Residents' News

NOVEMBER 2026

Richmond Villas
LIFESTYLE VILLAGE

Hello everyone,



I think we can all agree summer feels close, Spring has been a typical mixed bag, but the sun has made good appearance in between cooler snaps, the odd shower of rain and a bit of wind to boot..

There was a lot going on last month; highlights being the Southwell Choir, which was only a half hour performance but packed full of young talent, and included accompaniment from piano and cello. Murray's Mobile Shoes was supported well enough for him to return in two years' time. The trip to the Turua Bakehouse was a nice local outing and the two St Johns presentations were useful for those wanting to 'brush-up' on medical related procedures. It was welcome news to hear that the **Anywhere mobile pendants** are now government funded, on application and meeting certain criteria. It is also available non-funded, but requires an additional payment monthly which is paid directly to St John. More information page 5.

November starts off with the **Melbourne Cup** in the first week: this year it is on **Tuesday 3rd November 4pm.** Resident volunteers will call around to gather $2 from those wanting to participate, in the week prior, and on the day you can watch the race live on our big screen TV in the main hall. This will be followed by a Pot Luck Dinner and prizes for Best Dressed / Best Hat. Always a fun, bubbly event!
Mid-month has an interesting trip, supporting local business, visiting the **Oasis Garden Shop** at Puriri, the **Christmas tree shop** also at Puriri, and the **Cheese Barn** at Matatoki.
The **village choir performance** is towards the end of the month, on **Tuesday 24th November at 1.30pm.**

Its voting day on the 7th but you can vote any day prior at the Civic Centre – details pg 3.



The village **Christmas Dinner** will be on **Saturday 5th December** this year, our biggest event of the year, at $25pp it is well worth attending. Its relatively early in the month so be sure to pay and add your name to the list at Reception, by Friday 27th November.
The gift donation box is now in the Dining Room for residents' to drop-off a small item to go towards the Xmas hampers raffled on the night. Everyone will get a ticket on entry.
Also, keep an eye out for the **xmas cake raffle** in the foyer this month; $2 per ticket gives you four draws to win one of the 4 cakes – sounds like good odds… 100 tickets and it gets drawn as soon as the tickets are all sold.

There is another planned **power outage** that will affect the whole village, scheduled for **Friday 6th November from 8:45am to 3:00pm,** this includes the Community Centre. Most of you will have been notified by your provider already. This is weather dependent.

Well that's about it, enjoy the month – the next one will be festive & busy! Take care all,
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!).
The sweepstakes will be for: -
vs Wales: ***Saturday 14th November 2026*** *Cardiff, Wales*
vs England: ***Saturday 21st November 2026*** *London, England*
Kick-off is: 3:10am NZ Time
► *Note: No sweep will be run for the Scotland game on the 7th November.*

Christmas Cake raffle: a $2 ticket gives you 4 draws to win one of 4 Christmas Cakes. Get your tickets from the raffle table in the Community Lodge foyer.

► **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, November: -



- **MELBOURNE CUP SWEEPSTAKE & POT LUCK DINNER:**
  Tuesday 3rd November from 4:00pm
  Someone will call to your door, during the week, to collect Sweepstake money ($2/sweep, 5 entries maximum pp): a 1 in 8 chance of being in 'the money'!
  Prizes for Best Dressed/ Best Hat will be drawn on the night

- **Take-Away Friday: Every first Friday of the month, $10pp:** eat after Happy Hour. This month it falls on **Friday 6th November** and will be **Pizza with a choice of Meat Lovers or Hawaiian** Simply come along on the night, to get your name in **before 4:30 pm**.

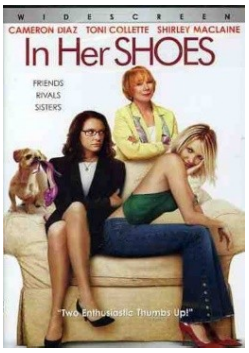
- **Election Night: 7th November from 7pm:** the National Party have booked the Dining Room to gather while the election results are coming in – Residents are welcome to attend.

- **Oasis Garden Studio, Christmas Tree Farm, Matatoki Cheese Farm: Saturday 14th November: leaving 10am from lodge foyer.** Shop for Christmas! Visiting the Oasis Garden Studio gift shop, the Christmas Tree Farm, and the Matatoki Cheese Farm Café. A list will go up on the Noticeboard.

- **Movie Afternoon: *"In Her Shoes"* Saturday 21st November 1:30pm. 2026: Romantic Comedy-drama**

  Featuring; Shirley MacLaine, Cameron Diaz, Toni Collette

  Estranged sisters Maggie and Rose have nothing in common – except, it seems, a long-lost grandmother who helps them find their way back to each other.



- **Richmond Villas Choir End of Year Performance**
  Tuesday 24th November at 1.30pm in the Lodge

  Support our Choir with your attendance to our end of year Concert **followed by afternoon tea.**
  Your family and friends are welcome to join us.



- **Kapa Haka Performance, Te Puru School Seniors: 2pm Thursday 26th November.** Last year the school brought the Junior school group and this year it will be the Seniors performing. This is always a delightful performance and great experience for the kids – hopefully you can come along and support them, the more the merrier. They will be performing in the Community Lodge Main Hall.

VOTING: Polling Booth OPEN NOW at the Civic Centre, Thames!

Convenient if you want to vote before Voting Day on Saturday 7th November. **A timetable of opening hours is up on the noticeboard and at Reception.**
It is open 7 days/week from 10am – 5pm (some days are from 9am – 6pm).

The Civic Centre is on the **Connector Van route**, stopping conveniently right outside the Civic (Monday – Friday only).
Leaving Richmond Villas foyer: 9.47am, 11am, 12.27pm, 1.42pm, 2.57pm and arrives at the Civic 5 minutes later.
We have a complete Connector timetable available at Reception showing return times also.

➢ ***Happy Birthday to those born in NOVEMBER!!***



➢ 😊 03 Jeanette Ewers 😊 04 Val Brown 😊 05 Carol Moloney 😊 10 Barbara Darrah 😊 12 Alex Shirley 😊 14 Maureen Matthews 😊 16 Richard Papps 😊 18 Christine Rogers 😊 22 Christine Hovell 😊 23 Joy Gamby 😊 24 Daphne Glover

► Events Coming Up, December: -



➢ **Richmond Villas Christmas Dinner:** **Saturday 5th December –** keep this date free!! **Cost $25 / person.**
Pay to Reception, by Friday 27th November

➢ **Birthday Afternoon Tea:** **Thursday 10th December 2.30pm.**
For the months of September, October, November & December.
ALL welcome to come and celebrate with cuppa & cake 😊



➢ **Friday Forum:** **Friday 11th December 10.30am**

► Events Coming Up, January 2027 -

➢ **Lavender Farm Trip:** **no set date yet, as it is dependent on when the Lavender is in bloom:** ***watch this space… late Dec or early January…***

➢ **Historical Maritime Museum & Riverboat Ride:** **in January – TBC.**
(date depends on tides and weather).

30 min boat ride $20pp
Lunch $15pp.

More info to come…







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: Village Van: FREE in town, $10pp ½ hour trip (such as to Kaiaua), $20pp for hour or more trip (such as travelling to Auckland, Hamilton).*** *This is not charged each-way and is a donation towards diesel and running costs. Drivers must provide a copy of their current driver's license to Reception.*

Hato Hone St John: Anywhere Pendant: for enquiries phone Hato Hone St John, on 0800-50-23-23 or email: stjohn.org.nz/medical-alarms

Now fully government funded for those who qualify, and/or special rates for Richmond Villas residents, who do not qualify for funding, but still want one.

These alarms are added on to your existing contract but with an extra charge for the Go Anywhere alarm, designed for use when you are outside the perimetre of your villa, anywhere in New Zealand where there is mobile coverage.

Note: that you can always use your mobile phone by dialing 111 when outside of the village (and charges will still be free).

The advantage of having the Anywhere pendant means that emergency services will have all of your details, that are loaded on to their database via your home alarm service (address, NHI, NOK etc.), and all you have to do is press the pendant. They can locate you instantly via GPS and can **speak with you through the pendant**.

- **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.

Book Review



Jonathan Peet: Jonathan Peet is a semi retired ex hunter, trapper, farmer, investor, and now part time novelist. Possum hunting is the unlikely catalyst for a historical novel written by local Hikuai man, Jonathan Peet. But this ex-farmer, musician and history lover says when hunting possums years ago he discovered evidence of old mining sites in the bush, sparking his love of history and the writing of his first book, ***Wairata*** which he self published in 2023.
It is an historical novel based in the Northern Taranaki and South Africa at the time of the South African (Boer) War.
Wairata, was written over a 30 year timespan, with several re-writes and plot changes along the way. When the story was finally in a place where he was very happy with it, he self-published with YourBooks Wellington. Writing the novel was a tremendously staisfying journey for Peet and has proven to be extremely popular with readers. His next book in the pipline is another interesting novel of an historical nature, but his time including a true life character.

Wairata

New Zealand, April 1890. On a cold grey autumn day, eleven year old David Campbell finds himself shipwrecked, taumatised, and orpahaned on the wild and wet west coast of the North Island. He is taken under the wing of a kindly widow on her rugged, remote farm in the back-blocks of northern Taranaki, where he thrives, and grows up, to farm the land. But war has raised its ugly head in the British Empire, and the young man finds himself dragged unwillingly into the Boer War in South Africa.

Readers describe the story as an emotional, hard to put down page turner that vividly captures New Zealand history and softens the harshness of war with a human story.
Information in this article was posted by Joanthan Peel on
authors.org.na/author/jonathanpeet/
A copy of the book isin the village library and Carsons bookshop.

Thames Croquet Club: Steampunk High Tea!

From **10am Sunday 15th November at the Croquet Club.**
$10pp. *Turn up any time between 10am & 1pm.*



You are welcome to have a game of croquet after morning tea. *Open to all - if you havn't played before, come and give it a go! Someone can show you the ropes!*

The Steampunk market will be on at Victoria Park the same day.

Toasted Red Pepper, Tuna and Jalapeno Enchiladas

Basically, a tuna melt wrapped up in a tortilla and baked to a golden cheesy deliciousness!



Filling

2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 small red onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
½ teaspoon each ground cumin, smoked paprika and dried oregano
Sea salt and ground pepper
185 gram can tuna in springwater, well drained
1 roasted red pepper from a jar, chopped
1 cup canned corn kernels, or thawed, frozen corn
½ cup sour cream
2 tbsp chopped sliced pickled jalapenos (or to taste)
Small handful coriander, finely chopped
½ cup grated mozzarella

To Assemble

1 ½ cups store-bought tomato pasta sauce
4 regular flour tortillas (about 18cm)
½ cup each grated tasty cheese and grated mozzarella

To Serve

2 tbsp finely chopped red onion mixed with 1 teaspoon Lemon juice,
Sliced pickled jalapenos

Preheat the oven to 180 degrees Celsius, fan bake.

Filling: heat the oil in a small frying pan, add the onion, garlic, cumin, paprika and oregano and season well with salt and pepper.
Cook for 8 minutes until the onion is soft. Tip into a large bowl, cool for 10 minutes, then stir in the remaining ingredients.

To assemble: Spread a thin layer of the tomato pasta sauce over the base of an ovenproof baking dish that will hold the enchiladas snugly in a single layer.
Divide the tuna mixture evenly between the tortillas, then roll them up and put seam side down in the baking dish. Spoon the remaining tomato sauce over the tortillas and top with the combined cheeses.
Bake for 25-30 minutes until golden and bubbling.

To Serve: Spoon over the onions and as many sliced jalapenos as desired.

Serves 2 generously

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