

THIS WEEK
6 page issue!

Tairua Pauanui The Local Advertiser



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Use the letters to make 4+ letter words

Beat Barry's 23.
Words must contain the middle letter. Plurals OK if "S" is in the grid.
Barry's answers online, under "issues"

5th August 2026 Website: www.tairuaadvertiser.nz Phone: +64 7 864 8170 Email: tairua.advertiser@xtra.co.nz Volume 26 Number 31

Local Government reform gets closer

With the deadline for informing central government about preferences for unitary authority involvement approaching, Thames Coromandel District Council (TCDC) is currently in final discussions about possible amalgamation with both Hauraki District Council and Matamata-Piako District Council.

A huge amount of work has gone on since the Government's announcement on May 5 that it was "full steam ahead" on local government reform. The announcement

came with a Head Start process put in place that offered councils the opportunity to take the initiative and work through their preferences for amalgamation.

Throughout the Head Start process the public has been involved in providing feedback, as TCDC has discussed and negotiated with a number of other councils possible workable groupings to make up a new unitary authority.

Initially residents and ratepayers of TCDC were offered three amalgamation

options to consider and give preferences on: "Greater Waikato" covering ten existing councils, "North Bay of Plenty" covering four existing councils and "Eastern Waikato" covering four existing councils. Of the three options, it appears that the Eastern Waikato found the most favour, as three of the four councils in that option are taking the amalgamation proposal to the wire.

On Tuesday 4 August, TCDC, Hauraki District Council and Matamata-Piako District Council will be holding separate meetings to approve the recommendations prepared by council staff over the preceding three months. If

the respective councils agree to the recommendations, and the proposal is accepted by the Government, the unitary authority resulting would cover the Coromandel, Piako and Waihou areas.

By the end of the week, we should know what the outcomes of those meetings has been and what possible shape the future of local government may take. At this point, no decision has been made but by week's end all proposals have to be in the hands of Government. The pressure is on!

To stay abreast of developments check the TCDC website: <https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/Home>

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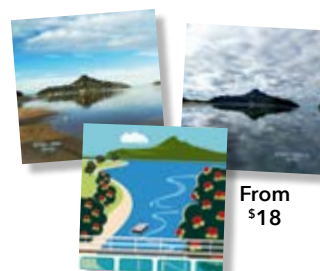
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'Ello, 'ello, 'ello A word from our local constabulary

Kia Ora Everyone,

We have gone to reporting once every two months during our less notable winter months.

June and July have sprouted some of the usual mishaps keeping us steady.

A Tairua offender who was previously arrested for Burglary in May was arrested again in June after breaching bail on multiple occasions and has now been remanded in custody until at least the middle of October.

Out of the Blue Café was subject to two attempted Burglaries but fortunately their fantastic security scared off the would-be thieves and captured good quality images. These images led us to one of the suspects who was arrested walking down the main road when we recognised he was wearing the same jacket with a distinctive paint splatter on the arm. The offender was bailed out of the area and has since pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing. We have leads on the second offender after their vehicle was identified and linked back to the Te Kuiti area.

A Tairua resident was left shaken after a stand over incident at his home address where two offenders took off with his vehicle and boat after he was assaulted. The investigation has been passed on to Detectives from the Criminal Investigation Branch who are investigating this further.

Matariki weekend seemed to have attracted a lot bad drivers to the area with multiple dangerous driving complaints throughout the weekend.

We attended two crashes, the first on Pumpkin Hill where a vehicle heading north was going too fast for a 25km corner, subsequently crossing the centre line and crashing head on into the oncoming vehicle carrying tourists visiting from Germany. The young culpable driver had two human passengers who both received moderate injuries and one doggo

which thankfully was unharmed.

The second crash on SH25A was a man in his 40s who had been visiting his lady friend and was travelling back to Auckland after indulging in quite a few too many alcoholic beverages. Whilst on the phone to his friend, she convinced him to turn back, only to reverse into a steep ditch where the vehicle became stuck. Emergency services were called and the driver underwent breath testing procedures. He subsequently blew over 1100 Micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath, over four times the legal limit. His driver's licence was suspended for 28 days, and the matter is now before the court.

The Golf Cart conversation has come up again, particularly around the Pauanui area so we would like to remind everyone of our expectations. We are particularly focussed on enforcement over our long weekends and holiday periods where roads are busy. If you have kids without a driver's licence, they should not be operating these on the roads or the footpath. They can only be driven on private property, such as a golf course or your back yard. If we see young persons operating these, they can expect to be pulled over, and we will take the keys for parents to uplift at the Tairua Police Station. Adults operating Golf Carts are expected to do so with care and follow the usual road safety rules.

If you are operating any type of vehicle that is propelled by an engine you are culpable for any incidents that may occur while you are in control of it. We do acknowledge that most residents are respectful and use these for their correct purpose, but we struggle with holiday makers using these as their daily run-about which can cause a bit of havoc.

Stay safe,

Nga mihi

Dylan & Tim, Tairua Police

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Next meeting
Monday 10th Aug, 1.30pm
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Short & Sweet

Tairua Business Association's "Buy Local" campaign is entering its last month of operation. Concluding on Monday 31 August, this is your last chance to buy from local businesses and enter into the draws to win vouchers from local stores. Check out the stores where you see the blue or orange window stickers and posters, spend over \$30 in one transaction, write your name and contact details on your receipt, and place it into the marked boxes.

With a number of recent earthquakes felt around the Coromandel lately, it is timely to review our knowledge of what to do in response to emergencies like earthquakes, and any resulting tsunamis that may occur. Geonet, a partnership between Natural Hazards Commission Toka Tū Ake, GNS Science, and Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), collects seismic wave information and presents it in layman's speak for the public to view and digest. Check out the activity from the last few weeks at: <https://www.geonet.org.nz/> earthquake. So what should our response be? The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) tells us, in the initial moments, to "Drop, Cover and Hold", and if it is "Long or Strong, Get Gone". Visit: <https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/emergency-preparedness> for further information, especially on how to prepare a household plan to respond to an emergency.

An early heads-up... this year's date for Pauanui's Pink Walk has been announced. Save the date: Saturday 3 October for a fun day of supporting Breast Cancer NZ, and enjoying the great outdoors with family and friends.

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Meteor activity sparks interest

As a child of the previous century, I was enamoured of a TV show, albeit in black and white, called "Fireball XL5." Some of you may remember it. It was a British puppet science fiction television series about the missions of Fireball XL5, a vessel of the World Space Patrol that policed the cosmos in the year 2062.

Why do I mention this, you may ask. Well, NZ is currently experiencing fireball action of a different kind! The news this past week has featured some spectacular fireballs in the sky above the country. Fireballs are the result of meteors; small particles ranging in size from a grain of sand to a pea, entering the Earth's atmosphere from space at high speed. The particles "burn up" in the upper atmosphere, briefly leaving a visible, incandescent trail. Lots of fireballs are referred to as meteor showers.

I have since learned that, whilst these latest sightings have created great interest, we have regular and reliable meteor showers in this part of the world, particularly during May and December, with other swarms between July and late August. Sixty or more fireballs per hour are often recorded during these showers under ideal, dark-sky conditions.

So much interest has grown up around meteors that "Fireballs Aotearoa" was formed to monitor the night sky, based on a nationwide



Photo: facebook.com

Meteor recorded by a camera last Wednesday in Whangarei Heads.

citizens' meteor camera network. Not only do they watch the night sky, they seek to find New Zealand's next meteorite!

Membership of Fireballs Aotearoa is open to anyone and most members host a meteor camera connected to a network. They participate as much or as little as they like in the monitoring, from passive hosting to working out from the data where the latest meteor is likely to have hit the country. The only proviso is that any meteorites found by Fireballs Aotearoa members have to be donated to a NZ museum where they can be enjoyed by the public and studied by scientists!

Interested? Visit <https://fireballs.nz/> for more information.

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