

THIS WEEK
6 page issue!

Tairua Pauanui The Local Advertiser



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Beat Barry's 32.
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Barry's answers online, under "issues".

4th March 2026 Website: www.tairuaadvertiser.nz Phone: +64 7 864 8170 Email: tairua.advertiser@xtra.co.nz Volume 26 Number 9

Troubadours bring show forward

When it was announced that Tairua Community Hall would be closing for the duration of the new Pepe Bridge build, community groups using the facility were quick to spring into action finding suitable alternative venues to carry out their activities. Jennie Turner, writer-director for Tairua Troubadours, was faced with the loss of the venue they have used for over 20 years to perform their shows.

Her initial reaction, faced with working within a limited timeframe, was to cancel this year's show, and look to performing again once the

Hall was available in 2028. Cast members weren't so keen on that plan and persuaded her that "the show must go on!"

With the Hall closure announced for mid-year, Troubadours have decided that their 2026 show, "The Toscars – People's Choice Awards 2026" will be brought forward several months, and be performed as the likely last Hall event of the year, starting on April 23.

Jennie explained that rehearsals for the show will be 'fast and furious' due to Easter, school holidays and prior commitments made by

the cast when the original scheduled show date was June. Due to the change, a few familiar cast members have had to pull out but Jennie says they have gained three newbies!

This show will be the third Toscars (Tairua Oscars) performance, where the cast celebrate and perform the best bits from past shows. It has been called the 'People's Choice Awards' this time because on each performance night the overall winner will be decided by the audience! The audience will vote by table, with their choices placed in an envelope. The one with the most audience votes will win the coveted Toscar.

Tickets for the show



The show dates are April 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th (matinee), 29th, 30th, and May 1st, 2nd.

are on sale now. Email: tairuatroubadours@gmail.com

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Advertising Deadlines **SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE SPACE**: All Boxed & Unboxed ads Friday 5pm. HOURS (subject to change): Monday - Friday 9.30-5. Saturday 9.30-12.30. Sunday & Public holidays Closed.

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Short & Sweet

Applications to the Thames-Coromandel Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund close on 6 March for anyone impacted by the January 21st/22nd storm event. The fund provides one-off assistance for extraordinary circumstances and can be used to support the needs of affected individuals, families, community organisations, small businesses and marae. Visit: www.tcdc.govt.nz/relief

Pauanui is looking forward to welcoming the 2026 Repco Beach Hop on Thursday 26 March. There will be hundreds of Beach Hop cars parked on the airfield with live music, a craft market, and food stalls to entertain and refresh those attending. Being an airfield, there will be a static airplane and jet car display. Pauanui Village will be in on the act with discounts, great food and great vibes. Pauanui Club will feature bands, drinks and food. There will even be a "Pimp Your Golf Cart" competition. Start time is 10.30am.

Tairua Surf Life Saving Club has been awarded "BP Rescue of the Month" for January 2026 by Surf Life Saving New Zealand. The award recognises the incident on 6 January where, just as the surf patrol was concluding for the day, a team responded immediately to reports of three people in distress at the northern end of Tairua beach. Under the leadership of tower lifeguard Nina McFarland, guards Bella Muir and Emily Carter were deployed via ATV and located the swimmers in a hazardous, rocky area and carried out two challenging tube rescues in demanding surf conditions, with the third swimmer making it to shore unaided. Well done to all involved!

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Mercury Bay Art Escape "Open Studios" 2026

The Mercury Bay Art Escape (MBAE) "Open Studios" event is on the horizon. The Open Studios in 2026 will run over Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the first two weekends in March.

On March 7, 8, 9 and 14,15,16 from 10am to 4pm over 50 artists will have their studios open for the public to visit and buy art. On show and for sale will be a myriad of artworks, the media extensive - painting, printing making, drawing, textile and raranga weaving, glass work, iron work, sculpture, ceramics, jewellery, mosaics and photography.

This year MBAE celebrates its 20th anniversary. This year also boasts over 20% of the artists involved being either Pauanui or Tairua based! Look out for Logan Humphrey, Nora Grieve, Paul Schrader and Sam Dixon from Pauanui, and Debbie Emslie, Jean McCann, Jennifer Panther, Jessie Macaw, Kate Hill, Michael Harrison,

Souzie Speerstra and Susan Dunster from Tairua!

Each of the artists taking part in the Open Studios event will be selecting one piece of their art for the Hot Waves Café exhibition at Hot Water Beach from Saturday 7th March through to mid-April. This exhibition is very popular and gives an insight into the depth of talent on the Coromandel.

One of the special features of the Escape is the Artists-in-Residence program. This year, you can meet and chat with Tairua's Jessie Macaw and Hot Water Beach's Sally Samins who will be at Hot Waves Café on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 March from 9am to 3pm.

Visitors to the Studios this year can win an \$800 "credit" towards an artwork purchase, by scanning a QR code at each venue. For details and to download the studios map, visit: www.mercurybayartescape.com



Photo: Mercury Bay Art Escape

This year's Artists in Residence are Hot Water Beach's Sally Samins, and Tairua's Jessie Macaw.

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Pepe Bridge replacement update from public meeting

By Guest Writer, Jo Finnis

A public information session was held at the Tairua Community Hall on 26 February to show plans for the replacement of the Pepe Stream Bridge. 8 NZTA project staff and 3 reps from the contractors, Fulton Hogan, were on hand to show plans and discuss logistics for the construction of the new bridge. Also in attendance were NZTA maintenance project staff providing information about the ongoing storm recovery efforts for the Coromandel, and TCDC staff showing shoreline management proposals for Tairua.

150 people attended the session. Concerns about right hand turning at Pepe Road intersection and the ability to jump off the bridge were expressed consistently. Physical constraints at the Pepe Rd intersection deny the construction of a roundabout and there will be no dedicated right hand turning lane into Pepe Rd. NZTA do not build dive platforms but they will neither prohibit nor encourage bridge jumping, except for during the construction phase when bridge jumping is prohibited.

NZTA is funded to replace NZ bridges only when they are at their 'end-of-life', therefore,

there are no plans at this time to replace Graham's Creek Bridge. The budget for the Pepe Stream Bridge replacement is \$22million. Construction is to be staged with the intention of maintaining traffic flow and there is a planned 3 week break from construction during the 2026 Christmas peak. Consents have been lodged and the final design is expected by June. Early works begin in May, construction is scheduled to begin in July with completion by December 2027.

The Community Hall and carpark are to be used by the construction team, and hall activities have been relocated to other venues providing opportunities for clubs to fundraise.

Construction personnel are excited to be involved in this project and teams will be accommodated in Tairua. Local businesses will benefit by having these people use cafes and local shops etc.

Feedback from the public information forum held in 2025 has led to the addition of a footbridge on the upstream side of the bridge. Again, opportunities for feedback were provided and staff will take these into consideration. This is a link to updates: www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh25-sh25a-thames-coromandel

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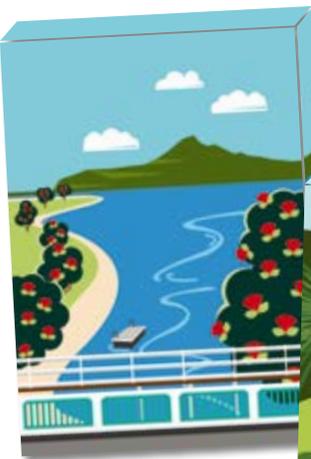
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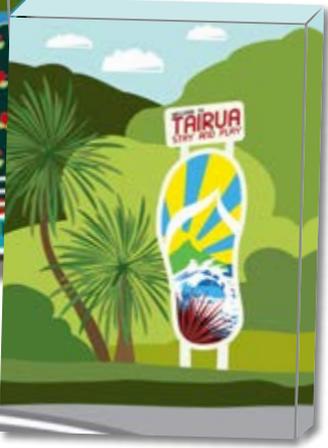
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'Ello, 'ello, 'ello A word from our local constabulary

Kia Ora Koutou,

Happy March everyone, we hope last month has all treated you well. To fully explain what has gone on in the last two months would be too much for light reading so we will recap.

We would firstly like to acknowledge the outstanding work and effort from both Tairua and Pauanui Fire Brigades since the start of the year, especially the work they did over the time of flooding that affected both towns heavily. These amazing Men and Woman of our community are all volunteers and respond to events 24/7, so every time you hear that siren, they are putting down what ever they are doing and jumping into action. Another special thank you to Pauanui Coastguard for all their assistance in transporting people across the water to safety.

Police are currently investigating multiple burglaries that have occurred in the Pauanui and Hikuai area in the last few weeks. This is a reminder, even though we live in a safe and welcoming community, to stay vigilant and ensure we are locking our garages and homes. Be assured we are doing our very best to hold these criminals accountable for their actions.

In terms of road safety, as a

whole, the last two months have been relatively calm. Police have conducted multiple road-Policing operations ensuring drivers on our roads are abiding by the road laws that keep everyone in our community safe. If you are going to have some drinks with friends and family, make sure you have a safe way home.

An arrest was made at an address in Tairua earlier this month for a serious assault that took place. The offender was arrested without further incident. This person is currently appearing before the Courts on this charge.

Another friendly reminder that if you see something do something. Without the help and communication from the community it can sometimes be very difficult for us to act on something that we have very little information about. We know you all care about our community as much as we do. If it is happening now phone 111, if it has happened in the past phone 105.

Feel free to come in and see us at the station any time for a chat. We hope you have a great rest of the summer.

Nga mihi,
Tim & Dylan, Tairua Police

PUBLIC NOTICES

 **TAIRUA GARDEN CLUB**

NEXT MEETING
Monday 9 March, 1.30pm
Tairua Golf & Country Club

Treasure Hunt around Tairua
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Tairua Surf Lifesaving Club ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Tairua Surf Lifesaving Club will be held at **Tairua Surf Lifesaving Club on Saturday 4 April at 11:00am.**

The agenda includes the annual report, financial statements and the election of officers.

Any member wishing to submit a motion must do so by 20 March to: admin@tairuaslsc.com

Thinking of having a tidy out? **We can recycle or get rid of your unwanted books.** Call Tairua Print 864 8170 or just drop them in.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Tairua Volunteer Fire Brigade AGM
April 28th 2026, 7pm,
at the station:
233 Main Road, Tairua.
All minute items to the secretary: kurt.jarrett@fireandemergency.nz by March 28th, 2026.



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Pestfree Tairua launch new campaign

Have you noticed the increase in bird song this summer? Pestfree Tairua (PFT) has been hard at work in and around Tairua to remove a variety of pests from the area, thereby providing a better opportunity for bird populations to increase.

In 2025 the volunteers, including a group of locals trapping in their own backyards, worked 31 trap lines with over 700 traps, in and around Tairua. The records show that they had collectively caught 2860 rats, 188 possums and 51 mustelids.

This year Pestfree Tairua is launching a special project to build on the success of the dedicated volunteers who have been diligently working on eradicating pests on Paku. The "Paku Project" aims to add more traps to those already in place, to cover a

wider area. The target pests are rats, stoats, weasels and possums. The project started on March 1st and will run through to the end of the year.

Whilst the volunteer trappers are organised and ready to go, the rest of us can assist by making a donation towards the purchase of more traps and baits. Pestfree Tairua has set up a link with Tairua Environmental Society so donations can be made to their account, 38-9023-0216358-01, using the reference PAKU.

Since pest eradication began in earnest on Paku in 2018, the increase in bird song, one of the obvious indicators that pests are decreasing and birdlife increasing, has been significant. The "Paku Project" will restore the bird song to full throat!

PUBLIC NOTICES



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