

THIS WEEK
4 page issue!

Tairua Pauanui The Local Advertiser



WHAT'S YOUR SCORE?
Use the letters to make 4+ letter words

P	E	I
R	S	S
V	E	U

Beat Barry's 32.
Words must contain the middle letter. Plurals OK if 'S' is in the grid.
Barry's answers online, under "issues"

21st February 2024

Website: www.tairuaadvertiser.nz
Phone/Fax: 864 8170 Email: tairua.advertiser@xtra.co.nz

Volume 24 Number 8

One year on from Gabrielle, response plan in place

As some folks were focussed on celebrating the loves of their lives last week, on Valentine's Day, a similar number I suspect were counting their blessings and misfortunes as they remembered the anniversary of Cyclone Gabrielle. A year ago many parts of the country experienced a storm unlike any they had ever known. Widespread devastation occurred from Northland to the East Cape, with the Coromandel being particularly savagely dealt to. In our neck of the woods we were subjected to prolonged flooding, isolation and loss of power.

During the height of the

cyclone, Tairua's Community Response Group (CRG) was very busy coordinating the effort to keep us all safe, to keep us informed, and to help us manage without outside help.

Since then, the CRG, made up of representatives from "first-responders" including Police, Fire and Emergency NZ, St John, LandSAR and Coastguard, as well as representatives from St Francis Church (the CRG base in emergencies), Tairua Residents & Ratepayers Association, and TCDC-appointees, has been working on a response plan to address the lessons learned from Cyclone Gabrielle.

In conjunction with TCDC, the group has worked to improve communications capability and welfare coordination. New resources such as a Starlink Satellite Dish and generators are now stored in town. The local Emergency Response Plan has been revitalised to provide a methodical approach to supporting our community. A process for door-to-door welfare checks, to ensure all residents are accounted for, safe and supported has been devised.

Other aspects of the plan include:

- Connecting those at risk to services and support;
- Providing a place of shelter and support to affected members of the community.
- Helping people, where needed, to connect with

family or significant others;

- Identifying emergency accommodation options and matching people to need;
- Keeping the community informed.

Lead for the CRG, Peter Castles, said, "If you live in the Tairua community and want to be part of the Community Response Group, or wish to volunteer to be part of the door-to-door welfare checks campaign, get in touch with me by emailing tairua.crg@gmail.com."

The CRG has to be applauded for their efforts, coping with an unprecedented civil defence emergency as it unfolded, then sticking to the task to improve and streamline their efforts should they be needed again. Let's give them our full support.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ST FRANCIS CHURCH
WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

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& Kids' Church
Fellowship & Morning Tea

Wednesday
8.30am Meditation

Tues, Thurs & Sat
Op Shop open
9.30am – 1pm

Enquiries 07 864 8727
or 021 0275 6807
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Music • Movement
Dancing • Singing
Fun • Friends

TUESDAYS • STARTING AT 10
(DURING THE SCHOOL TERM)
TAIRUA HALL ANNEXE

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Flood resilience support for the Coromandel

Waikato Regional Council (WRC) has just received under \$2.3 million from the Local Government Flood Resilience Co-investment Fund towards three projects to improve the resilience of communities impacted by Cyclone Hale and Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023.

\$642,000 of that will be used for removal of storm-affected vegetation, mostly old poplars, willows and pines from Peninsula waterways. The old will be replaced by new! Willows and poplars will be replanted to help stabilise the riverbanks.

Last year, WRC received over \$1 million in October towards similar river management works on the Coromandel Peninsula and to remediate damage to the Graham's Creek catchment flood scheme in Tairua.

The fallout from the 2023 summer flooding created a

huge workload and financial burden for WRC. The frequent localised heavy rain over that period left behind a huge trail of damage across the region. The Catchment Manager, Greg Ryan, reported that this additional funding is greatly appreciated.

The extra funds will allow more than basic remedial works to be done. To withstand larger flood events and provide community resilience, full-scale stabilisation of the riverbanks and removal of gravel and debris from the rivers will be carried out. Measures such as these make for stable rivers; increasing capacity within river channels, decreasing instream blockages, improving bank stability and decreasing sediment in channels and harbours.

Good news for WRC and great news for Coromandel communities!

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TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC NEWS

This fundraiser, at Anniversary Weekend, to provide water tanks for villages in Fiji, was a great success.

Organiser, Pat Lee wishes to thank major sponsors and contributors; St Francis Church, Tairua Elim Church, St Francis Op Shop, Tairua Information Centre, Tairua St John, Tairua Hall and Tairua Print for their generous support of the event. Pat is very grateful to the large team of helpers that turned up on the day to set up, serve and pack up!

All this help and effort resulted in over \$3100 being raised for the project! Well done everyone!

Raffle results:

1st prize	Bill Boon
2nd prize	Belinda Marden
3rd prize	Rachel Fanshawe

Competition winners:

Bears in the Jar	Nate Walker (162)
Name the Teddy	Hamish Coombe
Who Are These Bears?	Harper Stanley

A highlight of the day was the attendance of a holidaying Fijian family whose Mum used the carry water for her village as a child! They were generous supporters of the cause!