

Residents' News

SEPTEMBER 2026



Hello everyone,

We hope you all had an enjoyable month, there was quite an assortment of new activities and guest speakers and of course the infamous Menz Night which was once again a rip-roaring success! A big thank you to the men who helped pull this off again, Gary Pye for leading the team, and of course to everyone who came along.

Coming back for another visit is **Joe Zhou**, to talk more on Chinese Medicine with an emphasis on foods that can help with different ailments and general wellbeing. Joe has a wealth of knowledge to share. **Thursday 10th September at 10:30am.**

The **Meditation** group is now a permanent slot on **Friday mornings at 11am**, and **Line Dancing** has started back-up on **Tuesdays at 9:30am.**

Also, continuing after the first trial in August, is **Take-Away Friday**. This will be every first Friday of every month after Friday Happy Hour. *Orders are taken on the night, by 4:30pm at \$10pp (see over page for specifics).* This month it falls on **Friday 4th September.**

If anyone missed the Council's visit in August to collect **Rates Rebate** submissions; we still have some forms here at Reception if you would like one, and which you can fill-out and hand in to Council yourself, at the Council offices.

The Committee are running a **QUIZ NIGHT** on **Saturday September 19th**, starting at **4:30pm.** It will include a Soup & Bun meal, desert, and prizes to be won!

The **Village AGM** will be on **Monday 28th September at 1pm.** Our new relationship manager from Covenant Trustee Services, Karen Cottle, will be present to chair the meeting. Supporting documents will be delivered to everyone at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

I don't know about you, but I have enjoyed these winter months, we seem to have had quite a lot of sunshine. We even had a friendly Kereru in the village, and Amy got this photo with her phone while walking past....

This first month of Spring is very welcome, a positive time of year when things spring back in to action.



Enjoy!

*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 Community Lodge on Saturday mornings, 10ish.

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

Test Matches this month: Third Test: **Sunday 5th September 3:00am**

Fourth Test: **Sunday 12th September 9:00am**

► **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, September: -**

➤ **Take-Away Friday:** **Every first Friday of the month, \$10pp:** eat after Happy Hour. This month it falls on **Friday 4th September** and will be **Burger & Apple Pie**. Simply come along on the night, to get your name in **before 4:30 pm.**

➤ **Joe Zhou, Nine Life Land:** **Thursday 10th September, 10:30am.**

Joe is coming back to the village to present more information on Chinese Medicine, in particular this time he will speak about FOOD THERAPY, and what specific foods can help with different physical ailments. Joe is very knowledgeable and enjoys sharing what he knows, a friendly and helpful approach.



➤ **Meeting with Green Party candidate, Pamela Grealey:** **10:30am Tuesday 15th September.**

An informal chat over **cupcakes & a cuppa**, with 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.*





- **QUIZ NIGHT with Soup, Buns & Dessert: Saturday 19th September, 4:30 start. \$10pp.**
Add your name to the list on the noticeboard if attending and pay on the day.

- **Richmond Villas Annual General Meeting: Monday 28th Sept., 1pm.**
Supporting documents will be delivered to your letterbox approximately 12 days prior. New village Relationship Manager, Karen Cottle, from the Covenant Trustee Company will chair the meeting.

► **Events Coming Up, October: -**

- **New Residents Celebration:** Morning Tea; Thursday 8th October 10.00am
- **Murray's Mobile Footware:** Thursday 15th October 10am-12pm. Main Hall.
Murray is returning with his extensive array of quality, comfortable shoes, at great prices!
- **Medical Alarm Service – A Meeting with Bronnie:** Thursday 22nd October 2:30pm Bronnie will be back to meet with residents and talk about the St John medical alarm / emergency response service they provide.
- **St John 3 Steps for Life:** Thursday 29th October 11am. 3 Steps for Life is a free one-hour session. Come along and learn how to do CPR and how to use an AED, and what is the best procedure to follow. As you know, we have an AED located at the entrance to the Community Lodge building. This course is beneficial for refreshing our minds and confidence about how to use it, and **what steps to take**, should a cardiac event arise. Everyone welcome to come along, please add your name to the list on the noticeboard if attending, to give them an idea of what materials they need to bring along.



Happy Birthday to those born in SEPTEMBER!!

😊 03 Karen Court 😊 06 Betty Dovell 😊 10 John Loader
😊 15 John Edmonds 😊 18 Ivan Forrest 😊 21 Margaret Lester 😊 21 Ann Adams
😊 21 Marg Carey 😊 26 Joy Bates

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.
- ❖ **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 8th September, 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.
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 - *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.
 - **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 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.



- ❖ **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.

❖ Movie Afternoon: “Swapped”

Saturday 26TH September 1:30pm.

2026: Animated Comedy Adventure

A tiny woodland creature and a majestic bird suddenly swap bodies, forcing them to team up to survive the wildest adventure of their lives.



❖ HOUSE: 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.*



Book Review

Nowhere Else

Fiona McCallum



Fiona McCallum is a celebrated Australian author who currently resides in Adelaide where she works full time as a novelist. She writes “heart-warming journey of self-discovery stories” – often with a rural setting, sometimes with a romantic thread and sometimes without. Her tales tie together her love of animals and fascination with the journey people go on to find what really makes their heart sing and then follow their true passions to find happiness, even if it means taking risks and facing seemingly impossible obstacles. It’s a storyline very close to Fiona’s heart because it reflects her own life. She has written 17 novels, with her seventeenth book, *Right Way Up* released in April 2025.

This review is specifically about her book entitled *Nowhere Else* published in 2011. A copy is in the village library along with a number of other books written by Fiona. A very enjoyable read by this Aussie author which I have no hesitation in recommending.

This synopsis of the book was taken from the back cover of the book.

On the surface, current affairs reporter Nicola Harvey had the world at her feet – she’s at the top of her profession, part of Australian television’s celebrity A-list, has a wealthy, successful fiancé and a beautiful warehouse conversion in Adelaide. But appearances can be deceiving and not all is perfect in Nicola’s world. So when her boss offers to send her on an extended research trip to investigate the effects of the drought, she jumps at the chance to indulge in some country-style relaxation.

When Nicola arrives in the little town of Nowhere Else, nothing is as she expected: there’s no spa in town, the locals are tight-lipped, and she senses it’s not just the drought that is making the town nervous. So why has her boss sent her out here? The deeper Nicola digs into the town’s history, the more she realizes coming to Nowhere Else wasn’t a mistake after all. In fact, it may just unlock the mystery of her own past. And hold the key to her future happiness...

Copies of her more recent releases are available on order form Carsons Bookshop and other online booksellers.





Murray's coming back!

Thu 15th October

10am - 2pm

Murray's Mobile Footware

will set-up in the Community Lodge, Main Hall.

Shoes and sandals from \$49!

All the good brands: ecco, skechers, Ziera, Hush Puppies, Scholl, Revere, Propet... supportive, comfortable, quality footware, at bargain prices.

Murrays visits to the village have been very popular and worthwhile in the past. ***Feel free to invite your friends along!***

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



Easy Red Curry with Beef

This recipe serves 3-4, it is easily halved if necessary.

Prep time 5 mins, Cook time 20 mins

Ingredients

500g NZ Beef rump steak
2 cups brown rice
3 tbsp red curry paste
400ml coconut cream
500g frozen mixed vegetables (or fresh chopped veges if you prefer)
100g mung bean sprouts
2 tbsp oil
Salt & pepper to taste



Cut out the prep time by grabbing a packet of stir fry strips and transform them in to a Thai takeaway classic!

Make the most of frozen vegetables to keep it affordable.

Substitute beef for chicken or fish if preferred.

Method:

1. Cook the brown rice according to package instructions. Reserve.
2. Heat oil in a frying pan. Add the beef strips and stir in red curry paste, arranging beef in a single layer to cook evenly.
3. Fry for 5 minutes on medium high heat, turning to sear on all sides.
4. Add the coconut cream and stir through, scraping the pan to ensure the curry paste combines well.
5. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
6. Turn heat to simmer and stir in the frozen stir fry vegetable mix (or whatever veges you want to use) Cover with lid and simmer for 5 minutes until vegetables are cooked.
7. Remove lid and simmer for a further 5 minutes to reduce the sauce.
8. Serve on brown rice with bean sprouts on the side or on top.

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

