

THIS WEEK
4 page issue!

Tairua Pauanui The Local Advertiser



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13th May 2026

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Volume 26 Number 19

Thank you for all you've done, Jennie, we appreciate YOU!

One of the major impacts of the Pepe Bridge replacement project is the loss of the Tairua Community Hall for public use. The hall-users were displaced and went looking for new accommodation. By all accounts the various groups have found alternatives. But one group that can only operate in "hall space" is Tairua Troubadours.

Troubadours writer-director Jennie Turner, anticipating the hall closure, moved the planned 2026 show forward and the cast has just completed the final performances under her tutelage. We have learned that Jennie is now looking at

retirement!

Under Jennie's guidance and direction Tairua Troubadours has produced some 28 shows over 20 years and raised several hundreds of thousands of dollars for a diverse range of Coromandel worthy causes, not least among them the Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust which has been supported since its inception in 2012.

In the words of past local Tina Larsen, who, even after moving away returns to town specifically for the shows, "Jennie has certainly done her bit for the town and beyond!" And impressed everyone doing

it!

The longest serving current Troubadour, Grant Brooks, explained that Jennie writes her scripts, often with specific actors in mind, presents them to the cast and invites them to "find your character, become your character, and have fun!"

Grant observed that Jennie doesn't actually love the directing side of her role, preferring to be involved in costumes, scenery and such like. Despite her preference, Jennie is always very encouraging in her director's role and "loves to see the script come to life."

Cast member, Rowena Brown, added that Jennie "has a heart of gold!" taking the cast on a fun adventure every time any show is performed."

Speaking of Jennie's



Photo: facebook.com

Jennie Turner and Jeff Ross "on the red carpet" at the recent Tairua Toscas show.

direction skills Rowena said, "Jennie encourages you to find your feet", and is always supportive." This has been obvious as newbies have

Story continues on page 3

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Short & Sweet

My Thai's Pink Ribbon Brunch is this Sunday 17 May from 11.30am to 2pm. Tickets to the event cost \$50 and can be secured by calling 022 084 1323. \$20 from every ticket sold will go to Breast Cancer Foundation NZ. Limited tickets available so make your bookings now.

Over in Pauanui, the major Pink Ribbon fundraising for Breast Cancer Foundation NZ takes place on Saturday 23 May. The options include a Breakfast at Puka Park, an Afternoon High Tea at The Pauanui Club, and a Japanese Night at Cabana Kitchen & Bar. Go online for the auction hosted by Hello Friday or head to Cabana Kitchen & Bar on Sunday 24th for the raffle draws and live music.

A group of our local firefighters will be fundraising for Blood Cancer NZ by participating in the 2026 Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge on Saturday 23 May. Led by Sharni Champion, Joe Fergusson and Sarah Jarrett are in training to have a crack at the 51 floors in full protective gear including breathing apparatus! Check out the website <https://firefighterschallenge.org.nz/> to follow their progress and make a donation.

You may have noticed the absence of Tairua Market, since the announcement that Tairua Hall and surrounds would be unavailable for several months? The good news is that a special King's Birthday Market, on Saturday 31 May from 9am until 1pm, will go ahead, but at Tairua Bowling Club. If you would like to have a stall, inside or out, contact Tairua Information Centre to book your space. Drop into the Centre or email admin@tairua.co.nz or phone 07 864 7575 or 027 479 7851.

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Thank you for all you've done, Jennie, we appreciate YOU!

Story continued from page 1

joined the group.

Rowena remarked on how sad she feels about “the end of an era” with Jennie stepping down, emphasised by Jennie’s involvement in the final scene of the latest show, singing a song and signing off!

Regular show attender, Sue Foster said she and her show friends have been amazed at how Jennie has been consistently creative with every show she has produced. They are impressed, too, by Jennie’s humility, never trying to take the limelight, always directing attention back to the cast and crew.

Sue said they were very grateful for the wonderful nights out the Troubadours, under Jennie’s guidance, have provided. She said their group really gets into the themes of the shows, preparing props and dressing up to impress.

And fittingly, they won “best dressed table” at the Toscars on Saturday!

In Sue’s words, “We attended the Troubadours’ final Toscars performance on Saturday night—an inspired showcase featuring excerpts from eight past productions. It was a joy to watch the cast reveal their remarkable range, slipping effortlessly between such varied characters with energy and precision, and lots of laughs. A truly talented group, and an entertaining evening from start to finish.”

Such fitting words as the current Troubadours phase ends, and we say good-bye to someone who has brought us so much.

We honour and thank you, Jennie, for all that you have contributed to our community over the years. We really appreciate you.

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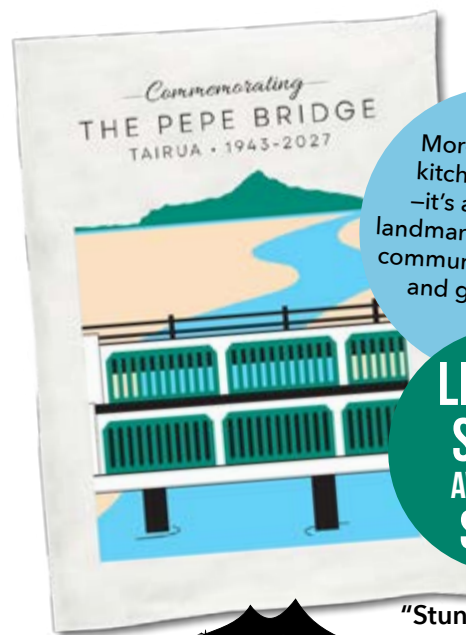
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