

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

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Living legends in our communities

People packed the Far North District Council chambers on Tuesday (7 July) to honour unsung heroes in our communities.

The 11 nominees for the ninth Te Tohu Tutuki – Far North District Council Lifetime Achievement Award arrived with their families and supporters to celebrate people and organisations making a difference across our district.

Mayor Kahika Moko Tepania gave everyone “warm winter greetings” and thanked them for being there to “honour the legends living amongst us.”

The nominees’ voluntary work spans an enormous range of sectors and activities, from supporting marae to community events and conservation projects.

The overall winner, Rod Brown, played a key role in transforming the Wairoa Stream Project, which resulted in five additional tracks and restored habitat along the stream. He said the award was an enormous surprise as helping the community is always a group effort.

“We have to do things together, so I’ve tried to look after my community as best I can.”

While only one person could receive the top award, the strength, talent and tireless dedication of each nominee were honoured during the ceremony.



Left to Right: award winner Rod Brown with fellow nominees Patricia (Patsy) Albert, John Paitai and Annette Hall.

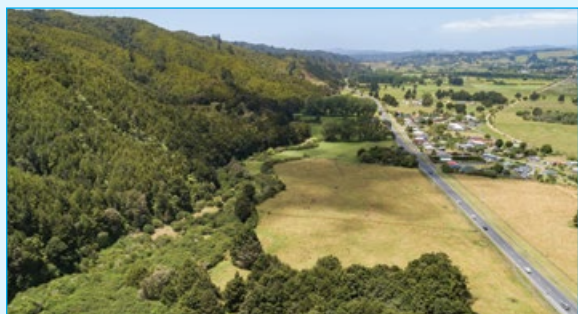
Patricia (Patsy) Albert, who has served the Māori Wardens since 1968, said her nomination was for “all the people”. Maureen Perry, nominated for her role in developing a vibrant gymnastics hub, says volunteering helps people to grow.

“We discover skills we never knew we had, we stand up at meetings we never imagined speaking at, and

we take on roles we never thought we could do.” Congratulations to all of our finalists, and a huge thank you for your mahi across our district.

For the full story and to see a full list of the nominees go to fndc.govt.nz

Council holds 6.7% rate rise



Council holds to 6.7% rate increase despite higher costs.

Far North District Council has adopted its Annual Plan, which includes an average rates increase of 6.7 per cent for this financial year. This is the figure promised in the Long Term Plan 2024-27.

The decision to adopt the 6.7 per cent increase was made during the council's meeting on 25 June. The meeting involved extensive debate on alternative options and their potential impacts on ratepayers already facing higher costs.

During the meeting, councillors heard that the proposed average rates increase was initially much higher at about 16.5 per cent. However, this was more than halved after finance staff conducted more than 80 meetings with council teams and shaved \$12.1 million from budgets.

The council's focus will now turn to its next Long Term Plan, for the period 2027 to 2037.

New transfer station charges



From 1 August, waste disposal charges will increase.

New waste disposal charges at Far North District Council transfer stations will come into effect from 1 August.

This follows council approval of updated Fees and Charges on 25 June.

The updated pricing better reflects the actual cost of operating transfer stations, transporting and disposing of waste at landfill. Charges also help to ensure that the people generating waste contribute a fairer share to the costs associated with its management.

This prevents the wider population of ratepayers from subsidising those costs.

The new charges begin on 1 August. You can find more information about them on the council's website, in the Rubbish and Recycling section.

Voyage of growth for rangatahi



The R. Tucker Thompson seven-day leadership voyage.

Last month, 12 Northland students set sail aboard the R. Tucker Thompson as part of the annual Far North Leadership Voyage. They returned home with new friendships, greater confidence and valuable leadership skills.

Sponsored by Far North Holdings and Bay of Islands Marina, the seven-day voyage brought together rangatahi from across Te Tai Tokerau for a unique experience exploring the waters and islands of Te Pēwhairangi Bay of Islands while participating in one of Northland's most respected youth development programmes.

Read the full story on our website.

**Be in to
Win** when you
register
your dog!

Register your dog this year and go into the draw to win a registration refund plus two bags of dog biscuits. 10 prize packs to be won. T&Cs apply.*

*To enter the draw, pay your dog registration between 1 July and 31 August. Only one dog registration is free per winner.

