

THIS WEEK
4 page issue!

Tairua Pauanui The Local Advertiser

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

R	O	T
C	N	N
U	G	E

Beat Barry's 32.
Words must contain the middle letter. Plurals OK if 'S' is in the grid.
Barry's answers online, under "issues"

14th October 2026

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

Volume 26 Number 41

Gareth's a world champion

Tairua is home to another world champion! Local resident Gareth Beatson has recently returned from a very successful Brazilian Jiu-jitsu competition in Tokyo, Japan.

Brazilian Jiu-jitsu (BJJ) is a form of the traditional Japanese martial art. The Brazilian form is a close-combat variant that was developed a century ago, with a heavy emphasis on ground grappling and mixed martial arts application. On the Coromandel, BJJ has two training gyms, one at Whangamata and one in Tairua.

Gareth explained that, as a jiu-jitsu exponent for the past 5 years, he trains at the gym 5 to 6 days a week and supplements

that with additional weights and cardio exercise. This, he admits at the age of 51, is no mean feat!

Earlier this month, Gareth and wife Melissa travelled to Japan to compete at the Sports Jiu-jitsu International Federation World Championships, held at Yoyogi Stadium in Tokyo. Gareth competed in the Masters 5, Blue Belt, middle weight division.

His training obviously had been worth it, and Gareth came home with a gold and bronze medal in the NoGi (the combat uniform in this section is teeshirt and shorts) open weight division. In the Gi (the combat uniform is

Gareth Beatson recently returned from a very successful Brazilian Jiu-jitsu competition in Tokyo, Japan, bringing home gold and bronze medals.



Photo supplied

the traditional judo-type one) open weight and middle weight divisions, Gareth lost his bouts in the quarter finals.

Back home, and coming back to earth, Gareth is excited to be teaching Tairua children the basics of BJJ with Constable Dylan. He said the children have been really motivated by his success and can see the

benefit of training. If you are interested in finding out more about Tairua's Brazilian Jiu-jitsu contact Gareth and Dylan on TairuaBJJ@outlook.co.nz.

Gareth is not just a martial arts exponent, he is heavily involved in the local Land Search and Rescue group and recently qualified as a Justice of the Peace!

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S.S. Manaia sounding weight found, again!

Just over 100 years ago (June 1926) the *S.S. Manaia* grounded on the reef at the southeast end of Slipper Island. The ship became a total loss, though all passengers and crew aboard were rescued. After partial salvage, its remains lie submerged, and over time has become a popular dive site.

Local, Sel Bentley, was one who enjoyed diving on the wreck, once recovering a lead sounding weight. Weights used to be attached to a sounding rope which was marked off in fathom intervals and lowered overboard until it hit the seabed and then retrieved, so mariners knew water depth. Sel passed his treasure to Phil Mason who eventually donated it to Tairua Information Centre in 2015, anticipating a combined information and heritage centre being established. But, over time, the weight disappeared into oblivion as the idea of a combined facility dissipated.

Rowena Brown, one-time

Information Centre manager, recalls Phil regularly asking her where she thought the weight had ended up, but of course, no longer being closely involved in the Centre, she didn't know. However, in a recent conversation with current Centre manager, Eve Roper, she enquired into the whereabouts of the sounding weight, describing the weight as looking like an oversized fishing sinker. Eve explained that, as the storage arrangements for the Information Centre had recently changed, she now had to find homes in the Centre itself for some odd items. One of which she thought might be it. Not knowing what it actually was, Eve was using it as the doorstep!

So, a century after being lost at sea the treasured sounding weight has been found! It is hoped it will now be displayed in the Tairua Heritage Centre, a much more fitting spot than remaining as the Info Centre doorstep!

Information Centre manager, Eve Roper, with a lead sounding weight from the *S.S. Manaia*. Presumed "lost", it was being used as the Centre's doorstep!



PUBLIC NOTICES

Tairua Environment Society AGM

Tuesday 27 October 2026
3pm at Tairua Bowling Club
44 Hornsea Road Tairua

All Welcome

PUBLIC NOTICES

Sadly, we have to announce that **this year's Light Party will not be going ahead**, due to the Pepe Bridge out-of-bounds work areas at Pepe Reserve.

Ps Nico & Marlene, Elim Church

PUBLIC NOTICES

tairua PRINT
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CLOSED 17-20 OCTOBER
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Authorised by Miriam Ross, greens.org.nz

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📷 @nzgreenparty



TAIRUA RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION INC.

MEET THE CANDIDATES for the GENERAL ELECTION

Tairua Rugby Club, Sunday 18 October 10.30-1pm

Come to meet the 2026 Candidates ahead of the NZ General Election.
Alternate meetings:
Whangamata Memorial Hall Saturday 17 October 11am
Pauanui Puka Park Sunday 18 October 2pm

Tairua voting is taking place at St Francis House, 248 Main Road, Tairua
Advanced voting begins 27 October 2026, Voting day is 7 November

You must be registered to vote before midnight, Sunday 25 October
ratepayers.tairua@gmail.com
ALL WELCOME – Free public meeting

Scott Simpson

National Party Candidate for Coromandel



National

Authorised by S. Simpson, scott.simpson@national.org.nz

PUBLIC NOTICES

Elim

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Short & Sweet

Pauanui Community Church is holding its annual Labour Weekend Church Fair, from 9am to noon on Saturday 24 October. The organisers are keen to receive your unwanted books, games, puzzles, children's toys, art, white elephant (actually, any colours would be accepted), kitchen items, household goods, baby equipment, linen, towels, hand towels, sheets, pillowcases, plants, bikes, fishing gear, garden furniture or tools, plants, pots, garden art, wet suits, jam jars, old tools, and BBQs. They can collect the items from you, or you can drop them off on either Thursday 22 or Friday 23 October after 10am at the Rec Hall by the Pauanui Club. Contact Glen 027 268 4754, Lizzie 021 1398 497 or Bruce 027 8648 392 for assistance.

Pastors Nico and Marlene at Elim Church have announced that this year's Light Party will not go ahead due to the limited space and out-of-bounds areas at the Pepe Reserve while the Pepe Bridge replacement project continues. This popular alternative to Halloween, that has been running for many years and enjoyed by the community, will be missed.

The Bayley's Tairua Town Garage Sale takes place on the Saturday of Labour Weekend, 24 October, between 8am and 1pm. To have your garage sale included, register your address at Tairua Information Centre before Monday 19 October. A \$2 registration fee will be charged. The addresses of the registered garage sales will be added to a town map which you can purchase for \$2 from Bayleys Real Estate, Main Road, from Thursday 22 October.