

THIS WEEK
4 page issue!

Tairua Pauanui The Local Advertiser



WHAT'S YOUR SCORE?

K	L	F
A	H	A
E	C	C

Use the letters to make 4+ letter words

Beat Barry's 14.
Words must contain the middle letter. Plurals OK if "s" is in the grid.
Barry's answers online, under "issues"

23rd July 2025

Website: www.tairuaadvertiser.nz
Phone: +64 7 864 8170 Email: tairua.advertiser@xtra.co.nz

Volume 25 Number 29

History Trail revamp

Tairua Information Centre (TIC) recently reached the end of its supply of Tairua History Trail brochures. These popular brochures had been available in the Peninsula's information centres, promoting our History Trail as a "self-conducted" tour for tourists visiting the area.

Like many older publications, the details around how the brochure had been put together were lost. But not to be hampered, TIC set about revamping the original into a modern and attractive successor. With the help from Tairua Print (oh,

that's us!) the new brochure was designed, fact-checked and published, and is now available at TIC and other information centres on the Coromandel.

The brochure works in conjunction with the site markers that have been installed around Tairua at places of significant historical interest. Each site marker is a readily identifiable post with an explanation panel attached, to expand on the brochure text. Each site is identified on the brochure map for those walking the

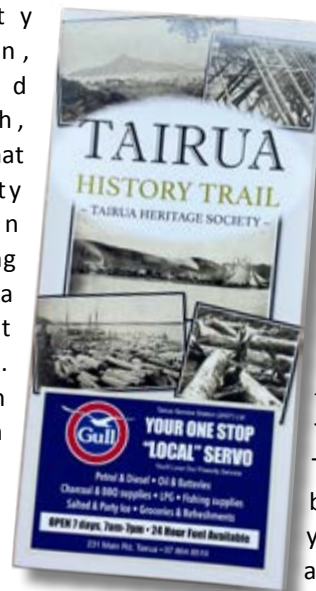
trail.

Tairua Society chairman, David Rushforth, explained that the Society has been collaborating on adding a new twist to the Trail. It has been working with a group that can supply audio links for each of the sites, accessible from mobile phones

Heritage

via QR codes, to enhance the depth of information at any given site. So the trail experience will be enhanced beyond the brochure text. This, when it is completed, will provide a class-leading curated tour for our visitors!

If you haven't taken the Tairua History Trail tour, drop into TIC to pick up your brochure and expand your local knowledge as you get a better understanding of all that has gone before us!



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Short & Sweet

Keen locals again participated in the country's annual Garden Bird Survey at the end of last month. Lasting a week, participants had to choose an hour on one day during the survey period to record what they saw, identifying species and numbers. Some 5,800 people took part nationwide and submitted their results. The hour of bird-watching recorded 215,314 birds and 124 different species. Data is compared year to year to help identify trends and patterns in the bird population.

Fundraising for Tairua Residents and Rate-payers Association's (TRRA) "Pontoon in the Pepe" project is going well. TRRA has nearly met its target of \$5,000. The Give-a-Little site has generated keen interest and generous donations. If you have been meaning to contribute, you can still access the Give-a-Little page by searching for "pontoon" or "pepe". Alternatively, you can donate directly to TRRA's bank account 06-0457-0071087-00, stating "Pontoon" in the reference section. If you want to know more contact Jo on 021 0278 318 or Annie on 029 252 3253.

The Tairua Buy Local campaign has been running for a fortnight now. Anyone spending \$30 or more in a participating business is eligible to go into a fortnightly prize for vouchers valued at \$150. If you spend \$60 or more, the voucher prize goes up to \$250! Ask for a receipt for your purchase and write your name and contact details on the back, then drop it into the marked bucket in that participating business. This competition is part of a peninsula wide campaign that encourages and supports local enterprise.

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Local Elections looming

At the start of July nominations opened for the upcoming local elections in October. Things are moving! Potential candidates have until the end of the month to register their nominations. Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC) has issued its Pre-Election Report. This is available on the TCDC website.

The Pre-Election Report provides an overview of Council's structure, information about voting options, including the new Māori Ward, the Council's top priorities for the future and the major capital works projects that are planned over the next three years. It outlines its financial position and its performance on key financial measures. It also includes financial statements and projections from 2022 through to 2029.

Any eligible voters in the District who may be uncertain about what local elections are all about, or potential candidates in the election, should make it compulsory reading. The key priorities

and issues that lie ahead for the District are outlined. It is important to understand them and to work out our positions on them. That way we will be making informed voting decisions.

The Pre-Election Report contains fascinating information! Did you know that there are 50 settlements in the District? Did you know that about 52% of our ratepayers don't live in the District? Did you know that 43% of the District population is over 60? Did you know that the median District age is 55 years, and that the national median is 38 years? Did you know that across the District there are 27,000 private dwelling? Did you know that a third of those dwellings are vacant most of the year?

As you can appreciate the Thames-Coromandel District is a complex one. It needs competent governance and management to balance the wants and needs of all ratepayers to ensure that we get the best of such a mixed bag.

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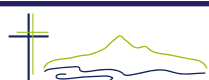
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Julie is one in a million

We recently had a print job to do for a very special client, Julie Woods, who lives in Dunedin. Julie is that blind woman. Seriously, she is! Her email, julie@thatblindwoman.co.nz, attests to it! Her story, it turns out, is fascinating...

In 1997 Julie was declared legally blind after having experienced diminishing vision following the births of her children. Her life however was not over, not by a long shot! Julie realised that she had two choices: to be pitied or admired. She chose the latter!

Instead of letting adversity define her, she focused on learning new skills, turning obstacles into opportunities. One such opportunity was learning Braille. With it she reclaimed the written word and went on to become the Braille Literacy Coordinator at the Blind Foundation. Her focus became making the world a more inclusive and connected place.

Around 2012, Julie set a goal of writing the names of one million people in Braille. She explained, "When my husband Ron and I started travelling together I would write the names of our guides and hotel staff in Braille [on a card] as a gift, using a portable slate and stylus. One young woman in India cried when I gave her name to her saying, 'Words cannot describe how I am feeling at this time.' That got me to thinking there was something in this small act of Braille kindness. So I decided to set this goal because I wanted to raise awareness of Braille, tell the story of the little French

boy Louis Braille who changed the world with his reading and writing system, and to connect the world with dots."

To date, her efforts to record a million names has taken the tally to 38,297, and the names have gone out to 57 countries around the world. One of her cards has gone to "The Dark Destroyer" Shawn Wallace, when he visited Dunedin in 2019. Just last week, Keri and I received a card each with our names inscribed in Braille, and also a card saying "Tairua Print" so we reckon we are 38,295th, 38,296th and 38,297th on her list!

Julie has also achieved many other goals on her life journey. From learning Braille, walking every street in Dunedin, visiting 50 countries before turning 50, even refereeing nude touch rugby (!!!), Julie is indeed to be admired! She is a professional speaker, author, advocate and coach.

If you would like to help Julie reach her one million names target, visit: www.thatblindwoman.co.nz. You will receive a free card with your name in "dots". The card also has a key on it so that you can interpret the Braille.

And if you feel you'd like to help her financially, you can make a donation so that others can receive their names in Braille free too.

Julie's story is inspiring. Getting to know her via email has been a week's highlight. I've got to admit, though, I am still wondering how you ref a game of nude touch rugby!! I have yet to pluck up the courage to ask her!



Photo: Amanda Phillips

Julie Woods, that blind woman, with The Dark Destroyer Shawn Wallace wearing the 10,000 names sash in November 2019.