

THIS WEEK
6 page issue!

Tairua Pauanui The Local Advertiser



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16th December 2020

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Volume 20 Number 51

The Big Christmas Whanau Lunch

Without a doubt, Christmas is going to look different this year compared to other years. On the plus side, because of Covid, families might be more focussed on the importance of time together verses gifts of over-indulgence. On the negative side, because of Covid, families may struggle to put a festive celebration meal on the table.

One thing that will be the same as last year, in Tairua, is the "Big Christmas Whanau Lunch".

Tairua Elim Church and friends were thrilled with their Community Christmas Lunch

last year, calling it "an event to remember". Tables were beautifully decorated and a menu of ham, chicken, pork belly, roast potatoes, roast pumpkin, kumara, carrots, peas and a green salad was served for main course. To top it off, Pavlova, fruit salad and trifle was on for dessert. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the company of the 53 others that attended. A highlight was the impromptu singing by the Solomon orchard workers!

The Big Christmas Whanau Lunch is set to go ahead this year with a similar menu,

and, hopefully, with just as many attendees, if not more, to really boost the Christmas Day spirit. If you are facing a Christmas without family or other company, consider going along to the Tairua Hall to enjoy delicious Christmas fare and good company.

In its first year, a number of international visitors were among those attending the luncheon which made for an interesting gathering as these folk explained about Christmas Day in their home countries. Whist we may not have many international visitors present this year, one of the highlights will be meeting with others and talking about family traditions



Keri Pollard with Ruth Lee at last year's Big Christmas Whanau Lunch.

and customs we remember as children, New Zealand-style.

Please contact Pastor Marlene on 864 8762 to register your attendance at this free event.

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Stella pays it forward

Way back in April, 2019 we publicised the fundraising efforts of young Stella Cory-Wright. Stella was looking to raise \$7,190 for a three week trip to Vietnam during 2020. The trip, hosted by the 'Antipodeans' organisation, was to include a week hiking through the backblocks of Vietnam, a week working in a small village helping to build school and teacher accommodation buildings, and the last week of the trip was for travelling and experiencing the Vietnamese culture. It was to be a trip of a lifetime.

Sadly, COVID-19 put an end to that!

During the course of 2019 Stella diligently worked at raising the required funds, with lots of generous, local support. The ticket money was handed over and she had secured her spot. 2020 loomed brightly. However, when the borders closed around the world, the travel industry was thrown into chaos and many businesses closed leaving customers adrift, without their trips and

in many cases without refunds! And this is what happened to Stella's trip!

Not content to lie down, extensive lobbying on the part of Thames High School and the affected families eventually resulted in the travel company concerned being able to find funds to make full ticketing refunds.

Now Stella had a different dilemma. The funds she had raised had come from all sorts of endeavours and from numerous people. Her conscience demanded that it should be returned but that was impossible, so instead she came up with the idea to pay it forward by making a donation to a worthy charity with the refunded ticket money. Stella decided her \$1500 donation would go to Save the Children Fund and she made that contribution recently.

What started out as a very sad story for Stella has turned into a happy story for the Save the Children Fund! Well done everyone! Nice one, Stella, you're cut from a great cloth!

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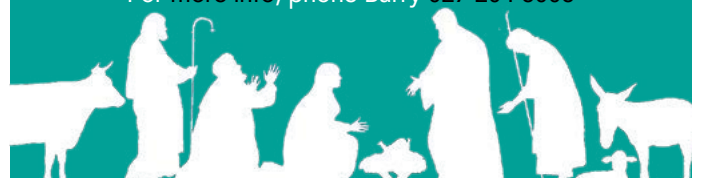
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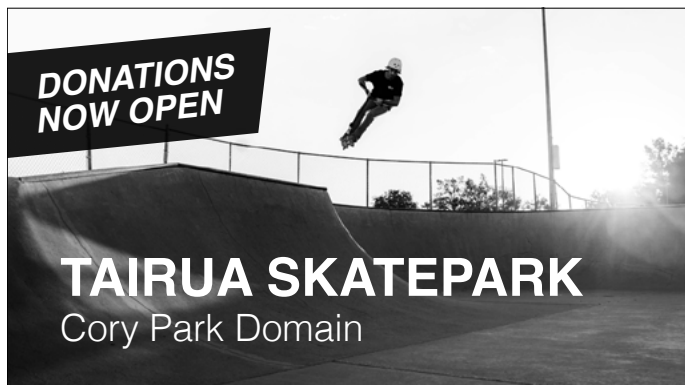
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Our community must raise \$150,000 and we are so close!

We are thrilled to announce that Tairua Sport & Recreation Trust is now a registered charity!

Donations of all sizes can be deposited and you'll get a tax deductible receipt.

Please deposit to BNZ or leave at Tairua Information Centre.

Tairua Sport & Recreation Trust: 02-0304-0046024-000

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Tairua's lifeguards kick off the summer season

The sight of red and yellow flags, along with an excited bunch of young new recruits hitting the water, signalled the start of the new season at Tairua Surf Lifesaving Club at the weekend.

In addition to the first volunteer lifeguard patrols of the summer, Saturday Morning Rippers kicked off on December 5th with around 20 children turning up for an action-packed morning that included beach games, swimming skills, paddleboarding and even a ride in the inflatable rescue boat.

"We couldn't have asked for a better first day. It was flat and calm so we could get all the kids in the water. Even those who haven't had much experience in the surf were able to get out there and give it a go which was great to see," said the club's junior surf coordinator, Louise Schofield.

Aimed at primary aged students, the Saturday Morning Rippers runs weekly until the end of March with a focus on water safety, surf skills and confidence building. It is

also a pathway into the club for new members, many of whom go on to train as lifeguards.

"The vast majority of the Tairua lifeguards who now instruct these kids have come up through the junior surf programme themselves. This year many of them will have paid summer jobs within the club so they are earning while doing something they absolutely love."

Saturday Morning Rippers is one of two junior programmes Tairua Surf Life Saving Club delivers.

"We also have our three-week Summer Junior Surf Programme coming up, starting on 28 December. This runs every weekday morning. Last year we had more than 100 kids taking part aged between 6 and 13 and we're on track for something similar this year. Anyone can get involved, you do need to have some swimming ability but all the details are on our website along with the registration form," says Louise.

More information is available at www.tairuaslsc.org.nz



Photo supplied

Tairua Surf Life Saving Club's junior surf coordinator, Louise Schofield, pictured with some of the kids in action at Saturday Morning Rippers.

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