24th December 2025

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Volume 25 Number 51

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Merry Chistmas! Be blessed!

As the story goes, around two thousand years ago, a census of the Roman empire took place. It was something out of the ordinary that led to all sorts of change within the province.

And the parallel story, around two thousand years ago was also about something out of the ordinary and also led to all sorts of change definitely within the region, but also in the hearts of those who encountered a God-man called Jesus.

This Season, amid your something special or your ordinary, we hope that you embrace the Christmas story and your own change because of it. Be blessed to overflowing!

If you'd like to spend Christmas Day morning at church, there are services at St Francis Church, Main Road, St Mary's Church, Bennett Drive

and at Tairua Hall where Elim Church meets.

Later, just after midday, if you'd like to spend time with others over a delicious meal, join us at "Christmas Lunch Together" at the Hall. The luncheon is free and is open to all. We go because our family members live out of town. Everyone is friendly and there's a nice feeling of belonging. And just like any Christmas lunch you've been to with family, there's always plenty of food, enough for seconds, and even enough for doggy-bags that set us up for a no-cooking-for-mehaha Christmas dinner.

Late in the afternoon the choice is yours. From a refeshing swim or surf to a lazy stroll along the beach and walkways, from a game of backyard cricket to a wee bit of shut-eye, that will make for an enjoyable Christmas Day.

SERVICES

CHRISTMAS PRINTING

Tairua Print closing 24 Dec, 2pm.



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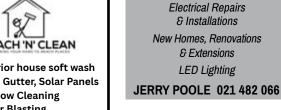




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Short & Sweet

he Summertime Rubbish timetable starts this week. During this peak period, all rubbish and recycling will be collected on each nominated collection day. Due to the public holidays, Tairua's bins will be emptied on Friday 26 December, then Friday 2 January. In Pauanui, bins will be emptied on Saturday 27 December, then on Saturday 3 January. The following week, we all revert back to our regular collection day. with all rubbish and recycling being collected until early February. For a copy of the timetable, visit: tcdc.govt.nz/ kerbside

o you know the rules around fires/lighting your brazier at this time of year? Tairua Residents & Ratepayers chair, Jo Finnis, recently attended a Fire Risk meeting and reports that there are three categories of Fire control: Open, Restricted (requires a permit) and Prohibited. Go to www. checkitsalright.nz to check whether it's okay to light fires on any given day. If in doubt, the rule of thumb is 'don't.' The lighting of fires and use of fireworks is now strongly discouraged.

re you looking forward to the New Year's Eve fireworks display? Tairua Pauanui Promotions is seeking donations for this spectacular annual event. Donations help pay for the fireworks and the professionals who ensure the display's safety and success. Organisations in Pauanui and Tairua contribute to the event, as does the Tairua Pauanui Community Board. Donations can be made by: internet banking to Tairua Pauanui Promotions: BNZ Thames, Account No: 02-0456-0185541-000 or by cash at either of our Information Centres.

Short & Sweet

oungsters on electric scooters and e-bikes are making their presence felt in the shopping precinct, travelling at high speed, and without helmets. As the summer crowds come in. let's ensure that everyone, including our older pedestrians, are safe. Parents, please remind your children of their responsibility, and encourage them to dismount and walk their bike or scooter through the main shopping areas. Thank you.

oaties, expect the Waikato Regional Council maritime officers to be out and about this summer to help keep everyone safe on the water. "Operation Neptune" runs from Boxing Day to 11 January 2026 and includes boating safety checks and enforcement of the region's boating bylaws. Skippers have the responsibility to know the rules and comply with them. The safety team will be on the lookout for unsafe behaviours such as life iackets not being worn, excessive speed, or vessels towing skiers without an observer. These officers can issue breach notices resulting in fines of up to \$200 per offence. Boating rules can be found on WRC's website, the MarineMate phone app, and on signage at boat ramps around the Waikato.

isiting Tairua and wondering what to do, apart from the obvious day at the beach? Pick up a copy of the Tairua Summer Planner which has a calendar of events, tide information, and tips for enjoying your time here, alongside advertising for eateries, charter operators, service providers and health professionals. Available from Tairua Information Centre, Tairua Stationers, Surf 'n' Sand Takeaways and Tairua Print.

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