

THIS WEEK
6 page issue!

Tairua Pauanui The Local Advertiser



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Beat Barry's 18.
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Barry's answers online, under "issues".

19th March 2025 Website: www.tairuaadvertiser.nz Phone: +64 7 864 8170 Email: tairua.advertiser@xtra.co.nz Volume 25 Number 11

Season start, big game for Shayne

There is nothing quite like watching and cheering on sports players that you know - over previous seasons we have been treated to some of the best and competitive local rugby that you could ask for! But without a senior rugby team in last year's Thames Valley competitions, Tairua's Saturdays were decidedly empty!

Well, like me, you can start getting a little excited because, this year, Tairua Rugby & Sports Club will be fielding a senior team in the Thames Valley Senior B competition!

Living within earshot of Cory Park Domain, we have been thrilled to hear and see the

boys getting stuck into their fitness and game training under the glow of the floodlights! Optional fitness training has been taking place each Tuesday night for a couple of months now, and on Thursday nights, going forward, the prospective players will face drill skills and game day preparation.

Team organisers have noted that player numbers are already climbing and urge prospective players who have not registered to do so as soon as possible, to ensure inclusion in the team.

A pre-season game will be played against Mercury Bay this Saturday 22 March with kick-off at 2pm on Cory Park Domain.

The season proper begins the following week, with Tairua hosting Coromandel, in their first home game of the round on Saturday 29 March at 2pm. This game will be a very special one! On that day, Shayne Johnson will play his 200th game for the Club!

Making the senior team as a teenager, Shayne has proven to be a tough and talented player who has captained the senior team for several years. Club Captain, Derek Rope said, "This is an amazing feat for any player, and the Club is very proud of Shayne's achievement." So, to honour Shayne and enjoy the special occasion, be sideline early to claim your spot!

The season promises to be a cracker! Between now and the end of Round



Photo: facebook.com

Senior rugby's season start will be a special one with Shayne Johnson's (pictured in head gear) 200th game for the Club.

1 in May Tairua will play Coromandel at home, Ngatea (away), Whangamata (away), Hauraki North at home, Waihi (away) and Waihou at home.

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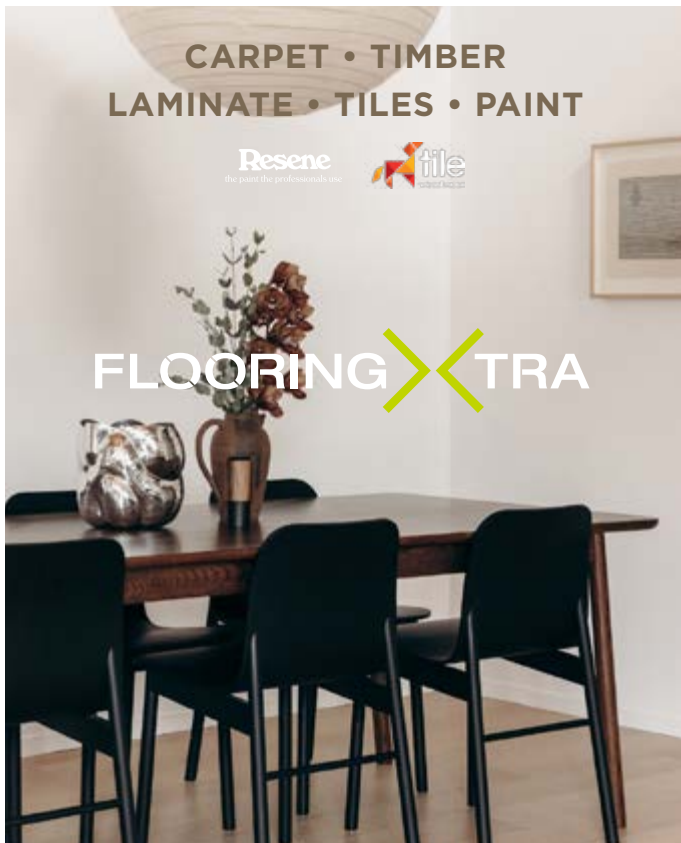
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Summer + St John = extremely busy

What an extremely busy summer our emergency services have had! It seemed that every day sirens were blaring and ambulances and fire appliances were heading out to deal with events.

Tairua St John's volunteer station co-ordinator, Kathryn Gillingham gave us a rundown of their response workload from December to February, a total of 82 callouts! The calls were to medical emergencies and accidents. It is worth noting that on several days they attended multiple events in quick succession.

The crews travelled as far north as Kuaotunu, and as far south as Pauanui and Whangamata. Kathryn reported that the public always reacted positively to the medics when they arrived at each of their jobs. She did, however, want to remind drivers that when they see flashing lights and hear sirens behind them they are expected to pull over and stop to let emergency vehicles through. And I would add, be mindful at the one way bridges that emergency vehicles take precedence, always.

To ensure that the Tairua Ambulance Station and the

volunteer staff are all cared for an Area Committee works behind the scenes cleaning and maintaining the vehicles and the station, and raising the funds to support the local volunteers. This keen group is always looking for new members and if this is something that interests you, give the Station a call on 07 864 5727.

There are 11 volunteers currently making up the crew at Tairua St John but they need to grow their numbers to ensure coverage for our community. If you have some free time available and would like to help, every contribution is important. Kathryn says, "We are a friendly bunch with the same goal - helping others who are not at their best". Training is every second Wednesday evening from 7-9pm at the Station.

Thankfully, as we go into autumn, the sirens and flashing lights have quietened and slowed! Now is the time to prepare for the next hectic summer! If you think you would like to join this very special group of volunteers, contact: kathryn.gillingham@stjohn.org.nz

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Short & Sweet

Last week we featured the achievements of, and overseas cricketing opportunity for, young Andy Rogers (Dad and Mum, Wayne and Sarah own Surf and Sand Takeaways and Andy is often found serving in the shop!) To assist the fundraising needed to get Andy to Sri Lanka in April, Nana Andrea Johnson has organised a great Mark Taipiri show, "A tribute to Michael Hutchence (INXS)". This will take place in Tairua Community Hall on Friday 11 April. Check out the advertisement on Page 5 and get your tickets to enjoy and a rocking good evening out – music, nibbles, a bar, and dancing! And at the end of it, you will have helped Andy on his way to realising a dream!

Beach Hop is now only a week away! In its 25th year, Beach Hoppers will be out in number from Wednesday 26 March to Sunday 30 March. This event brings a big revenue boost to the Coromandel and provides us with the best hot rod show ever! This year Pauanui is to be a featured stop. Let's welcome the Hoppers wherever we encounter them!

On Friday 18 April a concert has been organised by Jean McCann, at Tairua Golf Club. It will feature 'Saltwood' (Mayor Len Salt and wife, Anna Dunwoodie) and local guitar maestro Garnham Woodruffe. Tickets will be on sale for \$25 at the Tairua Heritage Centre as well as Tairua Information Centre. A percentage of the profits will be donated to the Heritage Society for their building fund. There will be a raffle on the night with 3 tickets for \$5 (cash only). The prizes include cakes baked by the performers!

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**Annual General Meeting
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Powerco Community Fund applications open

Powerco, New Zealand's largest dual electricity and gas distributor by network length, has opened applications for the first round of its Community Fund. This year, the Powerco Community Fund is split into two funding rounds, one in March and the second in August, to make it easier for community groups to access timely funding for projects that are important to their communities. Applications for round one can be made between 3 March and 31 March for projects to be delivered between June and November this year.

Powerco is looking for projects run by the community for the community, particularly in the smaller towns and regions it serves. Since the Powerco Community Fund was first launched in 2023, the company has aimed to assist the groups and organisations

that may otherwise struggle to find funds for the projects that are meaningful to them and the community.

Powerco's electricity network covers the Coromandel. That means that any group on the Peninsula can apply to Powerco for funding up to \$5000 per community project. Some of last year's recipients included the Colville Public Hall, Kura Kai, Youth Voices Action, Whiritoa Lifeguard Service and Hauraki Reuse Centre. More information on funding criteria and how to apply is available on Powerco's website, powerco.co.nz/community-fund.

If your organisation has been looking for funding support for a community project then consider making application for funds. It may be the difference between a go or a woe!

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The Conchords set to take us on a musical journey

The Conchords from Pauanui are preparing for their next concert, "A Musical Journey around the World." The concert will feature selections from musicals set in various countries around the world. The show will be held in the Pauanui Community Church on Saturday 5th April from 2pm. The cost of entry is \$10 (children free).

The Conchords have had a unique journey themselves. The group began life in early 2019 as a small group that had little or no singing experience, very limited ability to read music, but heaps of enthusiasm! But starting with simple songs sung in unison, the group gradually found their voices. As confidence built, the group progressed to simple part-songs. The Conchords do not have a conductor so each singer has learned to listen to everyone else, including the accompanist, to make everything work! And work it does!

The group enjoys the camaraderie and fun of singing together, and revels in the fact that making music is proven to lift the spirits. Testimony to that comes from Cara Milmine, a Conchord, who said, "I love singing in our choir because of the joy that singing in a group brings. There is satisfaction in mastering your part in the harmony, and creating a sound that isn't possible on your own. I always leave feeling uplifted."

The Conchords have established a solid reputation with their various concerts and are keen to grow their group. If you love to sing, go along to their April concert. If you think you would like to join them, you would be very welcome. After the concert, from April 10th, they will be meeting weekly on Thursday evenings from 6.30pm, at the Pauanui Community Church in the Village Centre. For more information, call Celia on 021 535 965 or Sonia on 021 233 5746.




Photo: Wendy Fulton


The Concord Choir at Tairua Focus Group's Christmas lunch last year.

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