

Fabulous events, fabulous total

The Pauanui Pink Ribbon events, staged over the weekend of 24-25 May, have proven to be a huge success, setting another record total for breast cancer fundraising in the area. The three 'food' events; the Pink Ribbon Breakfast at Puka Park, High Tea at The Pauanui Club, and Island Night at Cabana Kitchen & Bar, catered to over 250 people on the Saturday. As well as the food attractions, a silent auction and raffles added to the weekend.

The Pink Ribbon Breakfast at Puka Park, kicked off the Pink Weekend and featured guest speaker, Olympic gold medallist Sarah Ulmer. Sarah shared the inspiring story of her cycling career and life after winning Olympic gold in Athens in 2004. Emceed by Warren Male, the guests were educated and entertained as they enjoyed a sweet and savoury breakfast.

Elegant High Tea at The Pauanui Club in the afternoon was a hit with guests who enjoyed dainty sandwiches, savouries, sweet treats, and teas from around the world as well as celebratory bubbles! Club manager Lee-Anne Young shared her own journey with breast cancer, highlighting the support she received from Breast Cancer Foundation NZ, bringing home to guests the importance of the event.

The final food event, "Island Night" at Cabana Kitchen & Bar, was very popular with two dinner sittings for the islandinspired feast on Saturday night. The guests enjoyed a lively evening of conversation, connection, food and fun.

The weekend wound up back at Cabana Kitchen & Bar with a crowd gathered for the raffle draw which had over 100 prizes up for grabs. Local musician Tim Santner kept everyone entertained as stories of the weekend's events were exchanged. The silent auction, run by Hello Friday, closed at 8.15pm on Sunday, after a flurry of lastminute bidding.

At the end of a very successful Pink Weekend the team from Grand Mercure Puka Park, The Pauanui Club, Cabana Kitchen & Bar and Hello Friday announced that Pauanui Pink Ribbon Events will donate over \$25,000 to **Breast Cancer Foundation** NZ, a fabulous total! Their efforts produced another record-breaking total raised, and they are already planning for next year's Pink Ribbon Weekend! 'Well done' to everyone who got involved in these fabulous events!

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Tairua, get ready to Buy Local

Anyone who has lived through a winter on the Coromandel knows that it can get very quiet. Very quiet indeed! Local businesses are all too well aware of this and need to look for ways to boost what can be a lean time.

The Tairua Business Association (TBA) has come up with a 'Buy Local' campaign which will run over the winter months. It is hoped that visitors and locals will be encouraged to spend their money in town, ensuring our businesses remain profitable and open.

Participating businesses will be putting up voucher prizes for customers who spend \$30 or more when making purchases. Fortnightly prize-draws will take place throughout the promotion period. So each time a shopper or client spends \$30 or more with a participating business they can record their name and contact number on their receipt to drop into the entry box on site. Prizes up to \$250 are likely to be on offer at each draw, with the final draw of the promotion being a huge one!

The 'Buy Local" campaign will run for approximately 12 weeks from mid-June through to September.

TBA members hope that the campaign will remind us all that what we value on the Coromandel has to be supported. As a small business in Tairua for the past twenty years we know how important local support is to our business. We for one will be hoping the 'Buy Local" promotion is well received in the community with everyone doing their best to support local businesses. After all, a vibrant business sector is essential to a healthy and stable community.

TBA has negotiated a contribution from TCDC's Business Development team to contribute towards this initiative.

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Regional Council's bar crossing warning

Two boating incidents at Raglan recently has prompted a reminder from the Waikato Regional Harbourmaster of the importance of thoroughly checking marine weather, paying close attention to swells, always having an experienced skipper when attempting bar crossings, and of the importance of wearing life jackets.

Regional Harbourmaster, Chris Bredenbeck said, "Bar crossings are the riskiest activity you can carry out on the water, with weather, current and tide conditions causing waves to break in an unpredictable pattern creating an unstable and hazardous environment."

Chris Bredenbeck pointed out that it is the skipper's responsibility to ensure the safety of their passengers and to know the rules. One of which is, at all times of heightened risk such as bar crossings, lifejackets must be worn.

Advice for boaties wanting to cross a bar is to make the crossing anytime within three hours before high tide. As a general rule, returning back over the bar is best up to three hours before and one hour after high tide. All other times should be avoided, and a bar should never be crossed at low tide or at night.

Planning a bar crossing should include:

• thoroughly checking marine weather and paying close attention to the swells;

 seeking local knowledge before attempting to cross a bar;

• securing loose gear and ensuring everyone is wearing a securely fitted lifejacket;

 always taking two forms of waterproof communication so help can be sought if needed;

• contacting Coastguard on VHF to let them know your intentions to cross the bar and informing them that you have made it across safely;

• spending some time observing the bar before attempting to cross it.

Waikato Regional Council has links to bar cameras and safety videos which demonstrate how to navigate safely across a bar. Go to waikatoregion.govt.nz/safebar-crossings.

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