

**THIS WEEK**  
4 page issue!

# Tairua Pauanui The Local Advertiser



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

I	N	T
D	M	G
E	A	U

**Beat Barry's 38.**  
Words must contain the middle letter. Plurals OK if 's' is in the grid.  
Barry's answers online, under "issues".

Website: [www.tairuaadvertiser.nz](http://www.tairuaadvertiser.nz)

20th May 2026

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Volume 26 Number 20

## Your input needed into Regional and Local Governance reforms

Recently the Government announced its Head Start pathway towards local governance reform. Councils were given a timeframe of 90 days to consider reform proposals that could deliver "larger, more efficient unitary authorities that streamline functions, reduce duplication and improve decision-making".

Regional and local bodies were, essentially, urged to submit proposals as to how consolidation of local and regional services and functions could be

streamlined, made more efficient and stronger, all within a three month period.

Waikato Regional Council (WRC) has been considering these issues for some time, and has already indicated that regional functions need to remain a focus in any such emerging authority structure. WRC's reform preference is a single unitary authority and has already been working with the Waikato Mayoral Forum to explore and develop that option.

WRC sees local voice an important input to help shape

reform across the Waikato region. WRC Chairman, Warren Maher said WRC recognised the importance of its relationships with iwi and reform options would be discussed with them. He also urged regional ratepayers to contact their constituent councillors to share their ideas on what the future of local government in the Waikato could look like.

At district level, Thames Coromandel District Council's (TCDC) Mayor Peter Revell says while Council supports the moves toward cost savings and efficiencies in local government, and is willing to meet the Government's deadline, Council will ensure there is adequate opportunity

for all voices to contribute to any reform proposal that emerges. Despite the time pressure, community boards and community organisations (residents and business associations particularly) will have an opportunity to assist the Council in formulating its response.

It is heartening to see, at both regional and local governance levels, the respective Councils keen to get constituent views as they formulate ways forward. Take the opportunity to make sure your voice is heard.

More information on the Government's local government reform proposals is on the Department of Internal Affairs website.

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Welcome to our bridge builders!

The Pepe Bridge project is underway! And with it, building crews, and machinery, that will make Tairua home for the next year or so.

Last week, nightworks began with the bridge closed to traffic from 7pm until 6am, albeit with periodic opening to traffic during the closed period. Restrictions continued this week as well. A number of drivers were caught out by the closures, unaware of the timetable. And sadly, a number of these folk were abusive towards the project staff in charge of traffic management.

The project is not just building a new bridge. It is contributing in a variety of ways to the town's welfare. Sponsorship, donations and covering costs for displaced

hall users, among them.

Members of the building crew have been more than obliging fielding questions from passers by.

Did you know that, with the first stage of the project being the erection of another walkway on the Pepe Basin side, the crew putting in the necessary scaffolding have been working in wetsuits, in the water for long hours?

Did you know that the Pohutukawa tree that had to be removed to make way for the bridge widening has had cuttings taken from it and will produce the replacement trees when the project reaches its end?

Let's welcome, and extend hospitality to, all project personnel. Let's help make this the best project build for all of us.

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MP for Coromandel

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**A special King's Birthday Market** is planned for **Sunday** (not Saturday as we previously indicated) **31 May** from 9am until 1pm, at Tairua Bowling Club. If you would like to have a stall, inside or out, contact Tairua Information Centre to book your space. Drop into the Centre or email admin@tairua.co.nz, or phone 07 864 7575 or 027 479 7851.

**Tairua River Trail** is still looking for financial support to keep the trail construction moving. All contributions are welcome. A special offer is available at the moment as funds are earmarked for the construction of the proposed bridge across the river. Contributors have the chance to have their name enshrined on signage as a trail bridge builder. Go to <https://www.tairuarivertrail.org.nz/> for the details and stay abreast of the construction progress.

**This is the last week** to check out and bid in the Hello Friday Pink Ribbon Auction. You can find it at: <https://www.32auctions.com/PinkRibbon2026>. There are many and varied items up for grabs, from firewood and power tools to homewares and dining experiences. Each item has the current bid and the bid history listed. Some items even have a "buy now" price. Get in quick, then keep track of your bid!

**Calling all hunters** and gatherers: Hikuai School is gearing up for this year's Hunting Competition, held over the weekend of 19-21 June. It will include categories for pigs, critters (rabbits, possums, magpies) and fish. The comp always has great prizes and is supported by very generous sponsors! Check out Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hikuaihunting2021/>