

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

Here-turi-kōkā August 2026 | Putanga Issue 101

Major NRL event hosted at Te Puāwaitanga

Thousands of players, whānau and supporters travelled to the Far North last month as Te Puāwaitanga sports hub hosted the 2026 Aotearoa NZ Māori Rugby League (ANZMRL) Teina Tama Tournament for the first time.

The event highlighted the district's growing ability to host large sporting events while providing a welcome boost for local businesses during winter.

Held on 10 and 11 July, the tournament brought together 46 under-13 and under-14 boys' teams from across Aotearoa and Australia. More than 800 players, around 200 coaches and management staff, and thousands of supporters attended over the two days. Matches took place at Te Puāwaitanga multi-sports complex, and at Kerikeri Rugby Football Club.

The tournament is traditionally held in Rotorua. However, it was moved to Te Tai Tokerau this year, to help grow rugby league in the region and strengthen opportunities for Māori rugby league communities. Far North District Council supported the event by providing access to Te Puāwaitanga sports hub and helping to ensure the facilities were



The 2026 NZ Māori Rugby League Teina Tama Tournament showcased Te Puāwaitanga sports hub and boosted the local economy.

ready to host a tournament of this scale. The council also worked alongside organisers to support the delivery of the kaupapa, demonstrating the value of investing in community facilities that benefit local

residents and the wider district.

For the full story go to fndc.govt.nz

Date set for new hub opening



A new library and civic hub is taking shape in Kaikohe.

The countdown is on for a transformative community facility in Kaikohe, with the new library and civic hub set to officially open on Monday 9 November 2026.

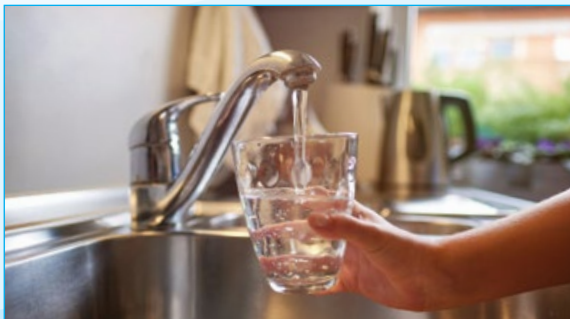
The day will begin with a dawn ceremony. Community kai and activities will follow, along with the opportunity for residents to explore the new facility. Normal library and council services will be available from that afternoon.

Planning for opening day is underway, and more details about the celebration will be shared closer to the date.

The project is known as Te Āta Haere. The name reflects the importance of taking time to get something right. It also represents moving with intention, respect and integrity while valuing relationships and good processes.

Local hapū will gift the new hub its official name, with Te Uri o Hua leading this process. It will be revealed during the opening ceremony, marking an important milestone in the project's kaupapa.

Two water supplies fluoridated



Fluoridation of Kerikeri and Kaitiāia water supplies began on 31 July.

Fluoridation of the Kerikeri and Kaitiāia council water supplies began on 31 July 2026. This fulfills a direction from the Director-General of Health.

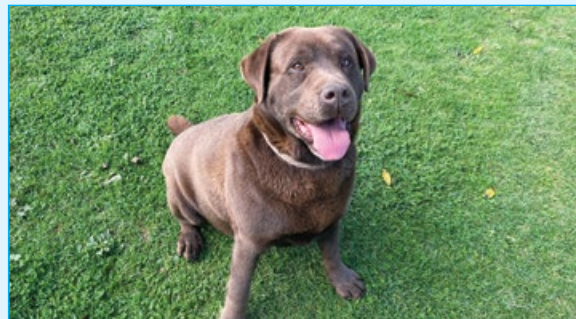
Since November 2021, the Director-General of Health has had the authority to direct local authorities to fluoridate public drinking water supplies under the Health (Fluoridation of Drinking Water) Amendment Act 2021. All councils are legally required to comply with those directions.

While Far North District Council did not make the decision to fluoridate, it is responsible for following the direction and has installed the equipment needed to add fluoride to both water supplies. The council's role is to operate the treatment systems and ensure the required fluoride level is maintained.

Kerikeri and Kaitiāia were identified as high-priority locations through an assessment by the Director-General of Health.

Customers are unlikely to notice any change in the taste or appearance of their drinking water.

Dog safety lessons for tamariki



Tamariki are learning how to stay safe around dogs.

Far North tamariki are learning how to stay safe around dogs through a new school programme delivered by Far North District Council's Animal Management Officers.

The programme was developed in response to community feedback calling for more education about responsible dog ownership, safe behaviour around dogs, and owners' legal responsibilities. It is part of the council's mahi to build safer communities across the Far North.

During the sessions, students learn to recognise basic signs of dog behaviour, understand how to stay safe around dogs, and what to do if they find themselves in an unsafe situation. The programme also introduces responsible dog ownership, including the importance of dog registration and microchipping. The sessions are delivered by Far North District Council Animal Management Officers using presentations and discussion. No live dogs are involved.

**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.

