

THIS WEEK
4 page issue!

Tairua Pauanui The Local Advertiser



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

C	O	L
O	H	T
A	E	C

Beat Barry's 25.
Words must contain the middle letter. Plurals OK if 's' is in the grid.
Barry's answers online, under "issues".

24th April 2024

Website: www.tairuaadvertiser.nz
Phone/Fax: 864 8170 Email: tairua.advertiser@xtra.co.nz

Volume 24 Number 17

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ANZAC Day services in Pauanui and Tairua, updated start times

ANZAC Day is this Thursday 25 April. We apologise for the incorrect service start times published in our last issue. The correct time for both Pauanui's and Tairua's services is 6am.

To clarify: The Dawn Services for Pauanui and Tairua will start at 6am. Attendees at Pauanui Surf Club and Tairua Servicemen's Cemetery should be ready by 5.45am start at 6am.

Despite the fact that all the servicemen and women involved during the Gallipoli campaign are long dead, the Day remains an important one of observance.

ANZAC Day is probably the closest the country gets to a national day of mourning; a very focussed and contemplative time. And rightly so. Most of us realise that if our forebears had not stood in the way of fascism and tyranny we would not have the freedoms we enjoy today. Freedoms that even include the right to

dissent. Such is democracy.

Both my parents served in the British Army during World War II. My Mum was called up and was assigned to secretarial duties in London, a long way from her Newcastle home. My Dad, a papermaker by trade, was called up and assigned to the Royal West Kent regiment. He fought against the Japanese at Kohima in Burma in 1944, a battle he described as being fought over the length of a tennis court! And in part, it was!

This brutal and bloody battle, which turned the Japanese advance into India into a retreat, was marked with the following epitaph inscription: "When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today." This is often remembered following the recitation of The Ode in returned services establishments throughout the Commonwealth.

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HOURS (subject to change): Monday - Friday 9.30-5. Saturday 9.30-12.30. Sunday & Public holidays Closed.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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**TUESDAYS - STARTING AT 10
TAIRUA HALL ANNEXE**

Tairua Skatepark is open!

Tairua Skatepark is finally open! The official opening took place at Cory Park Domain last Monday in front of a very large crowd of very happy people! Thankfully an all-weather ceremony had been planned and the speakers kept proceedings brief as the dark rainclouds rolled towards the Skatepark. Despite the arrival of rain, enthusiasm was not dampened!

The stand-out comment from the various speakers was the patience exercised and respect shown by the community during construction. Unlike other projects Acid NZ has been involved in around the country, the skatepark builders were very impressed that local youngsters had stayed outside the perimeter fencing for the duration of the build, testament to the adage that "good things are worth waiting for", obviously.

Mayor Len Salt, with the first of the showers upon

him, declared the Skatepark open without a speech and the Skatepark was instantly alive with skaters, scooters and spectators! Several hundred Skatepark users spread themselves out to check out the various ramps, slopes, and the bowl.

Age is not a consideration in Skatepark circles - evidenced by the many adults who took advantage of the facility they had been waiting so long for - so it was great to see that everyone seemed to find a space they were comfortable to explore and made allowances for all those around them. By the grins and excited chatter you would have to say that the Skatepark has received a giant tick of approval by all.

Thanks to all who have been involved in seeing the project to this conclusion, it is a wonderful lesson for us all in democracy and process. The facility is sure to be looked after and shared in similar manner. Well done everyone!



Several hundred Skatepark users spread themselves out to check out the various ramps, slopes, and the bowl, after the official opening.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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**Walk Tairua Society
Grahams Stream Walkway
Petition**

Over 600 people signed our petition to NZTA. A very big thank you to everyone who signed and collected signatures.

The forms were sent to NZTA in January. We are still waiting for an official response. The 50km speed limit will stay in place for another 12 to 18 months as repairs to SH25 continue. No word on the footpath.

We welcome new members so if you are interested in joining us, email us at: walktairua@gmail.com. Membership is \$10 per household.



TAIRUA INFORMATION CENTRE

Gift Shop/ Dry Cleaning/
Agent for NZ Courier

Check out our information website
www.tairua.co.nz

Contact Eve 07 864 7575
for website Advertising



ST FRANCIS CHURCH
WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Sunday
9.30am Worship
& Kids' Church
Fellowship & Morning Tea

Wednesday
8.30am Meditation

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

Enquiries 07 864 8727
or 021 0275 6807
Main Road Tairua
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CMB
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Bunch of men gathering monthly to eat and chat

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ALL WELCOME

For more info, phone:
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TAIRUA Elim CHURCH

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Tairua Community Hall

Phone 864 8762
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Scott Simpson
MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime
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PUBLIC NOTICES



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It's never too late to come back!



The other day, local Scott Lee dropped in to get a few things copied. One, a photo of his very young Dad in an airforce uniform and the other, a small metal aviator's boot with wings. I was fascinated!

Encouraged, Scott explained what these treasures were:

During World War II Allied soldiers formed exclusive clubs honouring service men and women who had survived despite seemingly impossible odds. One such club was "The Late Arrivals Club", the members of which were awarded the Flying Boot medal. To qualify you had to have been an RAF pilot, been shot down or forced down over enemy territory in North Africa, then have made your own way back to base. Nearly 500 Flying Boot medals were awarded, and Scott's Dad was one of the awardees.

Flight Lieutenant Kenneth Leslie Lee of Tuakau, enlisted in February 1941. After training, he was assigned to 229 Squadron and sent to North Africa in March 1942. Stationed in Malta, his Squadron was tasked with the island's defence against the Italian Airforce.

Armed with aging Hurricane fighters, 229 Squadron faced shortages of fuel, ammunition and spare parts. At one stage they were reduced to seven serviceable aircraft. After three

months of intense action 229 Squadron was sent to Cairo.

On that flight, Lee's Hurricane ran out of fuel and he made a crash-landing on the North African coast. Sporting a few bruises, he spent two nights walking in the desert before falling in with some locals who handed him over to the Italian occupiers who eventually shipped him to a POW camp in Moderna, Italy. He spent eighteen months there, escaping with a friend on the eve of the camp's transfer to German control.

Dressed in peasant clothing and speaking fluent Italian, the two men blended into the countryside and fell in with the Italian resistance. With their help he crossed into Switzerland where he spent 9 months waiting to be repatriated. Progress on that front was slow so he crossed back into German-occupied Italy and made his way south to meet the advancing U.S. forces. The Americans shipped him back to the U.K. where he arrived in November 1944.

An amazing tale of perseverance, the Flight Lieutenant's journey back to London covered 5000 miles and took two and half years, earning him his Flying Boot medal, living up to the motto of The Late Arrivals Club, "It's never too late to come back!"



Photos: Supplied by Scott Lee

Flight Lieutenant Kenneth Leslie Lee who was awarded the "flying boot" (pictured above right) on his return to the UK after his capture and escape in WWII.