays & Saturdays 10am. Casual get-togethers for a cuppa, in the Community Lodge.
- **Line Dancing**: Tuesday's at 9:30am. New group starting up. Beginners welcome! Enquiries, phone Gill Watson / Pamela Yeates.
- **Spec Savers: Next visit will be on Tuesday 20th October, 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!* Meets in the dining room every second Tuesday of the month; morning tea and guest speakers.
- **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.
  Not on during School Holidays.
  New members always welcome! *(singing is good for you!).*



- **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 - a*ll are welcome to join this fun activity*!

- **INDOOR BOWLS- Every Wednesday at 10:00am** in the Main Hall, Community Lodge

- **Knitting Natter, Needlework Craft Mornings: Wednesdays at 10.00am:** The Wednesday morning needle craft group meets 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.

- **Thames BLIND & LOW VISION Support Group: Thursday 3rd September 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!

- **Meditation Get Togethers with Melissa: Fridays at 11:00am** - everyone 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.

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

All of these activities take place in the Community Lodge building. All residents are welcome to come along and try them out. Any queries, feel free to phone us, 0800-868-5484.