12th November 2025

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Tairua locals sitting around the Council tables

Throughout the local elections we heard pleas for local concerns to be represented at Council tables by local people. The elections resulted in just that, with Tairua locals, Alison Smith elected to represent the South-East Ward at the Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC) table and Warren Maher re-elected to represent the Thames-Coromandel region at the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) table!

Councillor Smith was sworn in on 31 October. Alison will lead TCDC's External Communications portfolio, an area close to her heart given her more than two decades working in journalism and communications. She will also sit on the Planning and Regulatory Committee, the Environment Committee, and serve as the alternate representative for the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

Councillor Maher was sworn in on 29 October. At this first WRC meeting of the incoming Council, Warren was named chairman of the new Council. His was the only nomination for the chairperson's position and he was declared the chair. Warren campaigned as part of a Rates Control Team and is focused on controlling rates,

environmental management, public transport, and flood protection and drainage.

Accepting the nomination, Warren said, "There is a real desire around the table to move the council forward... We have some amazing staff, some amazing people on the ground delivering incredible mahi for the region. We want to carry that forward." He called for unity and balanced decision-making around the economy, social and cultural values, and the environment, for the benefit of the Waikato region.

Both Alison and Warren will bring a local voice and ear to regional politics as they advocate and work for the overall good of their respective regions. Congratulations to you both!





Top: Alison Smith will represent the South-East Ward, Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC) and, **Bottom: Warren Maher** will represent the Thames-Coromandel region, Waikato Regional Council (WRC).

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The annual Hikuai School Market Day will be held on Saturday 22 November 2025, from 10am to 2pm. This will be the third year that this Hikuai School fundraiser hosts community stalls and they are very keen to welcome everyone back!

Last year's event featured 30 stalls, offering everything from plants to pies, and plenty in between. Already this year the range of stalls include jewellery, bric 'a' brac, jams, chutneys, puzzles and anime, even authors selling books! And keen to grow the event, the organisers invite anyone who hasn't yet made contact to do so to register their stall. More food stalls and food trucks are particularly welcome!

Students of Hikuai School will again be showcasing their student-led enterprise

projects, selling a range of their creative products.

The organisers have combined the Scholastic Book Fair with the Market Day and their display will feature books, stationery and toys, all of which make ideal Christmas gifts! Children's book character, Geronimo Stilton, will be visiting the Market for photos and selfies throughout the day.

The "Hikuai Tea Shop" will be open too, serving a delicious selection of teas, cakes, and slices from Cabana in Pauanui, and will provide the perfect spot to relax and enjoy the Market atmosphere.

If you're interested in booking a stall contact Michelle at the school office on 07 864 7817 or email her at office@hikuai.school.nz. Stalls cost \$20.



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