

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

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Summer library programme leads pack

A summer programme for tamariki devised by Far North District Council libraries has proved so successful other councils are getting in on the act.

More than 450 tamariki and families took part in the district-wide programme with youngsters earning taniwha trading cards by completing quests. Twelve of the cards were common but three were rare, sparking a frenzy of activity as participants chased the coveted purple cards.

Created by Ange Simonsen, Team Leader for Kaitāia and Kāeo libraries, with support from Te Ahu Museum Manager Whina Te Whiu, the Raumati Toa Summer Legends programme will feature in the Library and Information Association of New Zealand (LIANZA) magazine *Library Life*, discussing the success of the programme and all the great mahi being done in libraries in the Far North.

Quests to earn a taniwha card included: borrowing a book; visiting Te Ahu Museum and taking part in the Museum Mystery; attending kids' programmes at the library; chatting with Kahika Moko Tepania to get a card; visiting a council isite to learn about a local area and snapping a photo of themselves; completing projects in the Creative Makerspace; filling in a reading log; drawing a taniwha; and uploading a photo with their favourite taniwha to social media.



Chatting to Mayor Moko Tepania was just one of the 'quests' in the Raumati Toa summer programme which is being picked up by other councils.

The programme was targeted at children aged between eight and 12, but some tamariki as young as five took part, as well as a few adults who joined in.

The programme ran for two months and Te Ahu Museum reported a 168 per cent increase in

numbers during that period. South Taranaki libraries are currently adapting Raumati Toa to fit with their district and aim to run their own version during the winter.

Go to [fndc.govt.nz](https://www.fndc.govt.nz) to read the full story.



Repairs to the riverbank at the Paihia WTP will start soon.

Riverbank protection works start

The partial collapse of a section of the riverbank along the Waitangi River will be repaired over four to six weeks, with work due to start mid-March.

During severe weather events in 2022 and 2023, including Cyclone Gabrielle, a section of the riverbank located at the Paihia Water Treatment Plant was damaged.

Repair works will include rebuilding the riverbank protection structures as well as improving the resilience of the treatment plant's water intake, buildings and other structures.

The council's ability to provide treated water to Paihia, Haruru and Ōpua could be jeopardised without these repairs.

Heavy machinery will be on site at the water treatment plant for the duration of the works. The river flow will remain uninterrupted during works.

A resource consent for the work has been granted by the Northland Regional Council to Far North District Council (FNDC). The work will be completed by Far North Waters, an alliance for three waters management between the FNDC and Ventia.



Rangitahi spoke about their success on youth programmes.

Minister highlights FN youth

The work of the council to help youth into jobs and education was the focus when Minister of Social Development Louise Upston visited Kaikohe recently.

The visit gave the minister an overview of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) scheme and the Cadetship programme supported by the council.

MSD operates the Cadetship programme in partnership with WorkReady to run an eight-week scheme providing cadets with learning and experience to help kick-off their careers. MTFJ is also partnered with the MSD.

Upston, accompanied by Northland MP Grant McCallum, was welcomed by Deputy Mayor Kōwhai Kelly Stratford and met the council's current cadets Lexus Loft, Shariyah Rakete, and Mya Parker, who are working in compliance, libraries and customer services.

The event at the council's HQ in Kaikohe was a platform to showcase how localised programmes are supporting Far North rangatahi into work and providing career and education opportunities not easily accessible for young people in rural areas.



A section of the main road into Whangaroa is reduced to one lane.

Culvert work on Whangaroa Rd

Repairs have reduced the main road into Whangaroa to one lane access for about six weeks as of Tuesday 12 March while contractors build a new box culvert.

The work is being carried out between 121 and 320 Whangaroa Road.

Temporary speed limits and stop/go traffic controls are in place during the works, with traffic lights operating at night.

Construction is operating Monday to Friday between 6am and 6pm. Weekend works remain a possibility on Saturdays between 7am and 1pm.

Kaitāia WWTP submissions open

Kaitāia residents are being asked for their views on a council application to renew resource consents for its Kaitāia Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The plant treats wastewater from the Kaitāia and Awanui communities. It also receives waste removed from privately-owned septic tanks located in surrounding areas. The resource consent renewal application can be viewed on NRC's website or at its Kaitāia office at 192 Commerce Street until **Thursday 28 March**.