

THIS WEEK
4 page issue!

Tairua Pauanui The Local Advertiser



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

O	O	E
R	R	G
V	W	N

Beat Barry's 20.
Words must contain the middle letter. Plurals OK. If "S" is in the grid, Barry's answers online, under "issues".

28th January 2026

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Volume 26 Number 4

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After the storm

We have been hammered! The latest weather event has had deadly impacts from Northland to the Bay of Plenty. On the Coromandel we've been hit again with slips, floods, road closures and extensive property damage. North and south of us, lives have been tragically lost.

It was, therefore, heartening to see the Air Force NH90 helicopter circle over Tairua on Friday and then landing on the rugby field, with Prime Minister, Chris Luxon, Coromandel MP, Scott Simpson, TCDC Mayor, Peter Revell and entourage aboard, here to survey the area.

The group was taken by local Councillor, Alison Smith and members of the Community Board to examine first-hand

the extensive damage on Paku. Afterwards, they took time to speak with locals on the field before boarding to return to Thames. The PM was then heading to Mt Maunganui to support the families and rescuers at the fatal slip site at the base of the Mount.

In the wake of the deluge, clean-up on the Peninsula has begun with slips being cleared, infrastructure repaired, and roads put right. An important step before you attempt your own clean-up, though, is to conduct a survey of your property to identify things that need attention. If any damage is evident, record it by taking photos or videos and making notes, then contact your insurance provider to lodge any claim.

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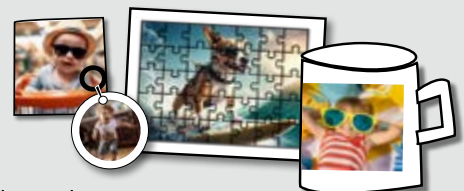
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Thank a Volunteer Series .. 2

Over the summer we would like you to learn a little more about some of the young folk who have answered the community call for volunteers and have joined some of the emergency organisations.

This week we feature:

AIDEN AZAR TAIRUA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Our second story in this series is that of Aiden Azar, a new recruit at Tairua Volunteer Fire Brigade. Aiden had always been interested in fire and rescue services. Interested enough to want to be involved as soon as he was old enough.

After attending and assisting with a major medical incident in town, he was encouraged to join up by one of the Brigade members. Able to start training with the Brigade at age 15, he did, graduating to Recruit status when he turned 16. Looking back, Aiden says, "One of my best decisions ever!"

Over his short involvement, Aiden has learned a wide range of skills, including fire ground safety, teamwork under pressure, communication, problem solving, and basic emergency response. With Brigade training twice a week, he says, "Keeping calm under pressure and being able to think clearly in an emergency situation all comes from consistently attending the training sessions. The essential skills [you learn] are a great addition to your CV and will help with many future career pathways."

He has been turning out to calls whenever available, riding his moped to the Station. The call outs vary - a fire, a crash, life and death situations, or helping with a medical patient lift-assist.

One of the incidents Aiden attended recently was at North End Beach when 3 swimmers got into trouble. Being a Tairua Surf Life Saving Club lifeguard as well, he was able to fully contribute to the



Photo supplied

Night rescue exercise conducted by Tairua Volunteer Fire Brigade.

situation. "Knowing that you have helped save someone is very rewarding," he said.

Aiden is one of four young men who have joined the Brigade recently enjoying the camaraderie of the Brigade. They have been taken under the wings of the experienced firefighters, and Aiden credits Sharni Champion and Billy Turner for their encouragement and for being amazing role models.

A career as a paramedic or professional firefighter is now a possibility on Aiden's horizon. His advice to other young folk thinking about helping in the community is "get involved." By his own admission he has learned amazing life skills, keeps fit and is part of a very special group of people who give him encouragement, friendship, and endless learning opportunities.

**Thanks Aiden, for your
commitment to serving us!**

Been inspired by Aiden's story?
Check out Facebook: Tairua
Volunteer Fire Brigade Volunteer
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SNAPPED! Snapshots of our community...



The Local Advertiser's readership went up last week with Meggy racing to get her copy as it was delivered. Apparently, once she had it in her grip, she wouldn't let it go! Nice to have you on-board, Meggy! *Photo: Marion Giwi.*

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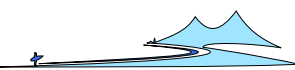


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