20th August 2025

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Volume 25 Number 33

Meet the candidates

Voting in the local elections takes place in October. The candidates' list has been confirmed and announced!

In our neck of the woods we shall be voting for a mayor. There are six mayoral candidates: Steve Hart, Patrick Kerr, Denise Messiter, Peter Revell, Len Salt, and James Subritzky.

We shall also be voting for two South East councillors: There are six candidates: Denis Beaver, Mark Drury, Neil Evans, John Freer, Kurt Jarrett, and Alison Smith. Voters registered on the Maori roll will be represented at the council table by the sole candidate, Michael Barlow.

At the most local level, we shall be voting for four Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board members. There are five candidates: Georgina Bond, Warwick Brooks, Michael Bush, Chris New, and Barry Roberts

Regionally, Waikato Regional Council (WRC) has also announced its candidates. In the Thames-Coromandel constituency we shall be voting for one councillor. There are two candidates: Warren Maher and Jason Roxburgh.

Quick off the mark, Pauanui and Tairua Residents and Ratepayers Associations have organised "Meet the Candidates" sessions on

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Saturday 6 September 2025. All relevant candidates have been invited to attend. The first session takes place at the Pauanui Club from 10:15am to 12:15pm. The second session takes place at Tairua Community Hall from 1.45pm to 3.45pm.

This is our chance to meet the local election candidates. There will be prepared questions asked of the various candidates that will help us discern their priorities and plans for the District. If time allows there will be a chance to ask questions from the floor.

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Tairua Rugby League resurrected

Over a decade ago, a group of enthusiastic and dedicated local rugby league stalwarts got together to provide a rugby league experience for their children. Under the auspices of Tairua Rugby and Sports Club youngsters formed graded teams known as the "Tairua Taniwha." This group of youngsters included Phoenix Vetenibua-Finnerty who progressed through agegrade teams before heading off to Australia to join the St George-Illawarra Dragons pathways programme.

Now, a new generation of parents has resurrected the Tairua Rugby League Club, this time under the umbrella of the Tairua Sports and Recreation Trust, the team that worked to get the Tairua Skatepark to completion.

To launch this new league initiative, a pre-season event was held at Pauanui's Lakes Resort at the beginning of the month where Jacob Lillyman, NRL legend, was a guest of honour. Jacob played for the North Queensland Cowboys, the Warriors and Newcastle Knights in the NRL, and represented Queensland in State of Origin. Darren "Dazza" Jarrett emceed the event and ex-NZ Junior league rep Warren

Finnerty, father of Phoenix, returned from Australia for the special occasion.

Club organiser, Betty-May Mason, is excited at the surge in popularity that league is currently undergoing. Last year the group had thirty-one players registered. This year over a hundred youngsters are signed up! At the weekend, local teams took part in a carnival day at Thames. Hauraki District Rugby League, the region's parent body, has seen similar growth with nine hundred players taking part.

Betty-May pointed out that for the first time Tairua is able to field an U15 league team. Coached by husband Johnny, this team is one of seven Tairua teams playing this season. Draws for all the games, including the Men's first game at the end of the month, will be available this week

As this fledgling club gets itself off the ground it could do with our support. Anyone offering help will be welcome, as will donations towards uniforms and equipment. If you would like to get behind another grassroots enterprise, contact Betty-May via the Club email, tairuarugbyleague@ gmail.com with your offers!



From the early days of Tairua Taniwha, Tairua rugby league has been resurrected and the surge in popularity is evident at local and regional level.

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