

THIS WEEK
4 page issue!

Tairua Pauanui The Local Advertiser



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

I	E	U
L	B	L
N	E	T

Beat Barry's 16.
Words must contain the middle letter. Plurals OK if 's' is in the grid.
Barry's answers online, under "issues".

4th February 2026 Website: www.tairuaadvertiser.nz Phone: +64 7 864 8170 Email: tairua.advertiser@xtra.co.nz Volume 26 Number 5

New Pepe Bridge progressing

Planning for the replacement Pepe Bridge in Tairua is progressing and another public information day is planned for Thursday 26 February. This will be at Tairua Community Hall between 2pm and 6pm. The latest developments and ideas will be shared. We are all invited to go along, to be part of the consultation process, and to stay informed.

Because building the new bridge and at the same time maintaining access for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists will be challenging, the contractors plans and methodology will be a key part of the information day.

The plans are likely to show

a temporary pedestrian bridge built on the upstream-side of the current bridge. Then the existing pedestrian bridge will be removed. Construction of one of the lanes of the new two-lane bridge, and the shared path, can then start on the seaward side in its place. The new single lane will carry the traffic and pedestrians while the old bridge is dismantled and the other half of the new bridge and footpath is constructed.

News has broken that Tairua Community Hall will be used as the operations base and storage depot for the project, rendering it off-limits to the general public.

The Hall closure is due to



Photo: www.nzta.govt.nz

An artist's impression of the new Pepe Bridge. Another public information day is planned for Thursday 26 February at Tairua Community Hall between 2pm and 6pm.

the contractors being required to have a secure lay-down area for their machinery and materials. Other alternatives were investigated, but their costs were prohibitive and access limited. So, the Hall car park and surrounds will be fenced off to provide that, and the Hall itself will be included in that fenced-off

zone. This will be a long-term arrangement of course, to the end of the project in 2027.

Regular Hall user, Tairua Elim Church, is making plans already to re-locate all their Hall-based activities. While it may be inconvenient for a time, Pastor Marlene said, "We all have to make sacrifices for the common good."

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The good, the bad and the (potentially) ugly

By John Hindmarsh, Chair Tairua Pauanui Promotions Inc (the organiser of the NYE fireworks event)

Pauanui and Tairua holidaymakers were treated to a magnificent fireworks display at midnight on New Year's Eve this year. Even a passing shower right on midnight could not dampen the enthusiasm of the thousands who turned out to watch the show.

Unfortunately, some irresponsible behaviour by people who fired emergency distress flares at the show posed a very serious risk to the show and the people watching it. The flares landed in the harbour, thankfully, but as Dr Martin Van Tiel of Van Tiel Pyrotechnics Limited - the company that stages the show - noted, "The flares were a huge concern because if they had landed on the fireworks barge, they could have exploded the fireworks in an unsafe manner. If that

had happened, the resultant fire or explosion would have meant the complete loss of the show, the equipment on the barge and even the barge itself. The fire would have presented a serious public danger as it would have been too dangerous to extinguish it."

As Coastguard New Zealand posted on New Year's Eve, "... firing off a distress flare when you're not in actual trouble is illegal - and it sets a whole lot in motion. When someone spots a flare, Coastguard and other emergency services treat it as a real deal. That means volunteer callouts, All Stations broadcasts, and people heading out to look for someone who isn't actually missing."

Let's keep the good (the fireworks display and the people who line the Tairua harbour to welcome in the new year) but dispense with the bad and thereby avoid the potentially ugly.



Photo supplied

The fireworks display at New Year's Eve this year. Let's keep this tradition an enjoyable and safe one for all.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**Tairua Care and Friendship Club
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Tairua Care and Friendship Club will be held at **Tairua Rugby Club on 24th February 2026 at 1.15pm.** The agenda includes the annual report, financial statements, and the election of officers.

Any member wishing to submit a motion must do so by 20th February to: tairua.cf@outlook.com

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FREE BRIDGE LESSONS

St Francis House
MONDAYS 8.45am
(Starting 16th February)

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TAIRUA MARKET DAY THIS SAT 7th FEB

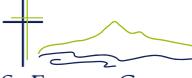
PUBLIC NOTICES

Tairua Care and Friendship Club

TUESDAY LUNCHESES

Start Feb 10th, 12pm

NEW VENUE: TAIRUA RUGBY CLUB



ST FRANCIS CHURCH

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Sunday
9.30am Worship Fellowship & Morning Tea

Tues, Thurs & Sat
Op Shop open 9.30am - 1pm

Enquiries 07 864 8727 or 021 0275 6807
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PUBLIC NOTICES



CHURCH TOGETHER
INCLUDING ELIM KIDS PROGRAM

Sundays 10.30am
Tairua Hall

Music **STARTS 10 FEB @ NEW VENUE**

CONNECT TOGETHER
LITTLES, PARENTS, CAREGIVERS

Tuesdays 10am
St Francis House
DURING SCHOOL TERM

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Tairua Golf & Country Club

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Enquiries:
Frances 021 910 069
Margaret 027 231 0384

Short & Sweet

The Summer Art Fair, organised by Tairua Art Group, on Saturday 24 January at St Francis House was a great success, despite the weather-related challenges. The community and visitors enjoyed all that was on offer. The organisers are grateful to everyone who turned up to help, browse, chat, and support. The Group is donating \$200 to Tairua Food Bank on behalf of the event.

Tairua Community Hall will be closed to the public during the construction of the replacement Pepe Bridge. By current estimates, this is likely to be from July this year to the end of 2027. The area around the Hall is needed as the secure lay-down area for the contractor's machinery and materials. The Hall car park and surrounds will be fenced off to provide that, and the Hall building is included in the zone. This means Hall users will be looking for suitable venues elsewhere.

Elim Church's Music programme starts for the year on Tuesday 10 February at St Francis House, a venue change now, in preparation for the disruptions to the Hall access. The popular event for under 5s runs during school terms.

Tairua Care and Friendship Club's Tuesday luncheons have a new venue. From Tuesday 10 February these will take place at Tairua Rugby and Sports Club.

A special thank you to Alan Mosen who has been seen wandering all over the town painting our walkway signs in preparation for the new signage to be attached. Alan's work has revealed many more walkway posts than we have ever noticed! Thanks, Alan, for your special effort! We appreciate it!

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